NPS Form 10-900 (Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



	NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1. Name of Property	activation of the state of the
historic name: Bill Clinton Birthplace	
other name/site number: N/A	
2. Location	
street & number: 117 South Hervey Street	
	not for publication: N/A
city/town: Hope	vicinity: N/A
state: AR county: Hempstead code:	<u>AR 057</u> zip code: <u>71801</u>
3. Classification	
Ownership of Property: <u>Private</u>	
Category of Property: <u>Building</u>	
Number of Resources within Property:	
Contributing Noncontributing	
buildings	
sites structures	
objects	
1	
Number of contributing resources previously liste Register: N/A	d in the National
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A	

al Agency Certification			
ended, I hereby certify the termination of eligibility registering properties in and meets the procedura of CFR Part 60. In my oping	hat the the had and nion,	his <u>X</u> nominat ts the documenta National Registe professional re the property <u>X</u>	ion tion r of quirements meets
A. Scalu ertifying official			-94
ric Preservation Program			
the property meets ria. See conti	(nuatio	does not meet the	e National
ommenting or other offici	al	Date	
al agency and bureau			
rk Service Certification		. 0-	
the National Register continuation sheet. deligible for the Register continuation sheet. de not eligible for the Register com the National Register		my To	<u> 1/19/94</u>
	Sig	gnature of Keeper	Date of Action
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7. Description	on	Age		
Architectura	l Classification	 n:		
Other				
Other Descrip	ption: <u>America</u>	n Foursquare		
Materials:	foundation walls	Brick Asbestos	_ roof other	Asphalt Wood porch
	walls	Aspestos	_ other	columns upon brick piers
Describe pres	sent and histor	ic physical appea	rance. X	See continuation
	of Significance			
	fficial has cons other properties	sidered the signi s: <u>National</u>	ficance of thi	s property in
Applicable Na	ational Register	r Criteria: B		
Criteria Cons	siderations (Exc	ceptions):C,	G	
Areas of Sign	nificance: POI	LITICS/GOVERNMENT		
	<u> </u>			
Period(s) of	Significance:	1946-50	-	
Significant I	Dates: <u>1946</u>			
Significant 1	Person(s): Cl:	inton, William Je	fferson 3rd (B	<u>ill)</u>
Cultural Aff:	iliation: N/A			
Architect/Bu		, Dr. H. J. S.		
consideration		nd periods of sig		teria, criteria d above.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Summary

Located at 117 South Hervey Street, the Bill Clinton Birthplace is a two-and-one-half storey, wood frame residence designed in a style known as American Foursquare. As the style denotes, its fundamental floor plan is square, though an original single-story, hipped roof porch runs across the western or front facade. Its hipped, asphalt shingle roof and asbestos plate shingle walls rest upon a continuous brick foundation.

Elaboration

The residence located at 117 South Hervey Street, better known as the Bill Clinton Birthplace, is a two-and-one-half storey, wood frame residence designed in a style known as American Foursquare. As the style denotes, its fundamental floor plan is square, though an original single-story, hipped roof porch runs across the western or front facade. An original brick masonry chimney stack, located just to the north of the roof's peak, has been taken down and capped below the current roofline, though most of the stack remains in place. The hipped, asphalt shingle roof and asbestos plate shingle walls rest upon a continuous brick foundation.

The western or front elevation consists of a sheer, symmetrically fenestrated wall that is dominated by the single story, hipped roof porch that extends almost the full width of the facade. The porch's hipped roof is supported upon two pyramidal wood columns that in turn rest upon brick piers. The wall beneath is fenestrated with two twelve-over-one wood windows that flank a central, single-leaf entrance. The second storey above is fenestrated with three symmetrically-placed windows, two of which contain wood sash windows while the southernmost window features a modern aluminum window frame. The central, hipped dormer above contains a single, four-pane wood window.

The northern and southern elevations are relatively simple. The northern elevation's second story features three window openings at its eastern end, lighting what was the nursery room behind. The first storey contains a single-leaf entrance at the eastern end, a pair of wood sash windows toward the center and a single, smaller window at the western end. The southern elevation is fenestrated with two groups of three wood sash windows each on the first storey and two asymmetrically-placed single windows above.

The eastern elevation is fenestrated with two symmetrically-placed windows on the first storey and wood sash windows at the northern end of the second storey, also lighting the nursery room.

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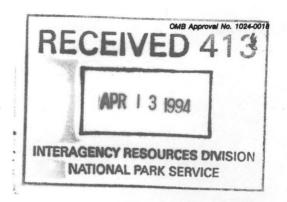
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The interior, though always relatively simple, retains much of its original detail. A relatively elaborate wood staircase, located against the northern wall of the first floor living room, features turned balusters and a massive, panelled wood newel post. The small pantry features some built-in cupboards, and the upstairs retains virtually all of its original wood finishes, including stained flooring and painted beaded board in the hallway and the nursery.

The alterations to the building are largely limited to the replacement of the original wood siding with asbestos plate and the replacement of a northern, second storey window with a small, hooded balcony that served an as-yet undetermined purpose. Despite the deterioration suffered over the past several years while the property has remained unoccupied, the Bill Clinton Birthplace is in fair condition and scheduled for restoration in the near future.

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Summary

Criterion B, national significance

The house at 117 South Hervey Street that has become known as the Bill Clinton Birthplace was probably constructed c. 1915; its architect or builder remains unknown. It is eligible under Criterion B with national significance by virtue of its status as the birthplace of President Bill Clinton. Though the period of significance (1946-50, the years Bill Clinton lived in this house) is less than fifty years, and though birthplaces are not generally eligible, the Bill Clinton Birthplace is of extraordinary significance through both its direct associations with the current President of the United States and its status as the single extant property most directly associated with his youth and early development.

Elaboration

Hope, in addition to becoming a regional transportation hub with the arrival of several intersecting railroad lines after the Civil War, also became a regional cotton processing and marketing center in southwest Arkansas. The importance of this crop to the entire county was evidenced by the large number of cotton gins that dotted the countryside throughout during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By the first decades of the new century Hope was a prosperous and bustling community that supported a wide variety of businesses, industries and professions.

The residence at 117 Hervey Street in Hope, Arkansas was originally built for Dr. H. J. S. Garrett, who settled here after residing for a time in France and purportedly based the house design upon that of a residence he had occupied while living there (however, this building type, known as American Foursquare, became extremely popular throughout the United States after the turn of the century, and particularly in railroad towns where new tastes and fashions of all kinds arrived quickly). Young Virginia Cassidy's family purchased this home around 1940, while she was still in high school. Within the next few years she met and married William Blythe, a traveling salesman.

Virginia Cassidy was three-months pregnant with their first child when her husband died after his car veered off a rain-slicked backroad during a business trip. She lived in this house with her parents during the remainder of her term, giving birth to William Jefferson Clinton 3rd on August 19, 1946. She raised him here -- with her parents help -- for the first two years of his life. However, she left him in her parents care after his second birthday so that she could attend nursing school in New Orleans, learning the trade of nurse anesthetist so that she could support herself and her young son. She returned in 1950 and left 117 South Hervey Street to reside in

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another house in Hope for the next three years. She left Hope when she remarried and relocated to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where her son would spend the remainder of his childhood and adolescence, graduating from Hot Springs High School in 1964.

In the fall of that same year Bill Clinton matriculated at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where he both excelled academically and made his first direct contact with the world of politics, working for U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright during his junior and senion years. He won a Rhodes Scholarship to study in Oxford, England, where he spent the next year. He then returned to the United States to study for the bar at Yale Law School. It was during his stay in New Haven that he met Hillary Rodham, a fellow classmate and the woman he was to marry in 1975.

The Clintons relocated to Fayetteville, Arkansas so that he could accept a position teaching constitutional law there. During this period Bill Clinton, a Democrat, put together his first political campaign, running unsuccessfully for U.S. Congress in 1974. However, in 1976 he ran a successful campaign for state attorney general, and moved to Little Rock to execute the responsibilities of that office.

In 1978, Bill Clinton conducted his second successful political campaign in Arkansas, gaining the distinction of being the nation's youngest governor at the age of 32. However, two years later he was defeated by the Republican candidate, Frank White, due largely to the ambitious progressive agenda he pushed upon a state that was unprepared for so much change. Thereafter he adopted a more moderate political stance and was re-elected the state's governor in 1982, a position for which he successfully campaigned three more times, his last re-election occurring in 1990.

In October of 1991, Bill Clinton announced his candidacy for the office of President of the United States. Over the course of the next eleven months, Bill Clinton campaigned vigorously and battled considerable adversity, ultimately winning sufficient delegates to be nominated as the Democratic party's candidate at the July convention of 1992. Throughout the balance of the summer and into the fall he continued to run an aggressive campaign with his vice-presidential running mate Al Gore, the former U.S. Senator from Tennessee, finally prevailing in his pursuit on election day, November 3rd, 1992. With this election, Bill Clinton achieved what his late mother Virginia Kelley remembered as his goal from childhood, the Presidency of the United States.

Without question, there are several properties that have come to be associated with President Bill Clinton and his long political career. In addition to the Old State House in Little Rock (from the

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front steps of which he announced virtually all of his political campaigns), the current state capitol, in which he occupied the Governor's Office for a total of twelve years, and the Governor's Mansion in Little Rock, where he lived during his gubernatorial tenure, there are the other residences in Little Rock, Fayetteville, Hot Springs and Hope. However, the precedence of any of these over his birthplace becomes problematic when one first considers the significance of the site of his birth over any of the other private residences, where the significance of such influences as his education and the growth of his ambitions is far less defined. Furthermore, the selection of any one of the public buildings raises the issue of the other governors with whom those same properties are also associated and the fact that none of these are as exclusively associated with Bill Clinton as his birthplace. It is this same argument which also precludes the consideration of his current residence, the White House in Washington, DC, in this context.

By virtue of the above arguments, therefore, it becomes evident that the Bill Clinton Birthplace in Hope, Arkansas remains the single property most significantly and exclusively associated with President Bill Clinton's humble beginnings, the inner strength he learned from his mother, and the dedication to purpose that has sustained him throughout his distinguished political career. For these reasons the Bill Clinton Birthplace is eligible under Criterion B with national significance.

9. Ma	ajor			Referenc	es					
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This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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Bibliography

Ifill, Gwen, "Tenacity and Change in a Son of the South," *The New York Times*, Thursday, July 16, 1992, p. A1.

Interview with Virginia Kelley, Spring, 1993, Hope, Arkansas.

Shribman, David, "Clinton, Arkansas's Best-Known Overachiever, Widens His Horizons to Include the White House," *The Wall Street Journal*, Tuesday, October 8, 1991, p. A24.

11. Form Prepared Ry

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u> Date: <u>03/29/94</u>

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 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 EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION	ON MOLTBOURINASS YOUNGA MARKETY TRAIN
PROPERTY Clinton, Bill, B: NAME:	irthplace
MULTIPLE NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, I	Hempstead Moral School Control of the Market
DATE RECEIVED: 4/13/94 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/19/94 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/03/94 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/28/94
REFERENCE NUMBER: 94000472	
NOMINATOR: STATE	
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N OTHER: N PDIL: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N	PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N	pustification or areas charked
ACCEPTRETURN	REJECT 5/19/94 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	pasteleation of creption
RECOM./CRITERIAREVIEWER	21/11/MCD RARE
DISCIPLINE	Questions contexhing this nomination may be

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

DATE

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count	resource ty	MAIN REGISTER OF HER	
STATE/FEDERA	L AGENCY CERTIFI	CATION	IMOM THOUTOARD
FUNCTION		1. Birthplace	is clinton, sil
historic	current		
DESCRIPTION			
materials	1 1	SS, Hempstead noi	
SIGNIFICANCE			<u> </u>
Period	Areas of Signif	icanceCheck and j	ustify below
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sketch ma	psUSGS maps	photographs	presentation
OTHER COMMEN	TS		NINGERIA CONTRACTOR
Questions co	ncerning this no	mination may be dir	rected to
		Phone	
Signed	e attached SLR Y	hed comments Y/N se I	Date

REQUEST FOR DECISION ON PROPERTIES ACHIEVING SIGNIFICANCE WITHIN THE LAST 50 YEARS

Names of Nominated Properties:	Recommendation:
Bill Clinton Birthplace	B, c, g,
Others (see attached): Yes	No
Explanation of recommendation:	
X attached to this sheet	
attached to individual property eva	luation/return sheet
attached to MPS cover evaluation/re	turn sheet
Additional Comments: Date of 45th Day:	5/28/94

Reviewer: Patty Sackett Chrisman, Historian

Date: May 18, 1994

Property: Bill Clinton Birthplace, Hempstead Co., AK

Date: 5/18/94

The State has nominated the property under Criterion B for its direct association with President Clinton. As the birthplace of President Clinton, the State feels that the property has exceptional significance. The property has been justified under Criteria Considerations c and g.

Reviewer: Patty Sackett Chrisman, Historian

Date: 5/18/94

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Signature:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ROUTING SLIP

(Indicate routing order by number - strike out office when cleared)

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	3220	001	DIRECTOR		3116	500	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, OPERATIONS
	3222		Correspondence Control (Correspondence & Meil)		N. CAP.	501	Environmental Sentiation Officer
	3220		Special Assistant to the Director		3311	600	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, VISITOR SERVICES
	3410		Assistent to the Director, (Science & Technology)		N. CAP.		Youth Services
	3410		Assistant to the Director, (Park Initiatives)		N. CAP.	610	Engineering & Safety Services Division
	3220	002	DEFUTY DIRECTOR		3311	650	Renger Activities Division
	3410	003	Office of Business & Economic Development		N. CAP.		Special Populations
	N. CAP.	005	WASO Equal Employment Opportunity Office		N. CAP.	660	Land Resources Division
	1229	010	Office of Equal Employment Opportunity		N. CAP.	680	Concessions Division
	1226	022	Office of Policy		N. CAP.	710	Interpretation Division
	N. CAP.	023	Office of International Affairs		3122	760	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR,
	3424	040	Office of Public Affairs	_			FLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
	3208	170	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE &	_	3329		Special Assistant
_	-		CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS		3230	770	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, PLANNING
_	3208	180	Legislation		3230	772	Strategic Planning Division
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	3130	199	ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, BUDGET & ADMINISTRATION		1210	774	Eavironment Quality Division
	N. CAP.	230	Contracting & Procurement Division		3122	780	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECREATION PROGRAMS
	N. CAP.	234	Management Services Division		N. CAP.	781	Park Practice Program
	3323	240	Pezsonnai Division		N. CAP.	782	Recreation Resources Assistance Division
	2328	260	WASO Personnel Division		N. CAP.	784	Recreation Counts Division
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	N. CAP.		Park Historic Architecture Division		ZE	5000	Southeast Region (SER)
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Date:



BILL CLINTON BIRTHPLACE
HOPE, HEMPSTEAD CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. BAKER
VUNE, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM WEST



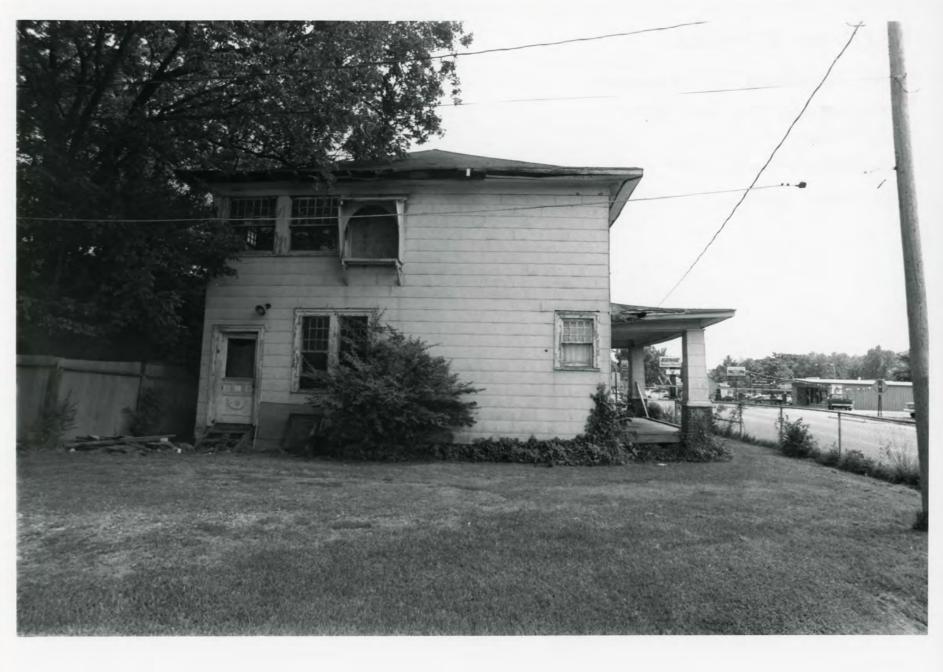
Bill Clinton Birthplace Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas Photographed by Don Baker June 1993 Negative on File at AHPP View of Staircase



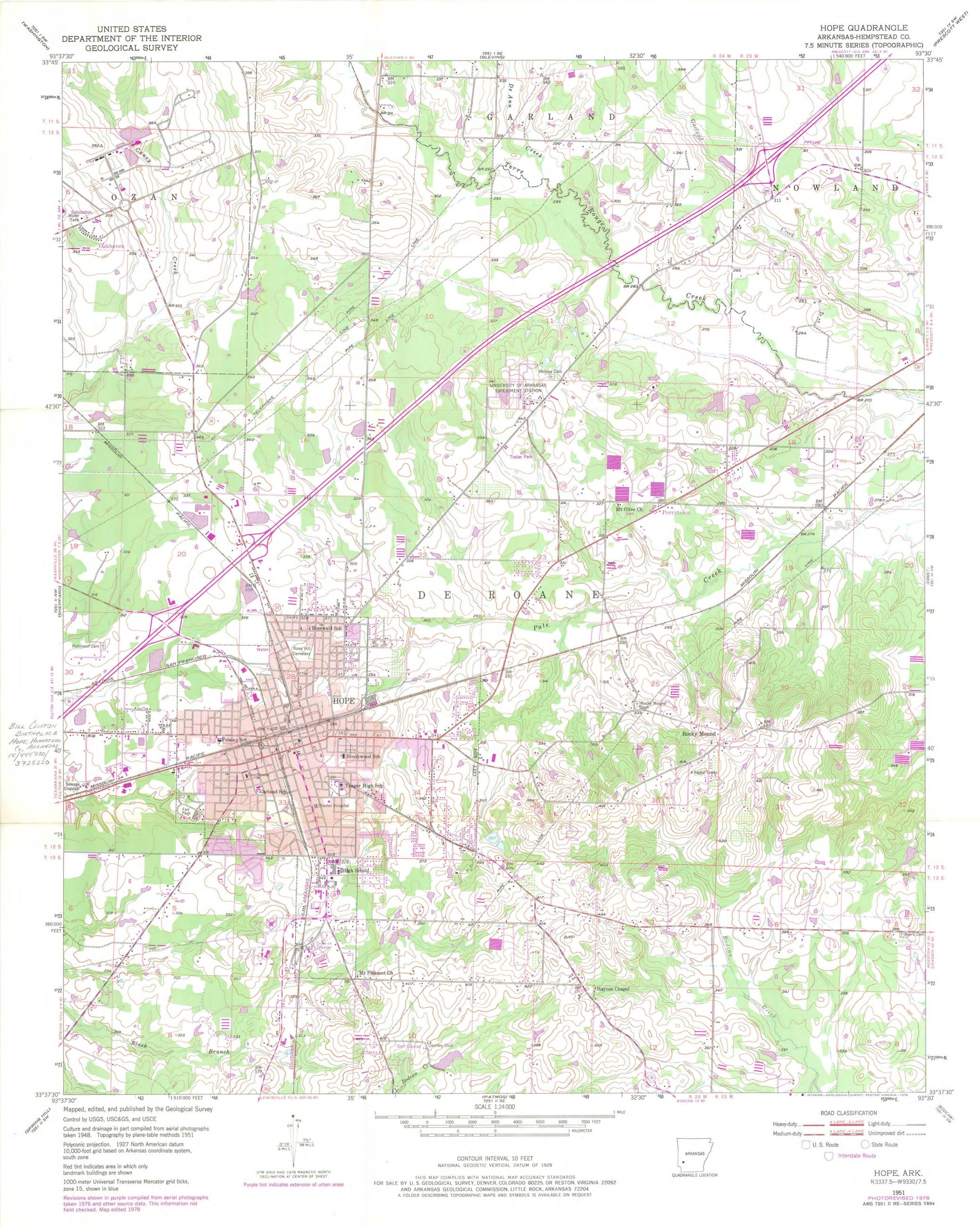
Bill Clinton Birthplace
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Don Baker
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Negative on Rile at AHPP
View of Living Room



Bill Clinton Birthplace Hope, Hampstead Co., Arkansas Photographed by Don Baker Lune 1993 Negative on File at AHPP View from South



Bill Clinton Birthplace
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Don Baker
June 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View from North





ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

April 5, 1994

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: Bill Clinton Birthplace

Hope, Hempstead 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



