

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received SEP 12 1985  
date entered

OCT 10 1985

## 1. Name

historic Berger-Graham House

and/or common Berger-Graham-Hampton House

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 1327 South Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Jonesboro N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Craighead code 031

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Larry R. Hampton

street &amp; number 308 Jefferson

city, town Jonesboro N/A vicinity of state Arkansas 72401

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Craighead County Courthouse

street &amp; number South Main Street

city, town Jonesboro

state Arkansas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Inventory has this property been determined eligible? N/Ayes no

date September 1971 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town

state

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY

Imposingly sited on an ample corner lot, the Berger-Graham House, constructed in 1904, demonstrates the synthesis of two subtle influences - the Richardsonian Romanesque and the Classical Revival. This massive brick residence possesses an interesting roof configuration composed of a central hip with cross gables and dormers, a broad round-arched recessed entry that dominates the front facade and restrained classical detailing.

#### ELABORATION

Occupying a large corner lot, the Berger-Graham House sits on a hill which is the highest location in Jonesboro. The east and south boundaries of the property are delineated by a cement retaining wall scored to resemble stone block. The north property line is marked by a fence and several trees.

The foundation is brick, covered with plaster scored to resemble stone and topped by a molded brick water table. Of load bearing brick construction, the house has walls eighteen inches thick. The prominent elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Classical Revival styles are concentrated on the front elevation. Entrance to the house is reached via a flight of five steps on the right (north) side of the elevation. These steps are enclosed by low walls, capped with large smooth-dressed stones which project from the stone foundation of the open front porch. The porch is surrounded by an iron railing that matches a round arched vent grille to the left of the porch and two rectangular vent grilles on the south facade. The gentle curve of the projecting porch, as well as the retaining wall of the east elevation, echo the broad round arch of the main entry. This broad arch penetrating the main body of the house is detailed with radiating brick voussoirs with drip course terminating on rectangular smooth-dressed imposts. To the left of the entrance, the elliptical arch above the first floor window is similarly detailed. Directly behind the entry arch is an oak wainscoted vestibule recessed into the main body of the structure. The vestibule features a central full-glazed door with a transom and sidelights which together create a broad round arch. The transom and sidelights originally contained three of the five stained glass windows in the front facade. The other two were located in the elliptical arch windows of the first floor and in the tympanum of the front gable. As far as can be distinguished from photographs, these two windows were miniature versions of the design in the three windows forming the arch around the door. Above the entry arch, four horizontal courses of brick project to create a stepped stringcourse. At the second floor of the principal facade, immediately above the brick work is a window matched symmetrically to the south in size and shape. Both of these windows have an upper sash of leaded glass in an elongated diamond pattern with the bottom sash being a single fixed pane. The surrounds of these windows, like all windows in the house, are comprised of smooth-dressed stone sills with plain wood mouldings on sides and top. The front gable contains an elliptical arched window set in a triangular field of aggregated mortar. To the left of the gable is a hipped dormer penetrating the slate roof. The roof ridges of this dormer, like the other ridges of the structure, are capped with terra cotta tiles. The dormer has one multi-paned window that is top-hinged to open inward for ventilation. On each side of this window are fluted pilasters.

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Continuation sheet

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Page 1

The north facade of the structure is divided mid-way by a gabled projection which contains the main and attic staircases. Within the foundation of this elevation, are the four single sash, two-paned, straight-topped windows with stone sills of the basement. To the left of the projection the first floor contains one large, one-over-one, double-hung window which is matched in width directly above by a second floor window. To the right of the projection the rear section contains a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows on each floor; these being narrower than those to the left. The gabled extension features two straight-topped, one-over-one, double-hung windows which mark the landings of the interior staircase between the first and second floors. The largest of these has a transom. The small, fixed, single sash window marks a small closet over which the attic stairs ascend. The upper-most, one-over-one, double-hung windows define the attic staircase landing. The gable of the projection is similar to the one on the principal facade with the aggregated tympanum. A small unembellished chimney breaks through the roof line to the right of the gable.

The back or west facade of the house originally had a one-story flat-roofed kitchen extension. The most visible change to this facade is the addition of a brick second floor above this kitchen in the 1920's. Later the exterior wooden staircase was built. This addition is currently being removed and the kitchen returned to its original appearance. On the first floor, to the left is a paneled door with four glazed upper panels. This door leads to the basement. Centered in each of the three walls of the kitchen is one straight-topped, one-over-one, double-hung window with smooth-dressed stone lug sills. On the second floor level, obscured by the addition are two straight-topped windows on either side of the doorway. A small unembellished chimney breaks through the roof line in the center of the elevation of the main body of the house.

The south elevation has a retaining wall for the gently sloping lot. All windows on this side, like the rest of the house are straight-topped, one-over-one, double-hung with smooth-dressed stone sills. The largest of these windows is at the front corner, which begins a graduation in size to smaller windows at the back. These are matched identically on the second floor. Visible to the left corner of the elevation is a frame sunroom resting on brick piers with three pairs of six-over-six double-hung windows. Tucked within a recess of the main structure, this sunroom originally was a back porch, three feet narrower than present, enclosed with lattice-work. A paneled door with transom, inside the sunroom, allowing rear entry to the house through the kitchen. One of the three windows of the kitchen which was described earlier is also inside the sunroom. These are not visible. Above the sunroom, the addition over the kitchen can be seen. Above the dentilled cornice a hipped dormer with terra cotta ridge and hip caps and slate cheeks projects from the side of the main roof. It contains two multi-paned windows that are framed on each side by fluted wood pilasters, identical to the ones of the principal facade. The dormer is balanced to the right by a massive unembellished internal chimney that breaks through the slate roof and towers above the hipped roof line. In the foundation of this elevation, centered below the middle windows of the first and second floors, are two vent grilles with wrought iron.

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Though the house was converted into a boarding house in the 1920's and apartments in the 1960's, much of its original interior fabric remains intact, most notably in the entry hall. Incorporating the Romanesque influence, the entry features an arch that rests on Doric columns and divides the entrance area from the stairwell. Smooth oak tapered pilasters decorate the wall beside the columns, all of which rest on square oak paneled pedestals, the right one being encircled by the three rounded platform steps of the staircase. Behind the arch, the lavish oak staircase begins with five wide platform steps leading to a quarter-landing. Four steps to the left lead to another quarter-landing and turning to the left again, continue to the second floor. The turned, spindled balustrade begins with a curve on the second floor and is intersected by three recessed panel newel posts topped with a carved finial; one on the second floor landing and one each on the two quarter-landings. A turned and carved pendant under the second story newel post matches the finials. Massive paneled wainscoting is featured under the staircase and above the eight-foot doorways. One and one half inch wide quartersawn oak floors are throughout the first and second floors.

Today in the northwest corner of the property there stands a shed which was originally a barn for the property. It's appearance was later altered to provide an apartment. Opposite the barn in the southwest corner was a vegetable garden, now the site of a duplex built about 1925. The property also contained a two room servants' quarters about forty feet from the northwest corner of the house. Today a cement foundation marks the site as a garage was built there later and has since been removed. Early yucca plants, circa 1914, rose of sharon, and roses still grow on the lawn.

## 8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1904 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

The Berger-Graham House, one of the few remaining outstanding residential structures located on Jonesboro's Main Street, illustrates the subtle influence of the Romanesque style of architecture. Built in 1904 by Marcus Berger, who was a prominent merchant, the stylish house was a wedding present to his son Joseph. Joseph married Essie Blass who was the daughter of Gus Blass, the Jewish merchant who founded Blass Department Store in Little Rock. The Bergers lived in the house from their marriage in 1904 until 1909 when they moved to Little Rock. The house was sold to H. W. Graham who was president of the Southern Mercantile Company in Jonesboro and the Arkansas Grocer Company in Blytheville. Although Graham suffered a financial setback in the early 1920's, he was able to keep the house turning it into a boarding house and tearoom known as the Homestead Inn. The Graham family occupied the house for over thirty years. Incorporating mass, volume and restrained decoration which draws somewhat upon elements of the Richardsonian and free-classical styles, the Berger-Graham House is distinctive among residential structures in the Jonesboro area. Its detailing, design, and fine craftsmanship are a significant reminder of Jonesboro's architectural heritage.

#### ELABORATION

Marcus Berger was a native of Hungary. Following his move to the United States at the age of twenty-one, Berger established successful businesses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Greenville, Illinois. He moved to Jonesboro in 1883, where a year earlier he had set up a branch of the Marcus Berger and Company, a grocery wholesale house. It later developed into one of the largest mercantile businesses in northeastern Arkansas.

Berger was among the first Jewish merchants to bring his family to Jonesboro and he encouraged others to follow his example. He worked successfully to construct the city's first synagogue, Temple Israel. He was a major mover in the development of Jonesboro's built environment, erecting over seventy commercial buildings in his lifetime. Berger also established the American Trust Bank and was a major stockholder in the Bank of Jonesboro. Assisting Marcus with the business was his son Joseph who, after Marcus' death in 1906, took over the family holding. Joseph closed the family business in 1909 and he and his wife Essie moved to Little Rock to live with her family. In Little Rock he put together a number of successful companies.

W. H. Graham, who bought Joseph Berger's impressive residence, began his successful Southern Mercantile Company in 1903. The business was a wholesale fruit and produce company. He is perhaps best remembered as a cotton buyer, serving as a partner in the cotton brokerage firm of Graham and Hambrook. After a slack in his cotton market investments after World War I, he was forced to file bankruptcy. He did manage, however, to keep the house which he continued to occupy until his death.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Jonesboro, 1983, 7.5'

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

C 

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

E 

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

G 

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

B 

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

D 

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

F 

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

H 

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0
Zone	Easting	Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Larry Hampton and Elvis Meilke, edited by the AHPP staff

organization  date August 8, 1985

street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state AR, 72201

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

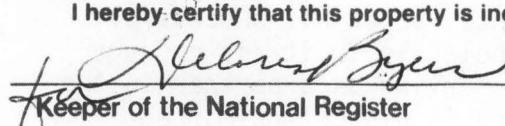
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer date 8-27-85

For NPS use only

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

 Entered in the  
National Register

date 10-10-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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

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

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date entered

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Item number 9

Page 1

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Beginnings: Historic Architecture in Arkansas, ed. Anne Bartley.

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Durham Directory Co. City Directory for Jonesboro Arkansas, 1906. Springfield: Jewell Publishing Co.

Hempstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas: Its Commerce, Industry and Modern Affairs. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1911.

Hoffman, W. H. City Directory for Jonesboro Arkansas, 1911, 1919. Quincy: Hoffman Directories.

Jonesboro Enterprise. Jonesboro Arkansas Illustrated, April 1903.

Newspapers -- Craighead County - Jonesboro Public Library. Microfilm #25, #24, #22, #14, #115.

Pulaski County Historical Review. "Members of Prominent Families in Little Rock in the Year 1901". June 1971.

Real Estate Tax Records for Craighead County, Arkansas -- Craighead County Courthouse in Jonesboro. 1902-1910.

Times Enterprise. Historical Souvenir, Jonesboro, Arkansas. Memphis: A. F. Field Publishing Co., 1906.

Weekly Times Enterprise. Jonesboro, Arkansas, April 12, 1906.

William, Harry Lee. History of Craighead County Arkansas. Little Rock: Parke-Harper Co., 1930.

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National Park Service**

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4

Item number 10

Page 1

The South Half of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3 of Block 51 of Nilson's Subdivision of Lots Nos. 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 49, 50 and 51 of Knight's Second Addition to the town (now city) of Jonesboro, Arkansas, (excepting therefrom the West 60 feet of said South Half of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3 aforesaid) according to the plat and Survey thereof, being a part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 14 North, Range 4 East.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Berger-Graham House  
Craighead County  
ARKANSAS

resubmission  
 nomination by person or local government  
 owner objection  
 appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Working No. 2-3-87  
Fed. Reg. Date: 10/10/85 - 10/27/85

Date Due: 10-10-85  
Entered in the Action:  ACCEPT 10-10-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed

Check one

<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered
<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Check one

<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

summary paragraph  
 completeness  
 clarity  
 alterations/integrity  
 dates  
 boundary selection

## 8. 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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

### 11. Form Prepared By

### 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national    \_\_\_\_\_ state    \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title      date

### 13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Berger-Graham House  
Jonesboro, AR  
Craighead County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
August, 1984  
Negative on file at the AHPP  
Viewed from South



Berger-Graham House  
Jonesboro, AR  
Craighead County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
August, 1984  
Negative on file at the AHPP  
Viewed from Northeast



Berger-Graham House  
Jonesboro, AR  
Craighead County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
August, 1984  
Negative on file at the AHPP  
Viewed from Northeast



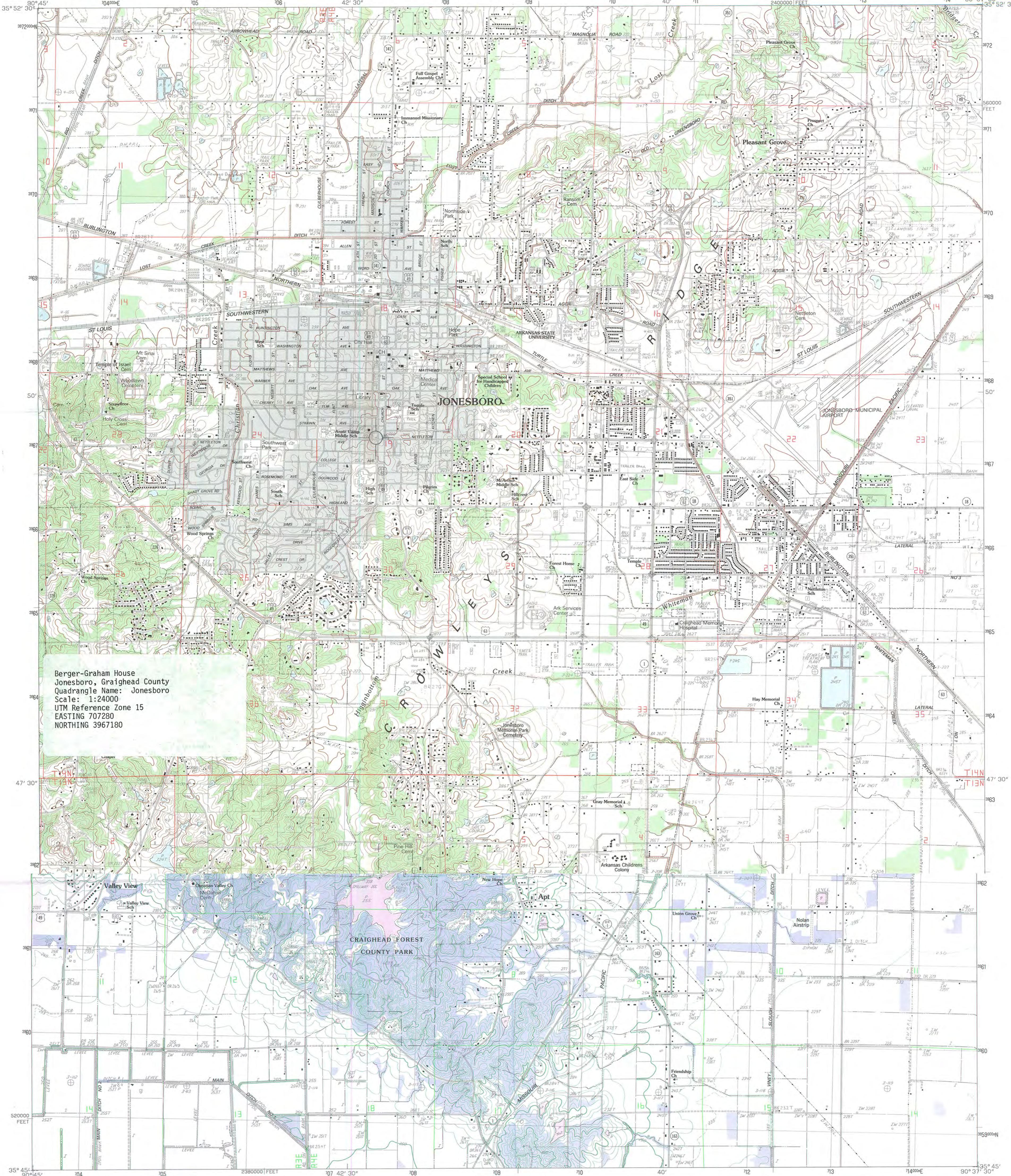
Berger-Graham House  
Jonesboro, AR  
Craighead County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
August, 1984  
Negative on file at the AHPP  
Viewed interior



Berger-Graham House  
Jonesboro, AR  
Craighead County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
August, 1984  
Negative on file at the AHPP  
Viewed interior



Berger-Graham House  
Jonesboro, AR  
Craighead County, Ark.  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
August, 1984  
Negative on file at the AHPP  
Viewed interior



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
CONTROLLED BY USGS AND NOS/NOAA  
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN 1976  
FIELD CHECKED 1979 MAP EDITED 1983  
PROJECTION LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC  
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR  
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS ARKANSAS, NORTH ZONE  
UTM GRID: 15N  
1ST EAST  
3RD 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  
(5 meters south and 10 meters east)  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
Federal and State reservations shown on this map  
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

PROVISIONAL MAP  
Produced from original manuscript drawings. Information shown as of date of field check.

SCALE 1:24 000

1 5 0 1  
MILES  
1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000  
FEET  
1 5 0 1  
KILOMETERS  
1000 0 1000 2000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET

To convert feet to meters multiply by .3048  
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

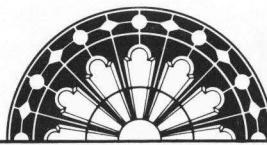
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

1	2	3	1 Bono
4	5	6	2 Lorida
7	8	7 Greenfield	3 Broadland
		8 Trumann	4 Germantown
			5 Needham
			6 Orwell
			7 Greenfield
			8 Trumann

JONESBORO, ARKANSAS  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1983

35090-G6-TF-024

JONESBORO, 1983, 7.5'



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

August 23, 1985

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

Re: Berger-Graham House  
1327 South Main Street  
Jonesboro, AR  
Craighead County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Berger-Graham House. 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,

Wilson Stiles  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/st

Enclosure/s

