# DATA SHEET

PH0150762

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 2 1 1975

DATE ENTERED



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NAME		Joho w Agili v get	01 5/4		
HISTORIC					
R. M. Knox House	Control of the Control	-10 31 51	1001		
AND/OR COMMON	i e nizoustas pro il				
LOCATION					
STREET & NUMBER					
1504 West 6th Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION  CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT			
Pine Bluff	VICINITY OF	Fourth			
STATE Arkansas	CODE 05	county Jefferson	CODE 069		
CLASSIFICATION	ALTER BEAT POLICE		the323		
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE			
DISTRICTPUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM		
X_BUILDING(S) XPRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK		
STRUCTUREBOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	X_PRIVATE RESIDENCE		
_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS		
OBJECTIN PROCESS	X_YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC		
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION		
	_NO	MILITARY	OTHER:		
OWNER OF PROPERTY					
NAME					
Richard Morris Knox, III					
STREET & NUMBER	STEEL SE SECTION	to the space space	ght series		
1504 West 6th Street					
CITY, TOWN		STATE			
Pine Bluff —	VICINITY OF	Arkansas			
LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCR	RIPTION				
COURTHOUSE.					
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk's Office					
STREET & NUMBER			1 34 46 4		
lefferson Count	v Courthouse				
Jefferson County Courthouse		STATE			
Pine Bluff	Pine Bluff		Arkansas		
REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS				
TITLE					
DATE					
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DEPOSITORY FOR		LOCAL			
SURVEY RECORDS	Le Montagnala I ha				
CITY, TOWN		STATE			



#### CONDITION

**CHECK ONE** 

\_\_UNALTERED

**CHECK ONE** 

X\_ORIGINAL SITE

\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house which Colonel Richard Morris Knox built in 1885 is one of the most impressive Victorian residences in Arkansas. The two storey frame structure is one of the State's best surviving examples of the Eastlake style. Though the city of Pine Bluff has grown to completely surround this once suburban house, the structure itself has changed very little during its ninety year existence.

The Knox House has a T-shape floor plan with a two storey porch filling the north ell of the "T" and a one storey addition (c. 1900) filling in the south ell. Rising from the corner of the north ell is a three storey tower capped with a bellcast mansard roof with cresting. Shingles, ornate brackets and carved woodwork are used to decorate the tower.

Extending from the west end of the north facade is a two storey bay. Like the tower, it is noteworthy for its finely detailed woodwork. Panelling, scalloped shingles, and scrollcut woodwork are used to cover the entire surface. Upper storey balconies project over the beveled corners of the lower bay and have a decorative iron railing with balusters. Set into the gable end of this bay projection are the initials of the owner and the date of construction: R.M.K. - - 1885.

A two storey flat roofed porch covers two-thirds of the facade. Compared to the trim on the bay and tower, the brackets with pendants and Ionic capped columns provide rather simple ornamentation for the porch. However, the highly decorative style trim is continued at the gable ends on the east and west elevations, and around all the windows except those on the south (rear) elevation. Though once painted in contrasting hues which highlighted the ornate features (see attached photo, c. 1890), the Knox House is now white.

The main entry has sidelights and a semi-pentagon shaped transom with colored glass. Etched glass in the entry door bears the "R.M.K." initials of the original and present owner. The central hallway has a single flight of stairs rising to the second floor along the west wall. The stair rail, supported by ornate balusters, terminates in an intricately carved newel post.

Many interior features date from the 1885 construction of the house. These include the hardware, mantel pieces, and original flooring. Of special note is the marbelized iron mantelpiece in the bay parlor. Originally the walls were covered with wallpaper over canvas; however, all of the walls have since been stripped and recovered.

Lumber used in construction of the Knox House was cut from heart of pine. Double walls of horizontally laid planks were filled with sawdust, thus insulating the house. Sound construction and continual maintenance have kept the house in good condition throughout its ninety years of occupancy.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

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PAGE one

The Knox House lies on a large corner lot which is still enclosed by the original iron fence. The present owner, R. M. Knox, III, is the third generation of the family to own and reside in the Knox House.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PERIOD \_\_PREHISTORIC \_\_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_\_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_RELIGION \_\_1400-1499 \_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_LAW \_\_SCIENCE \_1500-1599 \_\_AGRICULTURE \_\_ECONOMICS \_\_LITERATURE \_\_SCULPTURE **X**.ARCHITECTURE \_\_1600-1699 \_\_EDUCATION \_\_MILITARY \_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_1700-1799 \_\_ART \_\_ENGINEERING \_\_MUSIC \_\_THEATER X\_1800-1899 X\_COMMERCE \_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_TRANSPORTATION X\_1900-\_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_INDUSTRY \_\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

#### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the best examples of Eastlake Victorian architecture in Arkansas is the Knox House in Pine Bluff. Dominant structural features of this two storey frame house are the three storey tower, a gabled bay at the northwest corner, and the two storey porch along the east end of the facade. True to form, the house displays the types of trim associated with the Eastlake style. Shingles, panelling, brackets and intricately carved and cut woodwork are used in varying combinations to ornament the basic structure. This architecturally impressive residence was built in 1885 by R. M. Knox, a wealthy Pine Bluff businessman.

Richard Morris Knox (1838-1915) was one of seven children born to a Tennessee doctor. About 1848 the family moved to Panola County, Mississippi, where Dr. Absalom Knox continued his medical practice. After receiving some formal schooling, R. M. Knox began working as a clerk in a drygoods store. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Confederate army, along with four of his brothers.

Early in the war R. M. Knox served as a private in the First Mississippi Cavalry, and was later promoted to sergeant. He fought in several major engagements, had two horses shot from under him, and was once captured briefly by Union forces; nevertheless, he received no serious injury throughout the war.

The service Knox rendered to the Confederacy continued even after the Civil War through his work with the United Confederate Veterans. Though a private in the Confederate cavalry, he was elected a brigadier general in the United Confederate Veterans. R. M. Knox was one of three men instrumental in the founding of the Arkansas Confederate Home for disabled veterans and their dependents.

After the Civil War R. M. Knox worked in a drygoods store in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1871 he moved to Pine Bluff where he bought a store of his own. Knox used customer credit and stocked a wide variety of merchandise to attract a large number of customers. The mercantile business which he operated for thirty-four years was quite successful and made Knox one of the wealthiest men in the community. He was also a founder of Citizen's Bank of Pine Bluff and was First Vice President and a director at the time of his death in 1915.

Company, 1899. erndon, Dallas T., ed. <u>Co</u> S. J. Clarke Publish nox. Mrs. R. M., Jr. Inte	entennial History of Arkansas hing Company, 1922. erview at Knox House, Pine Bl ate Veteran, Vol. XXIII (July	uff, Arkansas, December 12,
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TITLE  Pianna Kirk, Historia  Organization  Arkansas Historia  Street & NUMBER  300 West Markham  CITY OR TOWN  Little Rock  2 STATE HISTORIC PR  THE EVALUATE  NATIONAL  As the designated State Historic Present hereby nominate this property for including the criteria and procedures set forth by the  FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE  TITLE  State Historic Present  TITLE  State Historic Present  TITLE  State Historic Present  OR NPS USE ONLY	ESERVATION OFFICER CONTROL STATE  vation Officer for the National Historic Preservation in the National Register and certify the National Park Service.  William E. Henderson  PERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL RESERVATIONAL RESERVATIO	TELEPHONE (501) 371-1639 STATE Arkansas  ERTIFICATION HIN THE STATE IS: LOCALX  vation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I at it has been evaluated according to the

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R. M. Knox was first married in 1865 to Mittie Sparks, a union which produced nine children. Left a widower, he married Victoria Tucker in the early 1880's (her wedding dress is still stored in the Knox House). In 1885 the couple's only child was born and named for his father. R. M. Knox, Jr. inherited the Knox House from his father, and in turn, deeded it to his son, R. M. Knox, III.

The Knox House has belonged to a Richard Morris Knox for almost a century. When constructed in 1885 the house was one of the finest residences in Pine Bluff. Still in good condition, the Knox House represents both an excellent example of Eastlake architecture in Arkansas, and a well-to-do businessman's home in 1885.

Property Know R. M. Hause	JEHERSON CO.
State Arkansas Working Number 4.21. 75.736	75000 395
TECHNICAL	CONTROL
Photos Maps	OK 4,23.15
	HISTORIAN
	Accept E. Smith
	4-30-75
ARCHIT	ECTURAL HISTORIAN
	ACCEPT
FANTASTIC DETAIL	LEBOVICH
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	JUN 4 1975
National Register Write-upSend-back	
Federal Register Entry 85-75 Re-submit	
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R. M. Knox House Pine Bluf Form No. (Rev. 10-Ankansas

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED JUN 5 1875

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Pine Bluff

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Jefferson

1975

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

copy of 1890 photo

1

# 1085

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#6085



R.M. Knox House Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY APR 2 1 1975 RECEIVED

JUN 5

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HISTORIC

R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Pine Bluff

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

DATE ENTERED

STATE Arkansas

**PHOTO REFERENCE** 

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**IDENTIFICATION** 

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

north facade, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO

#2085

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



R.M. Knox House

Form No. 10-301a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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NAME

HISTORIC

R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Pine Bluff

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

STATE Arkansas

**PHOTO REFERENCE** 

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**IDENTIFICATION** 

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

detail of bay, north elevation

#305

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



R. M. Knox House

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HISTORIC

R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Pine Bluff

\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

STATE Arkansas

**PHOTO REFERENCE** 

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**IDENTIFICATION** 

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

detail of central hall stairway

PHOTO NO.

PEGFECITY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

#535



R. M. Knot House Pine Bly Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HISTORIC

R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Pine Bluff

\_VICINITY OF

Jefferson COUNTY

STATE Arkansas

**PHOTO REFERENCE** 

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

1975 DATE OF PHOTO

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**IDENTIFICATION** 

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET mantlepiece, bay parlor

PHOTO NO. 5

# 4025

PROFESTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-301 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pine Bluff

\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

STATE Arkansas

### 3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

United States Geological Survey

SCALE

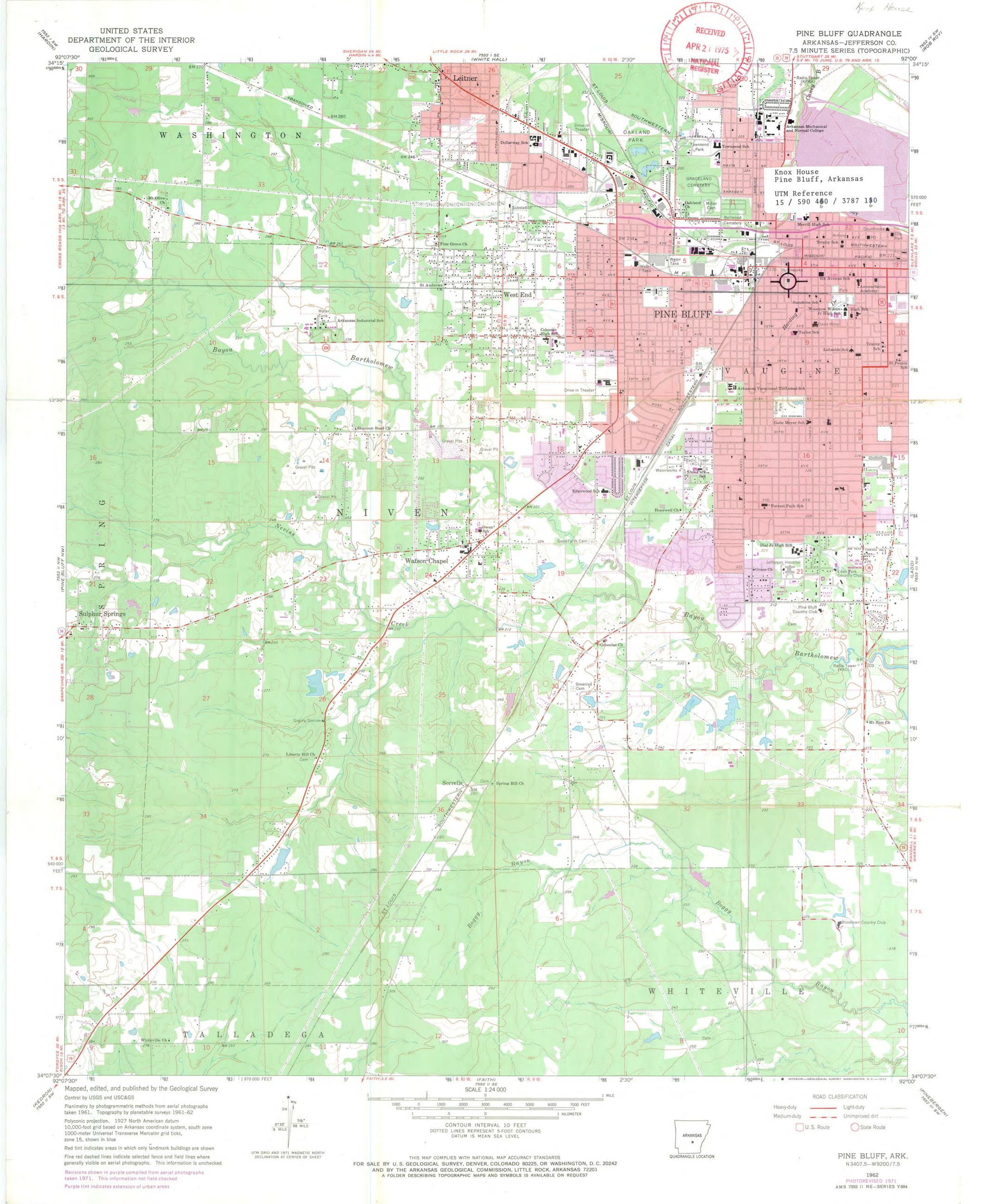
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DATE 1962 (photorevised 1971)

## **4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES



### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered

JUN 5 1978

Name

Steamboat House

Yees, Colonel Jacob, Building

Knox, R. M., House

Plum Bayou Homesteads (Wright Plantation)

Shiloh Church

Location

Dardanelle Yell County

Chester Crawford County

Pine Bluff Jefferson County

Wright Jefferson County

Springdala

Washington County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hoo. Dale Bumpers

Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt

Hon. Ray Thornton

Regional Director, Southwest Region State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. William E. Henderson

Director, Arkansas Dept. of Parks and Tourisma

State Capitol

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR MMOTT: p1 6/9/75

NATIONAL			ra si	FEET
NAME as it appears on federal register:	② OTHER NAMES	/	/	3 date of intry: @ county code:
	y / town vicinity	of State AR	Jeffer 600	Southwest
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WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: Residence currently: dillo	dates of in major alteration historic events			ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION
architectural style(s)	architect:	master buil	der:	engineer:
andscape architect/garden designer: interior	decorator:	33 artisan:	@builder	r/contractor:
PERSONAL: R. M. Knox - mercantile bu	sniessman - civic	leader.		
EVENTS:				
INSTITUTIONAL:				
MATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP Frome, d	approarding; 21/2 st	pries, T-shaped,	gabled roof	, interior chimney,
front off- center entrance with pentage	gonal transom and:	sidelights, 2-stor	y Jonic ent	rance porch, 2 -
story front side gabled polygonal p 3/2-story mansard roof tower with	rejection with elab	Trate 2nd - Story	cantilevered	corner balcomes,
3/2-story mansard roof tower with	cresting, elaboration	e pierced barget	oards; bui	sh interior; ongi-
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for Richard Morris KNOX, successful 7	urcontile busines	sman and civic	leader.	
reviewers initials QOOF date 11-2-7	US ADDIVIOUAL CO	CE MEEDER MUMBERS BUT DO	N DEVERCE	

KP