

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name John Clifton House

other names/site number (M10131)

2. Location

street & number 1803 Pecan Street

not for publication

city or town Texarkana

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Miller

code 091

zip code 71854

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 for 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

nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Clifton A. Sator
Signature of certifying official/Title

4-27-00
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

John Clifton House
Name of Property

Miller County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Prairie

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet.

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 moved from its original location.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1908

Significant Dates

c. 1908

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

John Clifton House
Name of Property

Miller County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>403580</u>	<u>3700330</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

South one-half of Lot Numbered Four (4), all of Lot Numbered Five (5), and all of Lot Numbered Six (6) in block Numbered Two (2) of the W.A. William's Addition to the City of Texarkana, Miller County Arkansas, according to the map or plat thereof recorded in Deed Book "R", page 213 of the Deed Records of Miller County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

This boundary contains all the property historically associated with this resource that still retains its integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrizia LaLonda/ property owner

organization _____ date 3/28/00

street & number 1803 Pecan Street telephone (870) 774-1149

city or town Texarkana state AR zip code 71854

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Summary

The John Clifton House located at 1803 Pecan Street in Texarkana, Miller County, Arkansas, was built in 1908. It is a single story, full attic, brick masonry (American bond style of brick pattern) residence. As the best example of a Prairie-styled residence in the local neighborhood, the house exhibits elements typical to the Prairie style. These elements include a low-pitched roof with wide overhanging eaves, massive porch supports, horizontal ribbons of windows, and decorative panels between the dormer louvers. Its predominately Prairie-styled architecture is combined with the Craftsman style by the use of exposed rafters in the side and rear rooflines. One tall chimney abuts the exterior wall at the northern elevation; a second tall chimney abuts the exterior wall at the southern elevation, and the other four chimneys rise from the interior of the structure.

Elaboration

The eastern, or front, elevation is composed of the shed roof wraparound porch; the porch roof rests upon a total of six massive square brick columns. A series of wide concrete stairs rise to the tongue-and-groove porch deck and entrance. The main entrance consists of a single leaf, beveled glass door flanked by a pair of beveled glass sidelights. The architrave and entablature are oak; three fixed stained glass transoms complete the front entrance. To the north of the front entrance is a six-over-one double-hung window. To the south of the entrance the exterior brick wall recedes; in this recessed area is an eight-over-one double-hung window. The exterior wall then recedes again, leading to the side entrance which consists of a single beveled glass door with beveled glass fixed transom. A wide, low-pitched dormer completes the eastern elevation.

The northern and western elevations are simpler. The northern elevation has two one-over-one double-hung windows, one on each side of the living room chimney. Approximately halfway along the northern elevation is a ribbon of five tall one-over-one double-hung windows. These are the formal dining room windows. Continuing westward along the northern elevation are two one-over-one double-hung windows (butler's pantry and kitchen respectively). With the exception of two windowpanes in the living room, all other windowpanes are original to the structure and display the characteristic warping of the cylinder method.

The western elevation consists of a narrow enclosed porch, which was added to the structure sometime in the 1940s. To the south of this porch there is a one-over-one single hung window (bedroom); the exterior wall then recedes; in this recessed area is another one-over-one double-hung window (bathroom).

The southern elevation consists of a wide, low-pitched roof dormer, two six-over-one double-hung windows, one on each side of the abutting master bedroom (former parlor) chimney. Proceeding eastward along the southern elevation is a fixed window; originally this was a leaded glass window that could be opened to access the concrete flower box. Past this point along the southern elevation is a series of concrete steps leading to the wraparound porch and side entry door.

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Significant exterior details include the spreading eaves, the asymmetrical hipped roof with the wide, low-pitched dormers, and the brick columns with their decorative panels.

The interior of the John Clifton House features a number of interesting architectural details. With the exception of the breakfast room, all the ceilings are twelve feet high; there are picture rails in every room except the kitchen, breakfast room and guest bathroom. There are two extant fireplaces: one in the living room and one in the master bedroom (former parlor); the mantelpieces are oak. Significant doors include two sets of five-panel double pocket doors; one set separates the foyer from the living room, and the other set of double pocket doors separates the living room from the dining room. There are also two five-paneled single pocket doors; one is between the den and foyer, and the other is between the dining room and hall. A swinging door is located between the dining room and the butler's pantry, which retains its original cabinetry. The large dining room (16'x20') wainscoting and plate rail is well over five feet high. There remain three original mother-of-pearl push button light switches and five original light fixtures (converted from gas to electric). Two massive attic fans, still in excellent working condition are located in the hall. The floors throughout the residence are yellow pine; the foyer, living room, and dining room floors display a chevron-type border. Interior walls are lathe and plaster. With the exception of the breakfast room skylight that was installed sometime in the 1970s, and the lowering of the breakfast room ceiling, no alterations to the original interior architecture were made.

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Summary

The John Clifton House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It is being nominated with local significance as the best example of a Prairie-styled residence within the "Pleasant Hill" neighborhood in Texarkana.

Elaboration

Miller County was created by an Act of the Congress of the Territory of Arkansas in 1820 from a portion of Hempstead County. The name for the new county was a tribute to General James Miller, the first governor of the Arkansas Territory. At the time, the boundary between Texas (Mexico) and Arkansas was thought to be ten miles further west than it really was. Many of the citizens of Miller County preferred the jurisdiction of Texas to Arkansas. Sixth judicial circuit judge William B. Conway reported in 1830 that "Texas has usurped full jurisdiction over Miller County . . ." After his inauguration in 1836 as first governor of the state of Arkansas, James S. Conway proposed that "The easiest and most effectual remedy that presents itself to my mind is the abolition of Miller County and attachment of her territory to some other possessed of more patriotism." Miller County was re-established in 1874 with the addition of land from Lafayette County.

Texarkana is a town that was built to fulfill a particular need. The Texas & Pacific Railroad coming from Dallas needing to link with the Cairo & Fulton Railroad coming from Arkansas, wanted to stop where Nash, Texas now sits, and create a town there. However, because the Cairo & Fulton Railroad was not chartered in Texas, the Texas & Pacific agreed to extend all the way to the state line, and in 1873 the town was born. Trains meant affluence for Texarkana as did timber. By the turn of the century, five railroad lines crossed Texarkana. Miller County, carved from the southwestern corner of the Arkansas Territory and a small area of Texas, was named after Colonel James Miller, a native of New Hampshire, who was appointed first territorial governor in 1819 by President Monroe.

The first town lots in Texarkana were sold in December 1873. In 1891 W.A. Williams, one of the early area settlers, dedicated to the public the parcel of land which was known as "Pleasant Hill." Pecan Street was located in this area.

On July 11, 1906 John Dial Clifton and Frances (Fannie) Brewer were married. Between 1907 and 1908 the couple purchased lots 3, 4, 5 and 6 in the W.A. Williams Addition to the City of Texarkana and construction of the new home began shortly after. John D. Clifton, an ambitious young man from Boxelder, Texas, moved to Texarkana while in his late teens, seeking fame and fortune. Perhaps not a famous man by our standards, John Dial Clifton certainly succeeded financially, rapidly climbing ranks at the Isaac Schwartz Company, importers of fine silks. Frances, an accomplished pianist and sister to city major Thomas A. Brewer, was well-known in both social and musical circles. The Clifton's home at 1803 Pecan appeared quite frequently in the social columns of the local newspapers as the site for piano recitals and social gatherings. John D. Clifton died of tuberculosis in 1934 while visiting his sister in Boxelder; the Masons were in charge of the rites at his grave.

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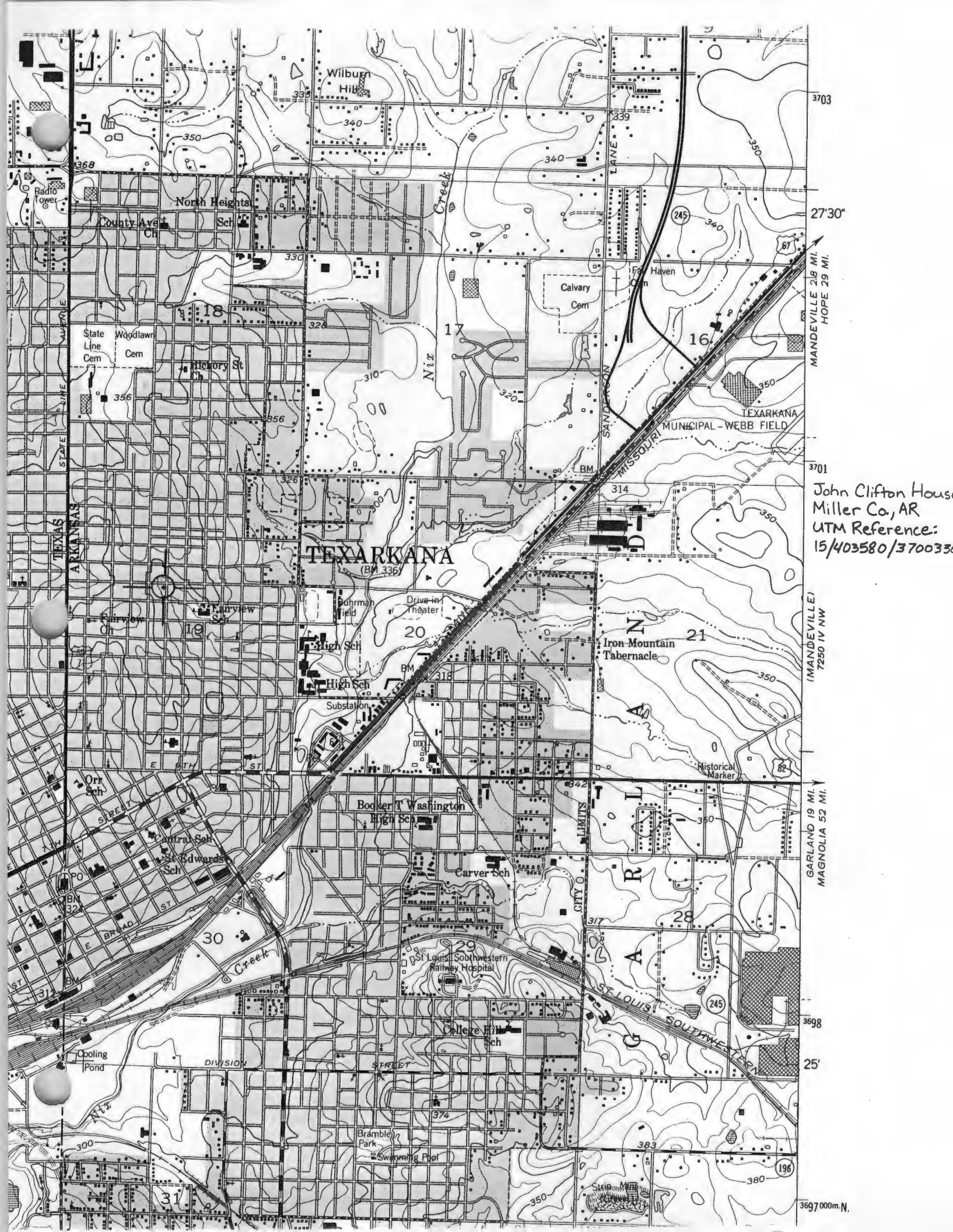
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Approximately twenty years following his death, Frances sold the home to Edgar and Remica Bickly, owners of two furniture stores and a coffee shop. In 1969 John W. Davenport, a wealthy rancher, purchased the house, and sold it a few years later to Larry Bunn, a heating and air conditioning contractor. In 1980 the property was bought by Lawrence Kennedy, a locally well-known pastor. Between 1988 and 1990 the home stood vacant, the Kennedys having left the area quite suddenly under obscure circumstances. James Cochrum, a Red River Federal Credit Union employee and his wife Jen lived at 1803 pecan between 1991 and 1995. After their divorce in 1995, the property was sold to the present owners, Michael and Patrizia Lalonde, who are in the process of lovingly restoring it to its original splendor.

Significance

The John Clifton House presents a well-executed, but restrained version of Prairie-styled architecture, a style that was never widespread in Arkansas. The John Clifton House's wide eave overhang, ribbon of windows, and decorative panels between the louvers of the dormer together with the consistently fine detailing of its interior woodwork successfully captures the spirit of the Prairie style. The house is the sole representative of this style of residence within the W. A. Williams Addition of the neighborhood known as "Pleasant Hill" in Texarkana, Arkansas. The John Clifton House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance.



3703

27°30'

MANDEVILLE 2.8 MI.
HOPE 2.9 MI.

3701

John Clifton House
Miller Co, AR
UTM Reference:
15/403580/370035

(MANDEVILLE)
7250 IV NW

GARLAND 1.9 MI.
MAGNOLIA 5.2 MI.

3698

25'

3697000m.N.













