

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

58-09-2175-61

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Wilson House

AND/OR COMMON Wilson-Thurlby House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 214 East 5th

CITY, TOWN Russellville

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third

STATE Arkansas

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
05

COUNTY  
Pope CODE  
115

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME William Robert Thurlby and Camille Adams Thurlby

STREET & NUMBER 214 East 5th

CITY, TOWN Russellville

STATE Arkansas 72801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER Pope County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Russellville

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 Wilson-Kemp House was constructed in 1902-1903 in Russellville, Arkansas. This two storey, red brick home is noted for its massive front portico which is supported by two large, round columns with Doric capitals. This pair of columns extends from the second storey portico down to a foundation of locally quarried stone. The upper balcony extends across the front and around one half of the east side of the house. It is guarded by a wooden railing with square pitch-pine balusters, painted white.

The house sits on a beautiful corner lot surrounded by massive oak and elm trees which were planted in the early 1900's by the original owner, Judge B.B. Wilson. The sidewalk leading from the house to the street is of hand quarried stone hauled to the site by mule team and wagon. Original hitching posts of the same rock, capped by steel rings, stand to the east and north of the house.

A decorative brick wall surrounds the porch on the first floor level. Seven smaller columns support the porch. Access to the porches is provided by central entries on each storey accented by a transom and sidelights of beveled glass. An oval stained glass window enhances the beauty of the portico's center gable.

The back of the house is embellished by a two storey porch running the entire width of the house. Original ornamental woodwork and tongue and groove flooring still exist. Latticework screens the lower back porch. The original servants quarters, which was a two-room frame cottage, still stands at the back of the house.

The entrance features a massive center hall with built-in settee at the base of the stairs. The center hall is flanked by large rooms and a feeling of openness exists there due to ten foot doorways between the rooms. However, sliding wall panels permit privacy, when desired.

The original house had six upstairs bedrooms placed on either side of a long hall. When the house was sold in 1963, these were changed into two upstairs apartments. The present owner intends to return the house to a one-family dwelling. When the house was built, wall-to-wall carpeting, an innovation for 1903, was installed. A portion of this original carpet remains in the upstairs hall.

There are two fireplaces in the house. The living room fireplace is of decorative cast iron and features a central beveled mirror flanked by two wall level mirrors. The second fireplace is constructed of geometrically arranged red brick.

The red brick well porch is situated to the southeast corner of the house. It is now being used as a den with the original brick walls exposed and the pump and cistern still usable and prominently displayed.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

R.B. Wilson, born May 26, 1850, in Tennessee, moved to Arkansas with his family and made a name for himself as a lawyer, circuit judge and planter. He became known throughout Arkansas for his many philanthropic endeavors at enhancing the cultural qualities of his adopted state. In 1876, while serving as Pope County Judge, he was instrumental in making the decision to move the County Seat from Dover to Russellville, a very controversial issue at that time.

Judge Wilson felt that women had suffered greatly as a result of the Civil War. This attitude prompted his gift of land for a U.D.C. Park in Russellville to the United Daughters of the Confederacy. It was his hope that this land could be made into a local recreational area. The judge, who died in 1928, was most instrumental in bringing Arkansas Tech to Russellville.

In 1900, Judge Wilson began construction of an imposing two-storey brick structure. Elaborate, even for a period of history renowned for architectural embellishments, it soon became an attraction. Judge and Mrs. R.B. Wilson and their five children moved into the house in 1903. The address was 108 Franklin Street and later would be changed to 214 East Fifth Street.

The exterior of the house remains unaltered since its early twentieth-century construction. The massive portico is supported by a pair of round Doric-capital columns. There are two-storey porches on the front and back of the house. The interior woodwork is of fine-grained pine with lovely heart of pine flooring.

The family of R.B. Wilson lived in the house until 1963 at which time a duplex was built on the grounds which formerly served as an orchard. At that time, Miss Adeline Wilson and her brother R.B. Wilson, Jr. sold into the duplex and sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kour. The Kours remodeled the lower floor of the house and turned the west side into two apartments. In 1977, the Kours left the home and it remained for sale until 1977. At that time, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shepherd purchased it and intend to restore the house to its original condition.

The Wilson-Kour house with its two-storey portico, is one of the most architecturally interesting structures in Russellville. Built by a successful businessman at the turn of the century, the home illustrates the tastes of a financially important figure in Pope County's past.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas in 1867. April 22, 1973.  
 Courier Democrat. August 21, 1963.  
 World History of Pope County, by David L. Vance  
 Wilson, Mrs. W. F. Wilson Jr. personal interview at the Wilson-Kemp house, July, 1977

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	4 8 8 1 0 0	3 9 0, 3 2 1 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All of lots 1, 2, and 3 and the north 10 feet of Lots 10, 11, and 12, all in block 66, J.L. Shinn Addition, Russellville, Arkansas.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. & Mrs. William Robert Thurlby

ORGANIZATION

DATE

September 14, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

214 East 5th Street

TELEPHONE

501-968-3280

CITY OR TOWN

Russellville

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

*Anne Bartley*  
DATE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

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



# ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

August 5, 1977

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Thurlby  
214 East 5th  
Russellville, AR 72801

Re: Wilson-Kemp House  
Russellville, Pope County

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Thurlby:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Wilson-Kemp House which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their September meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

On October 4, 1976, the President signed a Tax Reform Act of which Section 2124 refers to tax incentives for historic properties. Enclosed you will find an information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination, please contact Dianna Kirk of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

I approve of the nomination of the above property  
to the National Register of Historic Places

Yes       No

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_

8/15/77  
Date

W. R. Thurlby  
Signature



Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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Russellville

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pope

STATE

Arkansas

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO

1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

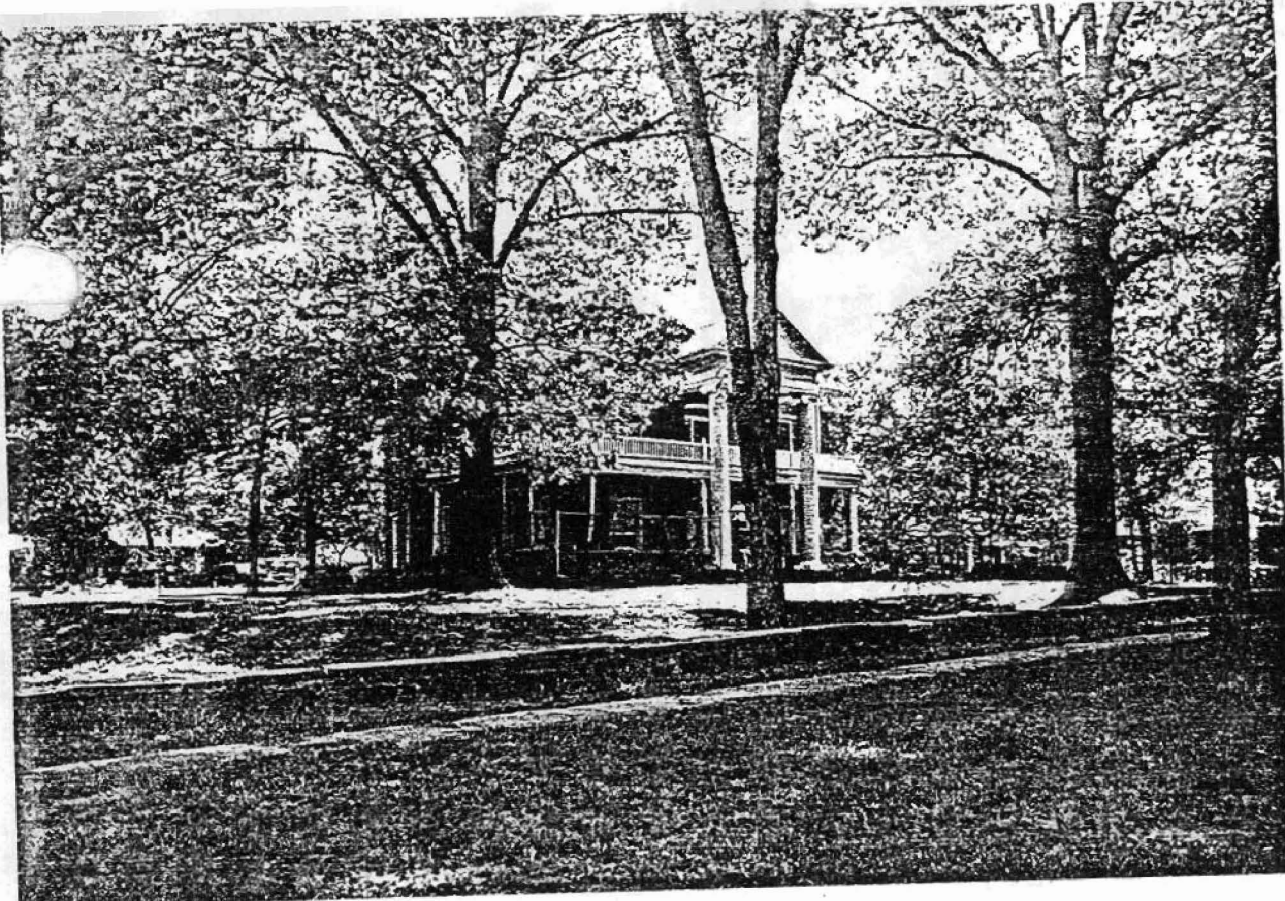
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Viewed from the north

PHOTO NO.

1



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PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1977

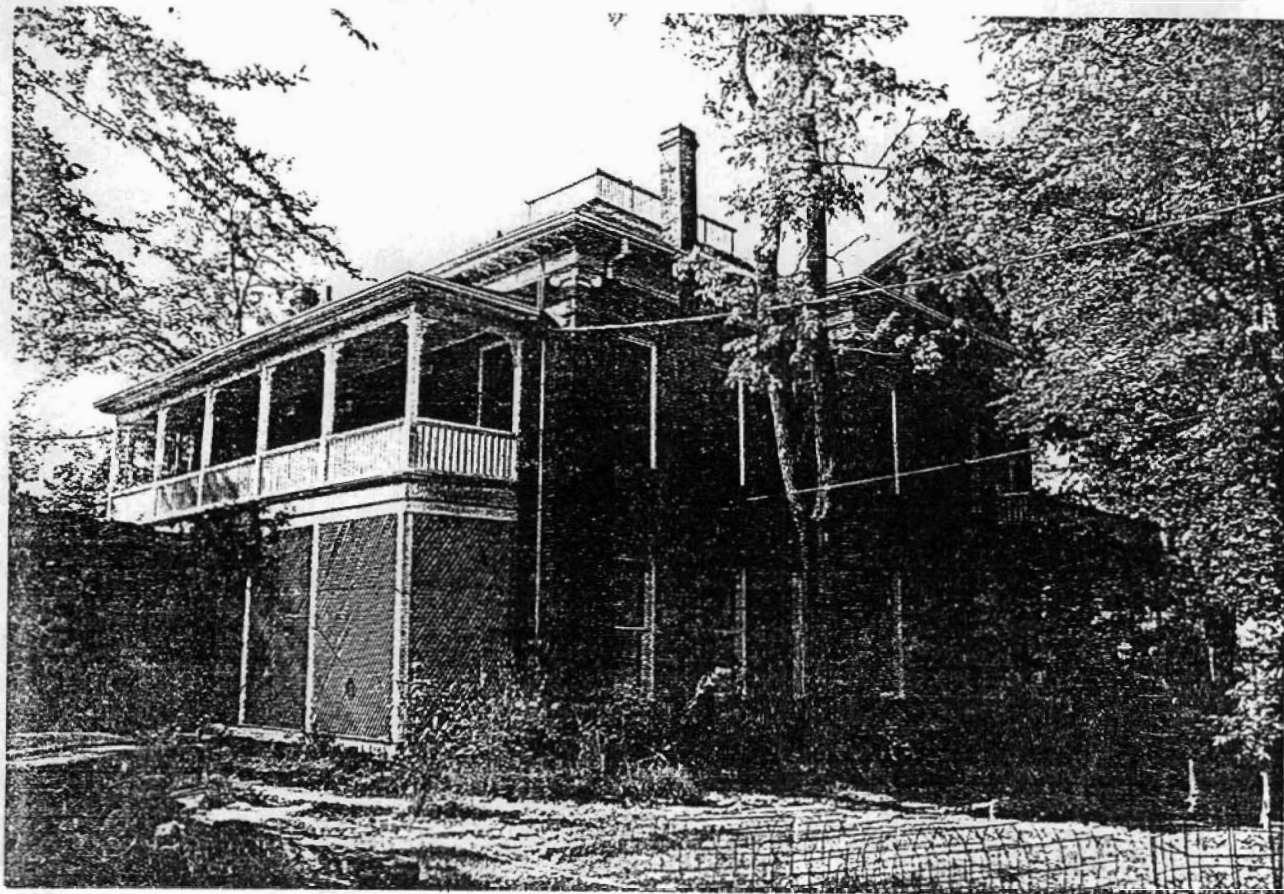
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**IDENTIFICATION**

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Northeast view

PHOTO NO.



Form No 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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PHOTO CREDIT

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DATE OF PHOTO

1977

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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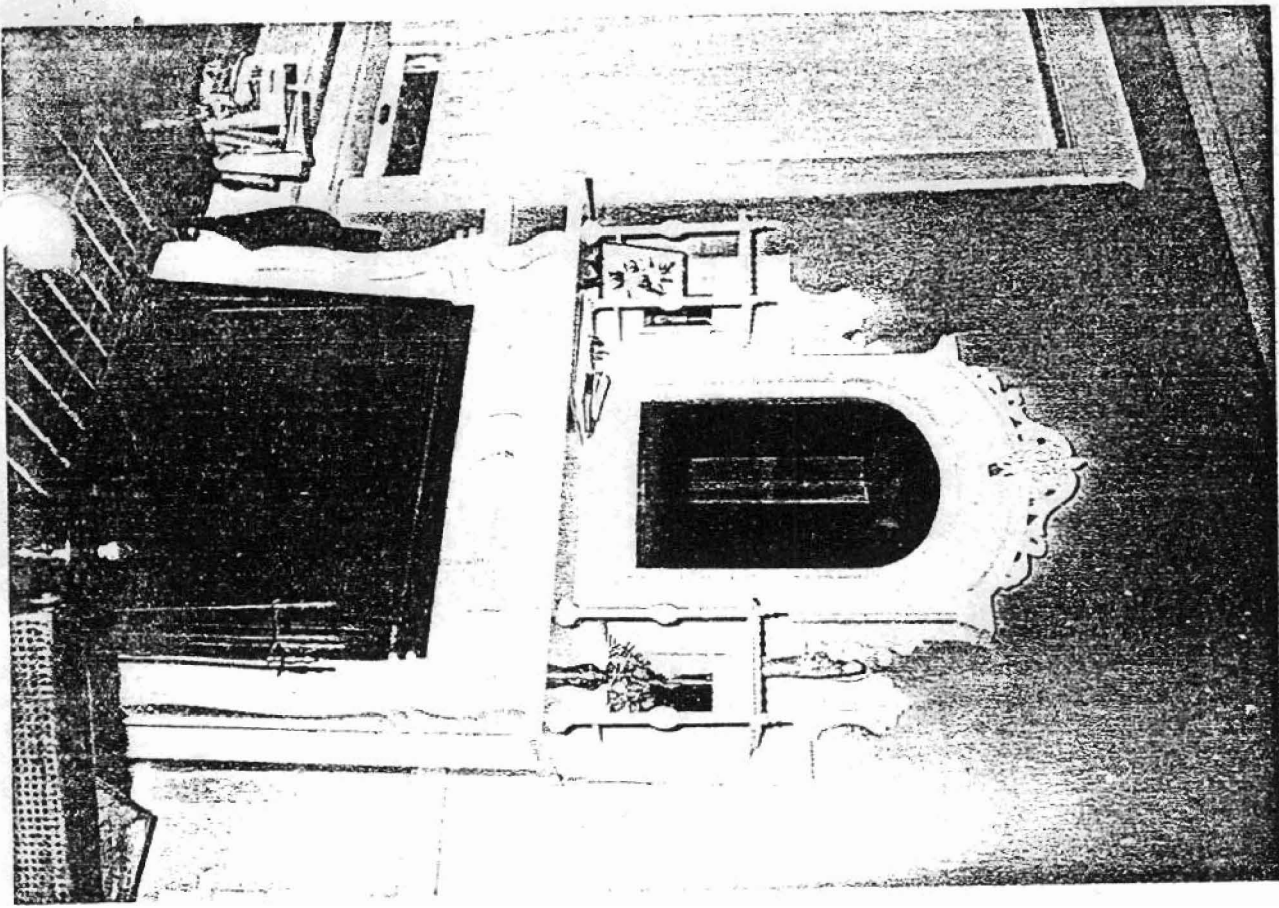
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Southeast view

PHOTO NO.

3





Form No. 10-301a  
9-741

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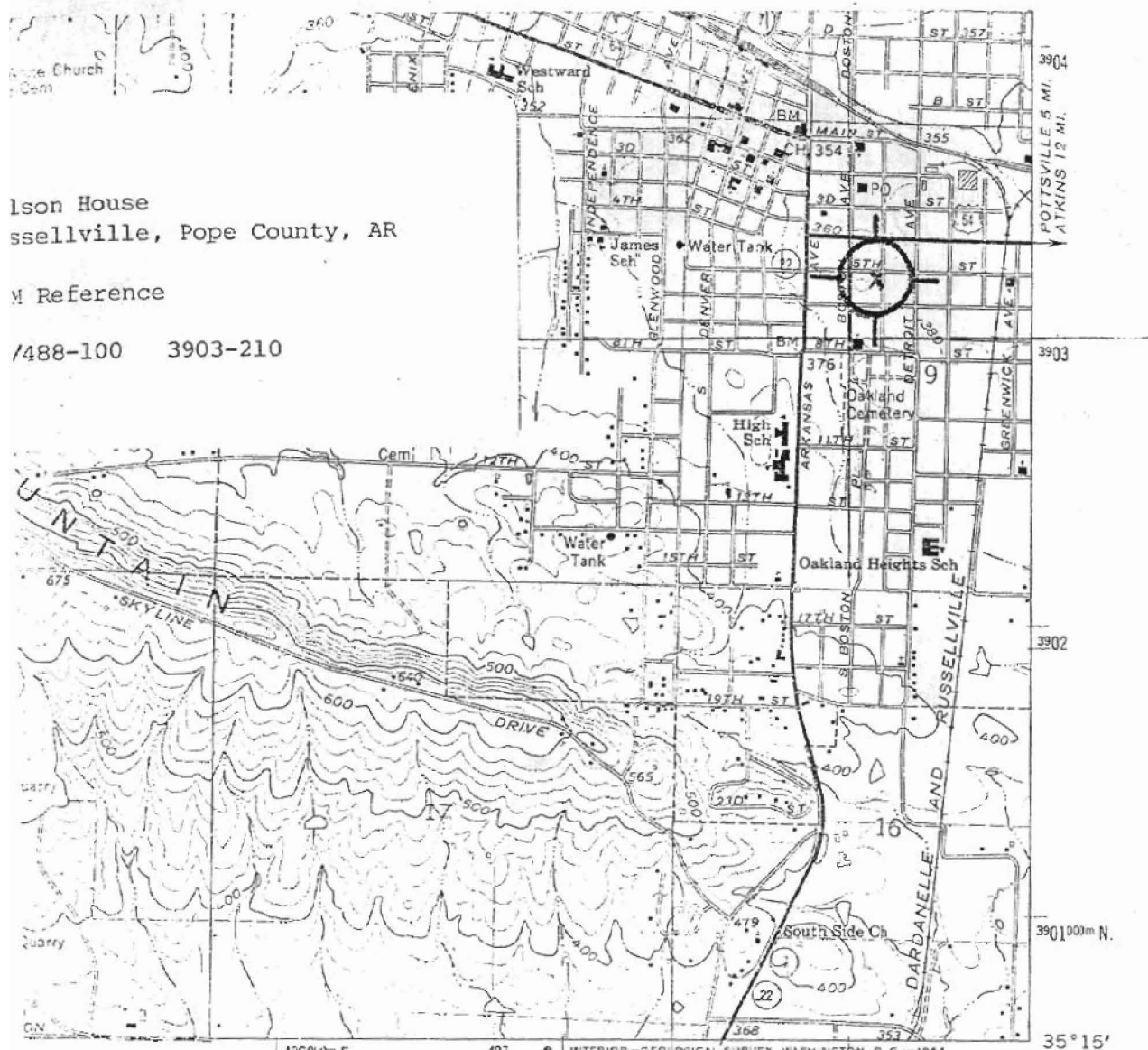
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Mantlepiece, southeast parlor

PHOTO NO.

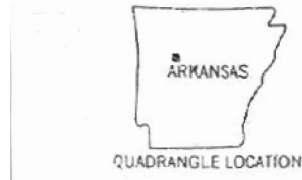
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lson House  
 Russellville, Pope County, AR

Map Reference

7488-100 3903-210



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty \_\_\_\_\_ Light-duty \_\_\_\_\_  
 Medium-duty \_\_\_\_\_ Unimproved dirt \_\_\_\_\_

○ Interstate Route ○ U. S. Route ○ State Route

RUSSELLVILLE WEST, ARK.  
 N3515—W9307.5/7.5

1963

AMS 7354 I SW—SERIES V8B4

