

65-68-5195-62

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCRS use only
received
date entered

NK LISTED:
12/13/79

1. Name

historic Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

and/or common Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

2. Location

street & number 320 Rogers Avenue not for publication

city, town Fort Smith vicinity of congressional district Third

state Arkansas code 05 county Sebastian code 131

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Old Commissary Museum Association, Inc.

street & number 111 Rogers Avenue

city, town Fort Smith vicinity of state Arkansas 72901

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk's Office

street & number Sebastian County Courthouse

city, town Fort Smith state Arkansas 72901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

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 checked="" 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	(slighty)	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Atkinson-Williams Warehouse represents a commercial-industrial design of architecture that attempts to soften the cold and sterile image many industrial structures project. The warehouse exterior is an example of classically-derived commercial structures common in the last years of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century which incorporated this historical design vocabulary into a bulky, yet functional, package. Elements of the Atkinson-Williams warehouse that characterize this style include a strong base, symmetrical elevations with well-lighted walls, brick revetments in the attic facade and a capping element, in this case the dentiled and bracketed cornice which terminates the north and east walls.

The building's primary facade faces the north end of a commercial block. A secondary facade faces east, onto a side street. The elevations are faced in brick with limited stone trim for the window sills. String courses on the north and east elevations mark the four floors of the edifice. Both the north and east facades are divided into seven bays. The main entrance, on the north elevation, consists of two engaged columns and a set of double doors accented by beveled sidelights and transom. The south elevation was the receiving and shipping area. It consists of six large freight doors adjacent to railroad spurs. The convenience of the positioning made the warehouse the most modern facility in the Fort Smith wholesale district.

The interior of the structure provides broad expanses of open floor areas designed with a high live-load capacity that well suits the functional requirements of warehouse design. The floor and roof framing is constructed of heavy wood supported by steel columns on the first floor and by large wood columns on the remaining floors. The unusual feature of the building is the first floor display area's pressed tin ceiling.

The interior and exterior of the warehouse have undergone a few minor alterations. The railing which once outlined office space was removed in 1948 and replaced with oak paneling which created enclosed offices. On the exterior, the east elevation's windows were replaced in 1930 after the original panes were destroyed in a storm.

The edifice is still in its original condition and is structurally stable.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1906	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1906 Builder/Architect Tillman T. Reddick

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1906 Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company warehouse is one of the few remaining early warehouses in Fort Smith. The edifice represents a period of prosperity and growth for the city and its major wholesale suppliers. The warehouse is significantly associated with Colonel Benjamin Atkinson and with W. Buckner Williams, established hardware businessmen in the Fort Smith area. The Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company became an important part of the evolving warehouse district in Fort Smith during the late nineteenth century and during the first decades of the twentieth century. The warehouse is one of three surviving warehouses in the Rogers Avenue district, the other two being constructed at a later date. It is only slightly altered and presents a style of construction that appeared, at the turn of the century, among commercial buildings in Fort Smith. The Atkinson-Williams Warehouse is representative of the increasing economic growth that occurred during this time period. This prosperity was exemplified by an increase in the output of goods and an increase in population. Part of the boom was contributed by the city's development as a railroad center and the opening and settlement of Oklahoma, Fort Smith being located on the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. Fort Smith constituted a distribution center for parts of the newly opened Oklahoma Territory (and later state), northern Texas, Indian Territory, and western Arkansas. This role as a distribution center was reflected in the growth of a warehouse district as wholesale suppliers grew in relation to the needs of the region. Atkinson and Williams, as a result of this prosperity, merged in 1900 as wholesale hardware distributors. Both were involved in the retail hardware business before 1900. Atkinson's father, John C. Atkinson, established a hardware store at Fort Smith in 1843. Williams, although not backed by such family tradition, had been operating retail stores at Hackett and Van Buren, Arkansas. The Atkinson-Williams Company was the exclusive distributor for John Deere, Oliver Chalmers and Studebaker agricultural equipment, as well as their own specialty brand of agricultural implements, AT-WILL.

9. Major Bibliographical References

PRIMARY SOURCES

Abstract of Title (Abstract No. 19398, February 8, 1932, 8 a.m.). Made for Williams Hardware Company.

(Please See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fort Smith, Arkansas - Okla.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 15 370280 3916740
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Fort Smith, District. Sebastian County Deed Records #220, Lot Seven (7) and Lot Eight (8), Block Five Hundred and Twelve (512), Reserve edition to the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Charlene Akers, Director, Old Commissary Museum / Don Brown, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date September 25, 1979

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 25, 1979

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

PRIMARY SOURCES (continued)

Arkansas City Directory - Little Rock, Hot Springs, Pine Bluff,
Eureka Springs, and Fort Smith - 1881, p. 493

Fort Smith City Directories: 1894-1895, 1898, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1912-1913.

Atkinson, J.C., Ledger of, 1837-1854

Mr. Ray Cotton, Owner, Williams Automotive and Industrial Supply Company;
Interview regarding history of Atkinson and Williams families and their
businesses; January 10, 1979.

Mr. Ray Cotton, Owner, Williams Automotive and Industrial Supply Company;
Interview regarding history of Atkinson and Williams families and their
businesses; August 8, 1979.

Sebastian County Incorporation Book A, p. 200. Sebastian County Clerk's Office.

SECONDARY SOURCES

"History of Fort Smith 1817-1967," by J. Fred Patton; Southwest-Times Record-
Sequicentennial Edition, pp. 7 and 10.

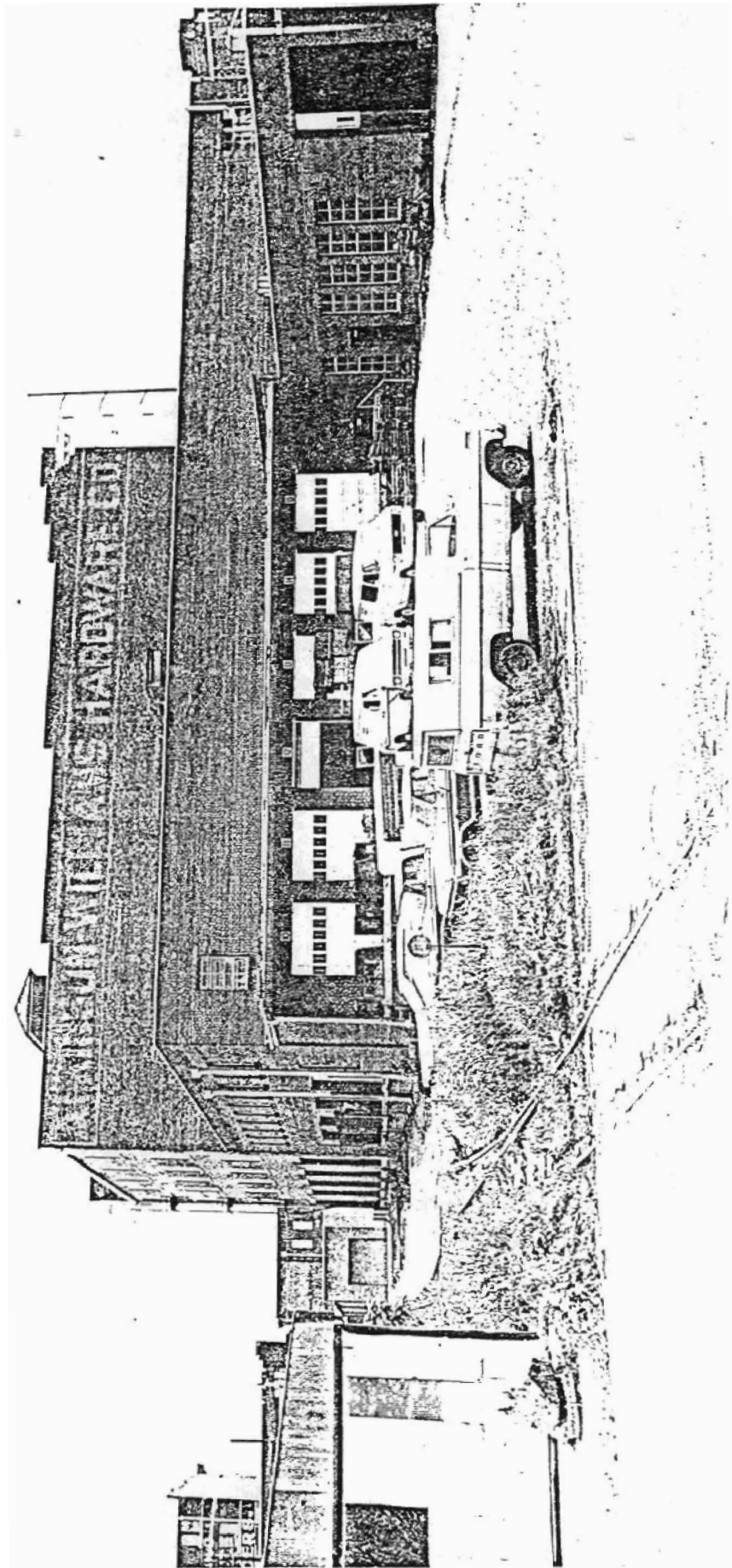
"Modernizing a 105-Year Old Business," Southern Hardware, pp. 90 and 94, April 1948.

"Prosperity Edition," Southwest American, April 29, 1919.

The Province and the States - Arkansas Biography, p. 412.



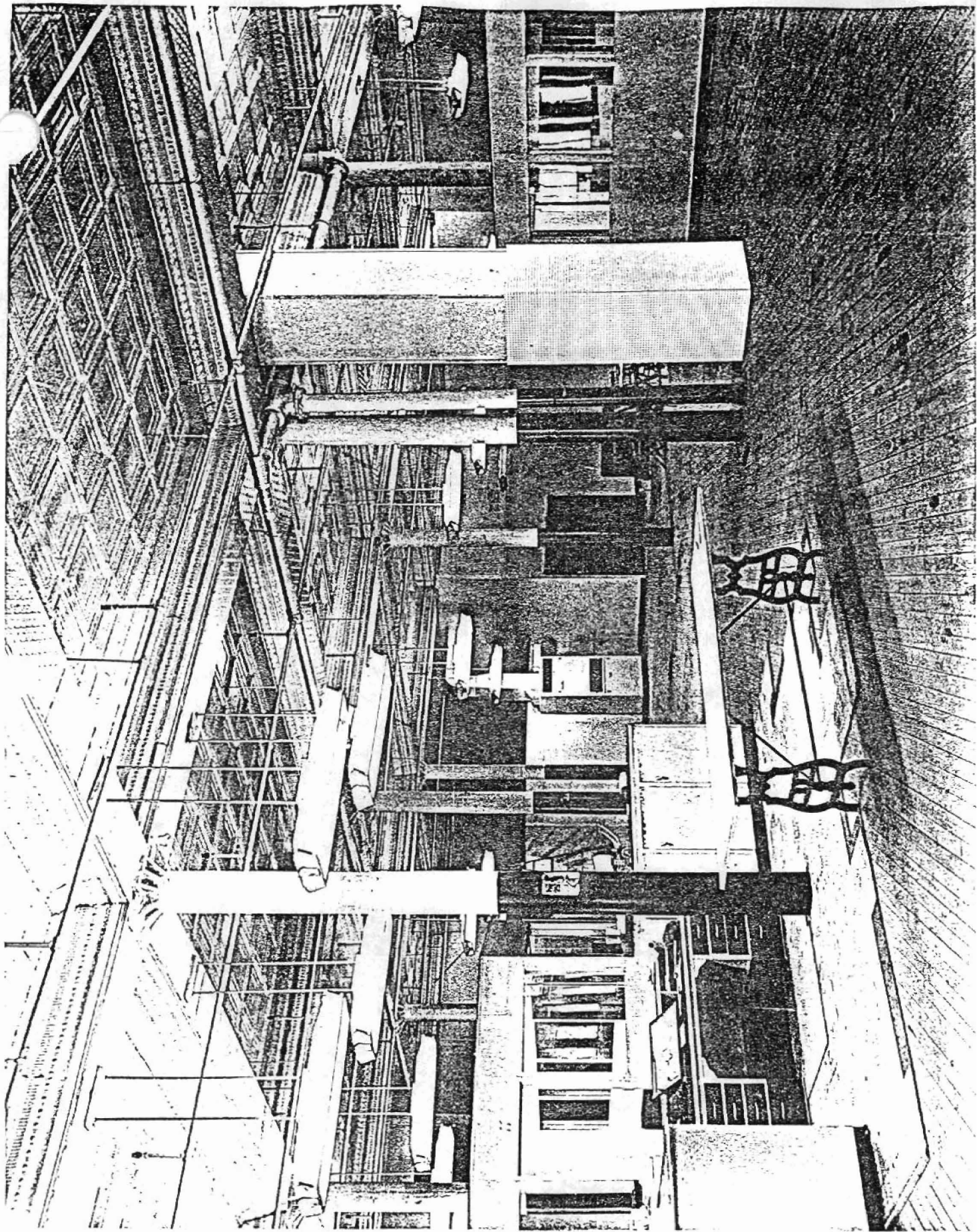
Atkinson-Williams Warehouse
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1979
Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program
East and north elevations viewed
from the northeast
#1



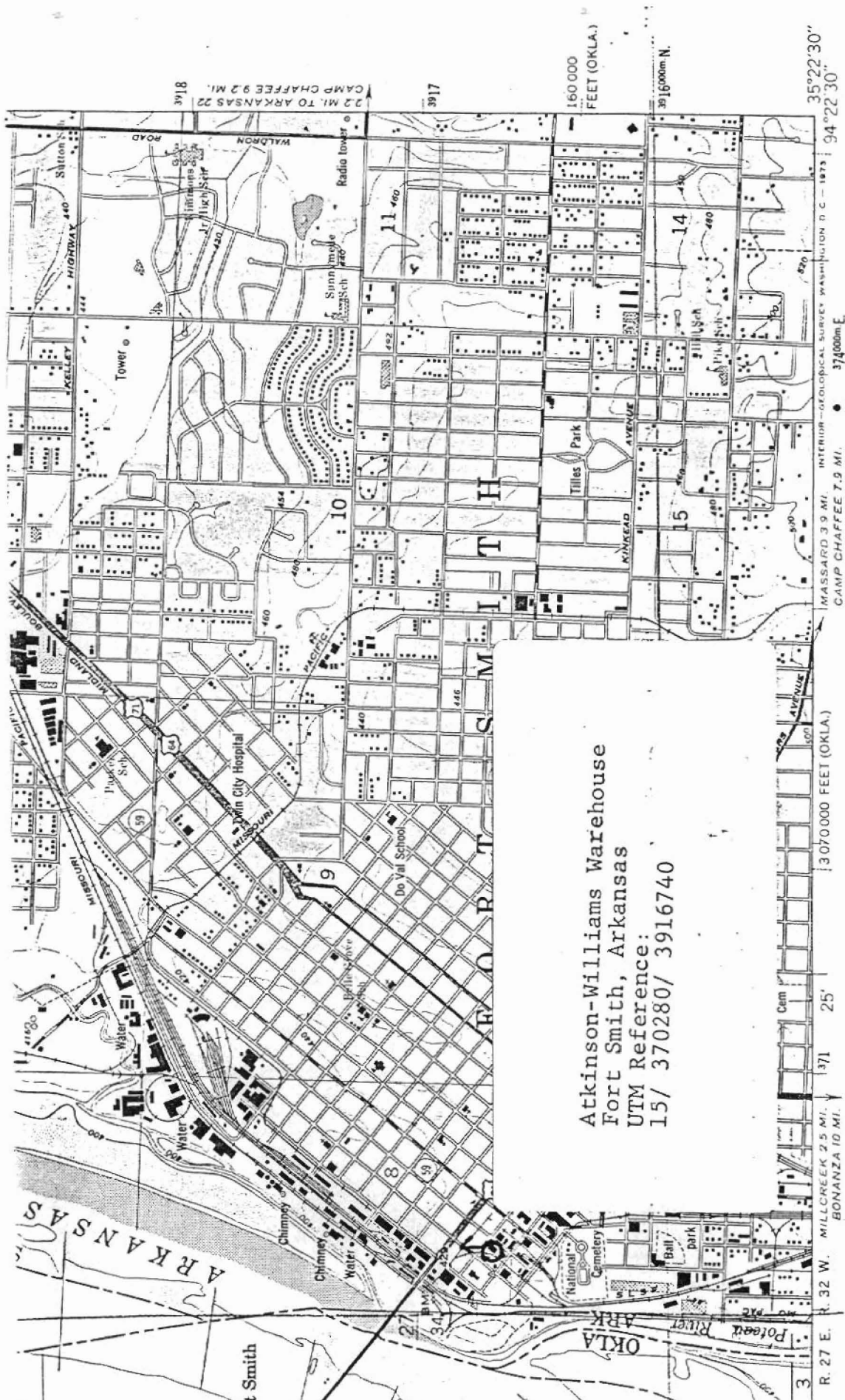
Atkinson-Williams Warehouse
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1979

Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program
West and south elevations viewed
from the southwest

#3



Atkinson-Williams Warehouse
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1979
Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program
Interior of the first floor
#4

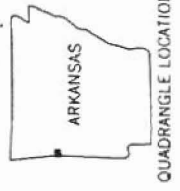


Atkinson-Williams Warehouse
 Fort Smith, Arkansas
 UTM Reference:
 15/ 370280/ 3916740

(BARLING)
 75a IV SE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt —————
- Interstate Route □ U.S. Route ○ State Route



20 FEET
 INTERVAL CONTOURS
 LEVEL

AP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 BRADO 80225 OR
 TLE ROCK, ARK/
 NORMAN, OKLAH A 73069

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
 aerial photographs taken 1971. This informati field checked
 Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

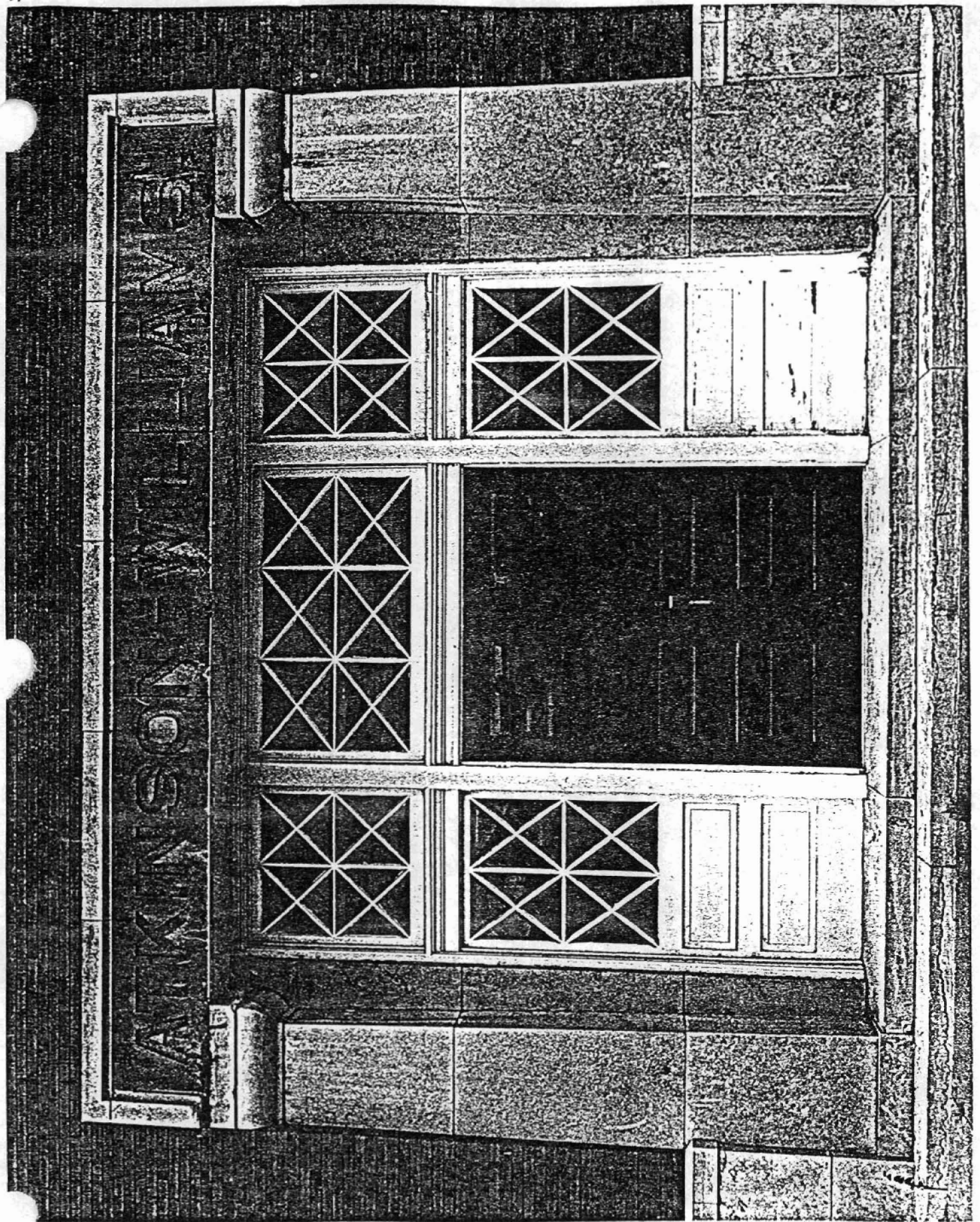
FORT SMITH, ARK.—OKLA.
 NW/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3522.5—W9422.5/7.5

1947

PHOTOREVISED 1971

3918 22 MI. TO ARKANSAS 22
 CAMP CHAFFEE 9.2 MI.
 3917
 160 000
 FEET (OKLA.)
 3916000m N.
 35°22'30"
 94°22'30"

AR KANSAS
 OKLA
 Potomac River
 National Cemetery
 Ball park
 R. 27 E. T. 10 N.
 32 W. MILLCREEK 2.5 MI. 371 25' 3070000 FEET (OKLA.)
 BONANZA 10 MI.
 370000m E



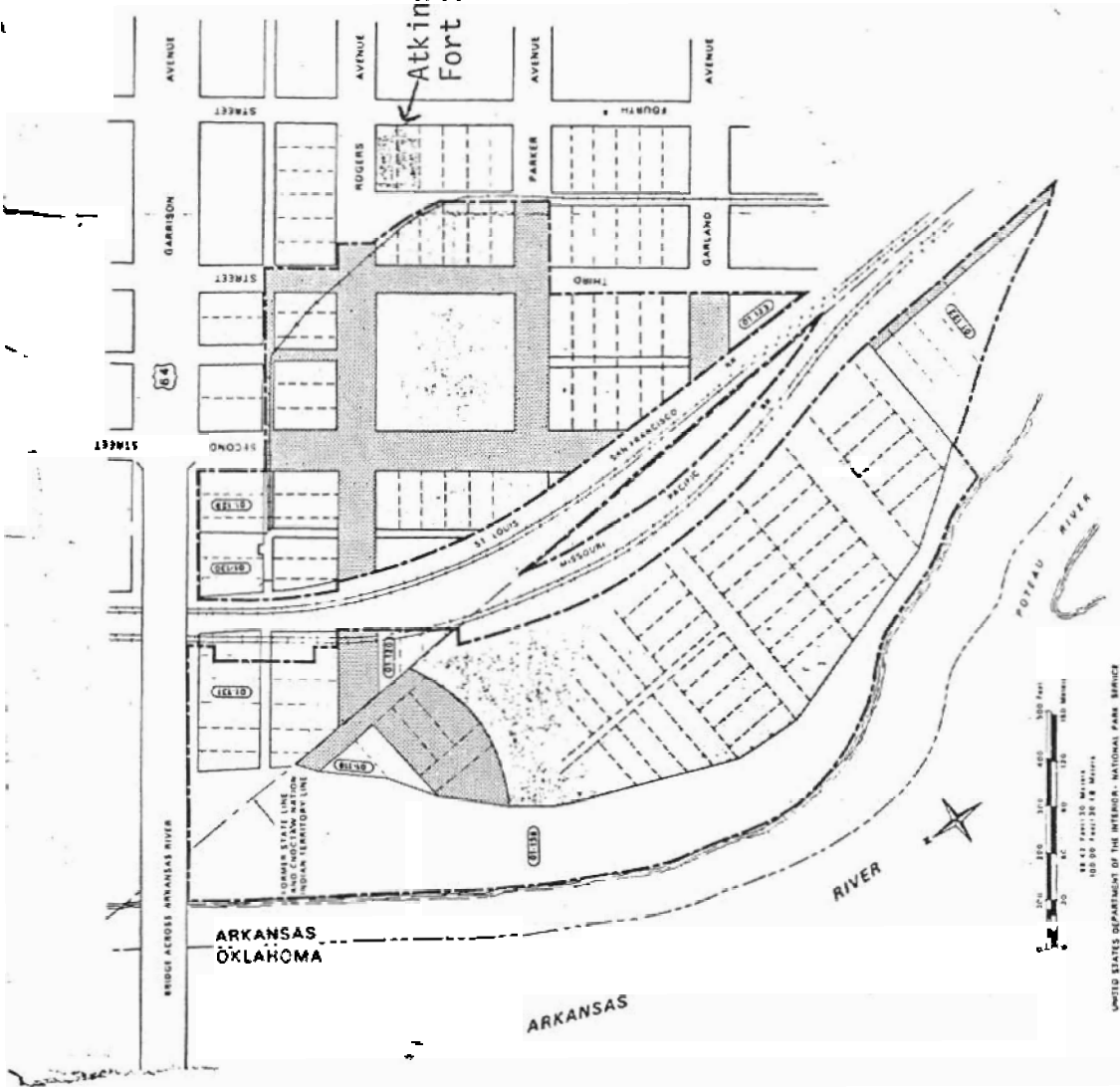
Atkinson-Williams Warehouse
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Bob Dunn

1979

Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program

Main entrance on the north elevati
viewed from the north
#2





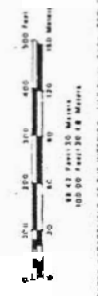
TRACT NO.	OWNER
01130	D. MIKEL 41 41
01131	OKLAHOMA GAS & ELECTRIC CO
01132	BELLE POINT BEVERAGE CO
01133	FORDINGE, INC
01134	J. S. LEWIS
01135	MITCHELL & ASSOCIATES
01136	J.T. WILLIAMS 44 41
01137	BELLE POINT BEVERAGE CO

Atkinson-Williams Building
 Fort Smith, Arkansas
 20 Rogers Ave.

LEGEND

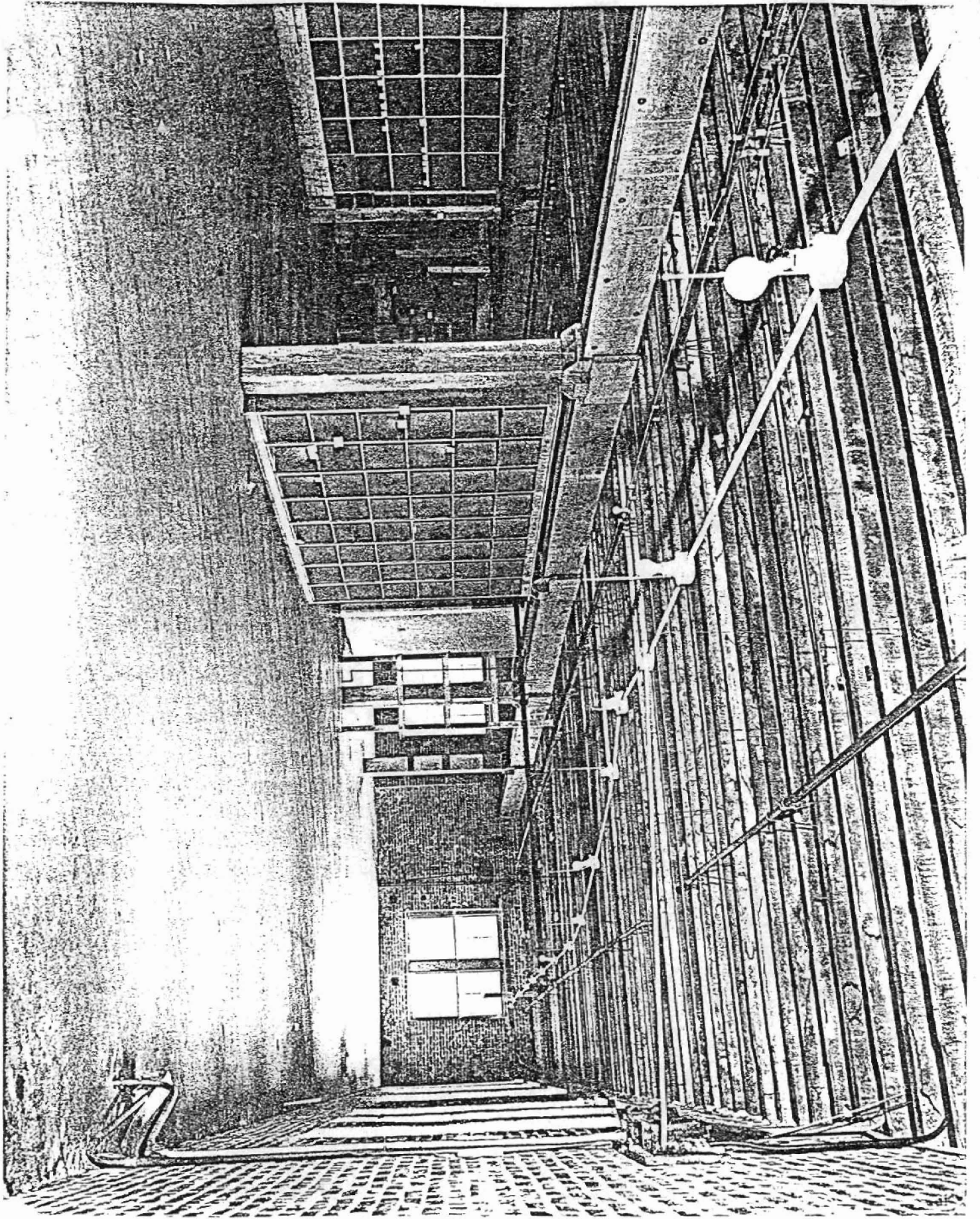
- HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
- FEDERAL LAND
- CITY LAND
- PRIVATE LAND
- TRACT NUMBER

LANDOWNERSHIP
 FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
 ARKANSAS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

From Fort Smith National Historic Site; General Management Plan, Development Concept Plan, Interpretive Plan, September, 1978, p. 21.



Atkinson-Williams Warehouse
Fort Smith, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
1979
Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program
Interior of the second Floor
#5