

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: The Farmers Bank Building

other name/site number: Old Leslie Post Office; SE 0234

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2. Location

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street & number: Corner of Main & Walnut Sts. (State Route 66)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Leslie

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Searcy code: AR 129 zip code: 72645

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Searcy, Arkansas

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn Buford Slater _____ 6-7-93
Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: Commerce Sub: financial institution
Government post office

Current : Commerce Sub: specialty store

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Romanesque

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation concrete roof asphalt
walls brick other limestone

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Community Development

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1910

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See "Historic and Architectural Resources of Searcy County, Arkansas Section H.

___ See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>539770</u>	<u>3964870</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at the northern corner of the intersection of Main and Walnut Streets, proceed north along the Main St. curblineline to the intersection of said line and a line formed by the common wall of the bank building. Then proceed east along this line to the intersection of said line and a line formed by the rear common wall of the building. Then proceed south to the intersection of said line and a line formed by the Walnut St. curblineline. Then proceed west along this curblineline to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary encompasses the Farmers Bank Building and excludes the adjacent structures.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 04/26/93

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Farmers Bank Building is a single-story, brick masonry commercial building constructed c. 1910 in a vernacular interpretation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. The building now houses the Serenity Farm Bread bakery, and the interior has been remodeled accordingly. Located at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets in Leslie, the Farmers Bank Building is in good condition with only minor alterations to the exterior.

Elaboration

Constructed c. 1910, the Farmers Bank Building is a single-story, brick masonry commercial building designed in a vernacular interpretation of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture. The building rests upon a cast concrete foundation and is covered by flat roof with a parapet.

The front, or western, elevation is anchored by the bevelled corner bay at the southern end. New double-leaf doors are located underneath the porch, which is supported by a single square brick column. Semi-circular limestone arches connect the column with the two respective walls. The remainder of the front elevation is dominated by two enormous arched windows. Again, the arches (and sills) are constructed of limestone and feature a three-part keystone. The windows are wood-frame and consist of four triangular panes over one. Three three-quarter-height brick pilasters separate the windows and the bevelled bay. There are also four horizontal limestone belt courses that lend texture to the facade. The first is formed by the window sills; the next highest is found only on the pilasters and porch column at the height of the middle window sash; another course caps the pilasters; and the last course divides the remaining distance to the roof coping, which also appears to be of limestone.

The longer southern elevation is much more simply arranged and consists of three groups of side-by-side (actually separated slightly) one-over-one wood-frame windows. Although much shorter than conventional one-over-one sashes, these windows still present a dignified appearance through the use of flat limestone crowns and sills. A single-leaf wood door covered by a flat metal roof is located at the eastern end of the elevation.

The interior has recently been remodeled in accordance to the new usage of the building as the Serenity Farm Bread bakery. No original detail from the bank or the post office (which moved into the building in the 1930's) remains visible.

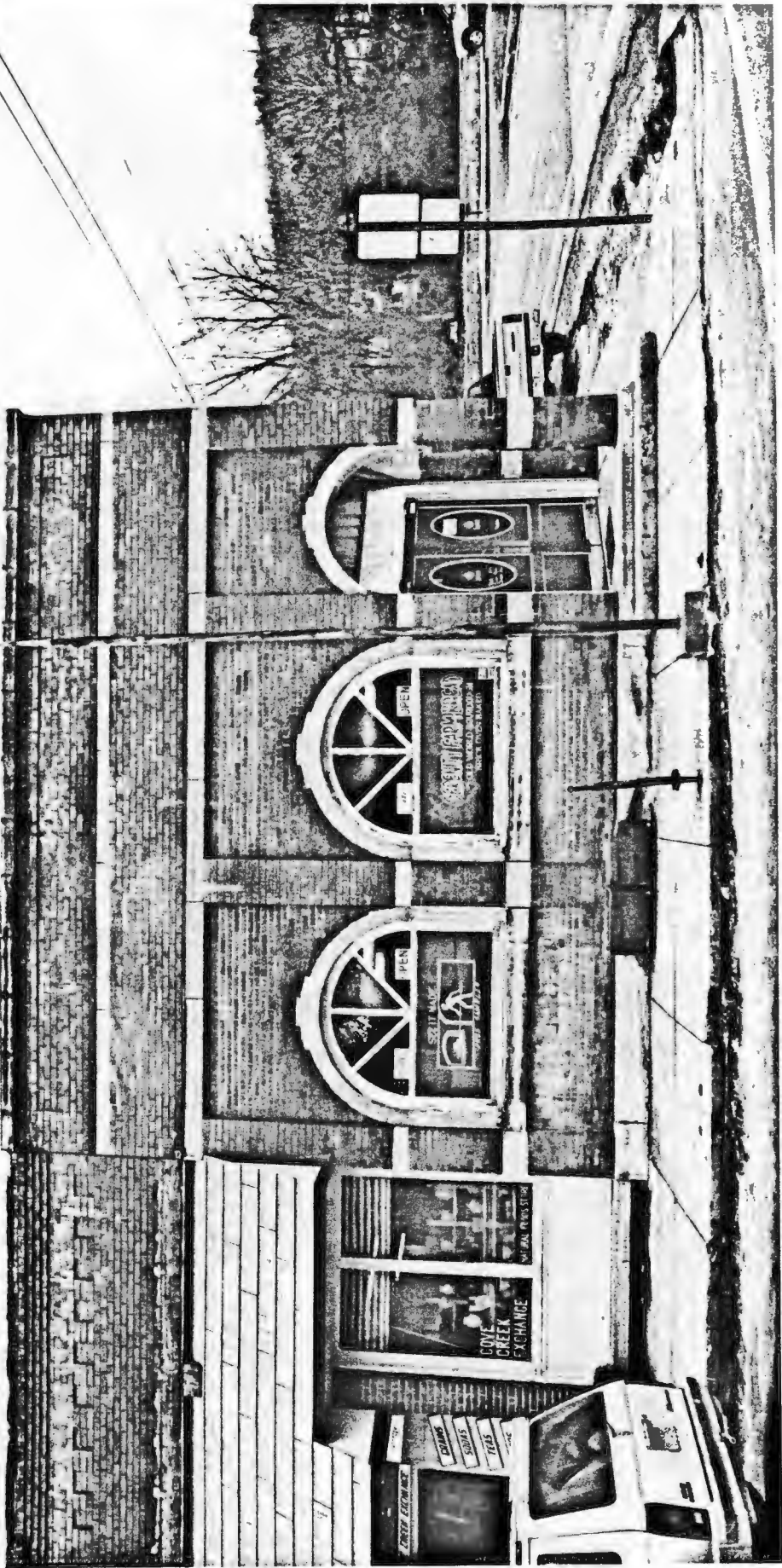
Located at the corner of Main and Walnut Streets in Leslie (both streets constitute Ark. Hwy. 66), the Farmers Bank Building exhibits a virtually unaltered exterior and is in good condition.

United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

Significance

The Farmers Bank Building was constructed around 1910 to house this small banking institution. It remained in business until some time in the 1930's, when the bank closed and the U. S. Post Office moved their Leslie facility into the building. It now houses a bakery.

The Farmers Bank Building is a relatively high-style institutional building in that it exhibits the strong influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style; as such it represents the historic context *Searcy County History, 1865-1910: Reconstruction, Railroads and Renewal*. As noted in this context, this was a period of county-wide growth and prosperity, relatively speaking, and thus a period during which there was much new immigration, and so much new construction. The community of Leslie, with its lumber manufacturing and its propitious location on the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad, looked forward to many years of growth and prosperity. The construction of such downtown commercial buildings speaks to the optimism attendant upon the growth of the various lumbering industries that flourished among the forests of Searcy County during the late nineteenth century, particularly after the realization of the railroad line. The Farmers Bank Building is thus eligible with local significance under Criterion A for its direct association with this period of increased settlement, economic growth and high aspirations for the social and economic future of the county. It is also eligible under Criterion C as the best and most well-preserved example of this relatively high-style commercial design in Leslie during this period.

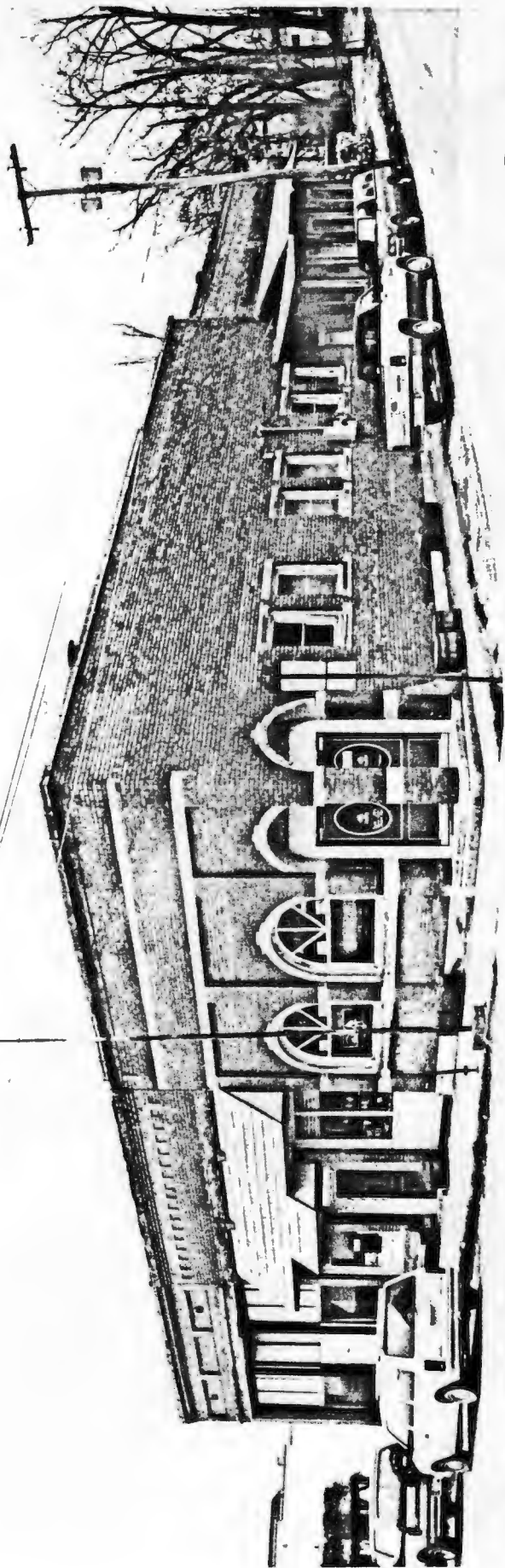


COVE CREEK EXCHANGE
SOUTH BEACH
TELEPHONE

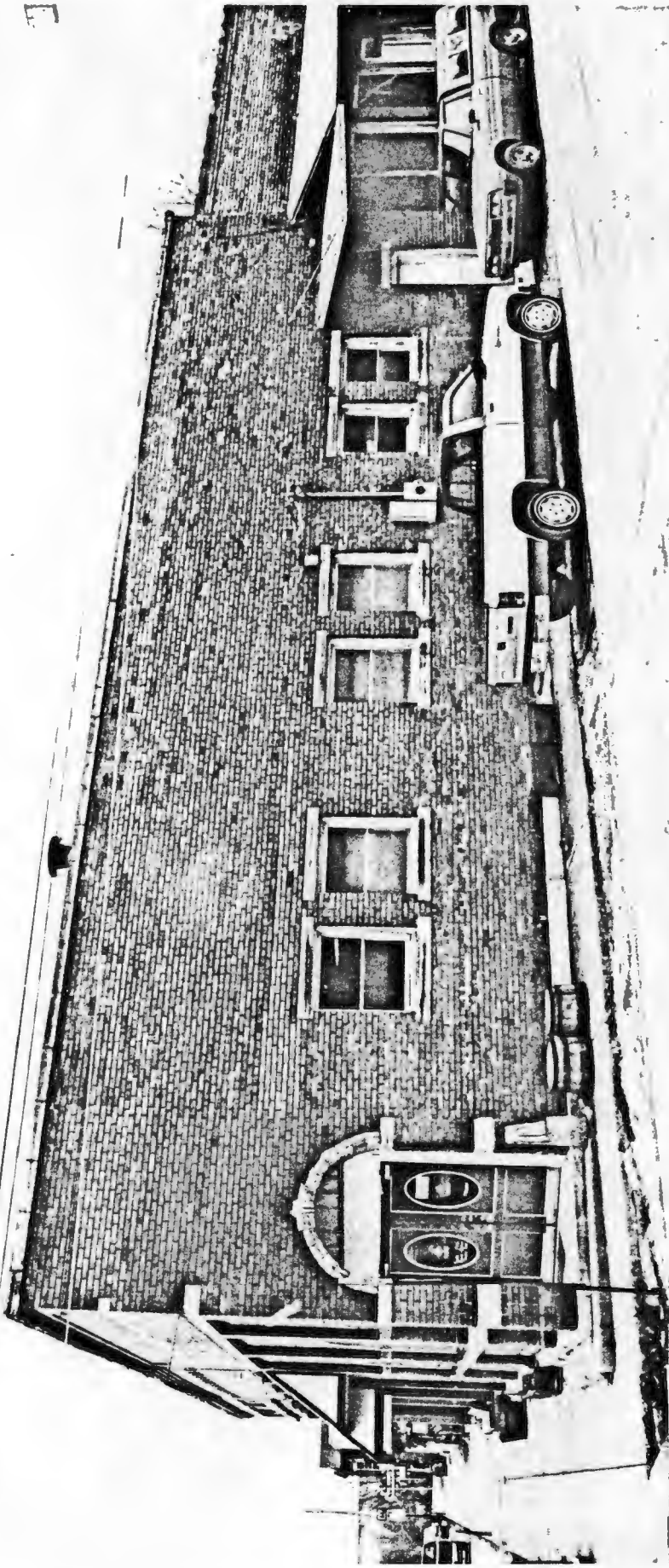
OPEN
SOUTH BEACH
COVE CREEK EXCHANGE

OPEN
SOUTH BEACH
COVE CREEK EXCHANGE

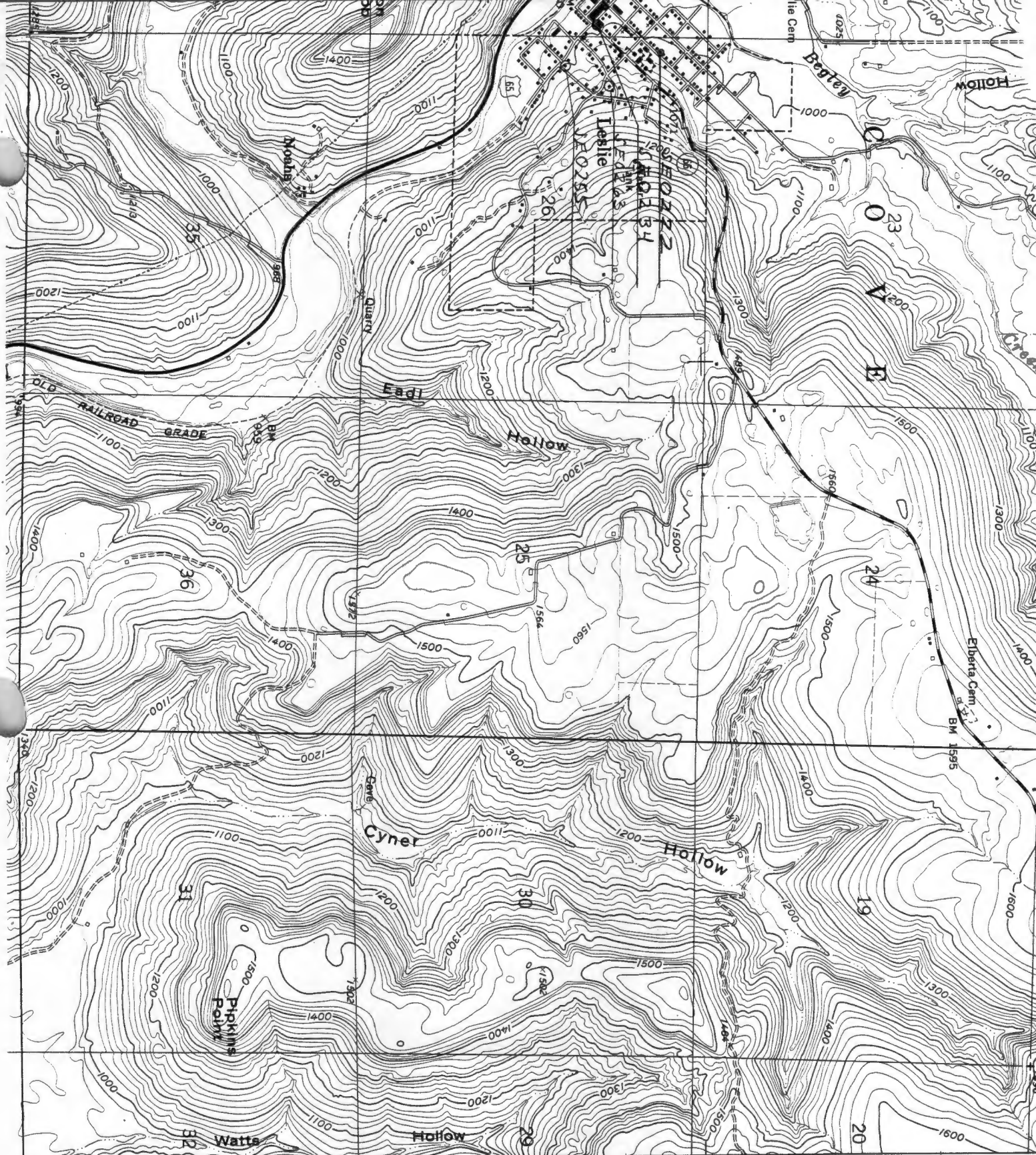
Farmers Bank Bldg.
Searcy Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zolner
January 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View of the southwest elevation



Farmers Bank Bldg.
Searcy Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
January 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the south



Farmers Bank Bldg.
Searcy Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zoller
January 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View of the southeast elevation



HISTORIC AND
ARCHITECTURAL
RESOURCES OF LEARY
CO., ARKANSAS
LEARY COUNTY,
ARKANSAS

3966

50'

SE 0222;
15/539740/3965020

3965

SE 0224;
15/539170/3968180

SE 0234;

15/539770/3964870

SE 0255;

15/540000/3964730

3964

SE 0263;
15/540010/3964990

T. 14 N.
T. 13 N.