

NR listed 4-18-85

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Hicks-Dugan- Deener House

and/or common Richard G. Deener House

2. Location

street & number 306 E. Center N/A not for publication

city, town Searcy N/A vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Arkansas code 05 county White code 145

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<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
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Richard Deener

street & number 306 E. Center

city, town Searcy N/A vicinity of _____ state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. White County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Searcy state AR

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title White County Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no n/a

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ark. Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

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		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Located on East Center Street, only two and a half blocks from the original commercial district of Searcy, the Hicks-Dugan-Deener House is a Greek Revival residence constructed c. 1855. Reflecting the evolution of both the needs and tastes of its occupants, the house, occupied continuously by the same family since 1869, has had several significant additions and alterations. The design of the structure is typical of the numerous antebellum Greek Revival residences once more plentiful in Searcy's older neighborhoods.

ELABORATION

The Hicks-Dugan-Deener House is similar in design to other Greek Revival structures, several of which remain, that were constructed in Searcy during the mid-nineteenth century. While the family history of the occupants is known, the builder and designer of this c.1855 structure are not.

Located on an ample city lot in a residential area in close proximity to Searcy's downtown, the Hicks-Dugan-Deener House is a one story frame building, the front elevation of which is dominated by an imposing three bay pedimented front porch that is supported by four rectangular columns with simple caps. The original portion of the house, which originally had a central hall plan, has a symmetrical front elevation consisting of a central entrance framed by the porch and flanked on either side by two six-over-six double-hung windows. A three-sided gable-roofed dining room addition, constructed after the Civil War and before 1900, projects from the southeast corner. Two additions and several alterations have been made to the rear. Other additions to the front facade include the shed roofs, also supported by rectangular columns, that cover the porch extensions on either side of the original three bay gable-roofed porch.

The house rests on a continuous brick foundation. The original portion of the structure is sided with weatherboards, while the dining room addition displays novelty siding. The original roof covering has been replaced with asphalt shingles. Two interior brick chimneys penetrate the roof, one at either end of the original central hall structure.

The front entrance, which is surrounded by flush board siding, consists of a wood door with arched upper panels. A two-light operable transom is positioned above. The windows of the front facade are equipped with operable shutters whereas the majority of those located elsewhere are inoperable.

The turn-of-the-century three-sided addition at the southeast corner of the front elevation has a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows. The returns of the gable end add interest to this addition, which is clad with novelty siding.

The east side elevation clearly reflects three separate phases of construction. The dining room addition features a single two-over-two double-hung window and a clipped gable roof at its north end. Extending to the rear is an enclosed porch to which was attached a schoolroom structure sometime during the late

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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1880's. The single room schoolroom originally occupied another location on the site and was attached to the house by a hall connection, most probably to provide additional bedroom space. The shed-roofed porch between the dining room and schoolroom additions was enclosed at an unknown date to accommodate a kitchen. The kitchen has a wood door with four vertical lights, to the right of which is positioned a row of four small six-over-six double-hung windows. The schoolroom addition has a hipped roof and a pair of nine-over-six double-hung windows.

The rear (north) elevation reveals the schoolroom addition, without any fenestration, which merges with a slightly projecting gable-roofed bedroom and bath addition which was constructed prior to 1900. A pair of eight-over-eight double-hung windows are located in the north end wall of the bedroom. The bedroom addition, which extends slightly beyond the midpoint of the original house, has a recessed side entrance on its west side. It is probable that the west side of this addition originally had a side porch, a portion of which has been enclosed. Projecting from the rear (north) corner of the central hall portion of the house is a shed-roofed bedroom extension clad in novelty siding with a small four-light square window, a four-over-four double-hung window and a door. Evidence suggests that if not original, this bedroom was added shortly after the house was constructed.

The west side is the only elevation of the house to reveal the saltbox roof profile. Two four-over-four windows of different sizes are positioned to the left of the interior chimney.

The interior underwent substantial alterations in 1933, at which time the central hall was removed, resulting in a large front room. The rear hall door now provides access to a closet, though it originally would have led to a rear porch. The windows and doors in this room possess very simple surrounds. Other trim includes simple baseboards and a picture moulding. The ceiling is ten feet in height, with the windows almost as tall. This portion of the house was refloored during the 1933 alterations, but the original random width pine floors remain in the additions. Three wood doors with two vertical panels and rimlocks are located in the rear wall of this room. The center door leads to the closet, the door to the left to the bedroom and the door to the right to the library. Matching walnut mantels highlight the large brick fireplaces, The west (left) mantel is original, while the east (right) mantel replaces the original which was constructed of pine. Walnut shelves and cupboards to one side of each mantel were added in 1933.

A door to the right of the east fireplace leads to the dining room. Door and window surrounds match those found in the living room. A swinging door in the north wall leads to the kitchen, which in turn leads to a small hall that connects the bedroom and schoolroom additions. The library also has a north door leading to this hall, off of which is located a bathroom.

The site previously possessed a cowshed and chicken houses, but these were demolished approximately sixty years ago.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates c. 1855 **Builder Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed circa 1855, the Hicks-Dugan-Deener House has provided a home for a series of prominent related families in Searcy in White County. This simple home which embraces many of the elements of the Greek Revival style, was purchased in 1969 by William Hicks whose family had rented the house since shortly after its construction. The house and land were acquired from General Dandridge McRae. As one of the few remaining examples of the Greek Revival cottages built in Searcy prior to the Civil War and as the home of citizens who made valuable contributions to the community, the Hicks-Dugan-Deener House is certainly a significant historic resource.

ELABORATION

In the 1850's Howell Hicks and his wife, Sally, moved from North Carolina to the Searcy Valley in Arkansas. The Valley was being settled by people from the older Southern states, especially those boarding the Atlantic Ocean. According to Raymond Lee Muncy in his book Searcy, Arkansas: A Frontier Town Grows Up With America, Howell Hicks was one of the earliest lawyers in Searcy. Howell Hicks died in 1859 leaving a widow, three daughters, and three sons. One of these sons was William Hicks who following his return from the Civil War, during which he served in the Confederate Army as a Lt. Colonel, purchased the home on Center Street which his family had been renting and gave it to his mother. The purchase was made from Dandridge McRae who served as a Confederate General during the Civil War.

William Hicks was an attorney who also served as president of the Searcy Male and Female Academy. Following his return to Searcy after the Civil War, Hicks served as a senator in the Arkansas General Assembly. He died in 1869.

Following the death of Sally Hicks, the house on Center Street went to her daughter, Sarah Hicks Dugan. During this time the house became a two-family residence. After her death the house was occupied by her son, Walter C. Dugan. Dugan owned the Searcy and Heber Telephone Company. Dugan died in 1933 and the house was acquired by Richard Deener and his wife, Elizabeth Sharpe Deener.

Deener, who is the great-nephew of William Hicks, was educated at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. The Great Depression ended Deener's plans to manufacture bricks in Knoxville. He returned to Searcy and became a cotton buyer. In 1961, he became Executive Director of the Searcy Housing Authority and oversaw the construction of public housing units in Searcy. Retired, Richard Deener continues to occupy his family home.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Muncy, Raymond Lee; Searcy, Arkansas: A Frontier Town Grows Up With America. Searcy: Harding Press, 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Kensett, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	9	61	5	46	0	3	9	01	1	10
Zone	Easting			Northing						

B

Zone	Easting			Northing						

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 9 and 10, Block 25 of the original town of Searcy.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Information provided by Richard Deener, ed. by AHPP staff

organization owner date February, 1985

street & number 306 E. Center telephone 501-268-3520

city or town Searcy 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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 3-13-85

For NPS use only

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

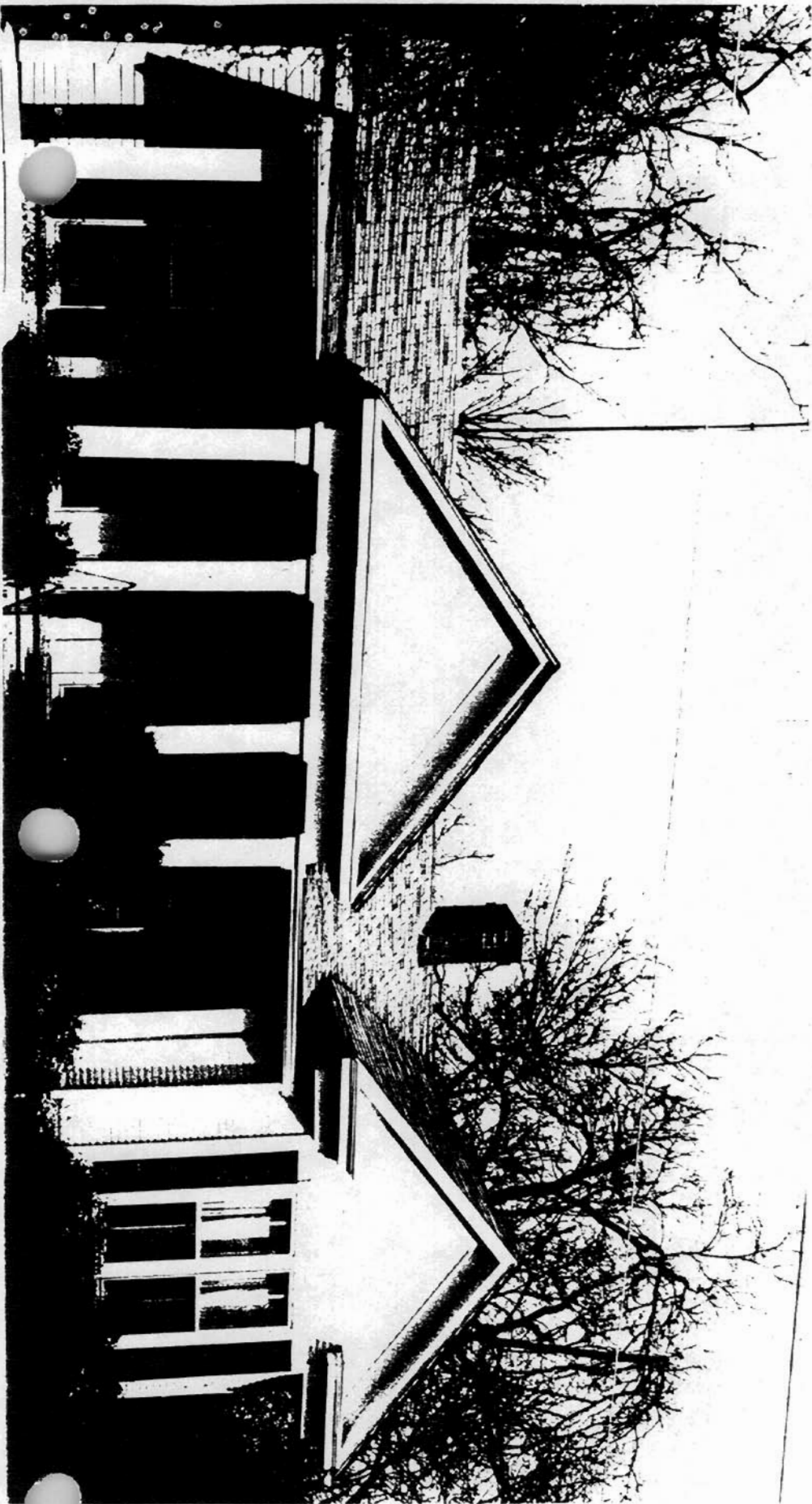
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration







3891

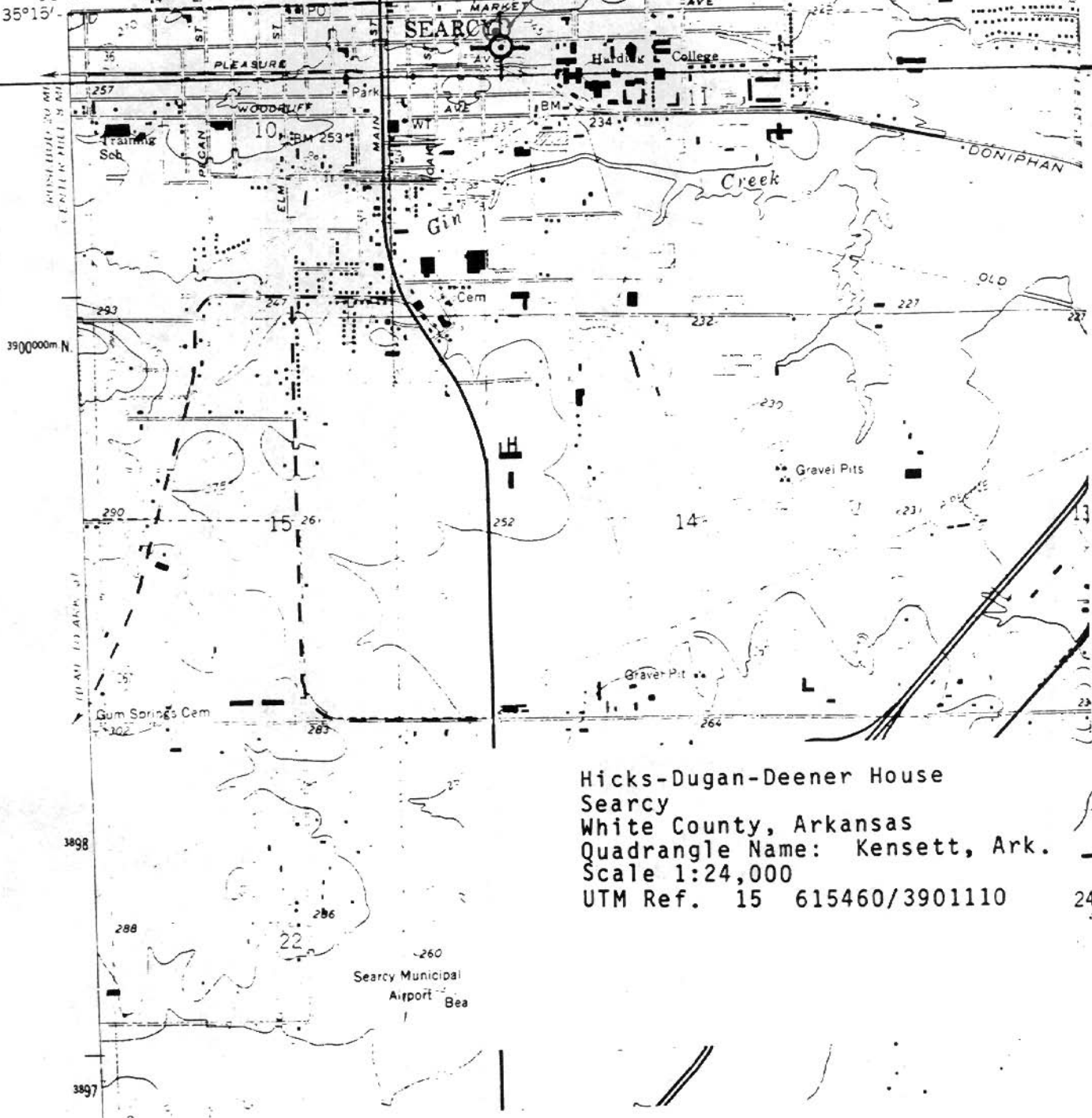
7054 IV SE
(LETONA)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

correct
location;
previous
mapping is on wrong side of
street. Joe

91°45'
35°15'

614000m E



3900000m N

3898

Hicks-Dugan-Deener House
Searcy
White County, Arkansas
Quadrangle Name: Kensett, Ark.
Scale 1:24,000
UTM Ref. 15 615460/3901110

24

3897

Searcy Municipal
Airport
Bea