

NR 6-18-76

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 Alexander House

AND/OR COMMON Ashley-Alexander House

2. LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 298

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Scott

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Lonoke

CODE
085

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. W. G. Alexander

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1, Box 298

CITY, TOWN

Scott

X VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Lonoke County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Lonoke

STATE

Arkansas

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed c. 1835, the Alexander House, located near Scott, Arkansas, is a one-and-one-half-storey structure constructed of solid, hand-hewn cypress logs and sheathed in narrow white clapboard. The house is rectangular in shape, with one-storey additions on the rear elevation.

The Alexander House is topped by a gable roof from which extend three dormers on the facade and one on the rear elevation. Double-hung windows feature simple surrounds and are flanked by shutters.

The facade is well-balanced in its spacing of dormers and windows. A large gabled dormer with paired windows extends from the roof in the center of the facade. This dormer is flanked by two small, flat-roofed dormers. All three dormers are covered in wide clapboard. In the center of the facade is a one-storey, flat-roofed porch. This porch is supported by four square, wooden columns with Doric capitals. Pilasters resembling the columns flank the centered entry. The entry features double doors flanked by sidelights and topped by a fanlight in a webb-like pattern.

A large dormer projects from the rear elevation. This dormer features a gable roof and two double-hung windows. One-storey additions to the rear are also covered in narrow clapboard and utilize the same features as the main body of the house, such as Doric-capital pilasters.

The interior plan of the Alexander House includes center halls, upstairs and downstairs, connected by a single-flight stairway. Two rooms are on each side of each hallway, upstairs and downstairs. The stairway features a square newel-post and turned balusters. Interior door and window trim is heavily molded and features corner blocks.

Originally the Alexander House featured a porch which spanned the width of the facade. This porch was supported by delicate, turned posts. Prior to 1910, the roof of the house supported only two large dormers, one on the facade and one on the rear.

In 1910 the kitchen and dining room, which were connected to the house by a walkway, burned. Also destroyed in this fire was a sleeping porch on the south elevation. The fire brought about a remodeling of the house. The two small dormers were added, and the porch on the facade was changed. Additions were made onto the rear elevation. Also during the remodeling, the architect in charge changed the plain, double front entry to the elaborate present entry having sidelights and fanlight. The interior walls and floors of the main body of the house retain the original hand-hewn logs; however the covering over these logs has recently been changed. The old coverings were removed, and wood-grain paneling now covers most of the walls, and hardwood covers the floors.

The Alexander House remains in excellent condition and is carefully maintained by the present owners. Resting on its original site, the Alexander House is a significant local landmark.

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
1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1599	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alexander House is a one-and-one-half storey structure constructed of hand-hewn cypress logs. The house is sheathed in white clapboard and features a gable roof, from which extend three dormers on the facade and one on the rear elevation. The symmetrical facade is marked by a centered one-storey flat-roofed porch. The original part of the house consists of a wide center-hall flanked by two rooms on each side, this same arrangement for both the upstairs and downstairs. It is architecturally significant as representative of a gracious southern country home.

Constructed c. 1835, the house stands near the community of Scott, Arkansas, about twelve miles southeast of Little Rock. The house was constructed by Chester Ashley, who was one of the most important men in the history of Arkansas. Ashley was a landowner, a widely known lawyer and a United States Senator from Arkansas, 1844-1848. He owned much of the land in Scott and maintained the house as his country home. For many years the estate was called "Ashley Mill Plantation." Ashley's association with the house is an important aspect of its significance.

Chester Ashley was one of the most important figures in the history of Arkansas. Born in Amherst, Massachusetts, on June 1, 1791, Ashley grew up in Hudson, New York. He graduated from Williams College in 1813 and attended Litchfield Law School. Ashley completed law studies in the office of Elisha Williams at Hudson, New York.

At the age of twenty-seven, Chester Ashley moved to Edwardsville, Illinois, and set up a law office. From Illinois he moved to St. Louis, where he met William Russell, a well-known land speculator. In 1819 Ashley moved to Little Rock. He soon became involved in land litigation involving the capitol's being moved from Arkansas Post to Little Rock. Chester Ashley is often referred to as the "father of Little Rock," due to the fact that he acquired the title to much of the land on which the town was built. He also advised his clients in both Arkansas and Missouri to their financial advantage and was known as the best lawyer in either state. In the process he became a very wealthy man.

For a few years Ashley was in a law partnership with Robert Crittenden, Secretary of the Territory of Arkansas. Ashley became one of the most prominent and influential members of the Bar in the Territory of Arkansas. In 1844 he was elected to the United States Senate, where he became

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chairman of a judiciary committee. He was reelected to the Senate in 1846 and served until his death on April 29, 1848.

After the death of Ashley, the Ashely Plantation changed hands many times before it was taken over by Watt Worthen, who owned it for about ten years. Arthur Lee Alexander was the next owner, taking possession of the property in 1898.

Arthur Lee Alexander was born in Ashville, North Carolina, on December 27, 1867. His ancestors, the Davidsons, came from England in 1663. The Davidsons were given land-grants in payment for fighting in the Revolutionary War. Davidson County, North Carolina, and Davidson College in North Carolina are named for the same family.

Arthur L. Alexander came to Arkansas in 1889 with three Alexander cousins, Charles, James and Dave. They settled twelve miles southeast of Little Rock at Scott. For several years Arthur L. Alexander was a bookkeeper on the Fred Bryson Plantation.

On November 10, 1897, Arthur Lee Alexander married Otelia George, who was born at Reads Landing, Arkansas. Like her husband, Otelia Alexander came from a distinguished lineage. The George family came from Germany in 1785. The family were wealthy merchants in Germany and, upon their settlement in Little Rock in 1833, again became successful businessmen.

Strongly encouraged by his wife, Arthur Alexander purchased the Ashley Mill Plantation and took possession the first week of December, 1898. It was through the unique verbal persuasiveness of Otelia Alexander that the purchase was brought about. At the time of the purchase Arthur Alexander had only \$100 in cash.

Otelia Alexander was a woman of driving energy. In addition to raising a family of five children, she was involved in many constructive activities. Her work on the Penitentiary Board led to her appointment to the National Board of Prison Workers. She organized the Woman's Exchange of Little Rock, which was supported by the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Arkansas. This organization formed a means for the elderly and underprivileged to market their goods. For two years Mrs. Alexander served on the staff of the Arkansas Gazette.

Arthur Lee Alexander ran a cypress mill, grew cotton and raised livestock. He was a man of great drive and quickly achieved national prominence as an innovator of new farming ideas. He was imbued with the desire to

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improve the condition of those who worked for and with him. At the time he took control of his plantation, the commissary system was a widely accepted practice. Alexander is reported to have been the first plantation owner in Arkansas to do away with this system. This provided for a much more stable local economy.

Arthur L. Alexander was responsible for the formation of the Scott Cotton Growers Association, the first cotton co-operative association formed in the United States. Alexander's progressive and scientific farming methods brought spectacular results. Many officials of the United States Department of Agriculture came to Scott to study his methods.

Arthur Lee Alexander died December 7, 1938, in Scott. The eldest of the five Alexander children now resides in the house and farms the plantation. This son, William George Alexander, was born December 13, 1898. Before assuming his farming career, he was appointed to and attended the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland.

Thus, the historic Alexander House is representative of the history of two men whose contributions ranged from local to national significance. Ashely's activities ranged from Little Rock landowner to United States Senator. Alexander was both community leader and agricultural innovator on a nation-wide scale.

And, on top of this historical importance, the Alexander House has its own architectural significance. Resting among the trees on beautifully landscaped grounds, the Alexander House is the epitome of gracious Southern living.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Alexander, Davidson and George families. Documents collected by Mrs. J. B. Dietz, Little Rock, Arkansas.
 Alexander, Mrs. Robert. Interview at Scott, Arkansas, October 28, 1975.
 Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. William George. Personal interview at the Alexander House, Scott, Arkansas, October 27, 1975.
 Dietz, Mrs. J. B. Personal interview, Little Rock, Arkansas, November 15, 1975.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	15	583100	3840600	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-9-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-9-75

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

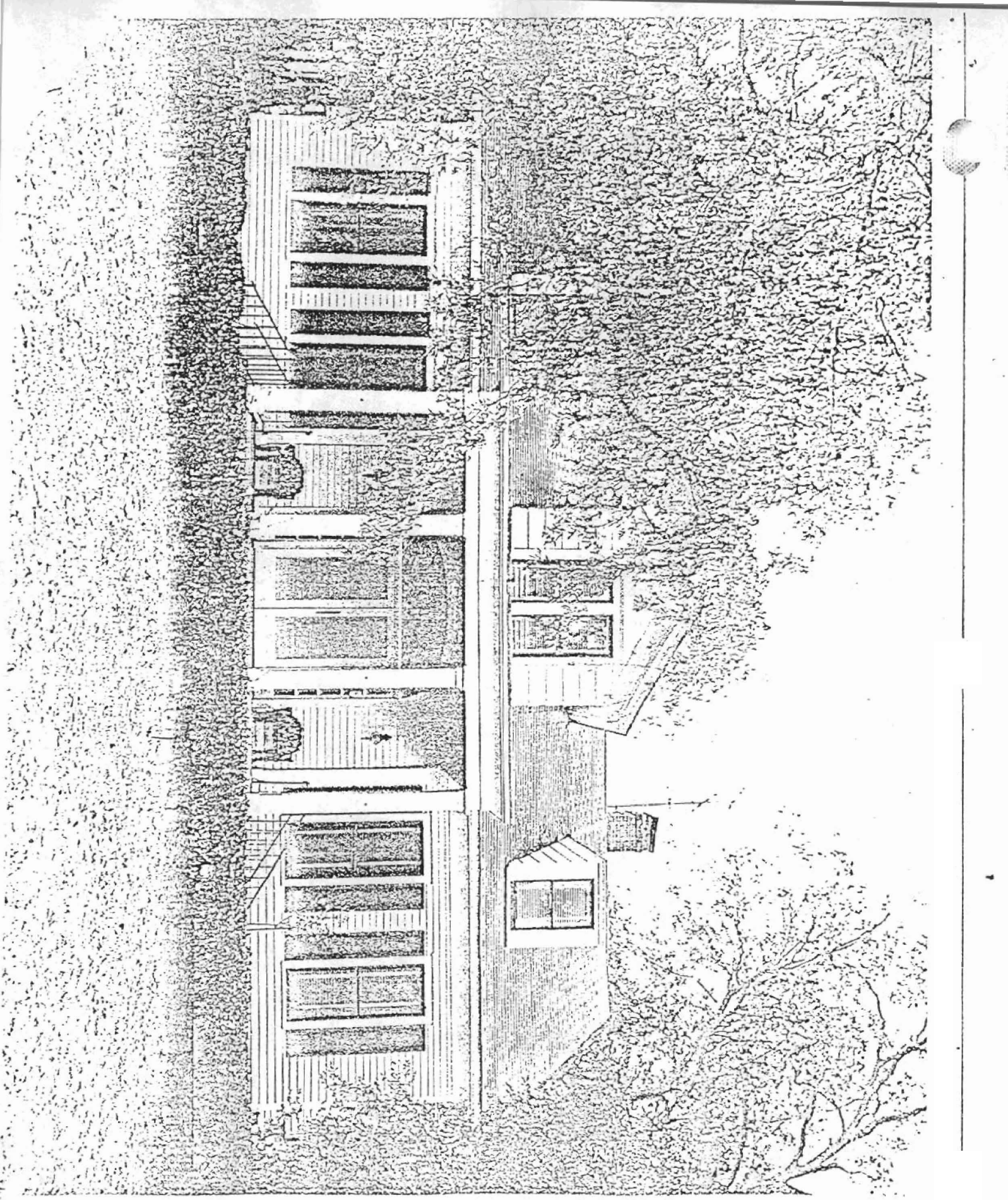
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Hempstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas. Volume II, Chicago:
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Alexander House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Scott

____VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Lonoke

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Facade, viewed from the west.

PHOTO NO.

1

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Alexander House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Scott

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Lonoke

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

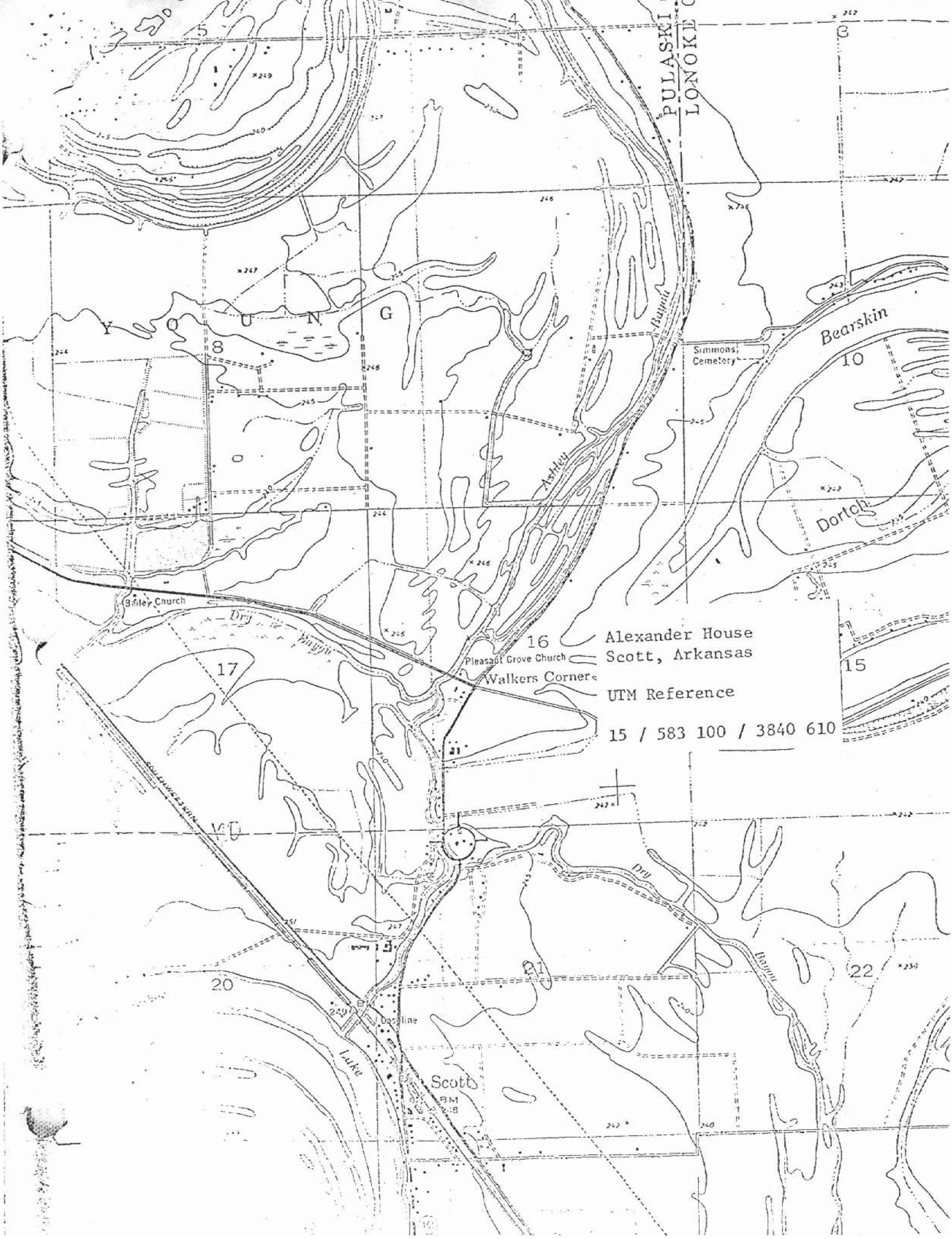
SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1954 (photorevised 1970)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



PULASKI
LONOKE C

Bearskin

Dortch

Bailey Church

Simmons
Cemetery

16

Alexander House
Scott, Arkansas

Pleasant Grove Church
Walkers Corner

UTM Reference

15 / 583 100 / 3840 610

15

17

22

20

Scott

BM
248

Gas line

Lake

