

75-1-DO40-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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DATE ENTERED	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Steamboat House
 AND/OR COMMON Cooper House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 601 North Front Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION
 CITY, TOWN Dardanelle VICINITY OF Third CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 STATE Arkansas CODE 05 COUNTY Yell CODE 149

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Robert E. Cooper
 STREET & NUMBER 601 North Front Street
 CITY, TOWN Dardanelle VICINITY OF _____ STATE Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk's Office, Yell County Courthouse
 STREET & NUMBER Union and Front Streets
 CITY, TOWN Dardanelle STATE Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE _____
 DATE _____
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS _____
 CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

Z 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

The Cooper House on Front Street is the most architecturally interesting house in Dardanelle, a small port city on the Arkansas River. According to local tradition the architecture of this late nineteenth century house was inspired by river steamers, and in some ways it does resemble a grounded steamboat. The bay windows and porch protrusions on either side of the entry resemble steamboat prows. The second storey facade has three small balconies centered over the entry and each bay. These flat roofed balconies are reminiscent of captain's bridges. A third "steamboat style" feature is found in the two round windows which flank the center balcony. These circular windows resemble portholes, thus adding a final touch to the nautical effect of the house.

The basic floor plan of the Cooper House is ell shape with the east facade across the long leg of the ell. The front portion of the house is two stories high while the rear extension is only one and one-half stories. About 1940 a one storey addition, enclosing part of the original back porch, was made at the rear of the house. At the same time a screened porch was added to the south elevation of the front portion of the house. A cross gable roof with several gabled dormers covers the white frame structure.

The most interesting features of the Cooper House are displayed on the facade. A one storey flat roofed porch extends across the facade, protruding on either side of the main entry. The porch cornice has pointed dentils and a row of spindle work below the frieze. Ornamental brackets are paired at each angle of the irregularly shaped porch.

A double door entry and two bay windows are covered by the porch. Each three sided bay has three separate windows, with the center window almost twice as wide as the narrower side windows. A transom-like light surrounded by colored glass fills the top of each center window. Pilasters similar to the turned porch posts and horizontal panelling under each window further decorate the bays.

The second storey features three small balconies centered over the downstairs entry and bay windows. Except for a plain railing over crossed strips of wood, these balconies are trimmed much like the porch below. The door opening onto each balcony contains small square and rectangular lights of colored glass surrounding a clear pane. Circular windows with stained glass separate the three balconies.

From the irregular roof line of the house project eight gables, seven of which are trimmed with bargeboard and spindlework in the gable ends. Exterior window and door surrounds are uniformly plain.

The ornate trim on the exterior of the Cooper House is repeated to a lesser extent on the interior. The central hallway is lined with narrowly panelled

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wainscot. Decorative features on the curved stairway include turned balusters, a round panelled newel post and scroll cut woodwork trim. Wide grooved woodwork is used in baseboards and window and door surrounds.

The Cooper House rests on a corner lot facing the Arkansas River. Still in very good condition, it displays the skill of the unknown carpenter/craftsman who fashioned the house in the 1890's.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1800-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

PECIFIC DATES	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
---------------	-------------------

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cooper House in Dardanelle, Arkansas displays an architectural style described by local residents as "steamboat Gothic." The facade does indeed have several features reminiscent of a steamboat, including prow-like protrusions of the first floor window bays and porch, and captain's bridge balconies and porthole round windows on the second storey. The multi-gabled roof and the porch trim of spindle work and scroll cut brackets give the house its Victorian Gothic appearance.

The existence of several structures apparently built about the same time and with features similar to the Cooper House indicates that a single highly skilled craftsman was responsible for a number of houses in Dardanelle. The Cooper House is the most architecturally impressive house in the area and is an important local landmark.

In 1889 John C. Brooks bought lots one and three in Brearly's Addition of Dardanelle, the lots on which the Cooper House now stands. Mr. Brooks probably built the present house soon after he purchased the river front property.

The 1880 census lists John C. Brooks as a thirty-five year old farmer with a wife and five children; however, the present owner of the Cooper House states that in the 1890's Brooks owned and operated a sawmill. This would have greatly facilitated the construction of any house, but especially a house as heavily decorated with woodwork as the Cooper House.

In 1905 Brooks sold the property to E. A. Jones for \$1,000.00. Three years later the property again changed hands when Jones sold it to Joe T. Bray, owner of a buggy and saddle shop. The Bray family retained the house till mid-century, and during their ownership the house received its only major alterations. In the 1940's a screened porch was added to the south elevation and a one storey room was added to the rear of the house.

This architecturally interesting house has a quaint charm expressed through its unusual combination of architectural features. The small proportions of the house give it a cottage-like quality found rarely in an Arkansas house of this period. Its "steamboat Gothic" style is reminiscent of the era in which the Cooper House was built - an era when Dardanelle was an active river port for steamboats on the Arkansas River.

1002

1002

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, August 16, 1964.
 Cooper, Mrs. Robert E. Interview at Cooper House, Dardanelle, Arkansas,
 January 31, 1975.
 Scott and Goodeer, Attorneys. Abstract of Lots 1 and 3 in Block 29, Brearly's
 Addition, Dardanelle, Arkansas.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	48,57,3,0	3,8,9,7,9,3,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-11-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE William E. Henderson



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-11-75

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

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U. S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census of the United States, 1880: Population Schedule for Yell County, Arkansas. Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission.

1



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Steamboat House

AND/OR COMMON Cooper House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Dardanelle _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Yell STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

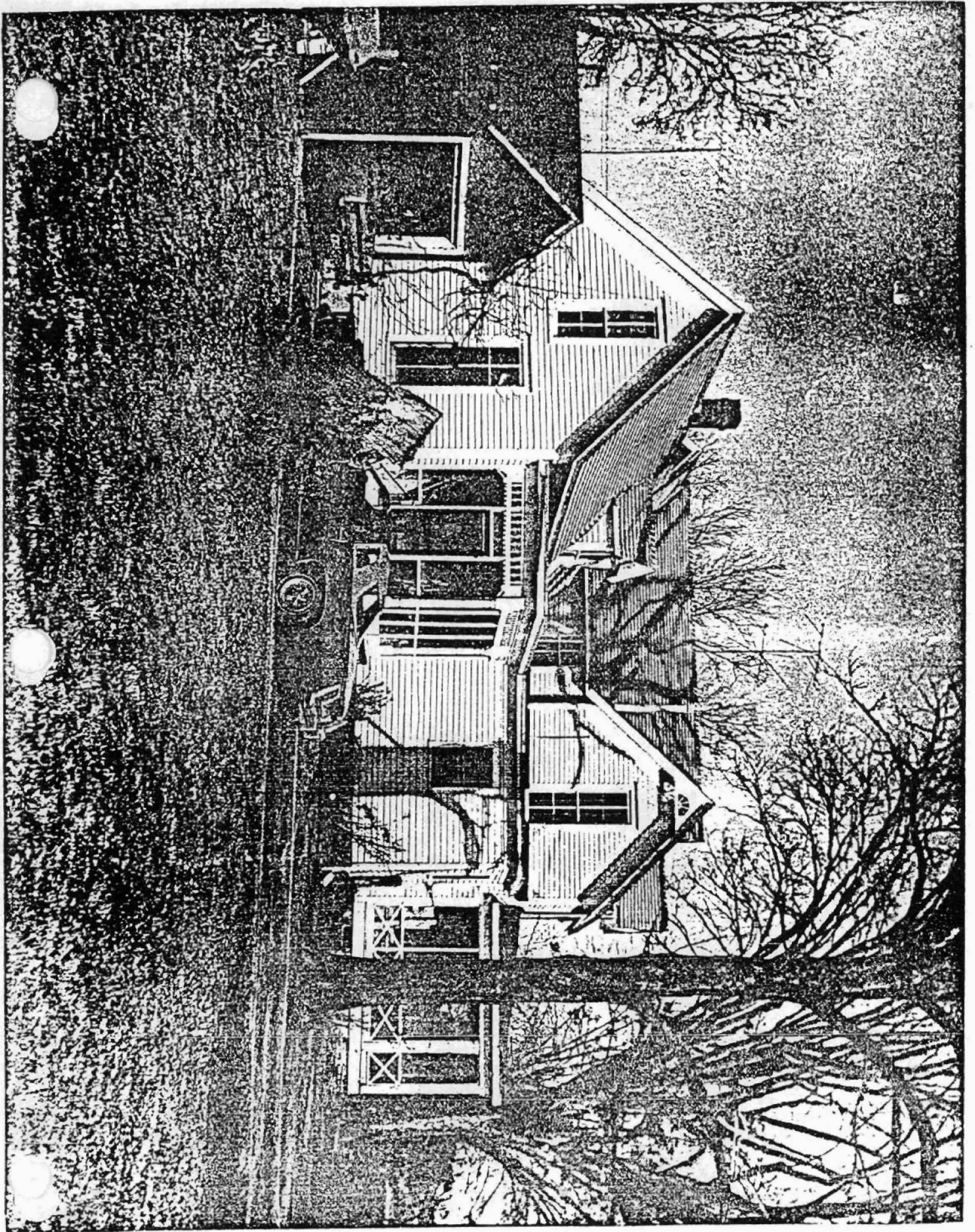
DATE OF PHOTO 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
facade, viewed from the east

PHOTO NO.
1



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2 LOCATION

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

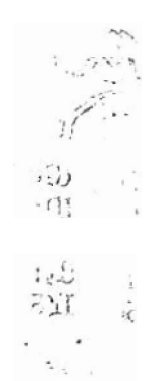
PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
rear (west) elevation

PHOTO NO.
2



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PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Steamboat House

AND/OR COMMON

Cooper House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Dardanelle

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Yell

STATE Arkansas

MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey

SCALE

1:24000

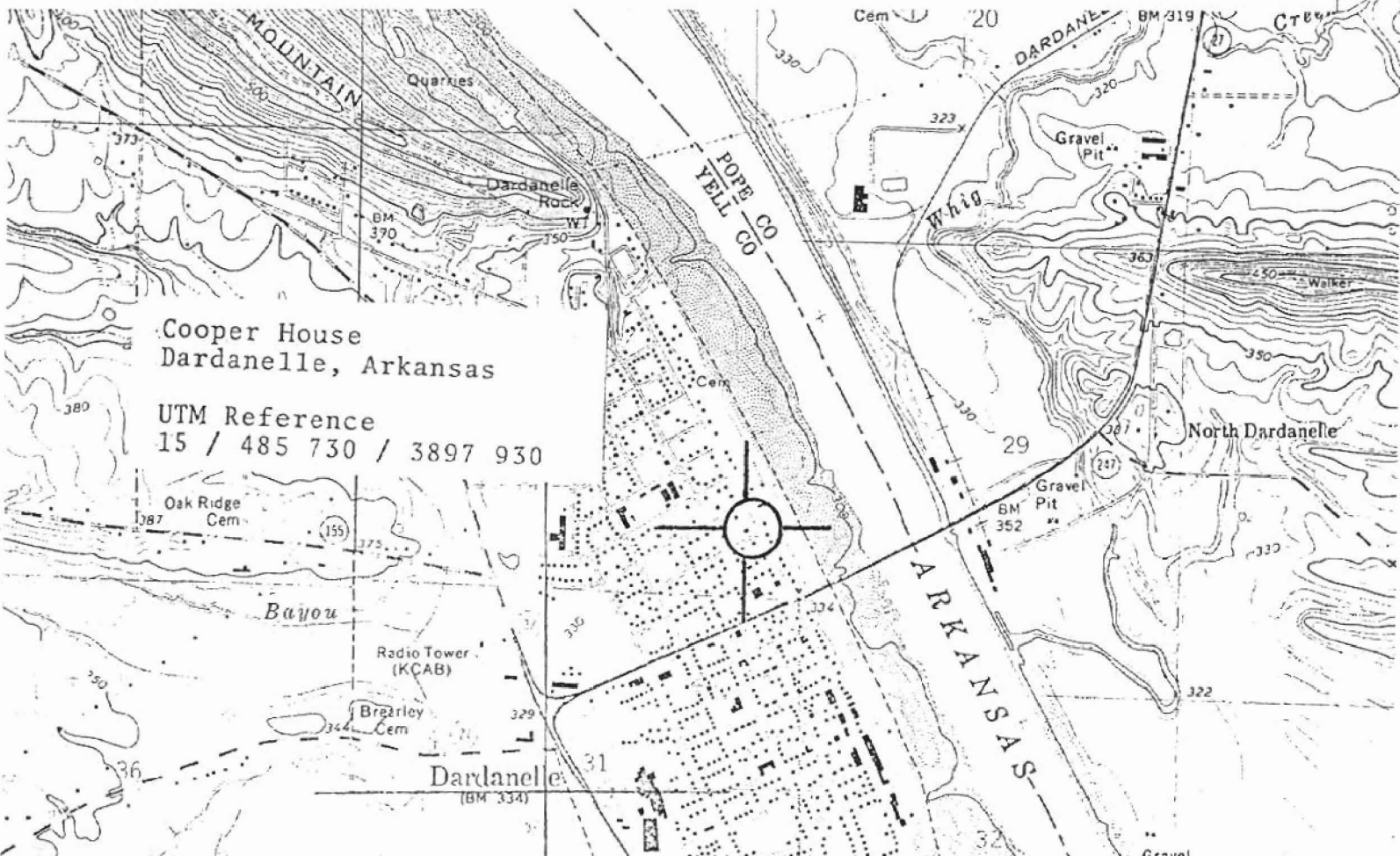
DATE

1972

REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



QUA
NSAS
S (TC
D IN TE
LL VILL
ernice