

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received MAR 26 1980

date entered MAY 23 1980

1. Name

historic Garvin Cavaness House

and/or common Drew County Historical Museum

2. Location

street & number 404 South Main St. (corner of South Main and
and West College) not for publication

city, town Monticello vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Arkansas code 05 county Drew code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u>X</u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u>X</u> museum
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u> </u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u> </u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u> </u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u>X</u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
		<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Drew County Historical Society

street & number P. O. Box 564

city, town Monticello vicinity of state Arkansas 71655

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Drew County Courthouse

street & number South Main Street

city, town Monticello state Arkansas 71655

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Ark. Historic Preservation Program
title Continental Bldg., Little Rock, AR has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1970, 1972 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Ark. Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Prominently situated on a large, generously planted corner site, the Garvin Cavaness House exerts a monumental presence in the residential neighborhood south of Monticello's town square. Although construction of the two-and-one-half-story structure with basement began in 1906, the house was not completed until 1916. Designed and, in part, built by Cavaness himself, the house is constructed of concrete blocks made on site from a hand-poured mold. This unusual use of material in the structure and fenestration of a residential building and the fabrication of decorative details in concrete establish the unique character of the house.

The principal (east) elevation of the Cavaness House is dominated by its five-bay, two-story portico. This dominant feature of the building, supported on concrete Ionic columns that taper upwards in three stages and carry an unembellished entablature with a band of dentiling below its small box cornice, vests the house with a Classical monumentality. While the five-bay front elevation is symmetrically delineated, a strong focus on the central bay is created. Here, a range of steps leads up to the portico (the first floor of the building is raised approximately three feet above grade and the water-table line of the foundation is articulated) and the finely crafted entrance. This element is composed of one central door surrounded by ornate sidelights and surmounted by an elaborately designed fanlight, all made of bevel-edged, transparent leaded glass. A large, concrete Roman arch with articulated keystone and molding encircles the fanlight, further accentuating the central entrance theme. The two end bays of the principal elevation are set back from the three predominant central bays and each has an additional door equipped with secondary stairs leading to the grounds.

A series of hipped roofs composed of tin shingles cap the building. The roof of the principal elevation is penetrated by three gable-roofed dormers. Each dormer has one round window with a five-pointed star design and the central dormer, which is slightly larger than the two that flank it, is set upon a range of four small square windows whose wood framing forms a cross-like design.

The north and south side elevations are virtually the same. Both are essentially symmetrical, three-bay arrangements with central hipped-roofed bays projecting slightly. This formal arrangement may reflect the fact that Cavaness constructed the rear of the building first, then built forward. Each of the side elevations is enriched by the portico which wraps around to distinguish the easterly half of these secondary facades.

Unlike the other three sides of the building, the rear (west) elevation of the Cavaness House is L-shaped in plan and asymmetrical. Its northern bay extends forward, penetrated by two windows on each floor and distinguished by a two-story porch, the first floor of which has been screened. This porch is also supported by concrete columns, but these, unlike the outstanding portico columns, are quite slender and unembellished. In contrast, the south bay of the rear elevation which was once characterized by a two-story porch has been enclosed with tin siding. What were once supporting members of the porch appear as pilasters in the applied wall. An enclosed metal staircase leads down from the second floor porch. While alterations to the exterior of the building are limited to such enclosing of pre-existing porches, the visual accessibility of the rear elevation is somewhat

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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MAY 23 1980

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

obscured by the placement of log structures on the grounds of the house. (These structures function in conjunction with the adaptive reuse of the house as the Drew County Museum).

The interior of the building was not completed contemporary with the exterior. During the 1920s, the house was divided into apartments, and subsequent owners have made additional surface changes. Only the plan of the second floor reflects the intended original scheme of central stairhall flanked by dwelling rooms. Major interior alterations include: the construction of a kitchen and a bathroom in the enclosed portion of the upstairs back porch; the removal of the original staircase in the central hallway and the subsequent construction of a narrow staircase in one of the south rooms; the lowering of the ceilings in some first floor rooms; and the addition of two bathrooms downstairs. The house was originally steam-heated by a coal furnace in the basement. The three existing fireplaces therefore, have been installed in recent years. The decorative ceiling moulding and elaborate broken pediment in the parlor are likewise the work of recent owners. Fortunately the original pressed tin ceilings survive in two of the upstairs bedrooms in stark contrast with the rest of the much altered and greatly evolved interior.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1906 - 1916

Builder/Architect

Garvin Cavaness - Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built by Garvin Cavaness as a residence for himself and his wife, both of whom were descendants of families deeply involved in the early development of Monticello and of Drew County, the Cavaness House stands as an unusual interpretation of the essentially Classically inspired architecture of the first years of the twentieth century. Both its physical characteristics and the circumstances of its construction contribute to the significance of the house. According to Monticello folklore several cars on the Iron Mountain Railroad line derailed outside the city in 1906. Cavaness, somewhat of a ne'er-do-well despite his prominent lineage, contracted to clean up the wreckage -- a task which involved removing cement that had spilled from the derailed cars. Reputedly, it is this cement that was used to make the concrete used in the construction of the Cavaness House. Cavaness' clever use of the found material produced an outstanding structure that incorporates elements of both the Classical and the Colonial Revival styles. The building's acute symmetry and monumental proportions together with its great portico with Ionic columns and simple dentiled entablature reflect an interest in Classicism. Its hipped roofs, gabled dormers, and beautifully articulated entrance with exquisite leaded-glass fanlight respond to the dictates of Colonial Revival design. This unusual use of concrete block in residential design at so early a date in southeastern Arkansas to create a well-conceived "high style" profile out of rugged building fabric vests the Cavaness house with a unique character.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of South Arkansas, Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.
Louise S. Godwin, local historian, interview, February 19, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Monticello, south

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 115 6112 01810 317 210 81010
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of Block 201: property runs approximately 175 ft. south and west from the corner of South Main and West College St. Monticello, Arkansas

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian

organization Ark. Historic Preservation Program date

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone 501/371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *John Williams Baldinger*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 18, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for *Ronnie Lee Drago*
Keeper of the National Register

date 5/23/80

Attest: *Beth Grodven*

date 5/30/80

Chief of Registration

80000715

Property Cavaness, Marvin House

State Ar - Drew

Working Number 3-26-80 985

TECHNICAL

CONTROL

Photos 7

Maps 1

Unusual ~~and~~ early use of concrete in residential design in AR. The use of concrete for a house of this degree of stylistic pretension - combining Neo-Classical Revival + Georgian Revival elements - adds to its unique character.

HISTORIAN

*accept
Grosvenor
5/20/80*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*accept
Grosvenor
5/20/80*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 2.3.81

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered MAY 23 1980



GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

MAY 23 1980

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980

Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

East elevation from east

1 of 7

MAR 26 1980



GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

MAY 23 1980

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Detail of main entry from east

2 of 7

MAR 26 1980



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GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

MAY 23 1980

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
East and west elevations from northeast

3 of 7

MAR 26 1980



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GARVIN CAVENESS HOUSE

MAY 23 1980

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
North elevation from northwest

4 of 7

MAR 26 1980



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GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

MAY 23 1980

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
West elevation from west

5 of 7

MAR 26 1980



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GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

MAY 23 1980

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
South elevation from southeast

6 of 7

MAR 26 1980



GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

MAY 23 1980

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

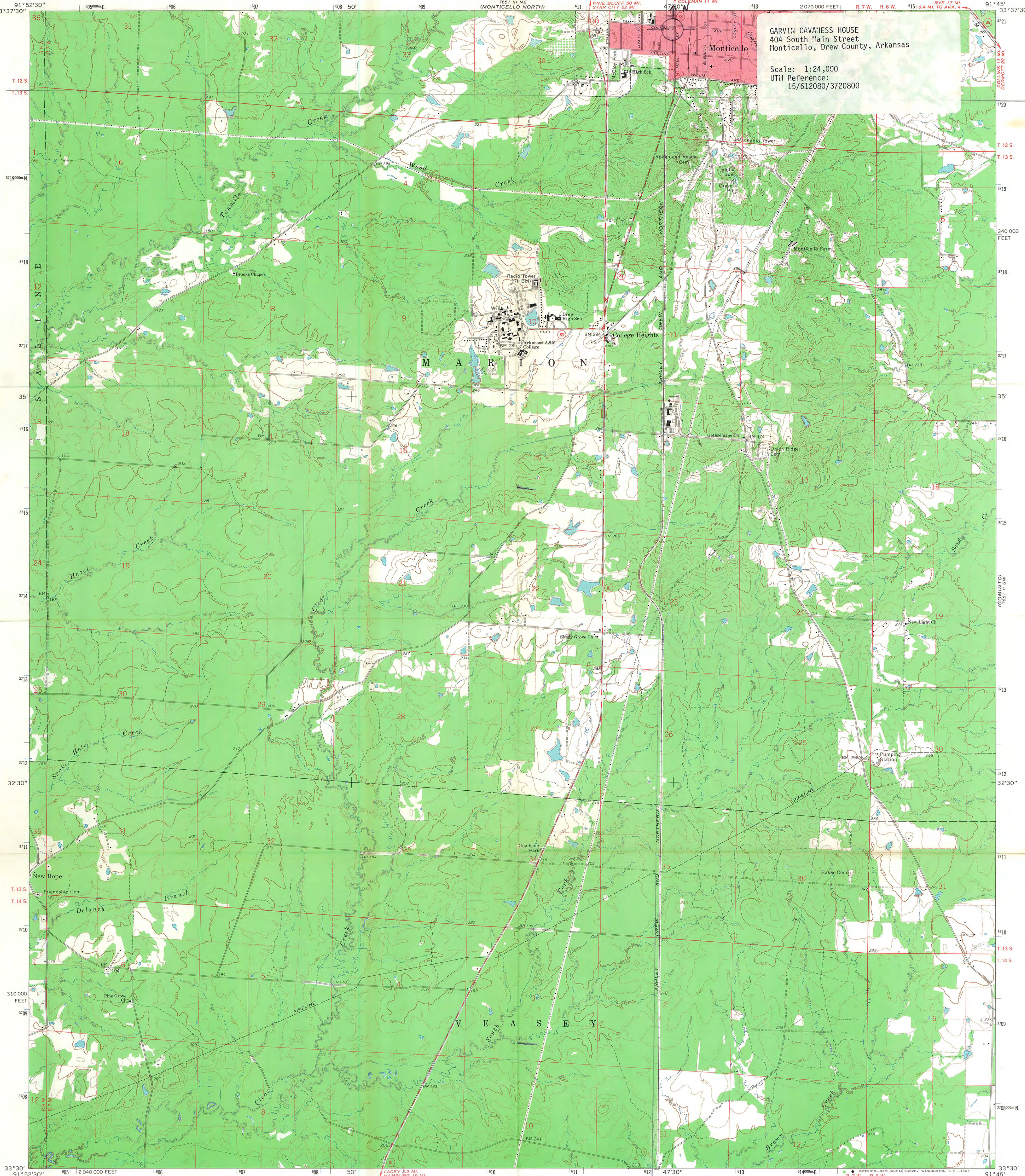
Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Detail of portico from south

MAR 26 1980

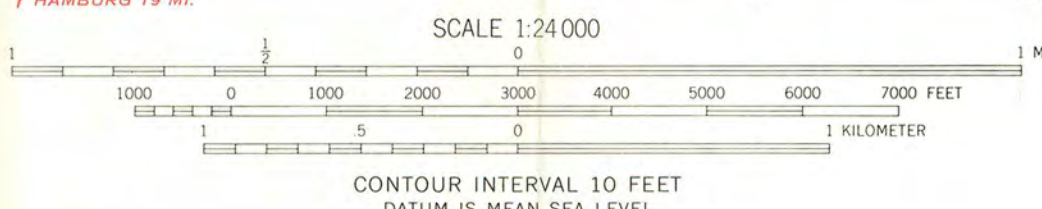
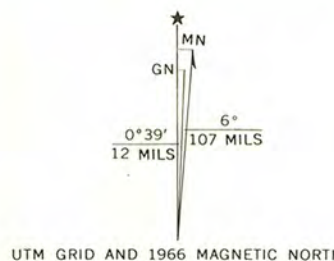
7 of 7

GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE
404 South Main Street
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Scale: 1:24,000
UTM Reference:
15/612080/3720800



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1965. Field checked 1966
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 area in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Medium-duty	Light-duty
Unimproved dirt	State Route

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QUADRANGLE LOCATION

MONTICELLO SOUTH, ARK.
N3330—W9145/7.5

1966
AMS 7651 III SE—SERIES V884

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered MAY 23 1980

Name

Location

Washington-Willow Historic District

Fayetteville
Washington County

Cavaness, Garvin, House

Monticello
Drew County

Galloway, Orth C., House

Clarendon
Monroe County

Also Notified

Honorable David H. Pryor

Honorable Dale Bumpers
Honorable John P. Hammerschmidt
Honorable Beryl F. Anthony, Jr.
Honorable Bill Alexander

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Joan Baldridge
Director, Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Building
Markham and Main Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NR

Byers/bjr 6/3/80

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.