

NRListed 7/12/92

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cypert, Jesse N. Law Office other names/site number Resource #WH0026

2. Location

street & number 104 East Race Street not for publication N/A city, town Searcy vicinity N/A state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72143

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property (private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal), Category of Property (building(s), district, site, structure, object), and Number of Resources within Property (Contributing, Noncontributing buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total).

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

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Catherine St. Buford Date: 5-13-90 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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

5. National Park Service Certification

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade / Law Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/ Professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Commercial Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1880-1942 _____

Significant Dates: 1880 _____

Significant Person(s): Cypert, Jesse N.
Cypert, Eugene

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 White County, Arkansas," Section

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

=====

Creage of Property: _____

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A _____ _____ B _____ _____

C _____ _____ D _____ _____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Jill Bayles, Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 21 March, 1990

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Commercial buildings of the Railroad Era (1870-1914) mirrored current architectural trends. Builders during this period in White County did not construct many high-style buildings; they instead used architectural details from these styles to elaborate their basically vernacular buildings. The Jesse N. Cypert Law Office is no exception to this.

Located at 104 E. Race Street, this building was constructed less than one block northeast of the courthouse square in Searcy. The building is one-story in height, rectangular in shape and of brick construction. Even though it was constructed c. 1880, it is still in good condition. Its main, or south elevation consists of centrally placed double doors that are flanked by double-pane fixed frame windows. Facade decoration consists of three corbelled brick bays housing the doors and windows. A single metal vent is found in the upper portions of each bay; a simple decorative brick cornice caps the structure. The building has a flat roof with parapet. A single centrally placed door accesses the north elevation of the structure. Two symmetrically arranged corbelled brick chimneys are found along the interior wall of the east elevation.

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Significance

Through the years this building has housed not only the law office but also a bus stop, cafe and currently an abstract company. This structure, however, is significant by virtue of the fact that between the years 1880 and 1942 (the end of the historic period) it housed the Cypert Law Firm, and thus remains the historic resource in Searcy most closely associated with both Jesse N. Cypert, the founder of the law firm, and his son Eugene, who carried on his father's professional and political legacy into the twentieth century. The building is also significant for its being the best preserved example in Searcy of a simple, commercial storefront building with impressive panel brick details.

Jesse N. Cypert was born in Wayne County, Tennessee in 1823. He grew up in this county and studied law there. Sometime after 1849, he moved to Georgia before coming to Crittenden County, Arkansas, in 1858. Cypert moved to Searcy in 1861 and opened his law practice as well as being an editor of the town's newspaper. He was also part of a group of attorneys that laid the groundwork for organizing a state bar association. Soon after, however, he joined the Confederate army and rose to the rank of major. After the war he returned to his law practice and continued in it until at least 1890. Between the years of 1880 and 1890 he conducted his practice from within the confines of this building.

In addition, Cypert was very active in local and state politics. Prior to the construction of this building he served in the conventions that both voted to secede from the union and the one that admitted Arkansas back into the union, and in 1874 was in the convention that furnished the state's new, post-Reconstruction constitution. He also served as judge of the First Judicial Circuit and was a member of the Searcy Town Council. Cypert ran for the legislature on the temperance question in 1854 and later in 1882 became the President of the Temperance Alliance. He was also a member of the Masons. Jesse N. Cypert was appointed to the building committee that was responsible for constructing the First United Methodist Church in Searcy (See enclosed nomination for details). From 1883 until 1886 he was also a member of the Searcy School Board.

His only son, Eugene, later became a junior partner of the Cypert Law Firm. Eugene Cypert carried on his father's tradition with regards to being a prominent citizen of Searcy; his list of accomplishments is almost as long as his father's. Eugene Cypert was appointed in 1909 to be one of the Bridge Commissioners that was ultimately responsible for bridging the Little Red River just north of Searcy. From 1908 until 1912, Cypert served on the Searcy School Board just like his father had previously. In 1927 he served on the committee responsible for

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getting the Arkansas State Highway Commission to build highways through Searcy. Cypert also served on Searcy's centennial committee in 1937 and, prior to this in 1928, was selected as the historian for the Sons of Confederate Veterans.

The Jesse N. Cypert Law Office is also significant by virtue of its standing as the best surviving example of a single-story, panel brick commercial building in the town of Searcy. Though it is essentially a simple, restrained commercial building, the quality of the panel brick detailing on the parapet above the first floor is exceptional. The turning of the brick to form the dentil course just beneath the parapet top; the corbelling of the brick directly above each of the panels; and the corbelling of the brick courses at either end of the panel section to form pendils and other decorative features remains the most ornamental application of this vernacular style locally.

For the above stated reasons the Jesse N. Cypert Law Office is being nominated under both Criterion B and C with local significance.

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Acreeage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

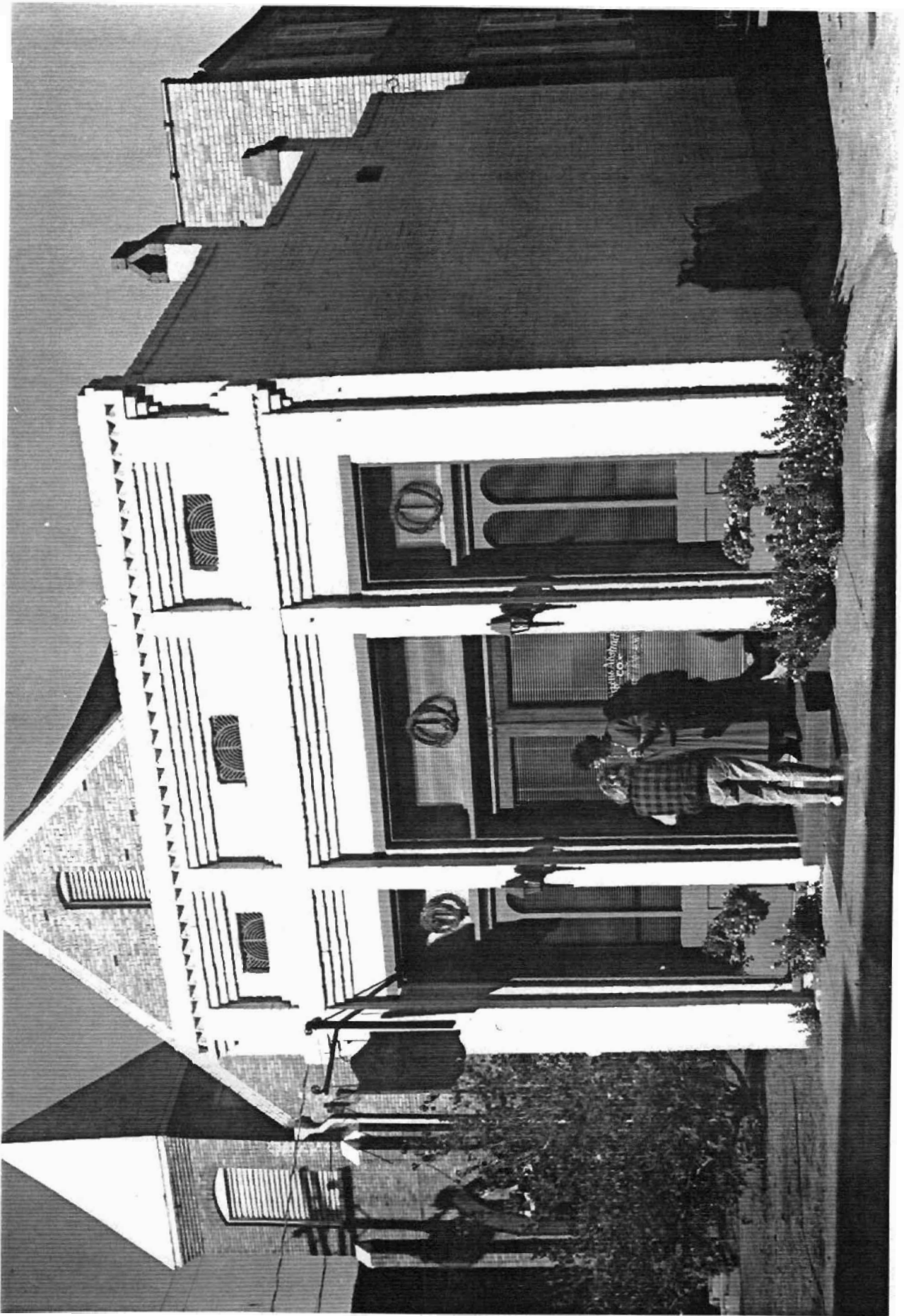
A 15/614910/3901410

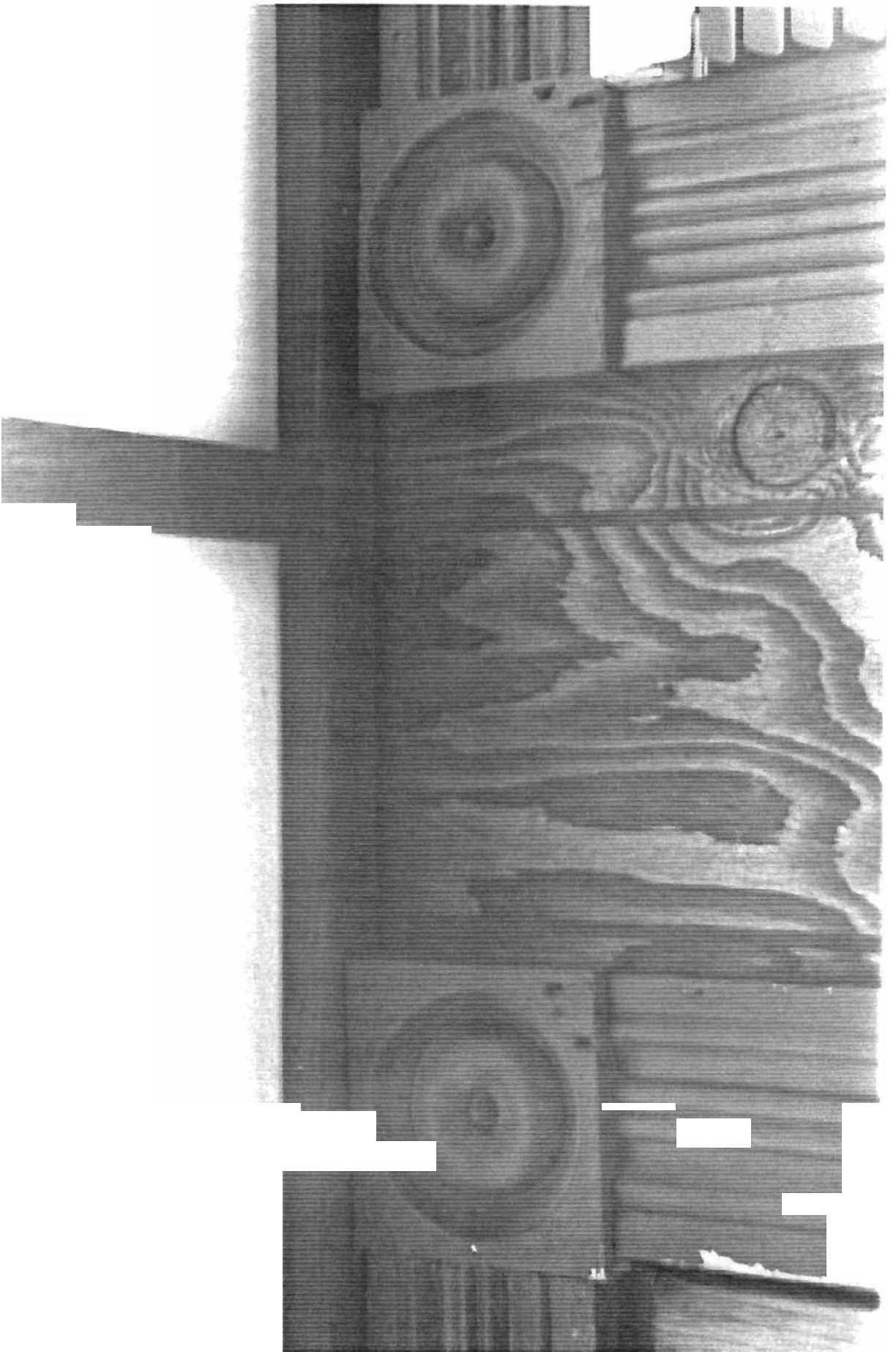
Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the northern edge of Race Street with a perpendicular line running along the eastern elevation of the building, proceed northerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern elevation of the building; thence proceed westerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western elevation of the building; thence proceed southerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with the northern edge of Race Street; thence proceed easterly to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.



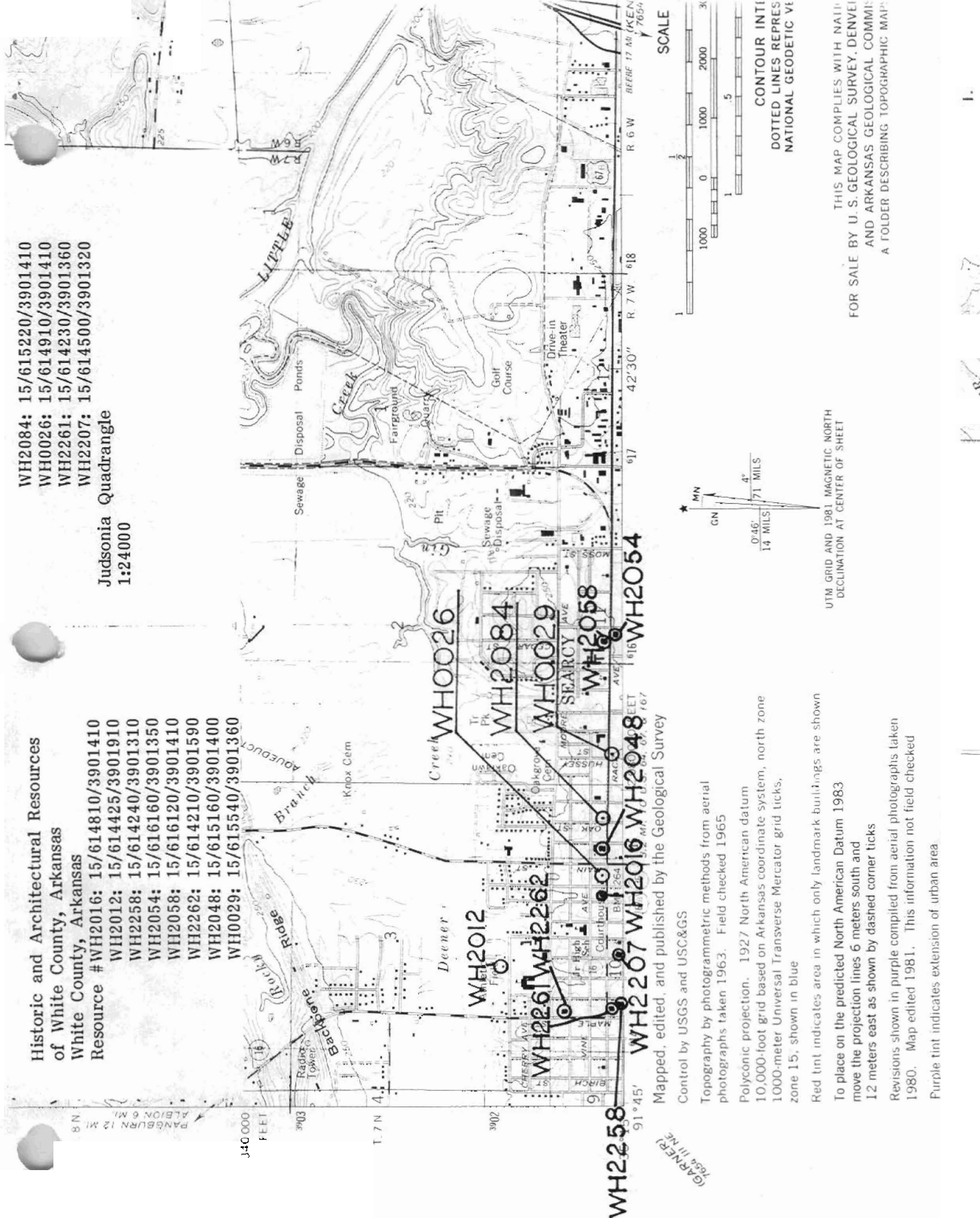


Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas
White County, Arkansas
Resource #

- WH2016: 15/614810/3901410
- WH2012: 15/614425/3901910
- WH2258: 15/614240/3901310
- WH2054: 15/616160/3901350
- WH2058: 15/616120/3901410
- WH2262: 15/614210/3901590
- WH2048: 15/615160/3901400
- WH0029: 15/615540/3901360

- WH2084: 15/615220/3901410
- WH0026: 15/614910/3901410
- WH2261: 15/614230/3901360
- WH2207: 15/614500/3901320

Judsonia Quadrangle
1:24000



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
12 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken
1980. Map edited 1981. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NAHD
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMIS
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

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DOTTED LINES REPRESENTS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VE

