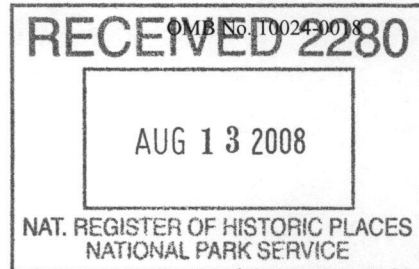


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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 Waldron Commercial Historic District

other names/site number SC0049-SC0080, SC0016, SC0045

2. Location

street & number South Main Street between First and Fifth Streets, Washington Street  
between Second and Third Streets.

☐ not for publication

city or town Waldron

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Scott code 127 zip code 72958

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

7/28/08  
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:)

for  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson V. Beall

9.25.08

**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

19

14

Buildings

Sites

Structures

Objects

19

14

Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

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

1

**6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/retail/grocery/bank/restaurant

DOMESTIC/hotel

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theatre

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/retail/restaurant

RECREATION AND CULTURE/theatre

**7. Description****Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY COMMERCIAL AND EARLY  
20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN  
MOVEMENTS/Commercial Style

LATE VICTORIAN/Italiane

MODERN MOVEMENT/Art Deco

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE, BRICK, STONE

walls STUCCO, STONE, BRICK, ASBESTOS,  
SYNTHETIC

roof ASPHALT, METAL

other

**Narrative Description**

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

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### SUMMARY

The Waldron Commercial Historic District was once a thriving commercial center for Waldron, Arkansas. The town is the county seat for Scott County, Arkansas, in the western section of the state near the Oklahoma border. One building within the district boundaries has been previously listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The 1933 Scott County Courthouse (NR Listed 04-11-89) is located on the west side of South Main Street between West Second and West Third Streets. Within the boundaries of the district there are 35 total resources that include 34 total buildings and one ancillary structure. Out of the buildings within the district, 57.6% (19 total not including the Scott County Courthouse) maintain a high level of integrity and contribute to the district. The other 14 buildings account for 42.4% of the district and are non-contributing. Several periods of significance represent this district since there are different phases of development for the town of Waldron that occur between the years 1880-1958. No known buildings were built after 1956. The Waldron Commercial Historic District's buildings represent commercial architecture from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

### ELABORATION

The oldest buildings still standing in Waldron's Commercial Historic District were built circa 1880. Organization and development of Waldron's Main Street began before the 1880s, but no buildings before that time survived. In the late 1830s, William Featherston operated a tavern where the Ben Franklin Building (SC0059) now stands. The first period of growth reflects Waldron becoming the county seat in 1846. Between 1850 and 1859 the town housed three grocery stores, two hotels, a courthouse, a jail, a post office, and one blacksmith. John Waldron surveyed the ten acres that Featherston had donated to the town in 1859. The log courthouse built during the 1840s was replaced with a brick courthouse in 1860 that later burned in 1862. In 1869 the Continental Hotel, also referred to as the Malone Hotel, was erected on the east side of South Main Street and the south side of West Third Street in the present locations of Crutchfield's Café Building (SC0058) and the parking lot to its north. The brick courthouse that was destroyed during the Civil War was replaced with a log building until a two-story building was built in 1870 becoming the town's fifth courthouse. From 1870 to 1878, the town went through a period referred to as the "Waldron War" where lawlessness was rampant and more than thirty people were murdered. This caused the town to suffer economically until the late 1870s when two-story brick buildings replaced the wood-constructed businesses on South Main Street. The next period of development includes structures built between 1880-1900. This reflects a period of moderate economic growth due to the cotton industry and Waldron being a county seat. The cotton industry and courthouse generated a population growth to approximately 800 by 1891. The next period of development dates between 1901-1919. The dates reflect the town's two banks, the Bank of Waldron and the First National Bank, opening in 1901, the beginning of mining operations, and the coming of the railroad in 1902. The period between 1930-1939 reflects the period after the Great Depression when many Civil Works projects changed the face of South Main Street by paving the streets and putting in new waterworks. Between 1940 and 1958 few buildings were erected on Main Street.



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### 1880-1900

The architecture of downtown Waldron during this period of development can be described as traditional commercial architecture with some structures containing Italianate features. The ten buildings erected during this time period represent 34% of the district. The brick buildings vary between one and two-stories and have rectangular plans. The west side of South Main Street is the only side that has buildings that survived from the nineteenth century. The building at 282 South Main Street (SC0071, contributing) contains Italianate features that include arched windows on the second floor, arched doorways on first floor, decorative brickwork on front façade, and a bracketed roof. This building is circa 1880 and referred to as the Waldron Hardware Mercantile Building. John T. Forrester, who was a prominent businessman in Waldron at the turn of the century, originally owned it. Dozier and Son Building (SC0075, contributing) located at 234 South Main Street exemplifies the traditional nineteenth century commercial building and was originally a grocery store. The construction of the building is circa 1890. Waldron housed two hotels, eight general stores, five grocery stores, three drug stores, one shoe shop, six doctors' offices, and several real estate offices in 1891. The Boston Cash Store Building (SC0079, noncontributing) located at 200 South Main Street was built circa 1880, but the entire front façade has been reconstructed. The north side of the building still shows evidence of its Italianate influence from an arched doorway and bracketed roof on this one-story brick structure. Most of the buildings that survived from this period have been altered considerably, except for the Waldron Hardware Mercantile Building (SC0071, contributing) and the Stone Bros. Building at 290 South Main Street (SC0070, contributing). This is evident from looking at Figures 7-01 and 7-02.

### 1901-1919

Businesses began to flourish on South Main Street during this period of development. The Kansas City Southern Railroad came to Waldron in 1902, as well as the First National Bank and the Bank of Waldron both opening in 1901. The majority of the construction during this time period was on the east side of South Main Street between East Second and East Fifth Streets. Eleven buildings from this time period remain in the historic district, which makes up 32% of the total structures. The one and two-story brick buildings from this period represent standard twentieth century architecture. The Bank of Waldron (SC0061, contributing) located at 245 South Main Street is a great example of this time period. It is a two-story brick structure built in 1901 that has one and two story cornices over the windows with inlaid stonework over the two-story double-hung windows. The Post Office Building (SC0062, contributing) located at 251 South Main Street was built circa 1910. This is the only building that remains with a beveled, side entrance. The building shows Italianate influences with its arched doorways and windows and decorative brickwork, even though most Italianate buildings do not post-date the nineteenth century. The building at 173 South Main Street (SC0080, contributing) is the only building on the east side of South Main Street between East Second and East Third Streets that has a completely original façade.



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### 1920-1940

During the 1920s, the streets of South Main Street were paved, and a central water system replaced the cisterns, wells, and outhouses. The ten buildings constructed during this period of development represent 34% of the Waldron Commercial Historic District. All but two buildings reflect standard twentieth century commercial architecture. The Scott County Courthouse (SC0016, individual listing) built in 1933 replaced the 1904 courthouse after it was destroyed in a fire. The courthouse is a great example of the Art Deco style constructed with concrete and brick detail and has fixed windows with central inset awnings. The Pines Theatre (SC0064, contributing), built in 1931, also reflects an Art Deco style. The Davis' Grocery Store Building (SC0067, non-contributing) was built circa 1938. It reflects standard twentieth century commercial architecture and was originally a double, front-gabled structure with a high parapet on the front façade. The lot where this structure stands was once a gristmill, and when Robert Davis built the structure he inlaid several of the mill stones with the cut stone in the front façade.

### 1941-1958

During this period of development only four buildings were built on South Main Street, which reflects only 12% of the Waldron Commercial Historic District. A new water filtration system resulted in the establishment of a poultry processing plant in Waldron. Memorial Hall (SC0045, contributing) was constructed between 1946 and 1947. The two-story building is a traditional red brick structure that still serves as a community-gathering place and hosts cultural events. In 1953, the Continental Hotel was torn down and in 1954 Crutchfield's Café (SC0058, non-contributing) was built on the south side of the lot. The north side of the lot now serves as a parking lot. Crutchfield's Café is unique for South Main Street, for it is the only building with asbestos siding and overhanging eaves on a continuous flat roof. The style reflects a modern contemporary style from the 1950s. The only building with roman brick is Jim Angel's Shoe Shop Building (SC0051, contributing), which was constructed circa 1954. Except for Crutchfield's Café Building and Jim Angel's Shoe Shop Building, all the buildings from this period are traditional red brick and stand out from the buildings built in the earlier periods of development.

### 1959-Present

No buildings during this period of development were built within the Waldron Commercial Historic District, although some alterations on the buildings did take place. The Building at 294 South Main Street (SC0069, non-contributing) and all the buildings on the west block of South Main Street between West Third and West Fourth Streets have had their front facades covered with aluminum slipcovers except for the First National Bank Building (SC0077, contributing) at some point during the 1960s. A modern courthouse was erected on First Street and the 1933 Scott County Courthouse now lies vacant. The city now has a total of three banks, but none of them remain within the boundaries of the historic district. All these things have led to a decline in the businesses that remain on South Main Street.

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### INTEGRITY

With 57.6% of the resources contributing to the integrity of the Waldron Commercial Historic District it has a strong visual connection to its period of significance. Interruptions in this district are related to two main factors. The first being the economic shift that removed South Main Street as the main center of commerce for the town of Waldron. Taking the courthouse away from South Main Street to First Street and moving businesses to the west side of Second Street altered the commercial center and resulted in the vacancy of many of the buildings still present on South Main Street. Nine buildings or 26% of the district are presently vacant with many other businesses having seasonal hours. Five of the vacant buildings are contributing structures, and many of these structures have become considerably neglected. Urban development during the late 1960s contributed to the alteration of the facades of several buildings in the district. Four out of the five buildings with aluminum facades are non-contributing structures within the district. Many of the buildings, vacant and occupied, have boarded windows and original facades making it seem as if time has stood still in this district.

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Resource #	Address	Current Occupant	MAP ID#	C/NC
SC0049	95-105 S. Main Street	Vacant	1	C
SC0050	115 S. Main Street	Vacant	2	C
SC0051	125 S. Main Street	Vacant	3	C
SC0052	139-143 S. Main Street	Jason's Barber Shop/Apts.	4	NC
SC0053	151 S. Main Street	Direct TV	5	C
SC0054	169 S. Main Street	Law Office (satellite office)	6	NC
SC0080	173 S. Main Street	Law Office (satellite office)	7	C
SC0055	179 S. Main Street	Vacant	8	NC
SC0056	183 S. Main Street	Seasonal holiday store	9	NC
SC0057	189 S. Main Street	Vacant	10	NC
SC0058	North side of 239 S. Main Street	Warehouse for Wildhorse Pawn	11	NC
SC0059	239 S. Main Street	Wildhorse Pawn, Gun, and Auto	12	C
SC0060	243 S. Main Street	Work Horse Chemical	13	NC
SC0061	245 S. Main Street	Moss Bank (wreaths & flowers)	14	C
SC0062	251 S. Main Street	Hunt's Dry Goods	15	C
SC0063	259 S. Main Street	Massage Therapy Center/Residence	16	NC
SC0064	271 S. Main Street	The Scott Theatre	17	C
SC0065	289 S. Main Street	Vacant	18	NC
SC0066	305 S. Main Street	Vacant/Residence	19	C
SC0067	186 Washington Street	Hidden Treasures Store	20	NC
SC0068	298 S. Main Street	The Parsely Store Antiques	21	C
SC0069	294 S. Main Street	Holmes Insurance	22	NC
SC0070	290 S. Main Street	Vacant	23	C
SC0071	280 S. Main Street	Nothing Fancy Flea Market	24	C
SC0072	274 S. Main Street	Gifts for Faith	25	C
SC0073	262 S. Main Street	Residence	26	C
SC0074	244-252 S. Main Street	Margaret Ann's Flower & Gift	27	C
SC0075	234 S. Main Street	Mo's Bakery	28	C
SC0076	232 S. Main Street	Ebie's Gift Box and Flowers	29	NC
SC0077	230 S. Main Street	Nor-Wes Upholstery	30	C
SC0078	218 S. Main Street	Get 'R Dun Graphics	31	NC
SC0079	200 S. Main Street	The Waldron News	32	NC
SC0016	W. side of S. Main between E. Second and E. Third Streets	Old Scott County Courthouse	33	IL
SC0045	96 US 71B	Memorial Hall	34	C

Chart Reference:

C – Contributing

NC – Non-Contributing

IL – Individually Listed

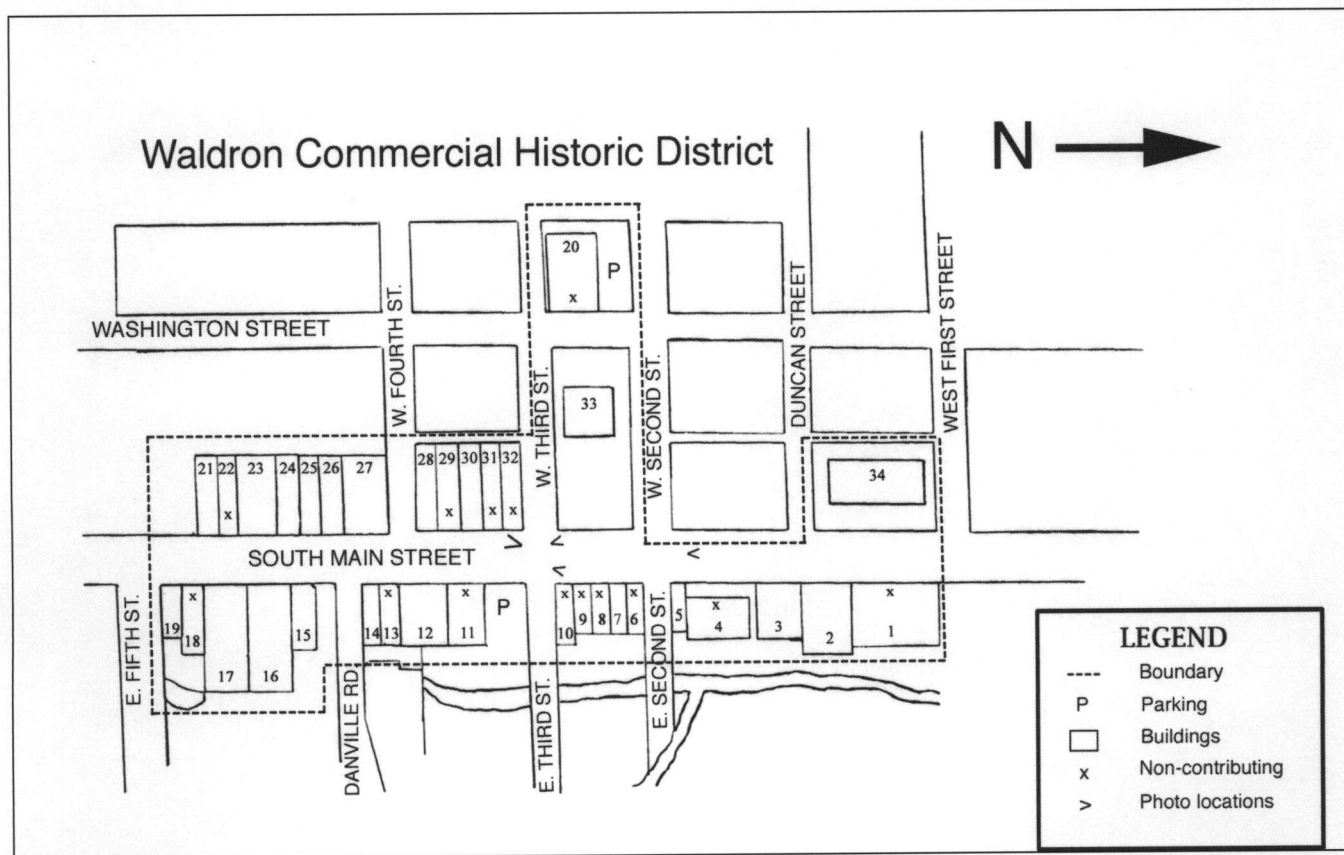


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## SKETCH MAP



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Figure 1. Facing north on South Main Street at the intersection of Danville Road, ca. 1885.

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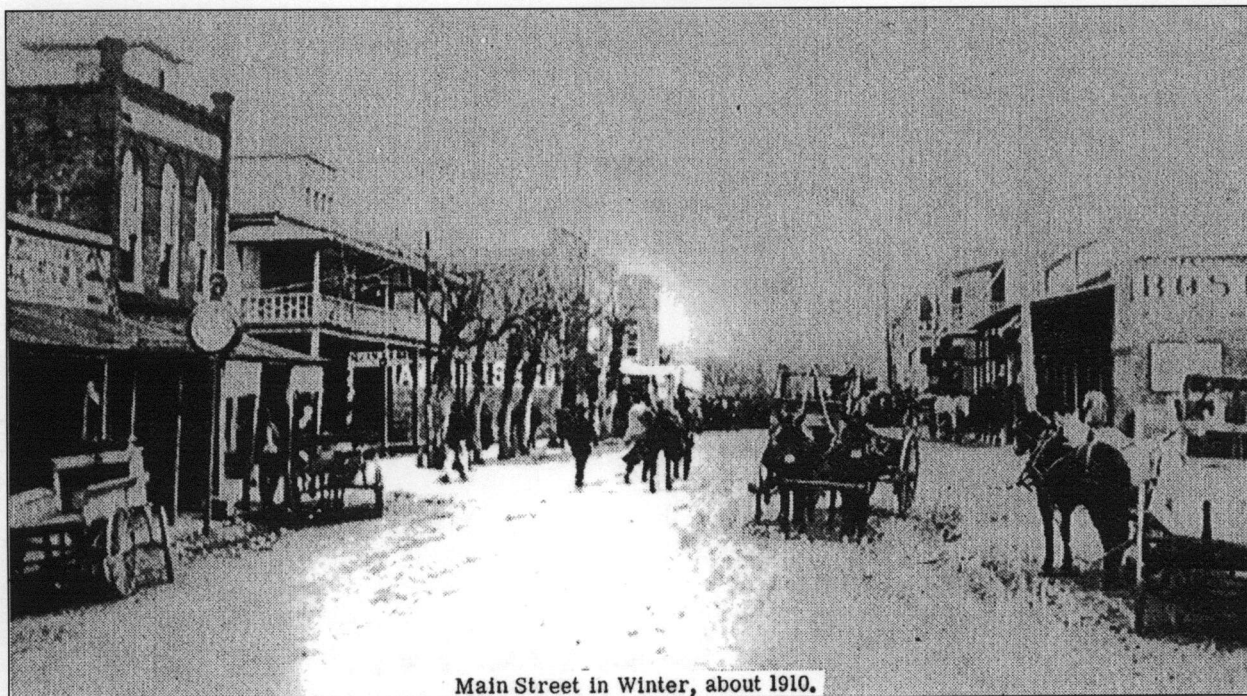
Figure 2. Facing west on South Main Street near Danville Road, ca. 1885.



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Main Street in Winter, about 1910.

Figure 3. Facing south on South Main Street at the intersection of Second Street, ca. 1910.

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Figure 4. Facing east on South Main Street between Second and Third Streets, ca. 1910.

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Figure 5. Facing south on South Main Street on the east side of the street from Duncan Street, ca. 1920.



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Figure 6. Facing north on South Main Street west of East Fifth Street, ca. 1930.

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Figure 7. Facing west on South Main St. between West Third and West Fourth St. (view of SC0076-78), d. 1938.

**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.

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

LOCAL

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

c.1880-1958

**Significant Dates**

c.1880-1958

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)**Architect/Builder**

Jim Henry Courier, J.Y. Bynam, and John T. Forrester

**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.

**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  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:



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### SUMMARY

The Waldron Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with early development in Waldron and **Criterion C** for its variety and quality of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings. The district is being nominated with **local significance**. Waldron's Commercial Historic District exemplifies the growth of the town through its height in the 1950s. The period of significance goes from 1880-1958.

### ELABORATION

Waldron is currently located in Scott County, Arkansas, in the western part of the state. Waldron is on the west central border in Arkansas in the Ouachita Mountain region approximately 30 miles east of the Oklahoma border and 100 miles south of the Missouri state line. The town is surrounded by mountainous ridges with timber and large fertile valleys along the Fourche LaFave, Petit Jean, and Poteau rivers.<sup>1</sup>

The area of Western Arkansas where present-day Scott County is is part of the land sold during the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 to the United States. Scott County was originally part of the Choctaw land grant in 1820. William Grandison Featherston is the first known person to settle what is now the town of Waldron in 1838. He built a log cabin on his farm, operated a small tavern, and opened a post office in the area he named Poteau Valley. Featherston donated ten acres of his farm to Scott County in 1848 to have the county seat move to his land. John P. Waldron drew out the plat map for Featherston in 1859, and the Poteau Valley was renamed Waldron in his honor. The ten acres surveyed incorporate the present-day area that makes up South Main Street and the majority of the Waldron Commercial Historic District.<sup>2</sup> The town of Waldron was incorporated on December 17, 1852. Corn, cotton, and lumber supported the early economy for the town. Local businessmen opened cotton gins, lumber mills, and gristmills in Waldron to manufacture the raw materials being produced in the area.<sup>3</sup> By 1860 the town boasted four dry good stores, one hotel, two saloons, and a new brick courthouse that subsequently burned down in 1862. Although it is unknown which buildings were destroyed, the 14th Kansas Calvary of the Union forces burned part of South Main Street in 1864.<sup>4</sup>

After the Civil War, land became really cheap and the population continued to grow, as well as the economy. The Continental Hotel was built in 1869 and owned by Free Malone. The town had four general stores, a

<sup>1</sup> "The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture." Accessed online:  
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=985>. March 6, 2008., 1 of 3.

<sup>2</sup> *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. The Southern Publishing Company: Nashville, Tennessee, 1891, 394.

<sup>3</sup> "The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture," 2 of 3.

<sup>4</sup> Goodner, Charles, E. *Scott County in Retrospect*. Frank Boyd Publishing: Mansfield, Arkansas, 1976, 12.

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blacksmith shop, a gristmill, a couple of saloons, and the new hotel. In 1870 a new two-story brick courthouse replaced the log house that acted as an interim courthouse after the 1860 courthouse burned.

During this time tensions between former Confederates and Union supporters resulted in a period of general lawlessness and at least thirty murders referred to as the "Waldron War." This resulted in Governors Elisha B. Baxter, August H. Garland, and William R. Miller sending the militia into Waldron to regain order between 1873-1879.<sup>5</sup> The 1870 courthouse burned in 1882, and the courthouse was not replaced again until 1904. After the "Waldron War," the economy began to flourish in Waldron. By 1891, the population in Waldron grew to 487. Many new businesses opened and brick commercial buildings began to replace many of the wood constructed buildings. The businesses included eight general stores, five grocery stores, three drug stores, two millinery stores, a hardware store, a shoe shop, three blacksmiths, two hotels, two gristmills, one planning mill, six doctors' offices, and several real estate agencies. Even though the railroad had not been built through Waldron during this time, the cotton shipments per year were averaging 8,000 to 10,000 bales.<sup>6</sup>

In 1901 both the Bank of Waldron and the First National Bank opened on South Main Street, and by 1902 the Kansas City Southern Railroad went through Waldron. This made Waldron an important shipping point for Western Arkansas. The commercial/business district had at least twenty-seven structures that were mainly brick at this time. Finally, in 1904 the town decided to rebuild the courthouse, and a two-story brick structure with a cupola was constructed. The town council also improved the appearance of South Main Street by adding sidewalks and shade trees. The Waldron Telephone Company opened in 1904 providing service to the town when the only telephone in town had been located in the T.G. Bates store. Even more improvements came in 1908 with the completion of the Scott County Jail and the Scott County Poor Farm, which were commissioned by Judge W.A. Bates. In October 1909 the entire block of buildings were destroyed by fire where the Old Pike Block is located on the east side of South Main Street between West First Street and Second Street. Another fire destroyed part of South Main Street in February 1910. The fire was mostly contained to the east side of South Main Street between Danville Road and East Fifth Street but did do some damage to the Stone Bros. Building and The Waldron Hardware-Mercantile Store Building as well. In 1908 the Rural Free Delivery System was established by the postmaster and created three to four routes that ran twelve to fifteen miles from Waldron. This made the need for improved roads and bridges even more apparent. Judge W.A. Bates commissioned three steel bridges to be built in June 1909 by the Illinois Bridge Company out of Fort Smith, Arkansas.<sup>7</sup> The population jumped from 487 to 900 during this period.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., 16.

<sup>6</sup> *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*, 395.

<sup>7</sup> Goodner, 28-32.

<sup>8</sup> "The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture," 1 of 3.

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Growth from 1910 to 1919 was not nearly as expansive as it was between 1900 and 1909. This time period was more remembered for its inflation and World War I. Community events such as picnics, county fairs, sporting events, and Chautauquas became more popular. Waldron had its first county fair in 1919 and had the first plane land in the area during the fair. A silent movie theatre called the Gem Theatre was built in Waldron in 1911. In 1912 the Waldron Telephone Company placed large poles to install a cable system on South Main Street to improve communication. In 1916 the first major franchise to sell Ford automobiles came to Waldron when Bates and Williams opened the City Garage, which was located directly west of the courthouse. The Women's Christian Temperance Union of Waldron began a campaign in 1912 to enact prohibition, and within a month if the campaign Mayor Sullivan made an executive order that halted the sale of alcohol in the town.<sup>9</sup>

During the years 1920-1929, Waldron continued to have steady growth until the stock market crash. Lumber and cotton were still the main cash crops. B.S. Hinkle became the County Agent in 1923 and is noted for improving conditions for farmers. He helped with new farming techniques and even worked in the fields with farmers on occasion. He also treated and vaccinated cattle for farmers. Along with his efforts to help farmers, he became one of the people responsible for the Rural Electrification lines in Scott County. In 1926 the city of Waldron held its first Cotton Parade which exhibited the latest farm technology of the day. Lumber contributed to the economy as well. Many sawmills sprang up all over Scott County, and C.E. Forrester had around forty mills all over Scott County. The first radio arrived in Waldron in 1923 and was owned by Dr. C. Bevill. During this period the price of cotton plummeted from 40 cents a pound to eight cents a pound causing financial hardships for cotton farmers.<sup>10</sup>

The 1930s marked the era of the Great Depression. Waldron's First National Bank closed its doors, but the Bank of Waldron stayed in business. The attempt to find oil and gas in the county was headed by Dr. C. Bevill. Two hundred and fifty people witnessed the beginning of the drilling operations at the Harrison Huie farm in the 1930s, but no oil or gas was found in Scott County, except for the Mansfield field. The New Deal brought the Works Progress Administration (WPA) to Scott County, and Waldron opened a WPA office on South Main Street in the 1930s. The WPA provided jobs for many people living in the area. The Civil Works projects were headed by Mrs. G.C. Bates, which provided work for 81 women in Waldron. These women worked in canning and sewing centers all over the county.<sup>11</sup>

South Main Street from West First Street and East Fifth Street was paved in the 1930s. The Southwestern Gas and Electric Company built a system of streetlights, and telephone poles were removed from the streets. The Pines Theatre opened in 1931 on South Main Street bringing movies with sound to Waldron. The 1904 courthouse burned in 1933 and completely destroyed all the tax books, but the land records survived. A new

<sup>9</sup> Goodner, 36-38.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid., 40-44.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid., 45-46.



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Art Deco courthouse was completed in 1935 with the help of the Public Works Administration (PWA) workers.<sup>12</sup>

Since the 1940s the face of Waldron has changed by shifting from a commercial center on the outskirts of the Western frontier to becoming an industrial town. The Waldron Furniture Manufacturing Company opened during this period as well. An airport was built in the southwest section of the city. Other improvements include a hospital, a nursing home, and new school system. The city built a modern water plant that has a filtering system for surface water, which allowed for the poultry industry to move to Waldron. During the 1950s Ralph Herald Snyder opened a chicken plant in Waldron as part of Arkansas Valley Industries, Inc., which later became Valmac Industries in 1969. The plant now operates as part of Tyson Foods, Inc. and employs the most number of citizens today. Along with the poultry and lumber industry, Waldron also has an industry for manufacturing air pollution monitoring systems.<sup>13</sup> The industrial growth in Waldron shifted the focus away from its Main Street area. Most of the businesses and restaurants are located on the west end of Second Street near the Highway 71 bypass.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Waldron Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its association with the early development in Waldron and **Criterion C** for its assortment and quality of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial structures. The district is being nominated with **local significance**. Waldron's Commercial Historic District represents the development of the town through its peak in the 1950s. Its period of significance spans from 1880-1958.

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid., 47-48.

<sup>13</sup> "The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture," 3 of 3.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Blythe, Gary. Interview. Waldron, Arkansas. March 11, 2008.

Goodner, Charles, E. *Scott County in Retrospect*. Frank Boyd Publishing: Mansfield, Arkansas, 1976.

Herndon, Dallas T. *Centennial History of Arkansas*. Vol. 1. Little Rock, Arkansas: S.J. Clark Publishing Company, 1922.

Huston, Barbara. Interview. Waldron, Arkansas. February 29, 2008.

"The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture." Accessed online:  
<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=985>. March 6, 2008.

*The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. The Southern Publishing Company: Nashville, Tennessee, 1891.

Waldron Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Scott County, Arkansas

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property Approximately 12 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>400234</u>	<u>3862543</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>15</u>	<u>400380</u>	<u>3862536</u>

3	<u>15</u>	<u>400280</u>	<u>3862282</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>15</u>	<u>400247</u>	<u>3862288</u>

☒ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Angela L Cliftonorganization Panamerican Consultants, Inc.Date April 7, 2008street & number 91 Tillman Rd.telephone 901-454-4733city or town Memphisstate TNzip code 38111**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 locationA **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 &amp; 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 Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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### ADDITIONAL UTMS:

5. 15S 400237E 3862385N
6. 15S 400156E 3862402N
7. 15S 400146E 3862430N
8. 15S 400292E 3862434N
9. 15S 400293E 3862488N
10. 15S 400239E 3862494N

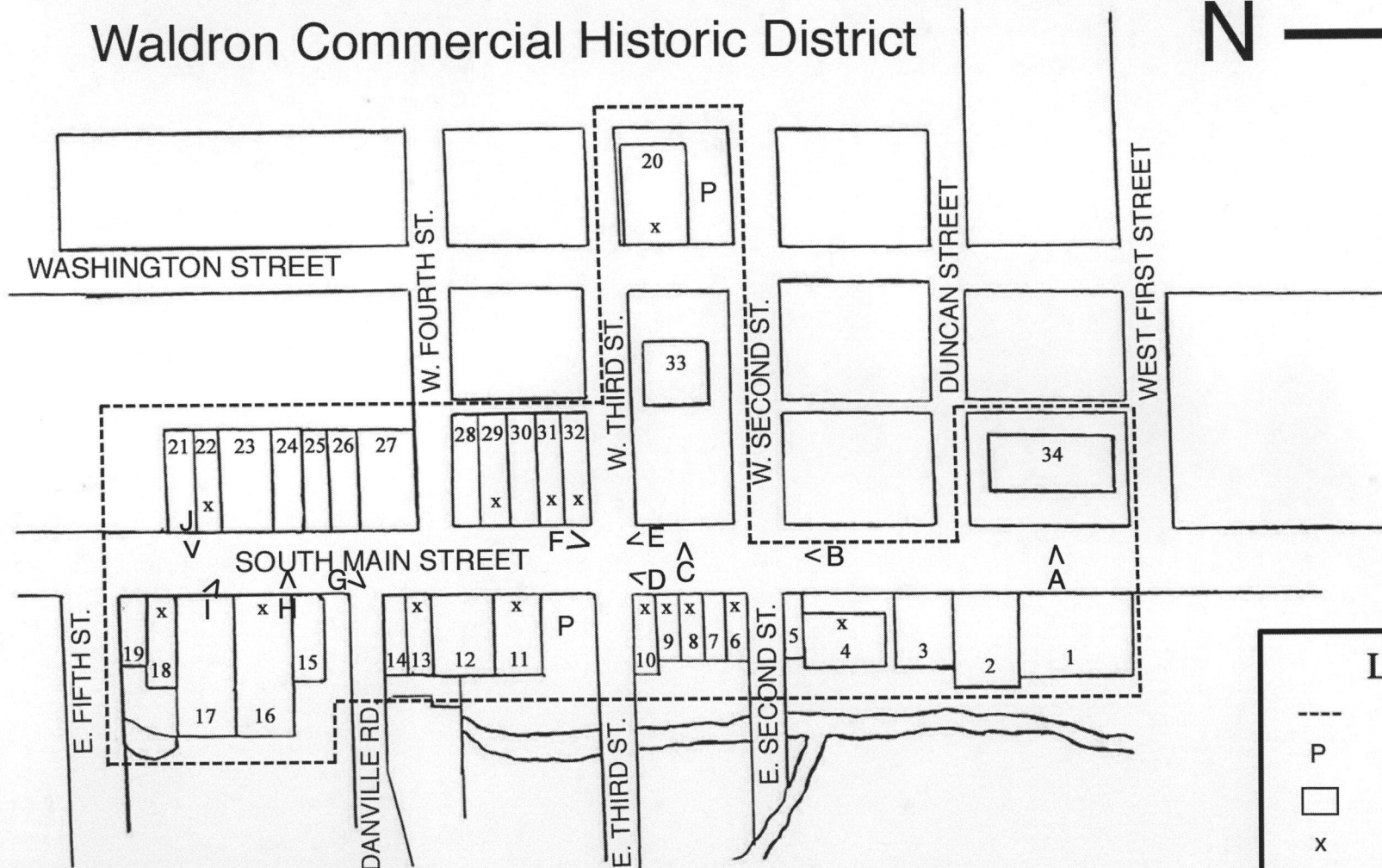
### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning a block West of South Main Street on West First Street, proceed easterly across South Main Street to the creek behind SC0049, thence proceed southerly to East Fifth Street, thence proceed westerly across South Main Street to the alley, thence proceed northerly down the alley to West Third Street, thence proceed westerly on West Third Street to the alley behind Robert Davis' Grocery Store Building (SC0067), thence proceed northerly on Huston Street to West Second Street, thence proceed easterly on West Second Street to South Main Street, thence proceed northerly on South Main Street to Duncan Street, thence proceed westerly on Duncan Street to the end of Memorial Hall (SC0045), thence proceed northerly behind SC0045 until West First Street, which is the point of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary was drawn to include properties in the Waldron Commercial Historic District with the greatest density of structures maintaining a high level of historic integrity.

# Waldron Commercial Historic District



## LEGEND

- Boundary
- P Parking
- Buildings
- x Non-contributing
- > Photo locations



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Waldron Commercial Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Scott

DATE RECEIVED: 8/13/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/17/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/26/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000943

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 9.25.08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WALDRON, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY M. A. ANDERSON

APRIL, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF INTERIOR LOBBY







SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
WADRON, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY M. A. ANDERSON  
APRIL, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM EAST



SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WALDRON, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY M. A. ANDERSON

APRIL, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF EASTERN ENTRANCE







SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WALDRON, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY W. A. ANDERSON

APRIL, 1989

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



MEMORIAL HALL

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

RALPH WILCOX/SARAH JAMPOLE

04/27/07

AHPP

VIEW TO THE WEST

PHOTO A

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 32 D084 Y000 M108 C000 X07.54







STREETSCAPE

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

ANGIE CLIFTON

02/28/08

AHPP

VIEW TO THE SOUTH ON SOUTH MAIN STREET

PHOTO B

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 26 D090 Y000 M094 C000 X07.40



SCOTT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

KBS

04/11/89

ADDED THE EAST

VIEW TO THE WEST

PHOTO C

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 31 D095 Y000 M065 C000 X07.54







STREETSCAPE

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

ANGIE CLIFTON

02/28/08

AHPP

VIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST ON SOUTH MAIN STREET

PHOTO D

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 20 D094 Y000 M105 C000 X07.40



STREETSCAPE

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

ANGIE CLIFTON

02/28/08

AHPP

VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST ON SOUTH MAIN STREET

PHOTO E

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 21 D090 Y000 M098 C000 X07.40







STREETSCAPE

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

ANGIE CLIFTON

02/28/08

AHPP

VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST OF SOUTH MAIN STREET

PHOTO F

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 27 D091 Y000 M114 C000 X07.40



BANK OF WALDRON BUILDING

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

ANGIE CLIFTON

02/22/08

AHPP

VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST

PHOTO G

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 5 D097 Y000 M113 C000 X07.40





WALDRON MERCANTILE COMPANY BUILDING

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

ANGIE CLIFTON

02/28/08

AHPP

VIEW TO THE WEST

PHOTO H

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 25 D103 Y000 M087 C000 X07.40





Cassandra Holmes  
INSURANCE  
Agency, Inc.  
637-2644

Cassandra Holmes  
INSURANCE  
Agency, Inc.  
637-2644

GO  
DOGS

PROGRESSIVE

Century  
21  
Real Estate



STONE BROS. BUILDING

Copyright 2008

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

ANGIE CLIFTON

02/28/08

AHPP

VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST

PHOTO I

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 12 D089 Y000 M105 C000 X07.40



THE PINES THEATRE

WALDRON COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCOTT COUNTY, AR

Angie CLIFTON

02/22/08

AHPP

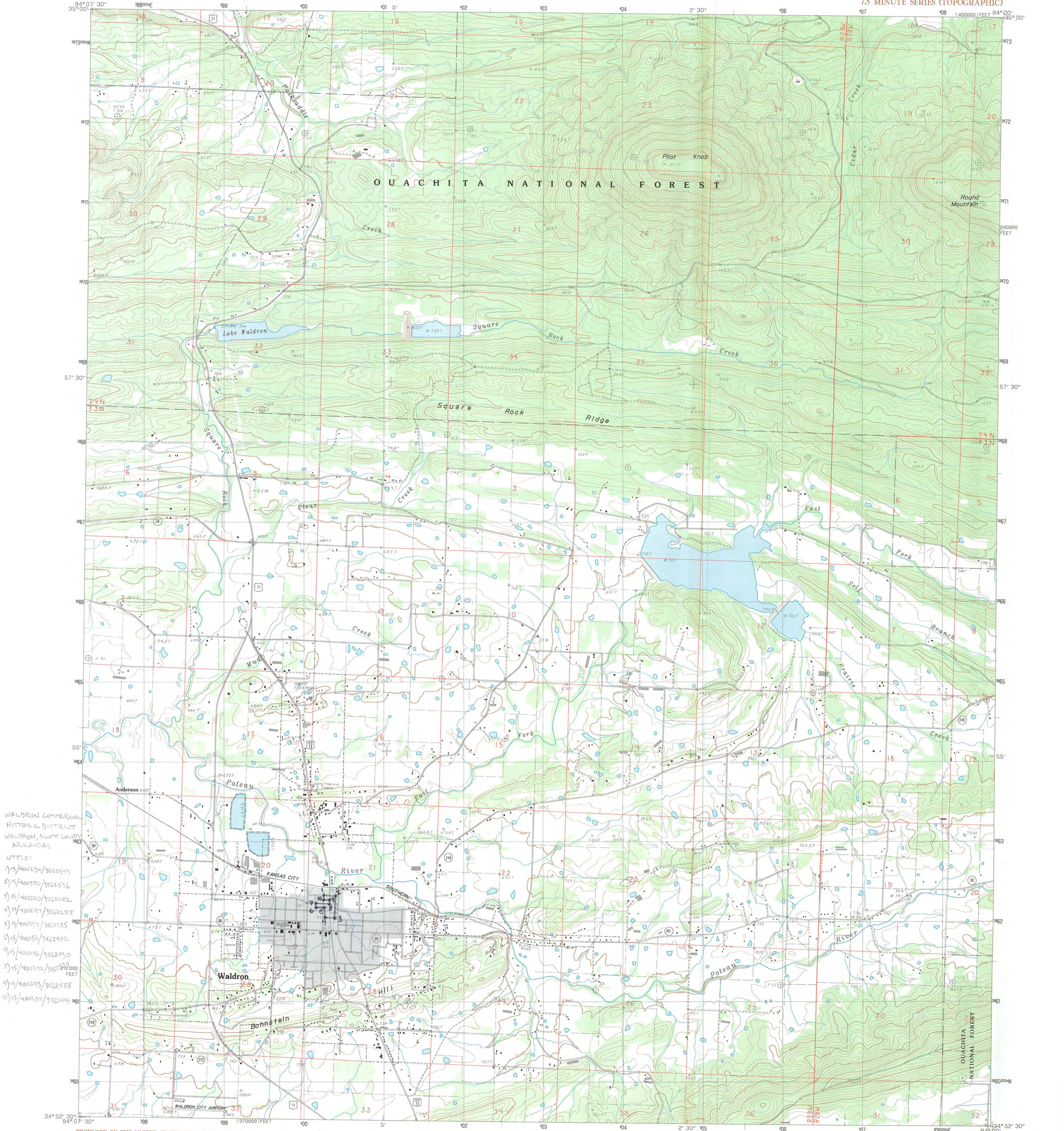
VIEW TO THE EAST

PHOTO J

Copyright 2008

R 0 F 7 D086 Y000 M115 C000 X07.40





WALDRON COMMERCIAL  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
WALDRON, SCOTT COUNTY  
ARKANSAS

UTM 5:  
1) 15/400234/3862543  
2) 15/400380/3862536  
3) 15/400430/3862528  
4) 15/400477/3862520  
5) 15/400523/3862512  
6) 15/400566/3862504  
7) 15/400609/3862496  
8) 15/400652/3862488  
9) 15/400695/3862480  
10) 15/400738/3862472

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONTROL BY: ..... USGS AND NOS/NOAA  
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN ..... 1979  
FIELD CHECKED ..... 1982. MAP EDITED ..... 1983  
PROJECTION: LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC  
GRID: 800-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ..... ZONE 15  
800-METER STATE GRID TICKS ..... ARKANSAS, NORTH ZONE  
UTM GRID DECLINATION ..... 5°30' WEST  
1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION ..... 5°30' 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  
(7 meters south and 18 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. Infor-  
mation shown as of date of  
photography.

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

1	2	3	1	Abbott
2	3	4	2	Iron
3	4	5	3	Golden City
4	5	6	4	Hon
5	6	7	5	Box Mountain
6	7	8	6	Peanut Mountain
7	8		7	Boles
8			8	Parks

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

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

WALDRON, ARKANSAS  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1983  
34094-HH-TF-024





**The Department of  
Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Beebe  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

\*

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

\*

Delta Cultural Center

\*

Historic Arkansas Museum

\*

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

\*

Old State House Museum



**Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program**

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Little Rock, AR 72201  
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fax: (501) 324-9184  
tdd: (501) 324-9811  
e-mail:

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



August 6, 2008

Dr. Janet Matthews  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Waldron Commercial Historic District – Waldron, Scott  
County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. 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,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure

