

## The Arlington Landslide 1984



2007 picture of the 1984 Arlington Landslide site.

On Friday, March 23, 1984 a landslide occurred in a parking lot adjacent to the Arlington Hotel. The slide occurred on the southwest portion of North Mountain, where previous excavations had removed large portions of the valley toe to make room for construction. Prior to the slide, reports had been made of small rock debris dislodging from the hillside. Some consideration was given to remove cars in the parking lot to prevent damage. The slope reportedly failed suddenly, burying 13 cars and nearly spilling out into Central Avenue. A small retaining wall and fence had been constructed with the hopes of catching rocks or boulders from causing damage. This structure was entirely destroyed by the rock slide. Bush and McFarland (1984), concluded

that landslide failure occurred along joints and fractures that had been weakened due to spring rains. A large portion of the rock slide remains today, at the suggestion of several geologists with the Arkansas Geological Survey (Bush, and McFarland, 1984), which act as a buttress to the hillside and add stability. Some locals suggest that a homeless man noted for sleeping on a park bench near the parking lot was buried during the rock slide. This is unsubstantiated.



Parking area at the location of the Arlington Landslide site in 2007.



A) View from upper parking deck of the Arlington landslide site. B) Landslide debris in contact with parking deck structure. C) Arkansas Novaculite seen behind parking deck. D) Debris from the landslide seen from 2<sup>nd</sup> level of parking garage in 2008.

## References

Bush, W. V. and J. D. McFarland, 1984, Arlington Hotel Landslide, Hot Springs, AR, Prepared as a memorandum to Norman F. Williams, Arkansas Geological Commission, 1 p.

