

Hempstead Co.  
Washington  
Grandison D. Royston House

29-18-W050-61

NR 6-21-71

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

COUNTY: Hempstead	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Grandison D. Royston House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Location as shown on annexed map.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05 COUNTY: Hempstead CODE: 057

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION:	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hempstead County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Hope STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Fine Arts, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 001

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:  
COUNTY:  
ENTRY NO  
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built circa 1830 by General Grandison D. Royston, this fine old home reflects characteristics of the Greek Revival style.

The original plan, 55'-4" wide and 50'-10" deep consisted of four rooms, two on each side of a spacious central hall. Between each pair of siderooms is a back to back double fireplace. A shed roof porchlike structure was later added on the back (south) facade, housing a kitchen.

A prominent construction feature, 10" x 10" solid, hand hewn sills rest on brick and stone piers and support the sawn stud walls and floor joists. Underpinning between perimeter piers on the north facade is wood diamond lattice work. The exterior is finished with horizontal beveled siding and corner boards, the architrave and frieze are flat boards with cornices boxed.

The roof is medium hipped, currently covered with composition shingles. In 1934, an Historic American Buildings Survey indicated roofing material as corrugated iron with formed metal ridges. The gabled roof of the entrance porch ends in a Greek Revival pediment supported by four square, tapered columns with moulded capitals and square plinth.

Double hung window sashes contain 6 x 6 lights, flat board side surrounds carrying an entablatured head piece. The windows are shuttered with louvered blinds.

There are two main chimneys single stacked units one offset left, one offset right, inside ended, running bond brick construction with corbeled caps.

The single entrance door with six raised panels is set within an architrave with flush side lights and flush transom.

To quote the Kendrew Report, Some Historic Buildings in Arkansas, Royston House:

"The Royston House is one of the finest remaining houses in this community. It is of the Greek Revival period and dates back to the 1830's. It has not been greatly altered and most of the original details are in place. It has fine proportions, large and commodious rooms with high ceilings and the central hall is a real feature of the house, giving it elegance and scale. The ownership of the house is in sympathetic hands."

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian;       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | Literature                           | itarian                                       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Grandison D. Royston house is one of the finest extant examples of Greek Revival Style in Arkansas. This style was prevalent in Arkansas from early 1830's to early 1860's. This house may well be among the first examples of the Greek revival period and thereby responsible for establishing the trend.

General Grandison D. Royston was a significant figure in the growth and development of the State of Arkansas. His political involvement ranged from the territorial period through more than four decades as a State, both in the Union and the Confederacy.

Royston was born in Carter County, Tennessee, on December 9, 1809. He grew to manhood and was educated in that State. He read law, and was admitted to the bar in December of 1831.

On April 1, 1832, he arrived in Fayetteville, Arkansas where he attempted to establish a law practice. Apparently he was not too successful for he also taught school in order to supplement his income. In December of 1832, he moved to Washington, in Hempstead County.

Washington was located on the Southwest Trail which ran from St. Genevieve, Missouri to Fulton, Arkansas, crossing the State of Arkansas, diagonally, from northeast to southwest. This was the route of the emigrants from the United States who were moving to Texas to take up lands under the Republic of Mexico.

There were opportunities for a young lawyer in the frontier community. In 1833 he was appointed Prosecuting Attorney for the Third Judicial District of the Territory of Arkansas, and held the position till the fall of 1835 when he was chosen as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention that framed the Constitution under which Arkansas was admitted to the Union. In 1836,

( continued -

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Arkansas
COUNTY	Hempstead
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, Continued

he was elected Hempstead County Representative to the first Arkansas Legislature. On December 6, 1837, he was elected speaker of the House. It is interesting to note that he was elected to fill the position left vacant by the death of speaker John Wilson. Wilson had been stabbed to death by Representative John J. Anthony over a real, or fancied, affront during the course of a debate on Wolf Scalp bounties. Royston tried to stop the struggle, which was fought with Bowie knives, by shoving a chair between the two antagonists, but was unsuccessful in his efforts.

Grandison D. Royston spent most of his life in public service. Under the administration of President Tyler he was appointed United States District Attorney for Arkansas. He held this position until 1842. Royston saw no war-time service. His title of Brigadier General was acquired when he served as Militia Chief under Governor Thomas S. Drew (1844-1849). In 1858 he was sent to the Arkansas Senate to represent the counties of Hempstead, LaFayette and Pike. In this session he became the father of the Levee System and the State's Flood Control Plans.

The Civil War brought to Royston the same problems which faced other prominent southerners. He was actually a Unionist and was opposed to its dissolution. When secession was an accomplished fact, however, and the Confederate States formed, he supported the move to the best of his ability. He was elected to the Confederate Congress and served at Richmond for two years.

After the war his financial and political position was considerably altered. He resumed the practice of law in Washington, but held no political office or appointment until 1874 when he was again chosen as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of that year. He served as President of that body.

Royston died at Washington, Arkansas, on August 14, 1889. He was in his eightieth year.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kendrew, A. Edwin, et al, Some Historic Buildings of Arkansas, Little Rock: Arkansas History Commission, 1968, MSS.  
Camden News, December 21, 1937.  
 Gwaltney, Francis Irby, Historic Washington, Arkansas: A Survey, Little Rock: Arkansas History Commission, 1958, MSS.  
The Encyclopedia of the New West, Marshall, Texas: The United States Biographical Publishing Co., 1881.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	33°	46'	18"
NE	°	'	"	93°	40'	45.6"
SE	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Staff

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historical Preservation Program DATE: 2/11/71

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1023 West Third Street

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name George M. Reynolds

Title State Liaison Officer

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Arkansas	
COUNTY	Hempstead	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Grandison D. Royston House  
AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: Arkansas	CODE: 05	COUNTY: Hempstead	CODE: 057
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**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Series Washington Quadrangle Arkansas

SCALE: 1: 24,000

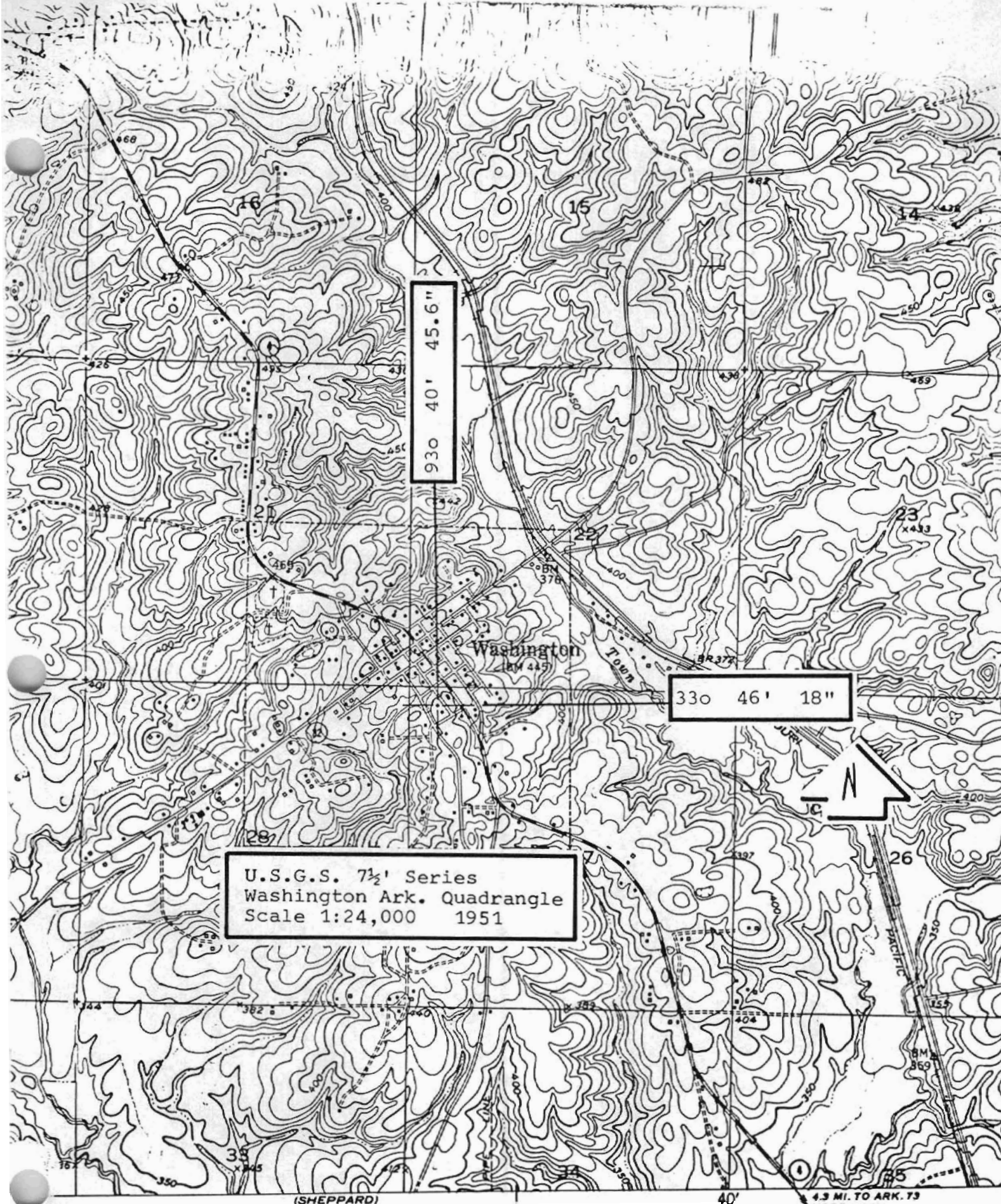
DATE: 1951

**4. REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude references.





930 40' 45.6"

330 46' 18"

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Series  
Washington Ark. Quadrangle  
Scale 1:24,000 1951



(SHEPPARD)

40'

4.3 MI. TO ARK. 73  
HOPE 7.8 MI.

SCALE 1:24000

1 MILE

