

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Ouachita Avenue Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number Bounded by Ouachita Ave., Orange St., Central Ave., and Olive St.

NA

not for publication

city or town Hot Springs

NA

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 forth 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

*Walter Matthes*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/15/11  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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### 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal
<input type="checkbox"/>	

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object
<input type="checkbox"/>	

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>21</u>	<u>8</u>	<b>Total</b>

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

NA

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

1

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling, secondary structure, hotel

COMMERCE/ TRADE: business, specialty store, department store, restaurant, warehouse

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater, music facility

AGRICULTURE/ SUBSISTENCE: processing, storage

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling, secondary structure

COMMERCE/ TRADE: business, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse, financial institution

RELIGION: religious facility

LANDSCAPE: parking lot

VACANT/ NOT IN USE

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Italianate, Queen Anne  
Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> c. Revival: Colonial Revival, Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Brick, concrete

walls: Brick, stucco, weatherboard

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Late 19<sup>th</sup> & Early 20<sup>th</sup> c. American Movements:

Prairie, Standard Commercial 20<sup>th</sup> Century

roof: Other: asphalt, tar, rubber

Modern Movement: International Style, Art Deco

other: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

The proposed Ouachita Avenue historic district is a short distance south of the famous Bathhouse Row where the town of Hot Springs originally began and where most of the hot springs lie. The city of Hot Springs is unique in that it is surrounded by the nation's oldest national park and holds the natural resource of hot water springs in its core. It lies in the Diamond Lakes region of the Ouachita Mountains in Central Arkansas. Its boundaries include twenty-nine buildings, one ruin, and one ancillary structure in downtown Hot Springs. The building composition of this community includes mostly brick commercial structures and multi-family residential buildings, the exception being one single family residential structure, a church, and a building ruin. Contributing buildings in the district range in date from 1905 to 1961 and retain many of their original features. The historic integrity of this community is 73% intact and contributing to its status as a historic district. The identity of this area is defined through its remaining historic structures and its location near Bathhouse Row.

#### **Overview**

The bathhouses on Bathhouse Row (Central Ave.) were the early main attraction to Hot Springs but as the city grew, it expanded in the direction of the proposed Ouachita Ave. historic district. The district encompasses the portions of Ouachita Ave. and Central Ave. from Olive to Orange Street and includes Pratt Street (once known as Parker Ave.)

The earliest Sanborn map from 1890 shows this community as mostly residential with a few stores for local residents and three small hotels. Records show that these structures were mainly frame construction. In 1905, a fire destroyed the greater part of the commercial area of Hot Springs including this entire district. Because of its popularity and proximity to Bathhouse Row, it was immediately rebuilt but under a new ordinance which required all new structures to be fireproof. The community was quickly resurrected but with more commercial businesses and fewer homes. Although some homes were rebuilt in the area, the majority of the lots now housed small businesses, hotels, and apartment buildings.

Ouachita Ave. still has several of its one and two-story brick structures built after the 1905 fire. The majority of the structures have an Italianate influence, several with arched window openings, parapet walls, and decorative brick coursing and friezes. Central Avenue also has a few Italianate influenced commercial structures built at this time with similar features.

As Hot Springs grew, this area continued to acquire new businesses and buildings. Then, in 1913 another fire severely damaged this part of the city. Again, the area's success and location to Bathhouse Row enticed business owners to immediately rebuild. Many of the multi-family and hotel structures built during this era were influenced by popular early twentieth century revival styles. The Colonial Revival style is the most prevalent building style used in the district at this time. Structures built in this fashion are distinguishable by their full length front porches, prominent columns, front gables, and dormer windows protruding through the roofs. Orange Street rebuilt the burned Orange Street Presbyterian Church, on another lot on Orange Street, in the Classical Revival style.

As new and improved structures went up, the area drew more merchants and new residents. By the early 1920s most lots within the boundaries of the district were full. During this period, the architectural styles of new structures varied. Ouachita Avenue built one and two-story brick commercial structures with simple but decorative brick friezes and flat parapet roofs. Central Ave. added the Central Theater in the Art Deco style. In the early 1930s two buildings, one on Ouachita and one on Central were built in the International Style.

More recently, in the mid-1980s some extensive remodeling was conducted on two buildings, 310 and 320 Ouachita Ave. The architect combined the two buildings with catwalks and used the open space between them as a

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courtyard for pedestrians, adding benches and flower beds. The district has also attracted new construction to the area, adding a bank, in the Post-Modern style, to the corner of Orange and Ouachita avenues in 2000.

Today the area has several rehabilitated buildings and pedestrians are a common occurrence on the streets. Ouachita Ave. is the busiest street in the district, although it still holds the remains of one building ruin. Most of the structures within the district are in use and in good shape. Pratt St. houses several multi-family apartment buildings, along with one on Orange St. and two on Olive St. which range in shape from fair to abandoned. All of the buildings on Central Avenue are in use, except the Central Theater which has recently been purchased and is in the process of being remodeled.

#### Inventory:

- 1) 1000 Central Ave. Contributing Element. (c. 1913) One-story brick commercial building. Parapet roof with terra cotta roof tiles lining parapet. Corbeled brick cornice and decorative brick toothing at corner of the wall. There is new tile exterior wainscot on the base of the storefront and surrounding the front entrance where there are cast-iron columns (possibly not original to structure). The storefronts and front entrance on Central Ave. have fabric awnings. The back has a recently added wrought-iron fence to enclose parking. There is also an entrance on Olive Street to additional office space. Originally this structure housed a grocery store and in the back a warehouse.
- 2) Central Theater. 1006 Central Ave. Non-contributing Element. (c. 1920) One-story stucco and brick movie theater. Plain stucco façade with stucco molded frieze. Has Art Deco sign on marquee. In the 1970s the front façade was redone, covered with a glossy black stone veneer. The veneer has been removed and the original front shows but window openings in the front façade have been removed.
- 3) 1010 Central Ave. Contributing Element. (c. 1945) Two-story brick building with International style lines. Cast-concrete banding across the building aligns with the top and bottom of the second floor windows giving the building the appearance of horizontal lines through it. The storefront is recessed and angled into the building. The doorway on the left of the structure appears to have the original sconce lighting. Originally the building housed an automobile dealership and service center.
- 4) 1016 Central Ave. Contributing Element. (c. 1913) Two-story brick building with decorative brick cornice which includes a chevron and dentil brick design. It has a parapet roof that steps down on the sides as it goes toward the back. The side and second story front windows are arched. The back has a rear shed addition. Originally the building had specialty stores on the first floor and an apartment upstairs.
- 5) Algoma Hotel. 1028 Central Ave. Contributing Element. (c. 1913) Two-story brick hotel with stepped parapet walls on front portion of building. Some original windows are still intact but several windows have been replaced with smaller aluminum windows and retro-fitted with plywood. The building has a full-length front porch with an overhang and exposed rafters. The structure has two original back side projections. There is a shed addition on one side of the back also. Originally known as the Algoma Hotel, then the Balfour Hotel. Now it is an apartment building. If one looks very carefully, you can still see the ghost of the painted "ALGOMA" sign on its upper north side. The upper windows on the front and the back door have metal awnings.
- 6) 110 Pratt St. Contributing Element. (c. 1913) Two-and-a-half-story brick and decorative concrete-block apartment building. This structure is a mix of the Queen Anne and the Colonial Revival styles. The turret on the front façade is reminiscent of the Queen Anne style while the hipped roof, front doorways with sidelights, porches, and dormers reflect characteristics of the Colonial Revival style. The front façade consists of decorative cast-concrete blocks designed to emulate stone. The sides and back are red brick. The squared front porch first floor columns and second floor column bases are decorated with fluting. The fascia on the porch between the first and second floor porches are ornamented with inset panels. The first and second floor front doors have sidelights and transom windows. All windows (except the dormers) have cast-concrete lintels and sills. This structure has a low concrete wall surrounding it.
- 7) 111 Pratt St. Non-contributing Element. (c. 1913) Two-story red brick Colonial Revival apartment building with decorative horizontal brick coursing. Originally the structure had a two-story porch across the front which has been enclosed and covered in vinyl siding with windows. The structure still retains its original lines because the enclosure is inset behind the original brick porch columns. The original front door has been replaced. Most of the

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side and back window openings have an arched top. The back has been covered in vinyl siding and has replacement windows.

- 8) 118 Pratt St. Contributing Element. (c. 1913) One-story brick home. Roof has large overhang with decorative rafters. Windows are arched and it has a full front porch. Windows have been replaced. There is a three-door concrete-block garage in the back with a flat roof probably added in the 1960s.
- 9) 121 & 123 Pratt St. Contributing Element. (c. 1913) Two-story Colonial Revival brick duplex with decorative horizontal brick coursing and brick arched window openings. Full one-story front porch. Large back porch added. Second floor front windows have cloth awnings.
- 10) 230 & 234 Ouachita Ave. Non-contributing Element. (c. 1920) One-story stucco and brick commercial building. One storefront has been completely removed and the two others have been altered as to no longer display any of their original features. The entire front and exposed side façade has been covered in stucco. The back of the building is inaccessible due to its closeness to the hill behind it.
- 11) 236, 238, 240 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Element. (c. 1920) One-story, three-bay, buff-brick commercial building with corbeled cornice and frieze. Glass storefronts and metal fixed awnings. All three storefronts are vacant.
- 12) The Oliver Hotel. 242, 244, 246 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Element. (c. 1905) Two-story commercial brick structure. Originally a hotel upstairs and retail shops downstairs. Currently used as a pawn shop downstairs and storage up. The building is now painted. It has a parapet roof with terra cotta tiles lining the edge of the parapets. The structure has heavy decorative brick dentil-shaped corbeling on the frieze. The parapet steps down towards the sides on the front façade and from the front of the building to the back. Each window has a cast-concrete lintel and sill. The upper floor has decorative vent grills. The structure has three storefronts, one of which is recessed. All of the fronts are now covered with burglar grills. There is one fixed metal awning covering across all three storefronts. The transoms above have been filled in and are no longer visible. A cast-iron lintel remains above the transoms which has decorative cast rosette appliques in a metal square. Most likely these are the tops of metal pilasters once used to divide the storefronts. Several of the side and back windows are boarded up or filled in. The upper window openings have been fitted with replacement windows smaller than the openings and the difference in size has been fitted with plywood. The downstairs now has one business in all bays and the upstairs is being used as storage.
- 13) The Pappa's Brothers Confectionary. 300 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (d. 1905) Two-story brick commercial building. This building has a corner entrance with an inset cast-concrete sign above reading "1905". The corner entrance door is decorated in a victorian fashion with elaborate molding and carving. The front has a glass storefront with a fabric awning above it. The window openings in the brick walls all have arches and the corner entrance has decorative brick toothing at its corners. There is a shed addition on the back with two high windows. The storefront, corner, and side entrances have fabric awnings.
- 14) Red Ball Garage. 301 Ouachita Ave. Non-contributing Member. (c. 1920) Ruin of an old gas station. The walls of the brick basement of the building still exists. Entrance to the basement is acquired through a garage door or standard door entrance on Olive Street. The back of the building has warehouse windows. Evidence of the street level store's terrazzo floor can still be seen from atop the ruin.
- 15) 302, 304, 306 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (c. 1925) One-story red brick commercial building with parapet walls and decorative brick banding at frieze on front facade. Original storefronts with transoms still intact. Fabric awnings and fluted cast-iron pilasters around storefronts.
- 16) Hot Springs Candy Company. 303 Ouachita Ave. Non-contributing Member. (d. 1924) Two-story brick commercial building. Although it is likely that elements of original front façade remain, they can not be seen under metal slipcover and pebbled concrete veneer. Back of building appears original with metal warehouse windows and projections as seen in 1925 Sanborn map.
- 17) 310 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (c. 1905) Two-story brick commercial building with parapet walls. Stepped and heavy brick dentil corbeling on cornice. Decorative brick band across front facade which outlines second floor windows. Second floor front façade arched brick window openings have decorative carved wood

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lintels. Side windows are also arched but without decorative lintel. There is evidence of a painted sign mural on the exterior wall on the south side. Although transoms remain, storefronts have been recessed in c 1980s remodel. Although original first floor storefronts have been removed, the building still retains historic lines and character. Rehabilitation has been done sympathetically to this historic structure. A side courtyard has been added to connect this building to 320 Ouachita.

- 18) 317 Ouachita Ave. Non-contributing Member. (d. 1975) Two-story brick building with parapet wall. Age does not allow it to be a contributing member but set back, lines of building, storefront and windows are congruent with the historic fabric of this community.
- 19) The New Lindell Hotel. 320 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (d. 1906) Three-story brick building. Originally a hotel on the upper two floors and specialty retail shops below. This structure is the most ornamental building on this block. It has a stepped parapet wall, brick quoins at the corners, cast-concrete banding at the cornice, some with the antefix pattern across it. The center cornice has a ghost of the original signage "19 HOUSLEY BROS. 06." The second and third floor windows on the front façade have cast-concrete lintels with cast keystones and sills. Three-bays of the original storefront remain on the first floor along with their cast-iron pilasters (complete with cast-iron molded capital and base with decorative filigree ornament in a recessed panel). The second storefront has been removed and replaced with arched windows and an arched awning. However, you can still see the cast rosette appliques at the corners of the original cast-iron lintel of the storefront pilaster on this side. This building was rehabilitated in the 1980s along with 310 Ouachita Ave. with which it shares a courtyard. During the rehabilitation an elevator was added to a side wall along with catwalks linking it to 310 Ouachita Ave. A recessed side entrance was added to gain access to the restaurant on the first floor. Although the structure has been added to and one storefront has been changed, it still retains its original lines and most of its detail. The rehabilitation was done sympathetically to the historic building.
- 20) 321, 325, 327 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (c. 1913) One-story, three-bay storefront with parapet wall. The cornice has brick corbeling and banding with an inset cast-concrete sign reading "MAURICE". The three storefronts are separated with cast-iron paneled pilasters with molded capitals and bases. Each storefront is topped with a fabric canopy. One storefront is recessed and displays "321 OUACHITA" in hexagon shaped tiles at the floor entrance. In this entranceway vestibule there are two doors and a coffered ceiling. The exposed side wall has a stucco coating. The back of the structure has exposed brick walls and two loading docks.
- 21) 324 and 328 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (c. 1920) One-story, three-bay storefronts with parapet wall. Brick corbeled cornice with brick banding. One storefront appears to have original transoms. The other two transoms are covered. Storefronts have been replaced. Back of building is original with arched window openings and stone and brick additions.
- 22) Summit Bank. 333 Ouachita Ave. Non-contributing Member. (c. 2000) Two-story red brick bank building with drive thru and dumpster enclosure. This structure is Post-Modern in style, the only building in this district designed in this fashion. Its scale is quite large although it sits on a lot where a substantially sized hotel once stood. Its roofline is mansard and not characteristic of other buildings on the block. However, its setback and materials are a good fit for this street and its parking is in the back and screened with landscaping from street view.
- 23) 340 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (c. 1920) Two-story brick commercial building. This building once held a filling station at its corner, which explains the recessed storefront with a cast-iron column and hexagon tiles at the doorway. The original storefront bays and transoms are still on the Ouachita Ave. façade. One front entrance has a recessed door vestibule with a pressed tin ceiling and egg and dart cornice. The building has a parapet wall with overhanging eaves and large exposed rafters below. The second floor is visually divided from the first with brick banding. The back and one side wall has arched brick window openings. The windows on the two exposed corner sides are rectangular. Most of the windows on the second floor have canvas awnings. The structure is U-shaped with the opening of the U on the back of the building, not visible from either street view.
- 24) 401 & 403 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (d. 1913) Two-story red brick building with parapet walls and brick banding at the cornice. The front parapet wall steps to a point ending with merlons, highlighting the recessed cast-concrete sign reading "19 SWEARINGEN 13". All of the second story windows appear to be original but are covered with tinted glass. The downstairs storefront windows have been replaced with tinted glass windows and have canvas awnings over them. The back and side doorways also display canvas awnings. There is a front

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doorway, which most likely leads upstairs, that has a cast decorative molded lintel under a cast-concrete inset sign which reads "NEW HAVEN". The building is U-shaped with rectangular window openings.

- 25) 407 Ouachita Ave. Contributing Member. (c. 1935) This two-story brick and stucco building is designed in the International style and has a flat roof. The building is primarily stucco with a terra cotta brick sidewall which is hard to see because of its proximity to the building next door. The back has a vinyl-clad addition. Each window of the front and exposed side have canvas awnings. The front entrance has a canvas awning portico. The front doorway is surrounded with glass block and the west and south side's windows are metal casement. The corners have two sided corner windows. There is an offset band around the top of the building and one which separates the first and second floors.
- 26) Orange Street Presbyterian Church. 428 Orange Street. National Register Listed. (d. 1913) Brick Classical Revival church with a modern addition in the back. This building was the second home for the Orange Street Presbyterian Church. The first one sat at the corner of Orange and Ouachita and burned in the fire of 1913. The congregation immediately rebuilt here. The front of the church (original structure) has beautiful leaded glass in all its windows and transoms. The front portico has four wood ionic columns with a triangular pediment above. The back (c.1920s addition) has a parapet wall topped with terra cotta tiles and all the windows in this portion of the building have been replaced with aluminum windows. The building and grounds are in good condition and have a recently built retaining wall around the front and the front steps appear to be new.
- 27) Bryant Apartments. 430 Orange Street. Contributing Member. (c. 1916) Brick two-and-a-half-story apartment building. This building has a two-story porch with a beadboard overhang. The front displays a dormer in the attic and the back has a windowed pediment at the roofline. All of the original windows are intact along with the garage doors in the back. The building and grounds are neglected although they are in use. There is a granite retaining wall in the front at the sidewalk.
- 28) 440 Orange St. Non-contributing Member. (c. 1916) One-story stucco house with stone foundation and side projection. All of the windows have been replaced and the front porch roofline has been altered. The home is in disrepair due to neglect but in use.
- 29) Woodcock Apartments (East Building) 321 Olive St. Contributing Member. (c. 1913) Three-story brick apartment building with parapet walls and a three-story porch. Some of the windows have been replaced and one unit appears to be in the process of enclosing a porch on the second floor, another unit has enclosed a part of the porch on the back of the third floor. This is one part of a two-building apartment complex. It appears to be vacant at this time.
- 30) Woodcock Apartments (West Building) 321 Olive St. Contributing Member. (c. 1913) Two-and-a-half-story brick apartment building with Dutch parapet side walls and a dormer in the attic. The structure has a two-story brick columned front porch and a two-story side porch. Several windows have been boarded up and it appears to be abandoned. One portion of the second floor of the three-bay front porch has been enclosed. This is one part of a two building apartment complex.

**Break down by period:**

In most cases structures were dated using Sanborn fire insurance maps (1890, 1892, 1901, 1908, 1915, and 1925). This list begins with 1905 because the fire in February of this year eradicated every existing structure in this district. A detailed building inventory is in Part 8.

Breakdown by period:

1905-1912	4 buildings	13%
1913-1915	10 buildings	33%
1916-1925	5 buildings	17%
1926-1961	2 buildings	7%
Non contributing	8 buildings	27%
Listed	1 building	3%

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**Non-contributing Buildings:**

The district has eight non-contributing buildings, for an overall 27% rate. Two of the buildings Stroope Tire at 317 Ouachita Ave. (d. 1975) and Summit Bank at 333 Ouachita Ave. (c. 2000) were built after 1961. The structure at 317 Ouachita retains the correct scale, set back, building shape and material appropriate for new infill in a historic context. The bank at 333 Ouachita is Post-Modern in style, the only structure in this district built in this fashion. Its scale is quite large although it sits on a lot where a substantial sized hotel once stood. Its roofline is mansard and not characteristic of other buildings on the block. However, its setback is a good fit for this street and its parking is in the back and screened with landscaping from street view.

Three other non-contributing structures, those at 303 and 340 Ouachita and 440 Orange St. are historic structures but their facades have been altered so severely that they no longer retain the original character of the building. 303 has been fitted with a metal slipcover and gravel veneer and 340 has received a new storefront and a stucco veneer. 440 Orange Street has had all of the original windows removed and replaced with aluminum windows and the porch roof has been altered.

Two buildings retain some original features but have had additions or subtractions that eliminate them from contributing to the historic character of the district. The building at 111 Pratt St. has had the front porches enclosed and significant portions of the building have been covered in vinyl siding. Several windows have been added to its enclosures and additions. The Central Theater, at 1006 Central Avenue, has had the entrance altered by removing windows in the front deeming it no longer contributing to the district.

The entire structure at 310 Ouachita, once known as The Red Ball Garage, no longer exists. What remains is the ruins of an underground garage accessible from Olive Street and the terrazzo floor of the original building.

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**Narrative Description**



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**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.
- 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 a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce, architecture

**Period of Significance**

1905-1961

**Significant Dates**

NA

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

NA

**Cultural Affiliation**

NA

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Period of Significance (justification)**

1905-1961

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary) NA**

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Traditionally the Ouachita Avenue Historic District supported local residents and the tourists of Bathhouse Row with its many residences, hotels, and commercial businesses. It is unique from more current automotive influenced low-scale, and broadly spread commercial developments. It has characteristic elements such as buildings primarily constructed of brick and is a pedestrian oriented live/ work community with mixed office and residential space and zoning. Overall, the district has few severe or unsympathetically altered or new structures. The district still retains the overall feel of a historic community and pedestrian oriented commercial center.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Ouachita Avenue Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A as a commercial center supporting Bathhouse Row and the surrounding residential community of Hot Springs. The period of significance begins in 1905, after the fire of 1905 which completely removed all structures from this area, and ends in 1961, to follow the present Register fifty year cutoff.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Historical Background:**

The origin of the city of Hot Springs revolves around the hot water springs which flow from the west side of Hot Springs Mountain. For centuries Native Americans lived near the springs, fishing, farming, hunting, and mining novaculite in local quarries. According to folklore created by white men in the nineteenth century, natives from distant as well as local tribes utilized the Valley of the Vapors and it became a peaceful place of rest. However, no archeological evidence supports the folklore.

After the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and the Dunbar-Hunter Expedition's 1804-1805 explorations of the southern portion of the new area, settlers began to appear at the springs. Small shanties and cabins sprang up, many as rentals for visitors attempting to be healed or rest by the cleansing waters. Around 1820 the first long-cabin boarding house appeared.

On April 20, 1832, President Andrew Jackson signed an act that set aside (reserved from sale) four square miles around the hot springs of Arkansas. The area covered in the proposed new commercial district was originally part of this federal reservation.

As word of the thermal waters traveled, more white visitors came to the small town. By 1857 the newspaper reported that there were overflowing hotels, theaters, parties, dances, and much beauty and elegance to be found in the town. Locals expected that when the railroads were completed it would become a resort for half the people in the United States. By 1860 the city boasted two hotels and a number of smaller boarding houses, seven bathhouses and three smaller pavilions for bathing, a few grocery stores, several doctor's offices, and a few substantial homes.

During the Civil War, however, most residents fled and most of the town burned down. The town quickly rebuilt and prospered after the war ended. By 1870 the first multi-story hotel was built. Wooden bathhouses on the east side of Hot Springs Creek served the increasing numbers of infirm who came to bathe in the thermal waters.

In 1875 the Hot Springs Railroad, later known as the "Diamond Jo," linked the town to Malvern where the St. Louis Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad passed, making the trip to Hot Springs faster and more comfortable than the previous trip from Malvern on horseback or by stagecoach. By then, there were twelve quality hotels, several smaller hotels, and around fifty boarding houses. As the city grew, public utilities improved, and more churches and schools were established. Banks, newspapers, and other businesses (including many gambling houses and saloons) flourished, almost all on one long narrow street (then called Valley Street—now Central Avenue). At this time a street railway was built, extending from the Diamond Jo depot through the entire length of the Valley.

In 1876 the Supreme Court struck down all private claims to land on Hot Springs Reservation in favor of the United States government. A Congressional commission completed a survey of the Hot Springs Reservation and reset its boundaries in 1879. Only a small portion of the original reservation was retained by the federal government. The rest, including the proposed commercial district, was sold to private individuals.

In 1878, a gas plant was built to furnish gas lighting and heat for many hotels and other buildings. At the end of Bathhouse Row a fire station, City Hall and city jail were built. By 1882 the city granted a franchise to the Hot Springs Electric Company to install electric lights.

Ouachita Ave. Historic District

Name of Property

Garland, AR

County and State

On February 14, 1876, the citizens of the town successfully petitioned the court to incorporate the town. By 1879 city officials petitioned the governor to advance Hot Springs to a City of the First Class, stating that the population of the city was now more than 5,000.

In 1884-1885 the open Hot Springs Creek flowing through the main street was arched over, which allowed extensive landscaping in front of the bathhouses. In 1887, the Army and Navy General Hospital was constructed above the south end of Bathhouse Row.

By the 1890s Hot Springs had become a social capital of the South. Although the thermal waters were still its main attraction, the city was a mecca for those coming to escape the cold of the north and winter doldrums. The fine dining, elaborate balls in the elegant hotels, musicales, and other popular social events were the talk of national society paper editors. The season extended from January to June, and prominent men brought their families, their servants, and sometimes their horses to this health and pleasure resort. In 1889 the Diamond Jo was changed to a standard gauge railroad, and town residents would often see private Pullman cars parked on the side of the depot. In 1902, after the owner of the Diamond Jo died, the Choctaw Railroad purchased the Diamond Jo (which became known as the Rock Island Railroad) and connected the Diamond Jo to Memphis and Little Rock. In 1904 the Choctaw, Oklahoma, and Gulf Railroad became part of the Rock Island System, which included the Hot Springs line. By 1917, three trains departed daily from the Valley Street (Central Ave.) depot to make connections at Benton, Arkansas, for Texas and Louisiana, and at Memphis for points north and east. One train carried Pullman service to St. Louis and the Little Rock and Hot Springs Western branch became part of the Missouri Pacific system. The increased ease in getting to Hot Springs supported growth and a rising tourist population.

The city suffered through several devastating fires, but the fire of 1905 swept through the middle of the business section of the city and completely destroyed all of the existing structures in the proposed Ouachita Avenue Historic District. The fire began at 3:30 in the morning of February 26, 1905, at the Grand Central Hotel. By nine o'clock that morning the fire had destroyed forty blocks of businesses and homes. Over two thousand people became homeless, and only two homes and one hotel within the fire's boundaries survived. It was disastrous to the city and one of the largest fires in the history of Arkansas up to that time. Fortunately, it did not devastate the city's tourist industry because the main business district, which included Bathhouse Row and the larger hotels, had been spared. Luckily, the Ouachita Avenue area had been well insured and immediately began to rebuild. The district, which originally held mostly residential wood structures, reemerged as a primarily commercial center constructed of fireproof brick.

Once again, on September 5, 1913, which became known as "Black Friday," a fire spread down Central and Ouachita avenues to Hazel Street. A strip over four blocks wide and over ten blocks long was damaged or ruined by flames. Nearly a thousand buildings were wrecked, and 2,500 people were homeless. In this fire the Sigler Apartments were damaged, Orange Street Presbyterian church was destroyed (later it was rebuilt a few lots away), and flats, boarding houses, and many businesses were damaged. Most of the structures on Ouachita and the surrounding area were not completely destroyed in this fire; however, several suffered severe damage.

In 1921 the Hot Springs Reservation was designated Hot Springs National Park, a move prompted in part by the railroad industry, which thought this "branding" would increase tourist travel to the city.

By the 1930s a new type of lodging which was designed to accommodate the automobile traveler became popular. Motor inns and motor courts began to show up not only on main streets but on every entrance to the highway in America. Visitors chose automobile travel over railroad travel, and downtown facilities began to lose their popularity. During the 1950s, suburbs and new lakes were built on the south side of town drawing homes and businesses away from the downtown community. The elimination of casino gambling in 1967, along with a waning bathing industry, left the downtown area in economic decline during the 1960s and 1970s. As a result, some derelict buildings were demolished. During the 1980s, public interest in the downtown returned. Activists fought destruction and abandonment of the downtown. In the mid 1980s, the Downtown Historic District was created, and the late 1980s saw the restoration of the Fordyce Bathhouse on Bathhouse Row as a visitors center and also saw the rehabilitation of a few downtown structures. The continued revitalization of this area has also attracted some new infill construction and rehabilitation of some historic structures. In 2000 a new bank was built on Ouachita Avenue, and new businesses continue to open in the downtown area and Ouachita area.

The Ouachita Avenue Historic District has historically been an important commercial area serving the area just to the south of the heart of downtown Hot Springs. Although Central Avenue and the Bathhouse Row area of Hot Springs have been kind of identified as the center of the city, it catered to locals and was especially important as the center of Hot Springs' tourist industry. The Ouachita Avenue Historic District, on the other hand, although it had some hotels, was not as tourist-centric as the Central Avenue area. Even so, with its strong concentration of commercial establishments, the Ouachita Avenue Historic District was still a significant commercial area of the city, a role that it still serves to a certain extent today.

Ouachita Ave. Historic District  
Name of Property

Garland, AR  
County and State

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

The following is a timeline of what the district looked like, based primarily on Sanborn maps.

1890: A couple of grocery stores, a meat market, and one furnished rooms for rent, but mainly accomplished homes.

1892: The area housed several upscale homes, Ouachita Ave. held a bakery, a few restaurants and a saloon, Tennessee Livery a nice hotel (The Alamo), and several accomplished homes. Orange Street was strictly residential between Ouachita and Central. Park (later Pratt) Street was residential on the west side and housed sheds and out-buildings, for the hotels on Central Ave., on its east side. Central, from Olive to Orange, housed three hotels: The Pacific, Crescent, and St. Louis Hotel and Boarding House, and the Valley Stable along with three substantial homes.

1901: Ouachita had become almost completely commercial with three remaining homes. One home had been destroyed and the Hudgins Hotel was built on its lot. Businesses on Ouachita included shops such as a bakery, and a meat shop with rooms for rent above, a blacksmith, notions shop, barber, cobbler, saloon, two groceries, a second hand shop, stove repair, and lunch shop. Three houses still existed in this district and two hotels, the Hudgins and the Almyra. Parker Ave. had new homes and Central Ave. replaced its no longer existing hotels with new homes.

1908: The fire of 1905 completely devastated this community. The amount of rebuilding in just three years attests to this area's popularity. Ouachita between Olive and Orange became completely commercial. The Oliver, The New West, and The New Lindell Hotels were built on its west side. Other businesses on Ouachita included a tailor, two saloons, a hardware store, fruit store, grocery, drug store, office, printer, tailor, plumbing, livery, and Sigler Apartment Hotel (considered one of the city's finest residential hotels). Orange Street housed a boarding house and three homes. Parker had six nicely sized homes on its west side and four homes and a boarding house on its east side. Central Ave. no longer held hotels in these blocks. It rebuilt with commercial structures including shops for a tailor and grocery, and four boarding houses on its west side along with one home. Olive had one home on its south side.

1915: Again, in 1913 the landscape of the Ouachita Ave. historic district was changed by a fire which consumed the commercial district of the city. The three homes on the north side of Orange Street were burned. Two new homes were rebuilt on these lots and one lot was purchased by the Orange Street Presbyterian Church for their new building at 428 Orange. On Ouachita, The New West Hotel was completely consumed by fire, the Sigler Apartments and Hotel were severely damaged and the Moody Hotel (one building to the south of this proposed district and across the street from the New West) was destroyed and immediately rebuilt. Most of the structures on Parker Avenue were destroyed. As a result, a duplex, boarding house, flats, and a single family home were built in their places. No buildings on Central Avenue within the proposed district survived. After the fire the Algoma Hotel, a grocery store (at the corner of Central and Olive), two new stores, and a few boarding houses were built. On Olive Street, the two buildings which make up the Woodcock Apartments were constructed.

1925: Ouachita Ave. was a bustling street. It housed three hotels between Orange and Oliver (The New Lindell, The Oliver, and Sigler Apartment Hotel), a Firestone Store which included a filling station, car wash, vulcanizing area, and a garage, a candy factory and warehouse (Hot Springs Candy Co.), Muse Laundry, a plumbing and paint shop, two pressing shops, a printer, a drug store, and several other small shops. Olive Street's south side held the two buildings that made up the Woodcock Apartments and a couple of warehouses. Parker Ave. still looked very much the same with the exception that the one single family home had become a rooming house. Orange Street had three houses, a flat, two apartment buildings (one being the Bryant Apartments), and the Orange Street Presbyterian Church. Central's west side now had a movie theater, several small stores, and a restaurant added to the existing structures which included the apartment building, rooming house and a hotel on the west side. (This hotel once known as the Algoma Hotel had now become the Balfour Hotel.)

Due to its importance in the commercial history of Hot Springs, the Ouachita Avenue Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A as a commercial center supporting Bathhouse Row and the surrounding residential community of Hot Springs. The period of significance begins in 1905, after the fire of 1905 which completely removed all structures from this area, and ends in 1961, to follow the present Register fifty year cutoff.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Ouachita Ave. Historic District  
Name of Property

Garland, AR  
County and State

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Abernathy, Mamie Ruth Stranburg, *History, People, Places, Events of Hot Springs Arkansas and Hot Springs National Park*, 1997.

*Arkansas Gazette*, February 26, 1905.

McCully, Audrey Wenger. "The Pappas Brothers Confectionary: Home of the Incomparable Three-Way". *The Record*. Vol. 28. 1987. 22-29.

Meggison, WJ. *The Heritage of Garland County: A Preliminary Inventory*. Hot Springs, Ark: 1983.

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*Sentinel Record*, February 28, 1905, Sept. 6, 1913.

United States National Park Service, *A Conceptual Master Plan: Hot Springs National Park*, The Service, 1970.

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): GA0745- GA0772

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approx. 9 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) see continuation sheet for additional UTM's



Ouachita Ave. Historic District

Garland, AR

Name of Property

County and State

**County:** Garland

**State:** AR

**Photographer:** Antoinette Johnson

**Date Photographed:** July 2011

**Location of Original Digital Files:** SHPO

**Number of Photographs:** 19

Photo #1

Building numbers 2-5, camera facing northwest

Photo #2

Building numbers 1-4, camera facing southwest

Photo #3

Building numbers 1, 29, 30 camera facing southeast

Photo #4

Building numbers 1, 12, 29, 30 camera facing southwest

Photo #5

Building numbers 22, 26, 27 camera facing west

Photo #6

Building numbers 26- 28 camera facing east

Photo #7

Building numbers 17, 19, 21, 23 camera facing northwest

Photo #8

Building numbers 16, 18, 20, 22 camera facing northeast

Photo #9

Building numbers 22, 24, 25 camera facing northeast

Photo #10

Building numbers 24, 25 camera facing southeast

Photo #11

Building numbers 16, 18, 20 camera facing northeast

Photo #12

Building numbers 13, 15, 17 camera facing northwest

Photo #13

Building numbers 10-12 camera facing northwest

Photo #14

Building numbers 10-13, 17 camera facing southwest

Photo #15

Building numbers 3, 5, 7, 9 camera facing southeast

Photo #16

Ouachita Ave. Historic District  
Name of Property

Garland, AR  
County and State

Building numbers 2, 3, 5, 7, 9 camera facing northeast

Photo #17  
Building numbers 6, 8 camera facing northwest

Photo #18  
Building numbers 29 camera facing southwest

Photo #19  
Building numbers 1- 3, 5, 7, 9 camera facing southeast

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**Property Owner:**  
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

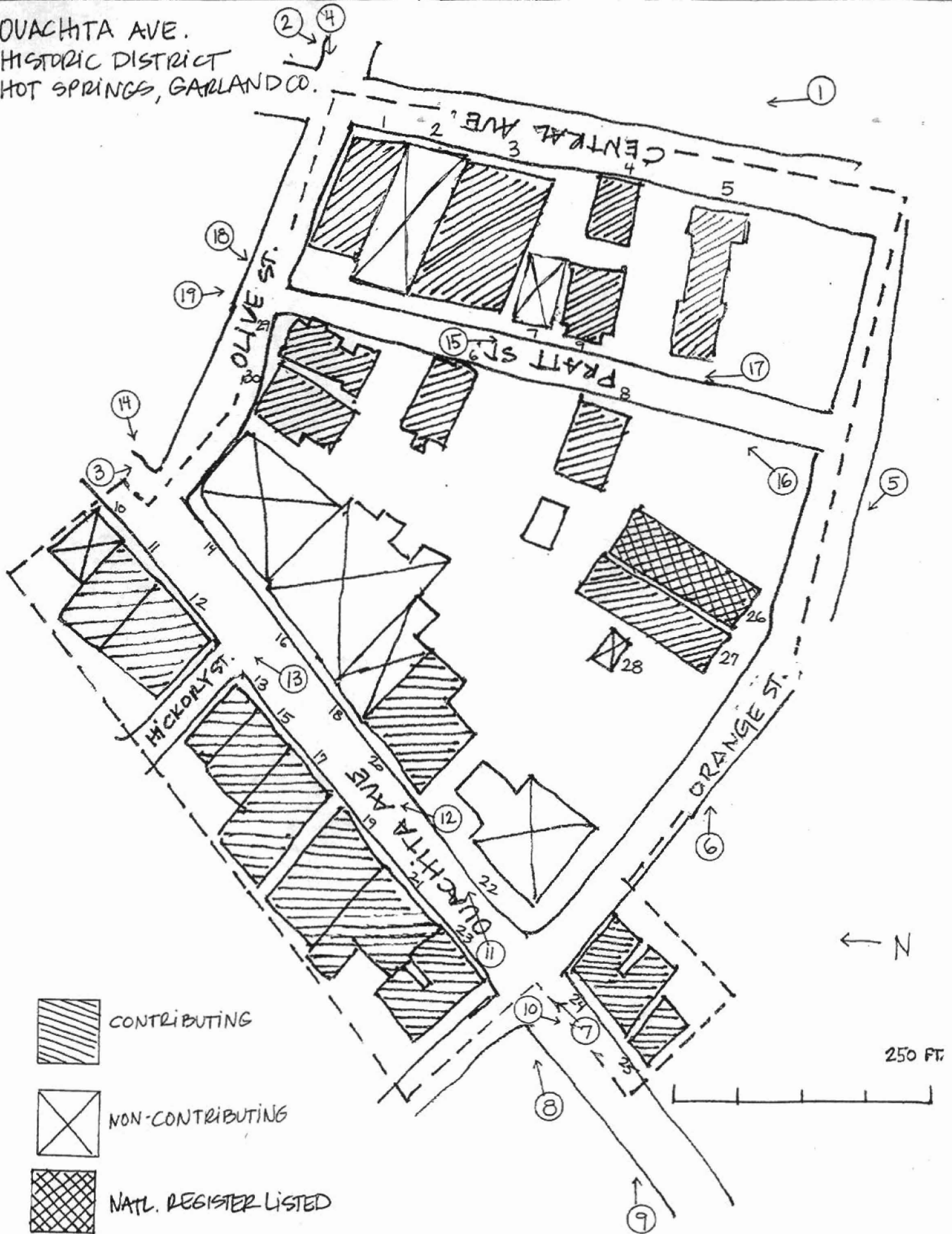
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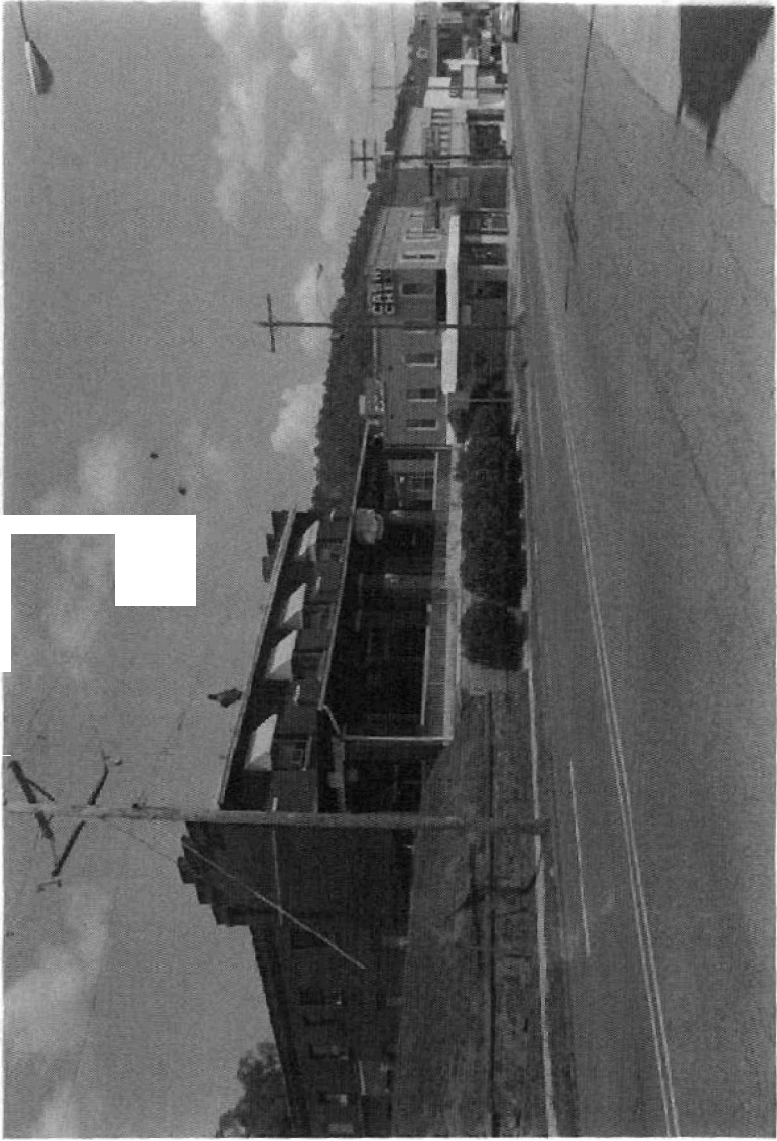
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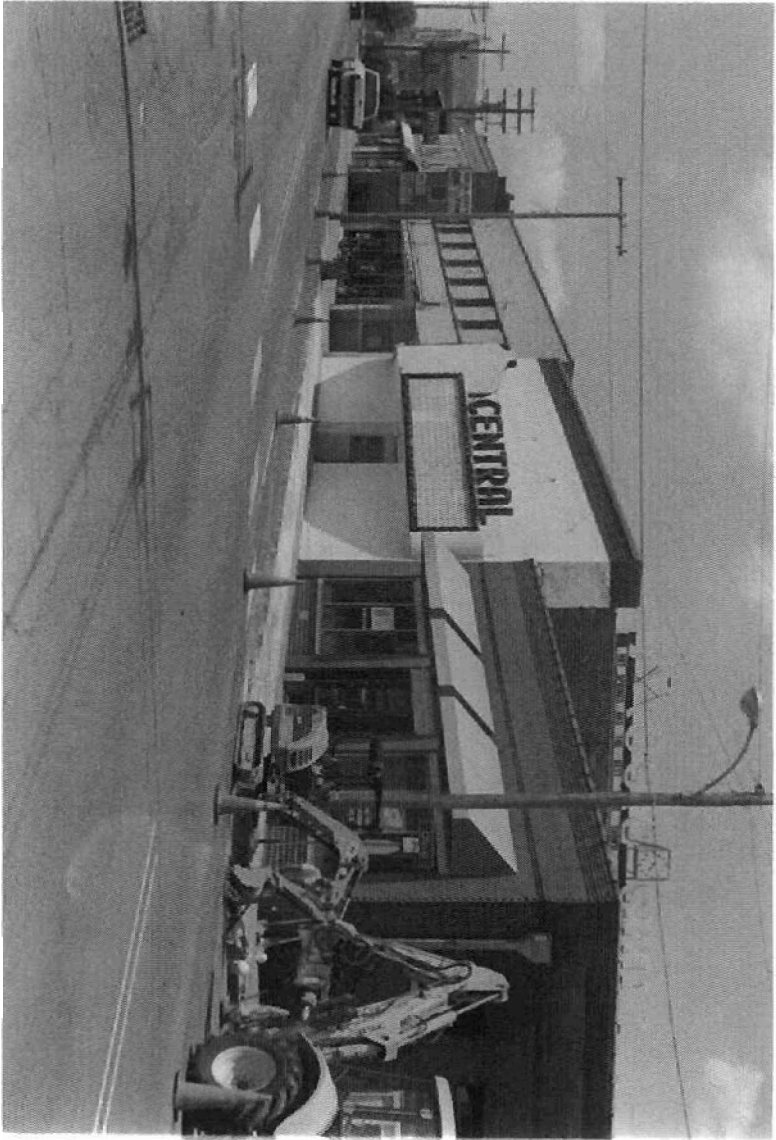
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**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



OUACHITA AVE.  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
HOT SPRINGS, GARLAND CO.

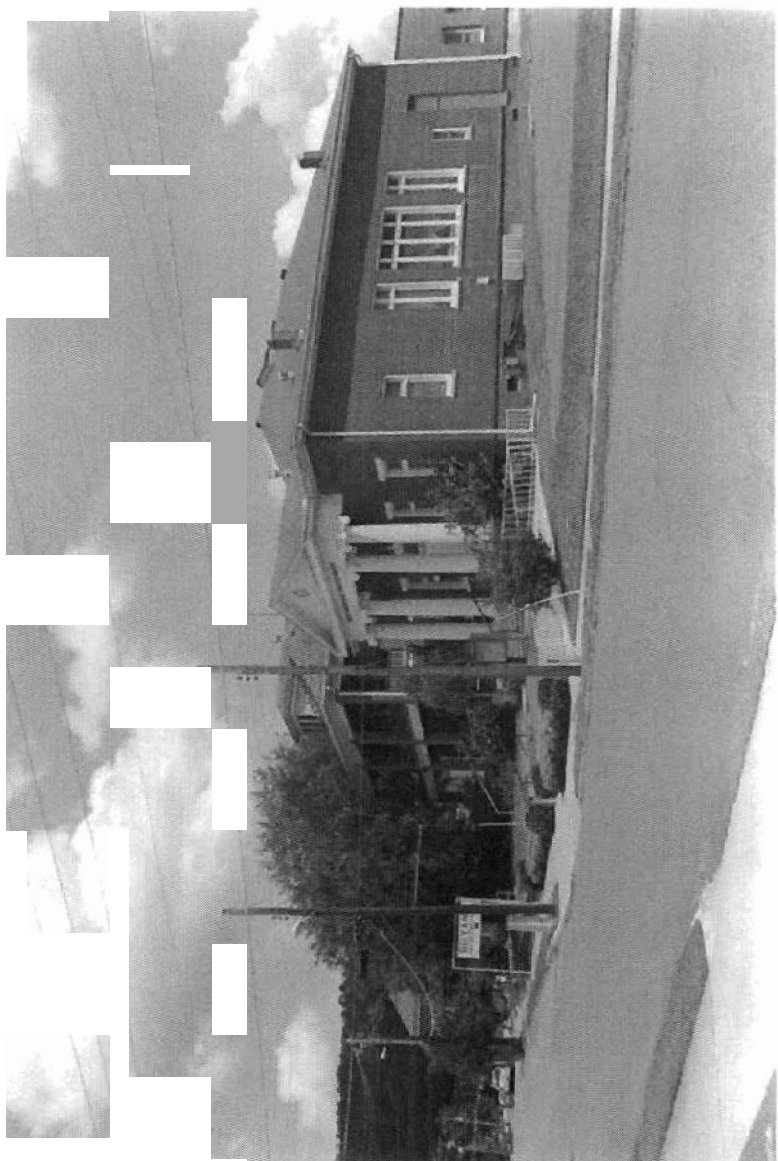


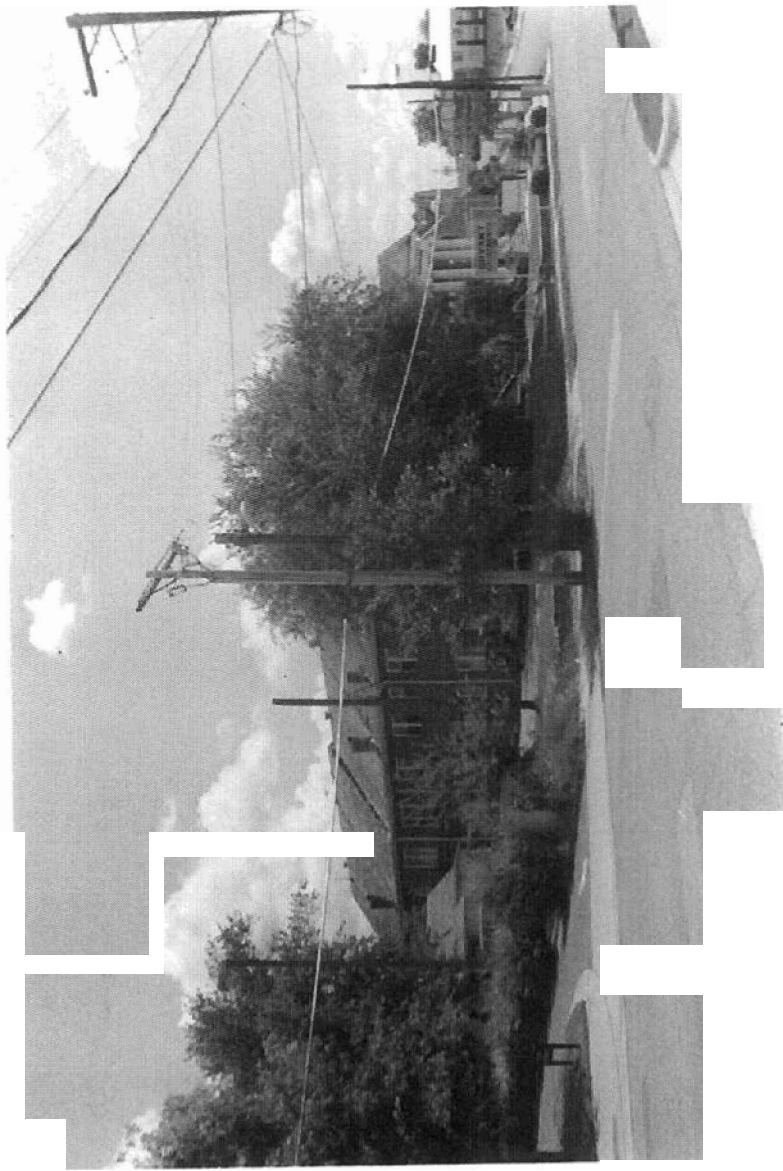


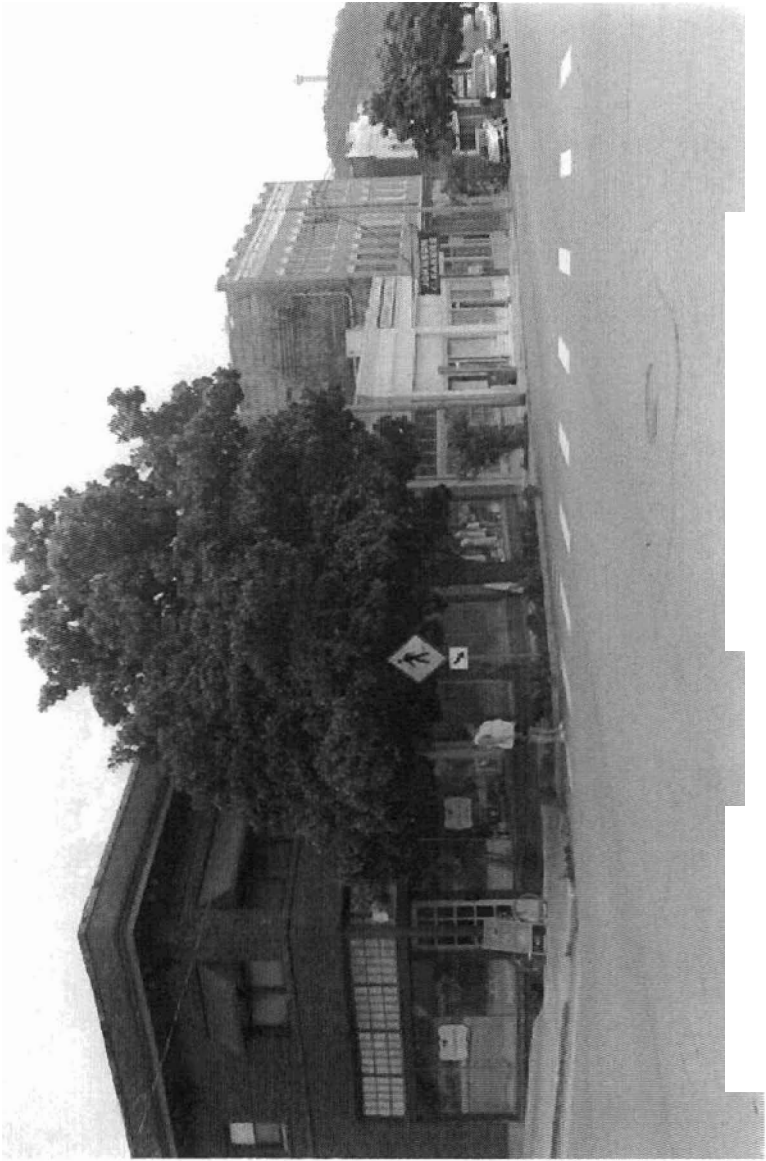






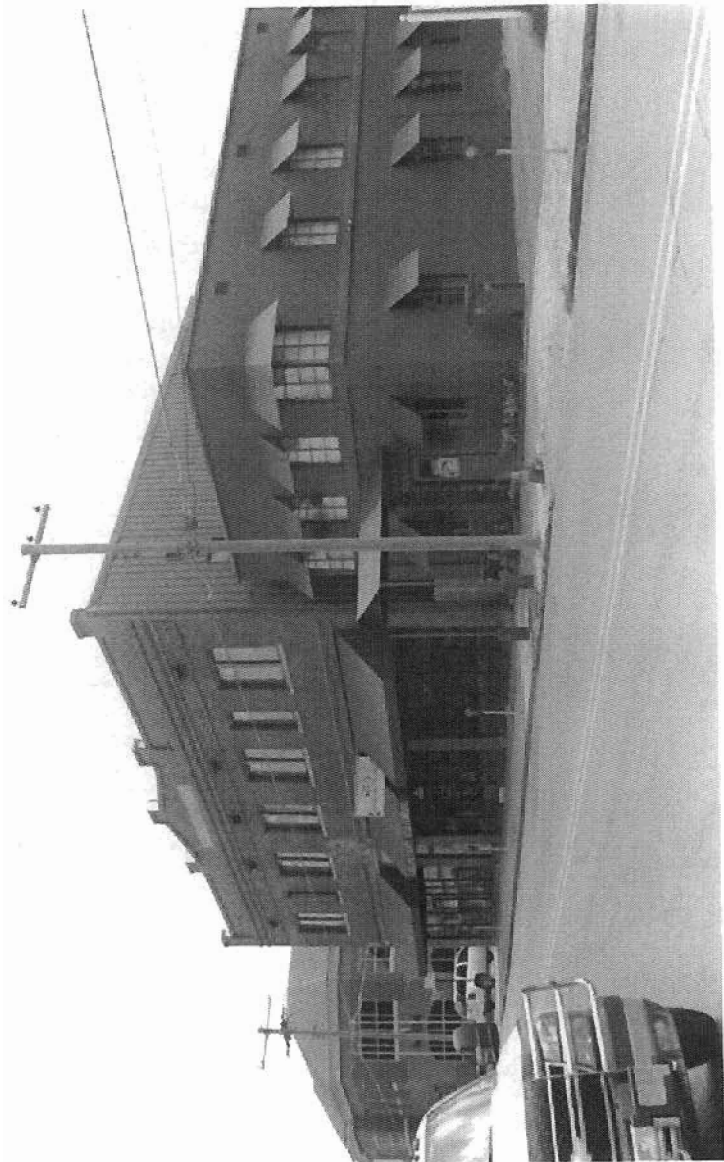


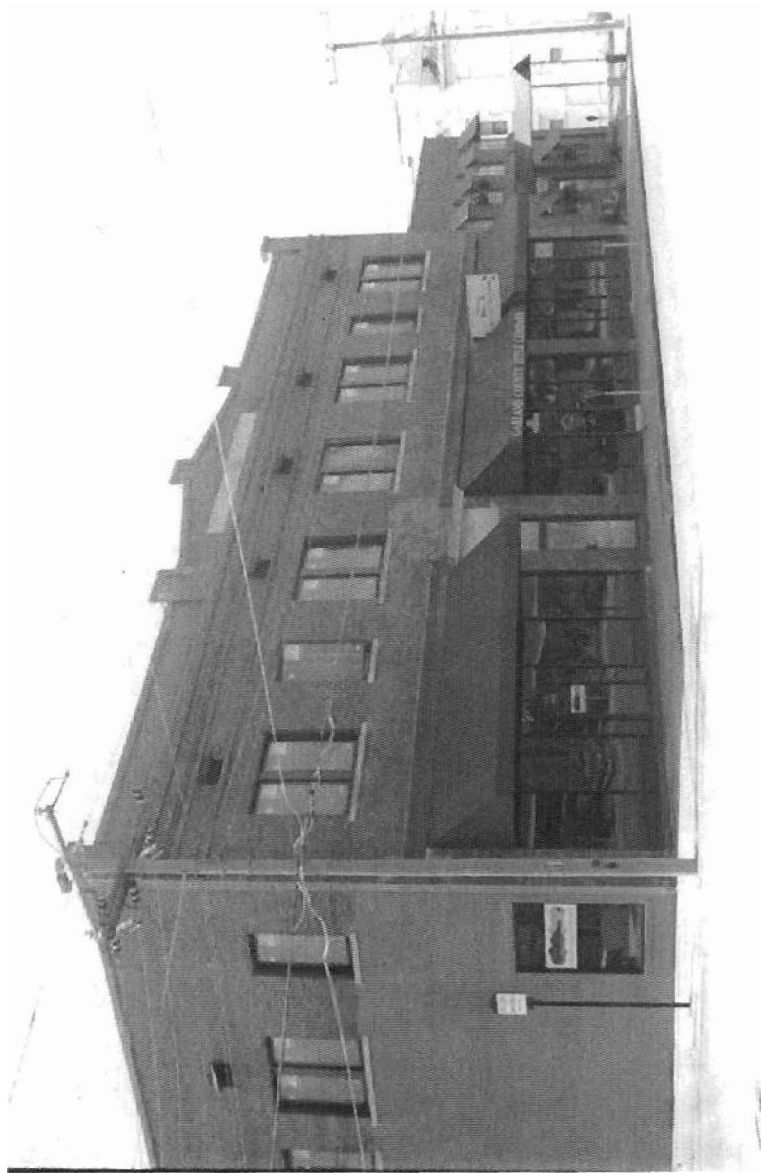






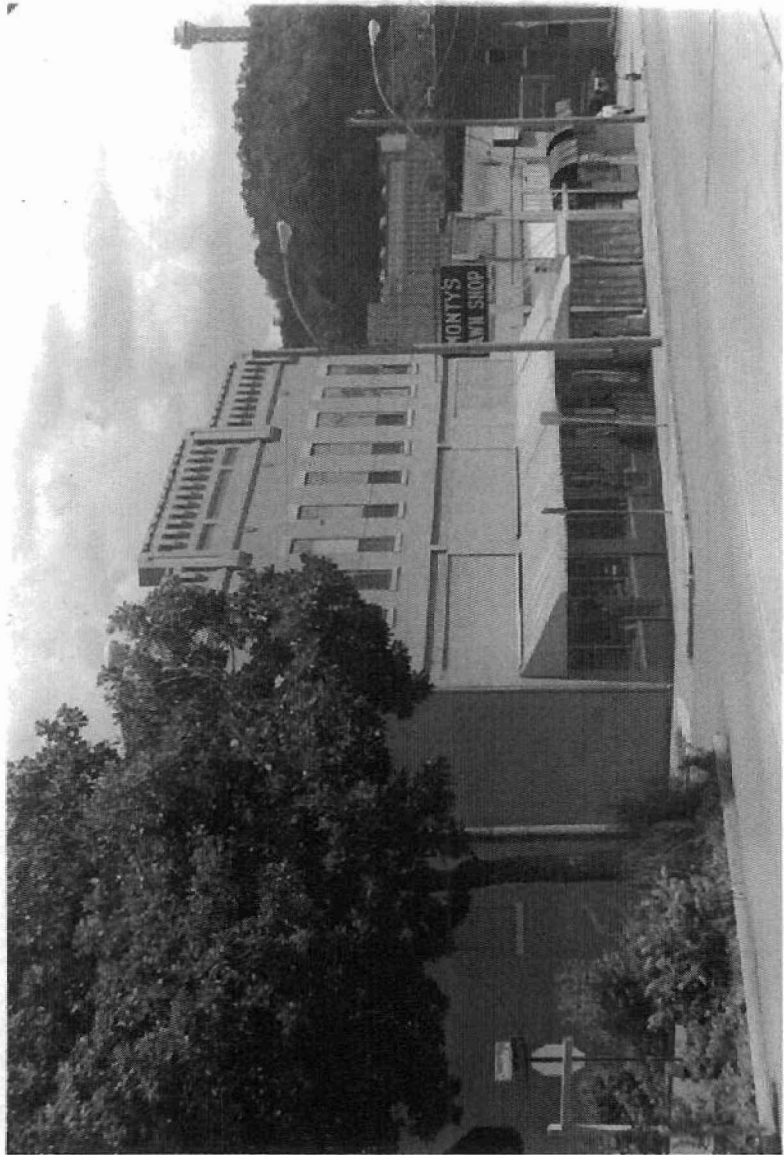


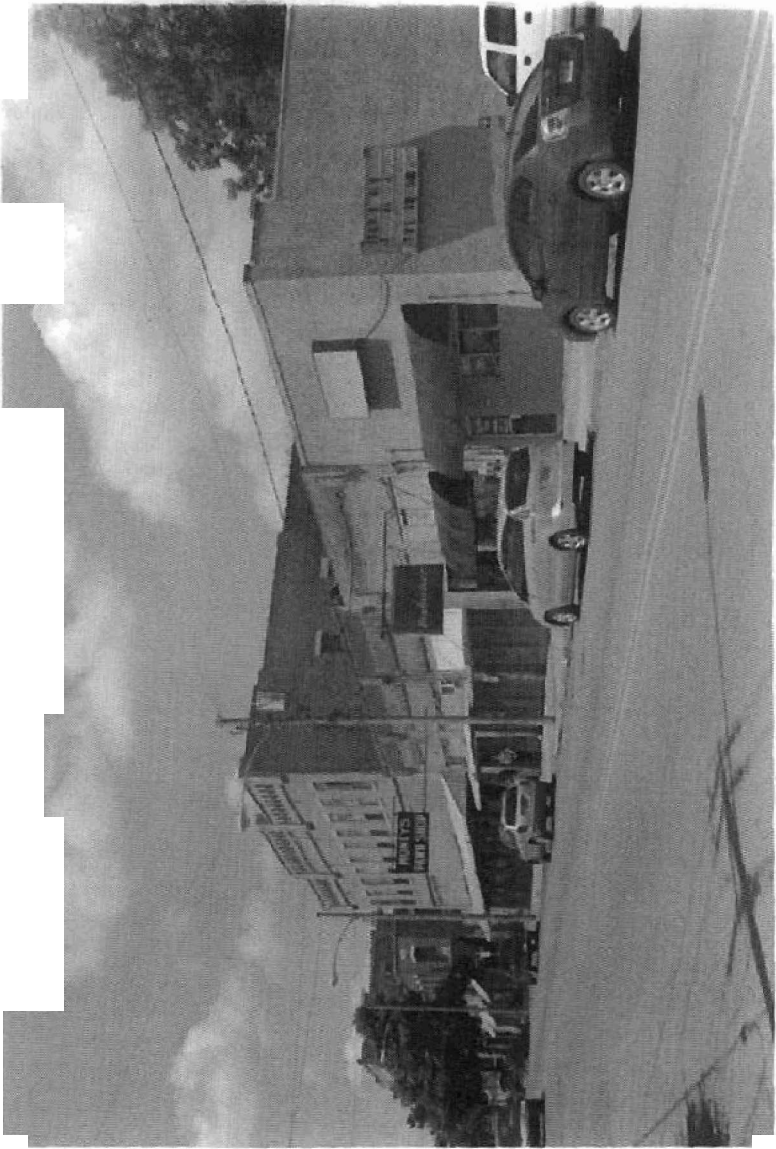


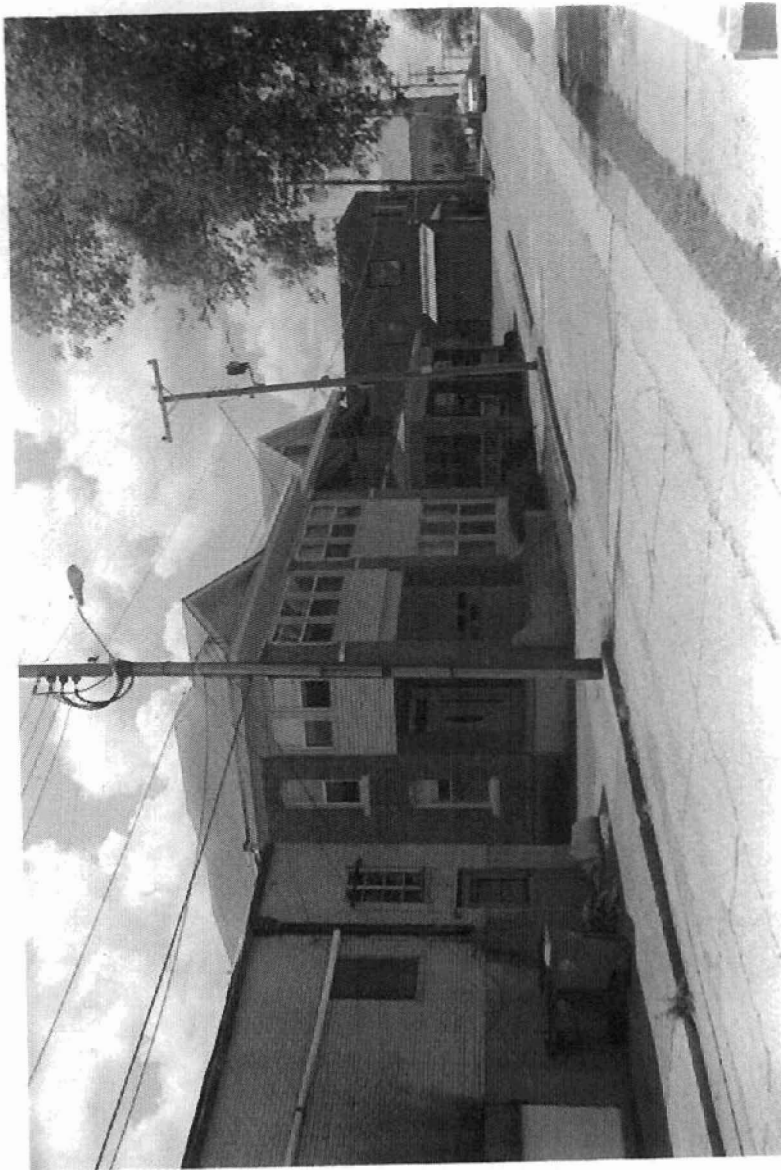






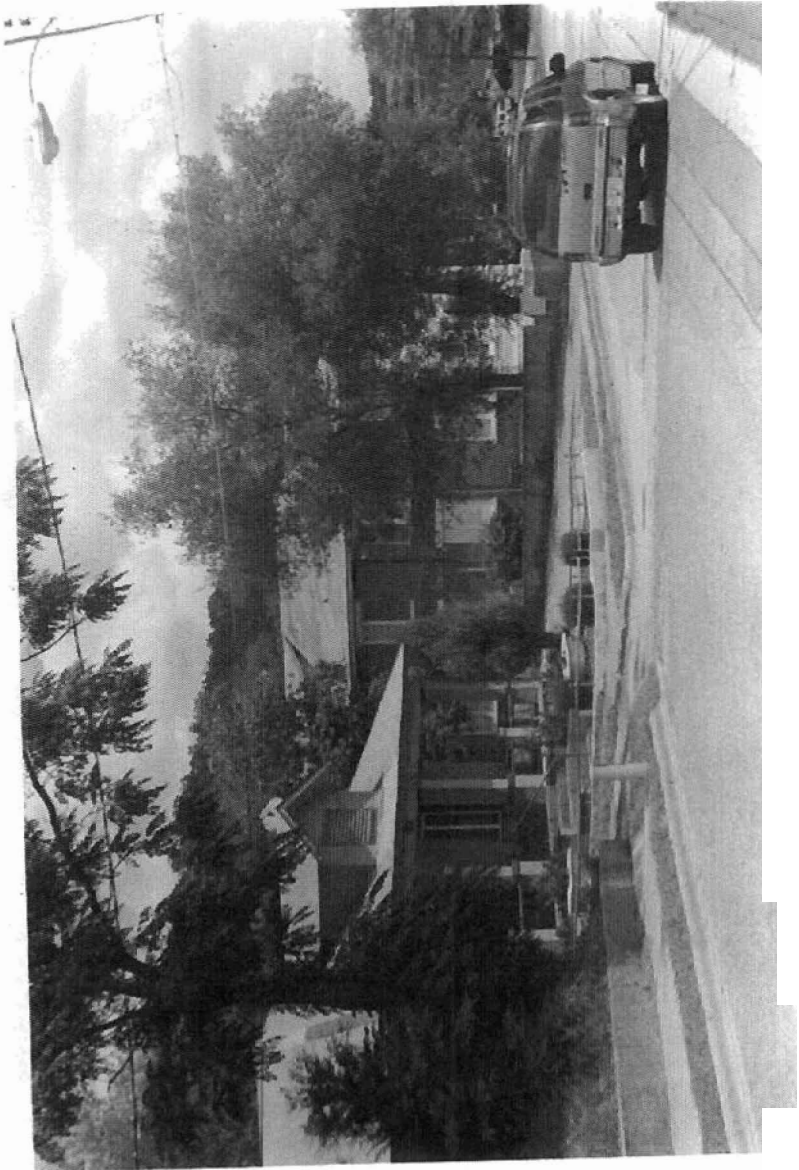


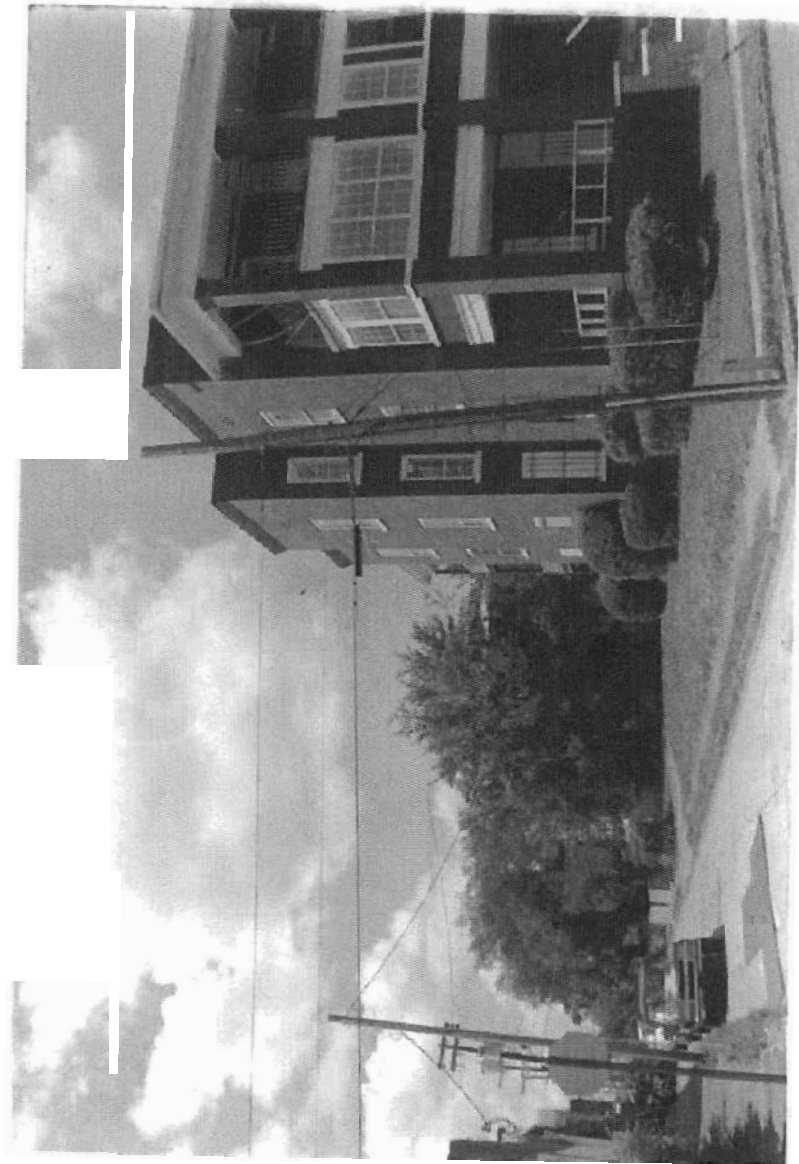


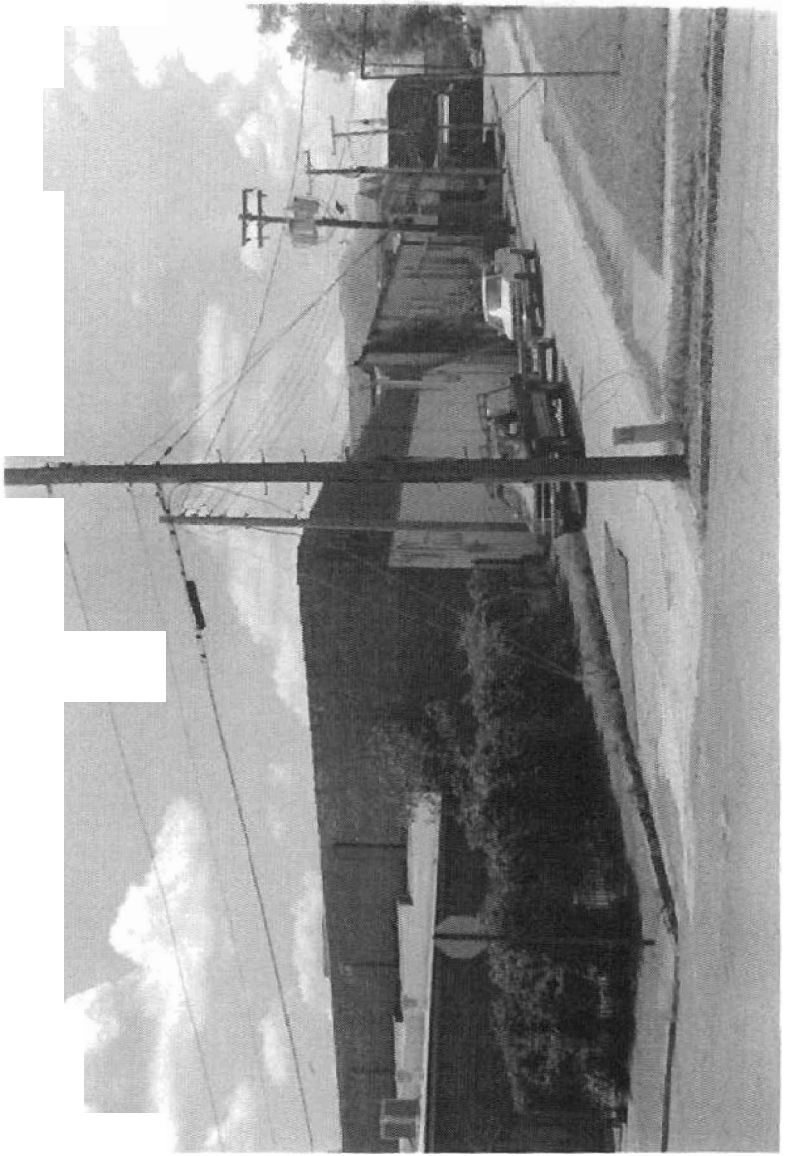








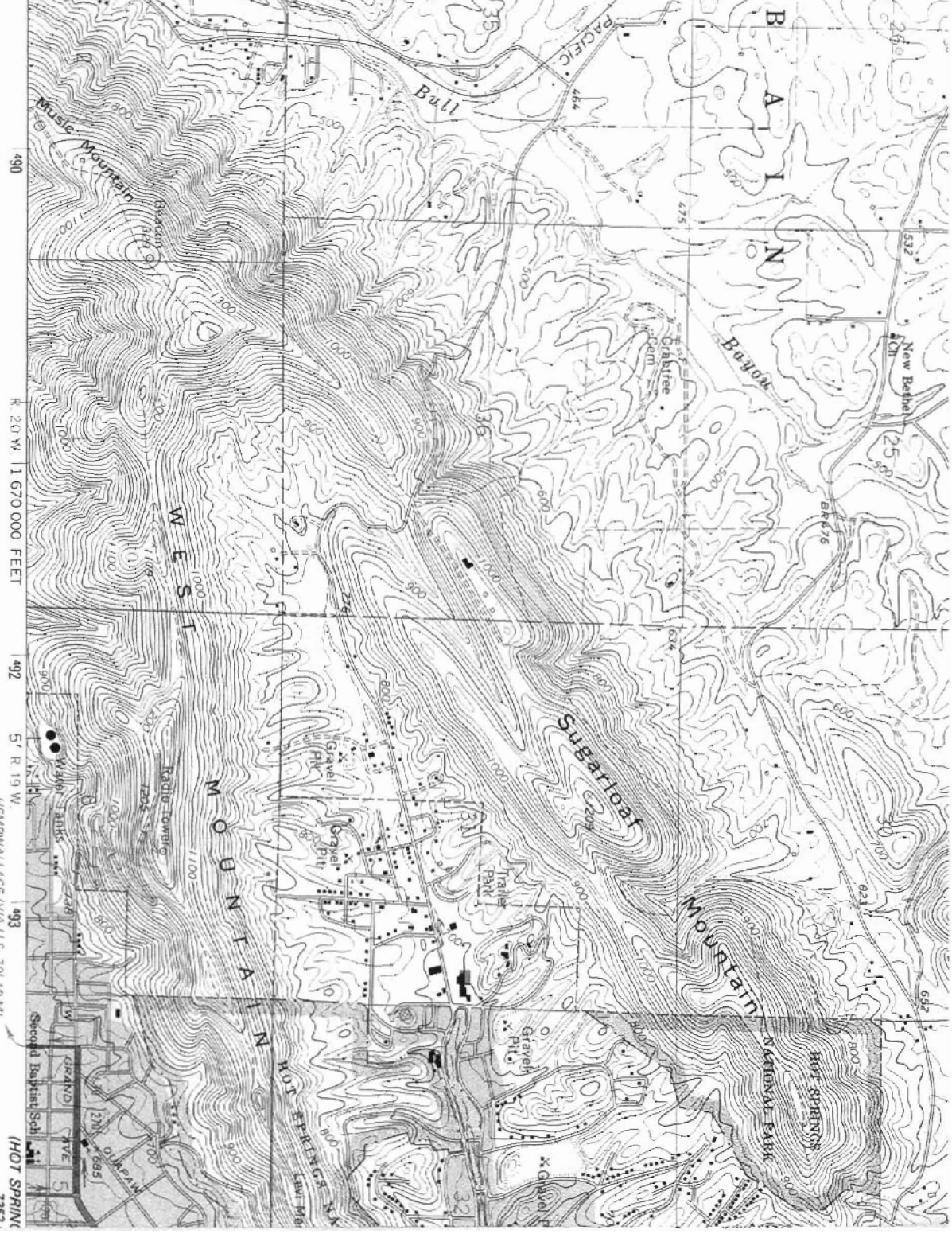




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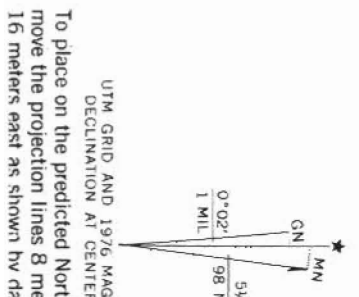


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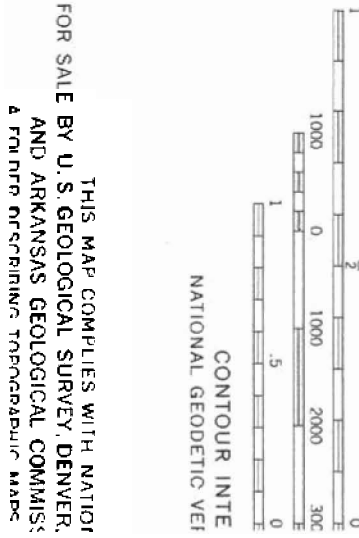
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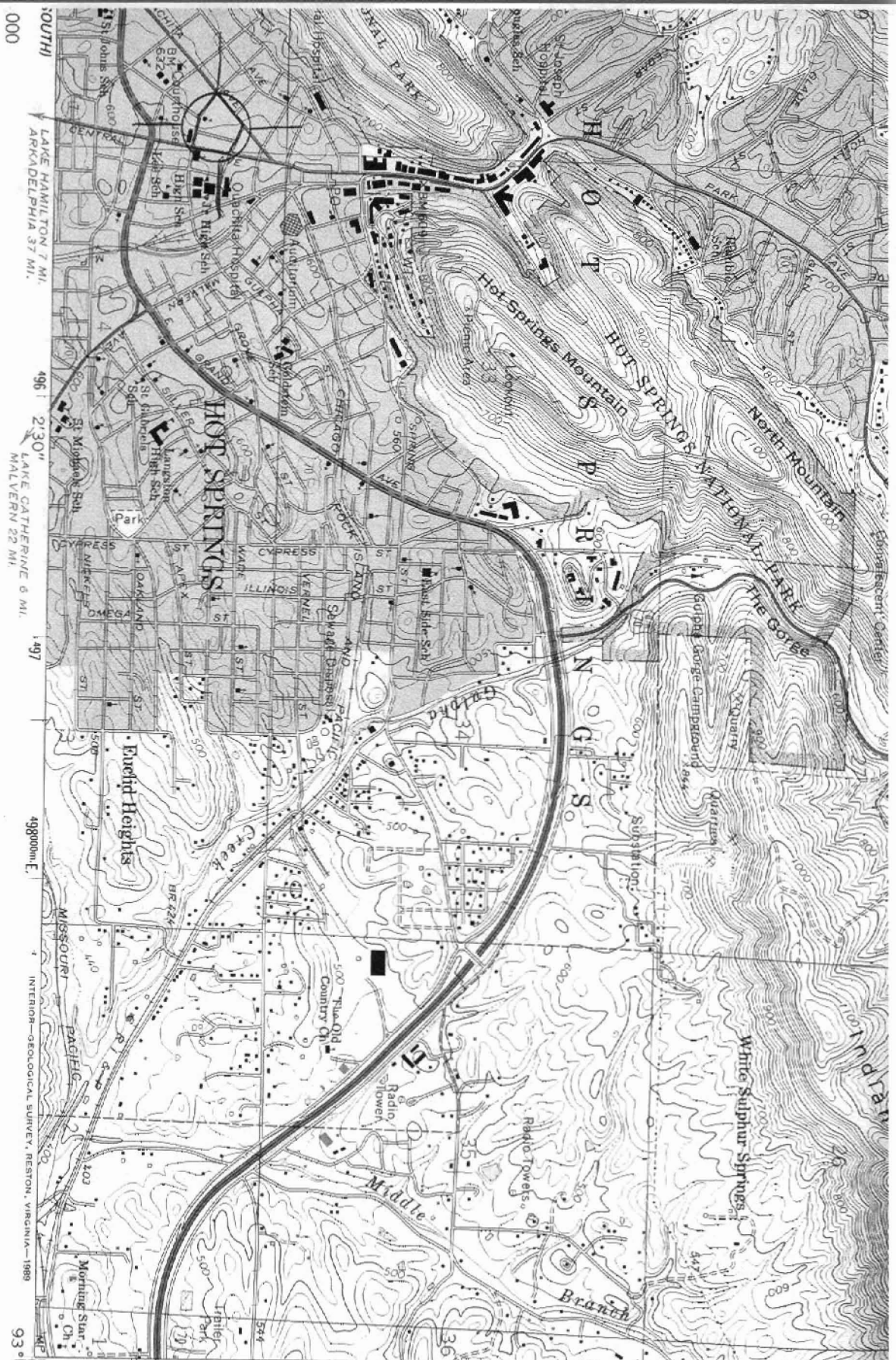
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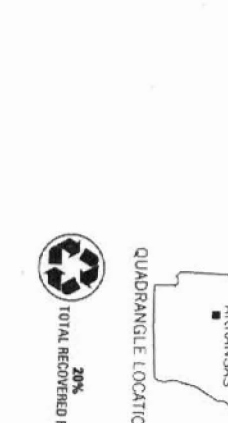
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