

LISTED 09/13/91

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 American Legion Hall
other names/site number Resource #WH2016

2. Location

street & number Race Street not for publication N/A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

Ownership of Property: private, public-local (checked), public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s) (checked), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 1, Noncontributing 0, Total 1
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

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 (checked) 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 (checked) meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: Catherine A. Buford
Date: 5-13-90
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

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)

Social/ Meeting Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/ Civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: WPA Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls sandstone

roof asphalt

other concrete

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

Period of Significance
1939

Significant Dates
1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Works Progress Administration

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 Jill Bayles, Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date _____
street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Built in 1939 with funds from federal relief programs, the American Legion Community Hall #106 has a design, plan and construction method that is characteristic of other government-funded public buildings from the 1930's. The structure, which is now used as office space, is located on the courthouse square on Searcy's main thoroughfare. It is still in good condition and has undergone very little alteration since its construction fifty years ago.

The building is one story with an irregular floorplan, which includes an original projection on the rear (north) elevation. Its native stone construction, multi-paned windows and one-bay, central front porch with a flat, parapeted roof are all features that are distinctive to the Works Progress Administration, National Youth Administration and/or Civilian Conservation Corps structures built throughout the state during the Depression years.

The front (south) elevation of the building has a flat roof with a parapet, the rear (north) elevation is covered with a composition shingle gable roof, and the rear projection has a shed roof. Two native stone chimneys stand opposite each other on the east and west elevations. The original fenestration consists of nine-over-nine and six-over-six double-hung windows along all elevations. At the front entrance, a one-bay porch has a rounded-arch entry topped with a cast concrete nameplate, and a pair of multi-paned french doors allows access to the interior. The foundation is constructed of cast concrete.

Native stone is also used in the two fireplaces on either end of the main room in the building's interior. Their rounded-arch openings are topped with narrow cut stone shelves serving as mantels.

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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1Significance

Architecturally, the American Legion Building is significant because its design and construction method are reflective of the style consistently used by the period's government-funded programs - a style that influenced the appearance of other properties throughout the county's communities. As discussed in the associated property type for Depression Era Religious and Institutional Buildings, stylistic elements such as the rounded-arch entry porch with parapet roof, multi-paned windows and the use of native stone are characteristic of WPA, CCC, and NYA schools, community centers and other public buildings; yet this is the only surviving structure in White County that was built for the American Legion. Therefore, this building is locally significant under National Register Criterion C. Its period of significance is limited to one year due to its 1939 date of construction.

Historically, the building is also locally significant under Criterion A because of its associations with the county's federal relief programs and with the American Legion organization. The federal relief programs were a vital part of almost every community in the country throughout the Depression years, and Searcy's program was no exception. As discussed in Historic Context 3: Boom and Bust: The War and Depression Era, these programs put thousands of the unemployed to work while also making physical improvements to a community's landscape.

Searcy's American Legion, known as the Armstrong-Caldwell Post No. 106, was organized in January, 1920, one year after the national organization was formed in Paris, France. Thirty World War I veterans met for several years at the courthouse until their growing membership necessitated the construction of this Legion hut on the north side of the courthouse square. Few people in Searcy knew what the Legion stood for when it was first formed, so a publicity committee was appointed to give talks at schools and public gatherings and to write articles for the local newspapers. Throughout the years, this chapter played an active role in community affairs; for example, it sponsored local prize fights, the county's first annual Strawberry Festival, and a "Free Feed" celebration in the midst of the Depression.

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Section number 10 Page 1

Acreege of property: Less than one

UTM References:

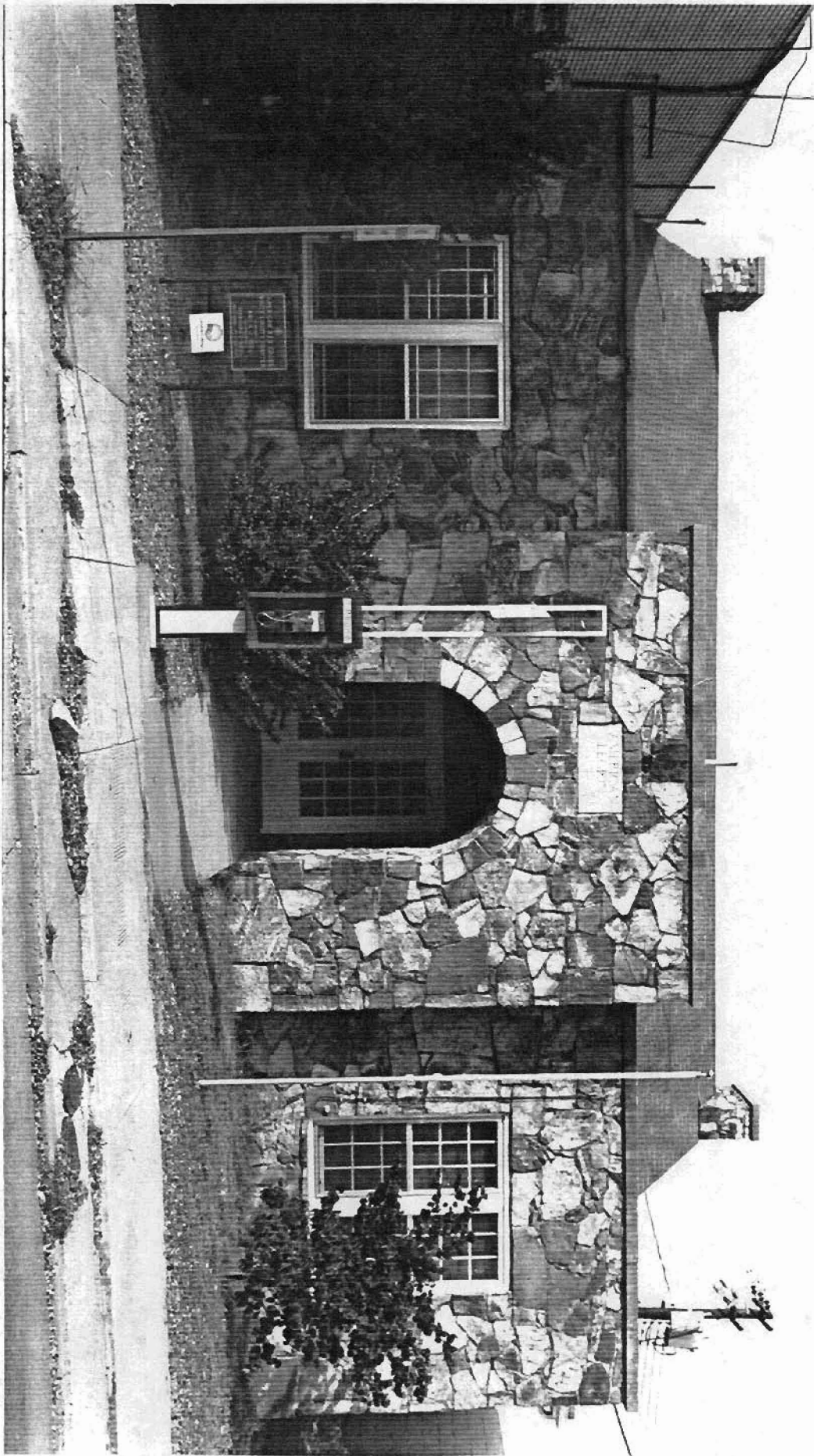
A 15/614810/3901410

Verbal Boundary Description:

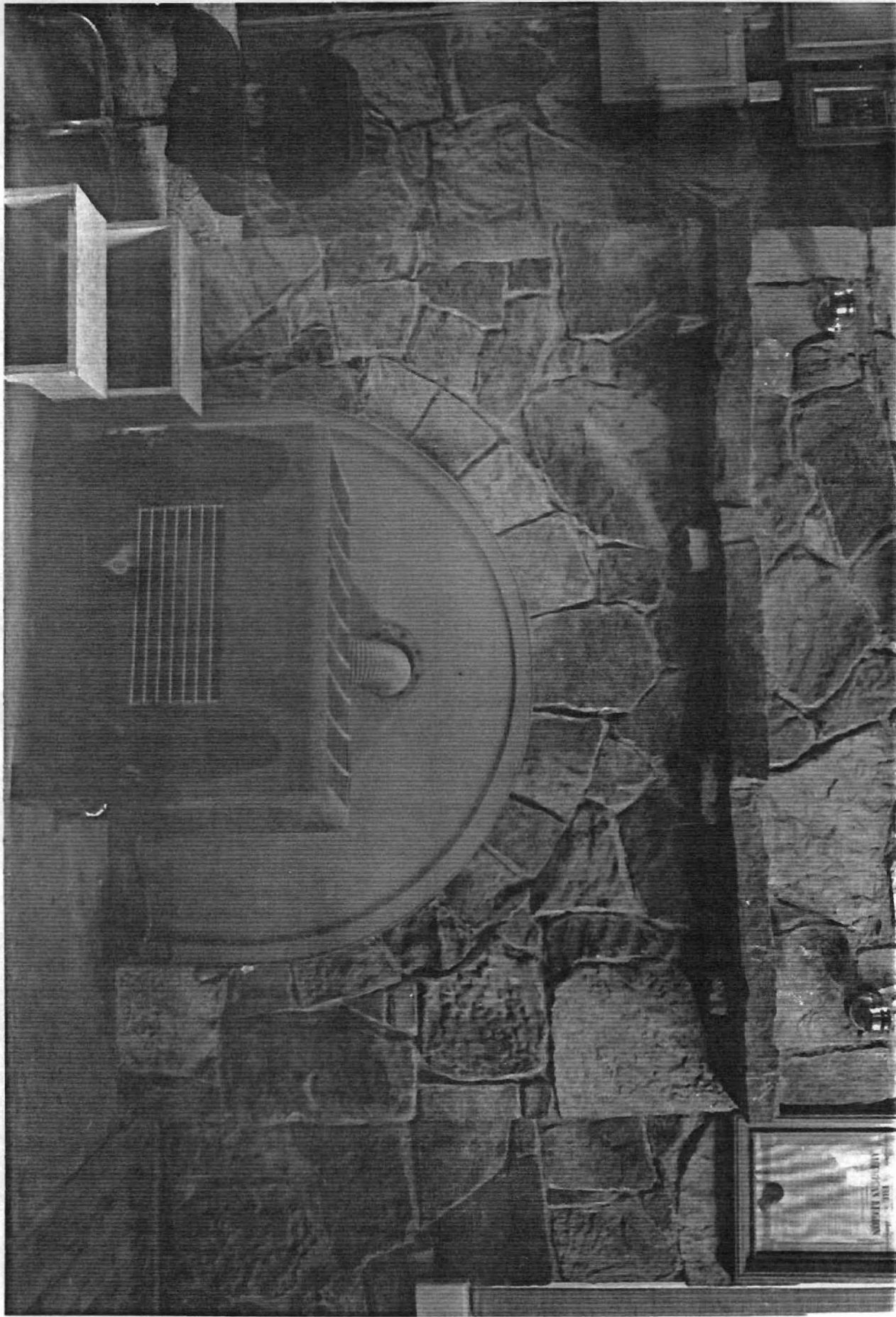
Lot 18, Ten Acre Donation to the Town of Searcy.

Boundary Justification:

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





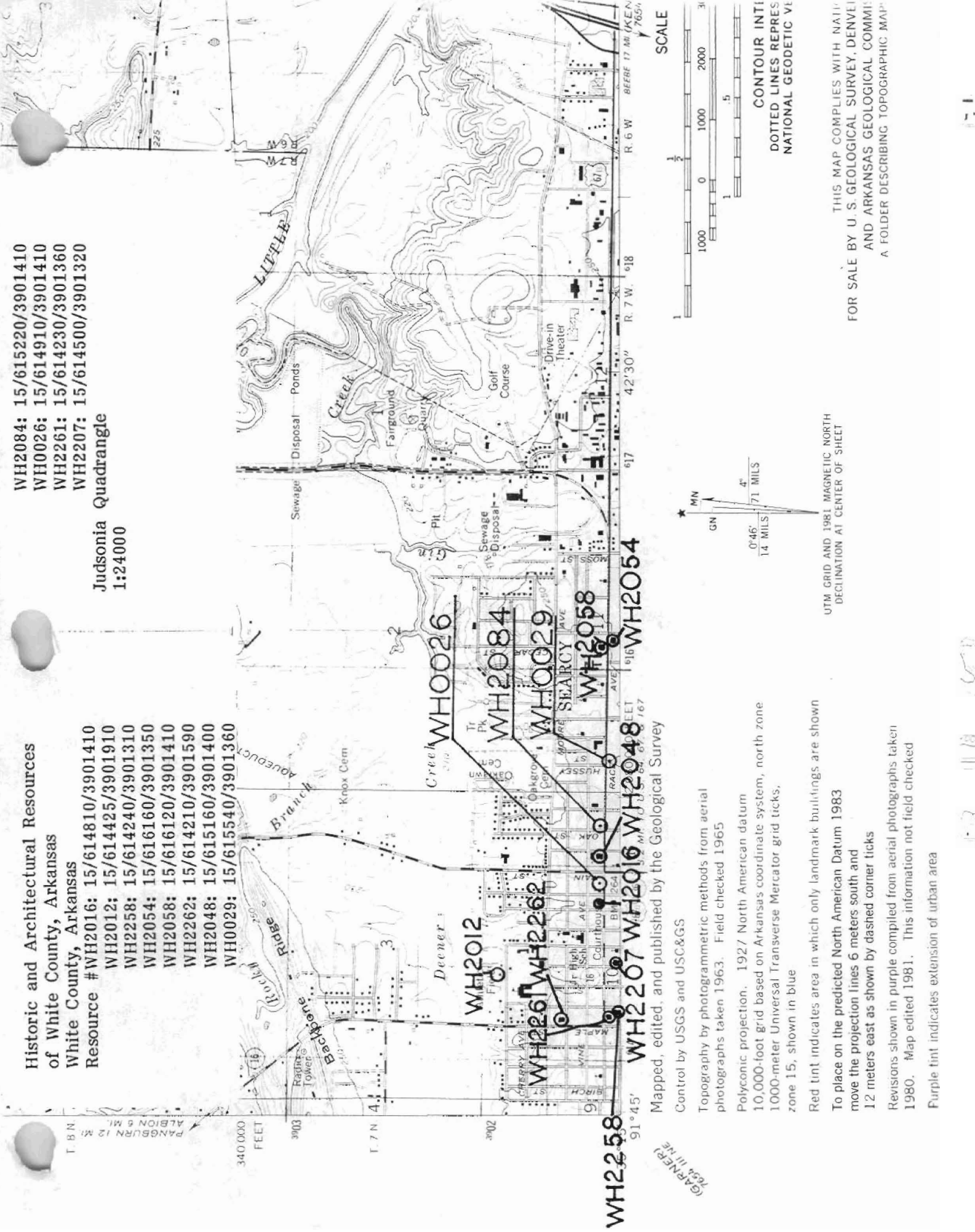


**Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas
White County, Arkansas
Resource #**

- 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**



GARDNER
1981-11-18

WH2258 91°45' **WH2207** **WH2016** **WH2048** **WH2054**
WH2261 **WH2262** **WH2012** **WH2084** **WH0029** **WH2058**
WH0026

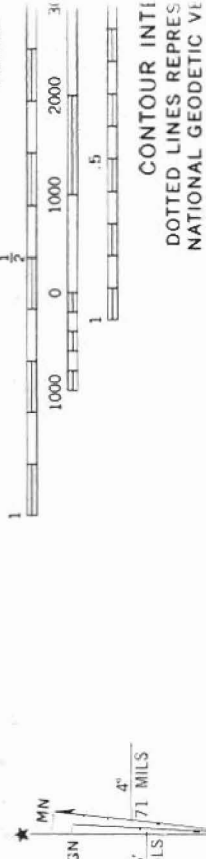
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

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

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL GEODETIC VI

CONTOUR INT. 10 FEET
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT EXTENSION OF NATIONAL GEODETIC VI

SCALE