

PH0351598

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 18 1976

DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

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

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC *Major William Black Family* House

**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
311 West Ash Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Brinkley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Monroe

CODE
095

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENC
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Burrows

STREET & NUMBER
311 West Ash Street

CITY, TOWN
Brinkley

__ VICINITY OF

STATE
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER
Monroe County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Clarendon

STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 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

The Major Black House, located in the southeastern Arkansas town of Brinkley was constructed in 1895. The house is a masterpiece of Queen Anne Victorian architecture as characterized by its variety of textural usage, its towers and its irregular shape. The only structure of its kind in the area, the Major Black House is one of the most architecturally significant structures in south Arkansas.

Of frame construction, the colorful yellow and white Major Black House features a multi-gabled, high-hipped roof. The most dominate feature of the house is a three-story round tower located on the northeast corner. This tower is capped by a steep cone-shaped roof with finial. Decorative supportive brackets are found on the cornice beneath the roof. The tower is divided into four sections; the tall roof, and a first, second and third story level. The third story level of the tower is covered in scalloped shingles and features six double-hung, nine-over-one windows. The first and second story levels of the tower are covered in weather-board siding and contain two double-hung curved windows. The curved glass in these windows is original.

A wide portico beginning in the center of the east elevation curves around the northeast corner and the tower, spans the width of the facade and turns around the northwest corner to extend to the center of the west elevation. The porch features a gabled roof on the east elevation and at the entry on the facade. This portico features decorative spindlework: at the cornice of the porch, delicately turned posts and balusters, and ornamental brackets. To the west of the gablet at the entry on the facade (north elevation) the spindlework forms a wide archway between the turned posts. The ornate gablet at the main entry features rows of rosettes set into squares in the gable end. Found on the bargeboard of the gable are unevenly spaced triglyphs and metopes.

The gable on the facade of the house features a pair of double-hung windows found just below two rows of rosettes set into squares. Three air vents also found in the gable end are surrounded by scalloped shingles.

The west elevation of the house is marked by a two-story gable extending from the roof. This gable features chevron and scalloped shingling in its gable end, and a pair of small windows. The bargeboard of the gable utilizes the pattern of unevenly spaced triglyph and metope. A shed roof porch with decorative balusters and railing covers the single door west elevation entry.

The east elevation is marked by two gables, a bay window and a gabled section of the portico. The portico widens at the east elevation and is covered with a gabled entry. The gable end features alternating rows of scalloped and rectangular shingling. A two story gabled bay

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of Arkansas' most outstanding Queen Anne Victorian structures is the Major Black House in Brinkley, Arkansas. Constructed in 1895 by the widow of Major William Black, the architectural considerations alone of the Major Black House make it a significant and unusual structure in the southeast part of the state. However, aside from all architectural merits is the history of the man who planned the house and whose descendants live there today.

William Black was born in Toronto, Canada, on November 22, 1836. He moved to Memphis, Tennessee in 1856 at the age of twenty. During his early years in Memphis he worked at ship carpentering. He later established a successful grocery business on Memphis' Jefferson Street and was elected Alderman in the city government. Black served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and took part in many of the battles in and around Memphis. It was during the Civil War that Black earned the title of major.

Major Black was married in 1862 to Miss Bena Corless of New Orleans, Louisiana. He disposed of his grocery business in Memphis, and built a sawmill in the midst of a dense forest in southeast Arkansas. There was a small settlement near this area known as Brinkley and in 1870, at the age of thirty-four he moved his wife and three children to this area. The last twenty miles of their trip was made by covered wagon.

In Brinkley, Major Black entered into partnership with Mr. John Gunn and formed the Brinkley Car Works and Manufacturing Company. The growth of this company was due largely to his business management, and it developed into one of the largest concerns of its kind in the South. Major Black was president and principal owner of this company. The company had several railroad contracts, building about twenty-five miles of the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad and about forty miles of the St. Louis, Arkansas and Texas Railroad. His company also built what was known as the W&BRV Railroad and the Brinkley and Helena Railroad. It was mainly through Major Black's efforts that these four railroads ran through Brinkley.

In 1874, only four years after moving to Arkansas, Major Black was elected to the State Senate from his district. At the time of his death, Major William Black was a director and stockholder in the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad, President of the B.H.&I.B. Railroad, President of the Monroe County Bank, Vice-president of the Brinkley Oil Mill Company and principal owner of the T. H. Jackson and Company, the largest mercantile firm in

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Almond, Holly, Ed. Brinkley Centennial Yearbook 1872-1972. Brinkley: The Citizen, 1972.
- Arkansas Gazette, September 21, 1889.
- Brinkley Argus, September 26, 1889.
- Burrows, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil. Personal interview at the Major Black House, Brinkley, Arkansas, July 28, 1976.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	5, 6, 4, 8, 8, 0	3, 8, 6, 1, 6, 1, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

West 3/4 of Lots 1, 2, 3, Block 53, City of Brinkley

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

9-14-76

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

STATE

Arkansas

12 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 9-14-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Active
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST: *[Signature]*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/12/96

DATE 12/4/76

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RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED DEC 12 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

extends from this elevation. The gable end of the bay is almost identical to that of the gable on the west elevation, including the row of Moorish archmotif. A three-sided, one-story bay window extends from the larger bay. Decorative brackets support the three-sided flat roof which is surrounded by iron cresting. A small decorative gable extends from the roof at the rear of the east elevation.

The south elevation of the Major Black House is marked by a hipped-gable roof with bargeboard on which is found the triglyph and metope design. Scalloped shingling surrounded a single double-hung window at the two-and-one-half story level of this elevation. A second story flat-roofed portico rests atop a projecting first floor section in which an enclosed porch is found.

The entire house features double corner boards. A continuous sill and windowhead also extends around the house.

In general, the Major Black House gives the appearance of being a complex shape with its numerous offset surfaces. However, it is essentially a central hall plan. The exterior refinement is carried to the interior with ornamental latticework in an opening into the west parlor and in a bay window in a rear parlor, symmetrically molded trim about all fenestration, wide baseboards or rich wood and original ceiling stenciling. Each room contains a fireplace with wood overmantels each unique in design. The staircase is of dark paneled woodwork, finely turned balusters and intricately carved posts with a lacing pattern of wood above and below the balustrades. The double entry doors are of heavy, dark wood with a classical trim surrounding them. A narrow horizontal transom rests above the paneled doors which feature beautifully colored and designed stained glass panels in the upper sections of the doors. Most of the original light fixtures remain in the house. On the landing of the stairway is an elegant oval window of clear cut glass.

In 1909 the most destructive cyclone in the history of Arkansas tore through Brinkly, leaving only eight of 1,500 structures in the city still standing. Part of a chimney was blown off on the east side of the Major Black House, otherwise it was undamaged.

The virtually unaltered Major Black House in Brinkley, Arkansas rests on a tree-shaded lot near the downtown area of Brinkley. In excellent condition the Major Black House is an outstanding example of Queen Anne Victorian architecture in Arkansas.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

eastern Arkansas. He also owned much of the land in and around Brinkley and many of the buildings in the business district, some of which bear his name today.

Major Black is recognized to be one of the strongest forces in the development of Brinkley and the surrounding area. In early publications he was sometimes referred to as the "Father of Brinkley." He was given much credit for the early settlement and growth of the city because of his contributions in the areas of commerce and transportation through the railroads and lumber industry. Not only did these businesses supply much needed materials to unsettled southeast Arkansas, but brought many workers and their families into that part of the state.

On September 18, 1889 at the age of 54, immediately following surgery for a brain abscess, Major Black died at his home in Brinkley. He was survived by his 44-year-old wife, six daughters, and two sons. His widow, in addition to managing the family business and interests, saw to the construction of a house for which Major Black had drawn up the plans before his death. This house was completed in 1895. Since that time the house has been the home of the descendants of Major Black. Mrs. Kathryn Mitchell Burrows, granddaughter of Major Black and her husband now live in and maintain the excellent condition of the house.

Architecturally, the Major Black House is a masterpiece of the Queen Anne Victorian style. Of frame construction, painted a vivid yellow and white, the house features a variety of textural usage, irregular shape and unusual ornate trim. The house is distinguished by a large round tower on the northeast corner. This tower utilizes decorative brackets, scalloped shingling and rounded glass. The Major Black House is extremely ornate in trim, utilizing an unusual combination of decorative motifs.

The interior of the Major Black House is a combination of perfectly preserved ornamental latticework, stained glass entry doors, stenciled ceilings, and elaborate fireplace mantels. The staircase is exceptionally beautiful featuring turned balusters, carved posts and a lacing pattern below the handrail.

The Major Black House stands as a monument to the man who was largely responsible for the development of Brinkley and the surrounding area. A leading factor in the commercial development of Brinkley, Major Black came to be one of southeast Arkansas' most admired citizens. This is in addition to its architectural significance make the Major Black House a local landmark.

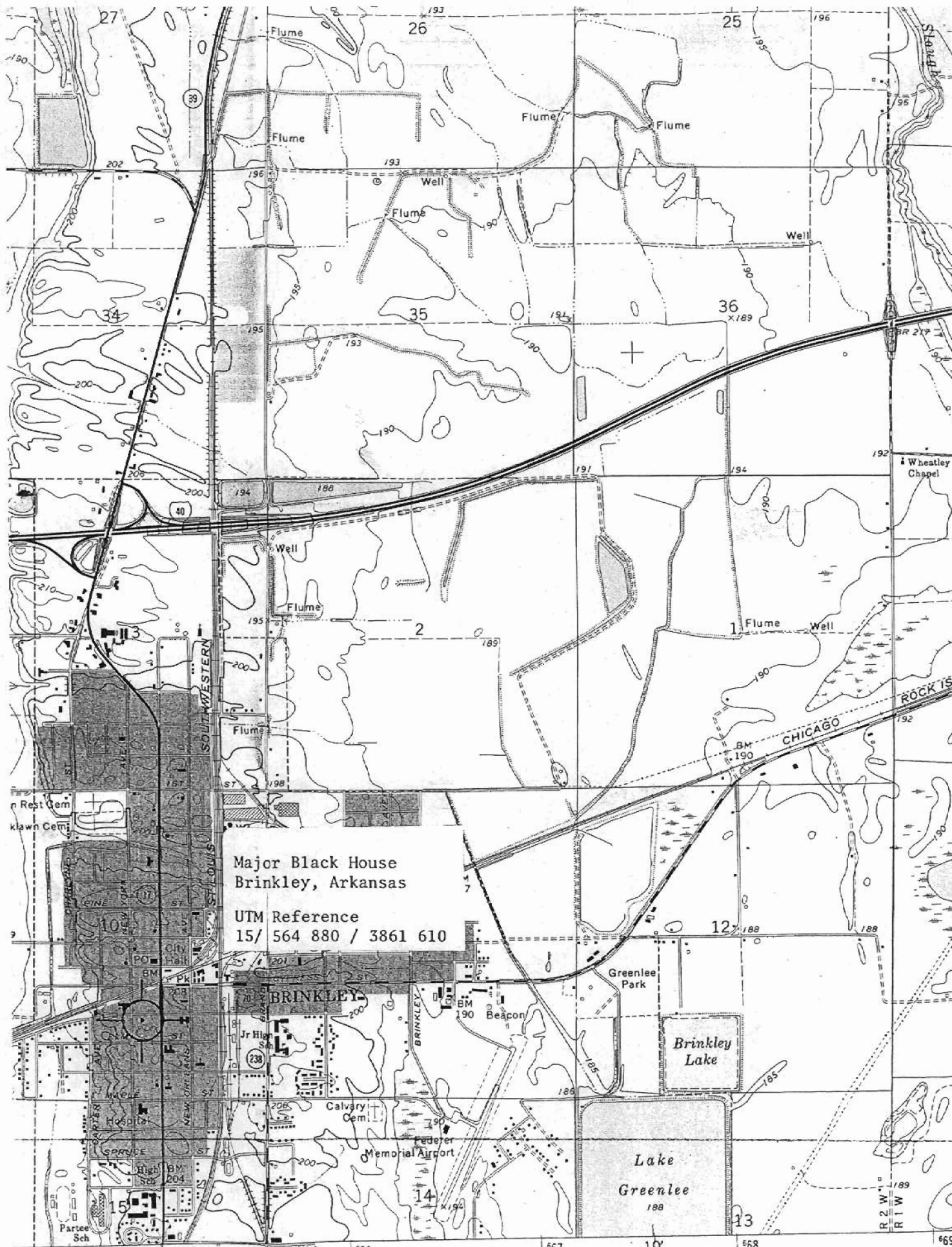
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern
Arkansas. Little Rock: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890.
Warblow, Mr. and Mrs. Garrett, Personal interview at the Major Black House,
Brinkley, Arkansas, July 28, 1976



Major Black House
Brinkley, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15/ 564 880 / 3861 610

JUNCTION U.S. 49 & 70
OCK (VIA U.S. 70) 66 MI.

(KEVIL)
7753 1 SW

SCALE 1:24000

