

NR 3-30-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
King-Whatley Building  
AND/OR COMMON  
King Building

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Second and Maple Streets  
CITY, TOWN  
Lewisville  
STATE  
Arkansas  
VICINITY OF  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
4  
COUNTY  
Lafayette  
CODE  
05  
073

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Storage

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Co-owners: Snow Whatley Cummings, - Snow K. Henderson has deeded her 1/3 interest  
L. D. Walker to L. D. Walker, retained life est.  
Address of Snow Cummings & Snow Henderson:  
1105 Astoria Drive, Lewisville, AR  
Address of L. D. Walker:  
703 Spruce, Stamps, AR

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC  
Lafayette County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN  
Lewisville  
STATE  
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

# DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on the northwest corner of Second and Maple, and facing south, the the King-Whatley building is of brick construction, rectangular, and is approximately 25 feet wide and 75 feet long. The building retains its original design, being unaltered except for a door recently put into the rear end wall. The unique curved metal canopy is still across the two front sides of the building. The walls extend several feet above the flat roof line\* (the roof was originally metal); with brick pilasters, spaced at intervals capped with concrete. Except for one of the pilasters and a small part of the rear upper wall, where the mortar has disintegrated, the brick exterior is in good condition; the wooden trim needs paint. The main corner entrance, double-doored, has embossed star-brick paving; rimmed with metal paving. The original beveled glass is still intact in several of the large windows.

\*The roof is in poor condition and needs replacement. Inside, the original terrazzo (set in concrete) floor is in good condition. The wooden wainscoting, plastered walls and embossed metal ceiling are also in fair to good condition. The one apparent alteration, probably installed when the building was converted from a bank to offices, is a wooden partition about 8 feet high dividing the main room into two offices. The second office contains the still-operable walk-in vault. The rear part of the building was probably built to be used as rented office space and for storage, as it is, without embellishments. The heat was supplied first by wood stoves and later by gas. The metal gas stoves are still connected. The electric light cords, with pull chains, appear to be the same ones installed around 1904 when electricity was first supplied to the town. The ceiling fan has vanished. Overall, the interior is in good remedial condition, in spite of the disuse and neglect over the past twenty years.

...

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
50-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Built in 1902

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Not known

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The King-Whately Building, built ca. 1902, is significant historically because its style and size reflect the optimism and prosperity (short-lived) that cotton-growing and the railroad brought to this Southwest Arkansas region. It is also significant because it housed, in a fifty-year span, two banks, law offices, and a land abstract company that were important to the development of this area. It is an excellent example of early 20th century business architecture and, being unaltered, contains features and details of workmanship peculiar to that period.

It was designed to be used primarily as a bank, and when the Merchants and Farmers Bank\* opened there in 1902, it was the only bank in the young county seat.\* There had been an earlier Citizens Bank, but only from 1893 until about 1898.\* However, the new bank in its impressive brick building was short-lived, too, being dissolved in 1908.\*\* However, the First National Bank of Lewisville, chartered by the U. S. Department of the Treasury, became the owners and occupants in 1909.\*\*\* This bank is still active, in another location. The King-Whately Building was sold only once more. In 1919, David Latimore King first paid taxes as owner, and maintained his law offices there until his death in 1929. Then his son-in-law and partner, George T. Whatley, retained his offices there, and the abstract company they had formed together (early partner, J. H. Landes; later partner, Snow King Henderson) until about 1960. For at least three decades a shoe repair shop was in the far end. In the 30's, S. K. Henderson ran a small rental library in one office, and a third office housed a beauty shop. The building was fully occupied until the 50's. Now it is vacant of tenants, and is being used as storage.

Lewisville is in its present location because of the building of the St. Louis, Arkansas and Texas Railroad in the early 1880's. The townsite, 22 blocks, was laid out in 1883 at the railroad by the Southwestern Improvement Association.\*\*\*\*

\*Key's: The First Thirty Years, History of Lewisville-1883 through 1913

\*\*County seat was moved from Old Lewisville, two miles north, election, 1890.

\*\*\*Polk's Bank Directory

\*\*\*\*County Clerk's Office, Lafayette Co. Copy of Map of Original Town and Howel Addition, etc., attached.

Southwestern Improvement Assn.: "A St. Louis firm cooperating with the railroad," Key's First Thirty Years.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

One block, two blocks north of the railroad, was reserved as a public square, hopefully for a future courthouse. The King-Whatley Building, built within a year of the erection of the brick courthouse (since replaced by a modern one) was placed strategically one block north of the railroad and a block south of the courthouse. The two buildings had similarities of design and materials (native red brick) and may have had the same builders and masons. D. L. King was appointed in 1901, as Commissioner, when the erection of the courthouse was voted.

King had already gained prominence in Southwest Arkansas as a lawyer and politician (first Democrat sheriff since 1865, State Representative and State Senator), and for his real estate expertise. \*He was one of the 40 residents on the tax rolls of 1890 (of New Lewisville), and was acquiring substantial property in the area.

Lewisville was a thriving town with more than thirty businesses in the early 1900's. The town's importance primarily stemmed from the facts that it was a rail center for the rich farmlands of the Red River delta and it was the county seat of Lafayette County. Between 1890 and the date of the erection of the King-Whatley Building, the population of the town doubled.

The wealth of the town and its importance as county seat made it the legal hub of the county. Seven lawyers practiced in the town at the turn-of-the-century. The discovery of oil in the county in the 1930's spawned new business for the legal and land abstract businesses. All of these factors accounted for the establishment of the Whatley law practice.

However, Lewisville entered a period of decline as cotton ceased to be a major crop in the county and the rail lines were superceded by the trucks and automobiles. In the 1950's, the Whatley abstract business terminated and the doors of the King-Whatley Building were closed for the last time. The King heirs (two surviving grandchildren, with Snow K. Henderson retaining a life estate interest, intend to keep the building intact and hope to reactivate it, preferably as a center for community activities.

\*Land agent for Southwestern Improvement Assn. in 1902 --Lewisville News,  
Vol. 1, 1902 Adv.







# ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



August 10, 1977

Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

AUG 22 1977

Mrs. Snow Cummings  
1105 Astoria Drive  
Lewisville, Arkansas 71845

Re: Whatley Law Office  
Lewisville, Miller County

Dear Mrs. Cummings:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Whatley Law Office which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their September meeting. If approved the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

On October 4, 1976, the President signed a Tax Reform Act of which Section 2124 refers to tax incentives for historic properties. Enclosed you will find an information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination please contact Mike Shinn of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

*Barbara Woodard*

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

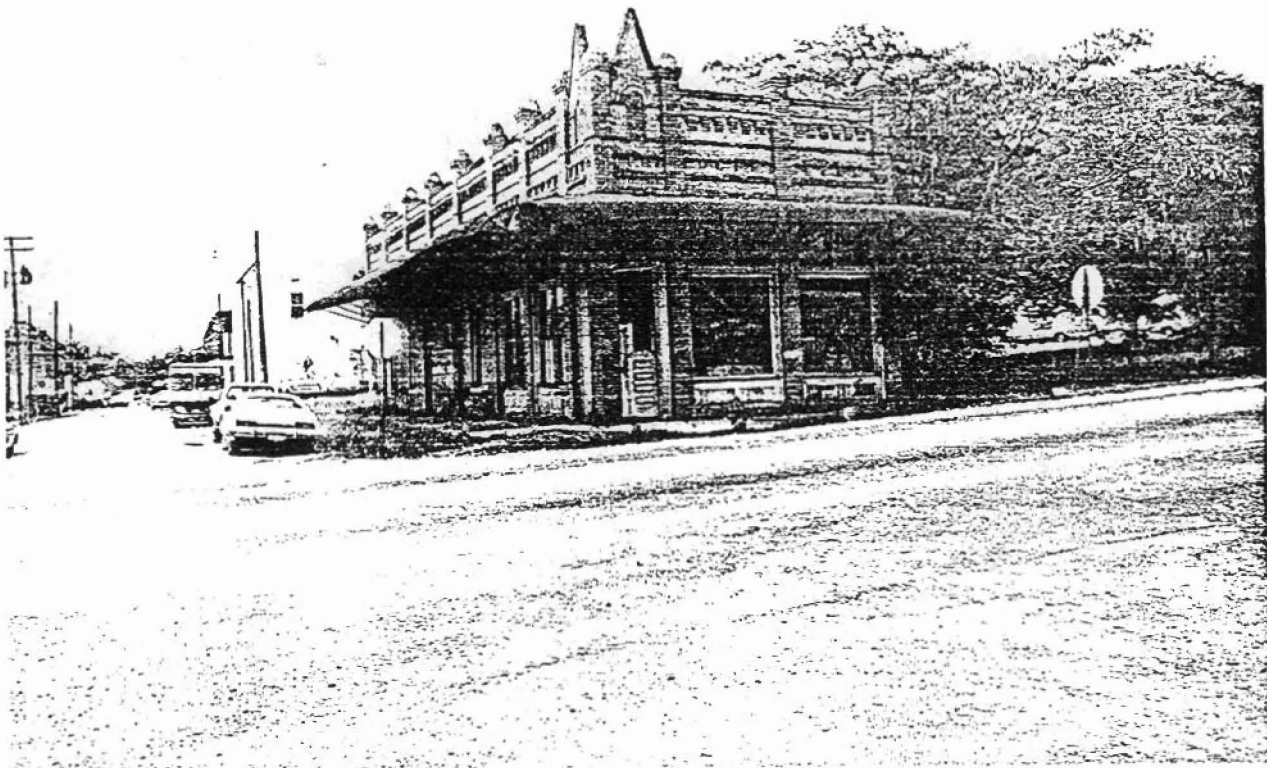
I approve of the nomination of the above property  
to the National Register of Historic Places.

Yes  No

Comments:

Aug. 14, 1977  
Date

*L. Woodard, & Snow W. Cummings*  
Signature



Form No 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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King-Whatley Building

AND/OR COMMON  
King Building

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN  
Lewisville

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Lafayette

STATE  
Arkansas

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Mike Shinn

DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

July, 1977

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

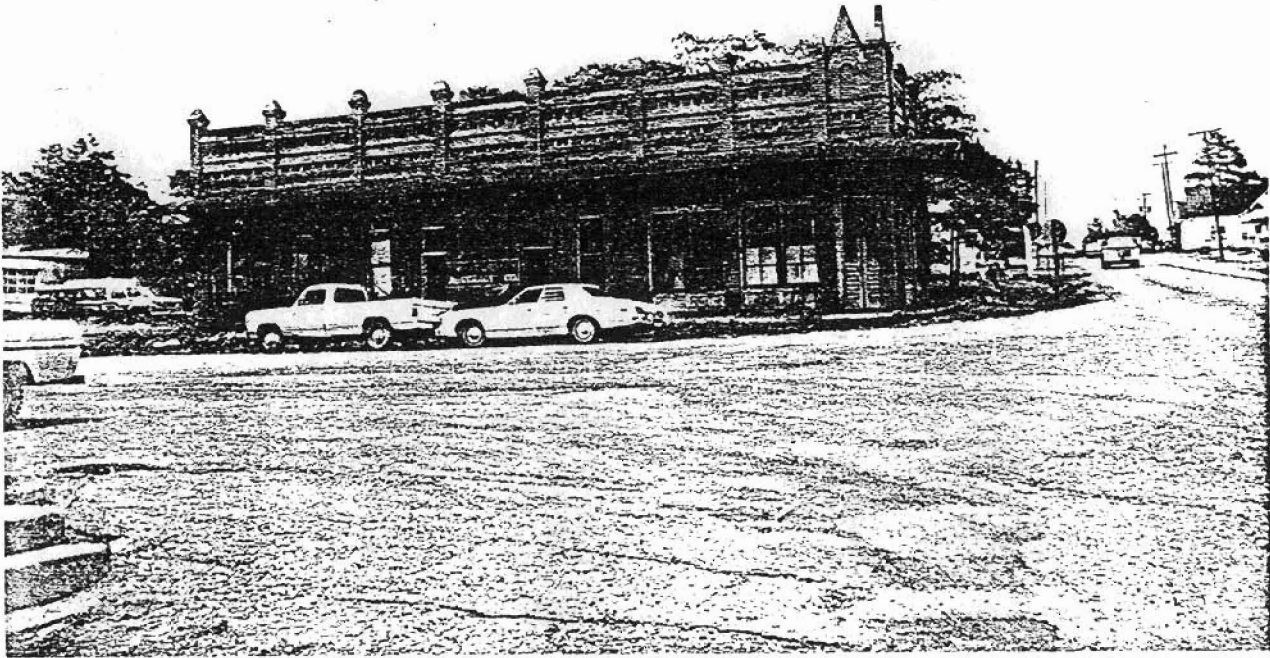
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

South and east elevations viewed from the southeast

1





Form No. 10-301a  
(10-74)

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Lewisville

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Lafayette

STATE

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DATE OF PHOTO

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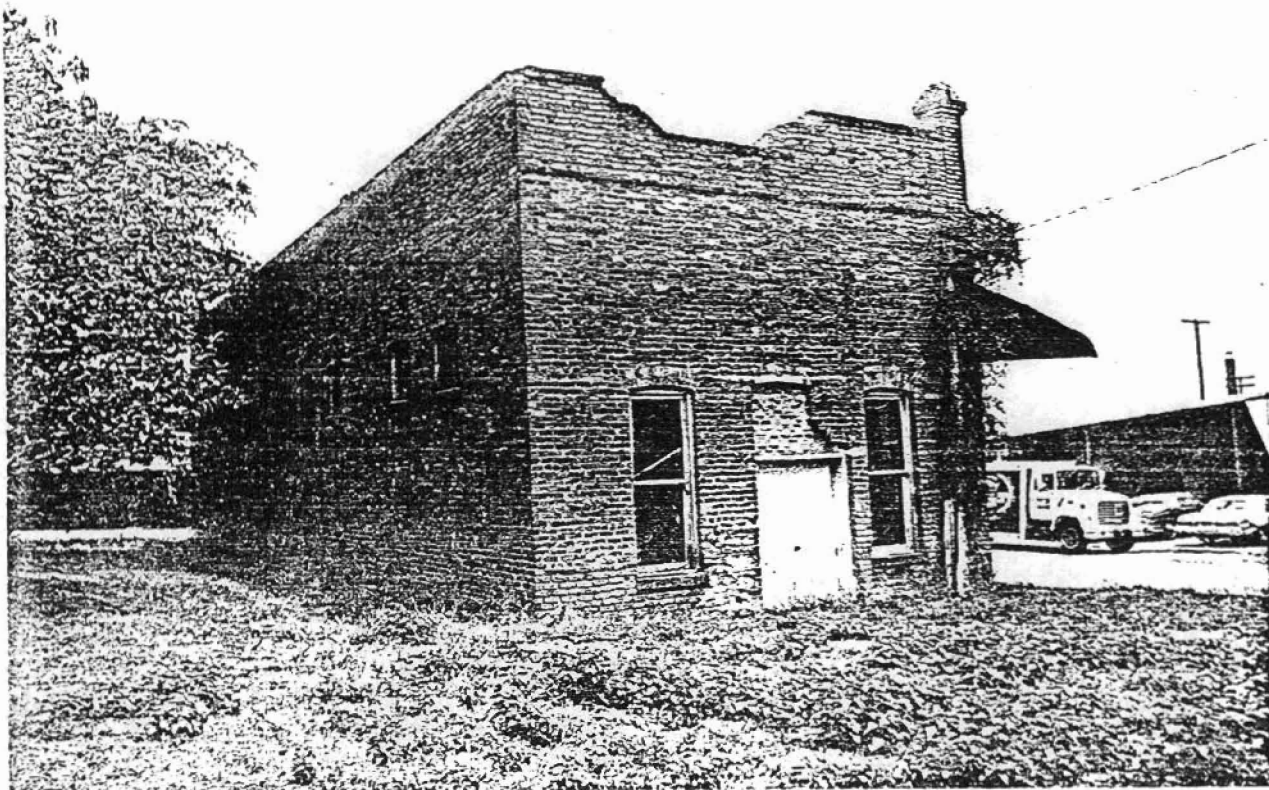
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

South elevation viewed from the south

2



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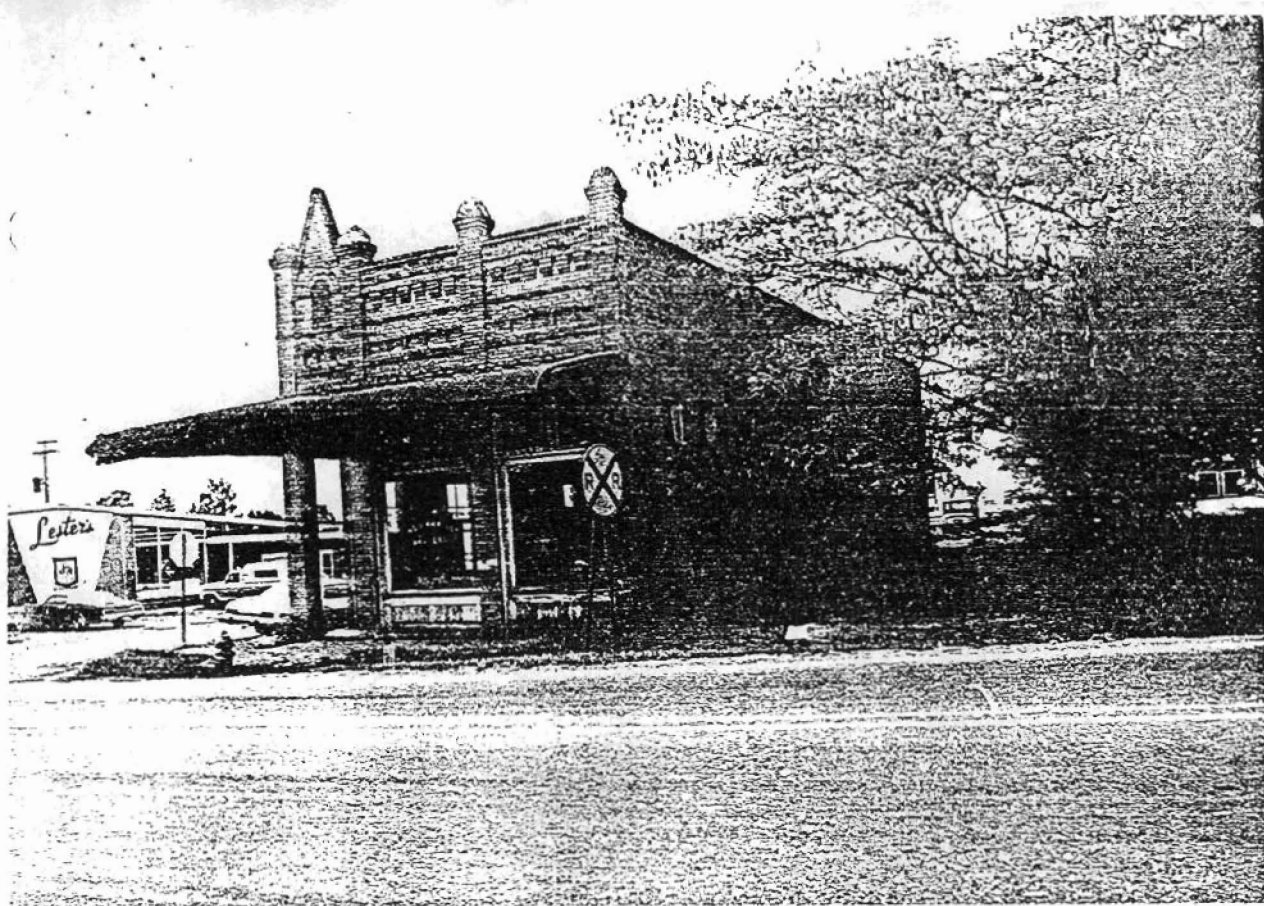
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

North and west elevations viewed from the northwest

3



✓ 10-301a  
 8 -261

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Mike Shinn

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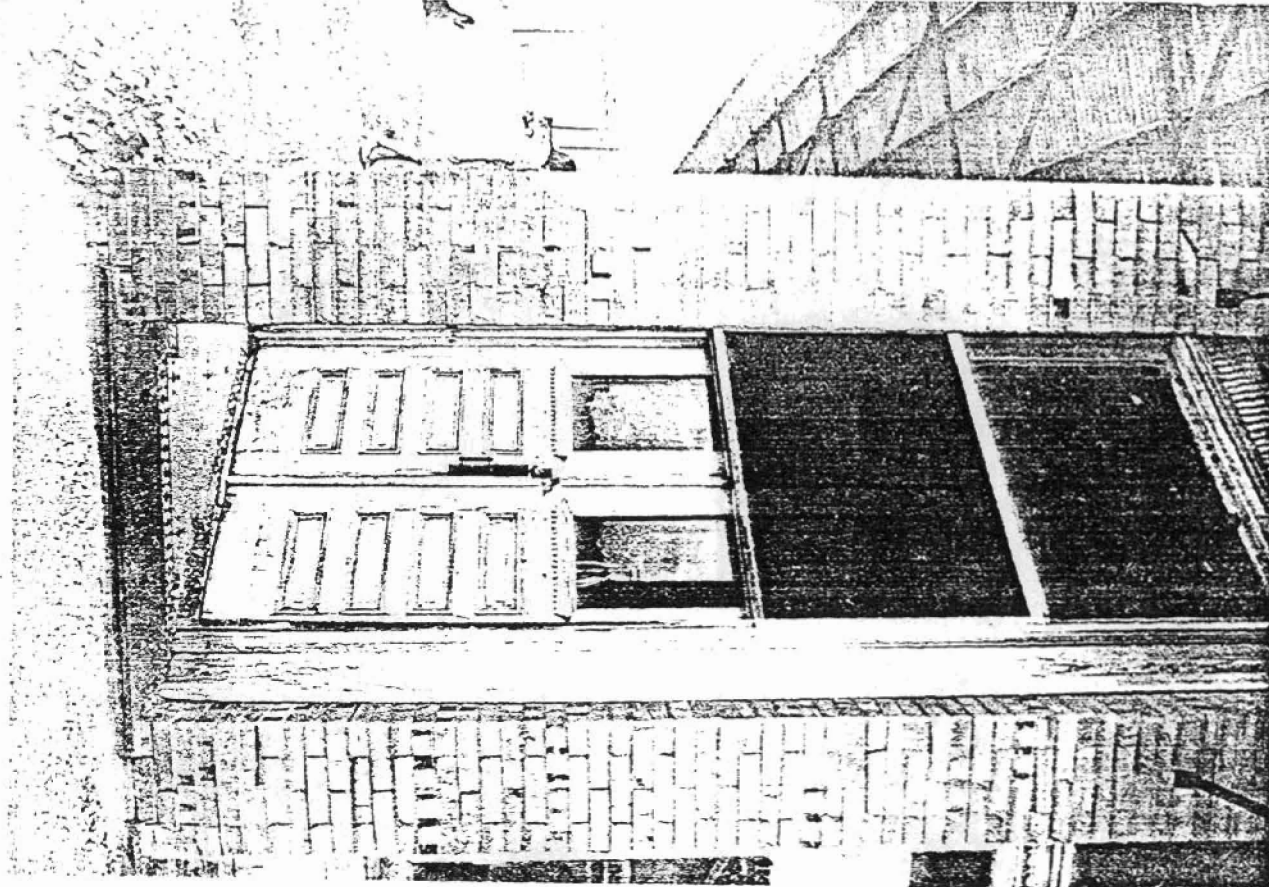
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

East and north elevations viewed from the northeast

4



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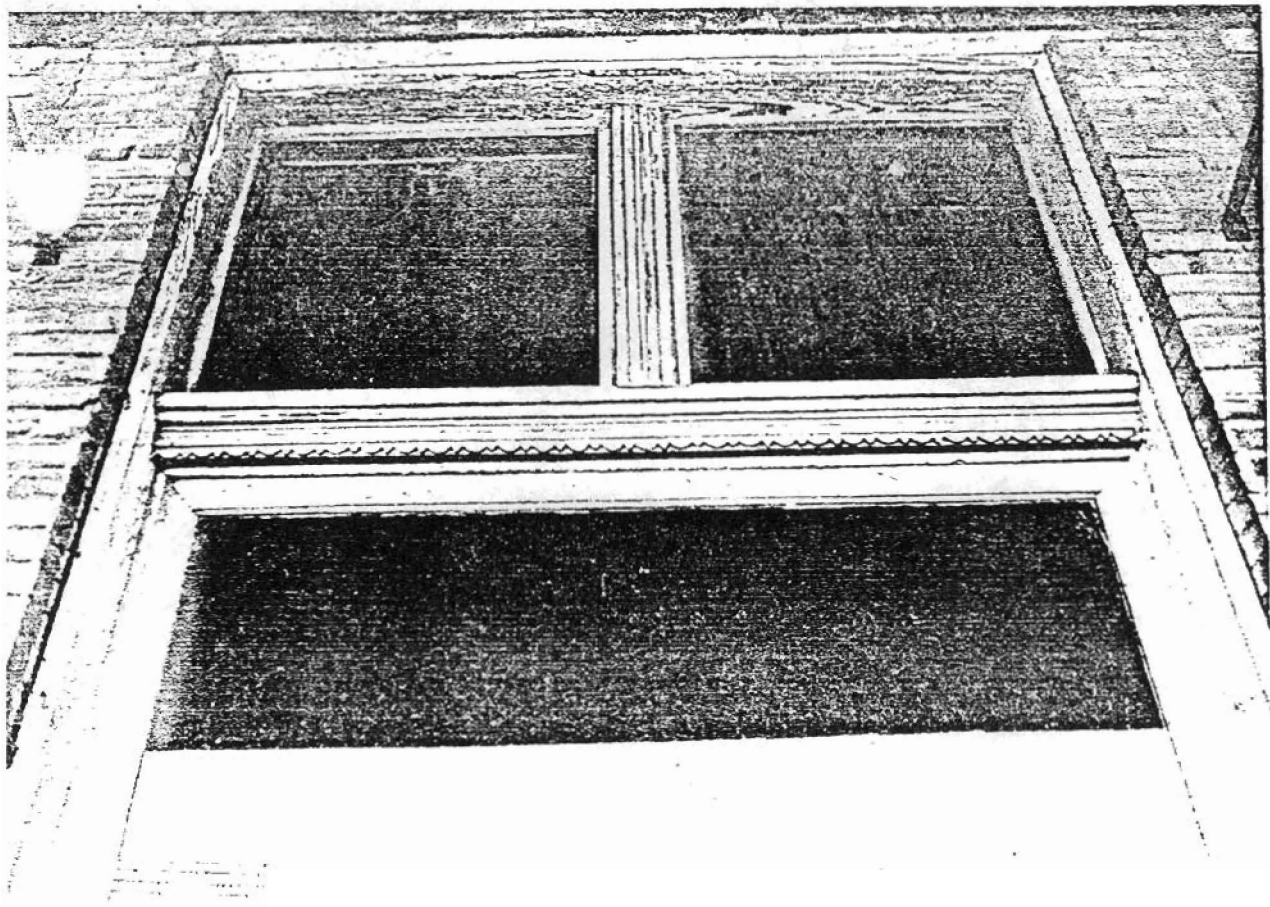
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Oblique corner entrance, facing southeast

5





Form No. 10-301a  
741

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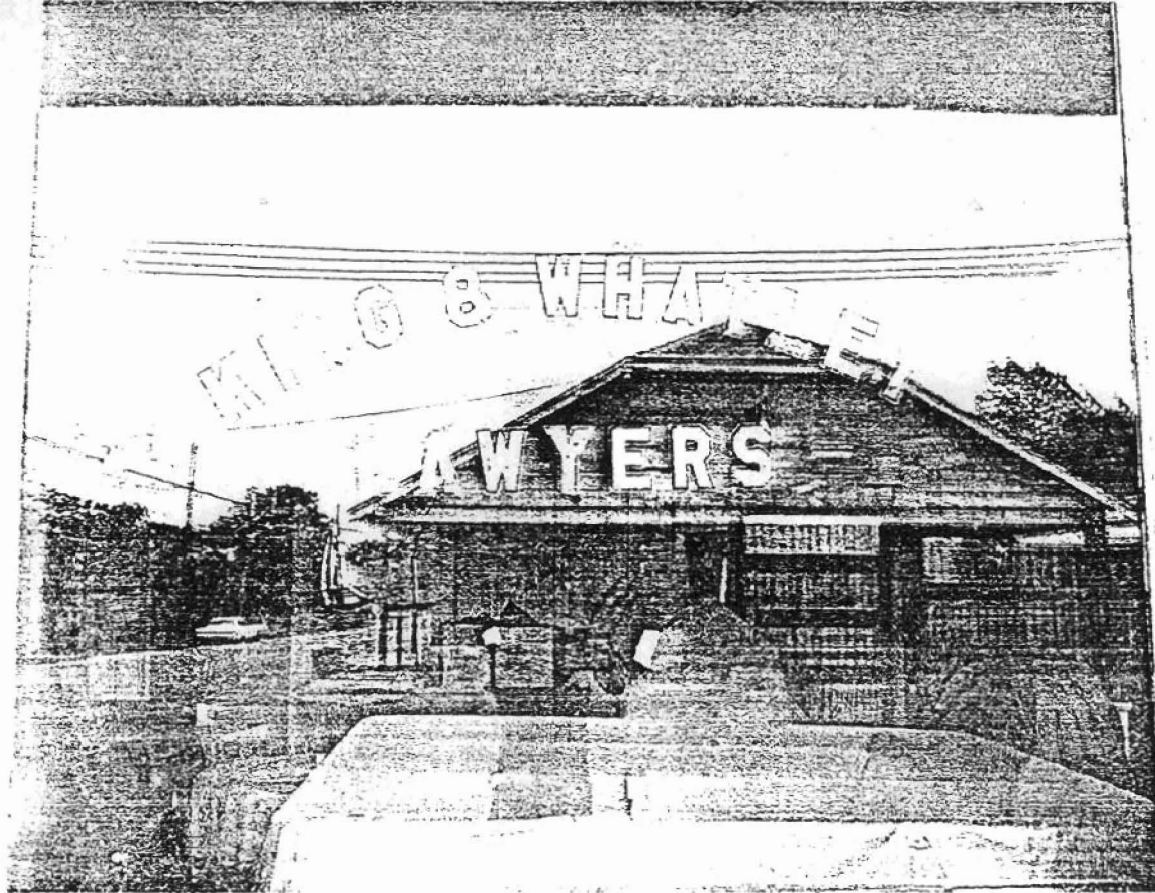
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Window transom, east elevation

PHOTO NO.

6



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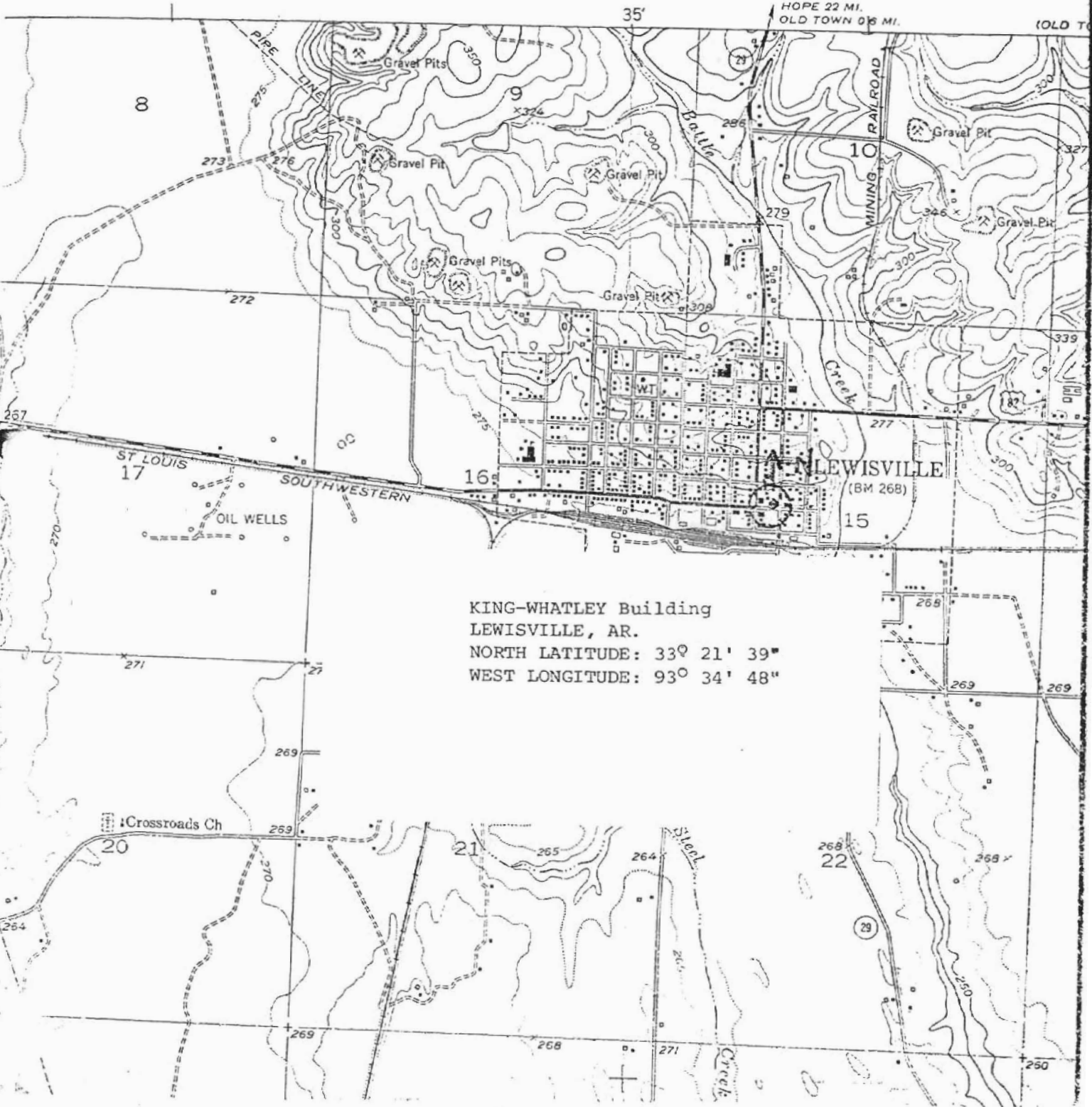
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Plate glass window, east elevation

7

ATES  
HE INTERIOR  
URVEY



KING-WHITLEY Building  
LEWISVILLE, AR.  
NORTH LATITUDE: 33° 21' 39"  
WEST LONGITUDE: 93° 34' 48"

