

LISTED 09/05/91

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 Churchill-Hilger House  
other names/site number Resource #WH0250

2. Location

street & number Main & Searcy Streets not for publication N/A  
city, town Pangburn vicinity N/A  
state Arkansas White code 145 zip code 72121

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>        </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>        </u>	<u>        </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u>        </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u>0</u> 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.

Catherine A. Buford 5-13-90  
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

\_\_\_\_\_  
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)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular/ Craftsman  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick  
walls weatherboard  
roof asphalt shingle  
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:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1914

1914-1917

Significant Dates

1914

NA

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Churchill, Harry

Architect/Builder

Churchill, Harry

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property \_\_\_\_\_

**UTM References**

A              
Zone Easting Northing

B              
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 13 April, 1990  
street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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Description

The Churchill-Hilger House is a one-and-one-half story, plain vernacular wood frame residence with early Craftsman influences and dominated by an L-shaped recessed porch on its northern or front elevation and a hipped, bellcast roof lighted by three large, bellcast roof dormers. The plan is essentially rectangular and is entered via a single-leaf door at the back of the recessed front porch and two separate single-leaf entries in the southwest recessed porch. Two interior brick chimneys rise through the roof, one through the short ridge at the top of the hipped roof and the other through the western slope to the south of the dormer. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, the walls are sheathed in weatherboard, and the entire structure sits upon a continuous brick foundation.

The northern or front elevation consists of the low, bellcast roof and its bellcast dormer covering the recessed, L-shaped porch. The dormer is lighted with a pair of one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows, and the northern and western walls of the L-shaped porch below are lighted with a total of three large, one-over-one double-hung wood sash windows. The sole, single-leaf entry is placed to the rear of the porch. The recessed porch is supported on six sloping wood box columns which rest on brick piers. The wood porch platform is accessed by two low brick stairs with stoops, one on the northern elevation and one on the western elevation. Any decoration is restricted to the long, thin cornice brackets beneath both the roof and the dormer, the sloping Craftsman columns, and the brick stoops.

The eastern elevation is lighted by an identical bellcast roof dormer and three of the same large one-over-one windows as seen on the northern elevation. Two of these windows are placed to the north and one to the south, with a single, smaller one-over-one wood sash window in between. The western elevation also features the same bellcast roof dormer. Three grouped one-over-one wood sash windows light the wall just to the south of the porch and a grouped pair of these windows are placed near the wall of the closed southwest porch.

The southern elevation is entered by the recessed porch to the west, which contains two entries (one in the southern wall and one in the western interior wall) and a window near the western wall of the house. The rear wall to the east is lighted by a pair of small, one-over-one wood sash windows and a larger pair of one-over-one wood sash windows.

The interior is largely intact and features the same simple moldings as seen on the exterior; the entire structure is largely unaltered and in good condition.

Two small associated wood frame outbuildings, a gable roof garage and a hipped roof storage shed, are included in the nomination.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Significance

The Churchill-Hilger House, named for Harry Churchill and Capt. L.W. Hilger, the historic residents of the house, is being nominated under both Criteria B and C with local significance: under Criterion B for its association with its original builder, Harry Churchill, the man who was in great part responsible for the early twentieth century growth and prosperity of the town of Pangburn; and under Criterion C for its being one of the earliest structures in the community to display Craftsman influences and one of the finest combinations of this style with an otherwise simple vernacular design.

Harry Churchill arrived in Pangburn, Arkansas, in 1899 with his wife of one year, Kate. Originally from Linn Creek, Missouri, Churchill came to Pangburn and the woods surrounding it as a representative of the Western Tie and Timber Company. His purpose was to purchase the best available virgin oak timber for the cutting of crossties and stavebolts. After doing so he hired many of the local residents to hew ties, an act which made him extremely popular with a local populace which had suffered the ravages of two consecutive poor crop years and was grateful for the employment. Churchill expanded the production of crossties to the point that by 1904 he was floating 24,000 crossties annually down the Little Red River to the nearest railroad spur in Judsonia. His estimated profit was 40 cents per tie, which by 1904 left him personally with sufficient funds to hire Jim Bunch, a friend and business associate, to manage the business for him.

Harry Churchill handed over the management of his lucrative crosstie business so that he would have more time to pursue his dream of obtaining a railroad for Pangburn. Churchill's vision of bringing a railroad line to this small town was motivated by more than his interest in procuring cheaper transportation for his crossties; since his arrival in 1899 Churchill had dreamed of transforming the economically depressed, isolated village of Pangburn into a prosperous, bustling town. In 1904-05 he made numerous trips to Harrison, Arkansas, the location of the division headquarters for the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Company (M&NA). Churchill attempted to make the argument to the railroad that a line through the mountainous, desolate Ozarks would open a territory filled with an array of virtually untapped natural resources the exploitation of which would prove extremely profitable. Much to the surprise of virtually everyone, in 1906 the M&NA announced their intentions to construct a line across the 260 miles from Harrison to Helena, on the Mississippi River. On July 16, 1908, the first train came to Pangburn and brought with it the greater access to the outside world and its markets of which Harry Churchill had dreamed.

The materialization of the promised railroad also resulted in the virtual redesign of the town, which would now orient itself to the railroad in virtually every possible fashion. New streets were laid out, easements obtained for sewer and water lines, and buildings demolished or relocated in response to the new focus of the town's activities. By 1912, Churchill, Austin Pangburn (the son of the store owner for which the town was named), and several others had prepared and assembled all the legal documents necessary to the incorporation of the town. On July 15 of that year, Pangburn became incorporated.

The effect of the railroad on the town was dramatic. Pangburn grew from a town with a total population of 25 in 1899 to 1,200 by the fall of 1912. Four cotton gins now operated where one had sufficed before. Sawmills, planing mills, and a stave mill sprang up along the railroad tracks. Churchill himself constructed five white brick store buildings in Pangburn in 1914, the same year he was granted a charter for Pangburn's first bank. He also donated seven acres of land for the construction of a new school and playground. By 1916 the six-block commercial center of Pangburn sheltered a variety of businesses, including a movie and opera house.

Though Churchill departed the town in 1917 after a series of misunderstandings and unsubstantiated allegations regarding his bank and its investment practices, Pangburn's prosperity continued well into the Depression and it remained an important commercial center for timber and timber products. However, the development and growth enjoyed by the citizens of Pangburn owed its genesis to the community spirit of Harry Churchill and his vision

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of a greater, more vital town which he worked so hard to realize.

It was the year 1914 also that Harry Churchill built this home for himself and his wife. At the time it was considered a rather lavish residence, and by Pangburn standards that may have very well been true. The design is an interesting combination of relatively familiar vernacular elements (the recessed porch, the bellcast roof and dormers) with elements clearly drawn from the Craftsman vocabulary (the sloping, square columns set upon brick piers, the rather restrained cornice brackets). The entire composition presents an extremely clean, restrained appearance, with its asymmetrical, recessed porch creating an interesting counterpoint with the otherwise symmetrical facade which is underscored by the bellcast dormers echoing the shape of the roof. All of the elements are successfully synthesized into a unified design of simple elegance and proportion.

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Acresage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

A 15/605660/3920750

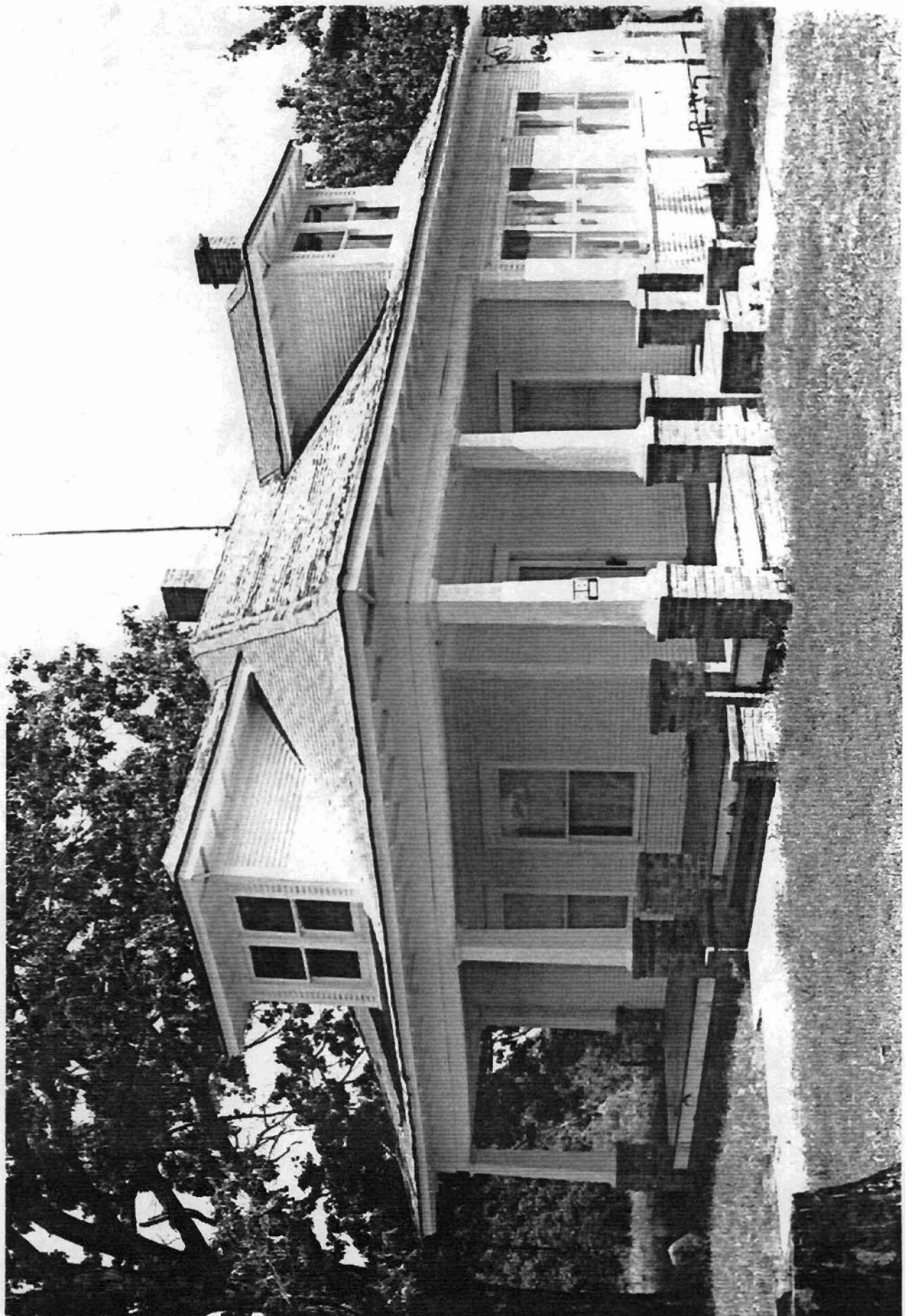
Verbal Boundary Description:

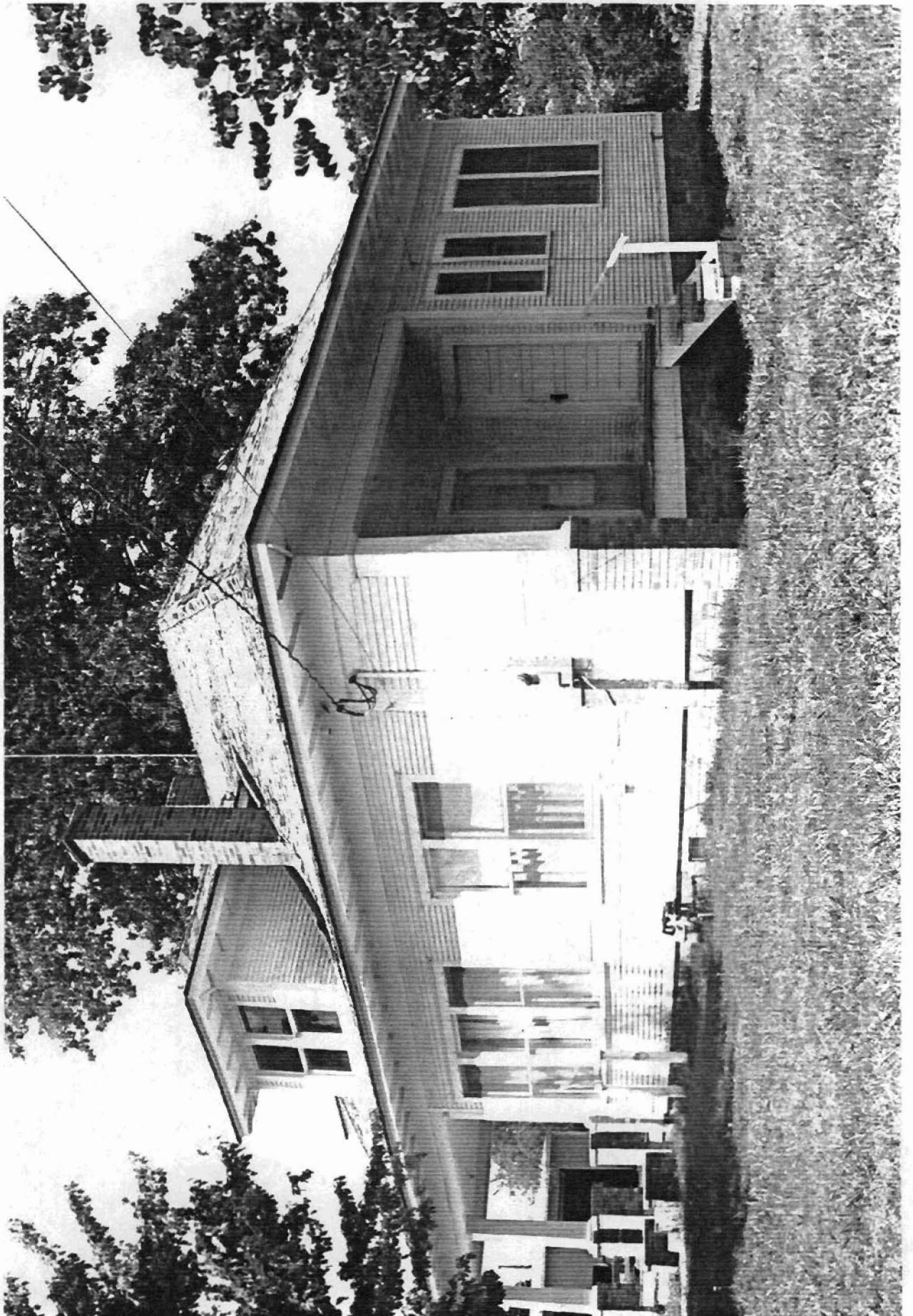
Lots 5-8, Block 12 of the of the Second Churchill Addition to the Davis Addition to the Town of Pangburn.

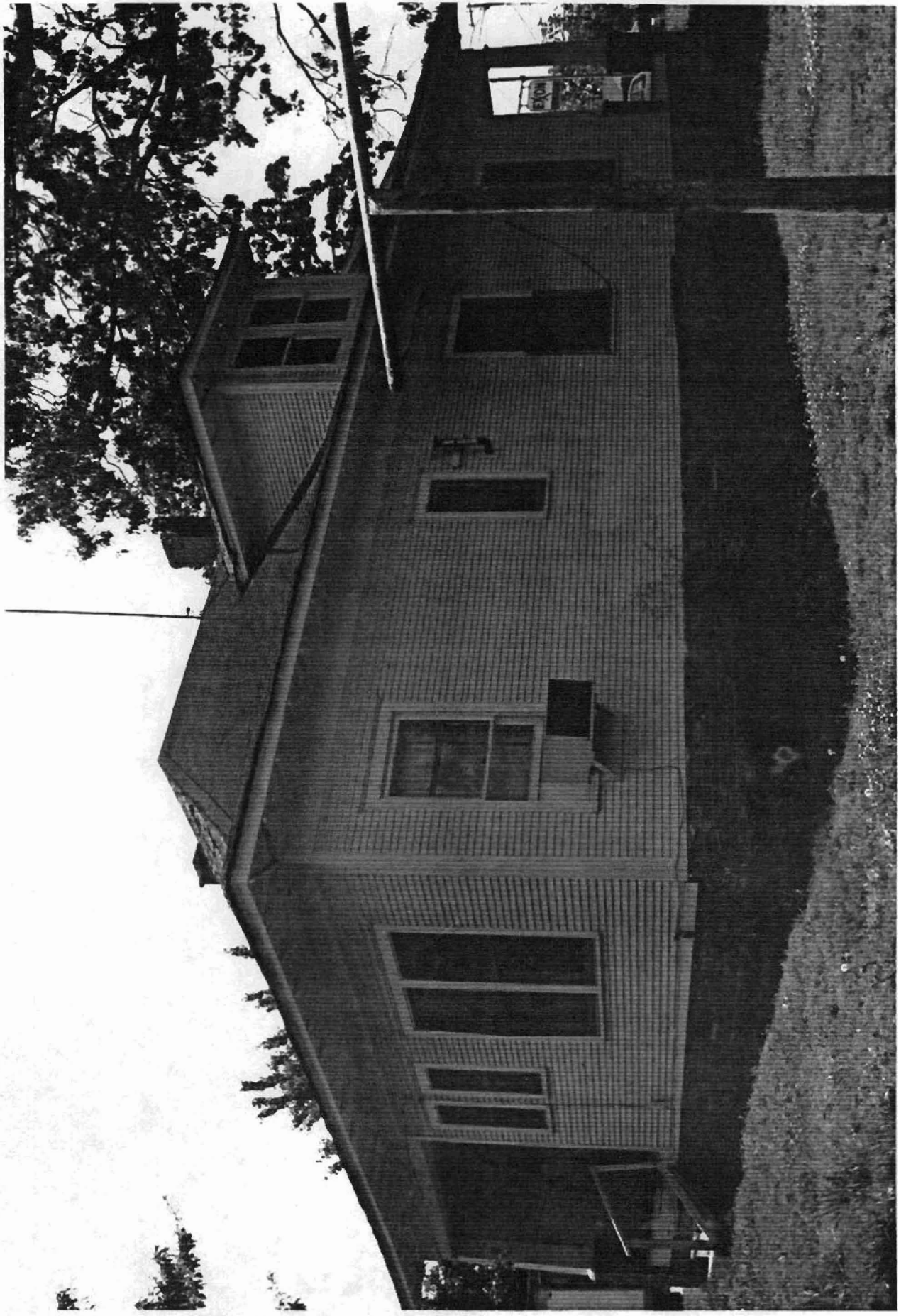
Boundary Justification:

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



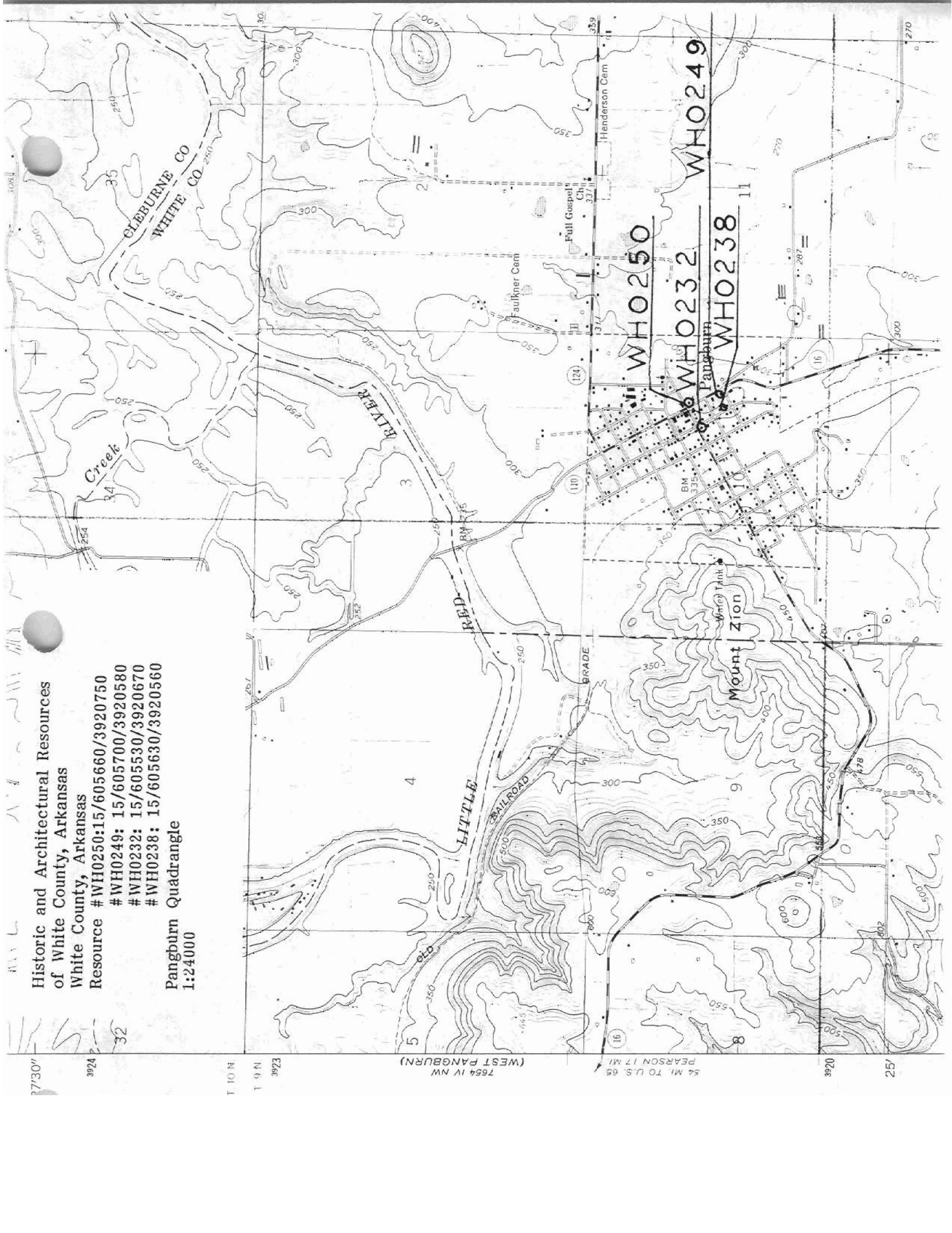








Historic and Architectural Resources  
 of White County, Arkansas  
 White County, Arkansas  
 Resource #WH0250:15/605660/3920750  
 #WH0249: 15/605700/3920580  
 #WH0232: 15/605530/3920670  
 #WH0238: 15/605630/3920560  
 Pangburn Quadrangle  
 1:24000



WHO250  
 WHO232  
 WHO238  
 WHO249