

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 Williams, Hamp, Building

other names/site number GA0641

2. Location

street & number 500 - 504 Ouachita Avenue

not for publication

city or town Hot Springs

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Garland

code 051

zip code 71901

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.)

Catherine Matthews

7/31/07

Signature of certifying official/Title

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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):

Williams, Hamp, Building
Name of Property

Garland 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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

"Arkansas Highway and Transportation – Era Architecture, 1910 – 1965"

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store, warehouse,
financial institution, professional
TRANSPORTATION: road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store, warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Renaissance/Renaissance Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls STONE
roof OTHER/tar built-up
other TERRA COTTA

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, and D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1920 - 1957

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Sanders & Ginocchio, Architects

(floor plan by unknown "leading architect" of Ford Motor Company)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Williams, Hamp, Building
Name of Property

Garland County, Arkansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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-

Name of repository:

Garland County Historical Society, Garland County Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.13 acres, more or less

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>494589</u>	<u>3818208</u>	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
-	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Boundary Justification

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mitch AufderHeide/Graduate Architect; Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 5/11/07
street & number 323 Center Street, Ste. 1600 telephone 501.324.9874
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.

Williams, Hamp, Building

Name of Property

Garland County, Arkansas

County and State

Property Owner

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

name Les & Diane Surfas

street & number 8824 National Blvd.

telephone 301-559-4770,
ext. 212

city or town Culver City

state CA

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

The Hamp Williams Building is located in downtown Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, on the 500 Block of Ouachita Avenue, directly across from the Garland County Courthouse. It is a large sprawling handsome building, varying in height between one-story and two-stories. It was built primarily for Hot Springs' first Ford automobile dealership, service and storage. The main façade (southeast elevation) faces Ouachita Avenue and is composed of three two-story storefront bays of granite and tile. The building is 1920s Renaissance Revival with strong Italian features of ceramic-tiled Mansard roofs with large prominent brackets and a formal grouping and symmetry.

The Hawthorne Street (northeast) elevation uses the same materials but is not so formal. This side has a two-story corner and long one-story extension to the rear. The one-story section still has the granite faced stone but is much simpler without the tile and tile roofs. This is where the automobile storage and repairs took place, and still contains an auto-body shop in the rear of the building.

The back of the building (northwest) is where the most change has occurred, as sheds have been replaced and fallen roofs removed. The back and southwest side, as well as the interior bearing walls, are all composed of exposed hand-placed native stone rubble.

ELABORATION

The Hamp Williams Building retains much of its original exterior look and feel, in spite of one significant change: The corner entry at Ouachita and Hawthorne, originally a bank with large glass storefronts on both sides, has been infilled with wood partitions and vertical slit orange glass windows. Otherwise, it is still a very handsome building, and its two-story street side appearance of the split-faced granite is very unique in the area.

First built as two bays on Ouachita Avenue, it is obvious the third bay was planned from the beginning and not just an addition. This third Ouachita Avenue bay was added very soon after the original two, as well as much of the one-story Hawthorne Street façade, all matching the initial construction in style and materials.

The natural-stone exterior walls and interior bearing walls are also pretty rare for Hot Springs. It was designed and built in a regional interpretation of "Italian Renaissance" period style by the Little Rock architects Sanders and Ginnochio. The Hamp Williams Building is one of only three commercial structures in Hot Springs attributed to this important pair of Arkansas architects (working together). Only it and the Elmore Hotel remain; the Belden Hotel has been demolished.

The ceramic-tiled Mansard roof with overhanging eaves and large prominent brackets suggest the "Italian Renaissance" period style. This is a revival style that often features an Italian style classical entry, and the

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Hamp Williams Building has a hooded flattened Roman arch doorway of cut limestone. The style also features typically symmetrical massing with symmetrical fenestration as in this building. The building is stone-faced with some tile ornamentation, often typical of the Italian Renaissance period style. The building is missing strong classical elements (such as columns, molded cornices, quoins, and pediments) usually associated with this style, probably due to economic constraints and the fact that this is a commercial structure. The windows do feature cut limestone sills.

Just down the street next to the Courthouse, a new Garland County Complex has been built that incorporates the green ceramic Mansard roof tiles along with the old ice house complex. Today, only a few county offices remain in the last bay addition on Ouachita Avenue. There is still a body shop in the north shed addition along Hawthorne Street, and the rest of the building is used for storage.

Front/ Ouachita Avenue Façade

The front façade is well united by its hand-placed split faced gray granite stone exterior. This delineates it from its adjoining one-story brick office building, as well as all the other building in its vicinity. The three bays of this façade are delineated by two-story vertical granite entries with vertical bands of **green and white** 6x6 terra cotta tile patterns above cut-stone doorways. Each remaining (the corner entrance has been replaced) cut limestone doorway has a flattened roman arch hood that divides a six-over-partial-six glass transom window. The northernmost doorway also has a limestone building plaque reading "Hamp Williams Erected Nineteen Twenty." The two stories are delineated with emphasis to the horizontal by a slightly recessed band of green and white 6x6 terra cotta horizontal tile patterns. Below are typical turn-of-the-century cast-iron storefronts (two of three are still glass filled, the corner infilled wood). The storefront bulkheads (again, not including the corner bay) were limestone panels that have been crudely covered with white marble. Above the storefronts the granite-faced upper floor has decorative horizontal tile bands under handsome symmetrically grouped double-hung windows, all with limestone cut-stone sills. These are three-over-one and either single or double grouped with a green tile rectangle above. The numbers of windows for each façade bay are nine west, eight middle, and nine east. The ground floor entry doors are wood with a twelve-pane glass panel. The corner entry has a pair of hollow metal frame metal doors with a wood and asphalt roof awning that extends along both street sides off the corner bay. The corner transom has been filled (Attorneys at Law signage) and a second floor window (three-over-one) boarded up. Each bay has a projecting Mansard green tiled roof with wood soffits and horizontal ornamental wood brackets.

Side/ Hawthorne Street Façade

The two-story front façade with its wood infill wraps the corner matching the front façade along Hawthorne Street to the first two-story vertical granite entrance. This entrance is very similar to the three front entrances on Ouachita Avenue except it has a boarded up three-over-one window over the hooded arch doorway. Shorter in length (thirty feet versus fifty feet) than the front bays there are only four upper floor windows (three-over-one) over the wood infill storefront. (These are the same windows on the Ouachita Avenue

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façade bays). The two-story section of this façade continues on another fifty feet or so but is plainer missing the green-tiled Mansard roof and green terra cotta tile decoration. This bay has eleven upper floor three-over-one double-hung windows, grouped as doubles with a single single. All but one double is boarded up. This bay contains three almost square three-pane mezzanine awning windows at transom height over a fixed-glass single-pane large horizontal window. This is to the left of (from the street) a wooden infilled large garage door. This infill contains a metal frame door and a smaller boarded-up garage door opening. To the right of this is a simple rectangular double-door entry with glass (ten-pane) transom. Above, set in the granite rock, is a limestone plaque inscribed with this section's name and date (Hamp Williams, 1925). This is the access to the upper floor offices from this street. This is the end of the two-story section of the building along Hawthorne.

As the building extends north along Hawthorne Street, a one-story granite-faced façade fronts three more bays. The first bay contains a large drive in auto storage and repair area and has two double-hung two-over-one windows just north of the two-story entrance. External electrical panels and meters flank both sides of this opening as well a large metal downspout (from parapet to below grade) on the south. North of these windows is a wooden garage door and two blocked-in (CMUs) windows. There is one remaining opening into this section and it is another wooden garage door, this one with nine-beside-nine glass lites. North of this garage door is a large metal downspout, painted gray, that extends below-grade from the parapet above.

The next building bay is a long rectangular parts storage/office that has one large fixed-glass window with a four-pane transom. The final building section contains the auto/body shop. This is entered by a large hinged wooden garage door with a wooden transom. The granite façade parapet is heightened here above this garage door, then makes two steps down towards the rear of the building. One set of double-hung one-over-one wood windows north of the garage door finish the façade's openings. There is signage to the south and an externally mounted electrical panel to the north of this last opening.

Rear/ Northwest Façade

The rear of the building shows the structural native stone rubble bearing walls of the building. This is at the auto/body shop rear shed and extends the length of this back building section. This section contains five double six-over-three and one double twelve-over-six metal frame and sash industrial awning windows. Three of these have been modified by adding fans in a plywood panel in the upper glass. There is a wood garage door opening near the middle of this side. A few repairs in the stone wall (mainly stone replaced by brick and concrete) are evident near Hawthorne Street. Evidence of shed joists on the northernmost stone wall can be seen below the shed roof. The northernmost section of roof is still wood with rolled asphalt, but most has been replaced with standing seam metal panels.

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Side/Southwest Façade

The front half of the two-story section of this southwest side of the Hamp Williams building is shared with a one-story commercial building on Ouachita Avenue. This wall is bearing native rubble stone construction with few penetrations. Behind the shared office wall there is a 12-foot blank two-story exposed stone section. This joins a raised parking lot that abuts the middle of the building and continues to the rear one-story working bay that extends westward. This is covered with English ivy and has two ivy-covered industrial windows. The one-story projected wall of the repair area is also covered with ivy, both inside and out, as the roof has been removed in this bay. There is a garage door at the rear (also covered) of this bay and the wall continues at this depth through the auto/body rear bay. There are a couple of metal windows at the rear of this wall which borders a vacant overgrown lot.

Interiors/Alterations

The Hamp Williams Building's interior has also been altered during the changes of uses of each business and their remodeling. The Community Bank and Trust section has definitely changed the most. It occupied the Ouachita/Hawthorne corner (500 Ouachita) and had a concrete floor on the entry level that connected to a partial wood framed mezzanine. This building also housed the Cox Store Company (502 Ouachita), apparently a separate business, and a grocery, just north of the bank on Hawthorne. Above these businesses were individual wood-framed rooms, probably offices, accessed from the streets below. The corner bank at some time became part of an automobile/truck company (C & S Auto) and then was remodeled into offices for lawyers and bail bondsmen.

Changes occurred as remodeling divided the ground floor into numerous small rooms with wood partition walls covered with wood paneling. A dropped hung acoustical ceiling and lights were added throughout with varying but often low (seven feet or less) heights. Some dropped ceilings near the mezzanine section are framed gypsum board. The floors have been covered with brick pavers in the front offices, linoleum or carpet elsewhere. The two concrete-walled bank-vault rooms still remain as does the access to the small mezzanine. The mezzanine stairs have been roughly enclosed by wood framing and paneling. The mezzanine is now unusable and has exposed fiberglass insulation on the floor and HVAC ducts running throughout (the ceiling height here is about six foot). There is evidence (visual) that the mezzanine overlooked the full height bank lobby as there is still a metal vault and desk present as well as pressed tin ceilings that surely were visible from below.

Above these spaces second floor offices still have some of the plaster walls and pressed tin ceilings (ten foot high) but most are significantly damaged. Much of the plaster on the exterior walls was applied directly to the rubble masonry and has fallen off covering the floors. Some of the walls have been paneled. Some of the wood floors have been covered with carpet or linoleum. There is visible evidence of additional plaster walls added and changed (careful inspection of the discrepancies in pressed tin ceiling and trim, as well as window trim/wall placement). Three large skylights (open inside but covered externally) are framed (decorative tin

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ceiling panels) in one large interior room. Behind the bank (northeast along Hawthorne) on the ground floor there is still a singular rectangular room (once Cox Store Company grocery and now used for storage of plumbing supplies) that does not appear to have been remodeled. The high tin ceiling and trim are correct as well and plaster walls and wood doors. A wood post with trim supports a tin-trimmed mid-room beam on concrete floors. There is a small toilet as well as stairs to a partially-flooded basement.

The L-shaped Hamp Williams Auto Company (504 Ouachita) had entrances on both Ouachita and Hawthorne. The drive-in entrance for autos on Hawthorne has been closed. There is now an auto body shop in a shed addition over the original rear automobile storage. This still has an original auto entrance to the old repair and display areas of this structure. The ceiling in the repair area has been removed but the large steel trusses still remain, open to the sky. The exposed rock has been painted metallic silver. A horizontal sliding garage door leading to auto storage and display still remains but has been sealed shut.

Beside the Hamp Williams Auto Company there are three different ground floor sections. At the rear (northwest) there is a long rectangular room for parts storage and offices that has glass windows and doors. These are on the wall shared with the large open storage and repairs section. This parts section has three skylights and an acoustical ceiling grid attached directly to the second floor joist above. This appears to have been added and insulated but is peeling and in poor condition. Along most walls are wooden storage shelves, some old (northwest wall), some makeshift additional (southeast wall below glass), on bead board wood siding. The floor is concrete.

The automobile storage and repair section of the Auto Company also has exposed concrete floors. It is a large open area of wood post and large exposed rectangular wood trusses running from northwest to southeast. The floors are exposed concrete and the ceiling is falling gypsum board (in bad repair) applied directly to the second story floor joist. The exterior southwest and northwest walls are exposed native stone rubble painted silver. The skylights still exist in the northwestern one story part of the space. There are double doors leading to the auto display and sales section on the southeast shared interior wood wall as well as some interior plate glass windows. Here, still in the parts and storage, there are stairs and also a wooden winched auto lift leading to more auto storage on the second level. This second level is largely unfinished with plaster walls on the northeast and southeast that separate this storage area from the upstairs offices. In the southwest wall there is another hanging horizontal garage door leading to more storage upstairs of the Garland County Offices Building. The floor of the second-story is uncovered wood (pine) in poor condition and the ceiling is exposed wood rafters (also in poor condition) with four large skylights.

The third section of the building was the automobile "showroom" and sales. Its concrete floor was tiled (red) in the southeast end of the room and this front (Ouachita Avenue) part of the room has been recently used to display restaurant supplies. A raised (six inch) concrete display platform sits in the middle of the room and is supported from the rear. Four-foot by eight-foot wood partition panels were attached horizontally to the wood posts to divide up the display area for the restaurant supply. The high ceilings are pressed tin in fair condition. There is a large space heater hung between the entrance door (Ouachita Avenue) and the double-doors to the auto storage and repairs. The office spaces above this (front) section are accessed from an

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exterior entrance and stairs on Ouachita Avenue and an exterior entrance and stairs and entrance on Hawthorne Street. They are connected to the offices above the bank and are similar.

Exterior/Alterations

A viewing of the early historic photographs of the Hamp Williams Building exterior shows one very major physical change in the building's appearance, as well as several minor changes. The earliest (before 1924) photograph shows the southeastern façade (front) with an auto company as the southernmost bay of two large bays (504 Ouachita). The northernmost (corner) bay was the Community Bank and Trust (500 Ouachita) with Cox Store Company. They can be seen in the other historic photos. By 1924, an addition along Hawthorne Street can be seen in the photographs (dated 1924) north of the bank. Today, visible construction lines behind the bank suggest this as a rear addition. It is very likely that the third bay along Ouachita Avenue was added at this same time.

In the photograph taken in the 1930s a new matching bay (510 Ouachita) can be seen on the automobile company's southwest wall, completing the structure's present facade. This new addition/bay matched the original bays in both size and materials. The structure's northwest side is made of an extension along the back that has been shedded on to this probable addition. It is unknown when this shedded space was added but it appears to have similar construction (bearing stone rubble wall and with large wood ceiling trusses) to the second Hawthorne Street addition.

Overall, the southeast (Ouachita Avenue) and northeast (Hawthorne) sides of the exterior are composed of hand-dressed split-faced gray granite stone with beaded gray-colored mortar joints. The northwest and southwest side exteriors are exposed native hand-dressed fieldstone as are the interior bearing walls. It is unknown exactly when the southwest bay addition (now Garland County offices, 514 Ouachita Avenue) was completed, but it did alter this once-exterior northeast wall. The wall became an interior shared wall and this wall's distinctive (for this building) flat roman-arched windows on both the first and second floors were boarded up and filled. The other windows of the original building are rectangular double-hung wood windows (three-over-one) on the second floor over the bank, and same sized rectangular double-hung wood windows (six-over-one) above the center and southern bays. These came in singles, doubles, and even one set of four.

On the first floor façade were three-pane operable wood awnings above the glass store fronts. Two large storefront windows flanked the corner entrance to the Community Bank & Trust. The corner entrance appeared to be a single door with lites on either side. Today, this has been replaced with double metal doors, lites. There is still evidence of hexagonal ceramic tile at the entry but most has been covered by dark brick raised pavers that start on the exterior and fills the first few interior rooms.

The bank's glass storefront windows have been in-filled with stuccoed gray walls with numerous very thin rectangular vertical fixed panes of translucent orange glass. This is definitely the most incongruous alteration to the buildings exterior. This corner space served as lawyer's offices and a gray asphalt-shingled

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wood awning runs over the corner entrance and over the clerestory glass awnings of the stucco infill. The structure's center bay (building) was the Hamp Williams Auto Company and its cast iron with wood frame storefront has been partially replaced with aluminum. Below the glass it appears that marble panels have roughly been applied covering or replacing the original panels. The clerestory glass awnings here have been covered with a large "Stewart Restaurant Supply" sign.

The building's second story windows all appear to be original. There have been ten of these boarded up of the original 16 on the north (Hawthorne) side. On this side, there were three three-pane individual awning windows, of which one has been boarded up. The southeast (Ouachita) front has only two of its 17 second-story windows boarded. There is also a boarded second-story window over the corner entrance.

Significant Features/Integrity

The Hamp Williams Building retains much of its original exterior look and feel in spite of the noted changes. It is still a very handsome building with its two-story street side appearance of split-faced granite, unique exterior materials for Hot Springs. More common but still rare for this area are the other walls, the natural-stone rubble exterior walls and interior bearing walls. The building was designed and built in a regional Renaissance Revival period style by the Little Rock architects Sanders and Ginnochio. The Hamp Williams Building is one of only three commercial structures in Hot Springs attributed to this important pair of architects (they did work separately and with other architects on some other buildings in town).

It is very different from the two other Sanders and Ginnochio buildings in Hot Springs. This could be the influence of a third designer. There is mention of the floor plan coming from "an unknown 'leading architect' of the Ford Motor Company" in a 1924 *Hot Springs, New Era* newspaper article. This building was built for Hamp Williams as the first Ford Automobile Showroom and Garage in Hot Springs, and importantly as one of the very first in the whole state. It is Hamp William's fourth and only remaining building. Its location is also important, directly across from the present Garland County Courthouse. The Courthouse and many neighboring buildings were rebuilt in this area following a fire, known locally as Black Friday, 1913. This fire devastated this area previously destroyed in the downtown fire of 1903. The area is still highly active today as part of Hot Springs's downtown and sits on much trafficked Ouachita Avenue.

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SUMMARY

Built in 1920, at the prominent corner location of Ouachita and Hawthorne, The Community Bank and the Hamp Williams Auto Company was a quite impressive building with its hand-placed split-face granite facades. It is a great example of 1920s Renaissance Revival architecture, unlike any in the city. The Auto Company was such a success that the building was soon expanded/finished, with the last bay completing the building's façade and the rear expansion adding large areas for automobile storage and display. It became one of Hot Springs' largest retail buildings, and also one of its best known. The Hamp Williams Building retains much of its original architectural character and features, including most of the original doors and windows, as well as exterior and interior finishes (pressed metal ornamentation, plaster walls) and skylights. As such, the Hamp Williams Building, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as an outstanding example of the Renaissance Revival architectural style in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas.

As the first Ford automobile dealership in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, and one of the first such dealerships in the state, the Hamp Williams Building is also eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with the development of Arkansas highway culture. The property is eligible for submission to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing, "Arkansas Highway and Transportation – Era Architecture, 1910 – 1965," in conjunction with the historic context, "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910 – 1965."

ELABORATION

This building is a local landmark, known primarily for its original owner, Hamp Williams, by most elderly Hot Springs natives. He was a successful local businessman and politician. Williams was a state senator and unsuccessful candidate for governor. Locally, he invited and hosted Theodore Roosevelt at Oaklawn Park for the state fair in 1910. He headed many local organizations such as the school board and chamber of commerce.

His initial business success was his series of hardware stores, three total. Hamp Williams at one time (1923-1924) served as the president of the National Retail Hardware Dealers Association. In his third hardware store he introduced Ford automobiles for order.

He became the first Ford automobile dealer in Hot Springs. He had, on one visit, gone out of his way to meet Henry Ford personally on a visit to Chicago. His success with the Ford agency started in 1913. He initially bought three Fords, one for himself, one for his brother-in-law Sam Smith, and sold the other to Willis Davis. This was the same year as Hot Springs' most destructive fire, the Black Friday Fire. His profitable hardware (his second) store burned to the ground.

As president of the city council, Williams led the rebuilding. He rebuilt his hardware store (1913) and placed a new four-story brick building at the same location, 414 Ouachita Avenue. (The fire of 1905 had

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destroyed his first hardware store, a small wood structure he built at 328 Ouachita in 1896.)

Hamp Williams sold Ford automobiles out of this third hardware store as a dealer, although he had no real auto storage or display. He also became president of a newly formed bank, the Community Bank & Trust that became the corner business in the new Hamp Williams Building at the 500 block of Ouachita Avenue. (He also served for over 20 years as the vice-president of the Citizens' National Bank.)

His four-story hardware store was a typical early 20th century commercial brick building. The building remained but changed hands frequently (often as a hardware or furniture store) and was eventually razed in 1985. His remaining structure, known today as the Hamp Williams Building, appears to have been built in primarily two stages. The first stage, built and occupied in 1920, was the corner bay (Community Bank & Trust) and its adjoining bay, the Hamp Williams Auto Company. This included the Cox Store Company, a small grocery franchise (with the motto "All over Arkansas"), located behind the corner bank.

The automobile company was both the first Ford dealership and first automobile showroom in Hot Springs. This showroom has a concrete floor and a raised (ramped) display area behind the glass storefront on Ouachita. This building was built in a period style, the Italian Renaissance period style. Period styles look to *la past* for inspiration. This was a new modern building program and was executed during the eclectic movement or period of the early 20th century, which consisted of a simultaneous and perhaps competing interest in both modern and historic architectural traditions.

A third bay was added on both the side and back of the first two bays. Again it appears to have been added for more automobile display and storage as well as a large garage for upkeep, service and repair. This interior appears most modern in its openness and accessibility and also the open office and parts partition. While the showroom interior had a modern lift in the rear to hoist autos to the second floor, its decoration of pressed tin was very Victorian. Even the bank building had an open two-story lobby with overlooking offices from the mezzanine level. More modern planning with Victorian pressed tin ornamentation.

The building (at least the Hawthorne Street side) can be seen in a couple of 1926 photographs taken outside the bank and grocery. The large addition that wrapped the rear and side of the first building (1925) can be seen in the distance. Hamp Williams is shown in both photos as well as members of the Hot Springs Junior Council pausing before a trip to New Orleans for a national meeting. At least five Ford automobiles can be seen in the photographs that were to take the men on their journey to New Orleans, proving the car's reliability. Things must have been going well for the auto dealership to have expanded this much this soon (by 1925).

A photograph dated only "the 1930's" shows the completed Ouachita Avenue façade with apparently the original businesses. The bank and grocery were listed in the city directories in 1926 and 1928, but both had disappeared by the next available directory, 1934. The depression of the 1930s was very hard on many Hot Springs businesses and banks and it very likely effected these. By 1936, the Hamp Williams Auto Company is no longer listed in the directory, even though an automobile dealer office is listed in the corner (former *ik*) building.

Williams, Hamp, Building
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Hamp Williams had died in 1931 and his family was offered condolences from then president Herbert Hoover, one of Hamp's close personal friends. Their friendship had begun during World War I when Hoover, the national food administrator, appointed Williams food administrator for Arkansas.

After 1936, it can be seen from Sanborn Maps or city directories that automobiles were still in the center bay as well as some offices in the corner bay. C&S Motors, a tractor trailer dealer, is last listed (in the available directories) in 1963 and not listed in 1971. A Chrysler dealer followed the Ford-Lincolns (center bay, rear) and visual inspection shows evidence they were the last using the center ground floor of this building. The corner offices became a series of remodeled offices for lawyers and bail-bondsmen. The center Ouachita Avenue bay served Hot Springs Fixture Company, and finally Steward Restaurant Supply.

Only the back shed addition is used today, TGS Auto Body & Auto Sales. This part of the building at one time (1940s and 1950s) was an International truck dealership. The third bay Ouachita Avenue addition has been owned by Garland County for the past few years and used for offices and storage. The owners are seriously pursuing the purchase of this bay which was not built with the first phase of the building but was added soon thereafter. The third bay structure was built and attached shortly after the first two and was balanced symmetrically. Since this structure was also used for automobile storage and display it was probably part of the original design but phased in when funding became available and the space necessary. Built originally as the automobile company expanded, this bay was also was a hardware store for a time before becoming offices and storage.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamp Williams Auto Company Building was Hot Springs first Ford dealership, as well as one of the state's first. Built in 1920 at the prominent corner location of Ouachita and Hawthorne, The Community Bank and the Hamp Williams Auto Company was a quite impressive building with its hand-placed split-face granite facades. It is a great example of 1920s Renaissance Revival architecture, unlike any in the city. The Auto Company was such a success that the building was soon expanded/finished with the last bay completing the building's façade and the rear expansion adding large areas for automobile storage and display. It became one of Hot Springs largest retail buildings, and also one of its best known. The Hamp Williams Building retains much of its original architectural character and features including most original doors and windows as well as exterior and interior finishes (pressed metal ornamentation, plaster walls) and skylights. As such, the Hamp Williams Building, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as an outstanding example of the Renaissance Revival architectural style in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas.

As the first Ford automobile dealership in Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas, and one of the first such dealerships in the state, the Hamp Williams Building is also eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with the development of Arkansas highway culture.

This property is eligible for submission to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-

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property listing, "Arkansas Highway and Transportation – Era Architecture, 1910 – 1965," in conjunction with the historic context, "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910 – 1965."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

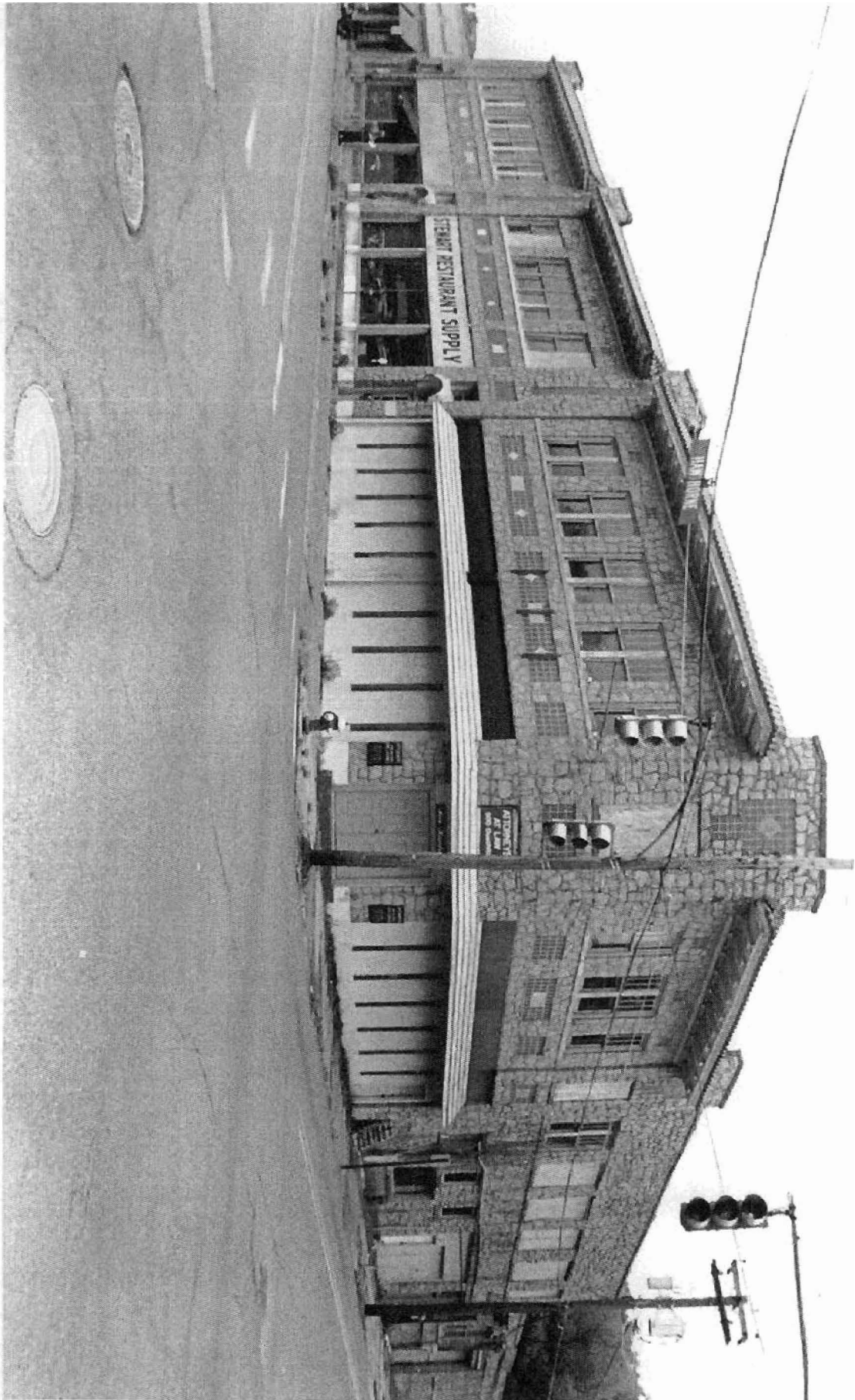
ALL OF LOT 1 AND PART OF LOTS 2, 3, 11, 12, AND 13 IN BLOCK 98 OF THE HOT SPRINGS RESERVATION, GARLAND COUNTY, ARKANSAS, BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN AT AN 'X' MARKED IN CONCRETE, MARKING THE SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF SAID LOT 1 ON THE CORNER OF OUACHITA AVENUE AND HAWTHORN STREET; THENCE S 48d37'53" W, ALONG THE NORTHERLY LINE OF OUACHITA AVENUE, 105.0' TO A SPINDLE; THENCE N 40d26'21" W, THRU SAID LOT 2 AND ALONG A PARTY WALL, 120.85'; THENCE S 48d40'43" W, THRU SAID LOTS 2 AND 3, AND ALONG A PARTY WALL, 74.50' TO AN 'X' MARKED IN CONCRETE; THENCE N 38d40'50" W, THRU LOTS 3 AND 11, 214.32' TO A 2" PIPE; THENCE N 51d48'48" E, ACROSS SAID LOTS 11 AND 12, 54.61' TO A ½" REBAR; THENCE N 47d35'05" E, ACROSS SAID LOTS 12 AND 13, 100.73' TO THE WESTERLY LINE OF HAWTHORN STREET; THENCE S 41d25'01" E, ALONG SAID WESTERLY LINE, 334.0' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, DESCRIBING 1.13 ACRES MORE OR LESS.

NOTES

BEARINGS ARE BASED ON MAGNETIC NORTH.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The above verbal boundary description includes all land historically associated with the Hamp Williams Building, Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas.

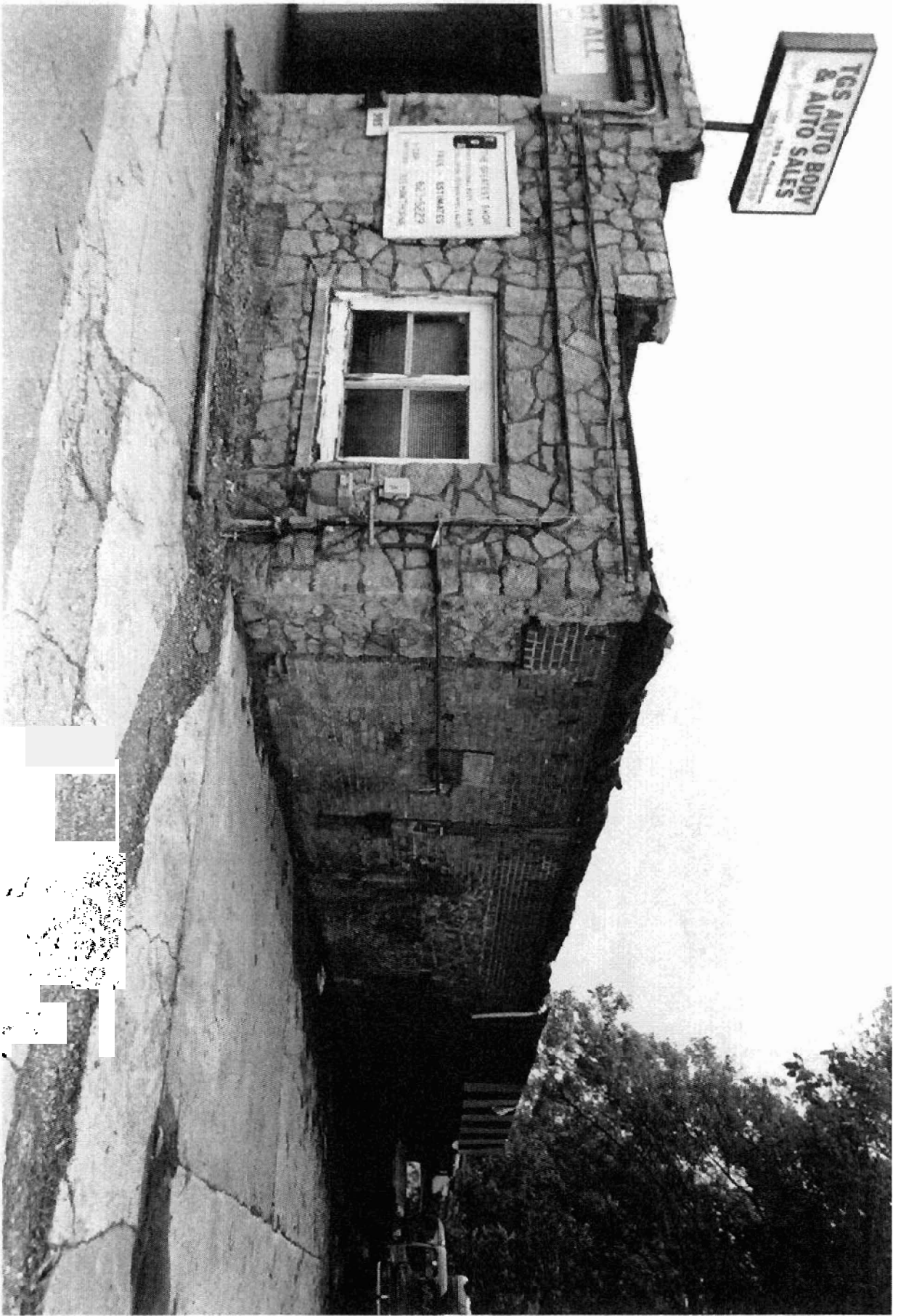




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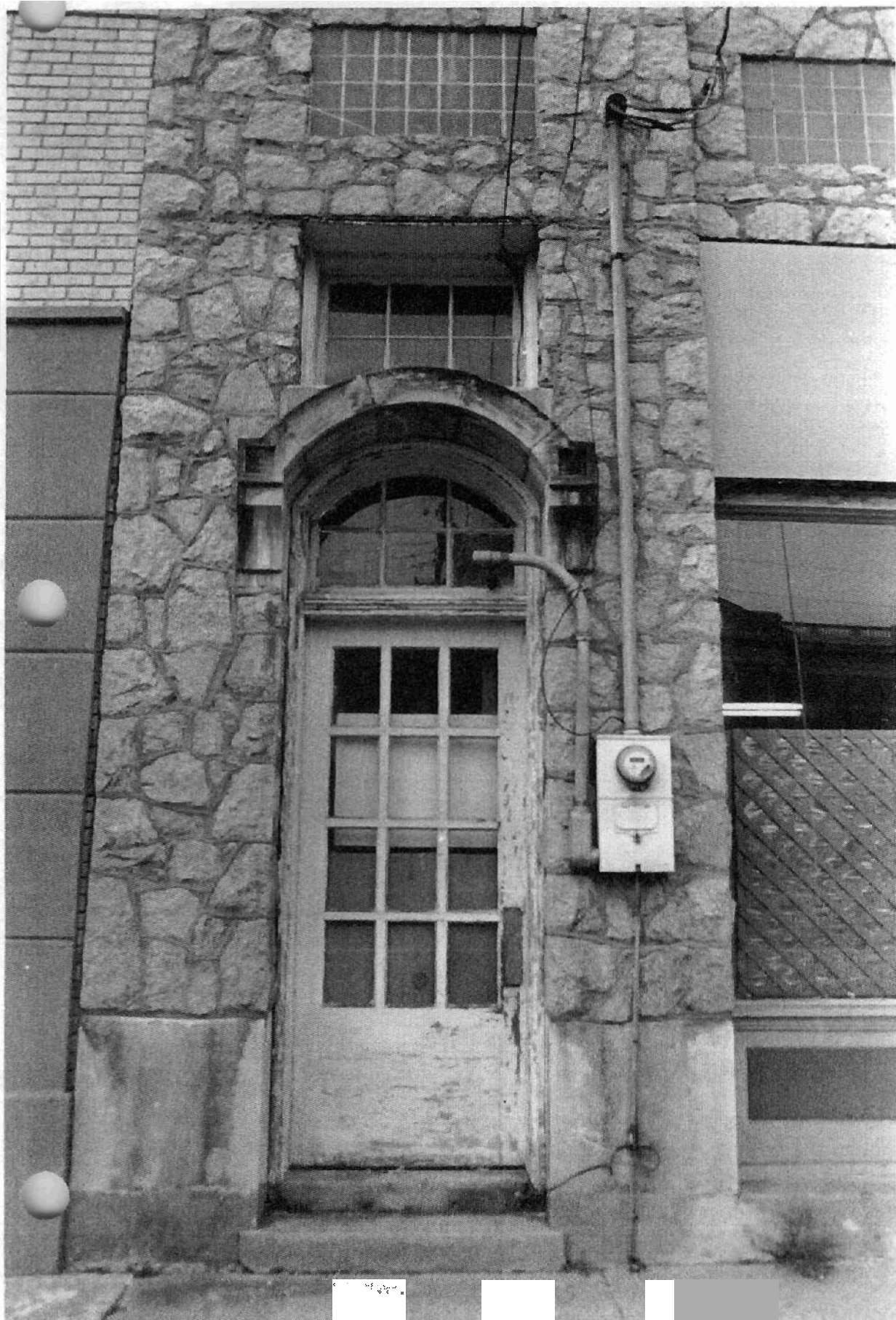
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& AUTO SALES
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Phone: 336-1234

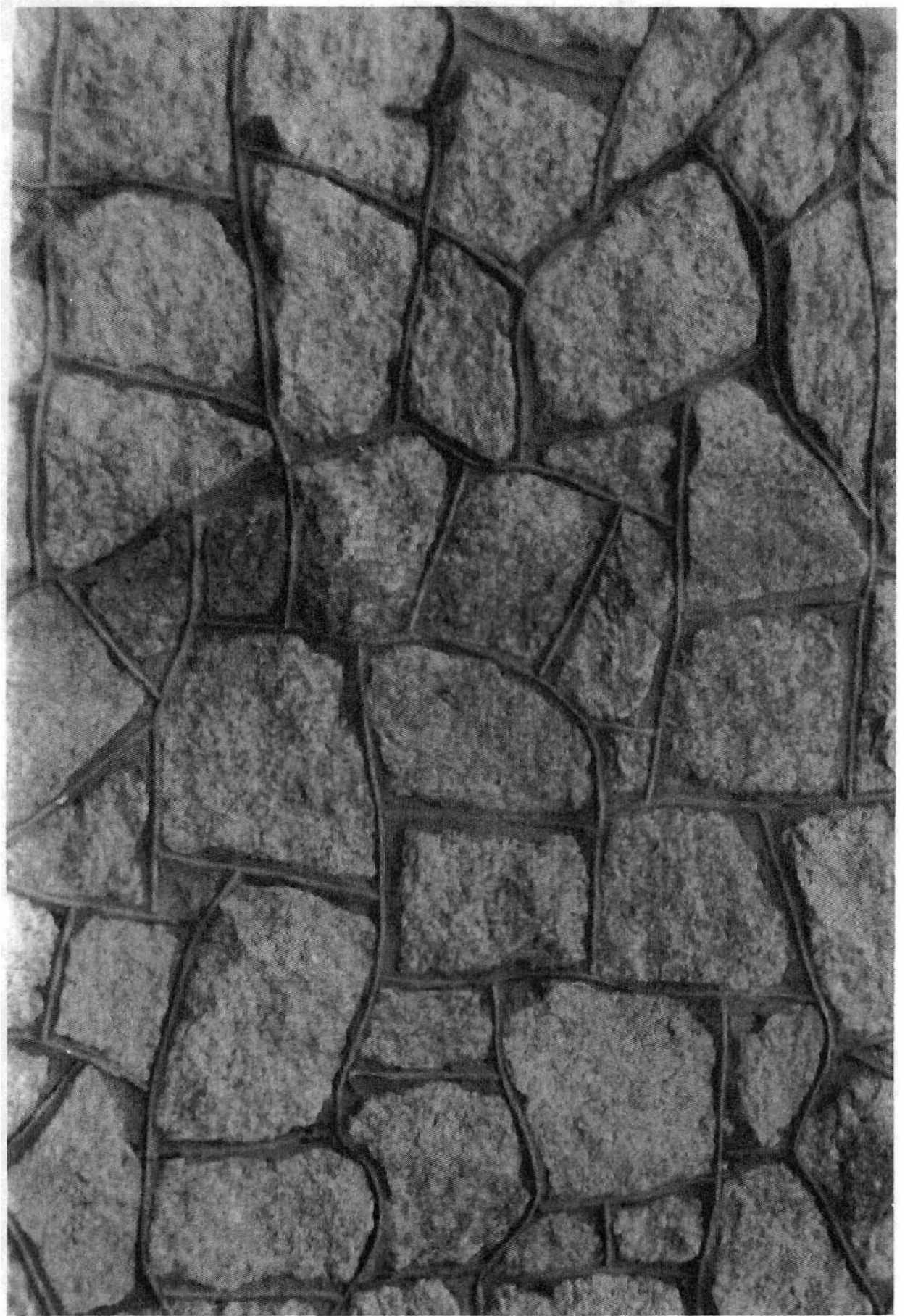
FOR ALL

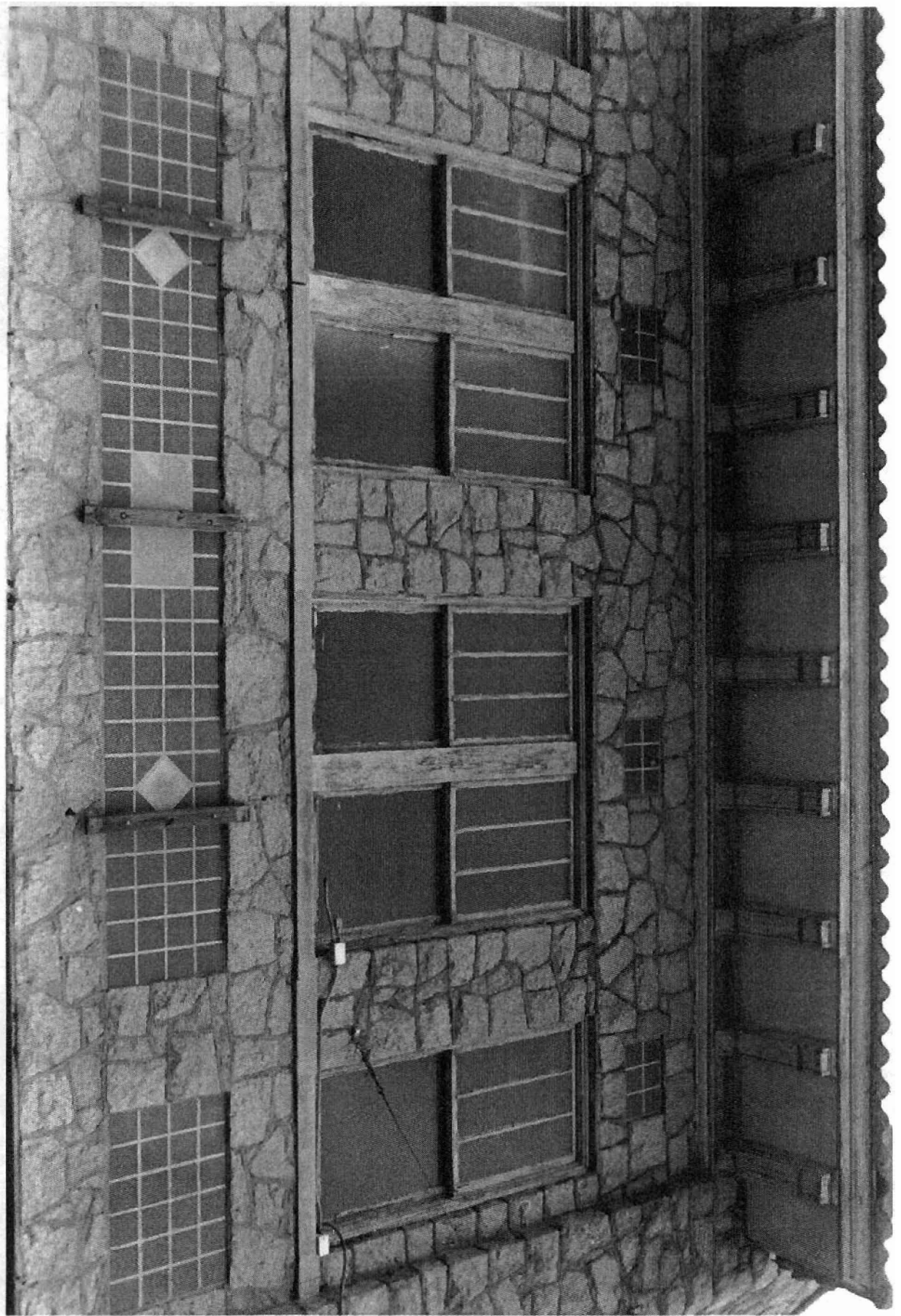


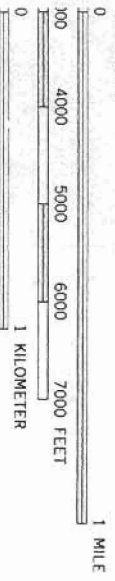
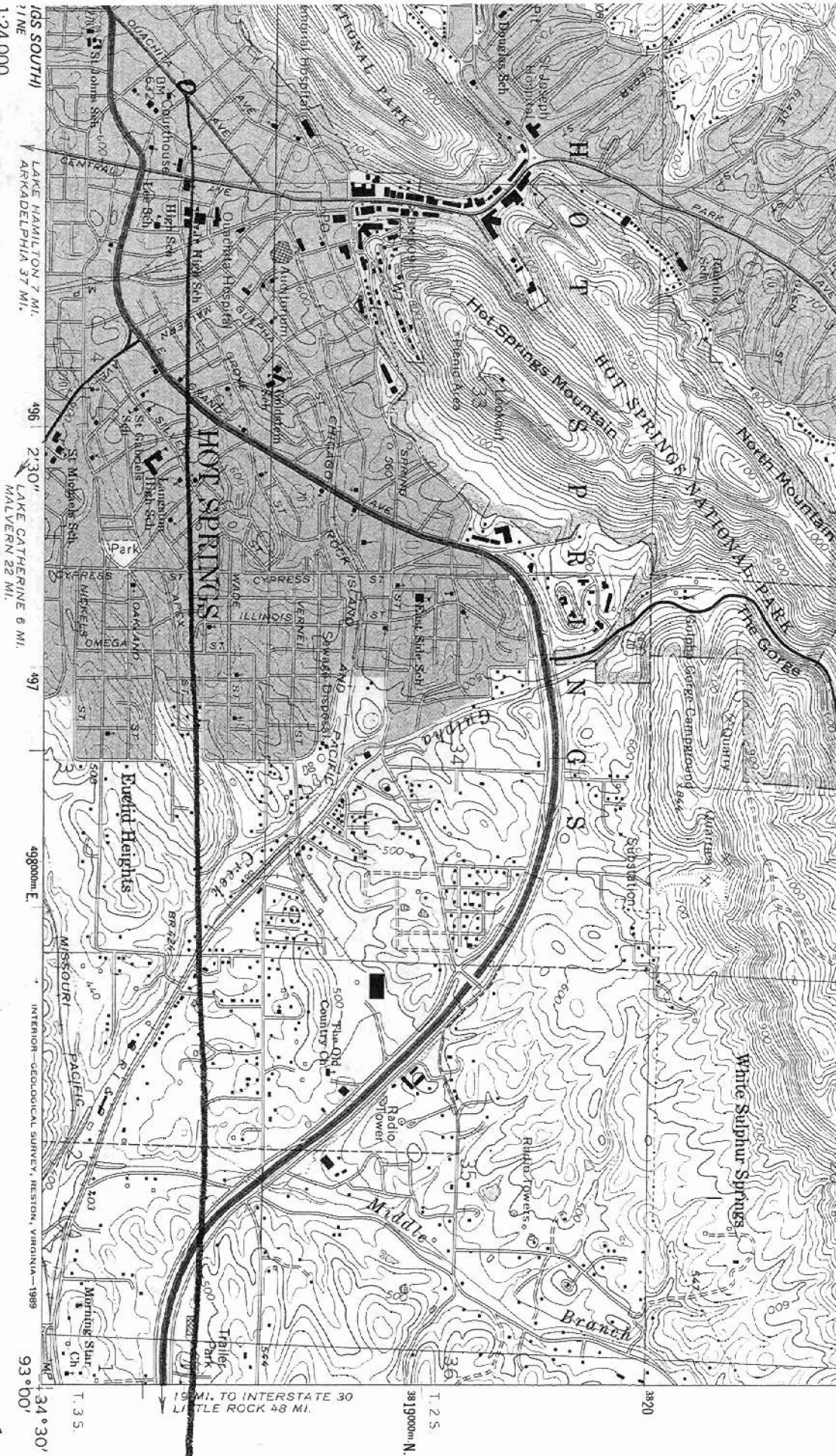
HAMP WILLIAMS
ERECTED NINETEEN TWENTY

19-HAMP WILLIAMS-25









VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS

3, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 5, ILLINOIS 72204
 7, AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————

Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

U.S. Route State Route

HOT SPRINGS NORTH, ARK.

34093-E1-1F-024

1966
 PHOTOREVISED 1976
 DMA 7553 II SE--SERIES V884

*Hamp Williams Building
 Hot Springs, Garland County, Arkansas
 UTM reference:
 15 UTM 18 12 19 208*



(LAKE CATHERINE)
 7452 N.W.