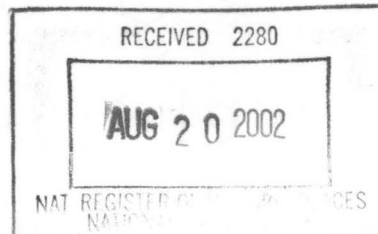


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Approximately one and one-half miles west on CR 336 then approximately one-half mile south on CR 347 ☐ not for publication

city or town St. Francis ☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Clay code 021 zip code 72464

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/13/02
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Edgar H. Beall

10.4.02

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	1	structures
0	0	objects
1	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting Hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social: Meeting Hall

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Plain-Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Concrete

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM is a Plain-Traditional style two-story block building that was constructed in 1947. It is located approximately one and one-half miles west of St. Francis, Arkansas, on County Road 336, then approximately one-half mile south on County Road 347. The symmetrical building is constructed from concrete blocks and rests upon a concrete foundation. It has a gable roof that is covered with shingles and sheathed with wood siding in the gable end.

ELABORATION

Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM is a Masonic hall located approximately one and one-half miles west of St. Francis on County Road 336, then approximately one-half mile south on County Road 347. St. Francis is located in the northeast corner of Clay County in Northeastern Arkansas. The lodge was built in 1947 by local volunteers, who were lodge members, brother Masons from other lodges and individuals from the community. The building is an excellent example of Plain-Traditional architecture. It is constructed from concrete blocks and lies on a concrete foundation. The building is the only lodge building located in the vicinity of St. Francis.

West Elevation

The building faces west and is fenestrated by two six-over-six windows on the upper level. The glass in the left window has been painted over white. Entry to the building is gained through a wooden door. A gable-roofed porch supported to two wooden post shelters the entrance. To the right of the entrance was once a separate entry that was enclosed with blocks shortly after the building's construction. A black and white metal sign with the lodge's name is hung on the exterior wall and had a light at top.

South Elevation

The south elevation is fenestrated by five six-over-six windows. Three of the windows are located on the building's upper level and two are located on the bottom. There was originally a side door located on the first floor, but it was sealed off at an unknown date. A second story entryway has also been infilled and a flight of stairs that accessed the entrance was also removed.

East Elevation

The east elevation is fenestrated by four six-over-six windows, two on each story. The top two windows contain air conditioning window units. On the ground, approximately four feet from the exterior wall, is a concrete structure that served as the covering for a cistern that was dug in the 1960's. The cistern was never used and due to its construction date is a non-contributing resource.

North Elevation

The north elevation is fenestrated by six six-over-six windows; three on each story. There is also an exterior brick chimney located slightly west of center on the elevation.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Interior

The interior has been altered extensively on the first floor. It serves as a combination kitchen/dining room used for meals and other public functions. The second story is used for Masonic meetings and is quite remarkable. The altar and pillars are from the original lodge hall, a Presbyterian Church in existence from the turn of the century but which disbanded in the 1940's. Seating is vintage cinema seats with intricate detailing. The original charter hangs on the wall as well as the jewels of the state Grand Master Webb Magee, the lodge's longest serving Worshipful Master.

An area outside the main meeting hall contains numerous photos of past Worshipful Masters, special Masonic awards, a wooden cabinet to hold jewels and aprons, large plywood board that have been painted with the names of all the Worshipful Masters and the years they served.

Integrity

Since construction in 1947, the lodge hall has undergone minor alterations, mostly for weatherization and protection of the building itself. It has continued to be used as a Masonic Hall since its completion in 1947. Although a couple of doors have been infilled, the alterations have done little to impact the workmanship employed in construction or the appearance of the building. The setting of the nearby area remains much the same as it did in 1947 with the building still located in the countryside in the vicinity of a small town.

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1947-1952

Significant Dates

1947

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Record # _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM, located in the St. Francis (Clay County), Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its **local significance** as the best extant example of a Plain-Traditional style two-story lodge hall building in northeastern Clay County. The lodge is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with Masonic activities in northeast Clay County.

ELABORATION

Development of the area near St. Francis and Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM began following the Civil War when the land was covered with dense Delta forests and swampland. The clearing of timber created economic prosperity in the timber and river trade. Farming opportunities were created when land was cleared of timber and the swamps were drained. Many of the people settled in the Chalk Bluff Community near the St. Francis River. Chalk Bluff was the site of numerous Civil War skirmishes and battles.

The post-war settlers arriving in the area were lured by the fertile farmland. Many were Civil War veterans in search of a better life. They and their families had deep religious faith that included the belief and membership of the Masonic Order and Order of the Eastern Star. This is reflected by numerous headstones in the nearby Gravel Hill and Hall cemeteries that are etched with both Masonic and Order of the Eastern Star emblems. Many of these settlers were farmers from Tennessee, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, and elsewhere in Arkansas. Cotton was the crop of choice.

Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM was organized on Dec. 27, 1867, with 30 charter members. It was chartered on Nov. 18, 1868, and is now Clay County's oldest Masonic lodge. The lodge first met at the Chalk Bluff Church, which was Presbyterian. It then moved to Star School, a small rural schoolhouse, and then to one-story Hall Church that was newly constructed. The lodge received permission to construct a second story for use as a meeting hall around 1906.

In 1946, the lodge purchased the rights to Hall Church, which had disbanded. Local volunteers constructed the present lodge hall in 1947. The cornerstone for the new lodge hall was laid in the northeast corner on May 6, 1947. Included in the cornerstone were a written history and a coin taken from the cornerstone of the Hall Church.

The lodge has been located in three counties, never more than one mile from its present location - first in Greene County, then Clayton County and finally Clay County. Clay County was formed from Greene County in 1873 and was first called Clayton County before the name was changed to Clay County in 1875.

Lodge officer installation and other public functions, such as open house and "dinner on the grounds," were once a significant part of the social activities in the area. Many were held during summer months and were celebrations in themselves.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Since its inception, the Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM has had approximately thirty-four 50-year members with 16 living to date. Of the 16, two are 60-year plus members - Vaughter Irwin of Pollard (Clay County), Arkansas, Master Mason in April 1938, and Ernest Hanna of St. Francis, Master Mason on May 19, 1938.

Today the building still functions as a Masonic Lodge. For many years, the lodge hall was also the meeting location for the Order of the Eastern Star. That chapter has merged with the chapter in Piggott (Clay County), Arkansas.

Significance

Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best extant example of Plain-Traditional architecture in the St. Francis area of Clay County. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with Masonic activities in Clay County, Arkansas.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

"Eastern Star Lodge is Oldest in Clay County" by Anne Winchester, Piggott Times, Nov. 15, 2000

Lodge history prepared by A.O. Langley and updated by J.D. Wagster from lodge records. Wagster served as lodge secretary for 30 years.

www.rootsweb.com/~arclay/ -- genealogical web site for Clay County, Arkansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property One Acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	753151	4037538
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			
	<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet		

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE ¼ SE ¼) of Section Fourteen (14) in Township Twenty-One (21) North, Range Eight (8) East of the Fifth Principal Meridian, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the Southeast corner of the said quarter quarter section aforesaid and running thence North along the East line thereof a distance of Five Hundred Forty-three (543) feet thence West four hundred thirty-seven (437) feet to the east line of the right-of-way of Chalk Bluff and Gainsville Public Road, thence South along with said road to the point where it intersects with the South line of said quarter quarter section, thence east along and with said South line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all land associated with the building.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne Winchester and Zac Cothren				
organization	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program			date	6/10/02
street & number	323 Center Street Suite 1600			telephone	501-324-9880
city or town	Little Rock	state	AR	zip code	72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Clay

DATE RECEIVED: 8/20/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/23/02
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/09/02 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/04/02
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 02001074

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 10.4.02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



1. Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM
2. Clay Co., AR
3. Zec Cotwen
4. April 2002
5. AHPP
6. North west corner. Looking south east.
7. #1



1. Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM
2. Clay Co., AR
3. Zec Cothren
4. April 2002.
5. AHPP
6. South elevation. Looking north.
7. #2



1. Easthorn Star Ledge 207 F&AM
2. Clay Co. / AR
3. Zoe Cuthren
4. April 2002
5. AHPP
6. East elevation. Looking southwest
7. #3



1. Eastern Star Lodge 207 F9AM
2. Clay Co., AR
3. Zae Cothren
4. April 2002
5. AHPP
6. North elevation. Looking south east.
7. #4



1. Eastern Star Lodge 207 F&AM

2. Clay Co., AR

3. ZCC Cotwren

4. April 2002

5. AHPP

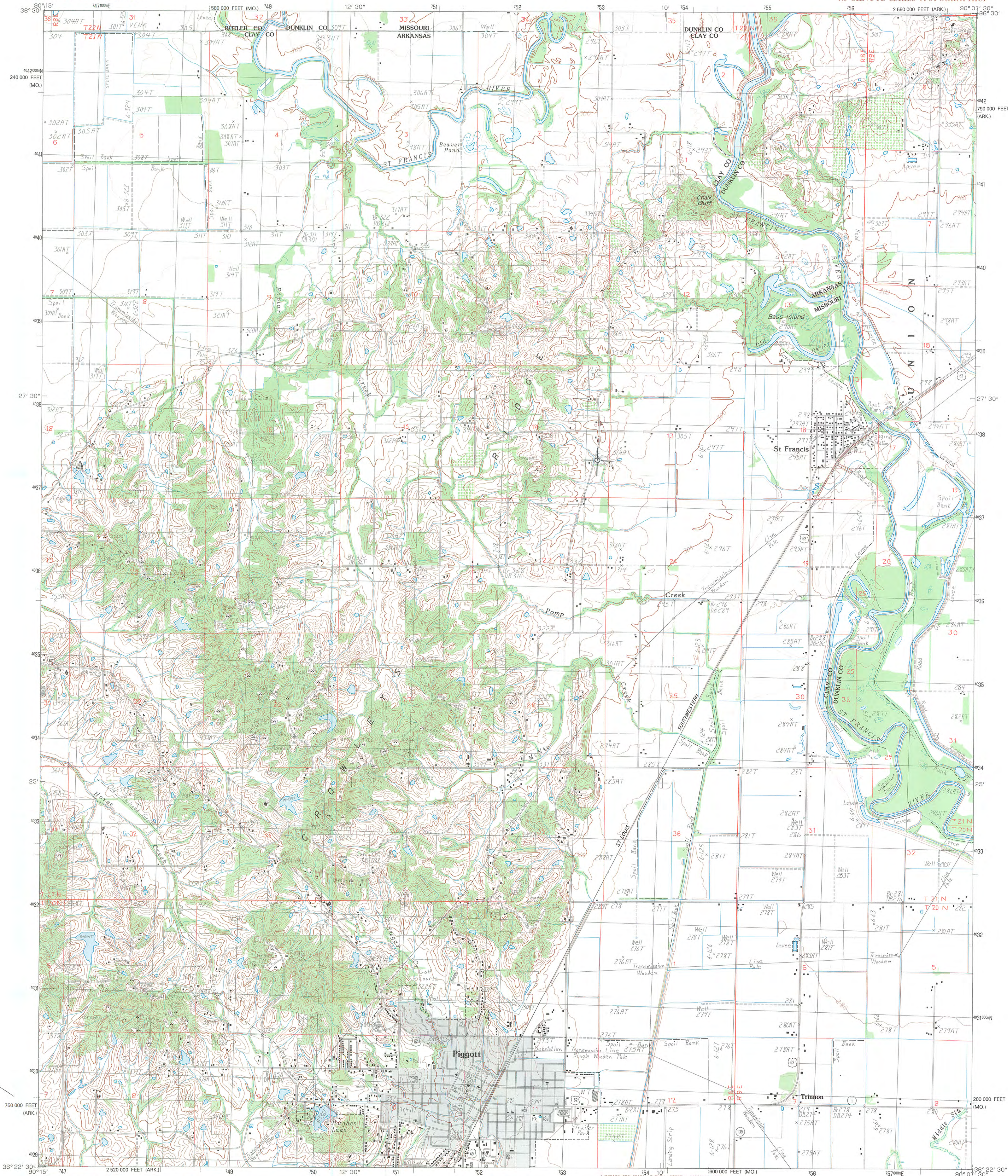
6. Interior

7. #5

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Eastern Star Lodge 207 F & A M
St. Francis Vic., Clay Co., AR
UTM 15/753151/4037538

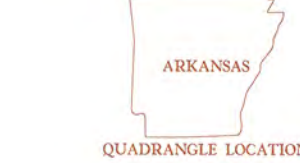
PIGGOTT QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY: USGS AND NOS/NOAA
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN: 1980
FIELD CHECKED: 1982. MAP EDITED: 1984
PROJECTION: LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
GRID: 100-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 15
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS: ARKANSAS NORTH ZONE
AND MISSOURI EAST ZONE
UTM GRID DECLINATION: 1°40' EAST
1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION: 3°00' EAST
VERTICAL DATUM: NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM: 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks
(5 meters south and 9 meters east)
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Information
shown as of date of
photography.

SCALE 1:24 000
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000
MILES
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000
FEET
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10 000
METERS
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
SUPPLEMENTAL CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 FOOT
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST FOOT
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
AND DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401



1	2	3	1	Ogloville
			2	Glennville
			3	Valley Ridge
4		5	4	Pollard
			5	Campbell
			6	Rector
6	7	8	7	Greenway
			8	Kennett North

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD LEGEND
Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

PIGGOTT, ARK.-MO.
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1984

36090-D2-TF-024



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building

323 Center Street

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(501)324-9880

fax: (501)324-9184

tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

August 13, 2002

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Suite 400
800 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Eastern Star Lodge 207 F & AM- St. Francis, Clay County.

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above-referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews,
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:zc

Enclosures



An Equal Opportunity Employer

