

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Burkett, Captain John T., House

Other Name/Site Number: OU0067

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 607 Ouachita County Road 65

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Frenchport

Vicinity: x

State: AR County: Ouachita Code: AR 103 Zip Code: 71701

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>4</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u>3</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Burkett, Captain John T., House
Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas
County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn J. Slater 4-15-98
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

☒ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
☐ removed from the National Register _____
_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

Burkett, Captain John T., House
Name of Property

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current : DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

OTHER/Folk Victorian

Materials: foundation BRICK roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD/Weatherboard other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Captain John T. Burkett House is located on Ouachita County Road 65, in rural Frenchport. The one-and-one-half story, L-shaped Folk Victorian residence is ornamented by a projecting gable with a sunburst over the second story balcony on the front elevation. The ornate concrete piers, concrete columns and filigreed metal balustrades on the wraparound porch attest to a change of decorative taste in the history of this house, but are themselves historic. Significant exterior details also include: gingerbread details in the second story balcony, trim molding around all windows and doors, and an asymmetrical front entrance with Eastlake-style detailing. Architecturally significant interior details include: beaded board in most rooms, curved corners on attic story closets and ceilings, transoms over the interior doors, a historic staircase and newel posts, and original door hinges and knobs. Also contributing to this nomination are a historic well house, garage, barn, the remains of a concrete "dipping vat" where cattle were dipped for parasites, a hitching post and a historic iron fence. There is also a non-historic gazebo located on the property.

Elaboration

Sited on a hill off Ouachita County Road 65 in Frenchport, the Captain John T. Burkett House is a one-and-a half story frame residence built around 1900. With its central-hall plan, symmetrical facade and lack of imbrication, the Captain John T. Burkett is best described as a Folk Victorian-styled house. The L-shaped house rests on brick piers infilled with additional masonry, and the exterior of the house is clad with weatherboard. The house is mainly fenestrated by one-over-one and two-over-two windows. More than three-fourths of the house is surrounded by a porch on the first story. Composition shingle roofing material covers the original cypress shingles. Two interior chimneys puncture the roof on either side of the front balcony and a third perforates the rear ell extension.

The front, or western, elevation is completely shielded by a wraparound hip-roofed porch that extends to both the northern and southern elevations. The raised porch is supported by eight concrete piers and eight columns on the front elevation. Each pier is made of five stacked molded blocks and the columns are a concrete tapered adaptation of a Tuscan column with scalloped base. The columns are joined by a filigree metal balustrade. While these details are not original to the house, oral tradition states that these details were added early in the house's history. Beneath the porch is the centrally located front entry. The single-leaf front entry, with multi-paned transom and single sidelight, has an abundance of Eastlake-inspired detail. The entry is bordered on the north, or viewed left, by a single-pane sidelight. Below the stationary glass of the sidelight are five wooden panels. The four square panels are decorated with rosettes and the fifth and largest rectangular panel is embellished by a carved floral pattern. Covering the entry is a historic screen door. The entry door features a piece of double beveled glass and is surmounted by a six-pane transom. Flanking the entrance are two very large one-over-one, double-hung, wood windows decorated with small scroll brackets and trim molding. Above the porch is a gable-roofed balcony that projects from the side gable roof. The floor of the balcony is located directly above the first story porch roof, with the area between enclosed by wooden panels. The four turned spindle posts that support the roof of the balcony are connected by more elaborate filigree metal balustrades than those found on the lower porch. The balcony is decorated by a jigsawn frieze and a sunburst in the gable end.

The northern elevation is composed symmetrically around the gable end and is covered by the wraparound porch. An engaged spindle post to the viewed left, or east is all that remains of the original supports on this elevation. This elevation is fenestrated by two equally spaced pairs of two-over-two, wood windows. To the east of the main portion of the house is the ell projection and L-shaped, hipped roof porch. The porch and

fenestration of ell projection is obscured by a covering of opaque plastic. Beneath this plastic, the porch is supported by original turned spindle posts, of the same type that were replaced by the concrete piers and columns. An attic story sun room projects over the wraparound porch from the center of the gable end. The sunroom is fenestrated by a ribbon of eight, six-over-six, wood windows on its three sides.

The rear, or eastern, elevation contains the ell-projection that is fenestrated by two equally spaced, six-over-six, wood windows in the gable end and one small window in the enclosed portion of the ell porch. A two-over-two window lights a gable dormer to the north of the ell projection.

The southern elevation contains the remainder of the wraparound porch, and a porch along the ell. Beneath the wraparound porch, with its concrete piers and columns, the fenestration is the same as the northern elevation. The secondary entrance is a single-leaf door located in the ell projection to the east of the paired windows. Above the wraparound porch, in the gable end, is a two-over-two window.

Significant interior details include beaded board in almost all rooms, curved corners on attic story closets and ceilings, transoms over interior doors, a historic staircase and newel posts, and historic door hinges and knobs.

Contributing to this nomination are a historic well house, garage, barn, the remains of a concrete "dipping vat" where cattle were dipped for parasites, a hitching post and a historic iron fence. There is also a non-historic gazebo located on the property.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B & C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
COMMERCE

Period(s) of Significance: c.1899

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Significant Dates: c. 1899

Significant Person(s): Burkett, Capt. John T.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: William George Harkey (Builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Burkett House is being nominated under criteria B and C with local significance for its association with Captain John T. Burkett and as a good example of a Folk Victorian-styled residence.

Historical Background

Captain John T. Burkett shipped timber and cotton from Frenchport downriver to New Orleans and brought back passengers for a fee of twenty-five dollars. During the mid to late 1800s, he met and married Sula Jones, (born October 21, 1872) daughter of Henry T. Jones and Hattie A. Cobb. Henry Jones was a Justice of the Peace in Ouachita County and the owner of a seven-hundred acre cotton farm.

Captain John and his new wife Sula Burkett built their first house on land given to Mrs. Burkett as her dowry. William Harkey was the builder of the central hall house and tenant farmers helped make the brick for the foundation from clay found on site. Captain and Mrs. Burkett raised three children in the house John T. Burkett, Jr., Carl, and Ritchie.

While living near the community of Frenchport, Captain Burkett was employed by the state as a District Penal Supervisor, was a part owner of the Elliott Lumber Company, and farmed several hundred acres of cotton. He employed tenant farmers who lived on the property and operated a cotton gin. During his service as District Penal Supervisor, Burkett is said to have occasionally kept prisoners in the basement of his home. In April 1915, he was appointed by Governor George Washington Hays (formerly probate and county judge of Ouachita County) to the post of Supervisor of the Walls, later known as Cummins Prison. During his tenure as supervisor, Burkett recommended to Governor Hays that capital punishment be abolished. Burkett did not complete his appointed term of six years, but left after four years to accept a position with the Internal Revenue Service in Oklahoma city to work the states of Arkansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

Although his son, Carl, lived in the house near Frenchport, John T. Burkett, Jr., inherited the house and part of the land upon his father's

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death. After the Burketts, the house remained vacant for approximately five years until 1960 when Elizabeth Eppinette bought the house and lived in it until 1980. Eppinette was Circuit Clerk for Ouachita County during her residency. Ownership during the next seventeen years passed from John Coons (two years) to the Webb family (fifteen years). The property was sold in September, 1997 to the present owners, Jim and Mary Jane Edwards.

Historical and Architectural Significance

The Burkett House is being nominated to the National Register under Criteria B and C with local significance. Under Criterion B, the property is significant for its association with Captain John T. Burkett, a steamboat captain, planter, part owner of the Elliott Lumber Company, district penal supervisor, prison warden, and IRS agent. Burkett is one of the most significant early citizens of this area. Under Criterion C, the house is significant for its depiction of a c. 1900, Folk Victorian residence with the majority its outbuildings intact. The Captain John T. Burkett House exemplifies this style with its simple L-shaped plan with cross gables, a lack of imbrication in its gable ends, applied ginger-bread details in its second story porch, and its central hall plan. The building is the only residence of its era with historic integrity remaining in the Frenchport vicinity.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Donovan, Timothy P. and Willard B. Gatewood, Jr., ed. The Governors of Arkansas-Essays in Political Biography. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1981. p 138 -144.

Interview with Elizabeth Eppinette, 1997.

Interview with Neal Eppinette, 1997.

Information obtained at the Arkanas Deptment of Corrections. Pine Bluff, Arkansas. 1997

Interview with Louann Wells, 1997. (Friend of the late John T. Burkett, Jr.)

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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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: 2 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>519120</u>	<u>3699980</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

Verbal Boundary Description: Part SE 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 7 Township 15
Range 16, Ouachita County Arkansas

Boundary Justification: This boundary contains all of the buildings
historically associated with this property.

Burkett, Captain John T., House
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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 4/8/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Burkett, Capt. John T., House

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ouachita

DATE RECEIVED: 5/08/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/18/98
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/22/98
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000620

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6.3.98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Captain John T. Burkett House

Ouachita County, Arkansas

October, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Photograph by Holly Hope

Northside elevation, looking south



Captain John Burkett House
Ouachita County, Arkansas
October, 1997
Photograph by Holly Hope
View of Kitchen Cabinets





Captain John I. Burkett House
Ouachita County, Arkansas
Photograph by Holly Hope
October, 1997
Negative on file at AHPP
East facade, looking west





Captain John T. Burkett House
Ouachita County, Arkansas
Photograph by Holly Hope
October, 1997
Negative on file at AHPP

Northwest corner newel post of iron fence, looking
Southeast



Captain John T. Burkett House

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Photograph by Holly Hope

October, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

East rear elevation, looking west



Captain John T. Burkett House

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Photograph by Holly Hope

October, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Interior of central hallway, looking
west toward front door



Captain John T Burkett House
Ouachita County, Arkansas
Photograph by Holly Hope
October, 1997 ~~at AHPP~~
Negative on file at AHPP
Interior attic story, looking east



Captain John T. Burkett House
Ouachita County, Arkansas
Photograph by Holly Hope
October, 1997
Negative on file at AHPP
Interior livingroom, looking southeast



Captain John T. Burkett House

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Photograph by Holly Hope

October, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Upstairs bedroom, looking north



Captain John T. Burkett House

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Photograph by Holly Hope

October, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Interior central hallway showing staircase,
looking east



Captain John T. Burkett House

Onachita County, Arkansas

Photograph by Holly Hope

October, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

Closeup of main entrance on West facade,
looking east



Captain John T. Burkett House
Ouachita County, Arkansas
Photograph by Holly Hype
October, 1997
Negative on file at AHPP

Closeup of north side showing columns
and rails, looking south



Captain John T. Burkett House
Ouachita County, Arkansas
Photograph by Holly Hope
October, 1997
Negative on file at AHPP
North facade and western elevation of
Barn, looking southeast



Captain John T. Burkett House

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Photograph by Amy Bennett

October, 1997 AHPP

Negative on file at AHPP

South facade and east elevation of
well house, looking northwest



Captain John T. Burkett House

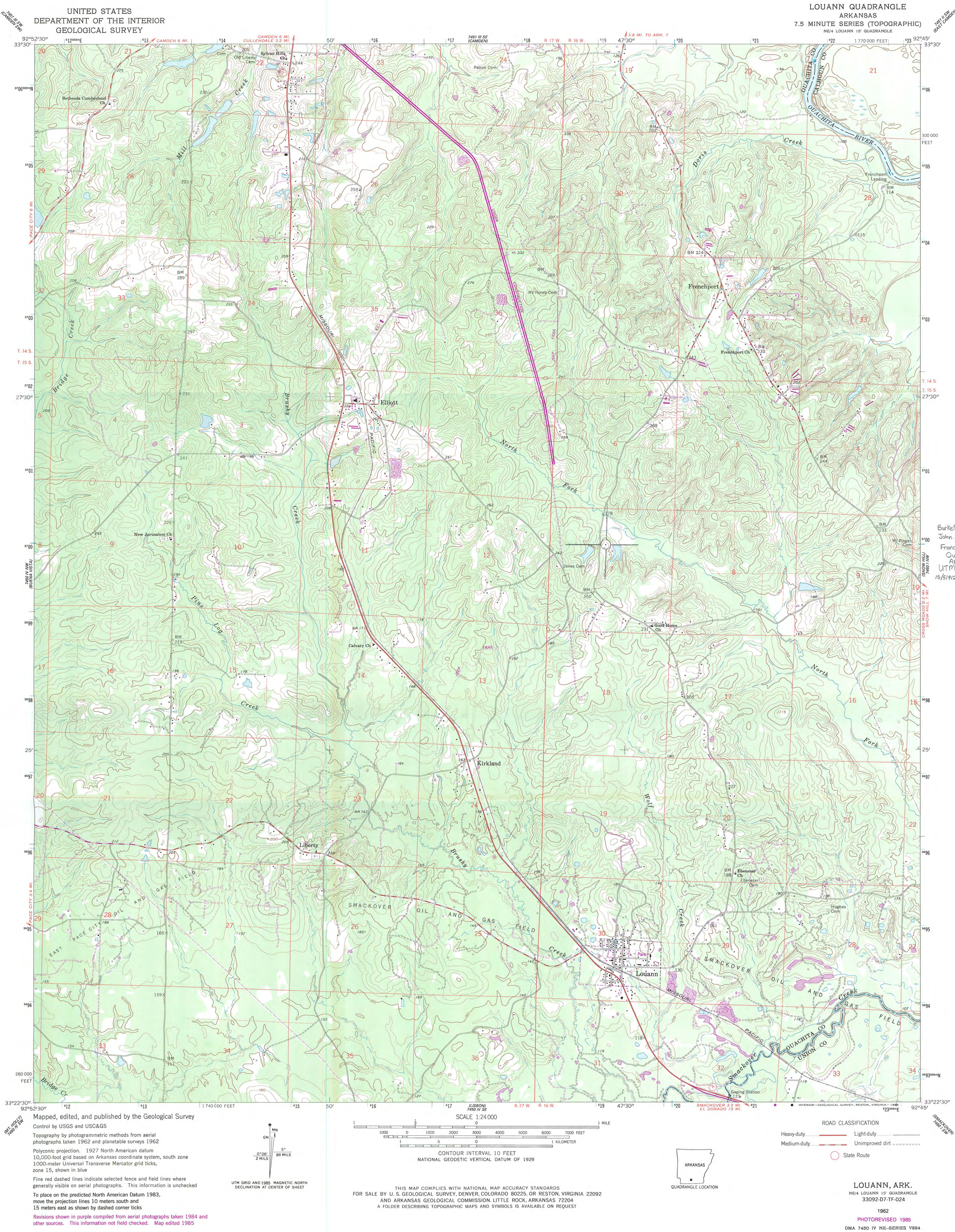
Ouachita County, Arkansas

October, 1997

Photograph by Holly Hope

Negative on file at AHPP

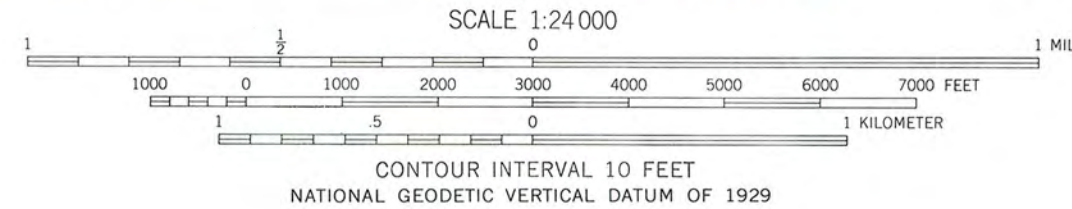
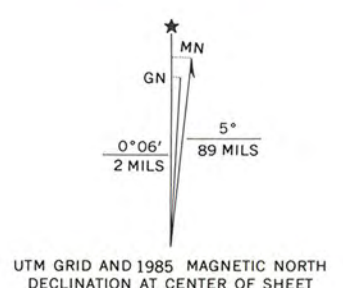
South elevation showing gable end, rear ell and porches; looking north



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

LOUANN QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1962 and planetable surveys 1962
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum.
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 10 meters south and
15 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1984 and
other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1985

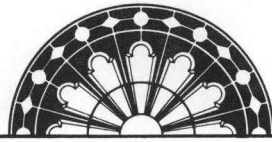


ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
	State Route

LOUANN, ARK.
NE/4 LOUANN 15' QUADRANGLE
33092-07-TF-024
1962
PHOTOREVISED 1985
DMA 7450 IV NE-SERIES V884

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Burkett, Captain
John T. House
Frenchport vic,
Ouachita Co.,
AR
UTM Reference:
15/519120/369980



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

April 15, 1998

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Captain John T. Burkett House--Frenchport vic., Ouachita County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

