

52-00-0040-61-NR 3-24-78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Oakland Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Tate House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Tate and Oakland Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Camden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Quachita

CODE

103

**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

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Walter Tate and Mrs. Robert D. Wunnenberg

STREET & NUMBER

Tate and Oakland Streets

CITY, TOWN

Camden

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Quachita County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Camden

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

Oakland Farm, construction in 1886, is a one-and-one-half storey structure of wood construction. The house is constructed of cypress. The cypress on the exterior walls is of such good quality that it has required painting only three times since the house was built.

The house is a T-shaped structure with one-storey wings on either side and a one-storey addition on the rear. The main section of the house has a salt-box roof. Three pedimented dormers project from the roof above the veranda; one dormer is located on each side of the rear wing. These dormers feature double-hung, six-over-six-lite windows. The dormers were added during the remodeling of the house in 1937-38.

A wide one-storey veranda spans the width of the facade. This veranda is supported by four square Doric-capital columns. Two paneled entry doors are spaced between three windows on the facade. Windows are trimmed in a very simple style and flanked by shutters.

The interior features large rooms. Each of the original rooms has a mantel; the mantels vary in design. Basically, the interior continues the simple refinement of the exterior.

In 1937-38 Oakland Farm was restored and remodeled. During this restoration the kitchen (located in the wing on the east) was rebuilt. A wing on the west elevation was added to match the east wing. A small back porch and sun-room were added to the north elevation. During this remodeling, the attic was converted into three bedrooms and a hallway. The original fourteen-foot ceilings were lowered at this time. The original foundation, consisting of large rocks, was removed, and a basement of the same size as the original portion of the house was installed. The basement functions as a play-room. It is paneled in cypress saved from the period when the saw mill operated at Oakland Farm.

Oakland Farm rests upon a beautifully landscaped piece of ground. Close to the house remain the office, a smoke-house, a milk-house, a kitchen and "Tate's Barn" (added to the National Register, 11-9-72). The setting is extraordinarily picturesque and well-suited to a structure which so assuredly represents the history of Ouachita County.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

settled on the bluff at the confluence of the Little Missouri and Ouachita Rivers, a site known since then as "Tate's Bluff."

In 1829 John Tate, Captain Tate's nephew, arrived at Tate's Bluff. John settled his family on a large farm in Dallas County across from Tate's Bluff.

Alfred Arnold Tate, one of John's sons, and Alfred's wife, Amanda Shaddock Tate, also settled in Dallas County. In 1858 Alfred died, leaving his wife with three children. During the Civil War Amanda Tate married John W. Peebles, whom she had hired as overseer of her farm. In 1864 the Peebles family were forced to abandon the farm because it was situated between the Federal Army at Little Rock and the Confederate Army at Camden, thus being continually subject to raids. The family moved near Magnolia in Columbia County. In 1868 the Peebles moved to Ouachita County; they bought a large farm about four miles from Camden. The house which already stood on the farm had been built in 1851. The family lived here until John Peebles died in 1886. Upon her husband's death, Amanda Peebles divided the farm and gave the house to her daughter and son-in-law. Amanda and her son, William Frank, built a new house for themselves in 1886. The house came to be known as the Tate House or Oakland Farm.

William Frank Tate had been born in Dallas County, Arkansas, in 1856. He finished school in Camden and, after teaching in local schools for a period, attended Homer College in Homer, Louisiana. He married Mary Scoggin, who died shortly after the birth of their fourth child. William Frank Tate was a resident of Ouachita County for more than fifty years prior to his death in 1928. He was active in securing enactment of the law which provided for the four agricultural colleges in the state. Tate was a member of the board of directors of the Third District Agricultural School at Magnolia when it was erected and was vice-president of this board for the first eleven years of its existence. He was connected with the building of the Missouri Pacific Railroad from Camden to El Dorado. Tate was Ouachita County Judge, 1917-20. He served as president of the board of directors of Fairview School, whose establishment was due to the Tate family.

Walter F. Tate, one of William Frank Tate's four children, was born at Oakland Farm in 1889. He attended the University of California and graduated from Hendrix College in Conway, Arkansas. Upon his marriage in 1938 to Miss Ruth Gann, Oakland Farm was restored. Walter Tate, following in the footsteps of his family, was a valuable citizen in Ouachita County. Among his honors were the presidency of the Fairview School Board and the presidency of Arkansas Truck Growers Association. Walter Tate kept the farm in cultivation until World War II, when, due to a labor shortage, he was forced to plant the entire farm in pine trees. Walter Tate died in 1960.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input 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	1886	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Amanda Tate Peebles and William Frank Tate
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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

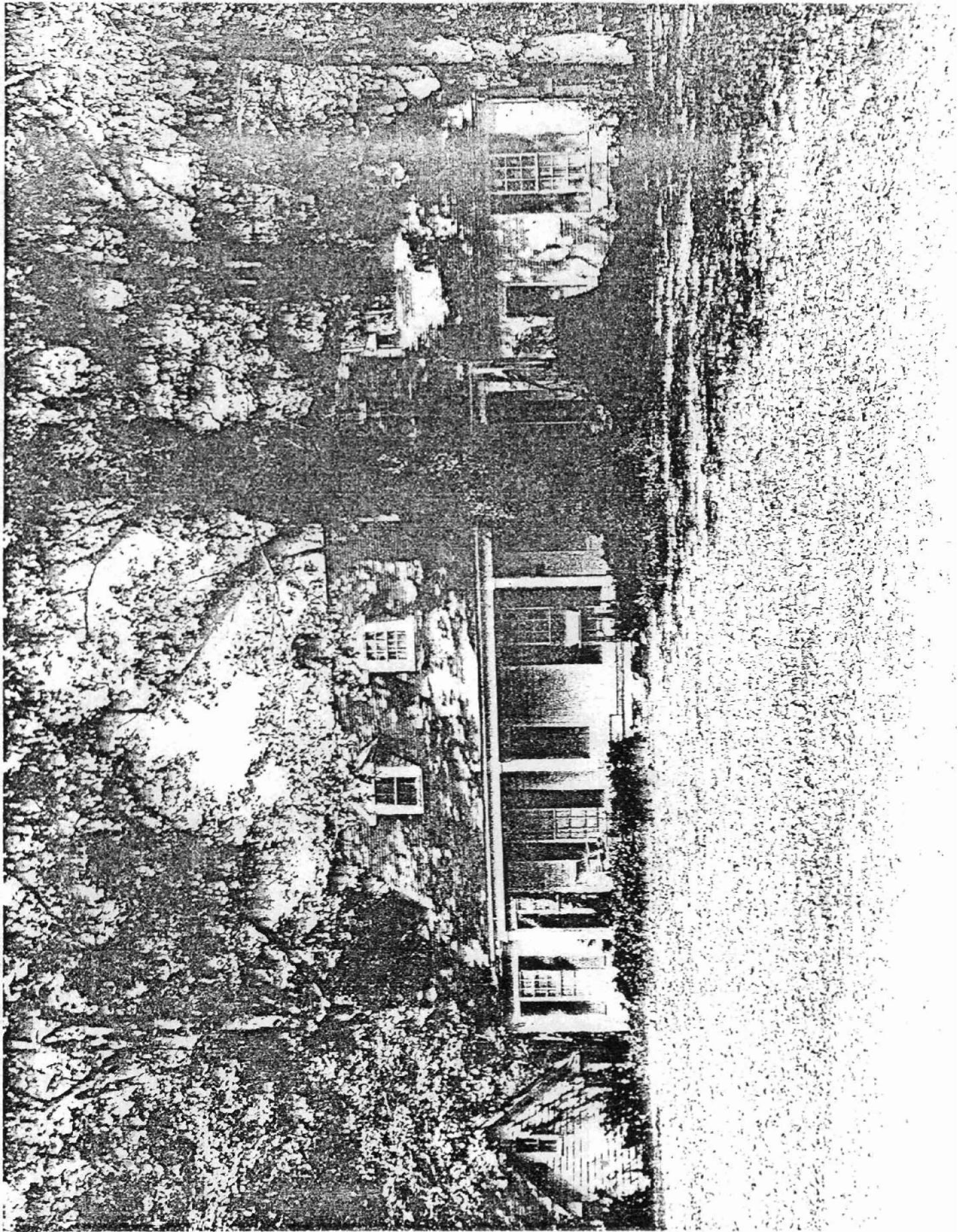
Oakland Farm, or "the Tate House," rests on ninety-six acres, which include elaborately landscaped gardens, heavily wooded areas, a grove of over one hundred pecan trees, a fruit orchard, a large pasture and three catfish ponds. Situated near the house is Tate's Barn (added to the National Register of Historic Places, 11-9-72). A sawmill operated for many years on the property. The land once supported a tree farm and, as such, was an important financial asset to the area. The historical significance of Oakland Farm lies mainly in its representation of the Tate family, who were among the earliest settlers in Arkansas and were the first settlers of Ouachita County. Since their settlement in Ouachita County in 1819, the Tate family has been an important factor in many aspects of that county's history.

Captain Dick Tate earned his title as captain in the War of 1812. He led a company of Tennessee riflemen from the vicinity of present-day Nashville, Tennessee, to New Orleans, where they took part in the Battle of New Orleans under the command of General Andrew Jackson.

In 1816 Captain Tate set out from North Carolina in a search for gold. He was accompanied by a young slave named Abe. Abe had been given to Captain Tate in payment of a debt.

The Tate family came from Mecklenburg County in North Carolina; this was near the location of a North Carolina gold mine. Proximity to a working gold mine gave Captain Tate a knowledge of its operation which he felt would enable him to successfully seek gold. During the time he had been in New Orleans, Captain Tate had heard a great deal about the country known as the "Ouachitas" located in the newly acquired Louisiana Purchase. Such stories had been related by French trappers, who had traveled along the rivers in the area.

Tate traveled as far as the western part of Arkansas Territory, where he discovered what he thought was a gold mine. Shortly after this discovery he became involved in a quarrel with Indians in the territory and was forced to leave. He then went east to Tennessee, where most of the Tate family then lived. Captain Tate began building keelboats to bring his family to the new territory, where his imagined gold mine awaited him. Tate's two brothers, George and Anderson, set out with the captain and his family. By March, 1819, the boats had reached a point on the Ouachita River approximately twenty miles south of the present site of Camden. The Tates



# ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
TELEPHONE - 501 371-1639

## PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

*Ms. waeter (Ruth) Tate*  
*Ms. R. L. (Amanda Tate) Wimmerberg* am the legal  
owner of the *Tate Farm*

located at *90 1/2 Tate and Oakland St. Camden, Ark*

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

*Ms. waeter (Ruth) Tate*

*Amanda Tate Wimmerberg*  
Owner

*Oct 24, 1975*  
Date

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Arkansas Democrat, July 20, 1975.
- Arkansas Gazette, April 3, 1938.
- Arkansas Gazette, September 26, 1960.
- Ouachita Citizen, July 28, 1960.
- Tate, Mrs. Walter, Personal Interview at Oakland Farm, Camden, Arkansas, October 22, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre  
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	5 1, 4 1, 8, 0	3, 7 1, 1 2, 2, 0			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	D	ZONE	NORTHING
C						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

DATE

12-9-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

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

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Oakland Farm is maintained as a tree farm by Mrs. Walter Tate, Director of the Arkansas Bicentennial Celebration. Mrs. Tate is actively involved in preserving the historical heritage of Ouachita County. Oakland Farm rests on beautifully landscaped grounds as one of the most important historic landmarks in Ouachita County.