NPS Form 10-900 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

OMB No. 1024-0018

BC 2455

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any 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 any categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: <u>Washington Street Historic District</u>, Boundary Increase Other names/site number: ______

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location

Street & number:	North and Sc	uth Agee	Street, roughly	between Clifto	n and Maple streets
City or town: Car			Arkansas		Ouachita
Not For Publication	n:	Vicinity	y:		

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination <u>request for determination of eligibility meets</u> 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 \underline{X} meets \underline{X} does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

plicable National Register Criteria: _AB _X_CD	
Chert Hunt	3-16-18
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal C	Government
In my opinion, the property meets do	es not meet the National Register criteria
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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Washington Street Historic District Boundary Increase Name of Property Ouachita County, Arkansas County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register
- ____ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ____ removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

5-21-2018 Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes	s as apply.)
Private:	x

Public – Local

Public - State

Public - Federal

Category of Property

Building(s)	
District	x
Site	
Structure	
Object	

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)			
Contributing	Noncontributing		
19	7	buildings	
		sites	
		~ + ~ ~ ~ + ~ ~ ~ ~ ~	
		structures	
		objects	
		001000	
19	7	Total	

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____1

6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.) DOMESTIC/single dwelling DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.) <u>DOMESTIC/single dwelling</u> <u>DOMESTIC/secondary structure</u>

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)
LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival
LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman
OTHER/Minimal Traditional
OTHER/Plain Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.) Principal exterior materials of the property: <u>BRICK, WOOD, ASPHALT</u>

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

This amendment proposes to extend the boundaries of the Washington Street Historic District by adding several historically significant residential blocks of Agee Avenue,¹ which intersects Washington Street at right angles at the western edge of the current district. The extension will stretch both north and south of Washington Street encompassing three blocks of South Agee and the western side of the first two blocks of North Agee. (The houses on the east side of Agee between Washington and Graham were included in the creation of the original district.) This addition will add 27 resources to the Washington Street District, 19 of them which are contributing.

¹ In late 1952 - to go into effect January 1, 1953 - the City of Camden reorganized street designations and house numbering so that east-west routes were referred to as "streets" and north-south arteries were called "avenues." For many decades known as a "street," Agee thus became an "avenue." House numbers were reassigned at the same time. In this discussion Agee is most often referred to as "Agee Street" and the house numbers used herein refer to the current designation and not to the historic ones. "New House Numbering Plan Goes into Effect for Camden on November 3," *Camden News*, October 30, 1952, p. 1, and "Ordinance on Numbers Told," *Camden News*, November 1, 1953, p. 1.

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The residences in the Agee Street blocks would enrich the Washington District's presentation by including one of Camden's two oldest structures - the Rowland Smith house (c.1857), already listed on the National Register, but mainly by accentuating the vitality of 1920s-1930s oil boom expansion. That wave of building energy, concentrated within a few years, transformed Agee Street from a rural lane into a well-developed street of new residences exhibiting the then current styles of Craftsman, English Revival and Colonial Revival. While most of the houses were of modest size, a few were among the town's more notable ones and home to some of the community's leading citizens. The houses on Agee Street, like the houses in the original boundaries of the Washington Street Historic District, exhibit some of the popular styles of the first half of the twentieth century.

Narrative Description

ELABORATION

Prior to the oil boom years Agee Street was a rural byway named in 1878 for an early county official, Philip Agee.² Its southern reach stretched into an area familiarly known as Ageeville from an earlier Agee landowner. Until the early 1920s the area hosted only one home, that of Rowland Smith, dating from the late 1850s. But in the two decades following the discovery of South Arkansas oil, the street was transformed into one of Camden's most vibrant new neighborhoods. In those years on the Agee blocks nearest Washington Street - both to the north and south - new houses were built on nearly every lot, together displaying several popular architectural styles of the early twentieth century, including Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival and Minimal Traditional. As very few of these structures have since undergone substantial alteration, the integrity of the proposed boundary increase is impressive.

The oldest residence on the street, Rowland Smith's home (NR-listed January 21, 1974), is one of the oldest surviving residences within the limits of Camden, predated only by the 1847 McCollum-Chidester House (NR-listed June 24, 1971). Well preserved since its origin in the later 1850s, it was described as a plain traditional "one-story frame house, four bays wide with a gable roof…" and fronted by "a porch…under the main roof…supported by four square columns with a railing between them."³ It was reported to have originally had a rectangular floor plan with a back porch. Ell wings were added subsequently and the back porch enclosed. The symmetrical front façade includes two single entry doors on the front porch, each covered by transoms but without sidelights or trim. The double-hung windows have four lights in both the upper and lower sash and the chimney has a corbelled cap. The ell wings, complementary in

² Teresa Harris and Roberta Hollis, "On the Street Where You Live," *Ouachita County Historical Quarterly*, 36, no. 3 (Spring 2005): pp. 6-7. An early land patent to Thomas M. Agee located in the area subsequently designated

Ageeville is portrayed in Gregory A. Boyd, J.D. *Family Maps of Ouachita County, Arkansas* (Arphax Publishing Co., 2009), p. 179; Goodspeed Publishing Co., *Geographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas* (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890), p. 653. The enduring designation "Ageeville" is confirmed on the official city map drawn by J. Victor Pedron in 1891 (still used for surveys and legal description) which is deposited at the Ouachita County Courthouse.

³ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Nomination of the Rowland Smith House to the National Register of Historic Places, January 21, 1974.

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style, have been in place for decades. In its elegant simplicity and symmetry the front façade resembles the McCollum-Chidester House and is contemporary with the larger pre-Civil War homes on Washington Street.⁴

Three quarters of a century passed before the Smith house received any neighbors. The Victorian period left the landscape undisturbed. But beginning in 1923 with the oil boom energy, and continuing for a decade and a half, the undeveloped blocks came alive, and within a very few years a whole new neighborhood emerged.⁵

Among the new houses, by far the most dominant style was Craftsman, as was the case in that era across town and very often elsewhere in the region. Craftsman styling shunned the elaborate ornamentation of the Victorian era in favor of practical, comfortable, and affordable homes but presented a distinctive décor of its own. Frequent Craftsman marks included low-pitched gabled roofs, exposed rafter tails, square brick piers as a part or the whole of porch roof supports (sometimes connected with a brick balustrade), multi-pane upper window sashes, and decorative touches on the roof and roof wall junction such as clipped gables and brackets under the eaves.⁶

In scale, the Craftsman houses on Agee included some smaller houses (some intended for rental or resale), which were mainly sided with weatherboard siding but with decorative brackets and exposed rafter tails at the rooflines. These include three houses dating from 1924 in South Agee's newly developed Washington Heights area (146, 152, and 158 S. Agee). In more recent years the first of these has been altered toward a minimal-traditional look but the others have retained their original appearance. A slightly larger wood sided house with several Craftsman hallmarks was built the year before by Judson Patterson at 125 S. Agee behind his residence facing Washington. And just north of the Agee structure, a similar companion was added later in 1934 by J.C. Upton behind his new residence on Washington Street.⁷

But the more common Craftsman homes on Agee were of medium scale, mostly sided with brick or a mixture of brick and weatherboard, and were accompanied by other decorative Craftsman details on the roof, the roof wall junction, or on the porch in ways that varied with the house. The 1923 A.P. Smith house at 202 N. Agee mixed brick and weatherboard siding. It did not have exposed rafter tails but employed brackets under the eaves and square brick columns as porch roof supports. The adjoining 1924 brick homes built for C.A. Linaker and W.K. Oldham, at 140 and 144 N. Agee, respectively, reveal exposed rafter tails with the roof and eaves accented with clipped gables and decorative brackets. Several medium-scale houses with boxed eaves rather than exposed rafters date from 1926, including a home for lawyer G.R. Haynie (214 N.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Camden: 1924, 1930, and 1948 amendment of 1930 map.

⁶ Virginia and A. Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Knopf, 1994) 10, 451-463.

⁷ Ouachita County, Real Estate, Tax Books, Town Lots, in County Clerk's Office, Ouachita County Courthouse, 1923-1925; Teresa Harris citing *Arkansas Democrat* August 28, 1921, in e-mail correspondence with the author December 19, 2016; Interview with Mattie Upton, former owner and/or builder of three Agee facing houses, February 7, 2017.

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Agee) utilizing decorative brackets and brick columns as porch roof supports as well as a substantial house placed in rental use for prominent investor Leo Berg at 159 S. Agee.⁸

Also in 1926, well regarded builder C.H. Kollman completed a house at 126 S. Agee (sold to Howard East) which provided a Colonial Revival touch with Tuscan columns on the front porch but which in most respects reflected a general Craftsman flair. A larger 1925 Craftsman house at 225 S. Agee, built for farmer Berry T. Murphy, employed large square columns supporting a hipped porch roof and Craftsman-style window sashes. On its spacious lot the 1925 B.T. Murphy house offers an exemplary picture of a sturdy Craftsman oil-boom house. An interesting variation is the attractive 1929 airplane bungalow built for lumberman W.H. Burroughs at 136 N. Agee.⁹

The earliest new houses included two substantial examples of the Colonial Revival style, a style that gained in popularity in the late 1800s after the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876. Although Colonial Revival style homes were usually sided with wood early on, by the 1920s and afterward they tended to be brick-sided structures. In 1923 furniture dealer Junius W. Scott built a full two-story Colonial Revival house at 222 S. Agee and in 1924 W.E. McRae, son of a hardware merchant, built a spacious story-and-a-half home at 128 N. Agee. Both employed classical pediments over the front porch entrances with the porch roof supported by classical columns. Transoms and sidelights surrounded the main entry door. This style was later supplemented on the street by the 1941 house of businessman Edwin Horton (designed by architects Brueggeman, Swaim, and Allen) which presented a full-length porch bordered by classical columns and plentiful multi-pane windows. The neighborhood's most recent house (205 S. Agee), built in 1985 by Norman Stranberg, is a substantial two-story house with Colonial-Revival influences.¹⁰

The Agee area is especially distinctive in presenting at the corner of Agee and Maple the most striking cluster of English Revival homes in town. There the Pryor and Laney families, in a span of three to four years, built four Tudor-Revival-style homes, displaying steeply-pitched roofs, massive and decorative chimneys, arched entrances, and ample multi-pane windows (sometimes casement style).¹¹

With steep rooflines and decorative chimneys, the 1928-1929 homes of Edgar Pryor and Ben Laney (the latter to become an Arkansas Governor) are distinctively designed in the Tudor

⁸ Ouachita County Real Estate, Tax Books, Town Lots, 1923-1926; *Camden News*, July 30, 1925.

⁹ Ouachita County, Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1925-1930. Information regarding B.T. Murphy and W.H. Burroughs is from United States Census Rolls 1920, 1930, and 1940 provided by Glendle Griggs in e-mail correspondence with the author, August 11, 2015.

¹⁰ McAlester, 320-341; Ouachita County, Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1923-26; Information on W.E. McRae is derived from U.S. Census rolls 1910, 1930, and 1940 provided by Glendle Griggs in e-mail correspondence with the author, August 11, 2015; Information on J.W. Scott was provided by J.W. Scott's great niece Amanda Wunnenberg in e-mail correspondence to Teresa Harris, October 29, 2016, forwarded to the author October 30, 2016; Interview with Edwin Horton, childhood resident and son of original owner of the Edwin Horton home, December 11, 2016; Interview with Dan Martin, current owner of the Stranberg-Martin House, February 6, 2017.

¹¹ McAlester, 354-372; Ouachita County, Real Estate, Tax Books Town Lots, 1928-32.

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Revival style. The Pryor home displays interesting gable ornamentation surrounding the vent openings on the side elevations. The Ben Laney House is larger and more complex with several Tudor Revival characteristics. The Fred Laney home at 310 S. Agee offers one of the boom era's most impressive Camden houses, set on extensive grounds, with ninety-two feet of frontage, 1,790 square feet of ground floor space and 1,680 square feet upstairs. Its complex roof design with gable and hip roofs, arched doorways, decorative half timbering, wide expanses of multi-pane windows (including ample use of casement style) along with sunrooms, a screen porch, and *porte cochere* all combine to give it a strong Tudor Revival appearance. An outside walk of ceramic star-tiles accents the approach. Next door to the south (330 S. Agee) Ben Laney, Sr., father of Ben and Fred, built a smaller and less ornate Tudor house to complete the family community.¹²

A plain-traditional home is the 1937 home at 208 S. Agee built by Dave and Dessie Doyle Andrews but it is subsequently most closely associated with B.T. Fooks of the Grapette soft drink company. It mixes a steeply-pitched gable roof on the south side with a gambrel roof on the north side, exposed rafter tails, and many multi-pane windows to present a picturesque appearance. A wing later added on the rear for additional family space is less elaborate in design.¹³

A few smaller plain traditional houses were subsequently built on Agee Street, most being squeezed onto smaller lots. The 1939 home of A.P. and Edith Jenkins at 206 N. Agee, with simple lines and a boxlike appearance, is sandwiched between two earlier Craftsman houses. The remaining Minimal Traditional structures (119 and 151 S. Agee) were built from processed wood board as rental units by J.C. and Mattie Upton during a small economic boom during the 1980s that was related to Camden's defense industry. The former is a small rectangular structure of only 660 square feet; the latter, constructed on former railroad right of way, is a slightly irregular boxlike structure with a combined gable and shed roof at the front. While not quite old enough to be contributing, these later structures do illustrate a more recent phase of construction in the neighborhood.¹⁴

In conclusion, the addition to the Washington Street Historic District of the proposed blocks on Agee Avenue will reflect Camden's residential building from the mid-1850s through 1985 but with the great majority of structures dating from the twenty years following the discovery of Ouachita County oil in 1922. The styles displayed range from antebellum plain traditional

¹² Ouachita County, Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1928-32; Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Inventory Form, Survey of Fred Laney House (310 S. Agee) by Kate Parker, August 1979: Interview with Nelda Smith, current owner of Ben Laney house, August 1, 2017: Interview with Aletha Rollins, current owner of Fred Laney House and granddaughter of Fred Laney, September 10, 2017; Ouachita County Tax Assessment Current Files, Tax Assessor's Office, Ouachita County Courthouse, available on website actDataScout for Ouachita County, at <u>https://www.actdatascout.com/</u> accessed October 22, 2017.

¹³ Ouachita County, Tax Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, Real Estate, Town Lots 1937, 1945; Interview with David Reynolds, Ouachita County Historical Society president who is knowledgeable about the Andrews-Fooks House, March 5, 1945; Jim Lair, "Memories that Bless and Burn—Benjamin Tyndle Fooks," *Ouachita County Historical Quarterly*, 42, no. 3 (Spring 2011): pp. 19-24.

¹⁴ Ouachita County, Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, Real Estate, 1939, 1982; Interview with Mattie Upon, original owner and builder of 119 and 151 S. Agee, February 7, 2017.

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homes to twentieth-century Minimal Traditional structures. But the majority of the residences reflect the most popular styles of the oil boom years: Tudor Revival, Colonial Revival, and especially the popular Craftsman style. Very few of the homes in the boundary increase area have been substantially altered since they were built. Thus the inclusion of these blocks on Agee Avenue will provide with high integrity a reinforcement to the historical and architectural significance of the original Washington Street Historic District with special emphasis on the contributions that accompanied the oil-boom years.

Property Inventory:

Resource #	Historic Name	Address	C/NC
OU0012	Rowland B. Smith House	234 South Agee Street	IL
OU0013	Fred Laney House	310 South Agee Street	С
OU0028	Gov. Ben Laney, Jr. House	837 Maple Street	С
OU0277	L.A. French House	120 North Agee Street	С
OU0278	McRae- Patton House	128 North Agee Street	С
OU0279	William H. Burroughs House	136 North Agee Street	С
OU0280	W.K. Oldham House	140 North Agee Street	С
OU0281	C.A. Linaker House	144 North Agee Street	С
OU0282	Andrew Smith House	202 North Agee Street	С
OU0283	Jenkin- Hamm House	206 North Agee Street	С
OU0284	George R. Haynie	214 North Agee Street	С

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Name of Property	tone District Boundary Increas	<u> </u>	County and State
OU0285	East- Glaze House	116 South Agee Street	NC
OU0286	J.C. Upton Rear Dwelling	117 South Agee Street	С
OU0287	Upton Rental House	119 South Agee Street	NC
OU0288	Judson Patterson Rental House	125 South Agee Street	С
OU0289	Upton Rental House #2	151 South Agee Street	NC
OU0290	Purifoy- Gaughan Rental House	146 South Agee Street	NC
OU0291	W.A. Walls Investment House	152 South Agee Street	NC
OU0292	Lalla Thornton Investment House	158 South Agee Street	С
OU0293	Leo Berg Investment House	159 South Agee Street	NC
OU0294	Stranberg-Martin House	205 South Agee Street	NC
OU0295	Andrews- Fooks House	208 South Agee Street	С
OU0296	J.W. Scott House	222 South Agee Street	С
OU0297	Berry T. Murphy House	225 South Agee Street	С
OU0299	Ed and Alice Horton House	237 South Agee Street	С

Washington Street Historic District Boundary Increase			Ouachita County	, Arkansas
Name of Property			County and State	1
OU0301	Ben Laney, Sr. House	330 South Agee Street	С	
OU0302	Pryor Reynolds House	829 Maple Street	С	

Washington Street Historic District Boundary Increase

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 Х 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.)

Х

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location

C. A birthplace or grave

- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Washington Street Historic District Boundary Increase Name of Property Ouachita County, Arkansas County and State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.) <u>COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</u> <u>ARCHITECTURE</u>

Period of Significance

_1847-1960 _____

Significant Dates

_N/A _____

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Brueggeman, Swaim, and Allen, Architects

Ouachita County, Arkansas

County and State Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Washington Street Historic District, composed of several blocks of West Washington and Graham streets was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2010 under Criteria A and C with local significance. It was deemed significant in exhibiting four major eras of substantial residential building in Camden: the pre-Civil War (riverboat) period, the turn of the century (railroad) period, the expansive oil boom years, and a final period associated with the defense industry boom accompanying World War II and the years after. Architecturally, it exhibited a variety of architectural styles associated with each of those eras, Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Craftsman, English Revival, Italian Revival, and Minimal Traditional styled homes. As Camden's premier residential location across a century and a half, many of the homes were occupied by the town's most influential residents.

At the western border of the District, Washington Street (running east and west) intersects Agee Avenue¹⁵ - a north-south roadway named in 1878 for Philip Agee, the county's first county clerk.¹⁶ A portion of the District's western border (between Washington and Graham streets) currently incorporates the eastern side of the first block of North Agee. But the western side of the first two blocks of North Agee and several blocks of South Agee also have historic significance - but were not included in the 2010 nomination. These Agee blocks can amplify and enrich the District's presentation with houses from three of the four eras associated with the original District. (Only the turn of the century, railroad era is not represented). Indeed, Agee Avenue hosts one of the town's oldest surviving houses. But the area's most dramatic contribution lies in its reflection of the vitality of the oil-boom era expansion from the mid-1920s through the following decade. In those few years the once rural lane was transformed into an extensive row of new homes including some of the more notable in town.

For its associations with the development of Camden in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and for its good examples of nineteenth and twentieth-century architectural styles, the Washington Street Historic District Boundary Increase is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria A and C.

¹⁵ Beginning January 1, 1953, streets running north and south were designated "avenues" and those running east and west were designated "streets." Hence the reference to Agee Avenue for more recent commentary. In most of its historic era the street was known as "Agee Street." House numbering was revised at the same time. House numbers given herein refer to current numbering and not to those used before 1953. "New House Numbering Plan Goes into Effect for Camden on November 3," Camden News, October 30, 1952, p. 1, and "Ordinance on Numbers Told," Camden News, November 1, 1953, p. 1.

¹⁶ Teresa Harris and Roberta Hollis, "On the Street Where You Live," *Ouachita County Historical Quarterly*, 36, no. 3 (Spring 2005): pp. 6-7; Goodspeed Publishing Co., Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890), p. 653.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

In the mid-1850s the residence of onetime steamboat clerk and longtime merchant and bookkeeper Rowland Smith was built about a quarter of a mile south of Washington Street on a byway which intersected Washington near the 1847 home of Peter McCollum (which was later sold to J.C. Chidester and is now the Ouachita County Historical Society museum). For decades the Smith home, a plain-traditional house with some classical influences - square wooden porch columns and a symmetrical front façade¹⁷ - presided over semi-rural acres in tranquil isolation. In decades following, the area around the home - at the southern terminus of the road - became familiarly known as "Ageeville," probably acknowledging the family of Thomas Agee, who received the first land patent in the area and who was likely related to Philip Agee after whom the street was subsequently named.¹⁸ In the early 1880s, the Iron Mountain railroad tracks (later the Missouri Pacific) were laid across Agee just south of Washington Street, and the 1891 map of surveyor J. Victor Pedron reinforced "Ageeville" as the enduring legal description of the environs of the Smith House.¹⁹

For many years Agee Street, both north and south of Washington Street, remained undeveloped. But following the discovery of oil in South Arkansas in 1921 and Ouachita County's discovery well in 1922, the neighborhood began to stir with activity as Camden and much of south central Arkansas began to pulsate with reverberations of an oil boom. The transformation was evident in town by 1923 and continued for another decade. Town population grew rapidly and a vigorous stream of oil money was soon underwriting a building boom.

Residentially Camden seemed to be bursting at the seams. Developers began platting new subdivisions, with the major thrust directed west of the town's older blocks centered on downtown. Agee Street became the axis of several of the new projects. Two of the more prominent developers, R.N. Reynolds and his father T.H. Reynolds, were instrumental in developing Parkview and Shady Grove subdivisions which straddled North Agee. Purchasing land from Mr. Jack Lyon (whose name endures on a connecting side street) they also developed multiple building lots labeled Washington Heights on the west side of a segment of South Agee.²⁰ Department store owner E.W. Copeland promoted a smaller subdivision on the southwest corner of Agee and Washington, and a more extensive development called West End

¹⁷ United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Nomination of the Rowland Smith House to the National Register of Historic Places, January 21, 1974.

¹⁸ An early land patent to Thomas M. Agee located in the area subsequently designated Ageeville is documented in Gregory A. Boyd, J.D. *Family Maps of Ouachita County, Arkansas* (Arphax Publishing Co., 2009), p. 179; Harris and Hollis, pp. 6-7.

¹⁹ Camden, Ouachita County Arkansas; Resources and Advantages of Camden (1893 promotional pamphlet, reprint: Ouachita County Historical Society, 1986), p. 13, notes the 1881 arrival in Camden of the Iron Mountain Railway. The official 1891 City Map by J. Victor Pedron (deposited in the Ouachita County Courthouse) delineates its path across South Agee Street.

²⁰ Camden News, March 28 and April 11, 1923 and July 30, 1925, p. 2.

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Park was laid out east of the junction of Maple Street and Agee.²¹ Meanwhile, vacant spaces adjoining and lying between the subdivisions began to fill with new homes as the Agee blocks became a desirable address for new residents and for investment homes for resale or rental.²²

The Sanborn Fire Insurance map of 1924 shows a striking cluster of homes already in place on both North and South Agee and that of 1930 shows few remaining spaces in the blocks nearest Washington. For those years one can imagine a scene punctuated by the sound of hammers and saws amid stacks of lumber and roofing.²³

The first new houses on Agee date from 1923 and included two homes of medium scale - one at 202 North Agee built by J.M. Greaves but soon sold to A.P. Smith, whose family resided there for decades. On South Agee Judson Patterson built a house at 125 Agee, which faced Agee, behind his residence that faced Washington at the southeast corner of the intersection. The year 1924 proved a banner year for building with several new structures erected on both North and South Agee, and more were added in 1925 and 1926.²⁴

Most of these houses reflected the most popular style of the oil-boom days, the Craftsman style, which is distinguished by low-pitched roofs, exposed rafter tails, multi-pane upper window sashes, and brick piers as a part or the whole of porch roof supports. These supports were often connected by a brick balustrade. Clipped gables and decorative brackets were also sometimes used. Wall material was usually brick or a mixture of brick and weatherboard although some of the smaller ones in Washington Heights were primarily sided with wood. Most were one story.²⁵ Census and ownership records suggest that the majority were built as residences for the owners but a few were built for sale or rental.²⁶

Examples of those likely built for investment were two similar Craftsman homes on North Agee constructed by C.A. Linaker Packing Co., one for the company owners and one for lawyer W.K. Oldham (144 and 140 North Agee, respectively). The same was true of a house at 159 S. Agee built for Leo Berg. Others clearly built as residences for the owners included that built for lawyer G.R. Haynie in 1926 (214 N. Agee) and one built the year before for farmer Berry T. Murphy (225 S. Agee). An attractive airplane bungalow was built in 1929 for W.H. Burroughs, a prominent figure in lumber mills and wholesale lumber business in the area.²⁷

²¹ Ouachita County, Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, Ouachita County Clerk's Office, Ouachita County Courthouse. West End Park subdivision is first recorded in 1924 and the Copeland subdivision in 1925.

²² Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Camden: 1924 and 1930.

²³ *Ibid*.

²⁴ Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1923-1926; Teresa Harris citing *Arkansas Democrat* August 28, 1921, in email correspondence with the author, December 19, 2016.

²⁵ Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Knopf, 1994), pp. 451-463.

²⁶ Intended use of new residential structures is inferred from data in United States Census Rolls for 1930 and 1940, provided to the author by local historians Teresa Harris and Glendle Griggs.

²⁷ Camden News, 30 July 1925; Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1924-1929; United States Census Rolls, 1930 provided to the author by Glendle Griggs; Information on Burroughs derived from "Camden Biographies from 1922," Ouachita County Historical Quarterly 29, no. 1 (Fall 1997): pp. 27-35.

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Although the Craftsman style was the most popular style during the period, the earliest new homes dating from 1923 and 1924 also included two substantial Colonial Revival homes, employing classical columns supporting pedimented porticos, symmetrical façades, and multipane upper and lower window sashes. One of them at 222 S. Agee was a full two-story house just north of the Rowland Smith House built for furniture dealer J.W. Scott, and another at 128 North Agee, just east of the Chidester House, was built for W.E. McRae, scion of a prominent hardware merchant. The McRae home passed through ownership changes in the early 1930s, likely brought on by the Depression, and in 1935 it became the longtime home of Hamilton Patton, a prominent banker and longtime officer in the Merchants and Planters Bank. (The house is best remembered by people in the area as the Patton House.)²⁸

The most dramatic expression of the flush oil-boom days on Agee Street came in the years 1928-1932 when four Tudor Revival homes of significant scale were built at the junction of Maple and Agee, where the southwest corner was anchored by the Smith House. This began in 1928-1929 with two Tudor-style houses built on or near the southeast corner of the intersection. The easternmost house, at 827 Maple, was built for Edgar Pryor, a prominent auto dealer and later county sheriff who would become the father of later Congressman, Governor and U.S. Senator David Pryor, who was born when the family resided there.²⁹

Next door to the west and across Agee, three other Tudor Revival homes were built by the Laney family, hitherto residents in the southern part of the county but whose oil fortunes lured them into Camden. Just west of the Pryor house (at 829 Maple) a substantial Tudor house was built by Ben Laney, Jr., who was later to become mayor and then a two-term governor of Arkansas from 1945-1948. In 1931 across the street on the southwest corner of Agee and Maple at 310 S. Agee Ben Laney's brother, Fred, active in the oil and the auto business, built the most expansive Tudor Revival house in town. The brothers' father, B.T. Laney, Sr., followed a year later with a smaller Tudor Revival style house at 330 S. Agee built just to the south of Fred's home. All these houses reflect Tudor Revival characteristics with steeply-pitched roofs, massive chimneys, and arched doorways. The two-story Fred Laney House with a complex arrangement of porches, sunrooms, casement windows, and fireplaces became truly one of the showplaces in town.³⁰

By 1932 most of the Agee building wave was over but a few additional structures would follow in subsequent years. An attractive plain-traditional house, yet with some eclectic touches that mixed gable and gambrel roofs with Craftsman characteristics and included many windows, was built in 1937 by Dave and Dessie Doyle Andrews. It was bought in 1945 by B.T. Fooks, founder and longtime owner of The Grapette Co., manufacturer of popular soft drinks that spread

²⁸ McAlester, pp. 320-341; Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1923-1935; Information on W.E. McRae is derived from United States Census Rolls, 1910-1940, provided by Glendle Griggs in e-mail correspondence with the author August 11, 2015; Information on J.W. Scott provided by J.W. Scott's great niece Amanda Wunnenberg in e-mail correspondence to Teresa Harris October 29, 2016, forwarded to the author October 30, 2016; *Camden News*, January 12, 1968, p. 1.

²⁹ Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1928-1929, *Camden News*, September 15, 1952, p. 1.

³⁰ Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1928-32; Interview with Aletha Rollins, current owner of Fred Laney House and granddaughter of Fred Laney, September 10, 2017; "The Laneys of Camden," *Ouachita County Historical Quarterly*, 22, no. 3 (Spring 1991): pp. 21-36. McAlester, pp. 354-371.

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internationally.³¹ At 206 N. Agee a Minimal Traditional house was built by A.P. and Edith Jenkins in 1939. And to round out the already impressive intersection at Maple and Agee, local businessman and department store owner Ed Horton built an elegant brick-sided Colonial Revival home on the only vacant corner.³²

The only new homes built in the neighborhood after 1941 accompanied another episode of defense industry expansion in the 1980s. A pair of Plain Traditional houses addressing the need for affordable rental use were built in 1982 by J.C. and Mattie Upton at 119 and 151 South Agee, then owners of the southeast corner of Washington and Agee. Both the houses were constructed of processed wood. The former was inserted into a compound of pre-existing houses and the latter was nestled near the Missouri Pacific Railroad tracks when some of the railroad's peripheral right-of-way became available for private ownership after a ninety-nine year lease expired. The final addition to the street came in the 1980s defense plant boom when defense plant manager Norman Stranberg built a substantial two-story brick structure with Colonial Revival flavor at 205 N. Agee on a longtime vacant lot in 1985. (The home is presently occupied by physician Dan Martin, a local historical society activist).³³

In summary, the blocks of Agee Street proposed in this boundary increase would be a valuable addition to the National Register of Historic Places. Residences there represent the sweep of time from the mid-1850s through the latter years of the twentieth century. They display diversity in style stretching from antebellum plain traditional, through the Craftsman, Tudor Revival, and Colonial Revival styles of the 1920s and 1930s, to a few Minimal Traditional structures dating from more recent decades. The integrity is striking with only one of the houses having been substantially altered with artificial siding, but without change to the footprint of the house.

The proposed structures were also home to persons of local and statewide significance, including the home of a future Governor, Ben Laney, the first childhood home of future Governor and Senator David Pryor, and the longtime residence of B. Tyndall Fooks, founder and owner of the Grapette Co. The neighborhood was also home to a number of prominent local business and professional men involved in oil, lumber, mercantile, and banking activity and in the legal professions.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The early twentieth century was a time of significant change in Camden, especially after the discovery of oil in South Arkansas in the early 1920s. As people flocked to the area to share in the wealth of the oil boom, it caused many communities in the southern part of the state to grow tremendously, and Camden was no exception. The population in Camden, which had dropped

³¹ Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1937 and 1945; Interview with David Reynolds, March 5, 2017; Jim Lair, "Memories that Bless and Burn—Benjamin Tyndle Fooks," *Ouachita County Historical Quarterly*, 42, no. 3 (Spring 2011): pp. 19-24.

³² Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, 1939; Interview with Edwin Horton, childhood resident and son of builder of the Horton home, December 11, 2016.

³³ Real Estate, Tax Books, Town Lots, 1982; Interview with Mattie Upton, builder of the Upton rental houses, February 7, 2017; Interview with Dr. Dan Martin, current owner of the Stranberg-Martin House, February 6. 2017.s

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Name of Property County and State from 3,995 people in 1910 to 3,238 people in 1920, skyrocketed to 7,273 people in 1930.³⁴ As people came to Camden, it necessitated the construction of new homes and the development of new neighborhoods to accommodate the influx of new residents. The homes on Agee Street in the proposed boundary increase to the Washington Street Historic District reflect the growth and development that occurred in the area during the 1920s and 1930s in direct response to the oil boom. Furthermore, the homes that were built on Agee Street during the 1920s and 1930s reflect the popular architectural styles of the period, including the Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Tudor Revival styles. Textbook examples of the architectural styles of the period line Agee Street, and they illustrate the architectural trends of the 1920s and 1930s period. Due to its importance in its associations with the development of Camden during the oil-boom years of the 1920s and 1930s along with its significance as a good collection of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century architectural styles, the Washington Street Historic District Boundary Increase is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criteria A and C**.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Daily Arkansas Gazette. 12 December 1906, p. 2. (Obituary of Rowland Smith).

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³⁴ Milam, Daniel A. "Camden, Ouachita County." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <u>http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=947</u>.

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Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Inventory Form. Survey of Fred Laney House (310 S. Agee) by Kate Parker, August 1979.

Ouachita County Real Estate Tax Books, Town Lots, Ouachita County Courthouse, 1922-1941, 1982.

United States Census Rolls, 1850, 1860, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940. (Research provided by local historians Teresa Harris and Glendle Griggs).

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Nomination of the Rowland B. Smith House to the National Register of Historic Places, 21 January 1974.

Interviews in person, by telephone, or e-mail correspondence with John M. Wheeler

Gammel, Andres, current owner of Rowland Smith House. Correspondence by e-mail, 30 January 2017.

Griggs, Glendle, local historian with knowledge of Agee St. residents. Correspondence by email, August 11, 2015, and February 4 and April 29, 2017.

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Harris, Teresa, local historian with knowledge of Agee St. residents. Correspondence by e-mail, March 3, 2016 (Re: B.T. Murphy); October 30, 2016 (Re: J.W. Scott); November 29, 2016 (Re: Philip Agee); December 19, 2016 (Re: Judson Patterson); February 4, 2017 (Re: Hamp Patton and Edgar Pryor); April 22, 2017 (Re: Rowland B. Smith); October 23, 2017 (Re: early Agee landholding from maps in Gregory A. Boyd, J.D. *Family Maps of Ouachita County, Arkansas*. Arphax, Publishing Co., 2009).

Horton, Edwin, childhood resident and son of original owner of Edwin Horton home. Interview, December 11, 2016.

Lewis, Margie, longtime owner of J.W. Scott House (222 S. Agee). Interview, 19 October 2017.

Martin, Dan, current owner of Strandberg-Martin House (205 S. Agee). Interview, 6 February 2017.

Rollins, Aletha, granddaughter of Fred Laney and the current owner of Fred Laney home. Interview, 10 September 2017.

Reynolds, David, President of Ouachita County Historical Society and authority on local family history. Interview, 5 March 2017.

Sipe, Anita, current owner of McRae-Patton House. Correspondence by e-mail, 23 February 2016.

Smith, Nelda (current owner of Ben Laney House). Interview, 1 August 2017.

Tutt, Ellen, local real estate appraiser and authority on history of homes and architectural details. Multiple personal conversations and e-mail correspondence, 2014-2017.

Upton, Mattie, former owner and/or builder of three Agee facing houses. Interview, 7 February 2017.

Williford, Britt, Ouachita County Clerk. Interview, 6 February 2017, about interpreting tax assessment records.

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 # _____

NPS Form 10-900	OMB No. 1024-001	8
Washington Street Historic Di	strict Boundary Increase	Ouachita County, Arkansas
Name of Property recorded by Histo	County and State	
Primary location of ad	lditional data:	
<u>X</u> State Historic Pres	servation Office	
Other State agenc	У	
Federal agency		
Local government	t	
University Other		
	ry:	
Historic Resources Su	rvey Number (if assigned)	:
10. Geographical Data	ì	
Acreage of Property _	Approximately 8 acres.	
Use either the UTM sys	stem or latitude/longitude co	oordinates
Latitude/Longitude C Datum if other than WC (enter coordinates to 6	GS84:	
1. Latitude:	Longitude	e:
2. Latitude:	Longitude	2:
3. Latitude:	Longitude	2:
4. Latitude:	Longitude	2:
Or UTM References Datum (indicated on US	SGS map):	
NAD 1927 or	x NAD 1983	
1. Zone: 15	Easting: 514530	Northing: 3716112
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:

3. Zone:

Northing:

Easting:

Ouachita County, Arkansas County and State

4. Zone:

Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Easting :

The Washington Street Historic District, Boundary Increase II, encompasses the following parcels: 757-00013-000R, 757-00029-000R, 761-00006-000R, 737-00077-000E, 737-00076-001C, 737-00075-000R, 737-00074-000R, 737-00073-000R, 737-00072-000E, 737-00071-000R, 737-00070-000R, 755-00005-000R, 750-00144-000R, 750-00143-000R, 750-00145-000R, 750-00147-000R, 754-00038-000R, 754-00037-000R, 754-00036-000R, 757-00014-000R, 757-00014-000R, 757-00014-000R, 757-000151-000R, 754-00001-000R, 757-00014-000R, 757-0001-000R, 757-0005-000R, 757-00033-000R, and 761-00005-000R.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the properties in the boundary increase's area.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>John Wheeler and Bill Hawkins, ea</u>	<u>dited by Ralph S. '</u>	Wilcox, National Register &
Survey Coordinator		
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation	Program	
street & number: <u>1100 North Street</u>		
city or town: Little Rock	state: <u>AR</u>	zip code: <u>72201</u>
e-mail: <u>ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov</u>		
telephone: (501) 324-9787		
date: February 5, 2018		

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Washington Street Historic District, Boundary Increase II

City or Vicinity: Camden

County: Ouachita State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph S. Wilcox

Date Photographed: January 10, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of <u>12</u>. View northwest on North Agee Street showing 120 and 128 North Agee.
- 2 of <u>12</u>. View northwest on North Agee Street showing 140, 144, 202, and 206 North Agee.
- 3 of <u>12</u>. View southwest on North Agee Street showing 214, 206, and 202 North Agee.
- 4 of <u>12</u>. View southeast on South Agee Street showing 117 and 125 South Agee.
- 5 of <u>12</u>. View southwest on South Agee Street showing 146, 152, and 158 South Agee.
- 6 of <u>12</u>. View west looking at the property at 208 South Agee Street.
- 7 of <u>12</u>. View west looking at the property at 222 South Agee Street.
- 8 of <u>12</u>. View northwest looking at the property at 234 South Agee Street.
- 9 of <u>12</u>. View northeast looking at the properties at 237 and 225 South Agee Street.
- 10 of <u>12</u>. View south looking at the properties at 837 and 829 Maple Street.

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- 11 of <u>12</u>. View west looking at the property at 310 South Agee Street.
- 12 of <u>12</u>. View west looking at the property at 330 South Agee Street.

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:	Boundary Update					
Property Name:	Washington Street Historic District (Boundary Increase)					
Multiple Name:						
State & County:	ARKANSAS, Ouachita					
Date Rece 4/10/20			of 16th Day: 18/2018	Date of 45th Day: 5/25/2018	Date of Weekly List:	
Reference number:	: BC100002455					
Nominator:	State					
Reason For Review	:					
Appea	PDIL			Text/Data Issue		
SHPO Request L		Landscape	Э	Photo		
Waiver Nationa		National		Map/	Map/Boundary	
Resubmission Mo		Mobile Re	source	Period		
Other		TCP	TCP		Less than 50 years	
		CLG				
XAccept	Return	Reject	5/21	/2018 Date		
Abstract/Summary Comments:	This BI includes sign district, including exc				nents the original	
Recommendation/ Criteria	Accept / A & C					
Reviewer Jim Ga	bbert		Discipline	Historian		
Telephone (202)354-2275			Date			
DOCUMENTATION	: see attached cor	mments : No se	e attached SI	LR : No		

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



Asa Hutchinson Governor

> Stacy Hurst Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum





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e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org website: www.arkansaspreservation.com

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April 4, 2018



J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs National Register of Historic Places 1849 C Street., NW Mail Stop 7228 Washington D.C. 20240

RE: Washington Street Historic District Boundary Increase – Camden, Ouachita County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Washington Street Historic District Boundary Increase to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely

Stacy Hurst State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure