

Resource Number: PU0201
Historic Name: BLASS, GUS DEPARTMENT STORE
Alternate Historic Name: FABCO BUILDING
Located in a district: MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
Address: 320-322 S MAIN
Listed or National Historic Landmark: Listed
Date of National Register Listing: 11/13/1986
Architect: MANN, GEORGE R
Primary Style Influences: 13-Chicago School/Sullivan-esque
Secondary Style Influences: 10-Classical Revival

“Designed by George R. Mann, the Guss Blass Department Store began in 1913 and was the state's first departments stores, and in 1936 was the first air conditioned building in Arkansas and in 1948 was the first building to have an escalator in the state.¹ Gus Blass was a [Jewish](#) immigrant who settled in Arkansas and became one of the state's most successful merchants, establishing what became the largest department store in Arkansas, the Gus Blass Company.²

Owners or Occupants:³

Guss Blass Company
First American Bankstock Corporation
Rockworth Associates

Additional Info:

For more information and photo of Gus Blass, see the Encyclopedia of Arkansas:

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/gustave-6537/>

For a copy of the Historic Main Street, Little Rock, *Reminder of Our Past, Foundation for Our Future* by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program:

<https://www.littlerock.gov/Images/UserFiles/PDF/StatisticsReports/main%20street%20rev.pdf>

For more information on the Blass Department Store, see the UCA site:

https://honors.uca.edu/wiki/index.php/Gus_Blass_Department_Store

For more information on Jewish Merchants in Little Rock, see the Encyclopedia of Arkansas:

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/jews-2297/>

For more information and photo of **George Mann**, see the Encyclopedia of Arkansas:

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/george-richard-mann-2117/>

For more information on Sit-Ins in the 1960s that happened at the Department Store, see the Encyclopedia of Arkansas:

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/sit-ins-6921/>

¹ United States Department of the Interior. "Guss Blass Department Store" *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 1877. Accessed July 11, 2019.

² "Blass, Gustave (Gus)." Encyclopedia of Arkansas. Accessed July 18, 2019. <https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/gustave-6537/>.

³ United States Department of the Interior. "Guss Blass Department Store" *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 1877. Accessed July 11, 2019.