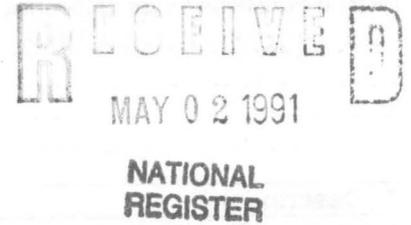


694

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gibson-Burnham House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1326 Cherry Street

not for publication N/A

city, town Pine Bluff

vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Jefferson

code AR 069

zip code 71611

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 80. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

*Cathryn A. Byrd*  
Signature of certifying official  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

*4-23-91*  
Date

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official  
State or Federal agency and bureau

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

5. National Park Service Certification

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:)

Entered in the  
National Register

*Alvina Byrd*  
Signature of the Keeper

*6/5/91*  
Date of Action

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Summary**

The Gibson-Burnham House is a two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival style structure with an irregular plan and roofline. The house features a full-width, single-story front porch supported by six non-fluted columns with Ionic capitals, three classic palladian windows in the gable ends, a dentil course underneath the cornice, and a three-sided, two-story bay projection.

**Elaboration**

Constructed in 1904, the Gibson-Burnham House is a two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival style wood-frame house with an irregular plan and roofline. Composition shingles cover the deck-on-hipped roof with three projecting gables, while a metal hipped roof shields the single-story front porch. The wood-frame walls are clad with novelty siding and rest on a continuous brick foundation, which originally consisted of brick piers only. A single brick chimney pierces the southwest corner of the flat metal deck which is adorned with metal cresting.

The eastern or front elevation features a full-width, single-story front porch. The porch originally wrapped around the southern end of the house, but that area was enclosed flush with the main wall of the house in 1943. The porch is supported by six non-fluted columns with Ionic capitals and features a projecting cornice over a dentil course. A three-sided two-story bay projection extends at the northern end of the eastern elevation, and the porch is offset and extended approximately three feet to accommodate the bay projection. The first-story is lighted by seven one-over-one double-hung windows. The bay projection contains one window per side. Two windows are located on each side of the door at uneven distances, and the remaining window is positioned near the southern end of the enclosed section. The detailed oak door features a single large pane of glass along with a transom also containing a single pane. Decorative crowns adorn the front door and all of the eastern elevation windows with the exception of the southern end window in the enclosed section.

The second-story contains five identical one-over-one, double-hung windows with three in the bay projection and two in the main block. The second-story also features an identical entablature with dentilling underneath the cornice which circumscribes the entire house. The bay projection is covered by a gable end with a projecting cornice. A classic palladian window is centered in the pediment and consists of four triangular panes in the arch over louvered vents flanked by one-over-one windows. The pediment likewise features a dentil course underneath the projecting cornice.

The southern elevation reveals the enclosed section of the original wrap-around front porch. This section presents two evenly spaced one-over-one double-hung windows to the southern

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

view with one identical window facing west. The second-story portion above the enclosed section features a standard one-over-one window with a single-pane, diamond-shaped window to the west. A gable bay projects from the center of the southern elevation approximately two feet from the main block of the building. The bay contains four symmetrical one-over-one double-hung windows arranged two per story. A pediment with palladian window and dentil course identical to the eastern elevation pediment covers the bay.

To the west of the projecting gable was originally a two-story screened sleeping porch topped by a flat roof. The screened section was bordered to the west by a blank section approximately four feet in width. The first-story of the screened porch provided a doorway for entry. A wide frieze board separated the two stories, and only the upper half of the upper-story was screened. The entire section has since been enclosed and covered with novelty siding to match the rest of the house. The first-story section still contains a door, and two small one-over-one double-hung windows have been added to the east of the door. The second-story is now lighted by a regular-sized one-over-one window and a smaller one-over-one window to the east.

The western elevation of the former sleeping porch section is fenestrated by a second-story one-over-one double-hung window and a recent three-sided bay window added to the first-story. This section is inset six inches from the rest of the western elevation which consists of a gable end to the north. This gable end contains two different-sized one-over-one double-hung windows near the center of the western elevation. The more elongated size is positioned in the second-story, and the smaller window is located directly below. The gable end is roofed by a pediment identical to the eastern and southern elevations.

The view of the northern elevation is normally obscured by foliage and the proximity of an adjacent structure. This elevation consists of three stepped bays receding to the west. The eastern bay contains two one-over-one double-hung windows centrally placed with one above the other. The middle section contains only a first-story one-over-one window, and the western bay mimics the arrangement of the eastern bay.

Much of the original Colonial Revival interior trim remains. Noteworthy items include a quarter-sawn oak staircase which was a prize winner at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The original owner and builder, John Wilson Gibson, purchased it at the fair and had it shipped to Pine Bluff. It is probable that the staircase was purchased before the house was built due to the integral effect of the staircase and the interior. An elaborate mirrored mantelpiece featuring wood detail carving and flanking columns accentuates the living room. The original bathroom, located on the second-floor, remains virtually unaltered, and the original decorative crowns of doorways and windows abound.

In 1943 the house was leased to the government and converted into four apartments, which

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

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entailed the addition of three bathrooms and two bedrooms. One bedroom was created by enclosing the southern-facing portion of the wrap-around porch. The open hallway above the foyer was enclosed to make the other bedroom. Unfortunately, this addition concealed the downstairs' view of the oak staircase. Moreover, a doorway was added to the front porch to provide access to the staircase and the upstairs apartments. This involved altering the staircase from an ell at the bottom to a straight staircase. In 1957 the house was restored to a one-family dwelling. Among other things, the front doorway addition was filled and the staircase reconstructed to its original form.

There are no outbuildings associated with the structure.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1904

Significant Dates  
N/A

Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**

A 

1	5
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5	9	0	8	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	7	8	6	3	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

South 87½ feet of East 40 feet of Lot 6 and South 87½ feet of Lots 7 and 8 of Block 3, Portis Addition to City of Pine Bluff

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Patrick Zollner/National Register Historian  
 organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 4/10/91  
 street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501) 324-9346  
 city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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**Summary**

Criterion C, local significance

The Gibson-Burnham House is being nominated for listing in the National Register under Criterion C with local significance as one of the finest examples of Colonial Revival architecture in the area.

**Elaboration**

The Gibson-Burnham House at 1326 Cherry Street was built in 1904 by John Wilson Gibson, a cotton buyer and plantation owner. This structure is an excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture in Pine Bluff.

Tradition holds that Joseph Bonne was the first to settle at the site of what is now known as Pine Bluff. Bonne, son of a Frenchman and a Quapaw woman, had been an interpreter for the 1818 Quapaw Cession at St. Louis in which that tribe signed away all of their lands except for 1,500,000 acres in Southeast Arkansas. In the fall of 1819 he built a log cabin on the south bank of the Arkansas River for his wife and several small children. Bonne's crudely constructed home on the pine-covered bluff became the focal point of the area, and he often fed and housed travellers for a modest sum. Although most visitors to Bonne's home were just passing through, a small settlement slowly grew up around his cabin/trading post. In 1829, the territorial governor of Arkansas, John Pope, approved an act of legislation which established Jefferson County from portions of Pulaski and Arkansas counties. The act also provided that the "temporary seat of justice for the County of Jefferson shall be at the house of Joseph Bone [sic]." Ten years after the establishment of Jefferson County, an order incorporating the Town of Pine Bluff was signed by Creed Taylor, the justice of the peace.

The arrival of steamboats on the Arkansas River in the early 1820's greatly facilitated the migration to frontier Arkansas; however, the population of Pine Bluff grew very slowly until the decade preceding the American Civil War. A large immigration of families from Tennessee, Kentucky, and the other states of the Deep South came to Central Arkansas to claim land. A significant number of German Jews also arrived in the county to become farmers and merchants. The farming of cotton became the primary occupation of the population as well as the chief industry of Pine Bluff. The town became a thriving river port as steamboats were stopping in increased numbers to transport the ever-growing cargoes of cotton.

Pine Bluff experienced its golden era of growth from 1880 to the turn of the century. Agriculture was still important; however, it was the railroad that brought increased progress and prosperity to Pine Bluff, which became a city of the first class in 1885 by attaining a population of 5,000. The city now possessed electric lights, a water and sewer system, and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

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two franchised telephone companies. By 1902, electric streetcars were in operation.

It was during this period that John Wilson Gibson established his home in the expanding city. Gibson owned a 3,000 acre plantation at Horseshoe Lake near Sherrill. He started farming cotton on a large scale in 1882 when he married Melvina Adeline Lawrence and acquired 600 acres. At various times Gibson was a cotton buyer, and his wife supervised the plantation operation to a great extent. In 1900 Gibson purchased the block of land bordered by Cherry Street, 14th Avenue, Linden Street, and 13th Avenue. After deciding to build a new house in town, the Gibson family attended the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. Mr. Gibson evidently greatly admired a prize-winning quarter-sawn oak staircase, for he purchased the staircase and had it shipped to Pine Bluff. Their new house was constructed shortly thereafter and designed around the prize-winning staircase. At that time, Cherry Street was impassable for anything except for the electric street cars which operated out to 26th Avenue. One could travel by buggy or wagon on 14th Avenue over to Olive Street, which was their only access to downtown Pine Bluff.

John Gibson continued to oversee his plantation and would live during the week at the Horseshoe Lake plantation. On weekends he travelled to Pine Bluff by train, which entailed changing trains at Altheimer. These arrangements continued until his death in 1926.

The house was leased to the government in 1943, and the house was converted into four apartments with the family occupying one of the downstairs apartments. Although the lease ended in 1948, the family continued to rent the apartments until 1957 when the house was restored to a single-family dwelling. The house is currently owned by William E. Burnham, Jr., grandson of John Wilson Gibson.

The Gibson-Burnham House well represents the era in which it was built. There are no other circa 1904 or older houses in the immediate area with the exception of the considerably altered house at 1400 Cherry Street. The house is well-maintained and, with the exception of the sensitively executed enclosure of the wrap-around porch to the south, retains its original 1904 exterior appearance. The Gibson-Burnham House is significant under Criterion C as one the best examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Pine Bluff.

**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**

*The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Central Arkansas: History of Jefferson County.* Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889. pp. 128-130.

Leslie, James W. *Pine Bluff & Jefferson County*, a pictorial history. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company/Publishers, 1981.

*Personal Interview with William E. Burnham, Jr., 02/20/91.*

Workers of the Writers' Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: The University Press of Kansas, 1987. pp. 189-195.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Gibson--Burnham House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 5/02/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/91  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/05/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/16/91  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000694

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 6/5/91 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  
\_\_\_UTMs      \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps      *Label on map*      \_\_\_USGS maps      \_\_\_photographs      \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Gibson-Burnham House      Jefferson  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas      Jefferson

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP  
View from the east



Gibson-Burnham House Jefferson

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP

View from southwest



Gibson-Burnham House

Jefferson

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP

View from the southeast



Gibson-Burnham House  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Jefferson Co

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPD

View from the southeast



Gibson-Burnham House

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP

View of entablature

Jefferson



Gibson-Burnham House

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP

View from the northeast

Jefferson



Gibson-Burnham House

Jefferson Co

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP

View of mantel piece



Gibson-Burnham House  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
Photographed by Ken Story  
January 1991  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
View of bedroom

Jefferson



Gibson-Burnham House

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Jefferson

Photographed by Ken Stary

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP

View of staircase



Gibson-Burnham House

Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

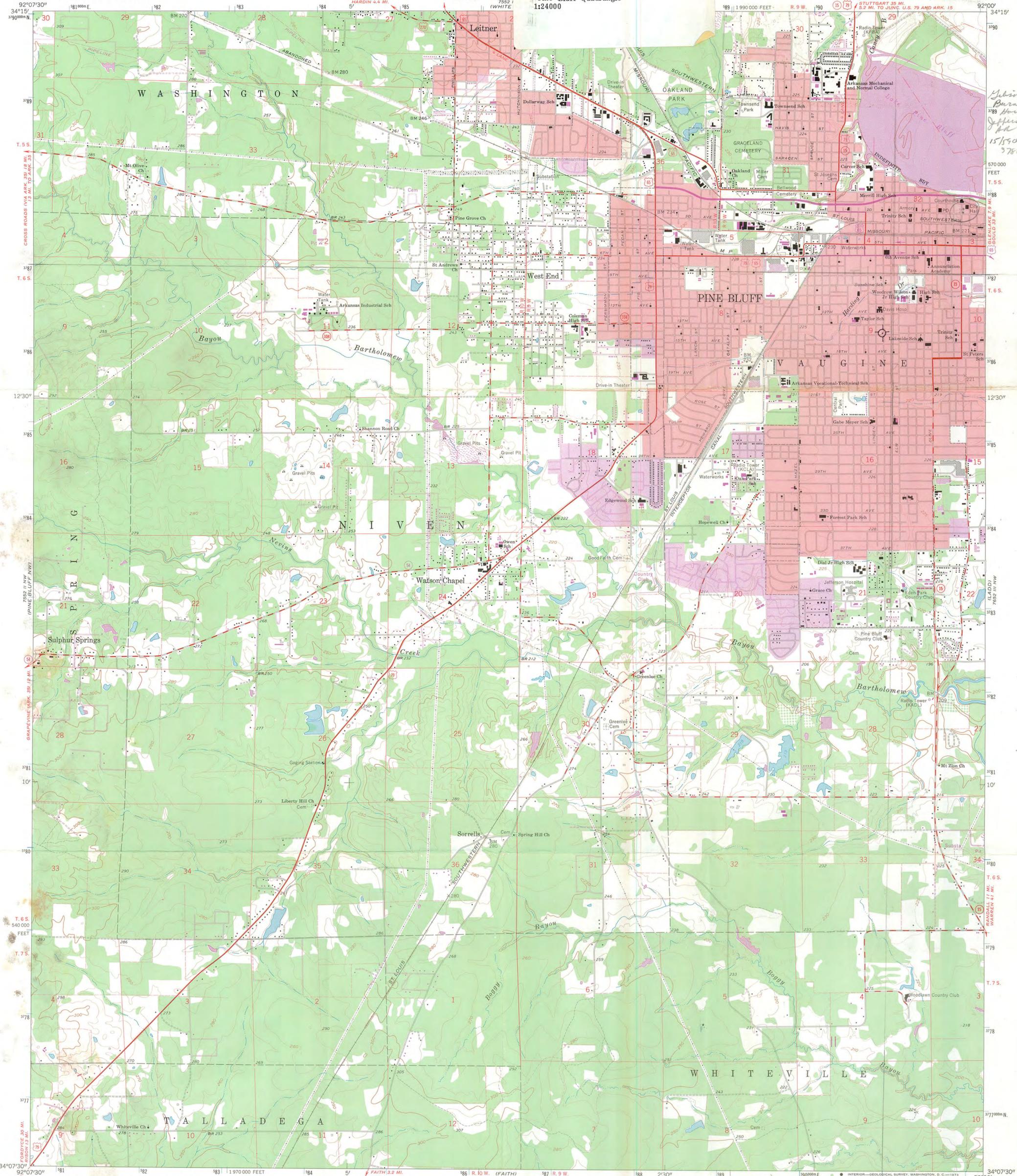
January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP

View of Hallway and front entrance

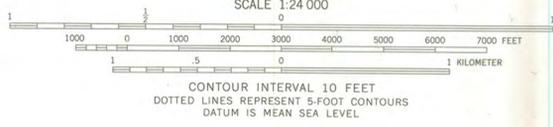
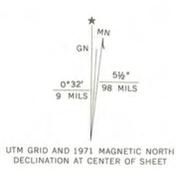
Jefferson

Gibson-Burnham House  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
Jefferson County  
15/50860/3786300  
Pine Bluff Quadrangle  
1:24000



Gibson-Burnham House  
Jefferson Co.  
15/50860  
3786300

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 planetable 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  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



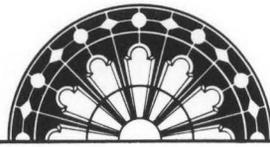
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

RECEIVED  
OCT 10 1978  
NATIONAL REGISTER

219 = 15/591/840  
236 = 3787/744  
15/591/840  
3787/780

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

PINE BLUFF, ARK.  
N 3407.5—W 9200/17.5  
1962  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 7552 II NE—SERIES V 884



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED  
MAY 02 1991  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

April 23, 1991

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Gibson-Burnham House  
Pine Bluff - Jefferson County, Arkansas

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  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

