

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 Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station

other names/site number (OU0153)

2. Location

street & number 3241 Arkansas Highway 24

not for publication

city or town Camden

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Ouachita code _____ zip code 71701

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.)

Cathie Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/09/01
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

Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station
Name of Property

Ouachita 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	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialtystore/restuarant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Plain/Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

Weatherboard

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, and D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1948-1951

Significant Dates

1948

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Henry Harvey (Builder)

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.)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Camden News, 1996.

Hildebrand, Bobby, owner of the property. Interview by Amy Bennett in Harvey's Grocery, 14 January 2001 and 3 February 2001.

Liebs, Chester H. *Main Street to Miracle Mile*. Little, Brown and Company, Boston. 1985.**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

Name of repository:
_____**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property Less than one acre.**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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 See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station is located in the North East Corner of the North East Corner of Section 13, Range 18 West, Township 13 South on the Camden SW quad map. The boundaries are as follows: Beginning at a point located on East corner of the store driveway and the intersection of Arkansas Hwy 24 travel South West parallel the southeast elevation of the building approximately 175 feet to an imaginary point formed by the intersection of that line and an imaginary line that parallels the rear elevation of the store; turning northwest follow said imaginary line approximately 175 feet until it intersects with an imaginary line that parallels the North West elevation of the barbecue pit outbuilding; turning northeast follow said line approximately 175 feet to the intersection of that line and Arkansas Hwy 24; turning Southeast follow Arkansas Hwy 24 to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

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

This boundary contains all of the property historically associated with the nomination including the non-contributing barbecue pit outbuilding.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Bennett/Survey Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date March 21, 2001

street & number 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9874

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station is located in the community of Harveyville on Arkansas Highway 24 between Camden and Chidester. The building was built in 1948 to replace the 1942 log building that proved too small to hold Henry Harvey's successful business. Until 1979, Harvey's Grocery sold Texaco brand gasoline and other Texaco products. The family-owned general store and restaurant is still open for business and is owned by Bobby Hildebrand, the grandson of the original owner. Constructed of rock-faced concrete block, the building is the best example of a vernacular 1940s general store and gas station in the Camden vicinity.

ELABORATION

Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station is located at 3241 Hwy 24 west of Camden. The single story rectangular plan building sits upon a continuous concrete foundation. A front-gabled roof covered by asphalt shingles protects the building from the elements. A rock-faced concrete block exterior was chosen for the building, because the low-cost solid walls simulated the look of more expensive stone. Supported by four rock-faced concrete block columns, the shed roof porch is covered by asphalt shingles. The only structural alteration is a concrete block storage facility on the southeast corner of the rear elevation.

North/Front Elevation

The north facade fronts Arkansas Hwy 24 and contains a full-length, shed-roofed porch supported by four rock-faced concrete block columns. Beneath the porch near the northeast corner, an original wood door is held shut by a piece of wood and a bench. Metal bars installed by the original owner protect two large single-paned stationary windows. Centered between these windows is a modern aluminum door with full-length glass. Also located beneath the porch are a soda machine, a bagged ice cooler, and two benches. Situated on the shed roof between two advertisements for Coca-Cola is a sign that reads "Harvey's Grocery." Above the porch, the gable end is sheathed in weatherboard siding and punctured by a louvered vent.

East and West Elevations

The side elevations are virtually identical. Four, small four-light windows, placed high on the wall to avoid disruption from the interior built-in cabinets, fenestrate the elevations. The only difference between the elevations is that one four-light window on the east elevation is infilled by the cooling system.

South Elevation

The rear elevation contains the only addition to the building—a small rectangular bathroom was constructed. A large door is slightly off-center on this elevation. Similar to the front façade the gable end is clad in weatherboard siding and punctured by a large louvered vent.

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Interior

The interior of the building remains relatively unchanged. The original poured concrete floor remains, as well as, various built-in cabinets, shelves and cabinets. Other furnishings include a folding table to allow for indoor dining, numerous chairs, soft drink coolers and a centrally located cash register station. In the back of the building is a walk-in-freezer that dates to the previous 1942 building. In 1975, the kitchen area of the building was slightly enlarged to keep up with the demand for barbecue, but this has been the only substantial interior change.

Site features and Ancillary Structure

Site features include several metal poles that support signs, and a concrete platform that served as the foundation for the gas pumps. The only contributing resource is the oblong concrete gas tank platform that stretches the length of the store. The gas tanks were removed in 1979. Two metal poles flank the building and hold advertisements for various brands of beer. Another sign located east of the building contains the building's name and the current owner's motto "Politics spoken here," referring to the building's fame as a place to talk politics. A distance of approximately fifty feet from the building is a much older metal sign hanging from a pair of metal poles. Though badly rusted the sign reads, "ask for JAX/BEST BEER IN TOWN" (brewed in New Orleans, the beer was popular in the region until the 1960s). Below it is another metal sign equally as rusted that says, "Harvey's Grocery." Though not considered contributing to the nomination, the signs lend ambiance to Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station.

To the west of the building is a concrete and vertical board ancillary building that is used for cooking barbecue. Constructed in 1990, the ancillary building does not contribute to the nomination.

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Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C** for its vernacular architecture. Although dating to 1948, the building utilizes the rectangular plan with front facing gable roof, the full-length porch and the small side windows that have been the idiom for single story commercial buildings since the late 19th century. The building's low-pitched roofline, original single-pane stationary windows, and concrete floor distinguish it as a late example of the form. The building served as a gas station until 1979 and is therefore eligible for nomination under **Criterion A** for its association with the development of Arkansas highway culture. Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965."

ELABORATION

The community of Harveyville was established in December of 1941, when Henry Harvey settled there with his family after selling a 3,000-acre farm near Chidester. The first store building was a log cabin type that measured approximately 20x30 feet. In 1948, Henry Harvey's business was growing and since the log building did not allow for easy expansion, it was decided that another larger building would be constructed to the west of the original. Ownership of the grocery store/gas station passed to several of Harvey's relatives (Ellis and A.G. "Doc" Harvey, Henry Harvey, Jr., Guy Harvey, and Bobby and Harvey Hildebrand). According to the Camden News, "After graduating from Camden High School in 1954, Bobby became the sole owner of the business and he has operated it continuously since then with the help of his mother Minnie Mae Hildebrand." During its operation as a gas station until 1979, Texaco gasoline and products were sold at the store. Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station continues to sell "grocery store and general store items including groceries, meats, soft drinks, beer and various hardware items..."

Outside the period of significance, but still important to locals are the barbecue sandwiches and the political discussions for which the building has become known. In 1975, Bobby Hildebrand began selling his now regionally famous smoked barbecue sandwiches. The store is also well-known regionally as a place to discuss politics, weather, and the economy. According to Jackie Bevill in the Camden News:

"Now every two years during an election year, every politician within the State of Arkansas tries to make it by or at least send a representative down to visit with Bobby, his family, employees and friends. Politicians have learned their lesson with, that an endorsement from Harvey's Grocery carries a lot of clout at the polls."

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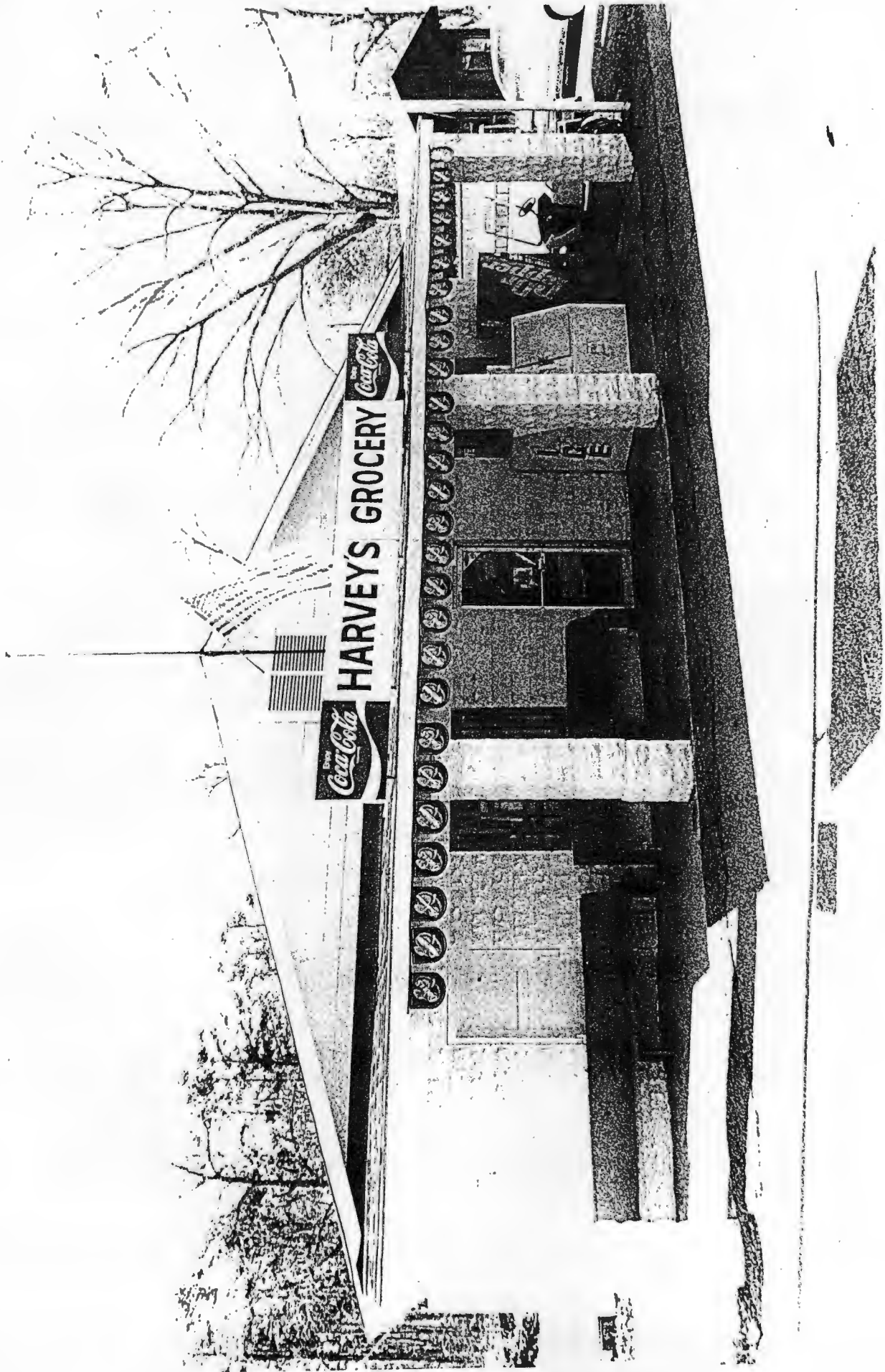
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

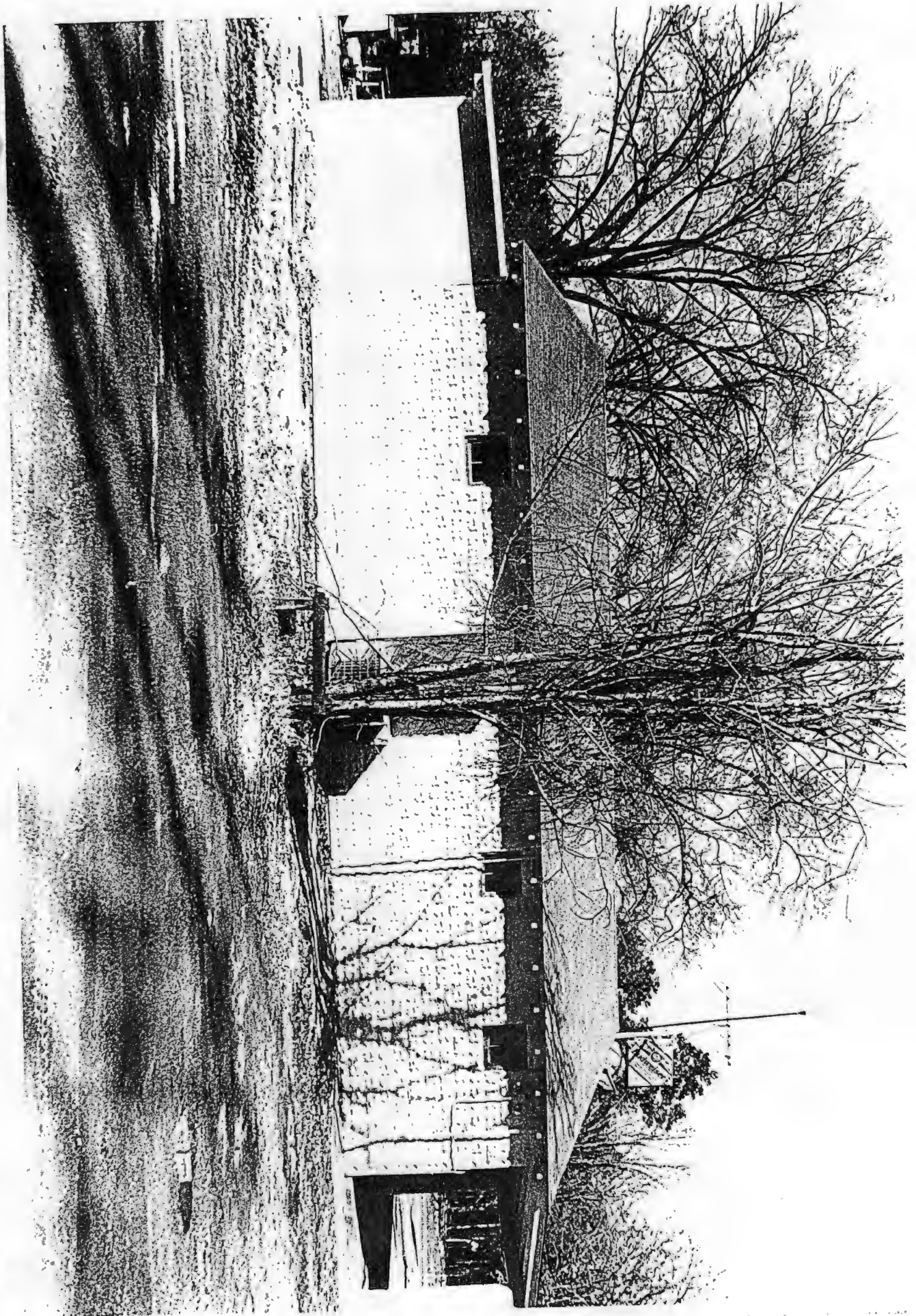
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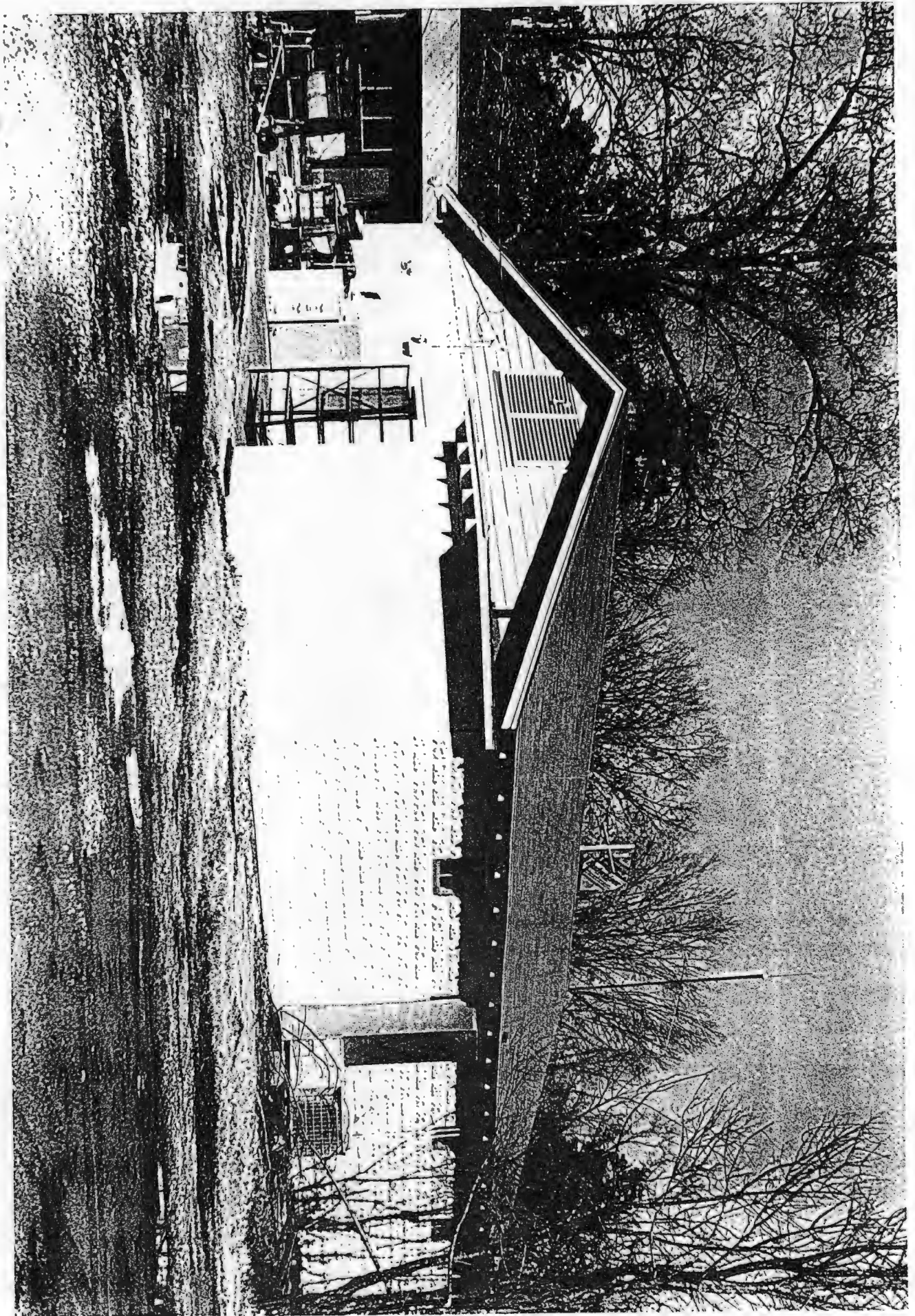
Listed among the many politicians who have visited are Bill Clinton, David Pryor, and Jay Dickie. In 1996, Bobby and his sister Frances Alston attended Bill Clinton's Inaugural Ball. Many of the politicians have signed photographs displayed in the front of the store. A growing portion of the building is used to display collectibles and souvenirs that have been given to the owner by his friends and "some grateful politicians."

Significance

Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C**. The 1948 property is eligible under this criterion, because its fundamental form and materials remain intact and it stands as an important example of small mid-twentieth century commercial building. Harvey's Grocery and Texaco Station is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with local significance under the multiple property listing "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965."









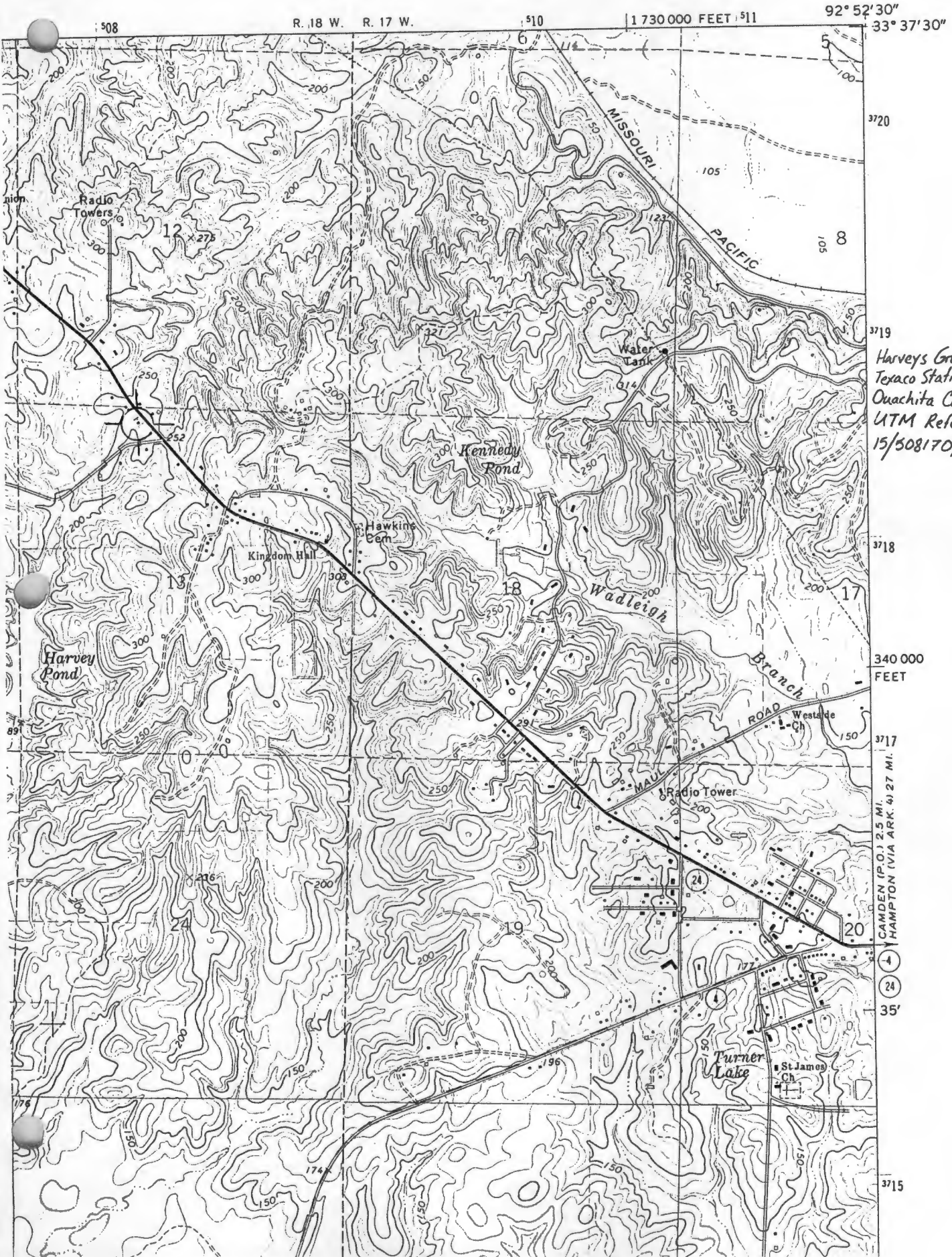
POLITICS SPOKEN
HERE

HARVEY'S GROCERY
836 - 9882

HARVEY'S GROCERY

CAMDEN SW QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—OUACHITA CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7451 III NE
(HARMONY GROVE)



Harveys Grocery and
Texaco Station
Ouachita Co., AR
UTM Reference:
15/508170/3718570

1/2 MI.
CAMDEN (P.O.) 2.5 MI.
HAMPTON (VIA ARK. 4) 27 MI.

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