

Listed
6/14/90

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Canaan Baptist Church

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Laurel & 10th Streets

not for publication N/A

city, town Texarkana

vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Miller

code 091

zip code 75502

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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. See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Bryant
Signature of certifying official

5-7-90
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ Church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION/ Church

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular/ Colonial Revival
Gothic Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Summary

The Canaan Baptist Church is a single story, brick masonry ecclesiastical building. It is designed in a restrained, vernacular interpretation of the Colonial Revival style with Gothic Revival details. It features a rectangular plan and is covered with a hipped roof.

Elaboration

The Canaan Baptist Church is a single story, brick masonry ecclesiastical structure designed in a simplified, vernacular rendition of the Colonial Revival style with certain Gothic Revival details. Its symmetrical plan is organized around a central axis running from the western or front entrance to the baptismal font at the opposite end of the sanctuary. Its hipped roof and intersecting wall gables are covered with an asphalt shingle roof, its walls are faced with brick and the entire structure is supported by a continuous brick foundation.

The western or front elevation is symmetrically organized and features a lower, gable roof porch projecting from the center. The porch is entered via an arched opening between the square brick columns. The entrance features double-leaf, panelled entry doors surmounted by an arched wood transom window divided into three Gothic lights by curved wood muntins. An arched, louvered vent directly above the porch is placed in the gable peak. The wall is fenestrated with four one-over-one wood sash windows on the upper level (lighting the gallery behind) and two identical windows on the lower level, all placed symmetrically around the entrance porch. The porch is accessed by a concrete stair and brick stoops with concrete coping.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical. A central, projecting gabled bay is punctuated with three arched openings. The central window is broader than the two flanking it and is filled with three one-over-one wood sash windows below the arched transom window, which in turn is divided into a series of pointed arches by the curved wood muntins. The flanking, thinner windows are of similar configuration. The wall to the west of the projecting bay is lighted by two symmetrically-placed one-over-one wood sash windows on each floor, and the wall to the east features a single-leaf entry and a single one-over-one wood sash window set into corbelled and recessed brick panels. A modern flat suspended porch roof shelters each of these entries.

The eastern or rear elevation consists solely of a rear shed set behind raised parapet walls. It is lighted with six one-over-one wood sash windows separated into pairs, with the central pair being slightly smaller than the others. There is no other exterior decoration of note.

The simply-appointed interior is noteworthy as it is almost completely intact. A rear gallery

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runs the full width of the sanctuary and is supported upon boxed wood columns. An enclosed vestibule below features a double-leaf entry in its eastern wall, which leads into the sanctuary, and two stairwells to either side which lead up to the gallery. The sanctuary floor slopes down toward the pulpit, which is placed centrally in front of the baptistry. The baptistry is set within a small arch and two flanking larger arches provide access to the ancillary rooms to the rear. The acoustic tile ceiling is original; the pews are not.

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Summary

Criteria C, local significance

The Canaan Baptist Church was constructed in 1929 for the ancestors of the black congregation it continues to serve today. It is a unique design in that it distills certain fundamental elements of the Colonial Revival and Gothic Revival architectural styles into a cohesive if understated synthesis that is unusual for contemporaneous ecclesiastical designs in Texarkana, Arkansas.

Elaboration

The congregation of the Canaan Baptist Church was organized in 1883. The congregation first worshiped at a church building located at 816 Laurel Street, approximately two blocks away from the site of the present structure. The present building was constructed in 1929 by T.L. Bentley, a local builder, and was designed by S.C. Cox, architect.

The Canaan Baptist Church has served this surrounding large and thriving black neighborhood of Texarkana since its construction. Though it is almost exclusively residential now, the area around the church was a mixture of residences and small black commercial enterprises in 1929. The local businesses included grocery stores, doctors' offices and a funeral parlor. Some of the leading black citizens of Texarkana lived in the Laurel Street area and were members of this church. The most famous resident to come from this area was the famous American composer and musician Scott Joplin (though he left Texarkana long before this erection of this structure), who is known to have attended the Orr School which was located just two blocks away from the current site of the Canaan Baptist Church.

The Canaan Baptist Church is architecturally distinctive by virtue of its economical synthesis of stylized, vernacular Colonial Revival and Gothic Revival elements into a cohesive and unified composition which is difficult to associate closely with either traditional style. Though the specific circumstances surrounding the design and construction decisions have not been recorded, it is reasonable to assume that any religious congregation, regardless of its vitality, would seek to control costs carefully during the erection of their new church, and especially on the eve of the Depression. However, like many Christians of the period, it is also reasonable to assume that the congregation strongly desired a fitting house of worship, complete with the appropriate architectural vocabulary and references. The Gothic Revival style had fulfilled this role for literally thousands of Christian congregations in the United States since its introduction in the mid-nineteenth century through the work of such architects as Richard Upjohn and Minard Lefever, complete with all the powerful associations of 'religious appropriateness' which the English had attached to it.

Cox, the architect, successfully balanced these competing interests in his creation of a design

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that made use of commercially available prefabricated materials (e.g., the panelled doors, wood sash and decorative windows) in service to the goal of crafting a vocabulary and a space which spoke to the Christian architectural tastes of an active and devout local congregation. The prevalent use of arched openings on three of the four exterior elevations and on all four interior elevations aesthetically joins the otherwise simple surfaces and spaces into a visual whole. The Canaan Baptist Church remains the only known intact record of such ecclesiastical design work by Cox in the Texarkana area and is therefore the best local example of this particular adaptation and interpretation of these well-known styles.

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Bibliography

Bernard Johnson Inc., *Texarkana, Arkansas: Downtown Development Plan*, (Washington, D.C., 1973), p. 8.

Interview with Dr. Lowry Howard, Texarkana, Arkansas.

Texarkana Centennial Historical Program: 1873-1973, pp. 32-34.

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Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lots 44 and 45 of Sproats Addition to the City of Texarkana, Arkansas

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1929

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Bentley, T.L.
Cox, S.C.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 1, 5 4 0, 3 1, 8, 0 3, 6 9, 9 5, 8, 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

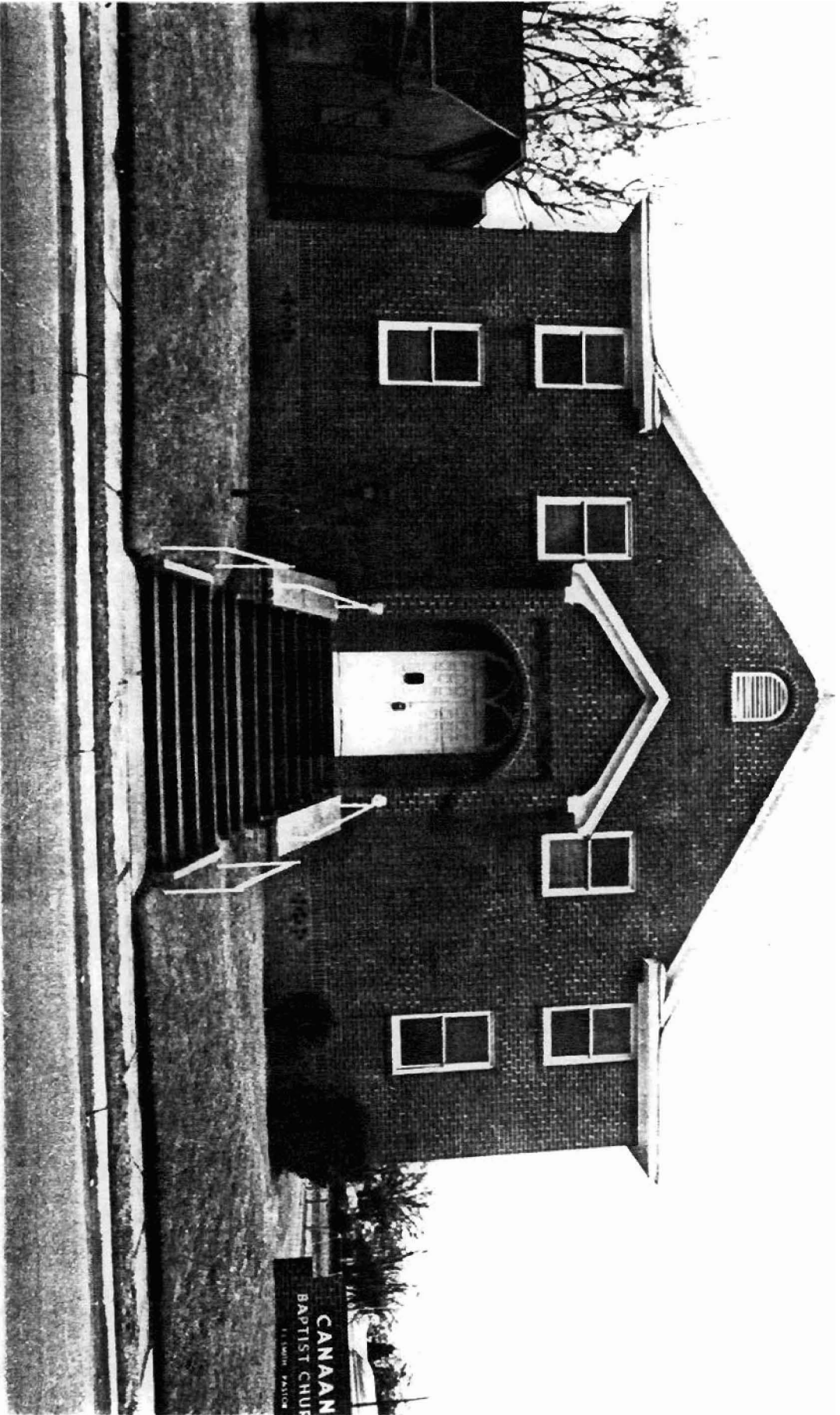
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

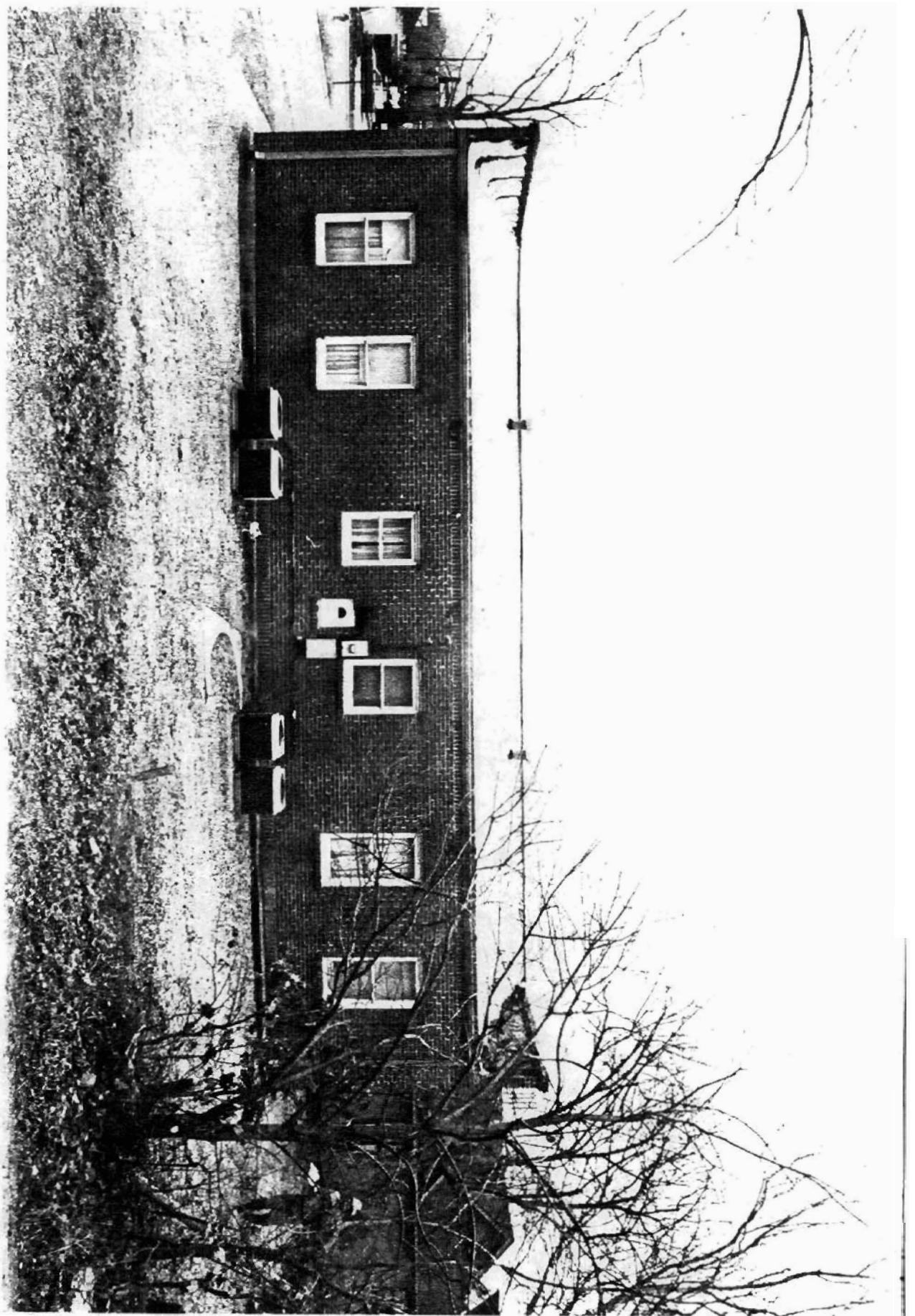
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 4 May, 1990

street & number 225 E Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501) 371-2763

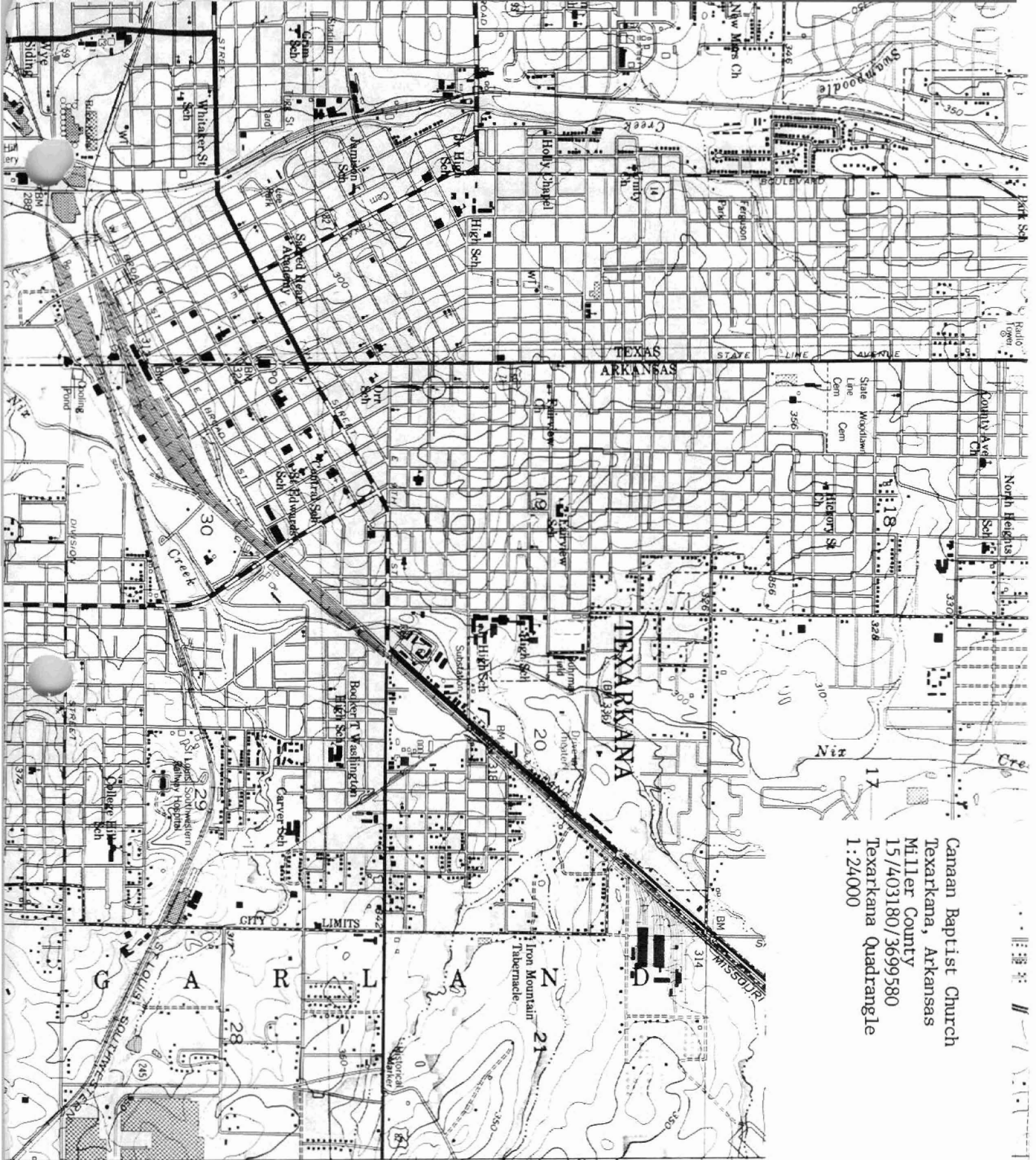
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201



CANAAN
BAPTIST CHURCH
11 SOUTH PASTOR







Canaan Baptist Church
 Texarkana, Arkansas
 Miller County
 15/403180/3699580
 Texarkana Quadrangle
 1:24000

GARLAND 19 MI
 MAGNOLIA 52 MI
 (MANDEVILLE)
 7250 IV NW

3101

3098

25