

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 Mayfair Hotel
other names/site number Resource # WH2027

2. Location

street & number Spring & Center Streets not for publication N/A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	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
		<u>1</u>	<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.
Cathryn 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 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)
Domestic/ Hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic/ Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/
Spanish Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
walls brick

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
ENTERTAINMENT/ RECREATION

Period of Significance

1924-1939
1924-39

Significant Dates

N/A
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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.

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property _____

UTM References

A

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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 2 April, 1990
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

Standing on the northwest corner of Spring and Center Streets in Searcy is a large, Spanish Revival style building that in its heyday provided food and accommodations for travellers as well as rooms for local banquets, receptions, reunions, private parties and college functions. Known as the Mayfair Hotel, the brick structure was built on the site of an earlier frame hotel, the Gill House, shortly after it was torn down in 1924. The Mayfair is now used as a multiple family dwelling. Although there have been some additions and alterations throughout the years, it is still in good condition.

The hotel's L-shaped, two-story plan originally housed fifty rooms and a full basement. A twenty-one-room annex was added to the building in 1929, just before the stock market crashed. The next alterations took place twenty years later, in 1950, at which time each guest room received its own bath, the kitchen was modernized, and the Terrace and Rose Rooms were added. Several windows have been boarded up at various times during the hotel's existence, which is the extent of the building's alterations. The Mayfair's Spanish Revival design includes such architectural details as shaped roof parapets over the front porch; a tower projection on the southwest corner with enclosed arched openings and more shaped parapets; Craftsman dormer windows; a symmetrical front porch supported by large, square columns; and wide, overhanging eaves.

The hotel's front porch, stretching in an L-shape across the east elevation, is one story and has a flat roof supported by brick columns that have been painted white. A much smaller porch on the west elevation has a shed roof and is supported by turned posts. The windows, which are all original, consist of six-over-one double-hung sash windows along the length of each elevation and six-pane casement windows on each of the eight gable-roof dormers on the building's roofline. The hotel has two exterior brick chimneys located on the ell's west elevation and one interior brick chimney on the south elevation. The foundation is made of cast concrete and the shingle-covered roof is of both the hipped and gable-on-hip type.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1

Significance

The Mayfair Hotel is the only Spanish Revival style non-residential building in White County and for this reason should be listed under National Register Criterion C with local significance for representing the distinctive characteristics that make up this style. These characteristics, as stated above, include the Mission-shaped roof parapets, widely overhanging eaves and large, square columns supporting the porch roof. The Spanish Revival style, also called Spanish Mission, began spreading eastward from its California birthplace in the early 1900's, with most dating from the years between 1905 and 1920. Architects combined typical Hispanic elements like parapets and arches with traditional shapes, and some even borrowed Craftsman and Prairie style features. The style generally faded from use after World War I, when Revival architecture began to shift away from simplified adaptations and towards more precise copies. The Mayfair, which was built in the mid-1920's, is a later version of this design.

The Mayfair is also historically significant under National Register Criterion A for its associations with Searcy's social development, particularly in the areas of travel, entertainment and dining. Historic Context 2: The Development Era describes Searcy's emergence as a resort area due to its many mineral springs; Historic Context 3: The Railroad Era covers the period in White County's history that was greatly influenced by and dependent upon the railroad; and Historic Context 4: Boom and Bust, the War and Depression Years addresses the relatively short period of prosperity in the 1920's brought about by the railroad and increased industrialization. Each of these contexts refers to Searcy's social and economic development, in which the Mayfair Hotel played a primary role. The Mayfair began in the mid-1920's after May Dale Smith purchased the Gill House, a frame hotel that had stood on the corner of Spring and Center streets since 1882. Miss Smith had the Gill House torn down and shortly afterwards built the Mayfair in its place. The hotel's reputation for being a good place to eat was enhanced after it was listed in two of Duncan Hines' books on roadside restaurants and in the American Automobile Club's register. Throughout the prosperous twenties, the Depression-era thirties and the forties' war years, the Mayfair served as an eating, visiting and entertainment center not only for Searcy residents but for residents from all areas of the county as well.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Acreage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

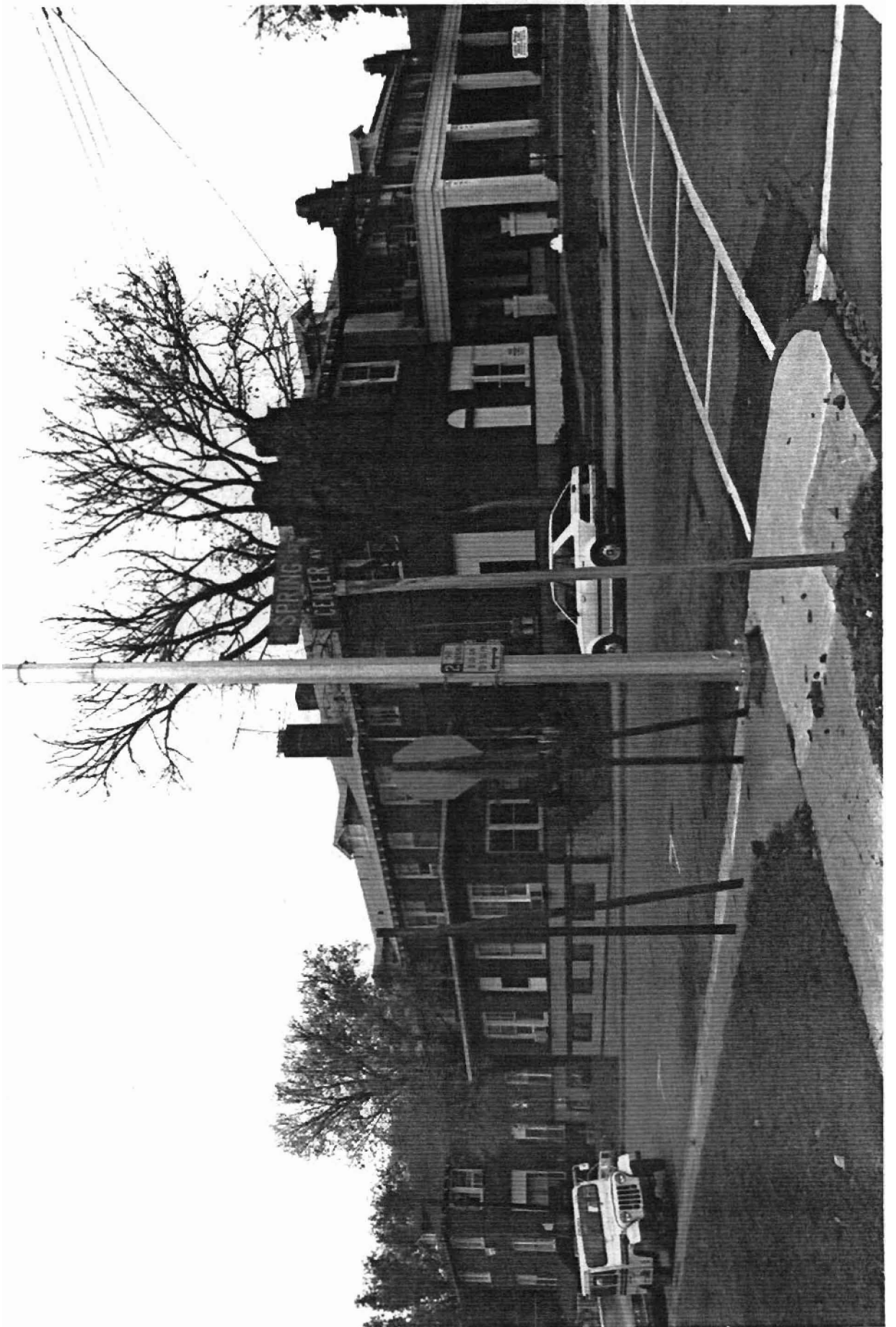
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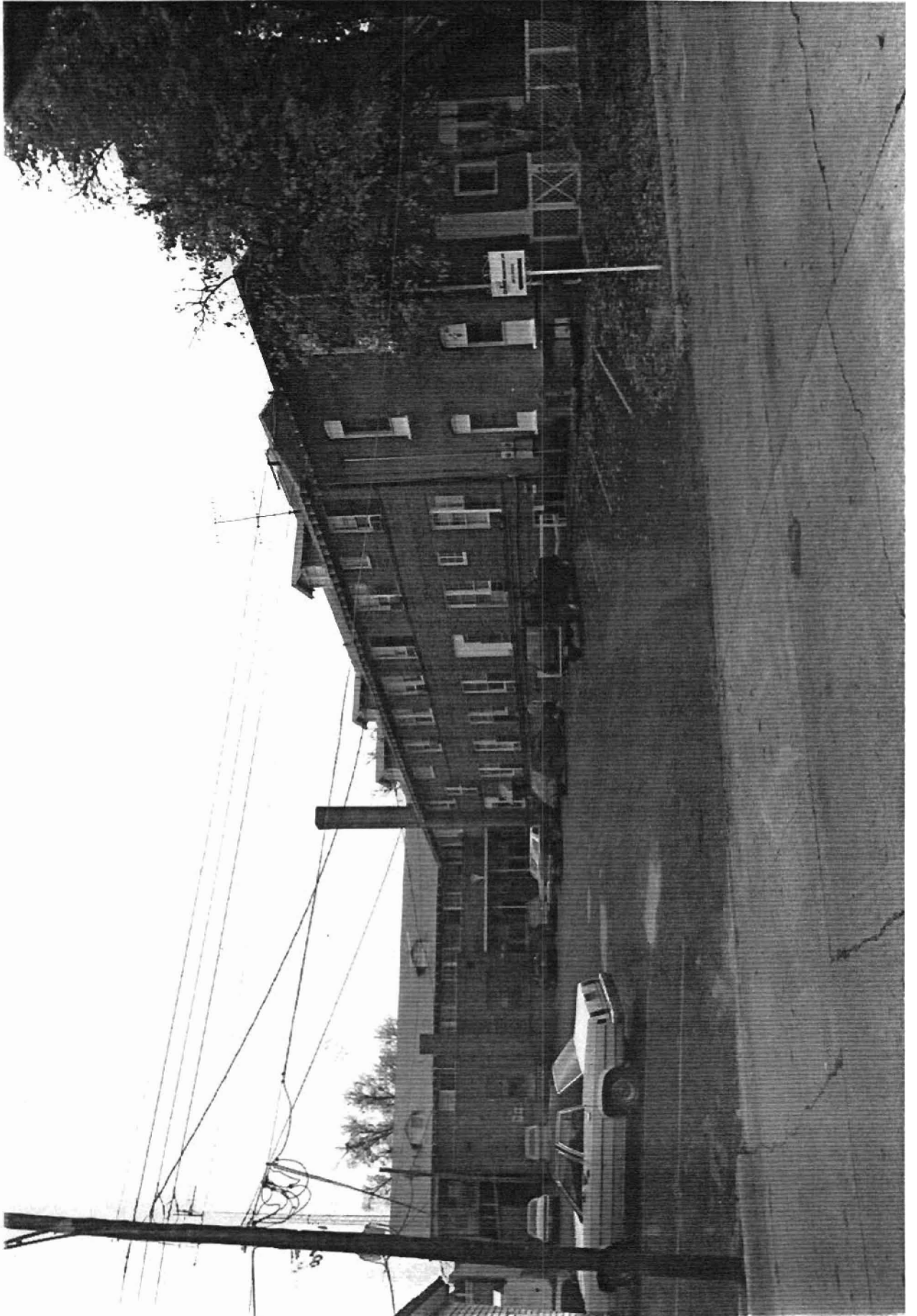
Verbal Boundary Description:

Lots 4-8 and the southern 34 feet of Lot 9, less the southern 25 feet and the western 47 feet of Lot 5, and less the western 47 feet of Lot 6, Block 14, Original Town of Searcy.

Boundary Justification:

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







WH2198 WH2020

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WH2144

WH2104

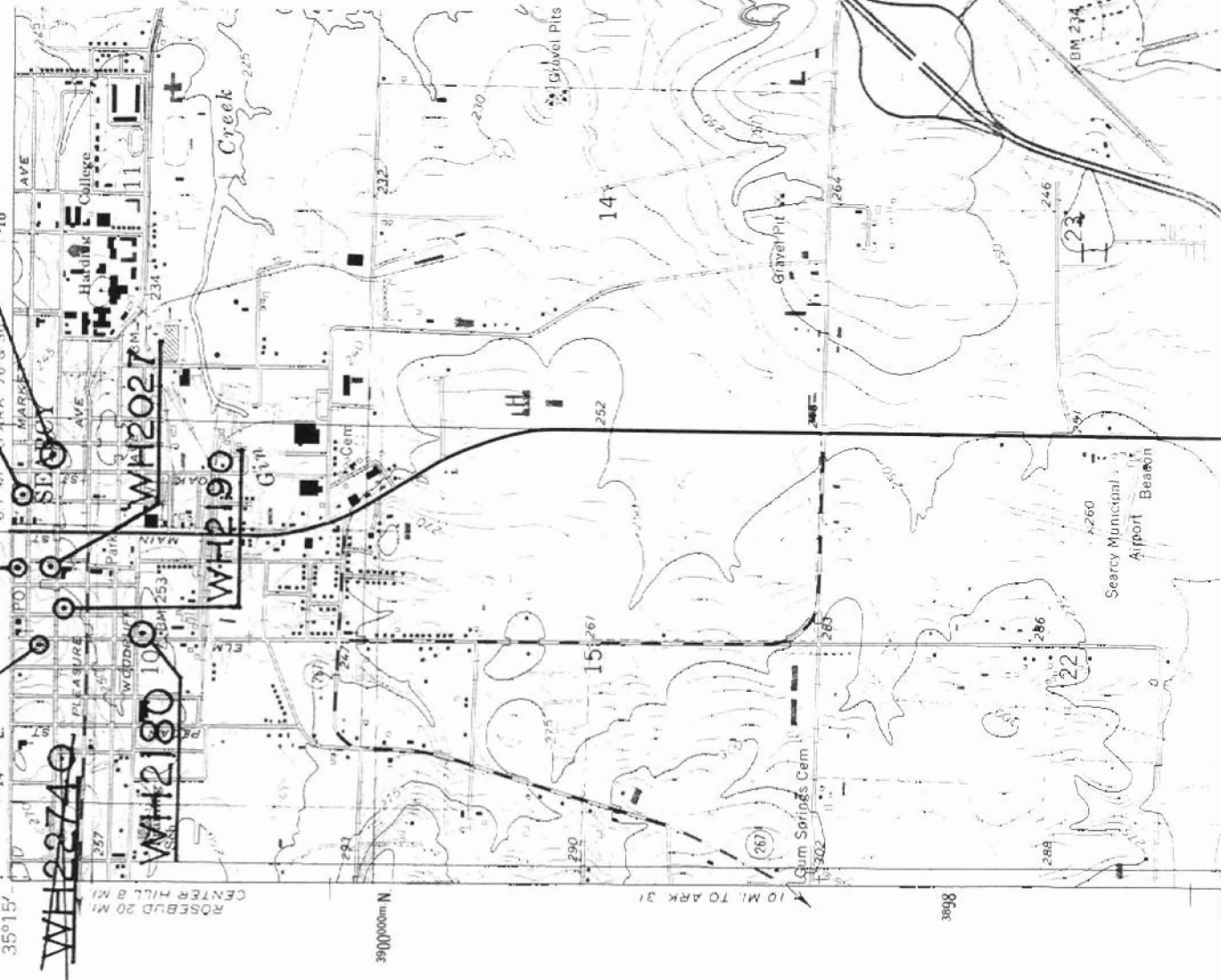
761 UL
762 UL
763 UL

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

- WH2020: 15/614835/3901290
- WH2198: 15/614560/3901210
- WH2144: 15/615105/3901270
- WH2027: 15/614845/3901170
- WH2190: 15/614690/3901130
- WH2104: 15/615245/3901170
- WH2180: 15/614620/3900840

~~WH2274: 15/614150/3901120~~

Kensett Quadrangle
1:24000



359157
91°45'
614000m E

~~WH2274~~

WH2180

WH2027

WH2190

3900000m N

3908

242

18

3807