CITY, TOWN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAR 3 1 1976

STATE

| NAI | TUNAL  | REGISTER | K OF HIST | TORIC PLACES | 5 |
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| STREET & NUMBER                        |                           |  |  |  |
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| CITY, TOWN                             |                           | Liev or make a transfer  | CONGRESSIONAL DISTR  | ICT  |
| Hot Spr                                | rings                     | VICINITY OF  | Third  |  |
| STATE Arkansa                          | s                         | CODE<br>05   | COUNTY<br>Garland  | CODE<br>051                                    |
| CLASSIFICAT                            | ION                       | in the statement of  | estas plimove la da  | tisew A  |
| CATEGORY                               | OWNERSHIP                 | STATUS   | PRES   | ENT USE  |
| DISTRICTI                              | PUBLIC                    | _OCCUPIED  | AGRICULTURE  | X.MUSEUM                                       |
| _BUILDING(S) x_I                       | PRIVATE                   | XUNOCCUPIED  | COMMERCIAL   | PARK   |
| *STRUCTURE                             | вотн                      | _WORK IN PROGRESS  | EDUCATIONAL  | PRIVATE RESIDE                                 |
| SITE                                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b> | ACCESSIBLE   | ENTERTAINMENT  | RELIGIOUS                                      |
| _OBJECTI                               | IN PROCESS                | YES: RESTRICTED  | GOVERNMENT   | SCIENTIFIC                                     |
|  | BEING CONSIDERED          | XYES: UNRESTRICTED   | _INDUSTRIAL  | _TRANSPORTATIO                                 |
|  |                           | _NO  | MILITARY   | _OTHER:  |
| OWNER OF PR                            | ROPERTY                   | noverige to spine  | i ma mi eeuponea<br>Profrants edi na   | edanto<br>Ligação                              |
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| CITY. TOWN Hot Spr                     | ings                      | DUL SOSPETISVROO DE  | STATE<br>Arkansas  | 10011  |
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|  | I ILIGITE DEGGI           | All Holy   |  |  |
| COURTHOUSE,<br>REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. | Circuit Clerk's           | Office   |  |  |
| STREET & NUMBER                        | Garland County Courthouse |  | en isoli n'a dallo e   | 107.28   |
| CITY, TOWN                             |                           |  | STATE  | VI CHILD                                       |
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| DEDOCITORY                             |                           | FEDERALS   | STATE _COUNTY _LOCAL   |  |
| DEPOSITORY FOR<br>SURVEY RECORDS       |                           |  |  |  |

\_FAIR

#### CONDITION

\_\_DETERIORATED XEXCELLENT \_RUINS GOOD \_UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE** 

**CHECK ONE** 

**XUNALTERED** \_ALTERED

WORIGINAL SITE MOVED

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

Wildwood is considered to be the finest example of eclectic Victorian architecture constructed in Hot Springs. Designed by Phillip Van Patten and built for his brother-in-law, Dr. Harvey Prosper Ellsworth, in 1884, the house is a bulky collection of towers and pavilions, which enclose an extraordinary hardwood interior and an equally fantastic array of antique furnishings.

The style of the building is wedged somewhere between Stick Style and Shingle Style, or it can be fit into that common pool of eclectic, wooden architecture known as Queen Anne. The two-and-one-half-storey house features multiple-form, high-pitched roofing, a variety of exterior colors and textures, irregularity of plan and massing, a rounded corner turret, gabled dormers, porch and roof gables of severe angle, and a second-floor overhang or jetty on the southeast elevation.

A wealth of exotic detail graces the exterior of Wildwood. The ridge-line on the roof is shaped to resemble a long succession of shark fins. A large wooden placque, which bears the inscription Wildwood, 1884, survives on the gable above the front porch. Highly articulated chimney stacks are found at odd locations on the structure. Vertical and horizontal boarding, as well as imbricated shingling, form the wall surfaces. Latticework fills a small porch gable on the east elevation. The foundation is composed of native novaculite or whetstone, a very hard native stone. The list of specific decorative details could be nearly endless.

Ornate features in the interior of Wildwood are no less abundant than those found on the exterior, the most notable of the features being the use of hardwood in every conceivable manner. A large variety of wooden mouldings and paneling covers the interior walls. The ceiling in the entrance hall is composed of maple veneer and cherry beams. Four elaborate hardwood mantels with tile-work around the openings are located in the major firstfloor rooms. Cabinets and convenience furnishings, such as the shelving and a mirrored sideboard found in the dining room, are built into the walls. A magnificent cherry staircase, boasting huge newel posts carved from the solid trunks of cherry trees, is the most outstanding individual component in the house. The upper sections of the stairwell are screened with a spindle lattice. The exercise in wooden detailing is carried to such an extreme that a differing hardwood was used in each room of the ground floor, thus providing the house with its name of Wildwood.

Currently, Wildwood contains a fine collection of antique furnishings and dishware, most of which are heirlooms of the Ellsworth family. The building is operated as a museum by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ellsworth, and every effort has been made to retain the authentic character of the building and its contents. No recent alterations have been undertaken, and those alterations which have modified the original 1884 structure are of interest in themselves.

#### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW PERIOD \_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE \_\_RELIGION ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC \_\_COMMUNITY PLANNING \_\_PREHISTORIC IAW \_SCIENCE \_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC \_\_CONSERVATION \_\_1400-1499 LITERATURE SCULPTURE \_ECONOMICS \_AGRICULTURE 1500-1599 \_MILITARY X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN \_EDUCATION \_\_1600-1699 X\_ARCHITECTURE \_MUSIC THEATER \_\_ENGINEERING \_1700-1799 \_\_ART EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT \_\_PHILOSOPHY \_TRANSPORTATION X1800-1899 \_\_COMMERCE \_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT \_OTHER (SPECIFY) \_\_COMMUNICATIONS \_INDUSTRY \_\_1900-\_INVENTION BUILDER/ARCHITECT SPECIFIC DATES Phillip Van Patten 1884

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1878 Dr. Harvey Prosper Ellsworth purchased an undeveloped estate on the northern slope of North Mountain, then located beyond the city limits of Hot Springs. His intention was to build a new home on the site and thereby escape the fire hazard that continually threatened his present home in the cramped little city of Hot Springs. Ironically, the great fire of 1878 destroyed Dr. Ellsworth's Hot Springs home long before construction was scheduled to begin on his North Mountain home. After a stay of several years in a carriage house renovated for human habitation, the Ellsworths moved into their new North Mountain home which they called Wildwood. This 1884 house has since become one of Arkansas' most widely documented Victorian homes, noted for both its garish, inventive detail and for its first two occupants, Harvey and Sarah Ellsworth.

Dr. Harvey Prosper Ellsworth was born in West Hatley, Province of Quebec, Canada in 1838. Shortly before the Civil War, he graduated from the Rush College of Medicine in Exeter, Illinois, and during the war he served as a regimental surgeon for the Union Army. He settled in Arkansas after the Civil War, moving to Hot Springs after a short stay in Pine Bluff. At the time he was the city's only practicing surgeon. He became widely known for his efforts to establish standard educational requirements for the practice of medicine in Arkansas and for his promotion of the Arkansas Medical Society. His stand on medical education as well as incidents from his life were featured on the CBS radio program "Doctors Then and Now" in 1947. In 1873 Dr. Ellsworth married a woman no less active and civic-minded than himself, Sarah Van Patten (Ellsworth).

An accomplished artist and hostess, Sarah Ellsworth received state-wide attention forher work with the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs. As president of the Federation from 1908-10, she led a campaign to prevent the proposed destruction of the Old State House after the completion of the new State Capitol. An offshoot of the campaign was the creation of the Arkansas State Flag, which was designed for use at preservation rallies. The fact that the Old State House is today a National Register structure attests to the success of her campaign.

Circumstances greatly favored the construction of the Ellsworth's home of Wildwood. The high quality hardwood timber and the hard novaculite stone (or whetstone) used in construction were taken directly from their North Mountain estate. The work carried out during construction was performed

### 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dunda, Mrs. (Wildwood tour guide). Interview conducted on September 9, 1975. Hempstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas, Vol. II. Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1911.

Hudgins, Mary D. "Historic Hot Springs Home Will Become Museum," <u>Arkansas</u>
Gazette, August 18, 1963.

| Gazette, August 18,  | 1963.               | \$50,0HQ33                            | 390000                           | olitan seat opa   |
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| Arkansas Historic Preservat<br>STREET & NUMBER<br>300 West Markham   | ion Program         | wan noint                             | DATE 3-9-76 TELEPHONE 501-371-16 | 39.               |
| CITY OR TOWN Little Rock,  | ACORDON 1           |                                       | STATE<br>Arkansas                | noihant -         |
|  | IGNIFICANCE OF      | THIS PROPERTY WIT                     |                                  | N di mari         |
| NATIONAL   | SIAI                | E                                     | LUCAL                            |                   |
| As the designated State Historic Preservation  |                     |                                       |                                  |                   |
| hereby nominate this property for inclusion<br>criteria and procedures set forth by the National   |                     |                                       | at it has been evaluated         | according to the  |
| and procedures set forth by the Nath   | onai i aik Service. | 11                                    | 101 56                           | X                 |
| STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGN   | NATURE Anne l       | Bartley                               | Mesh                             |                   |
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| TITLE State Historic Prese   | rvation Off         | icer                                  | DATE 3-9-                        | 76                |
| State Historic Prese   | n                   |                                       | 3-9-                             | 76                |
| State Historic Prese   | n                   | ICET                                  | 3-9-                             | 76                |
| State Historic Prese   | S INCLUDED          | IN THE NATIONAL RE                    | 3-9-                             | f/2x              |
| State Historic Prese   | n                   | IN THE NATIONAL RE                    | GISTER                           | 16 /2 ×           |

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

OCT 8 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7 PAGE 1

example, the electrical system installed in the early twentieth century illustrates an interesting facet of the state's technological history.

The original estate surrounding Wildwood has been slightly reduced, but the trees, the surviving carriage drive, and the home's commanding position atop a steep rise all help to recapture the world which witnessed Wildwood's construction. Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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OCT 8 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

by highly skilled Irish masons and Pullman Company carpenters, all of whom were in Hot Springs for work on other special projects. And the architect for the house, Phillip Van Patten of Baltimore, was the brother of Mrs. Ellsworth.

Today, Wildwood is operated as a museum by the heirs to the estate, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Ellsworth, and every effort has been made to retain the authentic character of the building and its heirloom contents.

The style of the building is wedged somewhere between Stick Style and Shingle Style, or it can be fit into that common pool known as Queen Anne. The two-and-one-half-storey house features multiple-form, high-pitched roofing, a variety of exterior colors and textures, irregularity of plan and massing, a rounded corner turret, gabled dormers, porch and roof gables of severe angle, and a second-floor overhang or jetty on the south elevation.

A profusion of hardwood trim of every conceivable type best describes the interior. Wooden mouldings, mantels, ceilings, doors, paneling, stairways, lattice-work and built-in fixtures, all contribute to the ornate appearance of the interior.

The original estate surrounding Wildwood has been slightly reduced, but the home's commanding position atop a steep rise all help to recapture the world which witnessed Wildwood's construction.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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**CONTINUATION SHEET** 

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

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"Sarah Ellsworth Maker of Arkansas History," Arkansas

"Arkansas Democrat, November 23, 1947.

Historical Quarterly, XI (summer, 1952).

Moore, Maurice. "Ellsworth Home, Wildwood, Restored to 1884 Splendor," Arkansas Democrat, August 18, 1963.

Scully, Francis J., M.D. <u>Hot Springs Arkansas and Hot Springs National Park</u>. Little Rock: Hanson Company, 1966.

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| Property Wildw        | 700d           |              |                                 |
| State Arkansas        | Working Number | 3.31.76.2905 |                                 |
| TECHNICAL Photos      | Incorest your  |              | CONTROL                         |
| Maps/                 | 3 cont. sheets | ftl          | crued OK 4.6.76                 |
|                       |                |              | HISTORIAN                       |
|                       |                |              | Dog A                           |
|                       |                |              | Accept<br>Rutlenbaum<br>6/16/76 |
|                       |                | ARCHITEC     | TURAL HISTORIAN                 |
|                       |                |              | ACCEPT                          |
|                       |                |              | 6.18.76                         |
|                       |                |              | ARCHEOLOGIST                    |
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| 8                     |                |              | OTHER                           |
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|                       |                |              | 9/29/76                         |
| National Register Wri |                | end-back     | Entered OCT 8   1976            |
| Federal Register Entr | ry 12-7-76 Re  | e-submit     | INT:2106-74                     |
|                       |                |              |                                 |



Wildwood Hot Springs

1) Wildwood

Sacland Cu.

- 2) Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 3) Mike Shinn
- 4) September, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) North elevation viewed from north
- 7) 148



Hot Springs South and each closet

1) Wildwood

yarland a

- 2) Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 3) Mike Shinn
- 4) September, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) South and east elevation viewed from the southeast
- 7) 2 48

MAR 3 1 1976

## PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Hat Springs west elevation

1) Wildwood

Harland Ce.

- 2) Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 3) Mike Shinn
- 4) September, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) West elevation viewed from the west
- 7) 3 48



unldwood Het Springs

1) Wildwood

Harland Co

- 2) Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 3) Mike Shinn
- 4) September, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Cherry stairway foyer of wildwood
- 7) 4 48



Hot Springs.

1) Wildwood

Harland Co

- 2) Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 3) Mike Shinn
- 4) September, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Cherry beam ceiling, foyer of wildwood
- 7) 548



Hot springs

1) Wildwood

Sarland Co

- 2) Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 3) Mike Shinn
- 4) September, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Mohagony mantel in parlor of Wildwood
- 7) 6 0/8



Hot Springs

1) Wildwood

Garland Co

- 2) Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 3) Mike Shinn
- 4) September, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Side board in dining room wall
- 7) 7 0/8



Hot springs

1) Wildwood

Garlander

- 2) Hot Springs, Arkansas
- 3) Mike Shinn
- 4) September, 1975
- 5) Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
- 6) Window bay in the dining room
- 7) 8 48

MAR 3 1 1976

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

OGT 8 197

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

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED OCT 8 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

|                                    | Personal and the community |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON NAMED IN | NAME                       |
|                                    | IN A INTER                 |
|                                    | TATATA                     |

HISTORIC

Wildwood

AND/OR COMMON

Wildwood

Hot Springs

### 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

\_\_\_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Garland

Arkansas

### 3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Geological Survey Map, Hot Springs North Quadrangle

SCALE

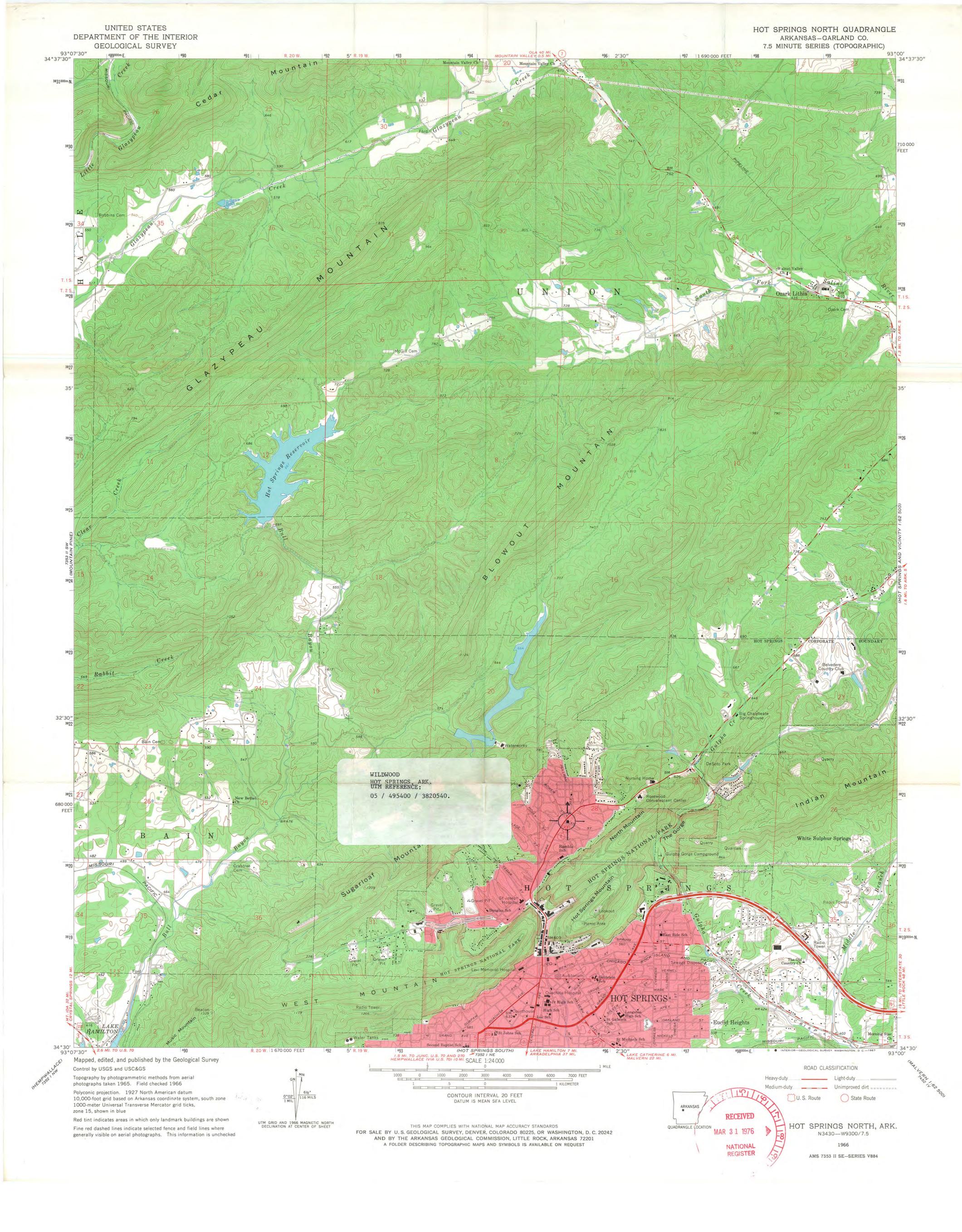
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DATE 1966

### **4** REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

001 8 1976

Date Entered

Name

Location

Hanger Cotton Gin

Sweet Home Pulaski County

Wildwood

Hot Springs Garland County

### Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. Dale Bumpers\_\_\_\_

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills -

Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt

Regional Director, Southwest

Region

State Historic Preservation Officer

-Mer Anne Bartley-

-Acting Director

Department of Natural and

Cultural Heritage The Old State House

300 West Markham

Little Rock, Arkansas

72201

880 - MMott/row = 10/18/76

INT: 2950-75

# NR Data Sheet



NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER:

OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER 808 Park Ane.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) V PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST

MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN

PACIFIC NORTHWEST WEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR LSubstantially intact-1

\_ unknown - 4 - not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR Substantially intact-2 \_\_unknown.-5 \_ not applicable - 8

\_Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

Substantially intact-3 \_\_unknown -6

\_\_Not applicable-9

CONDITION -

EXCELLENT \_GOOD

\_\_FAIR

\_DETERIORATED

LUNALTERED \_\_ALTERED

LORIGINAL SITE

\_\_RUINS \_\_UNEXPOSED \_Unexcavated

\_Reconstructed \_Excavated

\_Unknown

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted

No access

Unknown

historic district?

YES

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

Saved?

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then-

SIGNIFICANCE:

\_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

\_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

ARCHITECTURE

\_\_COMMERCE

\_\_COMMUNICATIONS

\_\_ART

AGRICULTURE

\_CONSERVATION \_ECONOMICS

\_\_EDUCATION \_ENGINEERING \_EXPLORATION.

\_INDUSTRY INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

\_LAW/Gov't/politics \_science

\_RELIGION

\_TRANSPORTATION

\_OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment

LITERATURE \_MILITARY

- LSOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

\_recreation \_\_settlement

\_socio/cultural

\_urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO



"oldest" YES NO

\_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

\_PHILOSOPHY

eonly2 yes

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Q'UEEN Anne architect/m.builder: Phillip Van Patter engineer: landscape/garden designer: artist/artisan: interior decorator: builder/contractor: ETHNIC GROUP: personal Dr. Harvey P. Elloworth (b. 1838)-NAMES: (label role appropriate date) events institutional artist + hostess; pres. of Ark. Federation of Women's Cluba. DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1884 DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE (S): SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION) LOCAL GOV"T MUNICIPAL COUNTY FEDERAL AGENCY: ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre) less than COMMENTS: (include architectural information here) highed and galled Stone foundation, PANELLEO CHIMNEYS, IRREGULAR FEMESTRATION, SEVERIAL Braches (Some ENCLOSED) QUEEN ANNE DETAILING DETAILING DETAILING DETAILING Excellent area Queen Anne duelling; home of promunent surgen. Dr. Harvey P. Elsworth. SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences) Considered to be eate 19 TH his salally active wife, Sarah