

NR Listed: 6-6-02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Wood, W. L., House

Other names/site number The Love House

2. Location

Street & number 709 North Morrill Street

not for publication

City or town Morrilton

vicinity

State Arkansas code AR county Conway code 029 zip code 72110

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Debbie Matous
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/23/02
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
 - determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet
 - determined not eligible for the National Register.
 - removed from the National Register.
 - other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Wood, W.L., House
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
0	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK

Walls Weatherboard

Roof ASPHALT

Other Tin

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

(See Continuation Sheet)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1905/1906

Significant Dates

1905/1906

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- X preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- X Local Government
- University
- X Other

Name of repository:

Conway County Library and Conway County Museum

Conway County Headlight and Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Wood, W.L., House
Name of Property

Conway County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Two acres.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 523127 3890736
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Lots One (1), Two (2) and Three (3) in Block Two (2) of Wood's Addition to Morrilton, Arkansas. Also the North fifty (50) feet of lot Ten (10), Eleven (11) and Twelve (12) in Block Two (2) of Wood's Addition to Morrilton, Arkansas according to the plat thereof being a subdivision of part of the E 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 18, Township 6 North, Range 16 West. Also the south 10 feet of the East 150 feet of the Alley bisecting said Block 2 of Wood's Addition to Morrilton, said alley having been abandoned by the city of Morrilton, by Ordinance No. 10 of the city of Morrilton, passed on the 3rd of September, 1956. Also the north 10 feet of the east 150 feet of the alley bisecting said Block 2 of Wood's Addition to Morrilton, said alley having been abandoned by the City of Morrilton by Ordinance 10 of the City of Morrilton, passed on September 3, 1956.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all property historically associated with the W. L. Wood House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph E. Balch, Owner
organization Edited by: Zac Cothren, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date December 3, 2001
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center St. telephone 501 324-9880
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Ralph E. Balch
street & number 709 North Morill Street telephone 501 354-0850
city or town Morrilton state Arkansas zip code 72110

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Situated on six lots the W. L. Wood house, located at 709 Morrill Street in Morrilton, Arkansas, is an excellent example of Queen Anne style architecture. Constructed by descendents of Swiss immigrants who populated the area north of the Arkansas River in the mid 1850's, the house exhibits fine detail in both interior and exterior workmanship. It was built for William L. Wood in 1905/1906. He was a prominent farmer and merchant in Morrilton, Arkansas, having moved to Morrilton from Springfield in the years of reconstruction.

The home rests upon a stone foundation that is hidden by brick latticework that allows for ventilation under the house. The house sets three feet above the ground with a small basement under the south side that houses the furnace, which supplies steam heat. The system was originally a coal fired system, but was later converted to gas. It remains in use today.

The home is sheathed in weatherboard siding and topped with a red composition shingle roof. The most prominent features of the two-and-one-half story dwelling are the Queen Anne style cupola, the steep gabled roof and the elaborate Eastlake style decorative detailing in the downstairs interior. The hip roof front and side wrap around porch with large round columns also contributes to the appealing appearance of the house.

Materials used were of the highest quality available in the beginning of the 20th Century. The quality of material can be credited with the excellent condition of the exterior and interior of the house today. Having been owned and occupied by members of the same prominent and successful family for eighty years also helped insured the home's necessary maintenance. Alterations have been minor and have not changed the outward appearance significantly.

There are two historic outbuildings that are contributing resources to the nomination. The first is a small Plain-Traditional style house that was used as servants quarters. The second is a stone smokehouse. Both are in almost pristine condition.

ELABORATION

The W. L. Wood House, built for William L. Wood and his wife Alice in 1905/1906, is a two-and-one-half story Queen Anne style frame dwelling. The home features a red tin covered turret, a steeply sloped roof consisting of four gables, and a large screened wraparound front porch. It was constructed atop a fieldstone foundation and is located on six lots in the Woods Addition to the City of Morrilton. Around the turn of the century Mr. Wood acquired forty acres of land north of the railroad and raised cotton in the area before developing it into residential lots that would become Woods Addition.

Originally the house was painted white with black trim. The original wood shake roof was painted red in 1920 when the house colors were changed to yellow with white trim. The decorative fish scale shingles in

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the gables and the metal roof of the turret were also painted red. When constructed, the house had two fireplaces. The parlor fireplace was converted to natural gas burning logs in 1960 making the chimneys unnecessary. In 2000 the entire roofing system was replaced and the chimneys were removed. At the time the repairs were made, the house had four layers of roofing, three asphalt layers over the original wood shakes.

The fenestration is composed mainly of double-hung one-over-one windows. A total of fifty-four windows are located on the house. The third story attic windows are single-pane casements and the two windows located on the second story of the north-side projection are three-over-one double-hung windows. The only other windows are the two-pane casement windows that are located in the attic portion of the home.

East Elevation

The house faces east toward Morrill Street. A wraparound porch is located on the southeast corner of the house. The porch is sheltered under a screen roof and is enclosed with screen. The porch is supported by wood columns and is surrounded with a balustrade. The house is fenestrated by three double-hung windows under the porch. The primary entrance to the home is located just north of the wraparound porch. Access is gained through a full beveled glass door that is crowned by a transom and sheltered under a small gable roofed porch.

The turret, located on the southeast corner, is fenestrated by three double-hung windows on the second story and by seven on the third story section. The turret is crowned with a large weathervane topped by a horse that also serves as a lightning rod. Moving north, the second story is fenestrated by four double-hung windows. A single-pane casement window in the attic leads out to a small balcony with yellow balusters between white rails.

North Elevation

The north side of the house is fenestrated on the first story by a double-hung window followed by two more double-hung windows on the east-side projection of the home. A shed roof porch supported by columns on piers is located on the northwest corner of the elevation. There is a double-hung window followed by a backdoor and lastly a ribbon of three double-hung windows, all of which are located under the porch overhang. The second story is fenestrated by two one-over-one double hung windows. The projection is fenestrated by two smaller three-over-one double-hung windows.

The rooms on both the first and second story level of the northwest corner were added in the 1920s. The first story porch was enclosed and a second story nursery was added above. The north elevation of the nursery is fenestrated by four double-hung windows.

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West Elevation

The back of the house faces west. Fenestration on the first story includes a ribbon of three one-over-one double-hung windows. Moving south the house is fenestrated by a single one-over-one window that provides light to the kitchen. The second story is fenestrated by two double-hung windows.

South Elevation

The south elevation is fenestrated by five windows spread along the elevation at the first story. Each of the first story windows is paired with a corresponding second story window. There is also a small casement window located in the gable. Moving east along the elevation, the house is comprised of the south side of the wraparound porch. The porch runs along nearly half of the elevation. There is a door leading from the porch into the living area. Located directly above the door is a second story double-hung window.

Interior

The home's interior has been altered very little. Upon entering the front door, visitors see the parlor to the south, the two-landing stairway to the north, and a twenty-foot long hall leading into the dining room. There have been no changes in these areas, other than the fireplace and replacement of crystal chandeliers in the parlor and living area. Original detailing include an ornate staircase balustrade made of oak, gingerbread trim work, and sculptured walnut columns remain as they were at the time of construction. A white marble fireplace in the parlor replaced one made of stained walnut in 1960 when the fireplace was converted to gas burning logs. Running water and electricity were added to the house when it became available in the 1920's. A built in hutch is the focal point of the dining room. It has glass doors and four glass shelves with the original mirror backing. All the floors in both the living and dining areas are pine and have been painted brown. The steps of the stairway are stained walnut matching the spindles and banister.

All of these rooms and the entry hallway have steam radiators for heat that still function as they did when the house was built. The source of fuel is now natural gas, rather than coal. In addition to this heat source a central air conditioning and heating unit was installed in 1960 and a heat pump system replaced that original system in 1982.

All the ceilings are ten feet high and all the hardware and doors are also original. Some of the plaster walls have been covered with sheet rock, but retain the same appearance as the original plaster. There are walnut decorative picture rails two feet from the ceilings in the entire house, except for the bathrooms, kitchen and sunroom.

Outbuildings

A small rectangular building that served as the servant's quarters is located to the west of the house. The building is a contributing resource to the nomination. It is plain-traditional in design and is painted to match

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the main dwelling. The weatherboard-sheathed building has a two-over-two double-hung window located on both the east and west sides and is also fenestrated by one door on the north facing side. With the exception of new shingles, the building has not been altered.

The smoke house/storm shelter is constructed of sixteen-inch thick stones that were brought down from Petit Jean Mountain. The rectangular shaped building is sheltered by a gable roof. It has changed little since it was constructed and is a contributing resource.

A buff brick garage is located to the north of the home along a side alley. The two-car garage was constructed in 1950 and retains its original appearance. It is also a contributing resource.

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SUMMARY

The W. L. Wood House located at 709 North Morrill Street in Morrilton, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example Queen Anne style architecture in the town of Morrilton. The ornamental frills and tower of this dwelling make it stand out in its immediate neighborhood as the only two-and-one-half story Queen Anne style Victorian to retain its original appearance and condition. The dwelling has had very few changes made to its ornate interior since it was constructed in 1905/1906 making the home even more spectacular. The house has been a landmark building in the neighborhood for nearly 100 years.

ELABORATION

Stephen Lewis established the first trading post in the area at the foot of Petit Jean Mountain in 1820. The trading post was located on the north side of the Arkansas River named Lewisburg. In 1831 the Arkansas Legislature designated Lewisburg the county seat of Conway County and it continued as such, occupying a log house and jail, until 1850. Between then and 1873 the Conway County seat was located at Springfield, Arkansas. It returned to Lewisburg and remained there until being moved again ten years later to Morrilton

Lewisburg served as a river port and in the 1840s three steamboats were built there. One, named "The Conway", served a number of years, but "the Arkansas" sank in 1844 with 400 bales of cotton and some corn aboard. The town became incorporated in 1844 and served as a relay station for the stagecoaches traveling from Little Rock to the West.

When the Little Rock-Fort Smith Rail Road was negotiating for right of way, the town was offered the opportunity to have the tracks laid through Lewisburg. The citizens refused to pay the \$2000 demanded by the railroad and the demise of the town began. The railroad laid the track one-mile north through the newly formed town of Morrilton.

Morrilton was incorporated in 1879 and became the county seat in 1883. Thanks to the railroad, Morrilton had already surpassed Lewisburg as the primary trade area of the county. During that era W. L. Wood moved from Springfield, Arkansas, to Morrilton and established Wood Saddlery and Leather Shop on Broadway north of the train station. The station, built in 1895, was located between Broadway and Rail Road Street. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Wood had married Alice Sleeper, daughter of Leander Sleeper, who had been a Captain in the Confederate Army. The Woods lived in Lewisburg. In that union, Lee C. and Bertha were born. He was a cotton farmer, as well as a merchant. His daughter, Bertha, married Edgar Earle Love, a Cotton buyer and real estate broker, in 1901. They had two sons, William Earle and Charles Allen.

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Before the turn of the Century Wood bought forty acres of land north of the railroad which had been part of a cotton farm. That land was developed into fifty-foot front lots and was declared The Woods Addition to the City of Morrilton.

In 1905 W. L. Wood and his son, Lee C., began building two large houses on Morrill Street. The W. L. Wood House was located at 709 North Morrill Street and Lee's house was in the same block at 703 North Morrill.

Bertha Wood married Edgar Earle Love, a cotton buyer and real estate agent from Tennessee in 1901. They had two sons, William Earle and Charles Allen. Mr. Love met an early death in 1919 after a long illness. Later that same year Bertha and her sons moved into the Wood House with her parents. She and her brother, Lee, took equal ownership of the house in 1928. Mr. and Mrs. Wood remained as residents of the house throughout their remaining years. Mrs. Alice Wood died in 1935 and W. L. Wood died the next year. In 1937 Lee sold his half of the property to Bertha, along with the north fifty feet of his three lots, 10, 11 & 12.

The City of Morrilton abandoned an alley that bisected the property and by ordinance # 10 passed on September 3, 1956, transferred the twenty feet of property between Lots 10, 11 & 12 and Lots 1, 2 & 3 to Bertha Love.

Mrs. Bertha Love was a prominent civic leader, supporting the Red Cross and the Arkansas River Basin Program. She served as president of the Pathfinders Club at the time the city received the Carnegie Foundation grant for the library, in 1916. The library, now known as the Conway County Library is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is still in use today. She died in 1965. After her death, William Earle and Charles Allen inherited the property with equal shares. Later that year Charles Allen sold his half to William Earle.

The two brothers were in business together in Morrilton for a number of years. They owned Love Supply Company, a General Motors Dealership, and operated farms in Conway, Lonoke, and Jefferson County. They were in business together until 1977 when William's health began failing.

William Earle Love was the eldest of the two sons. He married Marion Ryland of Pine Bluff in 1933 and they lived in this house with his mother until her death, and continued living here until 1984. William Earle "Bill" Love became ill and had to move to a nursing home where he remained until his death in 1987.

William was also a banker, active civic leader, and an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

Bill and Marion had one daughter, Virginia, and a son William Earle Jr. In 1955 Virginia married Dr. Dan Alexander Dunaway of Jackson, Mississippi. They live in Memphis, Tennessee where Virginia has been

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active with numerous civic and social organizations. She was instrumental in the organizing of the Memphis Food Bank.

William Earle, Jr. was part owner and manager of Sound Craft Systems, Inc. on Petit Jean Mountain at the time of his death. In 1963 he married Janet Ellen Gray, daughter of a prominent physician in Little Rock. The couple and her parents were killed in a plane crash at Gaston's Resort, located in north Arkansas, in 1991. Earle was active in the Presbyterian Church, like his parents and grandmother, and he served as a director of the Federal Reserve Bank in St Louis. He was also on the Arkansas State Board of Education. They had two children.

The current owner of the Wood House, Ralph E. Balch, is in the process of completely repainting it. The house is now a creamy yellow frame with white trim. It has been of similar colors since 1920. Mr. Balch also has plans to refinish the wood floors.

Statement of Significance

The W. L. Wood House is an elaborately ornamented two-and-one-half story Queen Anne style house located at 709 North Morrill Street in Morrilton, Arkansas. This house has distinctive decorative detailing in both the interior and exterior and has retained its same basic appearance and design since being constructed in 1905/1906. It is a picturesque example of the Queen Anne style unmatched in size and detail in the community. The W. L. Wood House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of Queen Anne style architecture in its area of Morrilton.

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Bibliography

Interview with Mrs. Marion Love by Ralph E. Balch- 1987.

Interview with Mrs. Virginia Love Dunaway by Ralph Balch- 2000.

Conway County - Our Land, Our Home, Our People - A Historical Publication of Arkansas, 1989.

Pathfinders Club of Morrilton: Presidents Letters, 1901-1985, a collection in the Conway County Library.

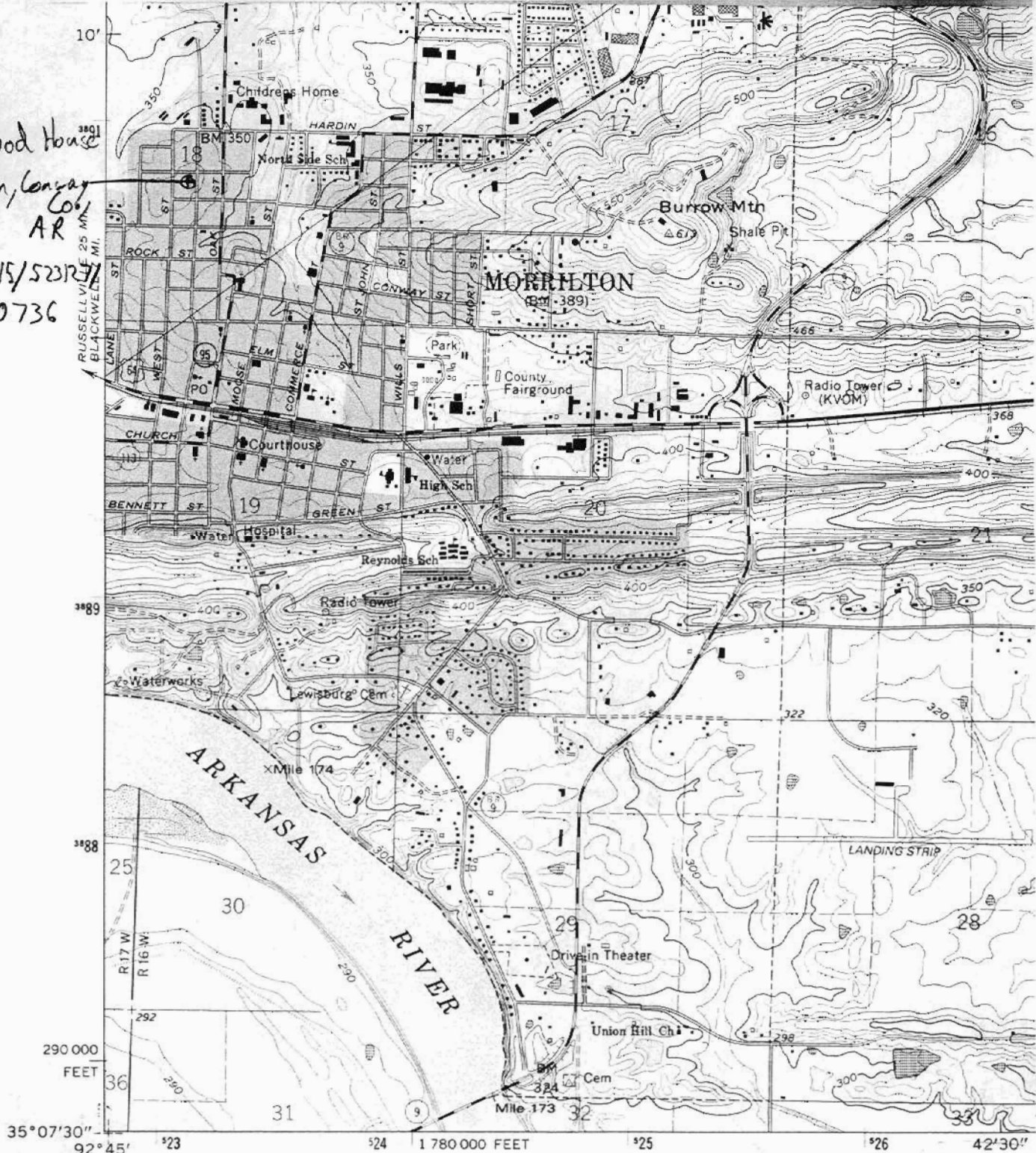
Conway County Deed and Mortgage Records, Conway County Court House.

Conway County Museum, Morrilton, Arkansas (Verifying dates from old photographs and newspaper articles).

Conway County Headlight, a weekly newspaper in Morrilton, Arkansas (Various dates and articles).

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Little Rock, Arkansas, November 17, 2001, Page 7R.

W.L. Wood House
 Morrilton, Conway
 Co.,
 AR
 UTM: 15/523127
 3890736



(PERRYVILLE)
 7454 III SE

Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 Compiled by photogrammetric methods from imagery dated 1958
 Field checked 1961
 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and
 10 000-foot ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
 (Lambert conformal conic)
 Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 15
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed
 corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83
 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic
 Survey NADCON software

