

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 Harper, Robert Atlas House

other names/site number SB0758

2. Location

street & number 201 N. Main not for publication

city or town Greenwood vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Sebastian code 131 zip code 72936

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
 national statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathryn A. Slater 9-24-01
Signature of certifying official/Title 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

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Harper House
Name of Property

Sebastian 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	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foursquare

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	Stone
walls	Stucco
roof	Composition
other	

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Harper House

Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas

County and State

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.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

C. 1915

Significant Dates

C. 1915

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

W. Calvin Stanfill

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.)

Wilkinson, Means. Greenwood, 100 Years A County Seat, 1851-1951. Farmers Bank, Greenwood, AR, 1951.

Hayes, E.L., et al. 1887 Atlas of Sebastian County, Arkansas. Chicago, 1887.

The South Sebastian County Historical Society, Editor. The Key Journal, Volume 13, Issue No. 1., 1978.

The South Sebastian County Historical Society, Editor. The Key Journal, Volume 12, Issue No. 1, Summer 1977.

The South Sebastian County Historical Society, Editor. The Key Journal, Volume 20, Issue No. 1

McCuen, Bill. Historical Report of the Secretary of United States. Secretary of State, 1986.

Claunts, P.M. From Memory's Scrapbook. Advance Report 1938. A history.

Gray, Wanda M. Cemeteries of Sebastian County, Arkansas,. Published by Wanda M. Gray, 1993.

Editor. 1903 Plat Book of Sebastian County, Arkansas.

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: _____

Harper House
Name of Property

Sebastian County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>385670</u>	<u>3897520</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet		

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 12, Township 6 North, Range 31 West, Town of Greenwood, County of Sebastian, Arkansas, and more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the Northeast corner of Lot 4 in Shelby's Addition to the Town of Greenwood; thence, East 417.5 feet; thence, North 00 degrees 57 minutes, 45.0 feet to the point of beginning, said point being on the North line of Denver Street (previously Sycamore); thence, North 00 degrees 57 minutes East, 105.00 feet; thence, West 100.0 feet; thence, North 00 degrees 57 minutes East, 245.2 feet to the South right-of-way of Elmo Street; thence, East along said right-of-way line 145.3 feet; thence, South 02 degrees 92 minutes East, 250.3 feet; thence East 110.8 feet to a point on the West right-of-way line Main Street (previously Front Street); thence, South 01 degree 56 minutes East along said right-of-way line, 100.0 feet to the intersection of the West line of Main Street and the North line of Denver Street, said intersection point being 24.5 feet West of the centerline of Main Street and 23.5 feet North of the centerline of Denver Street; thence, West along the North line of Denver Street, 174.2 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.25 acres more or less.

Boundary Justification

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

This nomination includes all of the property historically associated with the Robert Atlas Harper House since circa 1915.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Mary Richardson/Edited by Holly Hope</u>	date	<u>03/06/00</u>
organization	<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	telephone	<u>501 324-9880</u>
street & number	<u>1500 Tower Building, 323 Center St.</u>	state	<u>AR</u>
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	zip code	<u>72201</u>

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Robert Atlas Harper House is a two-story Foursquare home with a continuous cut stone foundation, battered cut stone supports on a wrap-around porch and "tabby-like" stucco sheathing. The wall material is of extremely rough texture with a visible aggregate of crushed rocks. The house is located in a mixed-use neighborhood of early and mid-to-late twentieth-century homes, churches, and a school. The commercial downtown of Greenwood, a small town in the western section of the state is two blocks south of the house. The building is currently vacant but is in good shape as the current owner, the Greenwood United Methodist Church next door, has been attending to minor deterioration problems. Considered contributing to this nomination is a carriage house, also sheathed in "tabby-like" stucco, that stands to the west of the house.

ELABORATION

Robert Atlas Harper House

The early twentieth-century Robert Atlas Harper House in Greenwood is constructed in the Foursquare style. The house is a typical Foursquare plan, but it is unusual in that the walls are sheathed in a rough mixture of concrete and small crushed rocks resembling tabby. The house is further distinguished by its porch treatment of battered cut stone supports. Due to the hardy material used on the exterior walls the house has weathered the years well, suffering only minor deterioration on the fascia and plaster porch ceiling.

The eastern, or front, elevation features a wraparound, hip-roofed porch supported by four battered columns of cut stone blocks. Stone half-walls span the columns topped with a concrete cap. The concrete floor of the porch is reached by a central flight of seven concrete steps flanked by stone walls. An entry consisting of six-lights over two-panels under a three-light transom opens into a small foyer from the southeast corner of the house, which is stepped-back approximately twelve feet from the front wall. The main entry to the house consists of a nine-light over one-panel door flanked by six-light over one-panel sidelights. A nine-light fixed transom tops this entry arrangement. A large fifteen-over-one double-hung window is at the southeast corner beneath the porch. A slender nine-over-one window is placed approximately twelve feet from the facade on an extension of the north wall.

The second-story of the front elevation is fenestrated at the southeast corner by a single nine-over-one window. The main, eastern wall above the porch features two evenly spaced fifteen-over-one windows. A nine-over-one window lights the northeast wall of the northern extension. A central hip-roofed attic dormer features a four-over-four window. The wide eaves of the house are boxed with a beaded soffit.

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The north elevation reveals the full basement. A metal coal chute is visible beside two three-light hopper window in the foundation. A staircase of eight concrete steps leads below ground to a single-leaf door at the northwest corner of the foundation. The half-wall of the porch connects to the house at the northeast corner of the main floor. A pair of nine-over-one windows flanks the exterior chimney that is covered in the tabbled stucco. To the west of the chimney the main wall of the house extends north approximately four feet. Centered in this extension is a small square bay supported by five brackets also covered in stucco material. The bay features a ribbon of four casement windows. The ribbon is composed of two eight-light windows on either side of a pair of one-light windows. A decorative hipped roof tops the windows. This allows for a slender nine-over-one window on the eastern and western walls of the extension. A short six-over-one window is located to the northwest close to the central extension. The bottom level of a two-story screened-in porch with a beaded half-wall extends from the back of the house. The screening above the half-wall is partitioned into four squares by slender molding.

The second-story from left to right consists of two nine-over-one windows on either side of the chimney. The central extension is fenestrated with a single fifteen-over-one window. A nine-over-one window lights the northwest corner. The second-story of the rear screened-in porch is enclosed with a half-wall clad in concrete sheathing like that on the rest of the house. The screening is separated into a ribbon of three partitions.

The screened-in porch which dominates the rear, or western, elevation, is composed of a beaded half-wall surrounding a centered single-leaf screen door topped with a screened transom. The screening is partitioned into two-over-two panels on either side of the door, which is flanked by two slender one-over-one panels of screen. A storage area has been added to the north of the porch interior. A single-leaf one-light door beneath a three-light transom opens into the kitchen from the porch. A six-over-one window fenestrates the southwest corner of the house. A single nine-over-one window is located on the southwest wall of an extension projecting from the southern elevation.

A nine-over-one window lights the northwestern wall of the north extension on the second-story. The second-story of the rear porch is enclosed with a half-wall of plywood topped by a ribbon of nine panels of screening. The western wall of the house beneath the porch features a six-over-one window beside a one-light door topped with a three-light transom. A hipped attic dormer with four-light hopper window is located in the center of the western attic level.

A single six-light hopper window towards the rear of the house lights the basement level of the southern elevation. The beaded half-wall of the screened porch to the rear is topped by four screened panels like those on the northern elevation. A pair of short six-over-one windows lights the southwest corner of the house. The wall next to the pair of windows extends from the house approximately five feet. The protrusion is fenestrated by two unsymmetrical

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windows. A six-over-one window is placed high in the wall to provide light for an interior staircase. The second window is fifteen-over-one and it lights the main floor so it is placed lower in the wall. A single nine-over-one window lights the west wall of the extension. The wraparound porch is supported by three battered sandstone columns connected by a stone half-wall topped with concrete. Five concrete steps flanked by stone walls lead to the porch floor. Beneath the porch roof is a single fifteen-over-one window.

The second story of the screened porch at the southwest corner is enclosed by a stucco half-wall and is topped with a ribbon of three screened panels. The extended portion of the house is lit by a short six-over-one window and larger fifteen-over-one window. Two evenly spaced nine-over-one windows are placed in the southeast corner of the second-story.

Interior

The interior of the house is largely intact. The only obvious alterations have been modernization of the kitchen in the 1970s and the addition of a bathroom off the kitchen, also in the 1970s. There are oak hardwood floors throughout with the exception of the kitchen and first and second-floor bathrooms. A pantry off the dining room and kitchen contains a large built-in pantry with breakfront doors. The living room features a brick fireplace with brick corbelling supporting an oak mantelshelf. Oak pocket doors close off the living room and dining room from a small foyer in the front of the house. A short stick staircase of oak leads to a landing from the foyer that can also be accessed from the kitchen at the rear of the house before continuing to the second-story.

Carriage House

A carriage house is placed about eighteen feet from the rear, or western, elevation of the Harper House. Four-over-four windows present on the carriage house suggest that it dates from an earlier house that was situated on the same lot prior to the Harper's house, but it has been covered in the same stucco, "tabby" mixture as the house. Weatherboard cladding is visible beneath the stucco in the area of the window casing on the southeast corner.

The building is rectangular with a gable roof and central interior brick chimney. Two four-over-four windows on either side of a centered paneled door light the eastern elevation. The north and south elevations are fenestrated by two symmetrically placed four-over-four windows. A pair of large wooden double doors accesses the western facade. This building is considered contributing to the Harper House nomination.

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The Robert Atlas Harper House is located in the oldest residential area of the city and the housing stock largely reflects architectural styles of middle-to-upper income dwellings prominent in the United States from the mid-19th century to the 20th century. The actual construction date of the Harper House has been difficult to ascertain, but research of county records has yielded a circa date of 1915. The 1887 Atlas of Sebastian County indicates that a dwelling was located on the corner of Front Street (currently Main Street) and Sycamore (currently Denver Street), the present site of the Harper House. Deed Records state that Mary Ann Kersey purchased the land in 1886. Taxes are recorded as being paid by the Kersey family through 1907. In 1908 the assessment was made in the name of R.A. Harper on property that was transferred by deed by the Executor of Mary Ann Kersey's estate in 1907. Real estate tax records for R.A. Harper on that lot indicate a \$1000.00 increase in valuation between 1914 and 1915. The Harper House was constructed by W. Calvin Stanfill who moved to Greenwood in 1900, so the construction date would more than likely be post-1900. There is no record of the architectural style of the Kersey House, but it is doubtful that the Harper House incorporated any part of the former house in its plan. The Foursquare style of the Harper House would have been considered very modern and vastly different in shape from a "passe" Folk Victorian or Queen Anne that would date from the 1880s, so a twentieth-century family of means would want a dwelling that reflected their modern, sophisticated tastes. Thus the circa construction date for the Harper House has been determined to be 1915.

Robert Atlas Harper was born to a Tennessee couple who moved in 1884 to Greenwood where they operated the Puckett Hotel and later the Harper House Hotel (also known as the Capitol Hotel) which stood west of the modern (1978) location of the courthouse. Mr. Harper was a prominent and productive citizen of Greenwood from 1884 to 1924. A Greenwood native reports that Mr. Harper owned a drugstore north of the townsquare. In 1908 he was appointed Sebastian County Circuit Clerk and went on to serve two more terms in 1914-1916 and 1916-1919. In 1924 Mr. Harper and his wife, Merton were killed in a car wreck, but his daughter Margaret retained ownership of the house until her death in 1988 when Atlas Harper's granddaughter deeded it to the Greenwood United Methodist Church. The church has owned it for twelve years and has operated it in the past as rental property but is currently renovating it for Sunday school classes.

The Robert Atlas Harper House stands alone in its neighborhood as an intact example of a Foursquare dwelling. The house exhibits unique features such as the use of "tabby-like" stucco sheathing, cut stone foundation, and battered stone porch supports that contribute to its status in Greenwood as the best and most intact example of an early twentieth-century Foursquare home. For this reason the Harper House and carriage house are being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion C.

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SUMMARY

The Robert Atlas Harper House was constructed circa 1915 by W. Calvin Stanfill, a local contractor and builder whose specialty was stonemasonry, which could account for the house's unusual exterior wall treatment and unique porch supports. The building is largely intact which makes it an exceptional example of a two-story Foursquare in its neighborhood, as many of the older houses in the immediate vicinity have been extensively altered or have been covered in vinyl and aluminum siding.

ELABORATION

The town of Greenwood, founded by John Carnall on the banks of the Vasche Grasse stream, is located in the county of Sebastian, which was created from portions of Crawford, Scott, and Polk counties in 1851. The first county seat was located in Greenwood in that year but by 1852 it had been moved to Fort Smith only to be moved back to Greenwood in 1865. William M. Fishback, a delegate in the Secession Convention in 1860 and 1861 was credited with providing Sebastian County with two county seats. Today there is a seat at Fort Smith and one at Greenwood, which is considered the "lower district."

The population of Greenwood grew slowly but by the beginning of the Civil War it had become a business center of relative importance since it was the largest town after Fort Smith in the county. During the war the town was occupied alternately by Confederate and Union troops, both of whom would entertain themselves by setting fire to the town. This resulted in only eighteen houses remaining in Greenwood by the end of the war.

Prior to the arrival of the railroad in the 1880s subsistence farmers tended the valleys surrounding the community. but the railroad contributed to economic growth through shipment of fruits, berries and potatoes to northern markets. Surrounding ridges provided quarries with building stone and Greenwood became a thriving commercial center after the turn of the century, due to the presence of exceptional veins of semi-bituminous coal. For over fifty years many mining operations were located in the area and thousands of tons of coal were shipped out. The 1950s saw established several factories and large cattle ranches were operating near the city. Today, it is one of the fastest growing areas in the county.



Harper House
Sebastian Co, AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

Negative on file at AHPP

View from North

12/28/2000



Harper House

Sebastian Co, AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

Negative on file at AHP

View of Montpelier, light fixtures

12/28/2000



reper house
rebastian Co, AR
photo by Amy Bennett
positive on file at AHP
view of carriage house from west
2/28/2000



Harper House
Sebastian Co, AR
Fluoby Amy Bennett
negative on file at AHPP
view of carriage house from east
12/28/2000



Forper House

Sebastian Co, AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

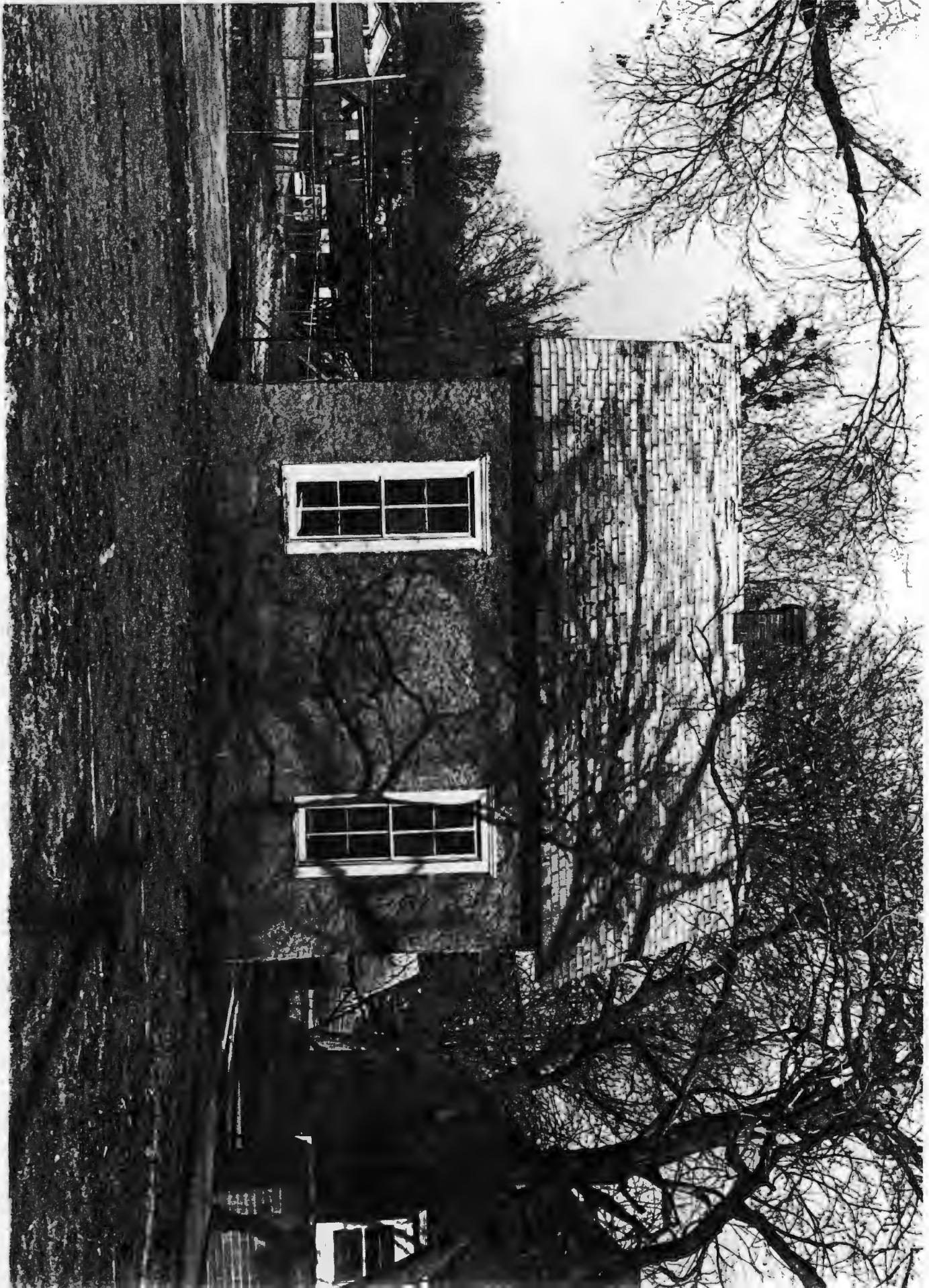
negative on file at AHPP

View of Park Support

12/28/2000



Harper House
Sebastian Co, AR
Photo by Amy Bennett
Negative on file at AHP
View from South
12/28/2000



Harper House
Sebastian Co, AR
Photo by Amy Bennett
Negative on file at AHPP
View of Carriage house from South
12/28/2000



Harper House

Sebastian Co, Ar

Photo by Amy Bennett

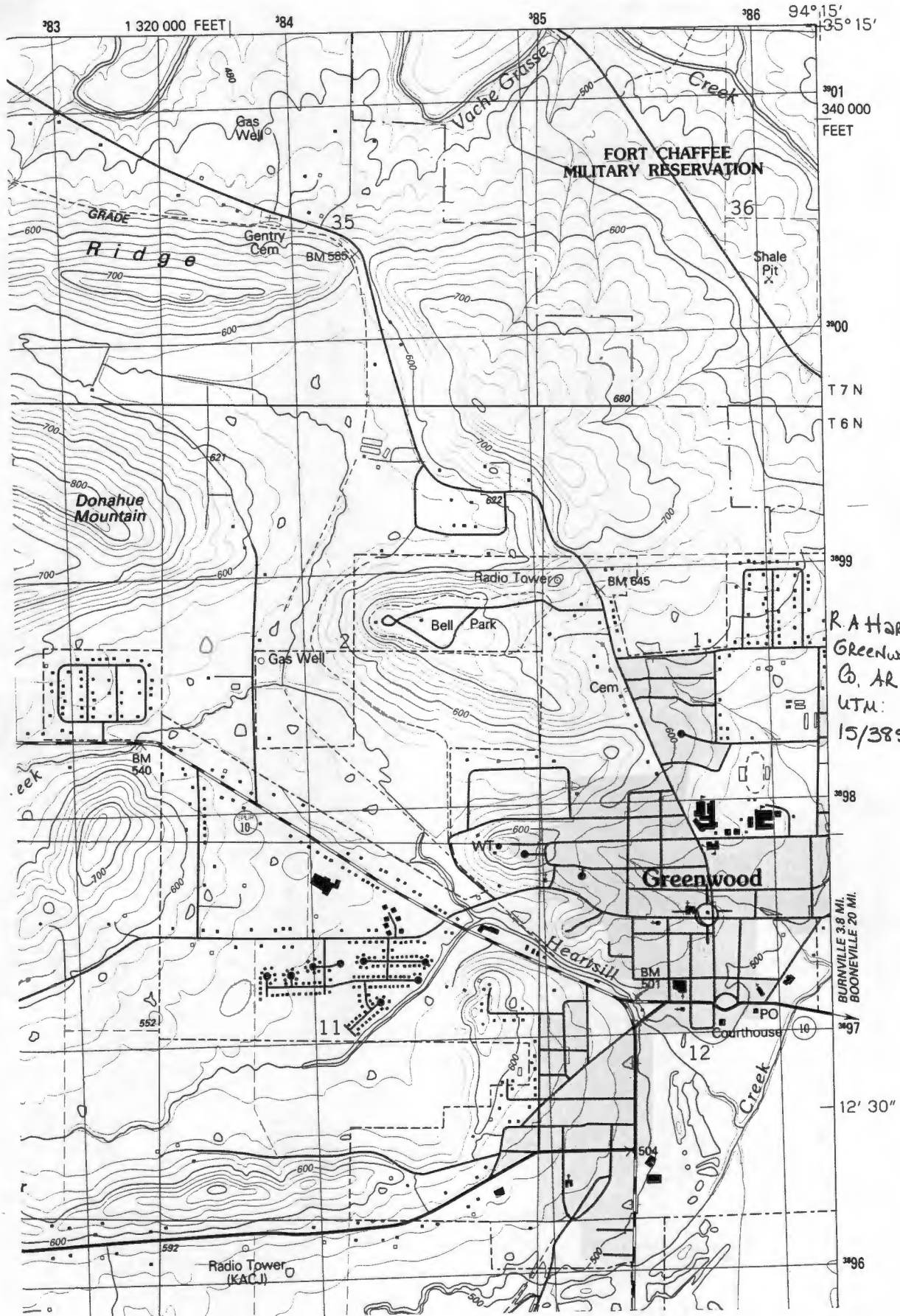
Negative on file at AHHP

View from west

12/28/2002

GREENWOOD QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-SEBASTIAN CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 NE/4 GREENWOOD 15' QUADRANGLE

7154 1 SW
 (LAVACA)



R. A Harper House
 Greenwood, Sebastian
 Co. AR
 UTM:
 15/385670/3897520

BURNVILLE 3.8 MI.
 BOONEVILLE 20 MI.