

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: McKennon-Shea House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 206 Waterman Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Dumas

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Desha

code: AR 041

zip code: 71639

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater _____ 4-15-93
Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: Domestic _____ Sub: single dwelling _____

Current : Domestic _____ Sub: single dwelling _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

Other Description: Folk Victorian

Materials: foundation brick roof asbestos
walls weatherboard other brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Commerce
Agriculture

Period(s) of Significance: 1913 - 1943

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): McKennon, Claude Reeves

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Culpepper, Robert A.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>639260</u>	<u>3750460</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

The West one-half, taken by parallel lines, of Lots 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, being a parcel 100 ft. wide on Waterman Street and 250 ft. North and South, and the East 55 ft., taken by parallel lines, of Lots 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13, being a parcel 55 feet wide on Waterman Street and 250 ft. North and South, in Block 3 of Watermans Addition to the City of Dumas, Arkansas, according to the original plat of Waterman Addition filed May 12, 1914 (these tracts also being described as the West one-half of Lots 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 and the East 55 ft. Lots 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 in Block 3 of Watermans Addition to the City of Dumas, Arkansas, according to a replat filed on May 28, 1930).

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the resource that retains its integrity, including two contributing buildings, one noncontributing building, and one noncontributing site.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 04/14/93

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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Summary

Located at 206 Waterman Street in Dumas, the McKennon-Shea House is a one-and-a-half story frame residence constructed c. 1910 in a vernacular rendition that blends both the Folk Victorian and Classical Revival styles of architecture. The exterior features jigsawed and turned-spindle gingerbread in the peaks of the two cross gable dormers and the one projecting gable bay. Four Tuscan columns and a front entrance with full transom and sidelights provide the exterior classical detailing. The interior ornamentation is primarily of the Classical Revival inspiration. Noteworthy details include an impressive and ornate colonnaded entry between the living and dining rooms and a Classical Revival mantelpiece. There is also one contributing outbuilding, one noncontributing outbuilding, and one noncontributing site included within the boundaries of this nomination. Although in excellent condition, the McKennon-Shea House has had numerous alterations since construction.

Elaboration

Located at 206 Waterman Street in Dumas, the McKennon-Shea House is a one-and-a-half story frame residence constructed c. 1910 in a vernacular exercise that blends elements of both the Folk Victorian and Classical Revival styles of architecture. Resting upon a continuous brick foundation, the wood-frame walls are sheathed with an uncommon form of novelty siding that features a bevelling of the weatherboard itself in addition to the usual false bevel (to give the appearance of two strips of weatherboard from one piece). Novelty siding used on later additions is of the typical false bevel type (as defined by *A Field Guide to American Houses*). The roof is a flat-decked hip with two cross gable dormers and one projecting gable bay. There is also a gable-roof extension to the north on the eastern elevation and an "L"-shaped gable-roof addition to the north on the western elevation. Asbestos shingles formed and laid to resemble slate cover all of the roof with the exception of the eastern gable-roof extension and attached carport which are covered with modern composition shingles. There is one interior brick chimney on the eastern slope of the hipped roof and one exterior brick chimney on the western elevation.

The front, or southern, elevation is defined by a full-facade front porch with an enclosed wrap-around section. Four white Tuscan columns with bases (and a half-column pilaster) support the dropped hip porch roof. Underneath, the front entrance consists of a three-pane transom with full sidelights and a Queen Anne-style wood door with a large oval-shaped, bevelled light and carved relief ornamentation. The front entrance is flanked on each side by a large one-over-one window of the type that features a small narrow upper pane. The enclosed wrap-around section consists of a single-leaf entry and a two-over-two double-hung window on the western side (underneath the porch); three identical windows on the southern elevation; four of the two-over-two windows and a fifteen-pane glazed door on the western elevation; and two more two-over-two windows facing north. On the southern elevation proper, a gabled dormer without side walls is positioned above the front entrance. The dormer is filled with novelty siding and is fenestrated by a two-over-two double-hung window. A delicate piece of jigsawed and turned-spindle gingerbread adorns the peak.

The western elevation begins at the southwest corner with two small one-over-one windows flanking an exterior brick chimney with a stepped shoulder. A dormer identical to the one on the front elevation is positioned in the center of the hipped roof on this elevation. Beneath the dormer and to the north of the chimney-adjacent window is a slight gable-roof projection that is underneath the eave of the main roof. A three-sided bay window extends from this gable projection and features two two-over-two double-hung windows and a large single-pane picture window in the center. This addition to the original structure marks the beginning of the use of conventional novelty siding on this elevation. North of this bay window, a short gable-roof section extends from the main roof and

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intersects with a two-story addition with an east-west oriented gable roof. A small gable dormer without side walls is placed on the two-story addition just above the ridge of the intersecting gable roof. The dormer contains a louvered attic vent.

The southern elevation of the two-story addition contains a pair of two-over-two windows and a single-leaf doorway to the west respectively on the first-story. A group of three two-over-two windows light the second story. The western elevation of this addition is illuminated by two two-over-two windows on the first story. Although the second story is blank, triangular knee brackets decorate the gable end.

Fenestration on the rear, or northern, elevation of the two-story addition consists of a pair of first-story two-over-two windows near the northwest corner and four second-story windows of the same type with three of them grouped together. At the eastern terminus of the two-story addition, an unusual, narrow gable roof is dropped below the main gable roof. Both gable ends feature a pair of Craftsman brackets identical to those found on the western end.

In the center of the rear elevation is the enclosed, shed-roof covered sleeping porch. Three modern six-over-six double-hung windows fenestrate this area. The eastern portion of the northern elevation consists of a modern carport addition attached to a long gable-roof section extending to the north. Covered by a composition-shingled gable roof, the carport features a small cupola. The sides of the carport are enclosed with latticework.

The eastern elevation is composed of the aforementioned gable-roof section to the north, a projecting gable bay, and the enclosed wrap-around porch room. The gable-roof section is covered with modern composition shingles and presents a shallow, dropped shed roof to the east. The rebuilt and extended wall is clad with conventional novelty siding and is fenestrated by two new windows, a small six-over-six and an even smaller four-over-four window, and one original two-over-two double-hung window located near the juncture with the projecting gable bay. The gable end of this bay is identical to the two dormers on the front and western elevations. Due to the projection from the main roofline, an asbestos-slate shingled pent roof is employed to provide an effect similar to that of the other two dormers. A pair of two-over-two windows and a much smaller two-over-two window light the room underneath.

Alterations to the exterior have been numerous over the years. A historic photograph taken before 1923 reveals a wood-shingled roof, a screened-in wrap-around porch enclosed, and a hipped-roof projection to the north on the eastern elevation that is considerably shorter than the current gable-roof section. It is probable that a similar projection was on the western elevation. The first known change occurred prior to 1933 when the eastern end of the front porch was enclosed as it appears today and the screen was removed from the remainder of the porch. In 1935, a single-story room was added to the northwest corner of the house (the current two-story addition). A photograph from this time period reveals that the wall fenestration has not been changed; however, the single-leaf entrance was adorned with a diminutive flat roof supported by two Tuscan columns (presumably from the section of the porch that was enclosed). The photograph also shows the asbestos slate shingles at this time. In 1937, the projecting gable/bay window conglomeration was added to the western bedroom where a pair of two-over-two windows had been previously. Also in the late 1930's, the sleeping porch at the rear of the house was enclosed to create a breakfast room.

The next major change occurred in 1947 when a second-story was added to the existing single-story addition at the northwest corner. In 1981, the original kitchen (the hipped-roof projection on the eastern elevation) was remodeled

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and lengthened to accommodate a utility room. A carport was attached to this section, now covered by a gable roof, in the same year. Other miscellaneous alterations include the 1988 addition of a balustrade to the front porch and both side entrances, the installation of the six-over-six windows to the rear breakfast room, and the loss of the historic wrought-iron roof balustrade.

With the exception of the aforementioned kitchen remodeling, the interior has remained basically intact. The centerpiece of the interior is the impressive colonnaded entry between the living and dining rooms. Two short wood pedestals extend from each wall and sustain two square pilasters and, approximately two feet from the pilasters, two non-fluted Corinthian columns. The two columns support a flattened arch that is outlined with egg-and-dart molding and decorated by a carved pendant at the apex. Both of the spandrels are adorned with a small wreath relief that is probably constructed of plaster. Raised panels above each column separate the arch from the two square wood panels adjoining the wall. These panels are decorated by similar, yet larger, wreath reliefs. Underneath, an ornate plaster bracket extends from each pilaster.

The living room features a wood Classical Revival mantelpiece that features an unusual shell medallion in the center. The actual firebox is faced with marble. In comparison, the eastern bedroom (now a sitting room) fireplace contains a mantelpiece of corbelled brick with two dentil courses. Other interior detail of note includes the wood-panelled dining room wainscoting, which is very tall and capped by a projecting crown. The rear of the dining room features two windows that originally opened into the sleeping porch. These windows appear to be of the familiar two-over-two double-hung sash but are actually four-pane sashes that recede into the attic above.

There is one contributing outbuilding, one noncontributing outbuilding, and one noncontributing site included within the boundaries of this nomination. The first outbuilding, known as Will's house, was constructed c. 1920. Located north of the two-story addition, the one-room, board-and-batten structure which is covered by a corrugated-tin gable roof served as the residence of Will McKennon Carruthers, a gardener for the McKennons. The building is in deteriorated condition, and the interior brick chimney against the northern wall has recently fallen. The noncontributing structure is a 1944 wash house located north of Will's house. Smaller than the older structure, the wash house is also a frame structure covered by a gable roof. Indicative of the time period it was constructed, the exterior is clad with asphalt roll siding made to resemble brick. The building is currently used for storage. The noncontributing site consists of the ruins of a c. 1920 smokehouse located north of the carport. Only the brick walls and foundation remain of this outbuilding.

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Summary

The McKennon-Shea House is locally significant under Criterion B for its association with Claude Reeves McKennon, an early Dumas entrepreneur, cotton planter, and large landowner who contributed to the growth and development of the town.

Elaboration

The modern history of the Dumas area began in 1851 when the State of Arkansas issued a land deed to Findley Holmes of Mississippi, who purchased the land in the Dumas-Pickens area for \$1.25 an acre. Holmes never settled in the area, however, and he later deeded the land to his son, Abercrombie, who moved to a farm east of Dumas in 1867. By 1890, *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas* reported that Holmes owned 640 acres with 320 of those in the cultivation of corn and cotton. Holmes also raised cattle and horses and operated a cotton gin on his farm.

Three years after Abercrombie Holmes settled on his farm, William B. Dumas purchased the land from Holmes on which the present-day town that bears his name is sited. A native of Tennessee, Dumas was engaged in agriculture, and by 1890 owned 940 acres with 300 in cultivation. Goodspeed noted that Dumas, like Holmes, also grew corn and cotton, raised a considerable herd of cattle, and operated a "large steam cotton gin" which brought him a paying annual income. Unlike Holmes, Dumas was actively involved in the timber industry - manufacturing and exporting staves to markets in the Northeast. Dumas also operated a store which served as the first freight office and post office. He served as county surveyor for number of years, constable and deputy sheriff of his township, and school director.

The settlement at Dumas remained small up to the turn of the century. In 1880, the population was estimated at less than one hundred people, but the income produced by the timber cutting and the cotton grown on the cleared land added impetus to the town's growth. By 1900, the town could boast a weekly newspaper, a hotel, drug store, and a livery stable. The town was incorporated in 1904 with Gus Waterman as the first mayor. Waterman was another early prominent settler in Dumas and had a large general mercantile business. Six years after incorporation the town counted 519 residents; however, that number more than doubled (1,124) when the 1920 census was taken. During the 1920's, Dumas seemed poised to become a significant industrial center based on the existing presence of four lumber mills and a broom factory. Unfortunately, as in countless other towns and cities across the state, this growth and optimism was stemmed by the onslaught of the Great Depression. Dumas was to remain primarily an agricultural community.

Much of the growth of Dumas in the agriculture sector can be attributed to the efforts of Claude Reeves McKennon. C. R. McKennon was born on September 20, 1873 in Bastrop, Louisiana. The son of Bryant McKennon and Caroline Reeves, Claude had one brother, Walter Alexander, and two sisters, Caddie and Mary Virginia. When Claude was an infant, his family moved to Monticello, Arkansas where Claude attended school through the fourth grade.

In 1891, Claude married Getrude^o Mai Collins in Desha County. They had three^o children, Idelle Isabell, Joe Lee, and Sarah Fay. Sometime in the 1890's, the

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family moved to Dumas where Claude found employment with the Austin Company, the first ice business in the area. By 1902, McKennon had become a seed buyer for the Pine Bluff Cotton Oil Mill with Southeast Arkansas as his territory. Seven years later, he entered the cotton gin industry as a partner with R. B. Malone and J. H. Davis in the Planters Gin Company. In 1910, Malone and McKennon purchased Davis's interests and entered into the farming and supply business under the name of McKennon Supply Company. Four years later, McKennon acquired Malone's half of the company from his widow. Shortly thereafter, McKennon expanded his holdings and operated a mercantile business in the Old Stahl Building. In 1919, Claude was joined by his son, Joe Lee, and the McKennon Supply Company became C. R. McKennon and Son. The company continued under that name and management until the time of Joe Lee McKennon's death in 1992. A separate enterprise, McKennon Implement Company, was formed in 1937 when Claude and Joe Lee purchased the local John Deere equipment company.

Claude McKennon also made a significant impact on the local economy through his vast farm operations in both the Dumas and Watson vicinity. At the time of his death in 1952, one of his obituaries reported that his "empire employs hundreds of families in its operations," while another mentioned that Claude McKennon "owned a plantation that spread over thousands of acres and had over 1,300 tenant families." McKennon was a colorful character who routinely shocked the cotton market by holding his crop after harvest until prices were favorable and then selling everything at once. It was this maneuver which he pulled on the New Orleans Cotton Exchange in January, 1947 that made headlines across the South when he sold his entire 1946 cotton crop - 6,319 bales - on a spot cash basis for nearly a million dollars.

McKennon became associated with the property at 206 W. Waterman Street when he purchased the house and property from Robert A. Culpepper in January, 1913 for \$3,240. Culpepper had obtained the land from Gus and Rachel Waterman in March, 1910 for fifty dollars. It is believed that Culpepper constructed the house in that year. Besides being the residence of C. R. and Gertrude McKennon, the house also served as a home for Rufus Cox, Gertrude's nephew. Cox was a partner with his brother in a general mercantile and cotton buying operation. A lifelong bachelor, Cox slept in the attic in the winter and stayed on the sleeping porch in the summer. In 1934, the McKennon's daughter, Sarah Fay McKennon, and her husband, Thomas Shea, returned to live with her parents. The single-story addition on the northwest corner of the house was constructed to accommodate this family. Later, in 1947, a second-story was added to this addition for their son, Thomas Francis Shea, Jr. Also living on the property in the one-room building behind the house was Will McKennon Carruthers. Carruthers was a general handyman for the family and assisted Gertrude McKennon in the upkeep of her formal garden.

Toward the end of his life, Claude McKennon divided his time between his home in Dumas and actively managing the farm operations at Watson (Joe Lee supervised the farm at Dumas). Claude Reeves McKennon died on October 6, 1952 at his farm near Watson while inspecting his crops. His wife Gertrude died in 1961. Both are buried in the Walnut Lake Cemetery in Pickens. The property is now owned by Thomas McKennon Shea, Sr. (Ken), the son of Thomas Francis Shea, Jr., and his wife Debra.

Claude Reeves McKennon was important to the development of Dumas as that town's leader in the farm supply business through his firms, C. R. McKennon and Son and the McKennon Implement Company. In his position as a cotton planter and large

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landowner, McKennon provided employment for hundreds of families thus directly impacting the local economy. For these reasons, the McKennon-Shea House is being nominated under Criterion B with local significance.

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Bibliography

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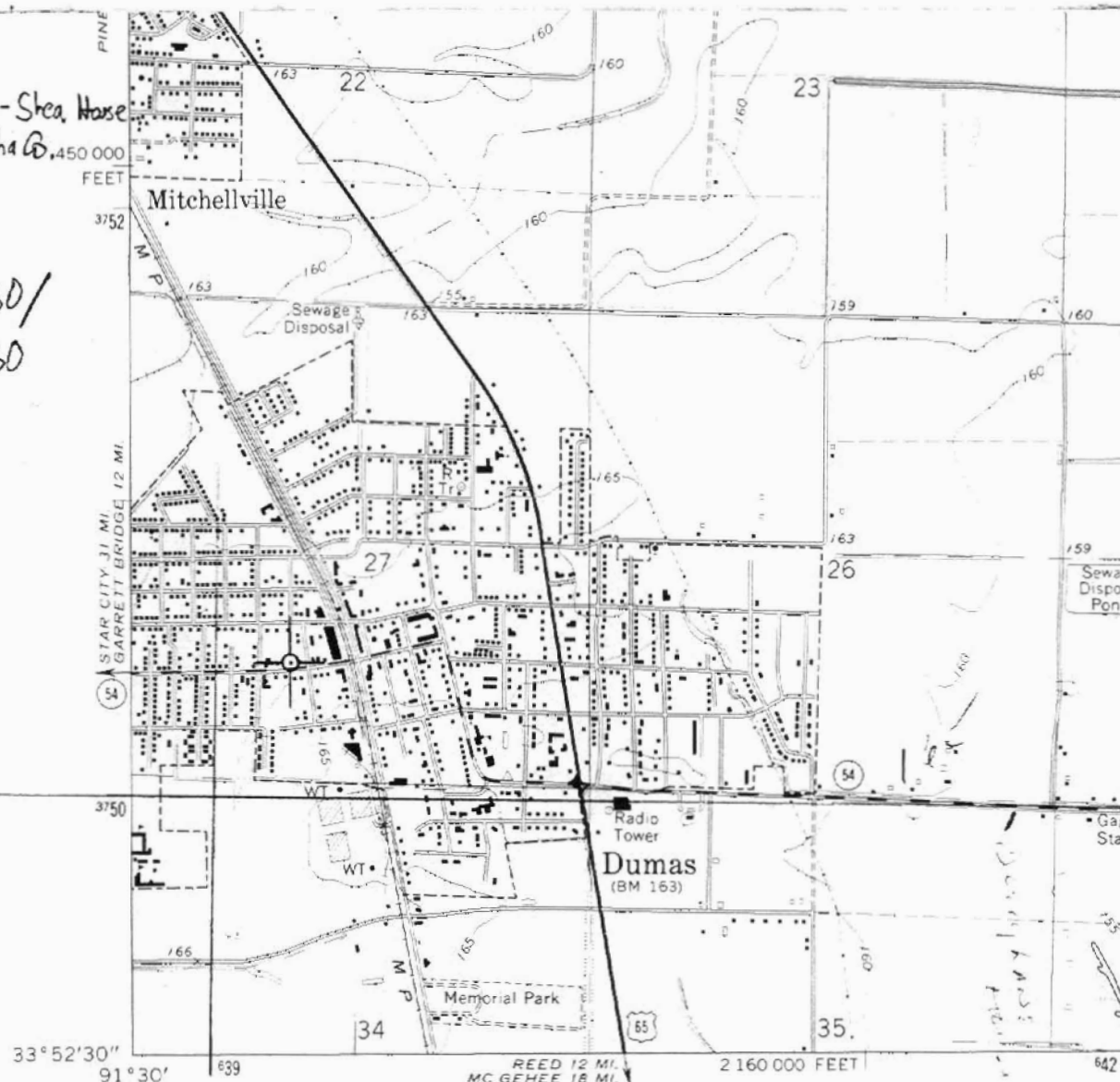
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Mckennon-Stea Horse
Dumas, Desha Co. 450 000
Arkansas

DTM:
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(BOUND)
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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1966 Topography by plane-table surveys 1969

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



0°52' 15" N
15 MILES
6" 107 MILES

UTM GRID AND 1969 MAGNETIC
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF

57'30"

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