

Book Copy

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR LISTED

JUN 30 1995

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Umsted, Sidney A., House

Other Name/Site Number: OU 0100

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: 404 Washington Street

Not for Publication: _____

City/Town: Camden

Vicinity: _____

State: AR County: Ouachita Code: AR Zip Code: 71701

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
<u>3</u>	_____	structures
	_____	objects
	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater _____ 4-25-95
Signature of certifying official 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 Keeper Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current : Domestic Sub: Hotel
Commerce Business

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Spanish/Mediterranean Revival

Materials: foundation Concrete, Brick roof Ceramic Tile
walls Brick other Limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of California and Washington Streets in Camden, the Umsted House is a two-storey, beige brick residence designed in the Mediterranean style. Noteworthy features include Batesville limestone capitals, window lintels and sills, and a green Spanish tile roof with a boxed overhanging eave line. Also included in the nomination are a detached garage with upstairs living quarters, a gazebo, a large concrete pool, and landscape features including brick paths.

Elaboration

The Umsted House is a two-storey, brick residence designed in the Mediterranean style. The irregular plan is composed of two intersecting hipped roof components. Four brick chimneys with elaborated stone tops crown the roofline: an exterior end chimney against the western driveway wall, the second chimney being an interior chimney parallel to the first but on the eastern wall, a third internal chimney near the central roof peak on the west side, and the fourth chimney on the northwest corner of the house at the corner where the back "ell" meets the house. The Ludowici-Celadon dark green glazed Imperial Spanish tile roof, and brick and steel walls rest on concrete and brick piers.

The two-storey, southern or front elevation is symmetrical, with a projecting single-storey, hipped roof sun parlor to the east. A single-storey porch extends the full length of the southern facade, and projects out to the west, turning the corner to form a drive-through porte-cochere. This southern

facade is dominated by a second-storey central mission style dormer in brick. The dormer features a palladian window and a stone lintel with a keystone, stone mullions, and a stone sill. This limestone also forms the coping at the top of the dormer. The windows on each side of the second storey of the facade are equidistant from the dormer. Each window unit consists of two sets of casement windows, each sash with two-over-four lights. Each pair of casements is topped by a fixed window with three lights on both the first and second stories. The first floor casement windows are also topped by a limestone lintel. The only other windows on this southern elevation are those of the sun parlor which are similar to those seen elsewhere on the facade, however they are one light taller, and contain no transom light or lintel.

The main entrance is placed directly under the second-storey dormer. The front door is a wide single-leaf door flanked by sidelights with a three unit transom over the top. The door and side-lights are multi-paned with beveled glass, with a heavy stone located over the transom at the top.

The one-storey porch which extends across the facade of the house is supported by four large square brick piers with plain stone capitals. The porte-cochere to the west is supported by two identical piers which are joined by a brick wall on the western boundary of the driveway. The two piers on either side of the front porch are joined by a low brick balustrade with a plain stone top. The porch is laid with a 6 x 6 light grey hydraulic paving tile, as is the sun parlor floor in the interior. There is a double beaded board ceiling on the porch, and it is painted a cream color. Like the other eaves on the house, the green tile porch roof has a wide overhang with a boxed eave, and decorative curved brackets under the overhang. A large plain wooden frieze and architrave rest on top of the limestone capitals of the porch and porte-cochere. Four brick pilasters with identical capitals are attached to the southern facade of the house. Two are located under the porch at the east and west corners of the facade, and the other two are on each corner of the south wall on the east projection.

The western elevation is composed of the two-storey main body of the house, the porte-cochere, and the side wall of the projection on the northern side of the house. The limestone work on the Umsted House is extensive, as one can see from an examination of the western elevation. The first and second stories on this, and all other elevations, are divided by a stone belt course which forms the sill of the second-storey windows. Each of the first floor windows have individual stone sills, and are topped by stone lintels.

Here on the eastern elevation the first story of the main body of the house contains four windows. To the north, there are two casement windows, each with two-over four lights which are unified by a stone lintel. Near the center there is an ice delivery chute with a small double-hung window with single panes above it. To the south, a pair of two-over-four casements with a three light transom above flank each side of the brick chimney. A small iron coal chute is also located on the first storey of this elevation near the driveway below the northernmost window. The extensive copper gutter system which runs throughout the house is also seen on this elevation. The second storey of this western elevation contains a pair of double-hung windows with six-over-six lights at the north end, a center glass-block window, and a casement window with two sashes, each with two-over-four lights and a fixed three light transom above. An identical casement window is located on the southern end of this storey, on the other side of the chimney.

Moving to the northern projection on this western elevation, one notices that this section is also punctuated by large windows on both stories. The top storey contains two casement windows, each with two-over-four sashes and a fixed transom of three lights over each. The lower storey contains three single-pane double hung windows with a large operable transom above each.

The northern elevation is dominated by the rear projection which protrudes approximately one room in depth from the main body of the house. This wing is two-stories high, with a single storey portion on the eastern side. This wing has a hipped roof, and the one-storey portion has a sloping green tile roof as well. The same type of windows appear on all three sides of the upper storey of the rear wing projection. On the north side they are located symmetrically, each an equal distance from the corners. These windows are pairs of tall casements exactly like those seen on the front of the house. Another pair of identical casement windows is located on the first floor of this wing, on the northern corner on the single-story portion of this projection. To the west of this casement there is a double-hung window with three-over-two lights, with a stone lintel above it. Further to the west on this first storey is the largest, dominant window group of this elevation. There are two pairs of single pane double-hung windows with single pane operable transoms above each window. The single leaf panelled door to the west of the windows also has a fixed single pane transom above. The windows and this door are all unified by a single long stone lintel. This elevation is otherwise fenestrated by several double-hung windows with three-over-two lights which are located on the second storey of the main house.

The eastern elevation consists of the two-storey main body of the house, the one-storey sun parlor projection (which covers the southern two-thirds of the first storey), and the northern projecting wing, which is set back from the central body of the house. This eastern side of the northern projection contains a side entrance, a single leaf French door with a three light transom above. Next to this door on the south side is a casement window with a single pair of two-over-four lighted sashes, and a three light transom above. The second story of this projecting wing contains two pairs of two-over-four casements with a three light transom over each. Once again, this window is exactly like the windows on the second storey of this projection, and identical to those on the front, or southern elevation of the house. Also identical are the windows on the northernmost corner of the first storey of the main body of the house. This group of windows is crowned by a heavy stone lintel, unlike all the windows on the second storey which are topped by a simple wide wood frieze and architrave.

The windows on the primary body of the house on this eastern elevation vary in configuration. The second storey center window is a simple double-hung window with three-over-two sash lights. The window to the south, near the corner is a narrow casement window with two sashes with two-over-four lights and a three light transom above. On the northern corner of the eastern elevation a pair of double-hung windows with three-over-two sashes are placed side-by-side. The projecting sun parlor on the first storey contains two pairs of tall casement window units on this east side, which match the windows previously described on the southern side of this sun parlor projection. Each window unit consists of two casement pairs with two-over-five lights each. The two eastern windows are symmetrically placed between brick pilasters with limestone capitals which punctuate the corners of the sun parlor projection. These pilasters are the same width as the columns and pilasters seen elsewhere on the main house, with the same simple stone

capitals. They protrude from the wall of the addition, and appear to support the architrave, frieze, and green tile sun parlor roof above.

Also included in the nomination are a two-storey two-car garage with living quarters upstairs, a gazebo, a large concrete pool, and a landscaped area with a fountain on the north side of the house. The property is surrounded by a wrought iron fence on California and Washington streets. The fence is relatively low, and the ironwork is a simple regular geometric pattern. This iron fence rests on a low concrete wall which meets the sidewalk and borders the property on California and Washington streets. The land inside this fence is built up, and the house rests rather impressively on top of a small hill. There are three sets of concrete steps connected by concrete paths which lead one up the hill to the house from Washington Street. Directly in front of the front entry porch there are four large limestone steps. These steps are flanked by a low brick balustrade on each side topped with tall, free-standing ornamental black iron globe lights. These globe lights are in the same style as the small, wall mounted lights on either side of the front door, which are also original to the house.

A concrete driveway begins on California Street near the northern end of the property, and continues west to the garage, curving around under the portecochere on the west side of the facade and out to Washington street. This drive is bordered by a short concrete wall on the north side, and a lower wall on the southern side in the back yard behind the house.

The two-storey two car garage has a hipped roof of green Spanish tile with a boxed overhanging eave in the same manner as the main house. The garage building also contains a brick chimney with a stone cap on the interior of the eastern side. Also in keeping with the main house, a wide architrave and frieze are directly under the roof overhang and continue down almost to the top of the windows. The two garage doors on the eastern elevation are plain panelled doors, each with four horizontal windows capped by a stone lintel. A single leaf entry door with a three light transom and a stone lintel above is located to the south of the garage doors. On the second storey above each garage door there is a single double-hung window with three-over-two lights in each sash. All the windows on the garage are identical to those described on this elevation. The northern elevation contains one window on the east end of the second storey. There are two windows on each storey of the eastern elevation, and the southern elevation contains a single window on each level. The interior of the garage contains two rooms and a bathroom on the second storey. It was used by the Umsted family as a servants' quarters, and then as a pool changing area.

To the north of the garage there is a small rectangular gazebo with a hipped shake shingle roof. This gazebo was probably built in the late 1920's at the same time the Umsteds had the pool constructed. The gazebo is entirely screened and overlooks the pool on the west and the garden, driveway and house on the east. The gazebo consists of square columns, a single-leaf entry door on each side, and a large exaggerated lattice pattern between the columns. The pool to the west of this gazebo was built shortly after the main house was constructed. It is a large, predominantly rectangular shape with a diving board and a metal hand/guard rail directly around three sides of the pool.

The gazebo is connected to the garden area by a brick path. The oval garden area is indicated by a surrounding brick path and shrubs. A large crepe

myrtle and a small round fountain with a statue (added later), are placed within the garden.

The interior of the Umsted House is largely original. The impressive entryway contains four columns with Roman Corinthian capitals. The current owner had the capitals gilded recently. The house contains several sets of wood pocket doors which are in excellent working order, and retain their original dark wood stain. However, the majority of the woodwork in the house was painted at some point, probably during the 1950's renovation. Three light fixtures remain from the Umsteds: a crystal chandelier in the center of the dining room, an elaborate hanging lantern with crystal prisms in the main entry, and a simpler lantern in the second storey landing. The mantel in the living room is also original. The mantelpiece was carved from rook wood, and contains a carved acanthus pattern with a beige marble fireplace surround. The dining room fireplace was altered (probably during the remodeling in the 1950's), and is now faced in black Italian marble. The main first floor reception rooms contain crown molding, and the entryway also features a dentil pattern around the top of the frieze over the columns.

The current owner has purchased several pieces of furniture from the Umsted family including a Chinese Chippendale style tester bed, a settee, two small chairs, and a tea cart. The various remodeling work throughout the years has not affected original architectural integrity of the exterior of the house, and the interior alterations have been minor. One upstairs bathroom was remodeled in the 1950's, and the mantel in the dining room downstairs was changed to black Italian marble at that time. The current owner has recently converted one upstairs closet into a bathroom, and has remodeled another bath in preparation for opening as a bed and breakfast.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1923 - 1924

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: E. C. Seibert, Architect.
Johnson and Wagner, Contractors.

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

Summary

The Umsted House was built between May 1923 and May 1924, and is locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of its status as the best and most elaborate example of a Mediterranean style residence in the community of Camden. Noteworthy architectural features include: a shaped Mission dormer, a tile roof, widely overhanging eaves with brackets, and a porch roof which is supported by large piers. These characteristics are all indicative of a national style which was popular from 1890-1920, which places this house slightly later than the style's peak.

Elaboration

In July of 1922, Sidney Albert Umsted became a wealthy man literally overnight when he struck oil in Smackover, Arkansas. This event sparked an enormous amount of oil exploration and drilling in this area; Thus, Sid Umsted became known as the father of the Smackover fields. Soon after, Sid Umsted began oil explorations in Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma, and became one of the wealthiest men in Arkansas. Needless to say, Smackover had become a less than desirable place to raise a family, so on May 23, 1923 Mr. Umsted signed the contract to begin construction on a new house at 404 Washington Street in Camden.

The original contract specifications and the general ledger are in the possession of the current owner of the Umsted House. This documentation names some of the individuals who worked on the house. The Umsted House was designed by the Texarkana firm of Witt, Seibert, and Halsey, with E. C. Seibert as the project architect. Johnson and Wagner Contractors supervised the construction. The stone work was provided by Camden Marble works, and the millwork came from Alto Mill and Lumber Company. J. W. Griffin did the plaster work. The dark green glazed Imperial Spanish tile roof was installed by J. W. Stephens Roofing Company. The house had a Trane system of Vapor heating, Peerless Radiators, and an Ideal S-25-7 1,600 sq. ft. capacity Boiler which were all installed by W. H. Bourne. The tile floors were laid by F. J. Gorman, contractor.

The family which moved into this large and modern house in May of 1924 consisted of Sid's wife Edna (Edwards) Umsted, and their three daughters, Gressie, and Aubrey (Becker) and Audrey (Cobb) who were twins. Gressie (Carnes) later went on to use her wealth to support the National Democratic Party on both the state and national level. Unfortunately, Sid Umsted met an untimely death in a train accident in November of 1925, and was not able to live out his years in the Umsted House, and watch his family grow. His family inhabited the house until the current owner recently purchased it. Thus, the house has only had two owners since its construction date.

Camden was a town with over 3,200 inhabitants when the Sid Umsted family moved to Camden. There were very early French settlements in the area, and

the name of Camden was adopted in 1842. The town was incorporated in December 11, 1844. Camden got its first railroad in 1881, when the Gurdon branch of the Iron Mountain (later named The Missouri-Pacific) was completed. The Saint Louis Southwestern came to Camden in 1883, and was followed by the Rock Island Railroad. These railroads gave Camden a tremendous potential for burgeoning industry and growth.

Washington Street was one of the most fashionable addresses in Camden. Although there are not any large Mediterranean houses on the street today, a similar structure nearby was destroyed to make way for a parking lot in the 1960's. Many of the homes on Washington Street were constructed earlier than the Umsted House, which creates a varied and pleasing streetscape. The design of the Umsted House in Camden is significant by virtue of its successful synthesis of Spanish, Mission Revival, and Craftsman influences in the creation of this Mediterranean structure. For this reason it is considered eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Bibliography

Herndon. Dallas T. *Annals of Arkansas*, 1947. Little Rock, Arkansas: Historical Record Association, 1947. pp. 480-481.

Mr. James Lee Silliman provided the following references:

Buckalew, A. R. and R. B. "The Discovery of Oil in South Arkansas, 1920-1924." (*Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Volume XXXIII, Autumn 1974, Number 3. pp. 195-238.)

Camden News, Tuesday, November 3, 1925. Eulogy on editorial page.

Encyclopedia of American Biography. Volume 34. Biography about Sidney Albert Umsted. New York: The American Historical Society, 1928. pp. 14-16.

Lambert, Don. "Around Town," *Smackover Journal*. July 23, 1989.

"Twenty Persons Killed in Frisco Wreck Today." *Camden News*, Tuesday, October 27, 1925. p. 1.

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:

- X 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: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>515360</u>	<u>3715960</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

The South 53.7 feet of Lot 565; all of lot 566, and the North 30 feet of the East 70 feet of Lot 563, all in Block 31 of the City of Camden, Arkansas as shown by the J. Victor Pedron Survey.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the residence, garage, gazebo, and swimming pool as well as all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

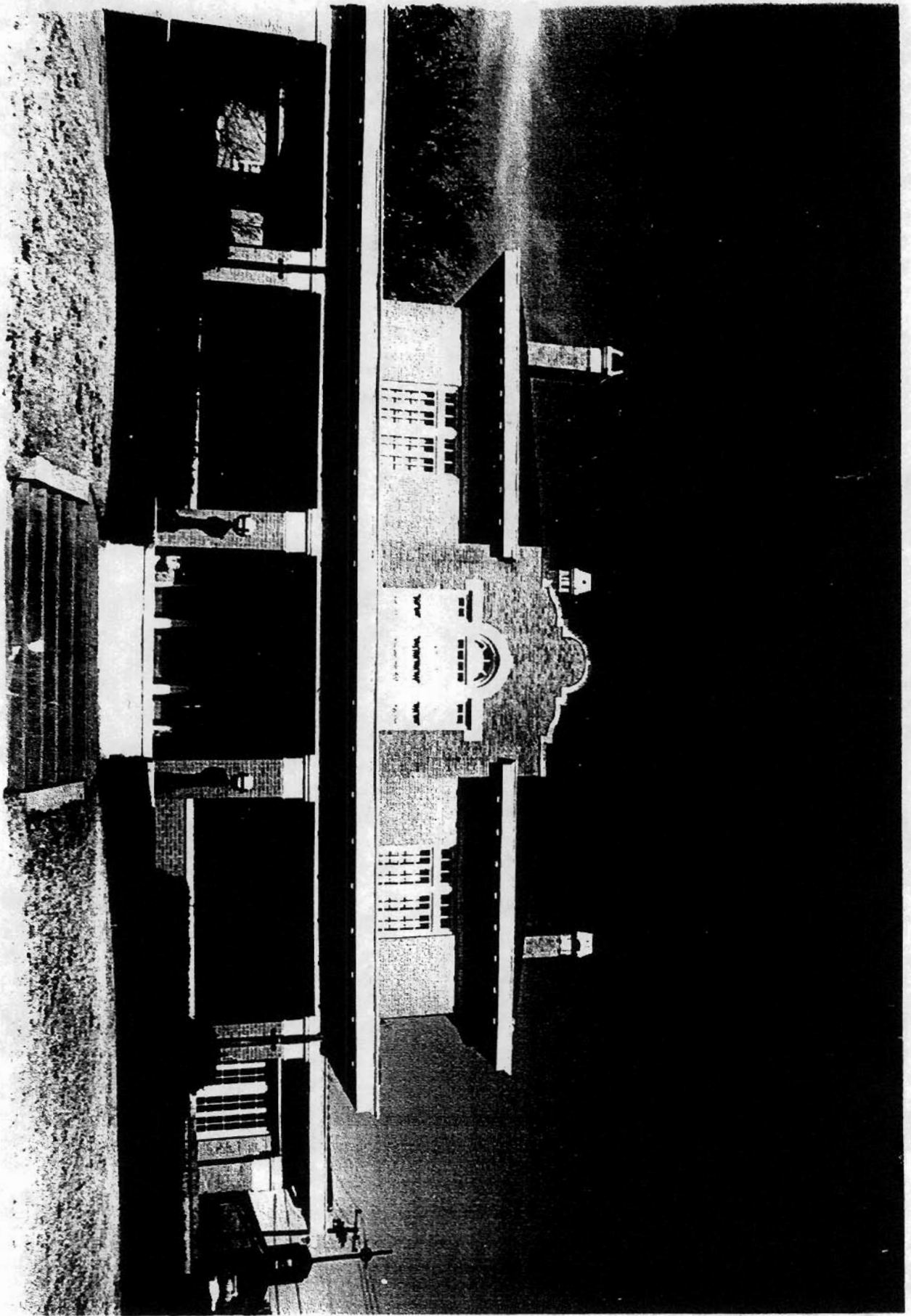
=====
11. Form Prepared By
 =====

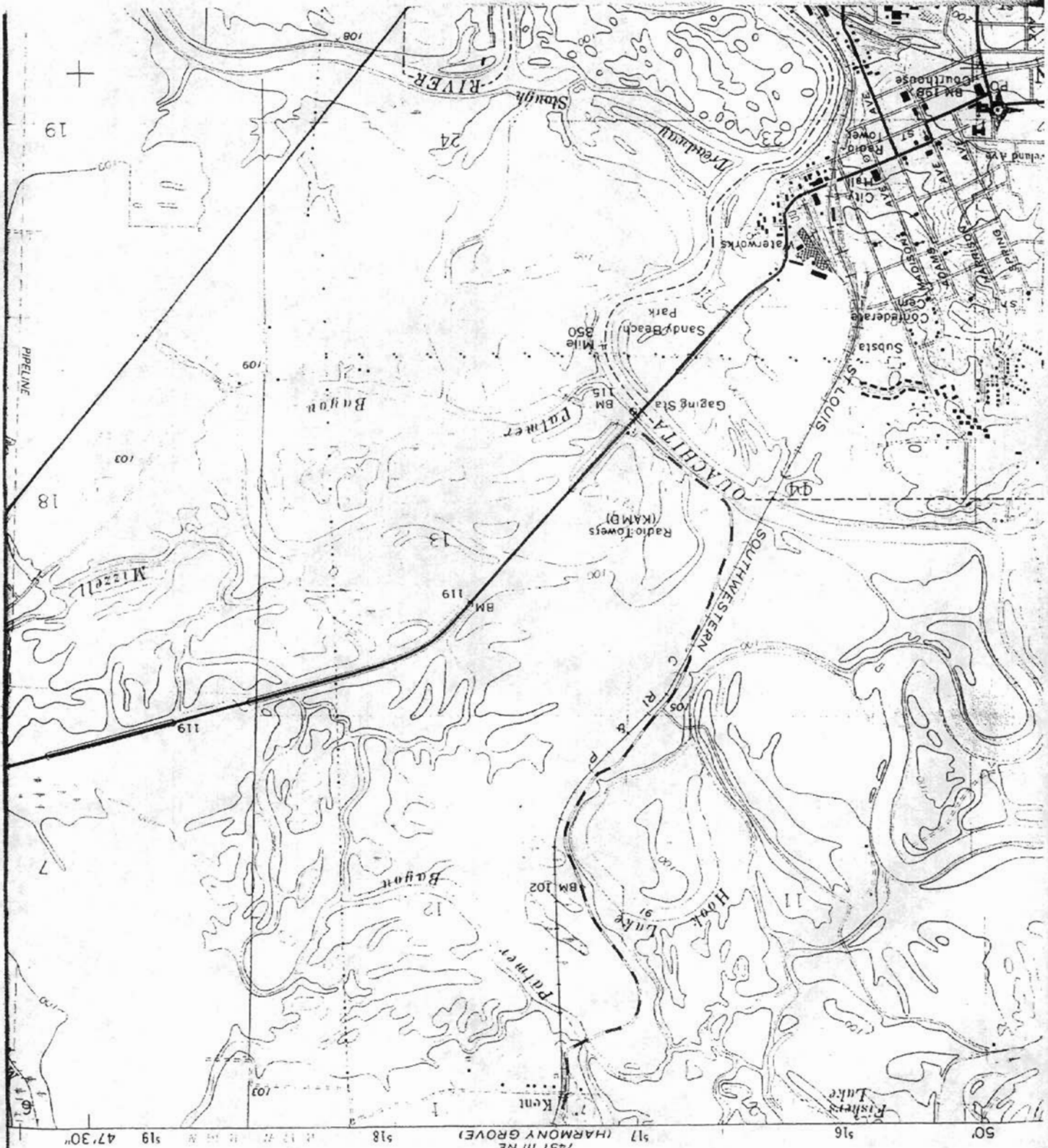
Name/Title: Helen A. Barry, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 4/24/95

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201





50
 516
 517 (HARMONY GROVE)
 7451 III NE
 518
 519 47'30"
 UTM: 17G15240 2745240
 Contour Interval: 5m
 Unscaled Elevation: 100m