

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Property

\_\_\_\_\_  
County and State

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 100002447

Date Listed: 5/18/2018

Property Name: Carpenter Building

County: Benton

State: AR

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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

5-18-2018  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

### Section 8: Period of Significance

The period of significance is hereby changed to **1927-1968**. The extended period ending in 1974 is not justified as being exceptionally significant.

\_\_\_\_\_  
The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

### **DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file**
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

SG 2447

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.



### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Carpenter Building  
Other names/site number: Carpenter's Store, Carpenter's Mortuary, BE2919  
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 136 East Main  
City or town: Gentry State: Arkansas County: Benton  
Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local  
Applicable National Register Criteria:  
  X   A     B   X   C     D

[Signature] April 4, 2018  
Signature of certifying official/Title: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property     meets     does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title : \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

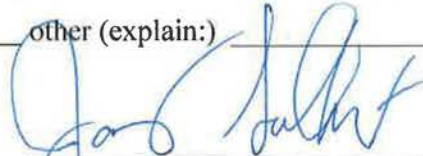
Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

  
Signature of the Keeper

5-18-2018  
Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store: general store

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store: furniture store

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store: grocery store

FUNERARY: mortuary: mortuary site, funeral home

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: private music and art studio, seasonal entertainment

WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late 19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Movements: Craftsman

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation CONCRETE

Walls BRICK / CONCRETE / STONE

Roof OTHER: Tar

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Carpenter Building is a single story commercial building constructed of brick and hollow clay tile. The hollow clay tile in the building was produced by the ACME brick company of Arkansas, as indicated by production marks on visible blocks in some areas of the building. The interior walls are covered in original plaster and include four large sections of surviving original ornamental tin ceilings. The building rests on a poured concrete foundation and includes brick parapets with concrete caps along the east, north, and west facades. The roof slopes slightly to the north, or rear of the building. The entire building was designed by architect Albert Oscar "A.O." Clarke and was completed in two phases from 1927 through 1929. The first completed section is now the westernmost corner of the building and was designed as the Carpenter Furniture Store. This original section is roughly 25 feet wide by 90 feet in depth and was finished in October of 1927. The second phase was completed in October of 1929 and added a 50 feet wide by 90 feet in depth grocery store space as well as a rear mortuary space that is 25 feet deep and 75 feet wide. The mortuary space included an embalming room, funeral parlor,

Carpenter Building

Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas

County and State

chapel, and office space in the set of rooms that run along the entire rear of the building. The entire building is 75 feet wide by 115 feet deep and includes many original features, including original tin ceilings, an original kerosene pump, and original windows and doors throughout. The Carpenter Building is located at the northwest corner of the intersection of Main Street and Rust Street in the downtown commercial core of Gentry, Arkansas. The Main Street façade includes four entryways into the three main large commercial spaces at the front of the building. There are also large storefront windows along the Main Street façade with large multi-pane transoms running above all of the windows and doors. The Rust Street façade also includes secondary entrances to the front grocery store spaces as well as the main entrance for the mortuary area of the building. The north, or rear, portion of the building functioned as the mortuary and funeral chapel of the Carpenter firm. The building has survived amazingly intact with only a few alterations since its construction.

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## Narrative Description

### Elaboration

#### South (Front) Elevation

The front of the Carpenter Building faces south onto Main Street. The entrance doors on this facade open into the three separate 25 feet by 90 feet commercial spaces on the interior of the building. The building's front facade includes an inset section that creates a portico where the entrance doors and large storefront windows are located. This nine foot tall portico is supported by four, two feet by two feet brick piers on concrete bases. These piers support the upper section of the facade. The front entrances and display windows are set back approximately seven feet under the front portico. The easternmost single door along the front facade allows access to the original grocery section of the building and this entry is slightly angled to create a corner entry along the edge of the building. This corner entry door is an original three feet by eight feet door with nine inset panes of glass. To the west of this door, also set on the same angle, is a five feet by six feet glass display window which sits above a short brick pony wall. Continuing to the west of this display windows, the inset facade is aligned parallel to the adjacent public sidewalk.

There are two more display windows, each seven feet by six feet, running parallel to Main Street to the west of the angled corner entry area. The display windows then dive inward, with a smaller three feet by six feet window which is set on an angle, southeast to northwest, to create a recessed double entry. A second nine light, single entry door, set parallel to Main, also gives access to the eastern original grocery space. Directly to the left, or west, is a single, nine light, entry door to the center room, originally used as a furniture store, that mirrors the other doors along the facade. To the west of the inset doorways are two, nine feet by six feet display windows which again run parallel to Main Street and end at a brick wall. This brick wall is also inset under the portico and represents the eastern wall of the 1927 building, which was built as the first phase of construction of this large commercial building. The western edge of this brick wall is further inset, creating another inset doorway that serves as the main entry to the 1927 west room of the building. The original five feet by eight feet double doors, with original inset

Carpenter Building

Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas

County and State

large windows, remain in their original location. To the west of these doors are more display windows, slightly larger than the windows to the east and resting on a slightly shorter brick pony wall which runs to the west end of the building. Directly above these windows and doors, running along the building's entire front facade are a series of four feet tall, wood-framed transom windows. Each transom panel includes tall central panes with a row of shorter panes above and below, creating a total of two hundred seventy-three individual panes of glass within all of the transoms. The transom panels are arranged in sections of three eight-pane wide transoms to the west. To the east are two sets of three panels with seven-pane wide transoms divided by a set of two six-pane wide panels directly under the "CARPENTER'S" inset sign. Most of the panes of glass throughout the building are original textured glass. Above the transoms, the façade consists of red brick, intersected by horizontal and vertical rows of blonde brick that lead to the decorative parapet. Near the top, a three feet by 18 feet concrete sign, which reads "CARPENTER'S", is inset into the facade and is lit by two original green enamel gooseneck lights.

### **East (Side) Elevation**

The northern corner of the east elevation includes the corner entrance mentioned at the corner of the front facade. Above this corner entrance, which sits below the front portico, is the largest of the building's multiple exterior transom panels. This transom echoes the design of the transoms along the front facade and includes thirty-nine total panes of glass. To the north of the corner entrance are three, eighteen-pane, awning windows that are spaced eight feet apart. These three windows include blonde brick sills and lintels. To the north of the three windows are two, eight feet tall, nine light doors. The southern door opens onto the northeast corner of the east grocery room. The northern door is an entrance into a storage room. This northern door is slightly wider than the door to the south, at a width of four feet rather than three feet. Above both doors is a twelve-light transom window with a blonde brick lintel. Above these windows and doors runs a horizontal row of vertical blonde brick. Above the row of blonde bricks, in the center of the east side of this facade, is a "CARPENTER'S" sign identical to the one along the front facade. This sign is also lit by similar original lighting. The final twenty-five feet of the east elevation is inset, echoing the portico along the front facade. This inset creates a decorative recessed entryway to the mortuary section of the building. A single two feet by two feet brick pier on the building's northeast corner supports the upper section of this façade. To the right and left of the large double-door entry to the mortuary space are wood-frame windows, each with twenty-one panes and blonde brick sills. Atop the windows and double doors are three identical seven-panel textured glass transoms with blonde brick lintels. The large windows and transoms along the mortuary facade were originally operable awning windows but have since been fixed in place. The upper section of the mortuary facade includes a concrete "MORTUARY" sign echoing the "CARPENTER'S" signs along the front and east facades. The "MORTUARY" sign is lit by a single original green enamel gooseneck lights.

### **North (Rear) Elevation**

Along the first fifty feet, from the eastern edge, of the rear facade, which faces onto a gravel alley, are five, three feet by six feet windows. Each of these windows is double-hung and double



Carpenter Building

Benton, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

weighted and includes a single-pane bottom sash and a twelve-pane upper sash. Each window along this facade includes a blonde brick sill and lintel. Between the second and third windows is a narrow door with a four-pane transom above that opens into what was the mortuary chapel at the rear of the building. A three feet tall brick chimney rises from the roof above a point in between the fourth and fifth windows. To the west of the fifth window is a set of large double doors topped by a ten-pane transom. At the western edge of the rear facade are two smaller double-hung windows with a single-pane lower sash and a twelve-pane upper sash. These windows have higher sills in order to block exterior views into the mortuary embalming room but still provide lighting and ventilation. The roof overhangs this facade with exposed rafter tails along the entire facade.

### **West (Side) Elevation**

The Carpenter Building shares a portion of its western wall with an adjacent building along Main Street. The only exterior portion visible from the west is the western end of the mortuary. Two embalming room windows, identical to those on the north elevation are located near the northern edge of the visible facade. Also, a single, larger, double-hung window which provided light for the interior mortuary work room is located to the south of the embalming room windows. The exposed portions of this facade have been covered with stucco.

### **Interior – East Grocery Room**

The floors throughout the building are painted concrete. Most of the original wall plaster remains; however, in areas where water damage has occurred, the plaster has fallen away to reveal the underlying brick and hollow clay tile of the structure. The east room was originally used for the sale of groceries and measures twenty-five feet by seventy feet. A red brick chimney, used for an interior heating stove, starts halfway up the east wall and continues through the roof to the outside at a point exactly above the center of the “CARPENTER’S” sign. A five-panel wood door on the north wall leads to a storage room that is twenty feet by twenty-five feet. Bolted to the floor of the storage room is the large iron hand-operated pump the Carpenter’s used for selling kerosene. The transom windows overhanging the main entrances, as well as the windows along the east wall, provide abundant natural light. A large original plate glass display window separates the east and center grocery rooms near the front, south side, of the building. From the top of this glass display window, to the ceiling, instead of the typical brick and plaster of the rest of the building, this section of interior wall is constructed of single gypsum panels framed between wood studs with cove molding. This single-wall construction is seen in numerous areas throughout the interior of the building and is original to the 1920s construction of the building. Most of the pressed tin ceiling in this room remains intact although it was painted white by a tenant during the 1990s. Fluorescent lighting fixtures in this east room, likely dating to the 1940s, have been restored and are in use.

### **Interior – Center Grocery Room**

The center room, also used a grocery space extends the full ninety feet to the wall adjoining the rear mortuary space. A small restroom in the northeast corner is most likely original and still



Carpenter Building

Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas

County and State

retains its door, sink, and cast-iron sewer vent as well as the enclosing single-wall construction. A second bathroom which is located in the northwest corner of the center room dates to the 1990s. Multiple temporary hallways and a workshop have been constructed in this central space for use in the current owner's seasonal haunted attraction. These temporary walls are not connected to the ceiling. The center room is otherwise empty. The tin ceiling in this room is in fair condition and retains its original paint scheme.

### **Interior – West Furniture Room**

The west furniture room represents the first brick building built on this site by the Carpenter family. This single room commercial building was originally used as a furniture store and was completed in 1927. The building was enlarged during a second phase of construction from 1927 to 1929 which includes the rest of the building as it exists now. A double door on the north end and a single door on the south end of the eastern wall of this space lead from the center grocery room to this west furniture room. This room, also twenty-five feet by ninety feet, has had no major alterations. A set of double doors leads from the north end of this space into the rear mortuary space. Like the center room, the space currently functions as the owners' seasonal haunted attraction.

### **Interior – Mortuary Rooms**

Initial planning for the 1929 mortuary addition included a “chapel, family room, display room and operating quarters.”<sup>1</sup> The double doors along Rust Street, under the “MORTUARY” sign, open onto an eight feet by fifteen feet room with a separate eight feet by ten feet room immediately to the left, or south. This small southern space was the funeral parlor office and includes an original door. The interior partitions creating these rooms are of the single-wall construction seen in other areas of the building. A set of double doors to the west leads to a large open space. This room originally included a partition wall that likely separated central chapel space from the work areas to the west. This original room layout is evidenced by changes in paint color on the north and south walls of the mortuary space. The original hand-painted tin ceiling remains intact in the mortuary space. In the northwest corner is an eleven feet by eleven feet embalming room. The large sink and low hanging work light fixtures remain in the space.

### **Integrity**

The building has remained impressively intact since its construction in the 1920s. After the grocery store, furniture store, and mortuary closed, the building was vacant. Since the early 1990s, the current owners have operated a private art studio in the mortuary rooms. Upon acquiring the front portion in 2014, the current owners have undertaken a number of restoration and preservation projects throughout the building. They also present a haunted attraction to the public each October in part of the original grocery and furniture sections of the building. One of the major restoration projects undertaken by the current owners was the rehabilitation of the

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<sup>1</sup> Gentry American Revolutionary Bicentennial Committee, *Happenings in Gentry, 1894-1976*, Siloam Springs: Siloam Springs Printing, 1994, p. 47.

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

larger original transom windows along the south and east facades. The transoms had earlier been covered with cedar boards as panes had fallen out of the windows. Luckily most of the panes were recovered and replaced into the transom frames. All of the windows in the building are original and include original textured glass panes. Replacement glass panes throughout the building are clear glass. Also, all of the exterior lighting is original to the building and has been restored and rewired by the current owners.

For a short time, the rear section of the building was used by an automobile service business and the large doorway along the rear facade was enlarged by a foot. Luckily, the original doors were reused in the expanded opening with slight modifications. Along the east elevation, near the rear corner of the building is the only area that has had a major alteration since the building's completion in 1929. The east elevation, which faces Rust Street, was originally the same height all the way to the north end as indicated in surviving early photographs of the building. The row of blonde bricks also extended to the north end of the building, running underneath the concrete sign which reads, "MORTUARY." At an unknown date, the northern 35' of the parapet was altered. Its height was reduced by approximately two feet, the "MORTUARY" sign was lowered, and the row of blonde brick was removed. It seems likely that this alteration was a repair after storm damage, but documentation of this has not been located. Currently, the roof is deteriorating and there are some areas of water infiltration into the interior of the building.

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

### 8. Statement of Significance

#### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

#### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1927 – 1974

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1927

1929

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Clarke, Albert Oscar "A.O." – Architect

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Carpenter Building in Gentry, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, for its association with the commercial development of the community of Gentry through the influence of three generations of the Carpenter family. From the time of the city's founding in the 1890s until the last quarter of the twentieth century, the Carpenter family operated the city's mortuary and funeral chapel and one of the county's largest grocery and furniture stores. During this time, the family also serviced the community through multiple elections to city government.

This building is also being nominated under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as an excellent example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial block with Craftsman-Style influences designed by local architect Arthur Oscar "A.O." Clarke. The Carpenter Building is one of the largest commercial buildings built in downtown Gentry during a period of major commercial development in the downtown area. Also, this building is one of the most elaborate retail structures in the community and one of the only known architect designed commercial structures along Main Street. The period of significance for this property, from 1927 to 1974, is inclusive of the original design of the building through its completion in 1929 and to the year when the last Carpenter descendent closed his grocery and retail business.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **Elaboration**

#### **Gentry, Arkansas**

The city of Gentry is located along the western border of Benton County in Northwest Arkansas. Benton County was created from parts of the previously larger Washington County as the state's thirty-fourth county on September 30, 1836; just a few months after Arkansas officially became a state.<sup>2</sup> The county was named in honor of Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri who had been instrumental in the campaign to secure Arkansas statehood. The city of Gentry owes its creation to the development of the local fruit industry and the Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railway (KCP&G) during the early 1890s.<sup>3</sup> The late nineteenth century saw an explosion of fruit production in Northwest Arkansas, and by 1900, Benton County alone contained forty

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<sup>2</sup> Allyn Lord, "Benton County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 18 December 2017, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 5 February 2018.

<sup>3</sup> Guy Lancaster, "Gentry (Benton County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 21 December 2017, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 5 February 2018.

Carpenter Building

Benton, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

thousand acres of apple orchards.<sup>4</sup> The KCP&G railroad through Northwest Arkansas was created to meet the demand. The Kansas City, Pittsburg and Gulf Railway was eventually reorganized as the Kansas City Southern Railroad (KCS) in 1900 and has retained that name since.<sup>5</sup> In 1894, a settlement began at the future site of the city of Gentry, along the KCP&G Railway in Benton County. It is likely that Gentry began as a new community site developed by the railroad through the sale of lots that the railroad had purchased along their right-of-way in order to help finance the continued construction of the tracks to the south. These sales would have been to businessmen who wished to locate near the railroad tracks, likely from the bypassed nearby communities of Springtown and Bloomfield. The town was named Gentry and a post office was established on May 21, 1894 with local drug store owner William Steele serving as postmaster as well as pharmacist.<sup>6</sup> It appears that the railroad may have named the site after its second vice president and general manager, Richard Gentry.<sup>7</sup> Mr. Richard Gentry was born in Missouri and eventually became a civil engineer and successful businessman.<sup>8</sup> He was also one of the original incorporators of the KCP&G Railroad with Arthur E. Stillwell who was the founder of the company. During the early years of the community's development, the town was renamed Orchard to highlight the importance of the local fruit industry, with the post office name changing in 1897.<sup>9</sup> On July 9, 1898, the city of Gentry was formally incorporated although the Orchard mailing address was retained.<sup>10</sup> In 1900, the local post office was renamed Gentry.<sup>11</sup>

During the first few years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Gentry continued to develop a booming local economy. By 1901 the local State Bank of Gentry had been founded. In 1903, it was reported in local newspapers that the community water system, which had previously been relegated to a simple well in the middle of Main Street, was going to be developed into a modern system after the money was raised through a bond issue.<sup>12</sup> Also in 1903 it was reported that the community of Gentry included two furniture stores, two meat markets, one restaurant, two hardware stores, one bank, two drug stores, one hat shop, one confectioners, three real estate agencies, one produce market, two lumber yards, one canning factory, four fruit evaporators, three barrel making businesses, and a newspaper.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Roy Curt Rom, "Apple Industry," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 14 August 2017, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net). Accessed 5 February 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Tom Duggan, "Kansas City Southern Railway," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 14 December 2015, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net). Accessed 5 February 2018.

<sup>6</sup> Dickson J. Black, *History of Benton County*, Little Rock, Arkansas: International Graphics Institute, 1975, p. 296. Russell Pierce Baker, *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Office 1832-1971*, Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988, pp. 89, 167.

<sup>7</sup> Randy Moll, "How did Gentry come to be called Gentry?" *Westside Eagle Observer*, 31 May 2017.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Baker, *From Memdag to Norsk*, pp. 89, 167. Lancaster, "Gentry (Benton County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*.

<sup>10</sup> Black, *History of Benton County*, p. 296.

<sup>11</sup> Baker, *From Memdag to Norsk*, pp. 89, 167. Black, *History of Benton County*, p. 296.

<sup>12</sup> Black, *History of Benton County*, p. 296-297.

<sup>13</sup> *History of Benton County, Arkansas*, Rogers, Arkansas: Benton County Heritage Committee, 1991, p. 63.

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

The Carpenter Building is an example of the early transition of the commercial core of Gentry from early frame structures, built soon after the arrival of the railroad, to more permanent masonry structures during the 1910s and 1920s.<sup>14</sup> The early commercial leaders of the community began to build new brick structures throughout the downtown area, often replacing previous wood-framed structures, throughout the 1920s.

#### Fifth Building Near Completion

With the completion of the building being erected by T. M. and R. H. Carl on West Main Street, five new buildings will have been added to the business section of Gentry since July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year [1927]. All the buildings erected are of brick and the structures are a credit to the city.

The first of the new buildings to be completed was the new home of The Journal-Advance, which is a brick structure 25 feet by 60 feet in size, while the Nu-Theatre, a brick building 25 feet by 80 feet, was the second building to be added to the business district.

The Ray Carpenter furniture store, a brick building also 25 feet by 80 feet, having modern show window, and making an attractive home for the store, was the next to be completed...

If the progress and prosperity of a community is to be judged by the size of its building program, it would appear that Gentry is keeping abreast with the other towns and cities in the Ozark region.<sup>15</sup>

Interestingly, several of the wood-frame structures that were to be replaced were moved into the adjacent street to allow the business owner to continue to offer his wares or services while the new structure was built on their original site.<sup>16</sup> The ability for the Carpenter family to hire A. O. Clarke, an architect in Rogers, Arkansas, speaks to the commercial success of their multiple businesses and the level of investment the Carpenters were willing to devote to their continued success in the city of Gentry. Even in newspaper articles of the time, the building was described as: "a plant that will be a credit to a town many times this size."<sup>17</sup> Also, in an article in the *Journal-Advance* Mr. Carpenter is quoted as saying: "that he wants to show his confidence in the town and country by building for the future."<sup>18</sup> Also, the city's railroad connection also underwent major re-investment during the same period as the new Kansas City Southern depot at

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<sup>14</sup> One possibly early wooden Main Street building remains to the west of the Carpenter Building. This small one-story, gabled building was moved from another location sometime during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Information from the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

<sup>15</sup> "Fifth Building Near Completion," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 20 October 1927, p. 1.

<sup>16</sup> In relation to Carpenter Building: "The corner frame, we understand, is to be moved into the street east, and business will be conducted therein during the construction of the new quarters." "Carpenter Bros. Preparing to Erect Brick Building," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 25 April 1929, p. 1.

<sup>17</sup> "Can't Stop Building Boom When Started," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 17 June 1927, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*



Carpenter Building

Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas

County and State

Gentry was completed in 1927. Unfortunately, this building boom would eventually be halted by the beginning of the Great Depression.

Later buildings have been built along Main Street, including several after World War II and during the 1960s. Several early brick buildings do remain along Main Street, including one early concrete-block building; however, many of these have been altered significantly including the addition of large spans of metal slip-covers, large awnings, new storefront windows and doors, and/or resurfacing with stucco. Interestingly, there is one storefront on the northern side of the 100 block of Main Street that includes transom windows that mimic the Carpenter Building, although they are shorter and the building seems to date to later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The only other commercial building that has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places in Gentry is the Bank of Gentry building, there is no known architect for this building which has a façade based on a series of triumphal arches and includes examples of sculpture created by local artist and bank president L. H. Moore.<sup>19</sup>

### The Carpenter Family

In 1897 during the early commercial development of the city of Gentry (then known as Orchard), Isaac "I. W." Carpenter and his family moved to the area. I. W. Carpenter was born in Morrow County, Ohio, in April of 1852.<sup>20</sup> He eventually moved with his parents to the community of Franklin in Sauk County, Wisconsin, by 1860.<sup>21</sup> In c. 1875 I. W. Carpenter married Karen Adelaide Dewey. Karen Dewey was born in Michigan and by 1870 lived in Bear Creek, Sauk County, Wisconsin with her parents and siblings.<sup>22</sup> By the time the Carpenter family arrived in Benton County, I. W. and Karen had five children living with them; Roy, Emma, Addie Ray and Ross. When describing their new home in a 1929 interview, I. W. Carpenter described the community of consisting of only a handful of wood-frame commercial buildings that stood along the road that would become Main Street.<sup>23</sup> After arriving in the area, I. W. Carpenter purchased a small farm. In 1899 he established Carpenter's, a local grocery and retail business. This business was started in a wood-frame building which later became known as the Home Telephone Company building along Main Street.<sup>24</sup> At this first location, Carpenter's store sold groceries, shoes, feed and ice. Business was successful and I. W. Carpenter invested in a new wood-framed building in 1902. After occupying this new building, Carpenter added a soda fountain and restaurant to his other businesses. In 1903, Carpenter took over the stores and buildings of a furniture business and undertaking business at the corner of Rust Street and Main Street, where the current Carpenters Building now stands. These new stores added yet more businesses under the Carpenter name. Period advertisements boast of "carloads" of furniture and

<sup>19</sup> National Register listed on 22 January 1988. National Register Nomination, files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

<sup>20</sup> United States Census, 1900.

<sup>21</sup> United States Census, 1860-1880. It was later reported in local newspaper that I. W. Carpenter moved from Reedsburg, Wisconsin to Gentry in 1897. "Carpenter Store Quits Business," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 2 February 1939, p. 1.

<sup>22</sup> United States Census, 1870.

<sup>23</sup> *Happenings in Gentry, 1894-1976*, pp. 46-49.

<sup>24</sup> "Carpenter Store Quits Business," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 2 February 1939, p. 1.

Carpenter Building

Benton, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

other goods.<sup>25</sup> Also during this time I. W. continued to widen his participation in Gentry's daily life. He was elected to the posts of City Alderman, Marshal, and Street Commissioner in 1901.<sup>26</sup> In a short time, I. W. had become known as a "prominent Benton County Pioneer."<sup>27</sup> In 1910, I. W. Carpenter purchased the home just to the north of his business, a Folk-Victorian cottage that is now recognized by the Arkansas Register of Historic Places as the *W. D. and Kate McGaugh House*.<sup>28</sup> This house was located directly behind the Carpenter businesses along Rust Street.

In 1912, I. W. Carpenter passed the operation of his various businesses to his sons Ray and Roy.<sup>29</sup> It is thought that Ray and Roy had been already working for their father as well as pursuing involvement in the city government with Roy elected councilman in 1905, Ray elected councilman in 1910.<sup>30</sup> After taking over their father's business, they changed the name to Carpenter Brothers. I. W. Carpenter later noted that he sold the business to his sons for \$2,500 dollars and this amount didn't include the wood-frame building that housed the various businesses. At some point before 1927, Ray and Roy Carpenter eventually purchased the buildings at the corner of Rust and Main Streets from their father. In 1927 Roy Carpenter retired and sold his interest in the business to his brother Ray.<sup>31</sup> By the time Roy left the partnership, Carpenter Brothers had grown considerably. "There are not many firms in Benton county doing the volume of business that is handled by them," wrote the *Gentry Journal-Advance*.<sup>32</sup> Soon after the dissolution of the Carpenter Brothers business, it was reported that Ray Carpenter was to start construction on phase one of a new large brick structure that would replace his wood-frame store buildings at the corner of Rust and Main streets. This new structure was designed by local architect A. O. Clarke and would eventually include three large commercial spaces along Main Street and a large mortuary and funeral parlor along Rust Street.<sup>33</sup> Ray Carpenter continued to update his undertaking business with the purchase of a new 'Nash' ambulance and funeral coach in 1928.<sup>34</sup> The entire new structure was completed by the fall of 1929, with the formal opening of the building reported in the local newspaper as occurring on October 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of 1929.<sup>35</sup>

<sup>25</sup> *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 3 April 1903, p. 4.

<sup>26</sup> *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 8 March 1901, p. 2. "Council Proceedings," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 11 April 1901, p. 3.

<sup>27</sup> "I. W. Carpenter Dies in Sleep," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 9 July 1942, p. 1.

<sup>28</sup> *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 25 March 1910, p. 3. *W. D. and Kate McGaugh House Arkansas Register Nomination*, 6 April 2016, Files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

<sup>29</sup> "The Old Firm Carpenter Bros. Is Dissolved," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 3 June 1927, p. 1.

<sup>30</sup> "Adjourned Meeting of the Council," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 9 June 1905, p. 2. *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 18 March 1910, p. 3.

<sup>31</sup> Dissolved article

<sup>32</sup> "The Old Firm Carpenter Bros. Is Dissolved," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 3 June 1927, p. 1.

<sup>33</sup> "Fifth Building Near Completion," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 20 October 1927, p. 1.

"Carpenter Bros. Preparing to Erect Brick Building," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 25 April 1929, p. 1.

<sup>34</sup> "Install Nash Funeral Coach Equipment," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 25 October 1928, p. 1.

<sup>35</sup> *Happenings in Gentry, 1894-1976*, pp. 46-49.

Carpenter Building

Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas

County and State

Ray Carpenter continued all of the various businesses, including the grocery and furniture store as well as the mortuary business until his death in 1934. After Ray Carpenter's death, his widow Mary Carpenter and his brother Roy Carpenter, who had previously left the business, took over the daily operations. After 1934, the mortuary business was sold to Wasson Funeral Home of Siloam Springs who operated out of the rear section of the Carpenter Building for several years. Mary and Roy Carpenter continued to run the business until their retirement in early February of 1939 due to ill health.<sup>36</sup> Within a few short weeks, it was reported that Dale Carpenter, the son of Ray Carpenter would re-open the business in the Carpenter Building as a grocery and retail space.<sup>37</sup> After retiring a second time from the Carpenter business, Roy was elected Mayor of Gentry in 1941 and held the office until his final retirement in 1947.<sup>38</sup> The *Carpenter's* firm, now held by the family's third generation, continued for another thirty-five years.<sup>39</sup> Upon Dale's death in 1974, the Carpenter family had served Gentry out of the same location for over seventy years.

### A. O. Clarke - architect

Albert Oscar "A. O." Clarke was born in 1859 and, in his mid-twenties, moved from his native New York to St. Louis after working as a teacher in Illinois.<sup>40</sup> He worked in St. Louis as a draftsman for architect Jerome Bibb Legg, and later showed his design talent on several residential and commercial commissions with partner William Edward Matthews.<sup>41</sup> The 1899 Delany Building along Locust Street in St. Louis is among his remarkable early accomplishments. In 1904, at the request of local politician William "Coin" Harvey, Clarke moved to Rogers, Arkansas, to help design the new resort community of Monte Ne. Clarke would eventually design several structures for Harvey's health resort at Monte Ne, including two hotels that were the largest log buildings in the world.<sup>42</sup> After finishing work on Monte Ne, Clarke stayed in Rogers and found his talents much in demand throughout the region.<sup>43</sup> He settled with his wife in Rogers, Arkansas, in the early 1910s. Throughout his architectural career in Northwest Arkansas, Clarke designed at least twenty-seven structures throughout the area; including churches, houses, hotels, commercial buildings, and civic structures. By 1920, the Clarke family moved to Johnson County near Clarksville where he was hired to design several structures for the College of the Ozarks. A. O. Clarke moved back to Roger, Arkansas, in the mid-1930s where he passed away on August 28, 1935.

<sup>36</sup> "Carpenter Store Quits Business," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 2 February 1939, p. 1.

<sup>37</sup> "Dale Carpenter Will Open a Grocery and Market in Old Location," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 23 February 1939, p. 1.

<sup>38</sup> "All City Officers Elected," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 3 April 1941, p. 1.

<sup>39</sup> *Happenings in Gentry, 1894-1976*, pp. 46-49.

<sup>40</sup> Allyn Lord, "Albert Oscar (A. O.) Clarke (1859-1935)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 5 July 2012, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 5 February 2018.

<sup>41</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>42</sup> Allyn Lord, "Monte Ne (Benton County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, 20 January 2018, [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net), Accessed 5 February 2018.

<sup>43</sup> Lord, "Albert Oscar (A. O.) Clarke (1859-1935)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*.

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

The public buildings designed by A. O. Clarke, including his various commercial designs, were often designed in the Colonial Revival style or included distinct classical elements such as columns, pediments, cornices, porticos, and arches. Examples of these commercial structures include the 1906 Bank of Rogers Building (NR 6.23.1980), the 1913 Mutual Aid Union Building in Rogers (NR 10.14.1976), and the 1906 Benton County National Bank in Bentonville (NR 9.1.1983). Also, many of Clarke's civic designs included classical elements such as the 1928 Benton County Courthouse (NR 1.28.1988) and the Benton County Jail (NR 1.28.1988), both located in Bentonville. The Carpenter Building in Gentry is an unusual example of the work of A. O. Clarke in that it uses a simplified façade with Craftsman-Style elements rather than any overt classical ornamentation. The Carpenter Building does include a simple inset portico supported by square columns, but the classical orders are not seen. Instead, the multi-pane transoms and upper window sashes as well as the long horizontal lines of ornamental blonde brick along the exterior of the building are reminiscent of Craftsman-Style design elements. Also, the building is much more utilitarian in design than the other surviving examples of A. O. Clarke's designs, illustrating the abilities of Clarke to design on a smaller scale while still maintaining an overall cohesive design in the execution of an impressive commercial structure.

### The Carpenter Building

In 1897, when I. W. Carpenter arrived in Gentry, then known as Orchard, he later described his eventual business site at the corner of Rust and Main streets as a series of vacant lots covered with timber.<sup>44</sup> Through several acquisitions and business expansions, I. W. Carpenter eventually owned the three lots at this intersection by 1903. After operating in wood-frame buildings at the site for twenty-four years, Ray Carpenter announced plans to build a new brick structure in 1927. He soon contracted with architect A. O. Clarke to provide a design for the new brick building.<sup>45</sup> By July of 1927, the local newspaper reported that: "Fearless McFarlin and his force of brick masons are putting up the walls of the new Carpenter building in a rush" and that "Brick laying on the new Ray Carpenter building was started last week and will be rushed to completion."<sup>46</sup> Also, it was noted that:

#### Building Boom Goes On

Our building boom is marching steadily along. Brick is unloaded and work is started on the first building being put up by Ray Carpenter. Mr. Carpenter has the plans already drawn for the building to occupy the entire space where his present building now stands and hopes to have it completed by cold weather.<sup>47</sup>

<sup>44</sup> *Happenings in Gentry, 1894-1976*, p. 48.

<sup>45</sup> "Can't Stop Building Boom When Started," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 17 June 1927, p. 1.

<sup>46</sup> *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 22 July 1927, p. 5.

<sup>47</sup> *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 15 July 1927, p. 1.

Carpenter Building

Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas

County and State

The first phase of this new building was completed in October of 1927 and functioned as the Carpenter furniture store.<sup>48</sup> Soon after the completion of the first phase of the new building, Ray Carpenter was focused on completing the rest of the planned building:

### Can't Stop Building Boom When Started

You can't stop a building boom when it once gets started. Since starting work on the 25 by 85 brick building just west of his store, Ray Carpenter has decided to build on the corner, with a main building 50 by 85 for his furniture and grocery department, with an annex on the rear with an east front 25 by 75 fitted up for their undertaking department in the latest improved manner. Mr. A. O. Clarke, architect of Rogers has been employed to draw the plans and specifications.<sup>49</sup>

In 1929, the second phase of the new building, which included two large grocery spaces along Main Street and a new Mortuary space along Rust Street, was well underway. The construction of the roof structure of the building included the re-use of old advertisement panels as well as sections of horizontal siding, possibly from the wood-frame stores that had previously been located on the site.<sup>50</sup> The new building was described in the local newspaper as follows:

### CARPENTER BROS. PREPARING TO ERECT BRICK BUILDING

Work of wrecking the old frame structures in which they have been doing business for many years, was begun this week by Carpenter Bros., and as soon as the ground is cleared, the construction of their new and modern brick business building will get underway. The corner frame, we understand, is to be moved into the street east, and business will be conducted therein during the construction of the new quarters.

The new structure will be of brick, steel and concrete, one-story in height, 75 x 115 feet in size, and will be divided into two separate and distinct departments. On Main Street, a corner entrance into the grocery department, with a double-door entrance on the south leading to both the grocery and furniture sections. This part of the building will be 75 x 90 feet in size.

With an entrance and 25-foot frontage on Rust Avenue, a section 25 x 75 ft. will be given over to a mortuary, with all the up-to-date conveniences, including a modern chapel.

Planning of the building was done by O. A. Clark [sic.], architect, who also served in this capacity with the Benton County courthouse.

<sup>48</sup> "Fifth Building Near Completion," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 20 October 1927, p. 1.

<sup>49</sup> "Can't Stop Building Boom When Started," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 17 June 1927, p. 1.

<sup>50</sup> Information provided by current owner Charlie Bookout, a complete Carpenter Brother's sign can still be seen as part of the roof deck from space inside the roof structure.

Carpenter Building

Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas

County and State

The Carpenter brothers state that it is their intention to spare no means or effort in making this one of the most up-to-date business blocks in northwest Arkansas, and that they expect to occupy the same by the first of October.<sup>51</sup>

This article described the full building, including the already completed brick section to the west and the new larger section under construction to the east and north.

Gentry's *Journal-Advance* newspaper had high praise for the new building: "This move on the part of this successful firm is but in keeping with the policy of the concern—nothing but the best is sufficient to satisfy."<sup>52</sup> After the building's completion in the Fall of 1929, the mortuary portion was described in this way:

The Chapel was furnished in an excellent manner with the walls and ceiling tinted in colors pleasing to the eye. The family room was partitioned off with a large doorway opening into the chapel, this being closed by heavy draperies of subdued color. For the purpose of chapel music, a large Victor Victrola was in place and used for services.<sup>53</sup>

The formal opening of the new facility took place on October 18 and 19 of 1929, the Friday and Saturday just before Wall Street's crash on October 24, 1929, which ushered in the Great Depression.

A Gentry *Journal-Advance* piece titled *Depression Economy* quoted a conversation between long-time Gentry pharmacist Rai Steele and his wife concerning the local Depression economy: "Nina Steele: 'Rai dear, I like the look of that hat in the window.' . . . Rai Steele: 'Well, we can come back tomorrow and have another look.'"<sup>54</sup> This scene could have very easily described those who daily walked along the large display windows of the Carpenter Building. Although it is unclear to what degree the timing of the Depression's beginning harmed the Carpenter business, it survived and Ray Carpenter's reputation was left intact. When he died in 1934, he was described in his front page obituary as "a man of sterling character . . . on the right side of every moral issue."<sup>55</sup> The Carpenter Building continued to be owned by members of the Carpenter family and used as a retail space for groceries and other wares until 1974, when Dale Carpenter, the last proprietors of the Carpenter business passed away.

Since the early 1990s, the current owners have operated a private art studio in the mortuary rooms. Upon acquiring the front portion of the building in 2014, the current owners have also undertaken a number of restoration and preservation projects throughout the building. For the

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<sup>51</sup> "Carpenter Bros. Preparing to Erect Brick Building," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 25 April 1929, p. 1.

<sup>52</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>53</sup> *Happenings in Gentry, 1894-1976*, pp. 46-49.

<sup>54</sup> "Depression Economy," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 3 April 1903, p. 2.

<sup>55</sup> "Citizens Mourn for Townsman," *Journal-Advance* (Gentry, Arkansas), 14 June 1934, p. 1.

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

last several years, they have also presented a haunted attraction to the public each October in part of the original grocery and furniture sections of the building.

### Statement of Significance

The Carpenter Building in Gentry, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**, with **local significance**, for its association with the commercial development of the community of Gentry through the influence of three generations of the Carpenter family. From the time of the city's founding in the 1890s until the last quarter of the twentieth century, the Carpenter family operated the city's mortuary and funeral chapel and one of the county's largest grocery and furniture stores. During this time, the family also serviced the community through multiple elections to city government.

This building is also being nominated under **Criterion C**, with **local significance**, as an excellent example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial block with Craftsman-Style influences designed by local architect Arthur Oscar "A.O." Clarke. The Carpenter Building is one of the largest commercial buildings built in downtown Gentry during a period of major commercial development in the downtown area. Also, this building is one of the most elaborate retail structures in the community and one of the only known architect designed commercial structures along Main Street.



Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

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------. "Resorted Carpenter Building Windows Unveiled." *Eagle Observer*. Northwest Edition of the *Arkansas Gazette*. 8 June 2016.

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United States Census Rolls, 1860-1930.

W. D. and Kate McGaugh House Arkansas Register Nomination. 6 April 2016. Files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Little Rock, Arkansas.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** BE2919

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** <1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |               |                 |                   |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 S | Easting: 366713 | Northing: 4014676 |
| 2. Zone:      | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 3. Zone:      | Easting:        | Northing:         |
| 4. Zone:      | Easting :       | Northing:         |

**Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)**

This property includes all of Lots 1, 2, and 3, in Block 22 of the Original City of Gentry plat in the community of Gentry, Benton County, Arkansas, in Section 3, Township 18 North, Range 33 West.

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Carpenter Building in the commercial core of the community of Gentry, Benton County, Arkansas.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian  
organization: Department of Arkansas – Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
street & number: 1100 North Street  
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201  
e-mail Callie.Williams@arkansas.gov  
telephone: 501-324-9789  
date: February 9, 2018

name/title: Charlie Bookout  
city or town: Gentry state: AR

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Carpenter Building

City or Vicinity: Gentry

County: Benton

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams and Travis Ratermann

Date Photographed: February 15, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 16: Front (South) Façade, camera facing northeast.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0001
- 2 of 16: Detail of Front (South) Façade, camera facing north.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0002
- 3 of 16: Detail of Front (South) Façade, camera facing north.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0003
- 4 of 16: Front (South) Façade and Side (East) Façade, camera facing northwest.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0004
- 5 of 16: Side (East) Façade, camera facing northwest.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0005
- 6 of 16: Side (East) Façade, camera facing southwest.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0006
- 7 of 16: Detail of Mortuary Entrance along North Rust Avenue, camera facing west.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0007
- 8 of 16: Rear (North) Façade, camera facing southwest.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0008
- 9 of 16: Detail of rear, wooden, double garage doors along Rear (North) Façade, camera facing south. AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0009
- 10 of 16: Rear (North) Façade and Side (West) Façade, camera facing southeast.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0010
- 11 of 16: Interior detail of original grocery space, note original pressed tin ceiling, camera facing north. AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0011
- 12 of 16: Interior detail of original interior display windows between the two grocery/general store spaces, camera facing southwest.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0012
- 13 of 16: Interior detail, pressed tin ceiling in central grocery/general store space, camera facing north. AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0013

Carpenter Building  
Name of Property

Benton, Arkansas  
County and State

- 14 of 16: Interior detail showing interior wall material, plasterwork, and pressed tin ceiling in the easternmost grocery space, camera facing east.  
AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0014
- 15 of 16: Interior detail, mortuary space, original office door and interior office walls, camera facing southwest. AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0015
- 16 of 16: Interior detail of original hand-painted, press tin ceiling in mortuary and chapel space, camera facing southwest. AR\_BentonCounty\_CarpenterBuilding\_0016

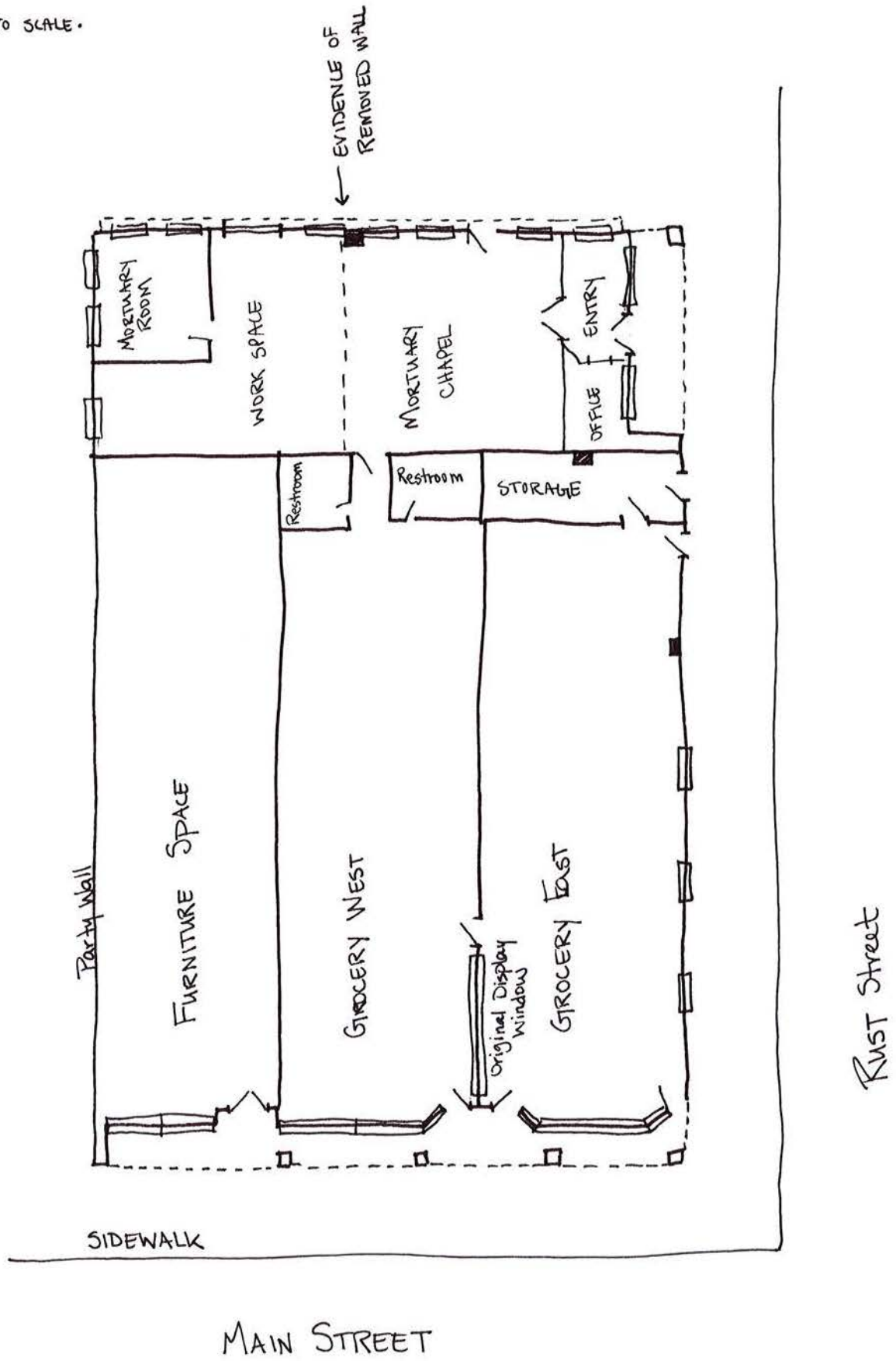
**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

CARPENTER BUILDING  
GENTRY, BENTON COUNTY  
ARKANSAS



• NOT TO SCALE •





# Carpenter Building

Gentry, Benton County, Arkansas

UTM NAD 1983

Zone: 15 S

Easting: 366713

Northing: 4014676



Carpenter Building, Gentry, Benton County, Arkansas

Google Earth

© 2018 Google

300 ft





# Carpenter Building

Gentry, Benton County, Arkansas

UTM NAD 1983

Zone: 15 S

Easting: 366713

Northing: 4014676



Google Earth

© 2018 Google

1000 ft





# Carpenter Building

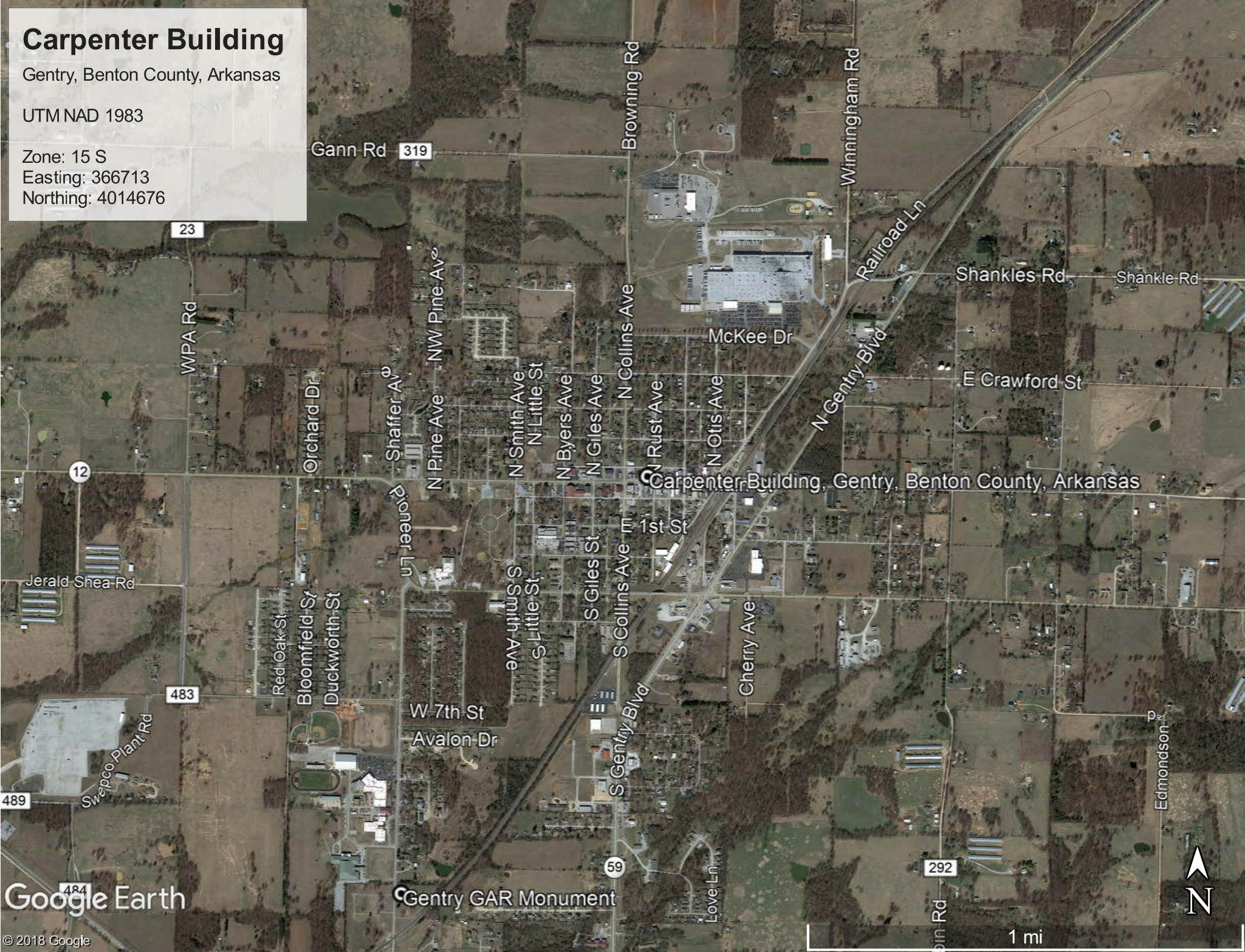
Gentry, Benton County, Arkansas

UTM NAD 1983

Zone: 15 S

Easting: 366713

Northing: 4014676



Carpenter Building, Gentry, Benton County, Arkansas

Google Earth

© 2018 Google





CARPENTER'S



CARPENTER'S.







1  
3  
6





RENTS HERE

MAIN







CARPENTER'S

RUST AVE







CARRENTER'S

MORTUARY

STOP



MORTUARY







MORTUARY













RESTROOMS  
←

ALADDIN'S  
CASTLE



AUTOPSY ROOM















OFFICE







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 4/10/2018      Date of Pending List: 5/3/2018      Date of 16th Day: 5/18/2018      Date of 45th Day: 5/25/2018      Date of Weekly List:

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal	<input type="checkbox"/> PDIL	<input type="checkbox"/> Text/Data Issue
<input type="checkbox"/> SHPO Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Photo
<input type="checkbox"/> Waiver	<input type="checkbox"/> National	<input type="checkbox"/> Map/Boundary
<input type="checkbox"/> Resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> Period
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> TCP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Less than 50 years
	<input type="checkbox"/> CLG	

Accept       Return       Reject      5/18/2018 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert      Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275      Date \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION:    see attached comments : No    see attached SLR : **Yes**

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS  
**HERITAGE**

Asa Hutchinson  
*Governor*

Stacy Hurst  
*Director*

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Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural  
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

April 4, 2018



J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief  
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs  
National Register of Historic Places  
1849 C Street., NW  
Mail Stop 7228  
Washington D.C. 20240

RE: Carpenter Building – Gentry, Benton County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Carpenter Building to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Callie Williams of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst  
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:clw

Enclosure



ARKANSAS HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



1100 North Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880  
fax: (501) 324-9184  
tdd: 711

e-mail:

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

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