

57-70-M170-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SHAVEN HOUSE

RECEIVED

Listed:
12/6/79

DATE ENTERED

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

Judge Benjamin Shaver House

AND/OR COMMON

Old Redman Hospital

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

501 12th

CITY, TOWN

Mena

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE
05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

COUNTY
Polk

7985

CODE
113

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 type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rice

STREET & NUMBER

Rural Route #2

CITY, TOWN

New Sharon

VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50207

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Mena

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Shaver House is a two-and-one-half storey Neo-Colonial Revival structure. The roof is a combination of hips, truncated-hips, and gables. The front (east) facade of the structure has a two-storey, full-length gallery from which a gable roof projects. The upper gallery is supported by Ionic columns and linked by bowed balustrades which are composed of turned members. On the bottom level the gallery has straight turned balustrades and Tuscan columns. A garland frieze separates the upper and lower porches. A third porch with two-storey Ionic columns projects from the two-storey gallery. The third porch is a pedimented gable with a Palladian window. There are five gabled and shed additions on the rear. Entrance is gained from a single centered door with an oval glazed panel. Windows are symmetrically placed. The structure is finished in weatherboard. The entrance is a single, oval, glazed, panel door with oval sidelights and a rectangular transom.

Interior

The interior plaster walls have been removed, and dry wall will be hung in their place. A single-turn stair leads to the second floor. The stair is composed of turned members. A jigsaw-cut and ball-and-spindle transom separates the entrance from the parlor. The house will be restored to as near original condition as is possible.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 1896 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Judge Benjamin Shaver House in Mena, Arkansas, is a large dwelling that is both architecturally and historically significant. The frame Neo-Colonial Revival structure is distinguished by the design and detailing of a two-storey gallery that spans the facade (east elevation). The house is a reminder of the early settlement of Mena. It was built in 1896, only two years after Mena was incorporated. The house is also associated with two of Mena's most historically significant citizens, Judge Benjamin Shaver and his daughter, Dorothy Shaver. Judge Shaver was a prominent lawyer in Mena, and Dorothy Shaver was the President of the Lord and Taylor retail corporation in New York City. The corporation operated the prestigious Lord and Taylor department store. For a brief period during the 1940's the house served as the Mena General Hospital. The building was converted for use as a hospital because of its large size.

Mena was founded along the Kansas City Southern Railroad when it laid track through southwest Arkansas in 1894. Among the early settlers in Mena was Judge Benjamin Shaver, who quickly became one of the city's top lawyers. Shaver's home, which he built in 1896, was one of the largest and most elegant dwellings in the new community. The house was an important gathering place for social events.

Dorothy Shaver grew up in the Shaver House. After college she joined a sister, Elsie, who was an art student in Chicago. The two sisters created and sold dolls which became famous under the name of "Little Shavers." Dorothy Shaver's first contact with the New York firm of Lord and Taylor was brought about by the sale of "Little Shavers" to the company. Her career with Lord and Taylor was spectacular and was capped by her attainment of the company's presidency.

Dr. L. C. Dixon, a Mena dentist, occupied the Shaver House for a number of years after it was vacated by the Shavers. From 1940 to 1945 the house was converted for use as the private Redman Hospital. For a brief time after 1945 the building housed the Mena General Hospital. After its service as a hospital, the Shaver House was divided into apartments. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rice have recently acquired the house, and they are committed to restoring the house to its early grandeur.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The facade of the two-and-one-half-storey Shaver House is symmetrical. Additions to the rear of the house give the building an irregular configuration. The age of these additions is not known. The roof form is a multiple combination of gables and hips.

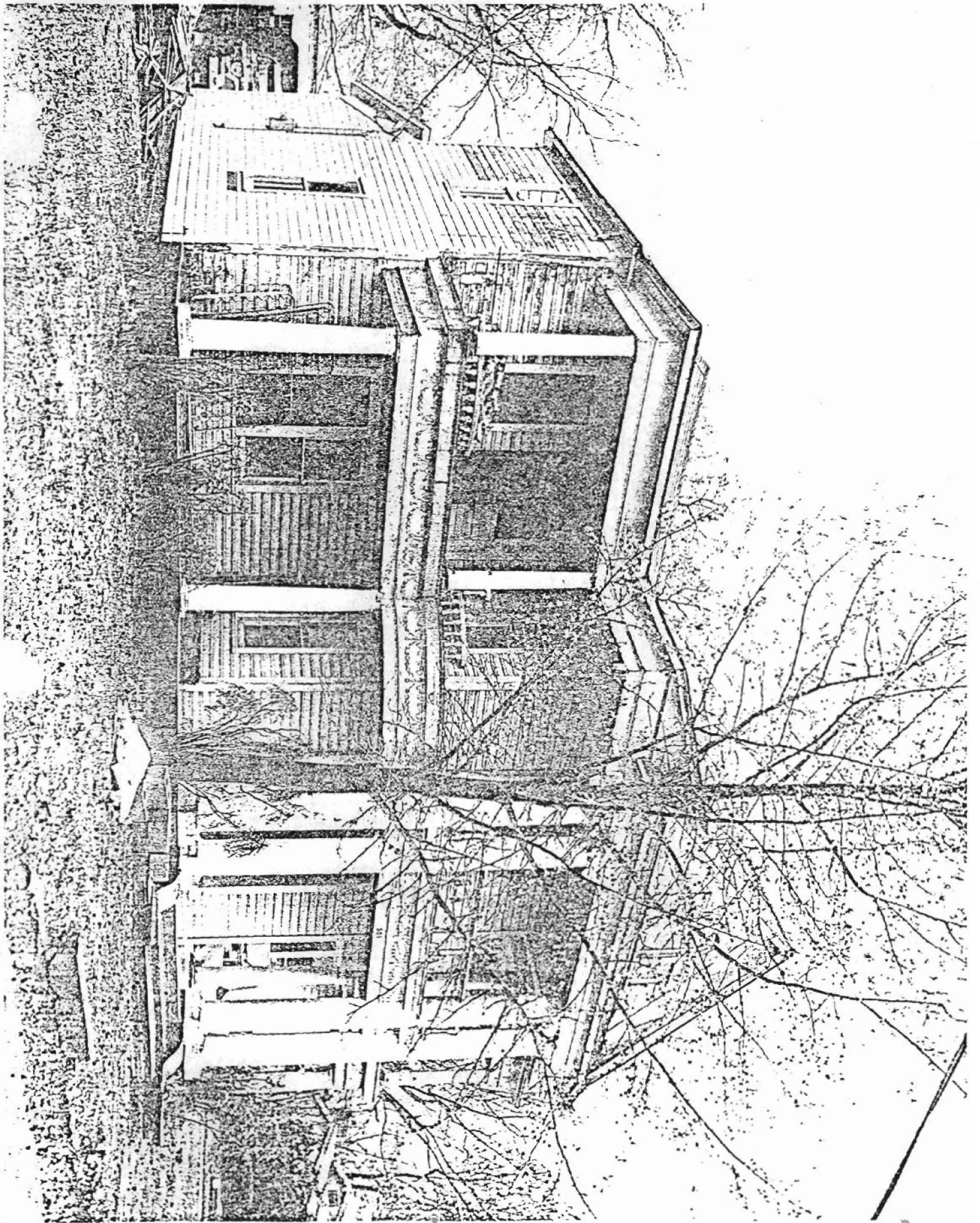
The most outstanding visual feature of the Shaver House is the two-storey gallery that spans the facade (east elevation). The gallery is symmetrical and is divided into five bays. The central bay is a forward projection that is sustained by two pairs of two-storey Ionic columns. This projection is pedimented; a Palladian window centers the pediment. The two bays which flank the central bay are distinguished by the curving edge of the frieze which divides the first from the second stories.

Four Tuscan columns support the first floor of the gallery, and four Ionic columns sustain its second storey. The capitals to the Ionic columns have been removed. A frieze, which is ornamented with garland festooning, divides the first and second floors of the gallery. Both levels of the gallery originally possessed a full balustrade that featured turned spindles. Parts of these balustrades are missing, but the owners of the house are restoring them to their original appearance.

The first floor entrance is a single door that is centered by an oval glazed panel. Lights with oval glazed panels flank the entrance. The door and lights are surmounted by a transom. The second storey balcony is centered by a plain double-leaf doorway.

The window arrangement is symmetrical. The windows are rectangular, one over one (1/1), and double-hung.

The interior retains little of its original fabric, but it is currently being restored to its original appearance. The architectural significance of the Shaver House rests entirely with its exterior appearance.



The Shaver House
Mena, Arkansas

Bob Dunn
1979

AHPP

East Elevation from the southeast

#1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Looking Glass, Mena, Arkansas, December, 1975 and May 1978

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Mena Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 385840 3827360

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE #7 Description, Frezil Miller
#8 Significance, Mike Shinn

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

4/20/79

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Bldg., Main & Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas 72201

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

Joan Baldrige

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 22, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

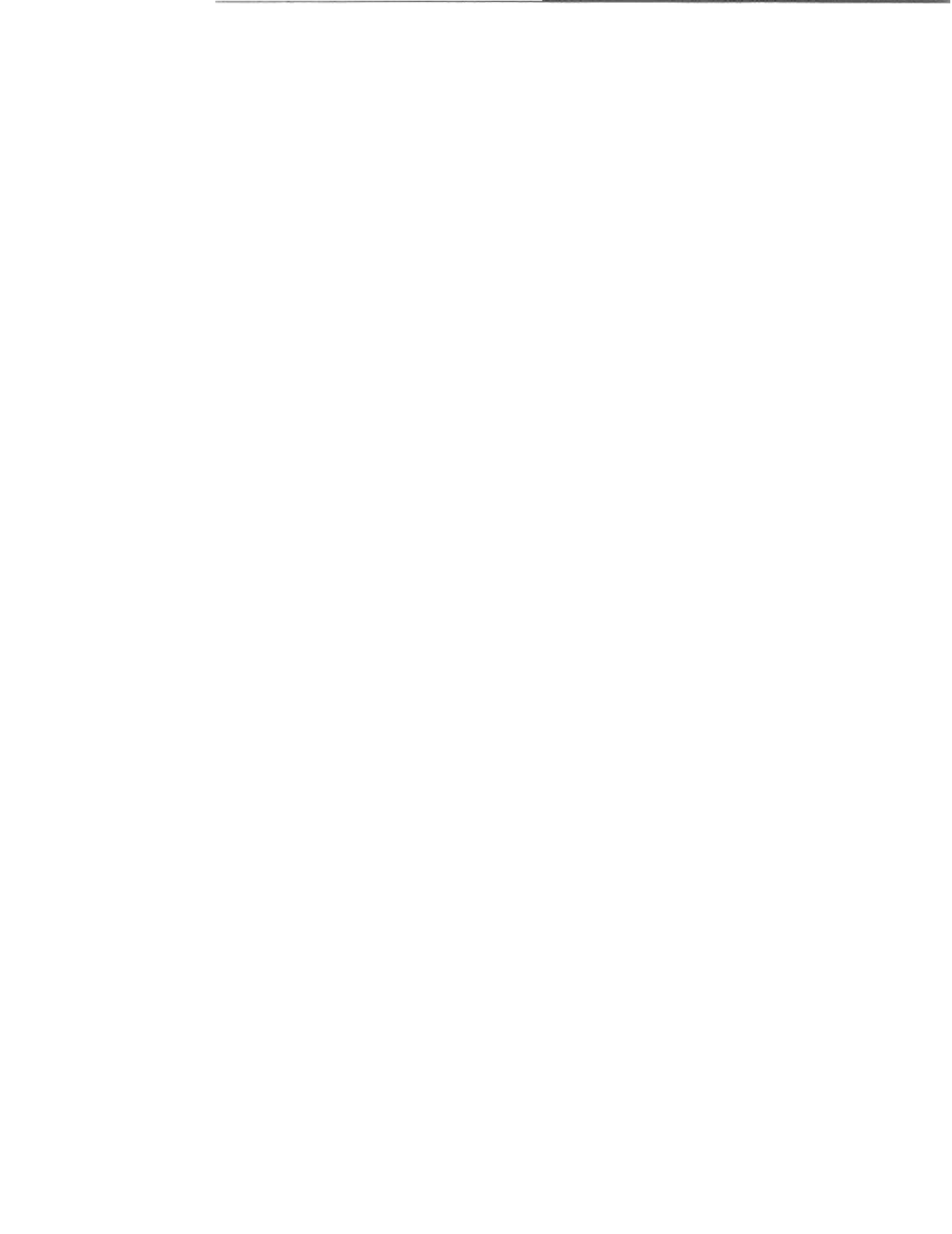
DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

