

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 17-10-4005-61  
 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED  
 DATE ENTERED 6/10/06

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Joseph Starr Dunham House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

418 Broadway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Crawford

CODE

033

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

\_\_\_DISTRICT

\_\_\_PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

\_\_\_AGRICULTURE

\_\_\_MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

\_\_\_UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

\_\_\_PARK

\_\_\_STRUCTURE

\_\_\_BOTH

\_\_\_WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_EDUCATIONAL

\_\_\_PRIVATE RESIDENCE

\_\_\_SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

\_\_\_ENTERTAINMENT

\_\_\_RELIGIOUS

\_\_\_OBJECT

\_\_\_IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

\_\_\_GOVERNMENT

\_\_\_SCIENTIFIC

\_\_\_BEING CONSIDERED

\_\_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED

\_\_\_INDUSTRIAL

\_\_\_TRANSPORTATION

\_\_\_NO

\_\_\_MILITARY

\_\_\_OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Ben Bulloch

STREET & NUMBER

418 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Crawford County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Joseph S. Dunham House on Broadway Street in Van Buren, Arkansas, is a two-storey structure of wood construction. Built c. 1870, the house is ell-shaped with one-storey enclosures on the rear elevation.

Architecturally, the Dunham House is reflective of the Victorian-Gothic style in its arched windows, gabled bays and ornamentation. The house is topped by a gable roof supported by decorative brackets. Steeply gabled bays are featured on the second-storey of the facade. The appearance of the house gives an overall impression of well-balanced symmetry.

The most interesting features of the Dunham House are displayed on the facade. A wide one-storey porch spans the width of the facade. This porch is supported by six slender spiral posts topped with delicate ornamental brackets. Pilasters similar to the spiral porch posts further decorate the facade. A decorative, wrought-iron cresting forms a deck on top of the flat-roofed porch. On the second-storey level a large center bay with a steeply gabled-roof is flanked by two smaller but identical bays. These bays feature decorative bargeboard set into each gable end. In contrast to the steep gables of these bays are their round arched windows. The large center bay features paired windows with a semi-polygon-shaped window head. Shutters enhance the windows in the bays.

A paneled entry door with paired, octagonal-shaped lites in the transom is entered directly under the large central bay. Above the door is a dentiled cornice supported by brackets. The entry is flanked by tall slender windows, two on each side. These windows are double-hung four-over-four-lite and are topped with a cornice supported by decorative brackets.

The north elevation of the Dunham House is marked by a three-sided bay on the first-storey level. The bay is flat-roofed and topped with wrought-iron cresting. Decorative paired brackets flanking the center section support the roof. Single brackets support the roof on the side sections of the bay. The cornice is marked with dentil work. Paired windows on the second-storey level above the three-sided bay are arched and topped by a semi-polygon-shaped window head.

The south elevation features a one-storey rectangular-shaped projection. This projection features a flat roof supported by paired decorative brackets on the outside corners. Wrought-iron cresting surrounds the roof, forming a deck, as on the facade. Paired arched windows on the second-storey level, identical to those on the north elevation, are also topped by a semi-polygon-shaped window head.

The Dunham House remained totally unaltered until 1932, when it was remodeled for living purposes. During this remodeling a one-storey porch on the north elevation was screened-in. A large porch on the rear elevation was enclosed and divided into a dining room, kitchen, bedroom and sleeping porch.

The interior plan of the Dunham House is a large central hall with two rooms

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on each side downstairs and two rooms off each side of a center hall upstairs. A steep, curved stairway rises from the center hall to the second storey. Decorative features on the stairway include ornamental brackets located on the ends of the riser. A round, panelled newel post and turned balusters further enhance the decorative effect.

The Dunham House rests on a corner lot on one of Van Buren's busiest streets. Still in very good condition, the Dunham House has retained its original exterior appearance.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Journalism
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      c. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph Starr Dunham House in Van Buren, Arkansas, is a two-storey structure of wood construction. Built c. 1870 the main significance of the house lies in the area of architecture. It presents characteristics of the Victorian-Gothic style of architecture in the utilization of arched windows, gabled bays and ornamentation. The facade of the Dunham House best illustrates its architectural uniqueness. A wide one-storey porch is supported by spiral posts topped with delicate brackets. Wrought-iron cresting surrounds the top of the porch. A large center bay flanked by identical smaller bays is located on the second-storey level of the facade. These bays feature steep gables, decorative brackets and round-arched windows. The house is also an important local landmark in its association with Joseph Starr Dunham, who established the Van Buren Press in 1859.

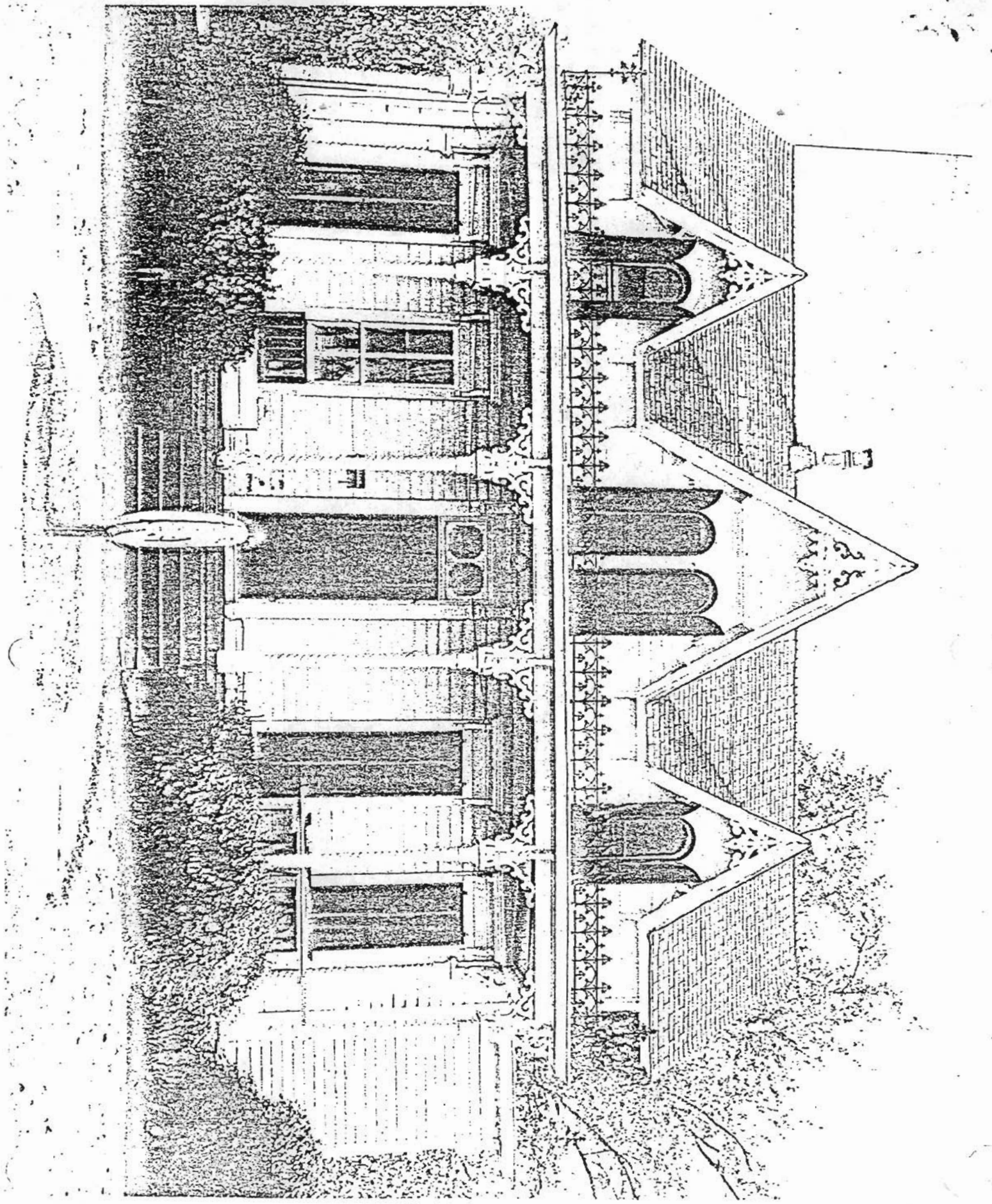
Joseph Starr Dunham was born in Connecticut in 1823, the son of William H. and Francis Starr Dunham. At the age of thirteen Dunham began apprenticeship to the printer's trade. William D. Starr, an uncle to Dunham, had been established in the printing business in Middletown, Connecticut, for a number of years and took a special effort to instill his knowledge in his young nephew.

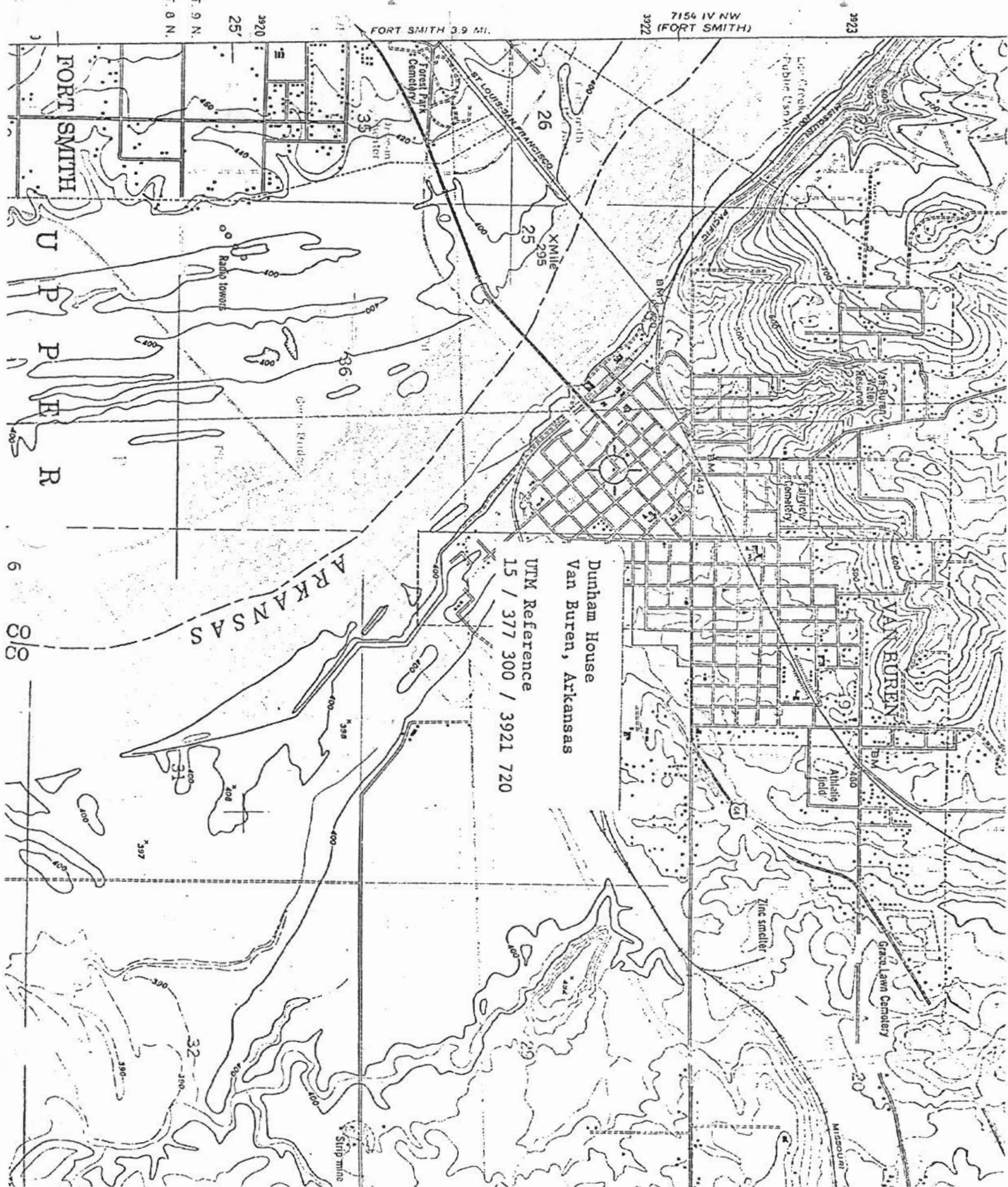
In 1859 Dunham left Connecticut and started westward. In Ohio he purchased enough materials to set up a printing office. By the end of 1859 Dunham had settled in Van Buren, Arkansas, and established the Van Buren Press. This newspaper was strongly reflective of the effect the Reconstruction Era had on Van Buren. Dunham was a strong Democrat in defiance to the Reconstruction policies, and his newspaper was conducted on strict Democratic principles. Dunham was the sole proprietor of the Van Buren Press for the duration of the paper's existence, with the exception of a few years when his son assisted him in the management of the newspaper. Dunham developed into a strong writer, and this, coupled with his knowledge of printing, led him to be considered a leading journalist in northwestern Arkansas.

Joseph S. Dunham married Mary C. Ward of Middletown, Connecticut, in 1846. The Dunhams had four children, one of whom married Phillip Drennen Scott. Scott was the son of a prominent merchant in Van Buren and a grandson of John Drennen, a co-founder of the city.

Joseph S. Dunham lived in the house until his death in 1911. The house has never been out of the family and, at the present time, is owned by a great-granddaughter of J. S. Dunham. The Dunham House stands as a local landmark to the city of Van Buren as a part of the history of the city.







T. 9 N.  
T. 8 N.

7154 IV NW  
(FORT SMITH)  
3922

FORT SMITH 3.9 MI.

Dunham House  
Van Buren, Arkansas  
UTM Reference  
15 / 377 300 / 3921 720

ARKANSAS

FORT SMITH

UPPR

08

Strip mine

