The documentation of Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs National Park, Hot Springs, Arkansas, was undertaken by the Washington, D.C., Office of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) and was cosponsored by the Southwest Regional Office, the Denver Service Center of the National Park Service, and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office.

The HABS field recording project was conducted by the HABS/HAER Division, Robert J. Kapch, Chief, and was organized and directed by Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, HABS. The measured drawings were produced during the summer of 1986 in the HABS Hot Springs Field Office by project supervisor, Michael Peters (Associate Professor, Architecture, Texas Tech. University), and architecture technicians, Leonard Kliemann (School of the Art Institute of Chicago), Gregory Mocell (University of Kansas), Brian McCormick (University of Illinois), and Daniel Wininski (University of Wyoming).

Bathhouse Row remains today as a picturesque reminder of America's early twentieth-century interest in health spa. The present bathhouses on Bathhouse Row are the second and in some cases, third or fourth generation of bathing facilities in this location. The first bathhouse was believed to have been built about 1850. Prior to that time, the indigenous Indian cultures had long made use of the springs.

The Bathhouse Row consists of eight bathhouses, the National Park Administration Building, and a series of walkways. The most important walkway running behind and to the east of the bathhouses the eight bathhouses are the Superior, Hale, Maurice, Fordyce, Quapaw, Ozark, Buckstaff, and Lamar. All date from about the second decade of the twentieth century and were constructed in a variety of styles, some of which are quite exotic and reflect the eclectic architectural interests of the early twentieth century. The international flavor of the architecture included such styles as Spanish Revival, Italianate, and Edwardian.

The bathing industry prospered throughout the first half of this century because the waters were considered to be the cure for various ailments. These buildings saw their peak of operations in 1946, just after the second world war. Today, only the Buckstaff and Lamar continue to operate as bathhouses. The other six are vacant, although tours are conducted through the partially maintained Fordyce, the most ornate of the bathhouses.

**BATHHOUSE ROW**

**HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK**

HOT SPRINGS, ARKANSAS
SOUTH ELEVATION