

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Lamb-McSwain House

Other Name/Site Number: (PU9974)

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 2124 Rice Street

City/Town: Little Rock

Not for Publication: N/A  
Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Pulaski Code: AR 119 Zip Code: 72201

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing  | Noncontributing          |
|---------------|--------------------------|
| <u>1</u>      | <u>      </u> buildings  |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> sites      |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> structures |
| <u>      </u> | <u>      </u> objects    |
| <u>1</u>      | <u>      </u> Total      |

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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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

Chadyn A. Slatu  
Signature of certifying official

4-15-28  
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

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**5. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Chadyn A. Slatu  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6/4/90  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

h Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
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Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**  
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Architectural Classification:  
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: foundation BRICK roof ASBESTOS  
walls BRICK other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

**Summary**

Located at 2124 Rice Street in Little Rock, Pulaski County, the Lamb-McSwain House is a classic example of the Craftsman Bungalow. The house was constructed in 1926 as a wood framed residence with brick veneer. Typical of the Craftsman style the house utilizes a variety of materials including brick, wood and stucco. Also noteworthy are the front porch supports that are paneled and battered columns raised on piers. While there has been one addition to the back of the house, the visually prominent portion of the house retains a high level of integrity.

**Elaboration**

The Lamb-McSwain House is a one-story Craftsman-styled bungalow. The house is of frame construction with a continuous foundation, brick sheathing on the walls, and stucco and half-timbering details in the gable ends. The brick has an all-over "chicken wire" texture and is laid in a basic running bond with a decorative "hatch work" pattern along the floor level around the house. Wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends are found along the roof-line of every elevation. All original windows are six-over-one, double-hung wood windows. One exterior brick chimney is placed on the southern elevation. The original portion of the house is roofed with diamond shaped asbestos shingles and capped with clay ridge caps. In contrast, the 1977 addition located on the rear, or western, elevation is roofed with composition shingles.

The front, or eastern, elevation features a partial length wrap-around porch beneath its own separate gable. Beneath the porch is a pair of windows and a single leaf door. There were originally two front doors, one leading to the living room, and one leading into the front bedroom. Since the 1977 renovation, this bedroom door has been blocked off with a natural stone wall. The porch roof on this elevation is supported by three wood columns on brick piers. A solid brick balustrade surrounds the cast concrete porch which is accessed by four concrete steps. The porch gable is lower and smaller than the main roof gable, but echoes its decorative half-timbered details and placement of knee-brackets. There is a ribbon of three windows to the side of the porch.

The side, or northern elevation of the house is fenestrated by three windows of varying sizes and two pairs of triple windows.

The rear, or western, elevation contains the 1977 addition which added a bedroom and a bathroom to the house. The addition is stepped back on the northern elevation of the main house and covers one half of the original porch. It has a cement block foundation, small sliding aluminum window fenestration, and is sheathed in aluminum. The porch on the southern elevation has been enclosed and an exterior staircase runs along the rear of the southern elevation. The addition has a cement block foundation, small aluminum sliding window fenestration, and is sheathed with aluminum siding.

The opposite side, or southern, elevation contains the rest of the wrap-around porch with its small cross gable and concrete stairway. This elevation also contains the chimney which is flanked on either side by a pair of windows that are infilled with stained glass. Toward the rear of this elevation is a small exterior stairway leading up to the enclosed back porch. The rest of the elevation consists of a pair of six-over-one, double-hung wood windows and a smaller six-over-one, double-hung wood window.

The interior of the house retains the majority of its historic materials including the brick mantle piece, wood moldings, and wood flooring. The only major change has been the 1977 addition of a bedroom and bathroom connected to the rear porch by a new corridor. The original rear exterior wall has been left unpainted. In addition to indicating the architectural history of the house, the owner Bernice Lamb McSwain proudly displays articles from her family's history on this brick wall.

Also located on the property on the front elevation is a modern metal sculpture made in a joint effort by John B. McSwain and his son in the late 1970s.



Lamb-McSwain House  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1926

Significant Dates: 1926, 1977

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ye Planry Architects, Dallas, Texas  
John W. Lamb (builder)  
Ellard Lamb (builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

**Summary**

Built in 1926 the Lamb-McSwain House is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion C with local significance** for its Craftsman-styled architecture. The mail-order blue prints for the house were designed by Ye Planry Architects a Dallas, Texas based architectural firm. The Lamb-McSwain House was constructed by the original African-American owner, John W. Lamb with the help of his younger brother Ellard Lamb.

**Historical Background**

The community in which this house is located, is legally called Adams Addition, named after Howard Adams a land developer who, along with the West End Land and Improvement Company, set forth to plat this area in April 1888. Originally, the neighborhood was quite rural as can be seen by the Sanborn Maps and from descriptions of "geese and chickens running wildly around" the house.

The builder and owner John W. Lamb was born in Drew County but moved to Little Rock in 1917 with his new wife, Roxie Walker. Because she died in 1925, his wife never lived in the house on 2124 Rice Street. Later, John W. Lamb married Emma Taylor, a school teacher. John W. Lamb made a life-long career in the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier. It was through this job and his accumulated savings that Lamb was able to purchase the land and build his house.

During this time, the traditionally African American neighborhood around the Lamb-McSwain House was relatively quiet and crime-free. The late 1950's brought about severe changes to the neighborhood, caused in-part by the Livestock Urban Renewal Project. Also called the Coliseum Project, it was a grand scheme to redevelop the quiet neighborhood in line with national standards. The streets were re-aligned and paved; the run off ditches on both sides of the previous dirt roads were closed in with concrete drainage pipes and a proper sewage system was installed. Some of the older homes in the area were demolished and some were renovated. New, more contemporary houses were built on the lots where the houses were demolished. The new architecture and the relocation of many residents of the area had a grave impact on the character of the neighborhood.

Bernice Lamb McSwain, daughter of the original owner/builder, moved back to the house after the death of her parents. She and her late husband John B. McSwain Sr., have continued the care and maintenance of the house and its history. The McSwain's still have the original blueprints to the house, the 1925 receipts for building materials, historic photographs, and a variety of other materials that document the history of the house.

### **Architectural Significance**

The Lamb-McSwain House was constructed in 1926 by the original African-American owner, John W. Lamb from mail-order blue prints designed by Ye Planry Architects of Dallas, Texas. Despite the 1977 rear addition, this Craftsman-style house has a high amount of architectural integrity. The house still contains its original fenestration, stucco and half timbered gable ends, and battered columns as well as many other typical Craftsman features. For these reasons the Lamb-McSwain House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Information provided by Robert Knapp, 1996.

Information provided by Vicki Curok, 1996.

Information provided by Carol Roark, 1996.

Information provided by Felton Lamb, Sr., 1996.

Arkansas Gazette, 1949.

Hazel, Michael V., ed. *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*. Dallas, Texas: Dallas Historical Society, 1992.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: Less than one.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A 15 564020 3843020      B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_      D \_\_\_\_\_

Lamb-McSwain House  
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas  
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot No. 205, Replat No. 1, Adams Addition to the City of Little Rock,  
Pulaski County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all remaining historically significant structures  
associated with this property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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Name/Title: Amy Bennett, National Register/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 11/21/96

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000621

Date Listed: 6/4/98

Lamb--McSwain House

Pulaski

AR

Property Name

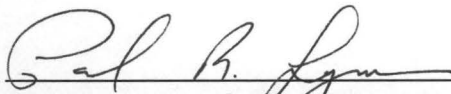
County

State

N/A

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

6/4/98  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

1977 is deleted as a significant date.

[A "significant date" must directly contribute to the significance of the historic property. No justification has been provided in this nomination that the 1977 rear addition reflects "an alteration that contributes to the building's architectural importance." NR Bulletin 16A p. 43.]

This information was confirmed with the Arkansas SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000621

Date Listed: 6/4/98

Lamb--McSwain House

Pulaski

AR

Property Name

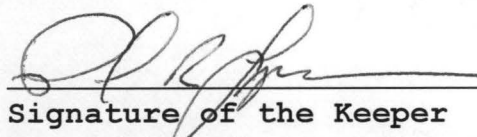
County

State

N/A

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

  
Signature of the Keeper

6/4/98  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

The narrative text could be strengthened with a better discussion of the architectural context in Little Rock during the period of significance.

From an architectural standpoint, to what extent were Craftsman/Bungalow design forms used in Little Rock? To what extent were residential buildings similar in scale or use part of the early twentieth century built landscape in Little Rock? or in this particular neighborhood or section of Little Rock? The current nomination provides very little information regarding the comparative context of twentieth century design in the community. As a result it is difficult to place the building in the bigger picture of Little Rock's architectural heritage and thus establish its architectural importance.

When dealing with a small community it is often easier to understand the comparative context for a particular house. When a city the size of Little Rock is involved, however, much more information is necessary to answer vital eligibility questions like "Where does this building fit in to the history of building construction in the community?"

If there are any questions regarding the comments provided above, please contact me directly at (202) 343-1628.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Lamb--McSwain House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski

DATE RECEIVED: 5/08/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/18/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/22/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000621

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

\_\_\_ACCEPT \_\_\_RETURN \_\_\_REJECT \_\_\_\_\_DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**The Lamb-McSwain House is significant under National Register Criterion C in the area Architecture. The well-preserved brick veneer house is good local example of early twentieth-century residential design, handsomely blending Craftsman and Bungalow stylistic forms.**

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criterion C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE 6/4/98

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



Lamb-McSwain House  
Pulaski County, Arkansas  
April 1997, Negative on file at AHPP  
Photograph by Holly Hope  
Front facade, looking west





LAMB-McSWAIN House

Pulaski County, Arkansas

April, 1997; Negative on file at AHPP

Photograph by Holly Hope

South side elevation, looking NORTH







Lamb-McSwain House

Pulaski County, Arkansas

April 1997, Negative on file at AHPP

Photograph by Holly Hope

East facade and south side elevation,  
looking north west



Lamb-McSwain House

Pulaski County, Arkansas

April 1997, Negative on file at AHPP

Photograph by Holly Hope

View of North Side elevation, looking south





Lamb-McSwain House

Pulaski County, Arkansas

April 1997, Negative on file at AHPP

Photograph by Holly Hope

Northern elevation showing rear addition,  
looking south







Lamb-McSwain House

Pulaski County, Arkansas

April 1997, Negative on file AHPP

Photograph by Holly Hope

Livingroom, looking south



Lamb-McSwain House

Pulaski County, Arkansas

April 1997, Negative on file at AHPP

Photograph by Holly Hope

View of original rear west wall  
now an interior wall, looking east  
(Note the historic house number  
and door bell)





Lamb-McSwain House

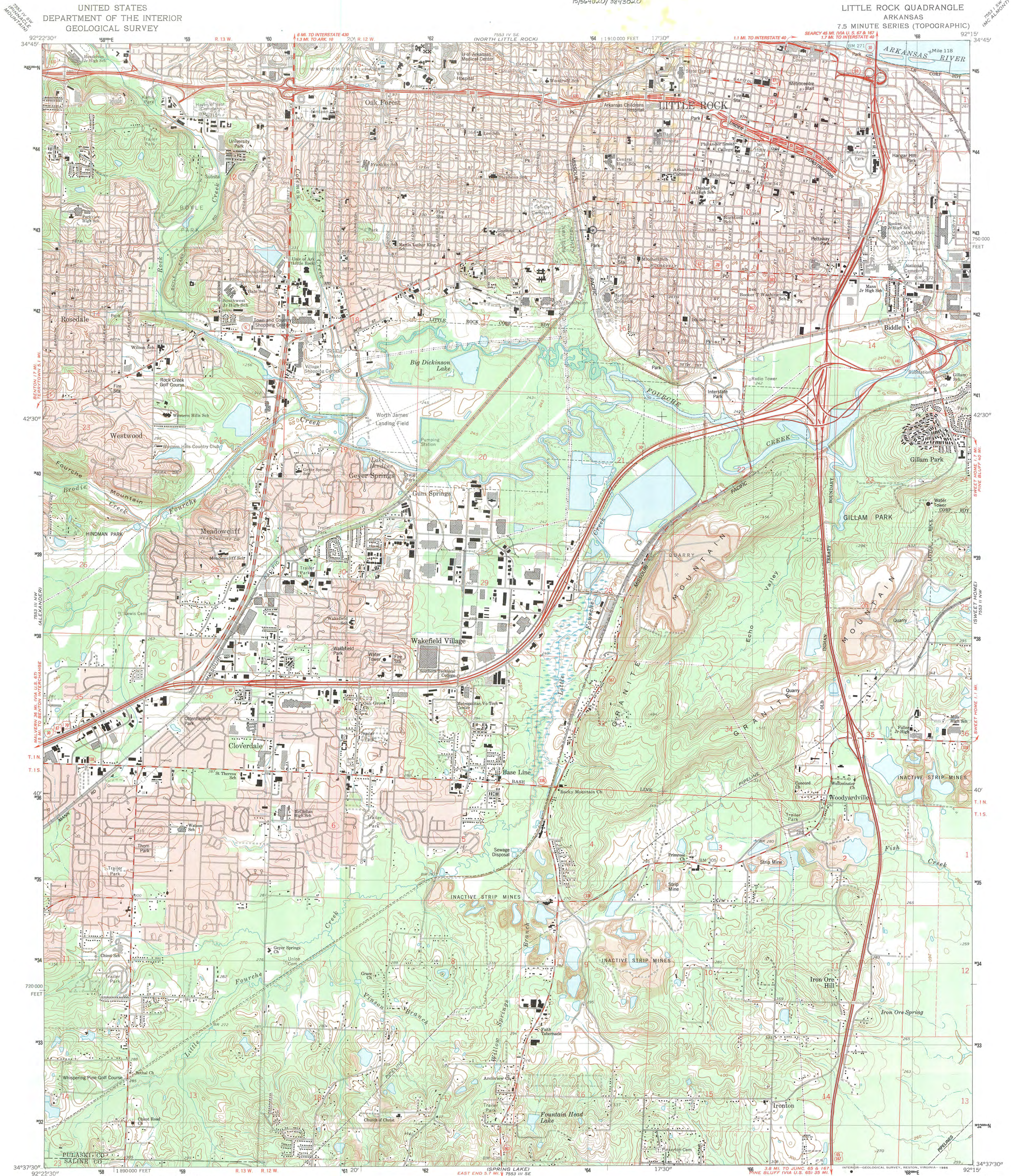
Pulaski County, Arkansas

April 1997, Negative on file at AHPP

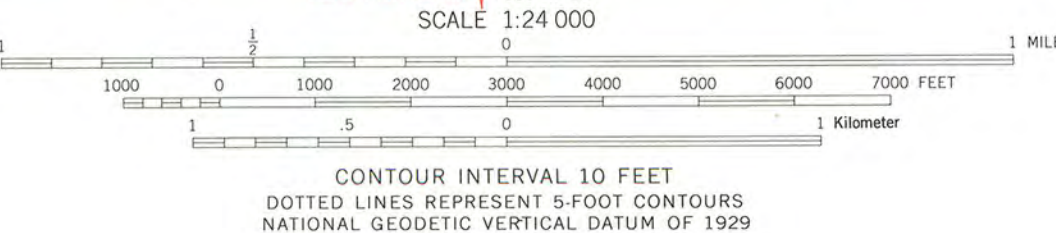
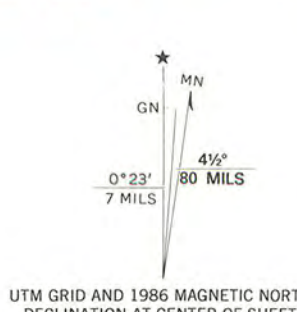
Photograph by Holly Hope

Looking east from the dining room  
to the living room





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1960. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1984  
Field checked 1985. Map edited 1986  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate  
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 7 meters south and  
14 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
Red tint indicates areas 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



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

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.  
34092-F3-1F-024  
1986  
DMA 7553 III NE-SERIES V884





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

April 15, 1998

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

RE: *Lamb-McSwain House*--Little Rock, Pulaski County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations 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:br

Enclosures

