

1201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL
REGISTER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Nichol House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 205 Park Place

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Pine Bluff

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Jefferson code: AR 069 zip code: 71601

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Structures in Arkansas Represented by the Charles L. Thompson Design Collection

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet

Cathryn A. Slatu
Signature of certifying official

10-5-83
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the
National Register

entered in the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.

Guy M. Rapsley 11/12/83

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 Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

Craftsman
Prairie

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Brick/stucco/wood other Wood knee braces and brackets

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1916 _____

Significant Dates: 1916 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Thompson, Charles L./
McDaniel & Brassell

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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Summary

The Nichol House, located just south of the historic downtown at 205 Park Place, is a two-story, wood frame, stucco and brick veneer residence designed in a relatively restrained yet elegant interpretation of the Craftsman style. The principal gable roof section of the house -- running parallel with the street -- is augmented by the intersecting porch gable at the eastern end of the south or front elevation and the original "salt box" that projects from the eastern end of the northern elevation. Also included is a small, rectangular, two-story garage building located at the northwestern corner of the lot.

Elaboration

The Nichol House is a two-story, wood frame, stucco and brick veneer residence designed in a relatively restrained yet elegant interpretation of the Craftsman style. The principal gable roof section of the house -- running parallel with the street -- is augmented by the intersecting porch gable at the eastern end of the south or front elevation and the original "salt box" that projects from the eastern end of the northern elevation. A large exterior end brick chimney divides the western gable end of the building and a smaller, square brick chimney rises through the roof at the rear of the salt box section. The asphalt shingle roof, and brick and stucco walls are all supported by a continuous cast concrete foundation.

The southern or front elevation is dominated by the projecting, gable roof porch at the eastern end. Its spreading eaves are ornamented with decorative knee braces. The ceiling above the screened, second-story porch is supported at each end by a pair of bracketed posts: one with its bracket turned parallel to the street and the other turned perpendicular to the street and supporting the knee braces above. The first-story porch below is open. The projecting gable end and the shed roof to the west are all supported by square brick piers that are connected below by a simple solid brick balustrade. The wall beneath is fenestrated with a large, single window to the east and a pair of three-over-one wood sash windows to the west flanking a central, single-leaf wooden entrance door. The second-story wall surface above the shed roof to the west is fenestrated by a single group of three-over-one wood sash windows.

The western elevation is composed of the single-story porch to the south, the two-story, central gable end, and the wood frame enclosed porch to the north. The rear enclosed porch is lit by a single window adjacent to the two-story section and a group of four windows to the north. The central gable end is divided by the chimney and fenestrated by a pair of flanking wood sash windows on both floors. The southern porch is open. The eastern elevation is composed of the

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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side of the projecting front gable to the south and the asymmetrically-fenestrated wall to the north, including the salt box section extending to the north. The steps leading up to the deck of the southern porch are covered by a simple bracketed porch roof. The second story of the gable end wall is fenestrated by two identical wood sash windows with a smaller wood sash window to the north. The first floor is lit by a two tall, narrow wood sash windows flanking a blank wall area between (probably filled-in later). The salt box section to the north is lit by an assortment of double-hung wood windows of various configurations, all placed irregularly in the wall.

The northern elevation is composed of the projecting salt box wall to the east and the rear wall of the two-story section to the west. The eastern section of the salt box section is of brick construction and features a single window to the west of the exterior chimney. The wood section to the west is lit by a series of three multi-pane wood windows flanking a single-leaf entrance. The section of the two-story brick wall to the west features a single wood sash window in the second story and a pair of identical windows below. A large, gable roof dormer -- the fenestration of which features two pairs of multiple-light casement windows surmounted by multi-pane fixed transoms -- projects only slightly from the roof slope above, as a recessed light well allows the sunlight to reach this large window configuration.

The principle interior rooms are quite intact. Of especial note are the Neo-Classical mantelpiece in the western living room, the Prairie-style influenced newel post at the bottom of the staircase in the central hallway, and the tall panelled doors found throughout.

Alterations are largely limited to the kitchen and sitting area in the back of the house, which have been modernized somewhat. Some alterations that occurred to the house in the past -- such as the subdivision of the second-story screened porch into rooms -- have actually been reversed in the relatively recent past, and thus the house, inside and out, appears largely as it did when constructed.

Also included is a small, rectangular, two-story garage building located at the northwestern corner of the lot. It is also covered by an asphalt shingle gable roof, and finished with brick and stucco.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

Designed in 1916 by Charles L. Thompson, Arkansas's best-known and most prolific architect of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Nichol House and its associated automobile garage building are locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of its status as one of the most unusual examples of a wood frame and brick veneer Craftsman-style residence in the city of Pine Bluff. Such features as the exposed brackets and knee braces, the stucco with half-timbering, the brick chimney with concrete offsets and the employment of mixed media for the exterior finishes (brick, half-timbering, stucco, various wood details) all identify it as a Craftsman design; yet its relatively restrained employment of these elements and the emphasis on continuous wall surfaces over an abundance of three-dimensional detail and texture make it unusual. Though the Craftsman style encompassed a wide variety of stylistic influences, a clear preference for clean, smooth lines and uninterrupted surfaces on such a relatively "high-style" building remains uncommon.

Elaboration

Josiah (a.k.a. "Jo") Nichol was born in Pine Bluff in March of 1874. After attending school at Jordan's Academy for Boys and working in a variety of mercantile concerns he began his banking career with the Merchants and Planters Bank in Pine Bluff. At some point thereafter he obtained a position with Simmons National Bank (the Pine Bluff banking concern that opened for business on March 23, 1903) and prospered there over the years to the point of becoming its president by January of 1930, at the age of 56. Jo Nichol and his wife, Elizabeth Martin of Warren, Arkansas, built this house in 1916 as one of the first in this neighborhood; they shared it until his death on October 19th of 1956 (they had no children). The current owners purchased the house in July of 1979.

As noted in the cover for the original Charles L. Thompson thematic nomination (Section 8, Page 4), the Thompson firm's infamous eclecticism was complemented by a concurrent attempt to incorporate more "modern" influences into their designs, particularly within the Prairie and Craftsman idioms. The Nichol House remains a particularly good example of this trend by virtue of its stripped-down interpretation of the Craftsman style. This "streamlined" version reflects the direct influence of the Prairie style, initially created and developed by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright from Chicago, Illinois. Wright conceived the idea of reducing traditionally ornamented buildings to their essential spatial elements and surfaces while retaining the late nineteenth century trend of incorporating outdoor and indoor living spaces. The resulting designs eschewed virtually all traditional architectural detail and substituted elemental, geometric forms

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arranged in unique combinations of rhythm and proportion that were unlike anything seen before.

The Nichol House strongly reflects these Prairie style influences, in both obvious and subtle ways. The obvious references include the multiple-light casement and transom windows and the minimal Prairie-style detail at the top of the newel post; the more subtle influences are reflected in the minimal use of detail throughout the exterior and the clear emphasis upon continuous expanses of wall surface that feature only enough detail to lend the design at least some traditional stylistic reference. Otherwise the trend here is away from such traditions and toward a more "modern" look. By virtue of its importance as a locally unique example of this stylistic synthesis, the Nichol House is being amended to this existing multiple nomination under Criterion C with local significance.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>592060</u>	<u>3785790</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Lots 7 and 8, Block 4, Rutherford Park Addition to the City of Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: September 9, 1993

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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National Park Service

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Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Pine Bluff Graphic, March 30, 1916.

Pine Bluff City Directory, 1917-18.

Architect's plans for *House for Josiah Nichol* by Charles L. Thompson; in personal collection of owner.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Nichol House

MULTIPLE NAME: Thompson, Charles L., Design Collection TR

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 10/13/93 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/26/93
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/11/93 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/27/93
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 93001201

NOMINATOR: STATE

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 11/12/93 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

count resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

historic current

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification
 materials
 descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage verbal boundary description
 UTM's boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps photographs presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____



NICHOL HOUSE
PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
APRIL, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM NORTH



NICHOL HOUSE

PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

APRIL, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



NICHOL HOUSE
PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
APRIL, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



NICHOL HOUSE

PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

APRIL, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST



NICHOL HOUSE
PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
APRIL, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM SOUTH



NICHOL HOUSE
PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER
APRIL, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW OF GARAGE FROM SOUTHEAST



NICHOL HOUSE

PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

~~APRIL~~
JUNE, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR FIREPLACE DETAIL



NICHOL HOUSE

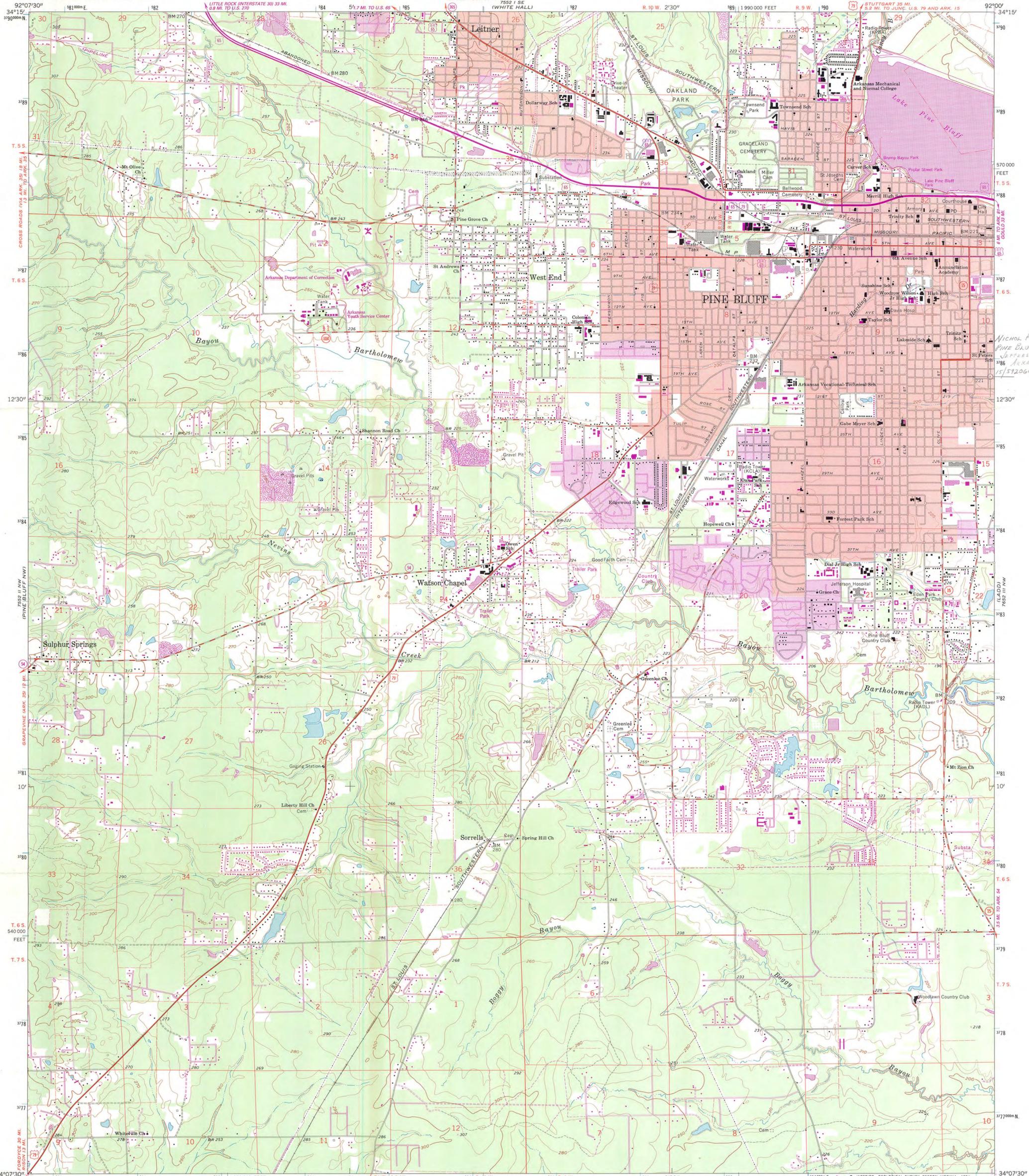
PINE BLUFF, JEFFERSON Co., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

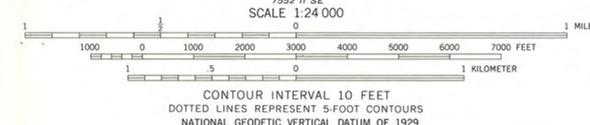
APRIL, 1993

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

INTERIOR STAIRWELL DETAIL



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Topography by planimetric surveys 1961-62
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 9 meters south and 13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources
This information not field checked. Map edited 1984.
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

PINE BLUFF, ARK.
34092-B1-TF-024
1962
PHOTOREVISED 1984
DMA 7552 II NE—SERIES V884

MICHAEL HOUSE
PINE BLUFF,
JEFFERSON CO.
ARKANSAS
151572060/3785790



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

October 5, 1993

RECEIVED

OCT 13 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, DC 20002

RE: Nichol House
Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

Dear Carol:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:kg

Enclosures

