

65-16-5195-61

9-22-71

NK

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Arkansas	
COUNTY: Sebastian	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bonneville House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
318 North 7th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Smith

STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05 COUNTY: Sebastian CODE: 131

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Women's Club meetings
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Bonneville House Association

STREET AND NUMBER:
318 North 7th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Smith STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sebastian County

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fort Smith STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bonneville House, built in 1880, is a fine example of early Victorian style. Although it has some detailing characteristic of the Italianate style, this is a more formal home than is usually associated with that style. In total character it relates more to the Empire period.

Of brick construction, this two-story house rests on a brick foundation. It has a hipped, metal-covered roof capped with a flat decked captain's walk. Four brick chimneys penetrate the corners of the flat roof and there is a turned baluster railing between them. The roof overhang is supported by massive scrolled consoles and has a simple, metal guttered fascia.

There is a symmetrical porch the full width of the front (west) elevation. Its roof is supported by six square, relieved edge columns resting on pedestals which form the main balusters of the porch railing, with smaller, ornately turned, closely spaced balusters. The columns are topped by finely detailed, stylized capitals supporting pseudo-three-centered arches. The roof of the one-story porch forms a deck at the second floor level with a balustrade similar to that below.

The front windows, protected by the porch roof, are tall and narrow, characteristic of the Victorian period. They are three lights high and two lights wide with a pattern of 2 x 2 x 2 lights. The head surrounds are elaborately carved segmental arches in the Italianate manner and the side surrounds are moulded. All remaining principal windows of both the first and second floors have a 2 x 2 pattern of lights, are double hung and have head and side surrounds similar to the first floor front windows. There are small rectangular windows between the bracketed consoles near the roof line which have rectangular, moulded head and side surrounds.

The double main entrance doors are of raised panel design with a transom over head. The transom head surround is a moulded segmental arch designed similar to the window surrounds.

The house is well situated on its grounds which are pleasantly landscaped. There is a delightful octagonal gazebo at the rear of the house which has diamond lattice infilling and a bell cast roof rising to a delicately detailed, pointed cap.

The Bonneville House was restored by Mrs. Ralph J. Speer, and is now owned and well maintained by the Bonneville House Association.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

 Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1880

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

 Prehistoric Historic Agriculture Architecture Art Commerce Communications Conservation Education Engineering Industry Invention Landscape Architecture Literature Military Music Political Religion/Phi-

losophy

 Science Social/Human-

itarian

 Theater

Transportation

 Urban Planning Other (Specify)Adaptive useof an archi-tecturallysignificanthouse.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This gracious home, originally built by David McKibben, became known as the Bonneville House when it was purchased by Susan Neis Bonneville, the wife of one of this nation's prominent pioneer explorers, General B. J. E. Bonneville.

The building is of architectural significance, due to its beauty, quality of original design, and workmanship. It serves as a fine example of a Victorian style which has, fortunately, been preserved for the City of Fort Smith. The associations with General Bonneville, while admittedly tenuous, are important, particularly so since the frame home in which he lived has been destroyed. Even without the historical associations, however, the Bonneville House would be important as an excellent example of period architecture which has been restored, inside and out, with attention to detail and with no regard to expense. Interior decorations and furnishings are of the period and are of high quality and in excellent taste.

Most important, perhaps, is the fact that this building serves as an excellent example of adaptive use. The Bonneville House Association has made the building and its facilities available to local women's clubs and civic organizations as a meeting place for luncheons, dinners and other group gatherings. This has been a successful operation which insures that this fine old building, and its associations with the history of Fort Smith, will be preserved.

Another significant factor, which may be of inestimable value, is that the restoration of this property, in a blighted urban area, shows evidence of reversing the trend toward decay and has stimulated other property owners to restore and maintain their buildings.

Benjamin Lewis Eulalie de Bonneville was a native of France. He was born in 1796 and emigrated to America

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(Continuation Sheet)²

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Sebastian	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance

in 1802 with his mother and brother. Their father, who was a close friend of Thomas Paine, had written and circulated a pamphlet so critical of the French government that it resulted in his arrest and imprisonment in Paris. Nicholas de Bonneville, on learning that his friend Thomas Paine was about to leave Paris for America, pleaded with him to take his family and look after them until he was released from prison.

Through Paine's influence in Washington he was able to secure an appointment for Benjamin to West Point Military Academy and an appointment for Thomas to Annapolis Naval Academy. During the War of 1812, Thomas, as a midshipman, was lost at sea aboard the "Wasp" after a desperate naval engagement with a British frigate off the coast of Portugal.

In 1817 Bonneville was assigned to the Light Artillery as a Second Lieutenant. In 1820 he was transferred to the 7th Infantry, and in 1825 he was promoted to Captain in the same regiment.

When General Lafayette was touring the United States, the War Department assigned Captain Benjamin Bonneville to accompany him. The two men became close friends and when Bonneville obtained a leave to visit his native France, he was the house guest of General Lafayette's family.

In 1832 Benjamin Bonneville embarked upon a ambitious exploration of the far West. He secured the financial support of John Jacob Astor and obtained a leave from the War Department to make the expedition.

Starting West from Fort Osage, Missouri, on May 1, 1832, with 110 men and 20 wagons, he explored nearly the entire southern half of the Rocky Mountain range in what is now the United States. Benjamin Bonneville was the first American to discover the southern passage through the Rocky Mountains. After three years of arduous exploration he finally reached the western frontier settlements of the United States in August of 1835.

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8. Significance

When he traveled to Washington to report his discoveries, he was astounded to learn that he had been given up for dead and that his name had been stricken from the Army rolls. He immediately applied for reinstatement; however, it was only through the intercession of President Andrew Jackson that he was able to regain his rank in the Army. While in Washington, Captain Benjamin Bonneville gave his notes and maps made during the exploration to Washington Irving who recounts the adventure in his book The Adventures of Captain Bonneville.

Upon his return to active duty, he participated in the Seminole Campaign in Florida and in the war with Mexico. During the Mexican Campaign he served as a Major in the 6th Infantry and was seriously wounded at Churubusco. In 1847 he was breveted Lieutenant Colonel for his meritorious service at Coutreras and Churubusco and was promoted to full Colonel in 1855. In 1860 he was placed in command of the Department of New Mexico and in 1865 was breveted Brigadier General for long and faithful service to the Army. Although he officially retired from active duty in 1861, he continued to serve as officer in charge of the Mustering Department at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri.

After the death of his first wife, Ann, at Benton Barracks during the Civil War, Bonneville married Susan Neis in November of 1871.

General Benjamin Lewis Eulalie de Bonneville, for whom Bonneville Dam and the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah were named, died on June 12, 1878, and was interred in the French Protestant Cemetery at St. Louis, Missouri.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series, Arkansas, A Guide to the State,
New York: Hastings House, 1941.

Bearss, Edwin C. and A. M. Gibson. Fort Smith: Little
Gibraltar on the Arkansas. Norman: University of
Oklahoma Press, 1969.

Mapes, Ruth B. Old Fort Smith, Little Rock: Pioneer, 1965.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35° 23' 22.2"	94° 25' 13.6"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: AHP Staff

ORGANIZATION: _____ DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE: _____

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name George M. Reynolds

Title State Liaison Officer

Date 8-21-71

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Arkansas	
COUNTY	Sebastian	
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(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

The Independent Arkansian, June 21, 1878.

Fort Smith Times Record, July 16, 1922.

Arkansas Gazette, September 17, 1868.

Oakley, Francile B. "Arkansas' Golden Army of '49,"
Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. VI, No. 1
(Spring, 1947).

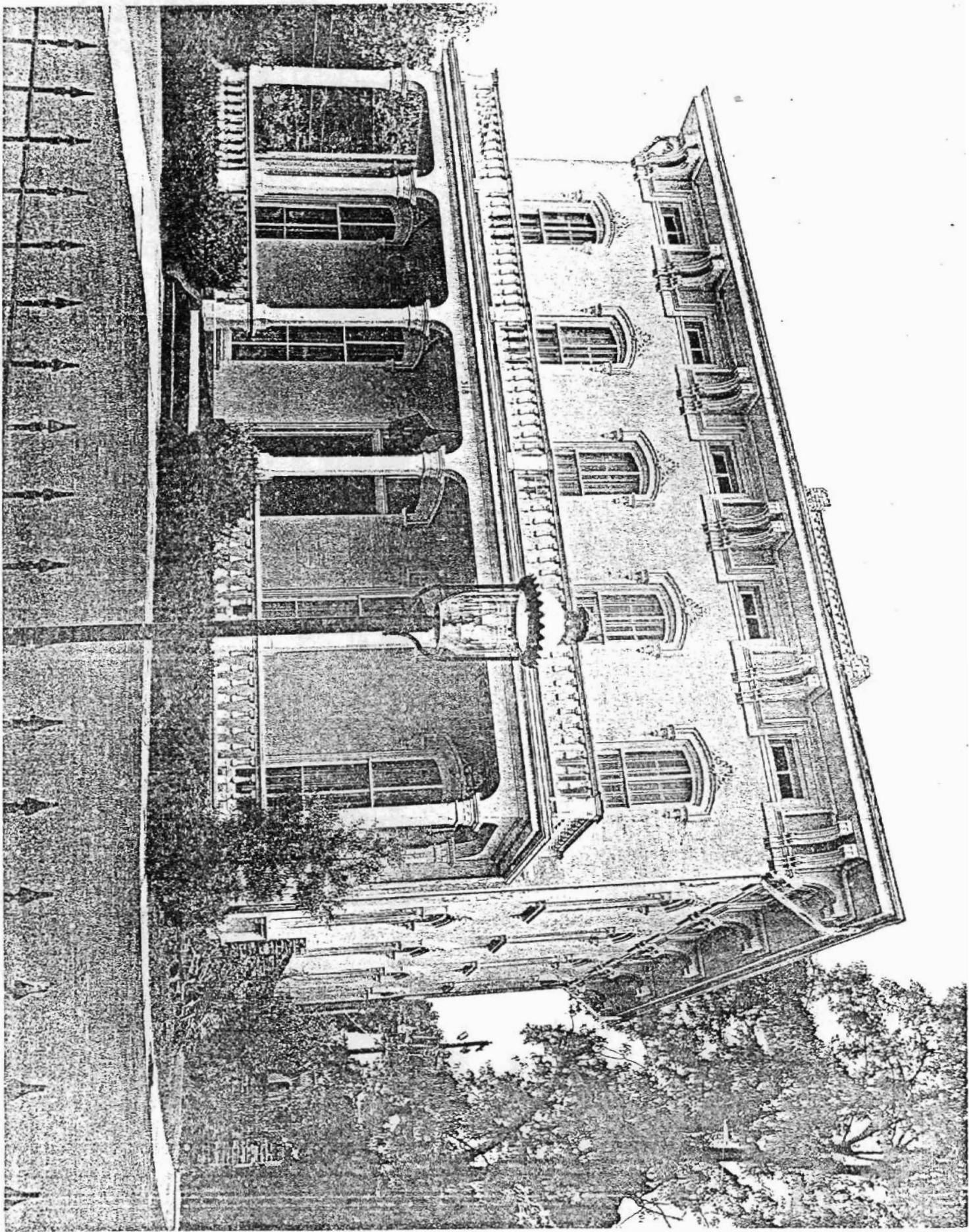
Arkansas Gazette, February 14, 1826.

Fletcher, John Gould. Arkansas. Kingsport: University
of North Carolina Press, 1947.

Arkansas Democrat, October 29, 1887.

Southwest-Times Record, May 24, 1931.

County of Sebastian and the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas.
Little Rock, Arkansas: 1883.

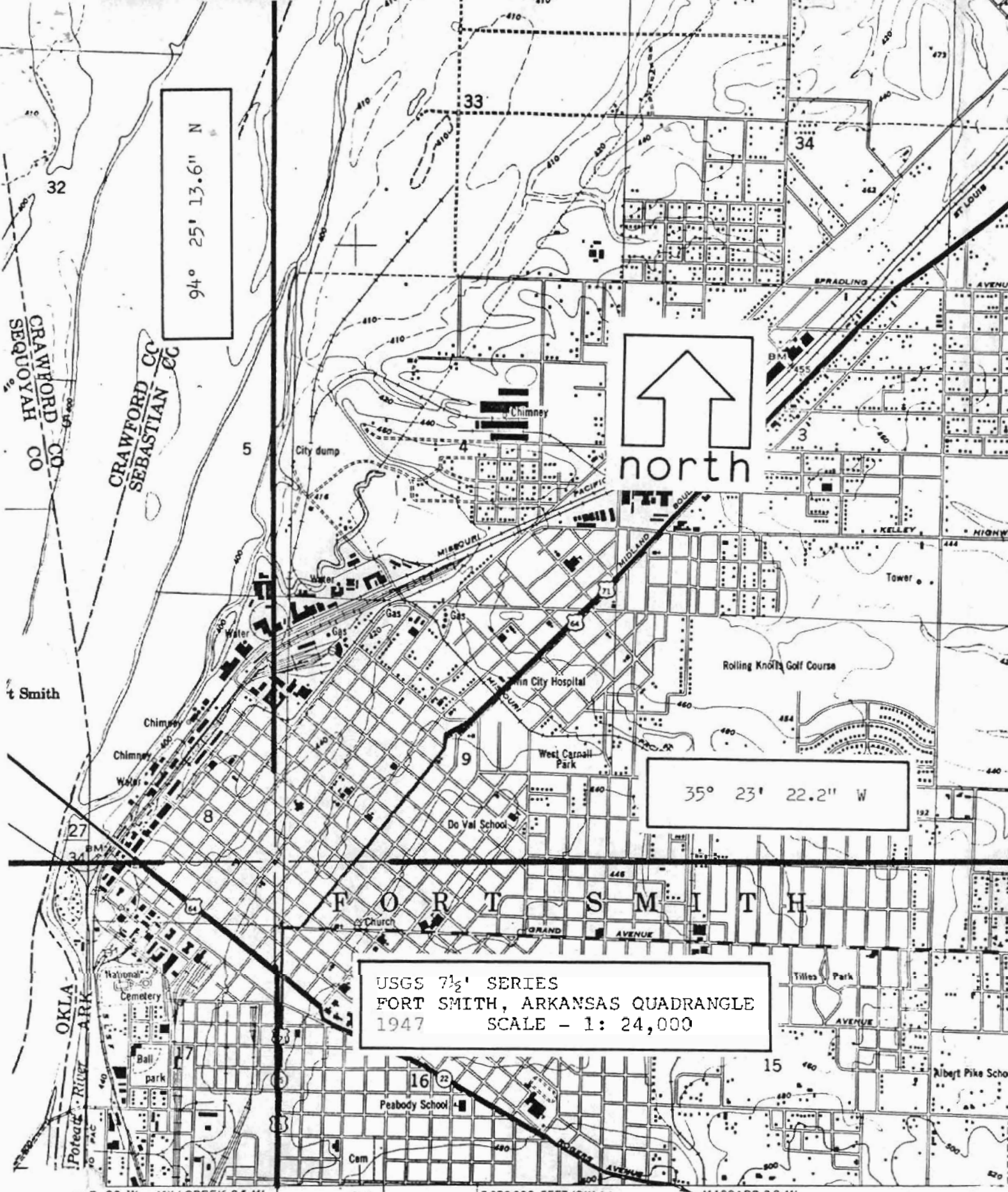


94° 25' 13.6" N

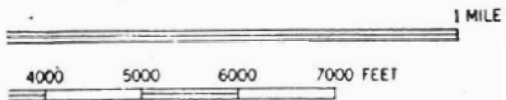


35° 23' 22.2" W

USGS 7 1/2' SERIES
FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS QUADRANGLE
1947 SCALE - 1: 24,000



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INTERIOR - GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

HARD SURFACE ALL WEATHER ROADS
Heavy-duty 2 LANE 6 LANE Improve
Medium-duty 2 LANE 6 LANE

