

NR 10-23-86

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 Alfred W. Henson House

and/or common Henson House

2. Location

street & number 111 Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Judsonia

N/A vicinity of

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Care Facility

4. Owner of Property

name James and Linda Carter

street & number 111 Main Street

city, town Judsonia

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

Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____

state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Perhaps the finest example of Neoclassical architecture in the area, the Henson House is one of the oldest structures in Judsonia. Constructed in 1884 then remodeled from a simple two-story wood frame house with a full-width two-story porch in c. 1920, this imposing, stuccoed structure features a full-width, two-story porch with double ionic columns and a full pediment. Separated from Main Street by an ornate iron fence, the structure is located on a spacious half-block lot and is surrounded by a garden, carriage house and lily pond.

ELABORATION

The Henson House and grounds occupy a half-block; lots four, five and six on Main Street, located one block west of Van Buren Street, the town's major thoroughfare. Remodeled c. 1920, the structure, embellished with ornate ionic columns, a dentiled cornice and modillions, is now a rich example of Neoclassical architecture.

The hipped roof, pierced by gables on each side and a pediment in front, is covered with flat slate shingles. Each gable contains a lunette with keystone and the single chimney rises from just right of center.

The facade of the building is symmetrical except for a one-story sun parlor extending from the front south side of the structure. The pedimented full-height entry porch is supported by full-height, fluted, double columns with ionic capitals and single engaged columns at the back. The eaves are adorned in modillions and the cornice, both first and second story, are lined with dentils. The second-story porch is supported by fluted, double, ionic columns in the front and a rare three on each side. Low, spindled balusters surround the first and second-story porches.

All first-story windows are double-hung, six-over-six panes with simple entablatures at the top. The sun parlor addition is surrounded by a ribbon of casement windows with eight panes in each.

The ten-pane door is flanked with sidelights and crowned with a transom and entablature. The second-story door is also flanked with sidelights but does not possess the transom or entablature.

The interior of the house begins with a small central hall with a three-sided rear terminus. The stairs ascend from the back, south side of the hall with doors on either side of the stair that lead to the southern rooms. Both doors lead to the living room containing a fireplace on the north wall. A large entryway leads to the sun parlor addition on the south. The west wall of the living room contains a doorway that opens to the back hall. A bathroom lies to the immediate left of the doorway on the south and the rest of the wall is centered with double doors, ten panes each with sidelights.

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The north wing begins with two evenly-spaced doorways; the first leads to the parlor and the second to the dining room. A door from this room leads to the kitchen as does a door from the back hall. A utility room runs the length of the kitchen on the back of the house.

The second floor unfolds a central hall identical to the one on the first floor. The second side has two doorways leading to spacious bedrooms. The back bedroom leads to a smaller room from which a back stair descends. The north side contains two bedrooms and a bath.

A breezeway supported by thin square posts topped with gentle arches leads from the utility room to the carriage house on the northwest side of the main structure. The carriage house was built during the remodeling and is a side-gable construction, approximately 18 x 30 feet with a protruding entryway, approximately 7 x 5 feet. The door is topped with a large entablature supported by brackets and the roof is topped with a small cupola. The wooden clapboard building was used as a carriage house, garage and shed by the Hensons and was then remodeled in the 1970's into a guest house with a living area, bed and bath.

A rectangular lily pond measuring approximately 21 x 6 x 3 lies to the south of the carriage house. Mature boxwoods surround the lily pond and other plants and shrubbery cover what must have composed a fine garden at one time.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1884, c. 1920 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1884 by John Debois and remodeled c. 1920 into the Neoclassical style, the Henson House is the grand structure of Judsonia and the only Neoclassical house in the area. Possessing such details as an imposing full-height porch, a dentiled cornice and modillioned eaves, the Henson House is a fine example of Neoclassical architecture. Inhabited by two generations of people who were instrumental in shaping and building the community, the house stands as a wonderful reminder of prosperous days past in Judsonia.

ELABORATION

The Alfred W. Henson House was remodeled c. 1920 from a simple two-story wood frame structure with a two-story front porch into a stylish Neoclassical structure. For example, the Henson House's imposing front features elaborate, correct, bulging ionic columns. Modillions line the eaves and dentils adorn the cornice. Most importantly the structure is the only one of its kind in the area.

Alfred Henson was the son of Alfred W. and Minerva Henson. Born in 1854, he and his family moved from Mississippi in 1857 to a farm outside Judsonia. Henson's father farmed and possibly had a store.

The elder Henson's death when A. W. was nine increased his responsibilities on his family's farm since he was the only male. Henson grew to be an ambitious young man and aspired to becoming a lawyer. He enrolled in classes at Judsona University but had to postpone his education due to lack of finances. He married Miss Rose Lee Meadows and opened a small business, Henson's Mercantile Store on Van Buren Street, the town's main thoroughfare.

The town of Judsonia was initially the product of steamboats traveling up and down Little Red River and docking at the town's original site on the River, Prospect Bluff, founded by Erastus Gregory in 1840. By the time Henson was in business Judsonia had moved from the high bluff on the river to its new location, closer to Judsona University founded by resettled northern Baptists. Also, the era of the steamboat had passed and the Cairo Fulton Railroad replaced the steamboats importance in Judsonia in 1872, the year of its completion.

Henson took advantage of the new mode of transportation and started buying goods in freight-car lots to supply the area's economic base of cotton and strawberry farmers with bulk goods. He enlarged his business twice, moving his business to a building still standing on Van Buren Street, and invested his money in state and out-of-state corporations. He was also a leader in the organization of the still operative Farmer's and Merchant's Bank of Judsonia and served as President from its inception until his death on January 1, 1929. His wife, Rose, had preceded him in 1923 at the age of 63 as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident.

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The couple had three children, John (b. 1894), Laura Lee (b. 1896) and Conally (b. 1903). Since the Hensons were devout Methodists, all three children attended Henderson College. In Laura Lee's freshman year an accident occurred in which her dress caught fire from standing too close to a stove. Laura Lee died from the severity of her burns. In memory of Laura Lee, a room was named for her at Henderson in College Hall, the administration building at that school until its demolition in 1965.

Conally became active in state politics. He served as Deputy State Revenue Commissioner under Bailey and was on the administrative staff of that department under the Faubus administration.

Upon his return from Henderson, John began working for his father at the mercantile store and lived at home. He continued to do both for the remainder of his life. John never married nor did he have close relatives at the time of his death. In his will he left the bulk of his estate, a sizeable amount, to the Arkansas Children's Hospital and the Methodist Children's Home. He also made arrangements for one-hundred dollars a month to be included on payment of the pastor at the First United Methodist Church of Judsonia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one Acre

Quadrangle name Judsonia, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 623625 319037110
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 4, 5, and 6, Block 16

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 Tanya L. Weber

organization Arkansas College Historic Preservation Program date September 9, 1986

street & number P. O. Box 489 telephone (501) 729-3322/834-4263

city or town Judsonia 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 *Tanya L. Weber*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9-17-86

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

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Orr, W. E. That's Judsonia. (Judsonia, White County Printing Company, 1957.)

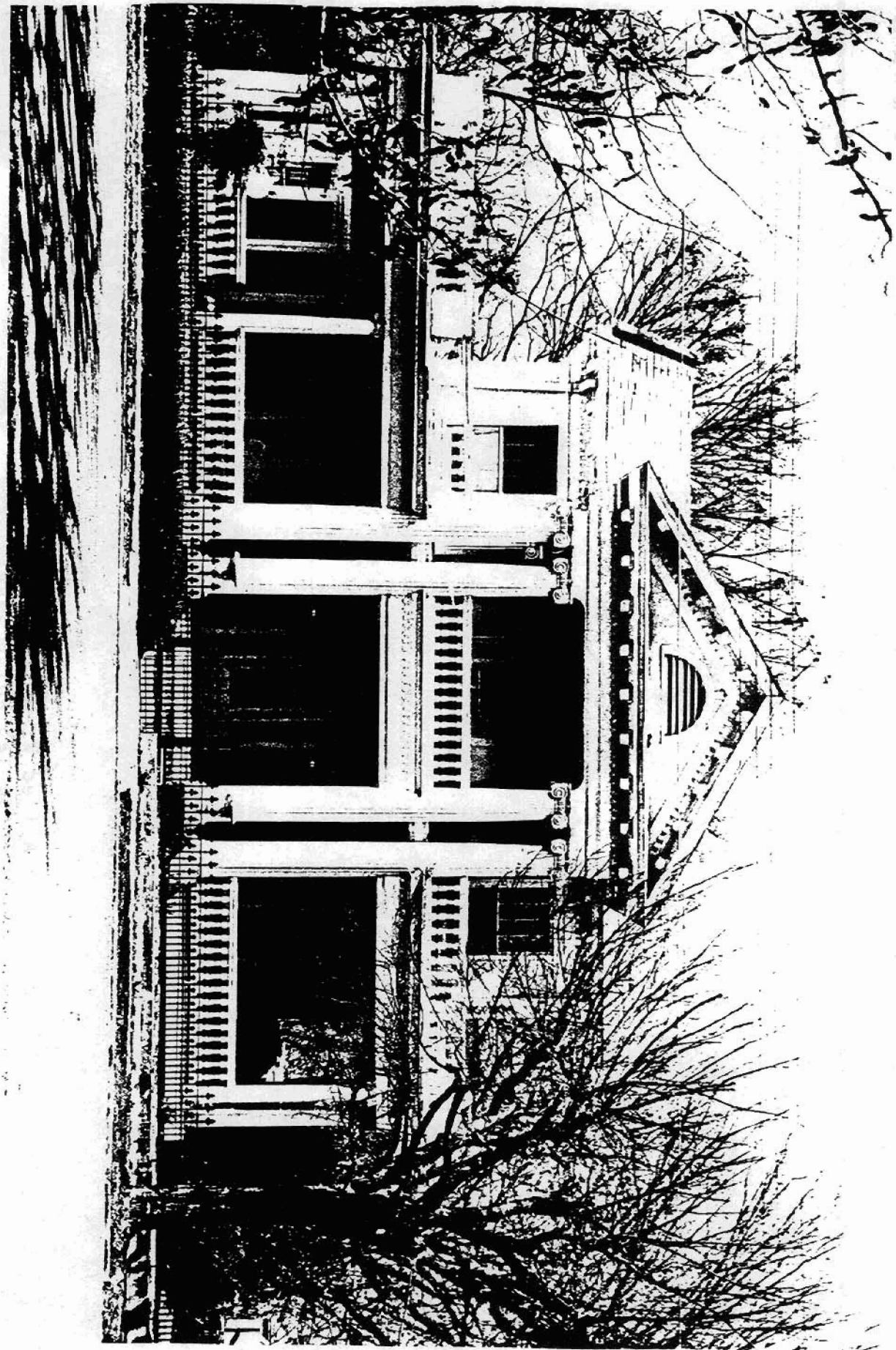
White County Probate Records

White County Deed Records

W. E. Orr

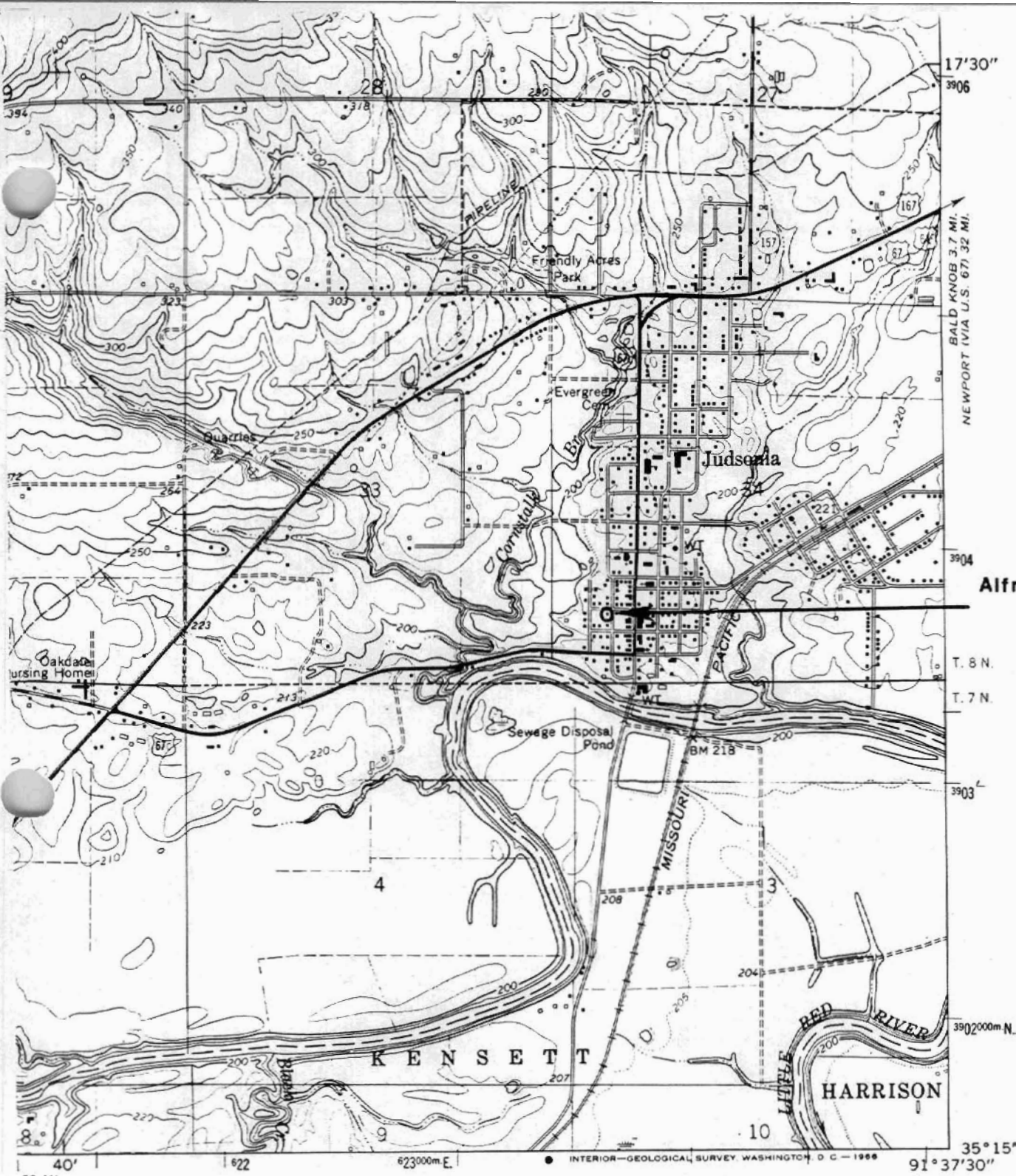
Sanborn - Ferris Maps

United States Census Records









**Alfred W. Hensor
House**

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty
- Medium-duty
- Light-duty
- Unimproved dirt
- U.S. Route
- State Route

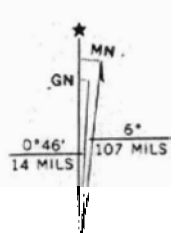
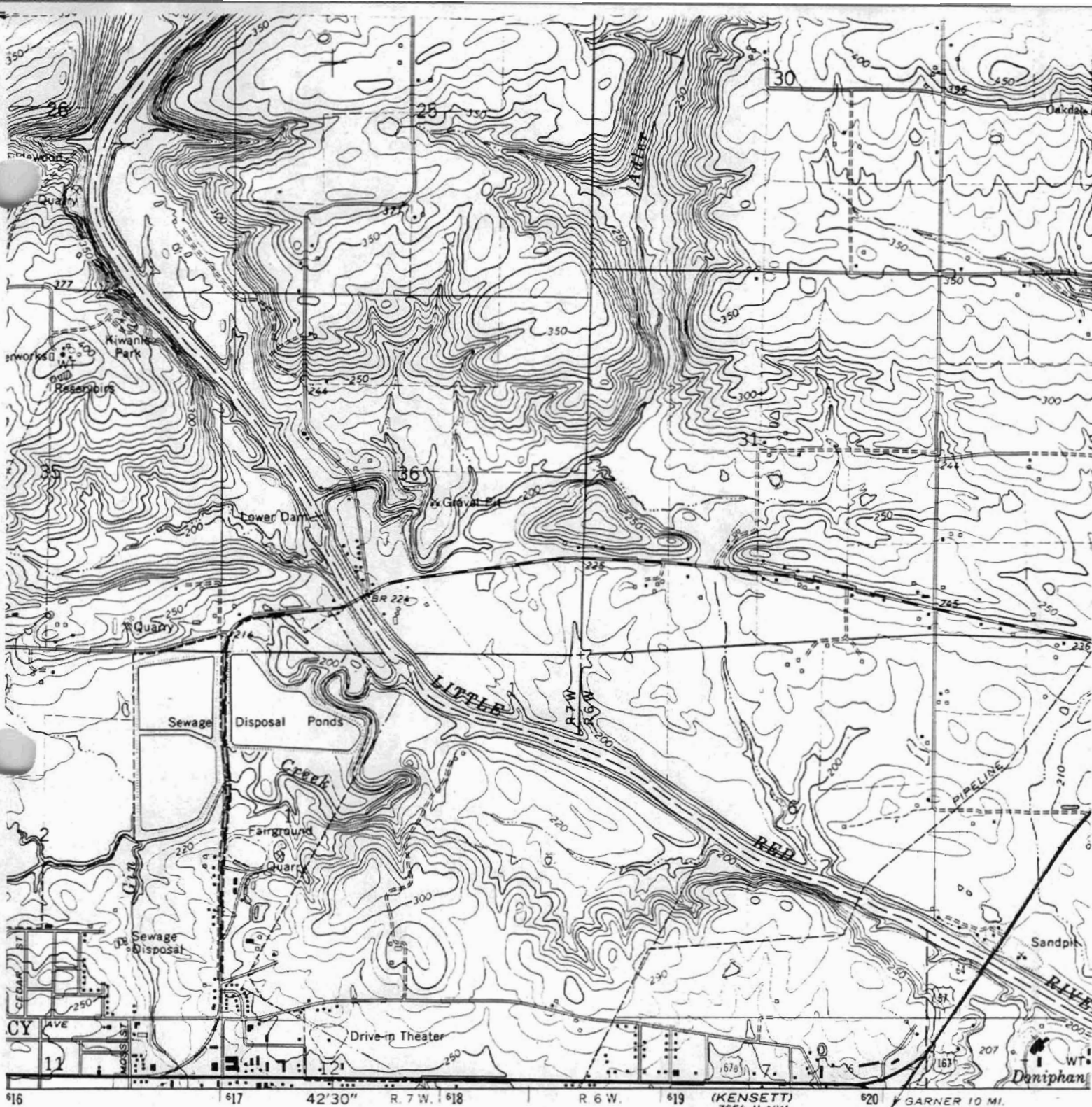


JUDSONIA, ARK.
SW/4 BALD KNOB 15' QUADRANGLE
N3515—W9137 5/7.5

1965

AMS 7654 I SW—SERIES V884

(WEST POINT)
7654 II NE



UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

FOR SALE

Alfred W. Henson House
 Judsonia, White Co.

UTM Reference:
 15 623625 3903710
 Judsonia, Arkansas Quadrangle
 1:24000

3
 SHINGTON, D.
 . ARKANSAS
 IN REQUEST