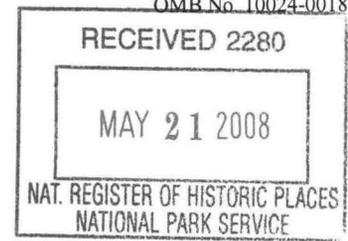


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# 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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly Bounded by May Avenues, Rogers Avenue, Sweet Avenue and Kinkead Avenue  not for publication  
city or town Fort Smith  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Sebastian code 131 zip code 72901

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Cathie Matthews 5/13/08  
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) \_\_\_\_\_  
Edson W. Beall 7-2-08  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
--------------	-----------------	--

118	14	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
118	14	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

TRANSPORTATION; streetcar line

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

COMMERCE: professional,, specialty store

RELIGION: religious facility

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, Folk Victorian

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, Spanish Revival/Eclectic, French Eclectic

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MVMT.: Craftsman/Bungalow

MODERN MOVMENT: Ranch

OTHER: Post WWII/Minimal Traditional

foundation BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE

walls BRICK, WOOD: weatherboard, shingles; STUCCO STONE (quarried & river rock)

roof ASBESTOS

other N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE SECTION 7 CONTINUATION SHEETS.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

## SECTION 7

### SUMMARY

The May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District is located in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Sebastian County. A mix of different architectural styles, with a period of significance that spans 1890 (Abigale Sparks House, 412 May Avenue –oldest known house to date in the district) to 1958 (50-year cutoff date determined by the National Park Service), comprises this historic district that is approximately six city blocks long and three city blocks wide.<sup>1</sup> Residential in nature, tree-lined streets border Lecta, Sweet, and May Avenues, which are the main thoroughfares running north and south through the district. One hundred and thirty-two resources make up the district; 118 (89.4%) contribute to the district's period of significance and 14 (10.6%) are non-contributing. The district maintains a high degree of integrity and is representative of suburban development in Fort Smith, Arkansas, during the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### ELABORATION

#### Background

Fort Smith, Arkansas, is located on the eastern bank of the Arkansas River. The city sits approximately 440 feet above sea level.<sup>2</sup> Fort Smith was established in 1817 as a military fort sited atop a bluff known as Belle Point overlooking the convergence of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers. To date there are two historic districts in Fort Smith that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places; both of the districts are located approximately one mile from the proposed May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District. The West Garrison Avenue Historic District was listed in the National Register in 1979 and the Belle Grove Historic District was listed in 1973. A survey of the proposed district took place during 2005 and 2006 with funding provided by a Certified Local Government Grant (CLG Grant). In 2004, Stan Kujawa, published a book about the neighborhood; the information contained in the publication was instrumental in the research and writing of this nomination which was also funded by a CLG Grant.

#### May-Lecta-Sweet Neighborhood

By 1897, developers were subdividing part of the area that comprises the May-Lecta-Sweet neighborhood. Lots in this area were part of the Barnes and Sweet Addition. An 1897 City map shows that the area between Park Avenue (then Kent) south to Rogers Avenue (then Little Rock) had been subdivided into lots.<sup>3</sup> Some of the earliest homes in the area that appear on a 1901 Sanborn Map that still exist today include residential buildings at the following addresses: 221 May Avenue, 201 May Avenue, 202 May Avenue (Whyback House), 321 May Avenue (Rudledge House), and

<sup>1</sup>To date, no information has been found to clarify the spelling of Abigale Sparks name. It is found spelled both "Abigale and Abigail". For this document the "Abigale" spelling will be used. The current owners and various documents date the house as ca. 1890.

<sup>2</sup>"Fort Smith, Arkansas", <http://www.city-data.com/city/Fort-Smith-Arkansas.html>

<sup>3</sup>Much of the initial research and understanding of the history of the buildings and area that comprises the district comes from Kujawa's book. Stan Kujawa, *Lecta, May & Sweet Avenues, Fort Smith: The Neighborhood*, (Fort Smith, AR: Camelot Consulting, 2004), 2.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

431 May Avenue.<sup>4</sup> Although, not appearing on the 1901 Sanborn Map, the Abigale Sparks House at 412 May Avenue, is the oldest known residence in the district. Advertisements in period newspapers in 1905 refer to the homes in this area as “suburban” as this area lies southeast of downtown Fort Smith. The Barnes and Sweet Addition was the first developed area followed by the area from Park Avenue north to Kinkead Avenue later appearing on the 1908 Sanborn Map as the Kinkead Addition. Although primarily residential in nature, also located within this neighborhood was the Blue Bird School (1922); the Central Presbyterian Church (1954); and just outside of the district’s northern boundary the John H. Rogers School (1919).

### Architectural Styles

The May-Lecta-Sweet historic district was historically comprised primarily of single-family and multiple-family residences. This remains true today. Within the district are several large, high style homes; however, the majority of the district is comprised of smaller to mid-size, one and two story homes, or as they were originally called “suburban homes”. There are some homes that date to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, but many of the homes in the district appear to have been constructed during the 1920s, 30s, and 40s with the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles dominating. Some of the homes are pure examples of a certain style while other homes might borrow various elements from different styles, and yet others are examples of how a house shows the transition from one style to another. There are many buildings in the district that display unique interpretations of the style they represent. Buildings within the district that do not contribute to its significance are those that were constructed later than 1957, or have been altered in a way that diminishes its integrity. Below are descriptions of the various styles of homes within the district. Most of the information contained in the following style descriptions comes from personal observations and A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester. Although there are numerous examples of some of the following styles in the district, the examples chosen are some of those buildings that best reflect elements of the style being described.

#### Queen Anne

This style was a dominant style of domestic building from about 1880 until 1900. Defining elements of this style include a steeply-pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front-facing gable; asymmetrical façade with partial or full-width porch which is usually one story high and extended along one or both side walls; patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, and other devices used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance. Fort Smith’s Belle Grove Historic District (NR Listed 1973) contains a high concentration of Queen Anne homes, as the style was very popular in Fort Smith. Examples in this neighborhood include: the Abigale Sparks House, 412 May Avenue; L. W. Gregg House, 420 May Avenue; and G. E. Berson House, 431 May Avenue.

#### Folk Victorian

Folk Victorian is defined by the presence of Victorian decorative detailing on simple folk house forms, which are generally much less elaborate than the Victorian styles they attempt to emulate. This style was popular

<sup>4</sup>The East side of May Avenue does not appear on the 1901 Sanborn, even though we know the Abigale Sparks house was built at that time at present-day 412 May Avenue. As documented in Kujawa’s book, J. H. and J. A. Rudledge and George and Levi Whyback appear in the 1894 City Directory for the Barnes and Sweet Addition, therefore, these homes likely date to at least the early 1890s. *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map* (1901), The Arkansas History Commission.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

from the 1870s through the early twentieth century. Examples of this style include the O.L. King House at 201 May Avenue and the J. H. Rudledge House at 321 May Avenue.

## Colonial Revival

Colonial Revival was a very popular building style spanning from 1880 through the mid 1950s. Some key defining characteristics include: accentuated front door, normally with a decorative crown (pediment) supported by pilasters, or extended forward and supported by slender columns to form entry porch; doors commonly have overhead fanlights or sidelights; façade normally shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door; windows with double-hung sashes, usually with multi-pane glazing in one or both sashes; windows frequently in adjacent pairs. Some, but not all, of the oldest Colonial Revival homes display Folk Victorian floorplans and massing. Examples of this style include: the W. W. Whyback House, 202 May Avenue; A. D. Morris House, 405 May Avenue; J. L. Benton House, 505 May Avenue; H. A. Haile House, 507 May Avenue; G. L. Swoope House, 524 May Avenue; M. C. Kelly House, 528 May Avenue; C. R. Vance House, 416 Lecta Avenue; and Dr. E. Myers House, 615 Lecta Avenue. Some of the “newer” examples include: the G. E. Berson House, 120 Sweet Avenue; P. R. Price House, 213 Sweet Avenue; and W. A. Reese House, 312 May Avenue.

## Neo Classical

Neoclassical was a dominant style for buildings, specifically domestic buildings, throughout the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. A full-height porch with roof supported by classical columns usually dominates the front. Columns typically have Ionic or Corinthian capitals; pediments are often a prominent feature as are dentils. Symmetry is also an important characteristic of Neoclassical Revival. The two examples of this style are the T. M. Dickins House at 202 Lecta Avenue and the Central Presbyterian Church at 2901 Rogers Avenue.

## English Revival/Tudor

Steeply-pitched roofs that are usually side-gabled, dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, top these houses. English Revival was popular from 1890 through the 1940s. A common features of this style of house is decorative half-timbering and stucco often found in gable ends. Also characteristic of this style are tall narrow windows, usually in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing. On residential buildings, massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots, adorn the roof. The J. T. Pendergrass House at 130 Sweet Avenue is a good example of this style.

## Spanish Revival/Spanish Eclectic

Most common in the southwestern states, this style was most popular from 1915 through 1940. Spanish Revival is characterized by low-pitched roofs; red tile roof coverings; decorative patterned tiles; one or more prominent arches placed above a door or principal window, or beneath a porch roof; wall surfaces are usually stucco with an asymmetrical façade. The J. Berson House at 519 May Avenue is an example of this as is the Blue Blue Bird School at 208 Lecta Avenue.

## French Eclectic

This style is relatively uncommon compared to other architectural styles. It is found throughout the country in Eclectic suburbs of the 1920s and 30s. Tall, steeply pitched hipped roof (occasionally gabled in towered

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

subtype) without dominant front-facing cross gable; eaves commonly flared upward at roof-wall junction; with brick, stone, or stucco wall cladding. The E. D. Bedwell House at 218 Lecta Avenue, possesses some of these features.

### **Craftsman/Bungalow**

Popular throughout the United States during the early twentieth century, and influenced by the English Arts and Crafts Movement, the Craftsman Style displays low-pitched, gabled roofs with wide, unenclosed eave overhangs and exposed rafter tails. Other defining features include full or partial-width porches supported by tapered square columns often resting on pedestals. One feature unique to this neighborhood is the large, prominent, center placed, front-facing dormer found on some of the Craftsman homes as well as the Colonial Revival homes. In some of the more elaborate Craftsman homes, local materials such as stone were used to help the building “harmonize” with its surroundings. Examples include: T. H. Brannan House, 216 May Avenue; the Julia Whitney House, 500 May Avenue; W. L. Hinton House, 611 May Avenue; W. W. Davis House, 618 May Avenue; D. E. Wiest House, 308 Lecta Avenue; E. E. Weldon House, 309 Lecta Avenue; W. L. Bocker House, 509 Lecta Avenue; T. C. Fleeman House, 519 Lecta Avenue; D. D. Sills House, 600 Lecta Avenue; R. E. Selgel House, 614 Lecta Avenue; G. R. Norfleet House, 618 Lecta Avenue; the F. R. Ritchie House, 623 Lecta Avenue; and the W. E. Smith House, 624 Lecta Avenue.

### **American Foursquare**

A sub-type of the Prairie Style, the American Foursquare is generally reserved primarily for residential architecture. It was popularized between 1900 and 1920. Simple, square or rectangular plans; low-pitched hipped roofs; and symmetrical facades characterize this style. Several examples of this style are located throughout the district, each one oftentimes borrowing decorative elements from other styles. Examples include the Arthur Campbell House at 108 May Avenue; L. Barbour House, 146 May Avenue; W. M. Montague House, 318 May Avenue; J. J. Moore House, 531 May Avenue; S. Kouri House, 300 Lecta Avenue; J. Harrington House, 323 Lecta Avenue; N. T. Richmond House, 401 Lecta Avenue; and the S. C. Howard House, 410 Lecta Avenue.

### **Minimal Traditional/Post WWII**

The Minimal Traditional “style” was a simplified form loosely based on the previously dominant Tudor style of the 1920s and 30s. These houses first became popular in the late 1930s and were the dominant style of the post-war 40s and 50s. Oftentimes, these homes were prefabricated. General characteristics include: asymmetrical; shallow to medium pitched, gabled or hipped roof usually with no eaves; small entry porch with simple pillars or columns; minimal ornamentation; and simple floor plans. Examples of this style include the William Stanton House, 2916 Blackburn Avenue and the C. Phillips House, 2916 Stanard Avenue; M. J. Jenkins House, 314 Lecta Avenue; and the C. Hudspeth House, 322 Lecta Avenue.

### **Ranch**

The Ranch style was a popular building style that dominated the domestic building during the 1950s through the 1960s. Defining characteristics include a one-story house with a very low-pitched roof and broad, rambling facades. Some lack decorative detailing, but most have decorative shutters, porch-roof supports or other

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   7   Page   5  

detailing. These homes are usually loosely based on colonial precedents. The William Fitz House at 2915 B is the best example of this style in the district.

**Building Materials**

In addition to beautiful tree-lined streets, one of the elements that make this neighborhood so visually pleasing is the variety of building materials used; oftentimes, on houses that have a similar floor plans or design. Various types of stonework are located throughout the neighborhood; some as part of foundations, others as porch supports or decorative detailing. Among the variety of stones used are quarried and cut stone, river rock, sandstone, and concrete cast to appear as cut stone. The majority of the buildings are wood sided with either lap siding or beveled-drop siding. Other wall sheathing includes historically applied stucco, brick or asbestos shingles. Most roofs are clad in composition shingles.

**Streetscape/Landscape**

Oak, Magnolia, Sycamore, and Maple trees are some of the old trees that line the streets that delineate this neighborhood. The district is bounded by Kinkead Avenue to the north; 30<sup>th</sup> or Sweet Avenue to the east; Rogers Avenue to the south; and an alleyway between Greenwood and May Avenues to the west. May and Lecta Avenues are two of the main roads running north and south in the district while Stanard, Blackburn, Barry, Presley and Park Avenue are the cross streets running east and west. Sidewalks are located approximately 8.5 feet from the streets on either side. Two historic objects remain from the days when the streets were dirt and the horseless carriage prevailed: a hitching post at 405 May Avenue and what appears to be a mounting/dismounting block at 424 May Avenue. There are very few historic stone walls in the neighborhood; the best examples are located in front of 323 Lecta Avenue and 401 Lecta Avenue. Also reminiscent of early days are signs of the trolley line that passed through part of the district. The 400 block of May Avenue is wider than the other blocks. Before being removed in the 1930s, streetcar tracks ran down the center of a portion of May Avenue at the 400 Block servicing the North E Street Line described below:

From the foot of Garrison, cars moved over the same tracks as the Grand Avenue route to the junction at Grand Avenue and North E Street, diverging to the latter street to continue on center of paved street tracks onto Blackburn, turning south on May, and east on Park to cross the Suburban railway. Continuing east with tracks on private right of way beside the roadway, the North E Street line terminated at Albert Pike Road. Passing sidings were situated near 17<sup>th</sup> and near Lecta Avenue.<sup>5</sup>

The streetscape and landscape lend ambience to this historic neighborhood that has incurred very few intrusions throughout the years; streets once dirt were likely paved during the 1920s when many other streets in Fort Smith were being paved.

<sup>5</sup> Charles E. Winters, "The Streetcars of Fort Smith," The Journal Vol. 3, No. 2 (1979): 45.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

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## INTEGRITY

Although commercial development surrounds the district on three of the four sides, the district retains a high degree of integrity and imparts the appearance and atmosphere of an early- to mid-twentieth century, Fort Smith suburban neighborhood. The Lecta-May-Sweet neighborhood is a cohesive group of historic resources that maintain the integrity needed to convey their architectural and historic significance. These buildings possess integrity of location and setting as they still possess their original setbacks and configurations. The buildings, which contribute to the district's significance, are still true to their original design displaying the historic materials used in their construction as well as the attention to detail that validates the workmanship displayed when built. The buildings continue to maintain their integrity of association as they have continuously been used as primarily as residential abodes. Collectively, this group of buildings is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criteria A and C**, with **Criterion Consideration A** with a period of significance that spans 1890 to 1957.

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, and D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1890-1958

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SECTION 8 CONTINUATION SHEETS.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE SECTION 9 CONTINUATION SHEETS.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

## SECTION 8

### SUMMARY

The May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for the role it played in the growth and development of Fort Smith; and under **Criterion C** for its good collection of late-nineteenth and early- to mid-twentieth century residential architecture. It is also being submitted under **Criterion Consideration A** because of the church located within the district boundary. Located in Fort Smith, Arkansas, Sebastian County, the designated area has a period of significance that spans **1890 to 1958**. With a high percentage of contributing properties, the architecture and history of this neighborhood are reflective of suburban development in Fort Smith, Arkansas, during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century.

### ELABORATION

#### Early History of Fort Smith

The area that comprises and surrounds what is now Fort Smith was originally home to Native Americans: first, the “Bluff dwellers” whose civilization dates back to 10,000 B.C.; later followed by historic tribes of the Osage, Choctaw, and Qaupaw. The history of Native peoples in this area is an integral part of Fort Smith’s heritage, as it was for this reason the first fort was established in 1817. Fourteen years after Arkansas became an official part of the United States (1803), the first fort was built at the convergence of the Arkansas and Poteau Rivers on a bluff called Belle Point. In 1817, Major Stephen H. Long, a topographical engineer, choose this area because of the unusual beauty of the oak-shaded bluff and the underlying layer of stratified sandstone that would provide a solid foundation for the construction of a fort and other buildings. Initially the military built a log structure to serve as the fort and named it after General Thomas A. Smith, the departmental commander who had given orders for its construction. The original purpose of the fort was to protect the western border of the United States against Native American attacks. However, after forced migrations of the Creek and Cherokee from their ancestral homelands east of the Mississippi River, Fort Belle Point’s primary directive shifted to keeping the peace between the newer Indian tribes and the older tribes who had lived in the area for many years. During this time of military occupation, a few pioneer families settled the area; among these, Captain John Rogers. Rogers arrived in 1822, to serve as a trader with the garrison, trappers and Native Americans. He later became postmaster (1829-1855) of the first post office; and in 1834, he purchased the majority of the town site for \$450.00. Rogers avidly pursued every angle for promoting Fort Smith as the jumping off point for the West. Because of the military presence and entrepreneurs such as Rogers, settlers from the east came to the area and established a community. In 1824, due to the unrest with the Indians further west, the troops at the fort were relocated to Fort Gibson in Indian Territory (later Oklahoma).<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Faulk, Odie B. and Billy Mac Jones, *Fort Smith: An Illustrated History*, (Muskogee, OK: Western Heritage Books, 1983), 14-15, 24; “West Garrison Avenue Historic District National Register Nomination,” [http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/historic-properties/search\\_nomination\\_popup.asp?id=296](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/historic-properties/search_nomination_popup.asp?id=296); *The WPA guide to 1930s Arkansas*, with an introduction by Elliott West. (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987; reprint of: *Arkansas: A Guide to the State*, 1941), 143 (page references are to reprint edition); and “Fort Smith (Sebastian County), *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=988>.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

After the withdrawal of troops, the fort maintained its utility by serving as the headquarters for the Western Choctaw Agency, as well as the center of enforcement for prohibition activities in the area. In 1825, surveyors platted the land adjacent to the fort and the sale of lots for new construction began; although the town was not incorporated until nearly twenty years later in 1842.<sup>7</sup> In 1838, the military recommissioned the fort, due in part to the persistence of John Rogers. By 1846, workers had completed construction on one of the most ambitious Army posts in the United States for a cost of \$300,000.00, consisting of new buildings, supporting structures, and a large wall. It was at this time that many Native peoples passed through Fort Smith on their forced migration westward.<sup>8</sup> Also, during the late 1840s through the early 1850s, Fort Smith became a major supply depot for the Mexican War, as well as a stop along the trail for those traveling west looking for gold. During the 1860s, Fort Smith served as a major Southern supply depot during the Civil War, and from it went orders to the Five Civilized Tribes, all of whom had voted loyalty to the South. Areas in and around Fort Smith were sites of Civil War skirmishes and battles.<sup>9</sup>

After the Civil War, the city began to regroup and rebuild, establishing institutions such as public schools, churches, banks, and a dependable postal service. The government regarrisoned the fort after the end of the Civil War but once again closed it as an active military garrison in 1871. That same year, the Arkansas legislature divided Sebastian County so that it had two county seats, one in Fort Smith and the second in Greenwood. The legislature gave the court in Fort Smith the largest judicial district in the world that consisted of the entire Indian Territory plus the 13 counties of west-central and northwestern Arkansas. The court would have exclusive and final jurisdiction over all crimes committed in the Indian Territory, as well as the usual cases originating in Arkansas. The first court met in the Rogers Building and later it met at the old military post in the building known as the Soldiers Quarters. The first judge was Judge William Story (1871- 1874) followed by infamous Judge Isaac C. Parker (1875-1896), also known as the "Hanging Judge;" of the 151 offenders Parker sentenced to the gallows, 83 were executed.<sup>10</sup>

During the last part of the nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century, the city enjoyed a period of progress and growth as commercial trading expanded, and Garrison Avenue became the wholesale and retail center of the region. Railroad transportation arrived in the 1870s giving the city an important alternative to the Arkansas River. The first mule drawn trolley appeared in 1883, followed by the first electric trolley in 1893. Census Records show the growth of the population during this prosperous time as follows: 1870 – 2,227 people; 1880 – 3,099; 1890 – 11,311; 1900 – 11,587; and 1910 – 23,975. During the 1880s and 1890s, newspapers were filled with advertisements for real estate. The city was a major agricultural trade center, serving as the transportation hub for the wide variety of produce grown throughout the length of the surrounding Arkansas River Valley. The discovery of natural gas was instrumental in the city's growth allowing a cheaper source of fuel that attracted many factories to the city, such as furniture factories, glass factories, and lumber mills among other industries. Some of these businesses included the Best-

<sup>7</sup>"West Garrison Historic District National Register Nomination," [http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/historic-properties/search\\_nomination\\_popup.asp?id=296](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/historic-properties/search_nomination_popup.asp?id=296); "Fort Smith: History...The Fort that Wouldn't Die," <http://www.city-data.com/us-cities/The-South/Fort-Smith-History.html>; and Faulk & Jones, 31.

<sup>8</sup>Faulk & Jones, 27-29.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid., 40.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid., 45, 49, 57-60.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Clymer Sorghum Mills (the largest in the world), Fort Smith Wagon Factory, The Equitable Powder Company, and the D. J. Young Stone Quarry, and Burke Brick Company (later Acme Brick).<sup>11</sup>

Merchants who were looking to the future bought farms and city lots. In the 1880s, country and suburban property ranged in price from \$11.00 to \$25.00 an acre. One real estate agency, Boone and Day, advertised in May of 1885: "We have some very fine unimproved city lots that we can sell in full or half blocks; these lots are conveniently located and very desirable. Fine residence lots from one to eight hundred dollars each, and some not so fine at \$40.00 each, on time or monthly installments." From April of 1887 to January 1888, real estate transfers in Fort Smith totaled \$5,860.00.<sup>12</sup>

### May-Lecta-Sweet Neighborhood

It was during this era of prosperity that the area comprising the May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District developed. Located approximately one mile north of Fort Smith's first commercial area and the original site of "Fort Smith," the May-Lecta-Sweet area was originally considered out in the country. The May-Lecta-Sweet neighborhood is representative of the suburban development that occurred in the city during the later part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century. The neighborhood is historically residential in nature, although at times some of the buildings have been used for commercial ventures. The earliest map, found to date, of this area is an 1897 Fort Smith City Map. Part of the proposed district is located within the area that appears on this map as the Barnes & Sweet Addition; which at that time had already been divided into lots. The Barnes and Sweet Addition included the area north of present-day Rogers Avenue (then Little Rock Avenue) and south of present-day Park Avenue (then Kent Avenue) and the area east of present-day Greenwood Avenue (then Page Avenue) and the land on either side of Lecta Avenue. An 1894 City Directory lists the names of people living in the Barnes and Sweet Addition (street numbers not listed); most of the people were laborers of one kind or another.<sup>13</sup> To date, the oldest known house in the district can be dated circa 1890, the Abigale Sparks House at 412 May Avenue. At the time the house was constructed, Abby Sparks had been widowed for approximately ten years, after having been married to Major James H. Sparks, entrepreneur and co-founder/co-publisher of the Fort Smith Herald. At the turn of the century, May Avenue was a popular street to live on. Around the turn of the century residents in the neighborhood formed a social organization known as "the May Avenue Bunch"; among other things, the group held annual gatherings.<sup>14</sup> Because the area was popular and in a good location, the Fort Smith's trolley system laid tracks through the neighborhood and the suburban railway passed nearby.

<sup>11</sup>William J. Butler, Fort Smith: Past and Present; A Historical Summary, (Fort Smith, AR: First National Bank, 1972), 116-118; and Julia Etter Yadon, Sue Ross Cross and Randall Viguet, Reflections of Fort Smith, (Fort Smith: Fort Smith Historical Press) 1976), 73-75.

<sup>12</sup>Faulk & Jones, 74; "West Garrison Avenue Historic District National Register Nomination."

<sup>13</sup>Stan Kujawa. Lecta, May & Sweet Avenues, Fort Smith: The Neighborhood, (Fort Smith, AR: Camelot Consulting, 2004), 237.

<sup>14</sup>Yadon, Cross, & Viguet, 122; John Vincent Robinson, "Fort Smith Architecture," The Journal Vol. 1, No. 1 (1977): 26-27.

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 4

In 1883, street railway transit in Fort Smith began with mule drawn cars. Ten years later, 1893, the first electric cars started operating in the city. Part of the "North E Street Line" passed through the district with "...tracks onto Blackburn, turning south on May, and east on Park to cross the suburban railway..." (Circa 1911, Much of the North E Street Line tracks were reconstructed and paved).<sup>15</sup>

One of the early advertisements in the *Daily News Record* (22 January 1905) for this area states "100 Feet frontage on corner in Barnes and Sweets Addition. Some of the most desirable suburban acreage in size tracts to suit." In the years to follow, especially during the prosperous years of the 1920s, there were many advertisements in Fort Smith for small tracts of land, suburban homes and bungalows.<sup>16</sup>

By the 1920s, the neighborhood was growing and even boasted of two schools in the area: (1) John H. Rogers School and (2) The Blue Bird School. The Rogers School (sited just outside of the district boundary, on the north side of Kinkead Avenue), located at the intersection of Kinkead and Lecta Avenues, opened in 1919. Located "out in the country", it was a place for teaching children in grades one through six. The Blue Bird School, located at 208 Lecta Avenue, opened its doors in the fall of 1922. An article in *The Southwest American* (3 September 1922) states the following:

One of the most completely equipped and modernly constructed private schools in the entire southwest will be opened in Fort Smith, September 5, in the formal opening of the private school, "The Blue Bird School," owned and directed by Mrs. David E. Shapard. ... (the school) will have accommodation for 100 pupils, ranging from four to seven years, embracing the kindergarten, first and second grades. ... The building itself is of stucco in Mission style with four large class rooms 18 X 18 with 12 foot ceilings, a gymnasium 23 X 46 feet, a teachers restroom and an office. ... The play ground in the rear of the building is 75 X 85 feet and is well shaded, has a fountain, is electrically lighted for evening affairs, and has slides, see-saw, swings, rings and bars, sand boxes, revolving platform and other apparatus to inspire and train children.<sup>17</sup>

An ad in the same paper noted that the school offered complete classes in French and Music and in addition to regular class-room work; time would be devoted to instructive subjects as Folk dancing, French games, gardening and care of flowers.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>15</sup>Faulk & Jones, 95; and Charles E Winters, "The Streetcars of Fort Smith," *The Journal* Vol. 3, No. 2 (1979): 45.

<sup>16</sup>(Real estate Ad), *Daily News Record* (Fort Smith), 22 January 1905, 11.

<sup>17</sup>"'Blue Bird School' To Open Term in Handsome Quarters," *The Southwest American* (Fort Smith), 3 September 1922.

<sup>18</sup>"The Blue Bird School," *The Southwest American* (Fort Smith), 3 September 1922.

**United States Department of the Interior**

National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 5

The majority of the buildings were constructed from the early 1900s through the 1930s in the Craftsman or Colonial Revival styles. This “boom” in construction in the neighborhood and surrounding areas was reflective of the “boom” in finance and industries such as glass works, zinc smelters, brick manufacturing, and furniture manufacturing coupled with successful wholesale and retail merchandising that occurred in Fort Smith at the time. During the 1930s Fort Smith’s boundaries expanded and new neighborhoods developed. A good frame home such as those in the May-Lecta-Sweet neighborhood could be purchased for between \$2,000 and \$5,000.<sup>19</sup> Many of the homes built at this time appear to be “kit homes” or ones chosen from pattern books such as Sears and Roebuck. To the left is an advertisement from *The Southwest American* (3 January 1925) for a Bungalow similar in idea to some of those in the district.

By the 1920s, the automobile was changing the economy and the appearance of the city, as well as the neighborhood. In 1923, the city of Fort Smith chose to widen, pave and remove the rails on Little Rock Avenue; the improved thoroughfare became known as Rogers Avenue (the southern boundary of the district). Ten years later, in 1933, all operations of the company operating the streetcars ended. Open track work on private right of way was removed immediately. During the 1930s, most of the remaining rails were removed from street pavement, likely including those along May Avenue.<sup>20</sup>

Based on the dates of construction of the homes in the district, most of the lots had been sold and houses built by the 1950s; thus, primarily ending new construction of homes in the district. The 1970s would see the construction of two apartment complexes in the district. Just as the growth of the neighborhood was ending, Fort Smith’s major industrial expansion began. From 1957 through 1971, a total of 141 new industries began operating in the city providing 7,775 jobs. 459 plant expansions occurred and the population of the city increased at an annual rate of approximately 1,500 new citizens each year during this 15-year span. Despite the growth and change, the quote that best summarizes Fort Smith’s legacy today is as follows:

Some of the sights have not changed. They are the same as they were in 1817, when the first fort was established on the bluff called Belle Point. They are the same as they were when Civil War battles were fought in the area, when the Indian Nations commanded the surrounding lands, when Judge Parker’s court was in session and men hung from the gallows, and when young boys in steel helmets paraded down Garrison Avenue, behind awesome machines of war.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>19</sup> Faulk & Jones, 82, 84-85, 103, 106-107.

<sup>20</sup>Winters, 20.

<sup>21</sup>Butler, 136, 139.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

It is that same feeling that pervades the observer that walks down the streets of the May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District today. The architectural charm and character that graced the streets during the early twentieth century still exists today. The growth and development of the neighborhood and the variety of architectural styles is a microcosmic reflection of the growth and development Fort Smith.

### CONCLUSION

Today, Fort Smith is a city of diverse sites, including the May-Lecta-Sweet neighborhood, which has managed to maintain its historic ambience with its tree-lined streets and historic homes. The neighborhood has retained its quaintness, charm, and architectural character; allowing the district to stand out as an excellent example of early suburban development in Fort Smith. Possessing a high degree of integrity, the May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District is being nominated with **local significance** for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criteria A and B and Criterion Consideration A**.

May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District  
Name of Property

Sebastian Co. Arkansas  
County and State

**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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property**    55 Acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>15</u>	<u>372571</u>	<u>3915620</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
B	<u>15</u>	<u>372592</u>	<u>3916340</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>15</u>	<u>372825</u>	<u>3916326</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>15</u>	<u>372852</u>	<u>3915556</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

The area that comprises the May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District is roughly bounded by an alleyway (between N. Greenwood & May Avenues) to the west; Stanard Avenue to the north, part of Sweet Avenue to the east; and Rogers Avenue to the south. See also the enclosed Map that delineates the actual perimeter measurements for more accurate measurements.

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The area that comprises the May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District contains a cohesive group of primarily residential buildings built from the 1890s through the 1950s. Major thorofares to the south and west with primarily commercial development preclude it from being included in the district; a green space/low spot provides a natural boundary to the east; and Stanard Avenue is used as the cutoff for the most northern part of the district. The area that comprises the district maintains a high degree of integrity and was part of the original Barnes & Sweet and Kinkead Additions.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Kara Oosterhous, Consultant</u>		
organization	<u>Prepared for the City of Fort Smith, AR</u>	date	<u>January 21, 2008</u>
street & number	<u>268 Vaughn Rd.</u>	telephone	<u>870.356.4870</u>
city or town	<u>Glenwood</u>	state	<u>AR</u> zip code <u>71943</u>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0860	G. E. Berson House	120 Sweet Avenue
C	SB0861	J. T. Pendergrass House	130 Sweet Avenue
C	SB0862	Georgelee House	200 Sweet Avenue
C	SB0863	F. G. White House	205 Sweet Avenue
C	SB0864	P. R. Rice House	213 Sweet Avenue
C	SB0865	F. P. Conley House	221 Sweet Avenue
C	SB0938	Central Presbyterian Child Development Center	145 Sweet Avenue
C	SB0939	Central Presbyterian Church	2901 Rogers Ave
C	SB0866	William Fitz House	2915 Barry Avenue
C	SB0867	William Stanton House	2916 Blackburn Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0868	W. L. Nash House	2912 Stanard Avenue
C	SB0869	C. Phillips House	2916 Stanard Avenue
C	SB0872	M. Parks House	2924 Stanard Avenue
NC	SB0870	F. W. Frawley House	2922 Stanard Avenue
NC	SB0871	Fred Scholee House	3000 Stanard Avenue
C	SB0874	M. W. Rice House	106 May Avenue
C	SB0875	Arthur Campbell House	108 May Avenue
C	SB0876	S. W. Bourland House	120 May Avenue
C	SB0877	M. L. Yantis House	124 May Avenue
C	SB0878	J. R. Woods House	127 May Avenue
C	SB0879	L. Barbour House	146 May Avenue
C	SB0474	W. W. Whyback House	202 May Avenue
C	SB0475	N. E. Kelly House	210 May Avenue
C	SB0476	T. H. Brannan House	216 May Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 3

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
NC	SB0477	May Avenue Apartments	220 May Avenue
C	SB0478	O. L. King House	201 May Avenue
C	SB0479	G. P. Otto House	215 May Avenue
C	SB0480	H. E. Morgan House	217 May Avenue
C	SB0481	T. C. Price House	221 May Avenue
C	SB0483	E. R. Johnson House	300 May Avenue
C	SB0485	W. A. Reese House	312 May Avenue
C	SB0486	W. P. Bean House	314 May Avenue
C	SB0488	W. M. Montague House	318 May Avenue
C	SB0489	L. H. McKinney House	322 May Avenue
C	SB0490	J. G. Williams House	317 May Avenue
C	SB0491	J. H. Rudledge House	321 May Avenue
C	SB0492	J. M. LangstonHouse	402 May Avenue
C	SB0493	L. C. Cohen House	410 May Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 4

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0494	Abigale Sparks House	412 May Avenue
C	SB0495	L. W. Gregg House	420 May Avenue
C	SB0496	E. H. McCullough House	424 May Avenue
C	SB0497	J. D. Williams House	432 May Avenue
C	SB0798	A. D. Morris House	405 May Avenue
C	SB0499	W. D. Meltzer House	415 May Avenue
C	SB0500	H. Strother House	421 May Avenue
C	SB0501	G. E. Berson House	431 May Avenue
C	SB0502	Julia Whitney House	500 May Avenue
C	SB0503	Amanda Whitney House	504 May Avenue
NC	SB0504	G. L. Grant House	508 May Avenue
C	SB0593	F. L. Ward House	512 May Avenue
C	SB0594	H. B. Wood House	516 May Avenue
C	SB0595	W. J. McClung House	520 May Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 5

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0596	G. L. Swope House	524 May Avenue
C	SB0597	M. C. Kelly House	528 May Avenue
NC	SB0598	Barnett Apartments	501 May Avenue
C	SB0599	J. L. Benton House	505 May Avenue
C	SB0600	H. A. Haile House	507 May Avenue
C	SB0601	J. Berson House	519 May Avenue
C	SB0602	H. Skilman House	523 May Avenue
C	SB0603	J. J. Moore House	531 May Avenue
C	SB0604	H. J. Miller House	604 May Avenue
C	SB0605	E. W. Welton House	610 May Avenue
C	SB0606	Issac Peck House	614 May Avenue
C	SB0607	M. W. Davis House	618 May Avenue
C	SB0608	F. B. Johnson House	624 May Avenue
C	SB0609	R. J. Ross House	601 May Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 6

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0610	W. L. Hinton House	611 May Avenue
C	SB0611	Dr. Hardy Smith House	615 May Avenue
C	SB0612	A. F. Harden House	623 May Avenue
NC	SB0613	W. L. Mathis House	625 May Avenue
NC	SB0880	Edward Haglin House	111 Lecta Avenue
NC	SB0881	W. J. Murray House	115 Lecta Avenue
NC	SB0882	Edward Hunt House	119 Lecta Avenue
C	Sb0883	Elmer Cook House	133 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0884	M. C. Randall House	137 Lecta Avenue
NC	SB0885	G. E. Berson, Jr., House	141 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0886	Wallace Bacon House	144 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0887	O. H. Schaap House	145 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0614	T. M. Dickens House	202 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0615	Bluebird School Building	208 Lecta Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 7

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0616	E. D. Bedwell House	218 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0617	C. J. Tidwell House	220 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0618	C. Flocks House	201 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0619	O. McBride House	205 Lecta Avenue
NC	SB0620	G. S. Whybark House	209 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0738	W. A. Southall House	217 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0739	C. Mehlburger House	221 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0740	S. Kouri House	300 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0741	H. J. Conley House	304 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0742	D. E. Wiest House	308 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0743	M. J. Jenkins House	314 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0744	C. Hudspeth House	322 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0745	D. G. Rogers House	301 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0781	E. E. Weldon House	309 Lecta Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 8

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0782	A. B. Yantis House	315 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0783	J. Harrington House	323 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0784	E. E. Kindred House	400 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0785	S. C. Howard House	410 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0826	C. R. Vance House	416 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0827	J. H. Parker House	420 Lecta Avenue
NC	SB0828	R. T. Little House	428 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0829	N. T. Richmond House	401 Lecta Avenue
NC	SB0830	G. F. Storms House	415 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0831	H. R. Bennett House	425 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0832	C. Reynolds House	429 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0833	R. Bullington House	500 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0834	F. V. McKee House	504 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0835	F. W. Scholtze House	508 Lecta Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0836	T. S. McBride House	512 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0837	W. L. Hinton House	516 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0838	F. F. Kelly House	518 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0839	C. Breedlove House	524 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0840	A. Sanders House	501 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0841	B. E. Reeves House	507 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0842	W. L. Brocker House	509 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0843	E. H. McCullough House	511 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0844	C. K. Ingeberg House	517 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0845	T. C. Fleeman House	519 Lecta Avenue
NC	SB0846	A. C. Cunkle House	525 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0847	S. R. Thompson House	527 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0848	D. D. Sills House	600 Lecta Avenue

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10

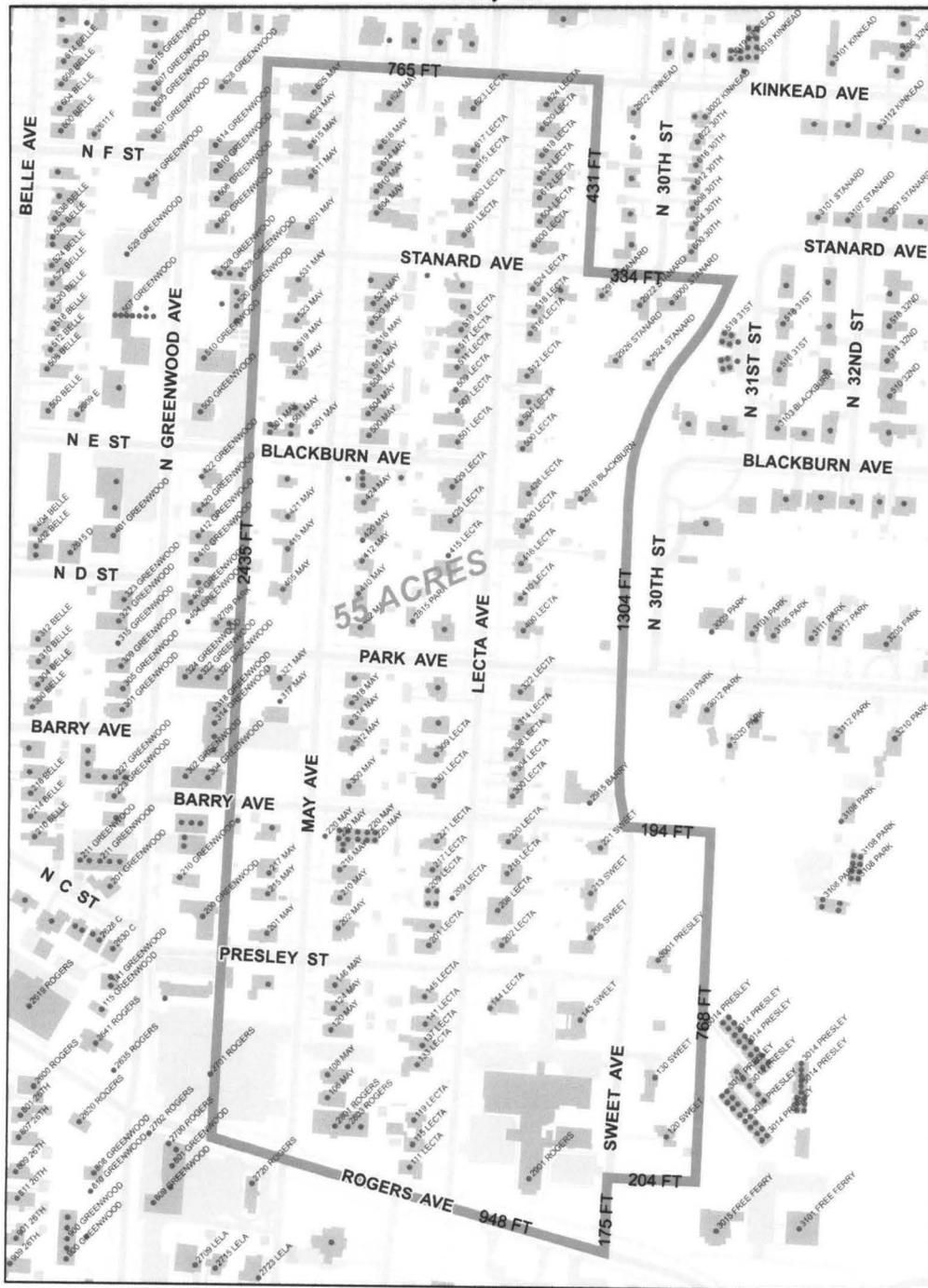
C/NC	Resource #	Name	Address
C	SB0849	A. A. Homan House	604 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0850	E. F. Cosgrove House	612 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0851	R. E. Selgel House	614 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0852	G. R. Norfleet House	618 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0853	L. Piles House	620 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0854	W. E. Smith House	624 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0855	J. H. Culp House	601 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0856	D. Crampton House	603 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0857	Dr. E. Meyers House	615 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0858	Dr. M. E. Foster House	617 Lecta Avenue
C	SB0859	F. R. Ritchie House	623 Lecta Avenue
<b>Total</b>			<b>132</b>
<b>C</b>			<b>118 (89.4%)</b>
<b>NC</b>			<b>14 (10.6%)</b>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 11

May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District  
Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas  
February 2008



May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District  
Name of Property

Sebastian Co. Arkansas  
County and State

---

**Additional Documentation**

---

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

**Property Owner**

---

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

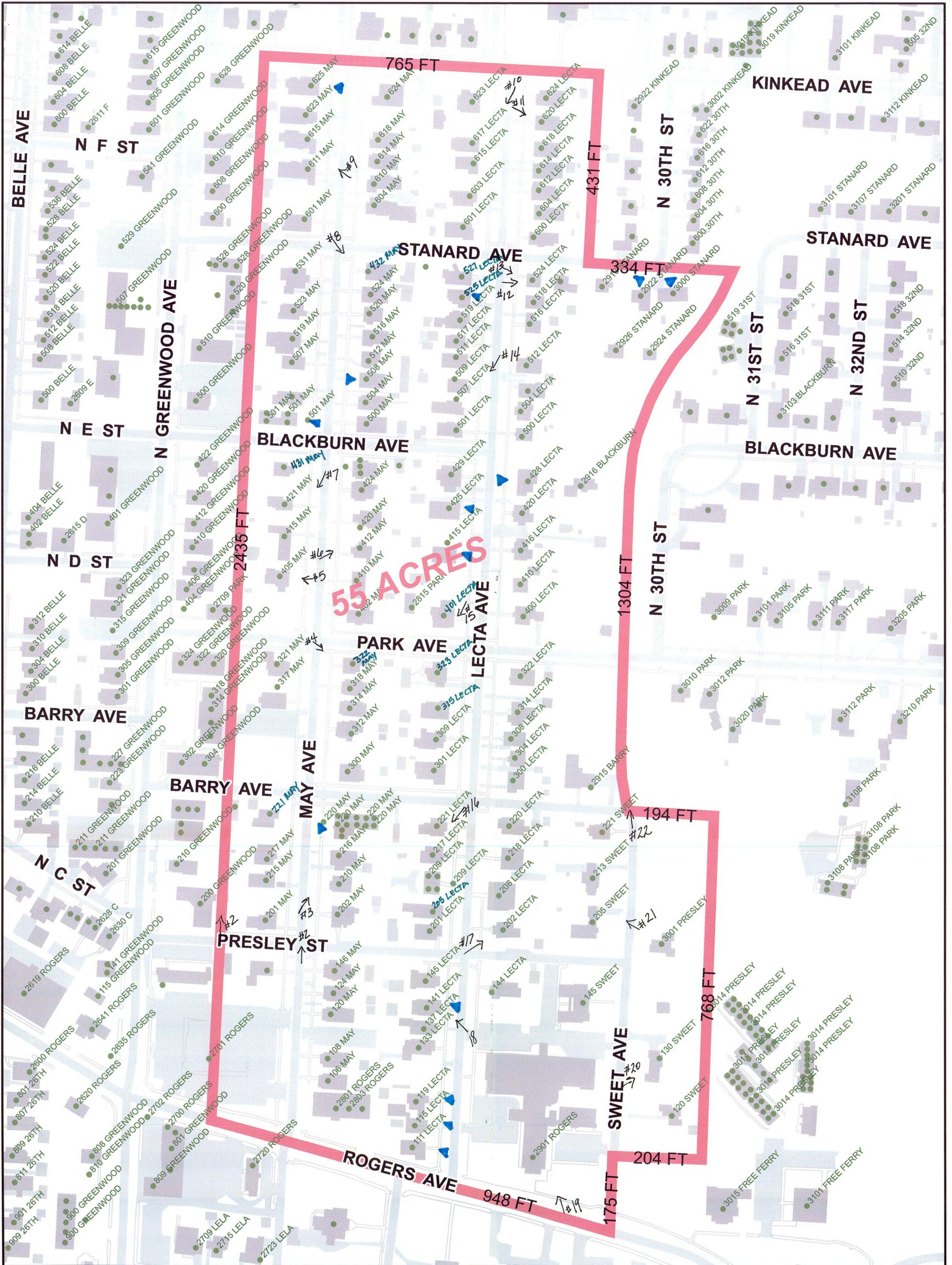
name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

**May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District**  
**Fort Smith, Sebastian County, Arkansas**  
**February 2008**



▲ noncontributing  
 #'s correspond to photographs

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: May--Lecta--Sweet Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Sebastian

DATE RECEIVED: 5/21/08      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/09/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/24/08      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/04/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000597

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    7-2-08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District

Western boundary - Alley between Greenwood + May Aves.

2. Sebastian Co., Arkansas

3. K. Oosterhous

4. Nov. 2007

5. AHPP

6. Looking North up Alley way from Prestey

7. #1



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District  
Looking N. on May Ave.
2. Sebastian Co., Arkansas
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Standing just South of Presley Ne. Looking  
North on May Ave.
7. #2



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District  
210 + 216 May Ave.
2. Sebastian County Arkansas
3. K. Oosterhaus
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking NE at the South + West Facades  
of 210 + 216 May Ave.
7. # 3



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District -  
322, 318 + 314 May Ave,
2. Sebastian Co., Arkansas
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking SW at North + West Facades  
of 322, 318 + 314 May Ave,
7. #4



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District  
405 May Ave - Hitching Post
2. Sebastian Co., Arkansas
3. K. Oostermous
4. NOV. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking West at Front (West) Facade  
+ Hitching Post
7. #5



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District  
412 + 420 May Ave.
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking NE at West + South Elevations  
of 412 + 420 May Ave.
7. #6

\* 412 May - Abigail Sparks House



1. May, hecta, Sweet Historic District  
431 + 421 May Ave.
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking SW at <sup>the</sup> North + East Facades  
of 431 + 421 May Ave
7. #7



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District  
528 + 524 May Ave.
  2. Sebastian Co., AR
  3. K. Oosterhous
  4. Nov. 2007
  5. AHPP
  6. Looking southeast at the west + north  
elevations of May<sup>528+524</sup> Ave.
  - 7.
- #8



1. May, Letcher, Sweet Historic District  
615 + 611 May Ave.
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. NOV. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking NW at East + South elevations  
of 615 & 611 May Ave.
7. #9



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District  
623 Lecta Ave
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking SW at the North + East Elevations  
of 623 Lecta Ave.
7. #10



1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District  
620, 618, 614 Lecta Ave.
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking southeast at west elevations  
of East Side off the 600 Block of  
Lecta Ave. (620, 618, 614, etc.)
7. #11



1. May, Lecta, Sweet HiD.  
524 Lecta Ave - Stepping Block
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AITPP
6. Looking east at stepping block @ 524 Lecta Ave
7. #12



1. May, Lecta, Sweet HiD,  
524 + 518 Lecta
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking Southeast at North + West  
elevations of 524 + 518 Lecta Ave.
7. #13



1. May, Lecta, Sweet H. D.  
509, 507 & 501 Lecta Ave.
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking SW at the North + East Elevations  
of 509, 507 + 501 Lecta Ave.
7. #14



STOP

1. May, Lecta, Sweet Historic District  
401 Lecta Ave (note wall)
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking SW at East Elevation
7. #15



1. May, Lecta, Sweet H.D.  
221 Lecta Ave. + 217 Lecta Ave.
2. Sebastian Co, AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking SW at the north + east elevations  
of 221 + 217 Lecta Ave.
7. #16



202

1. May, Lecta, Sweet H. D.  
202 Lecta Ave. + 208 Lecta Ave
2. Sebastian Co, AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking Northeast at West + South  
elevations of 202 + 208 Lecta Ave.
7. #17



1. May, Lecta, Sweet H. D.  
141 + 145 Lecta Ave
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhaus
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPD
6. Looking NW at the South + East Elevations
7. #18



1. May, Hector, Sweet H.D. - 2901 Rogers Ave.
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oostermous
4. Nov. 2007
5. AHPP.
6. Looking NW at North & East Elevations
7. #19



1. May, Lecta, Sweet H. D.  
130 Sweet Ave

2. Sebastian Co., AR

3. K. Oosterhous

4. NOV. 2007

5. AHPD

6. Looking NE at West elevation of  
130 Sweet Ave.

7. #20

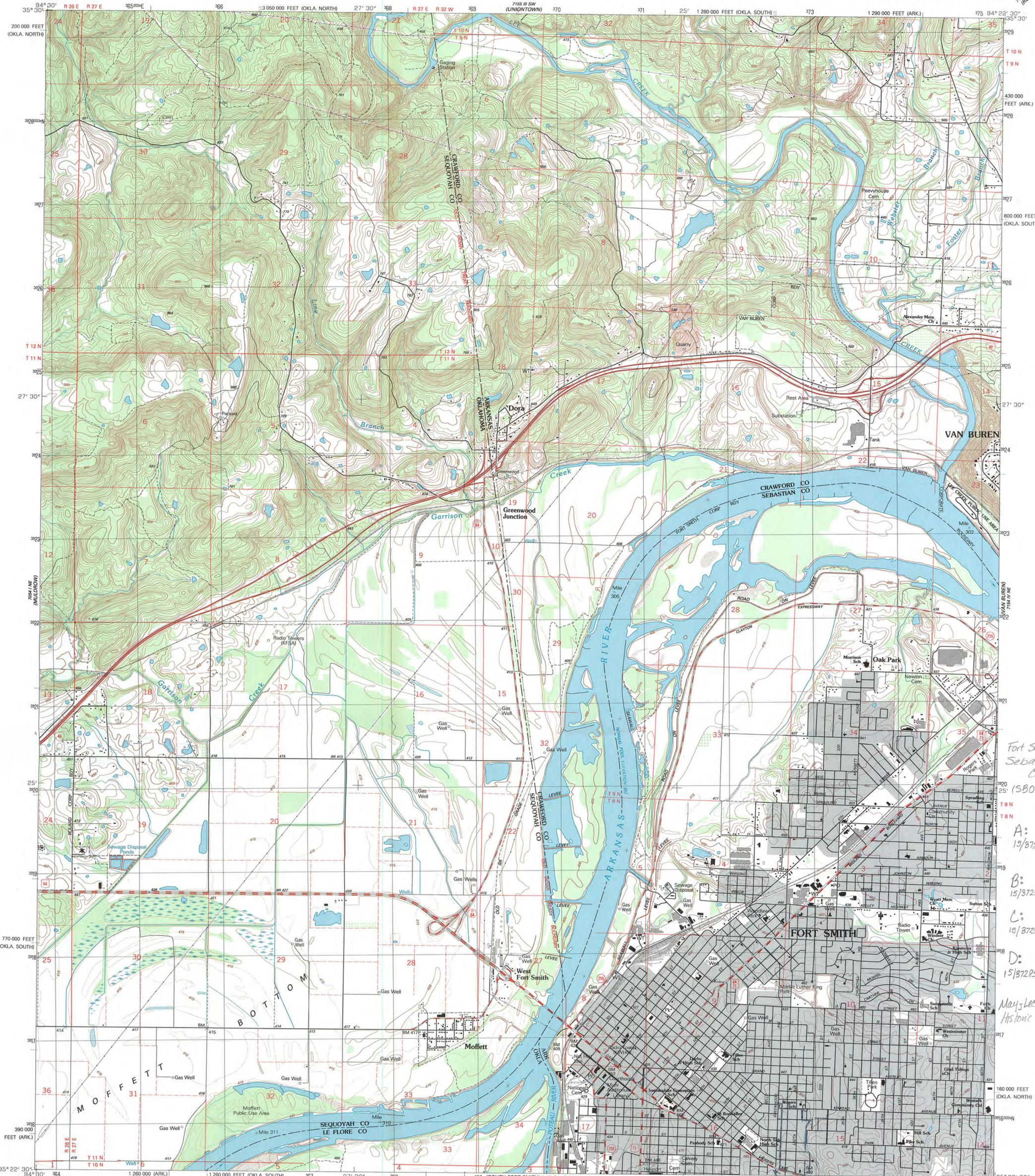


SEE  
NO  
STOP

1. May, Lector, Sweet H.D.  
205 + 213 Sweet Ave.
2. Sebastian Co., AR
3. K. Oosterhous
4. Nov 2007
5. AHPP
6. Looking NW at the south + east  
elevations of 205 + 213 Sweet Ave.
7. #21



1. May, Lecta, Sweet H. D.
  2. Sebastian Co., AR
  3. K. Oosterhous
  4. NOV. 2007
  5. AHPD
  6. Looking N along - greenway that serves as part of Eastern boundary
- 7#22

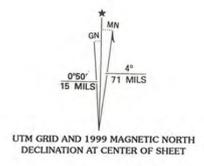


Fort Smith, AR Sebastian County (580937)

- A: 15/37257/391620
- B: 15/37252/391630
- C: 15/37225/391632
- D: 15/37285/391556

May-July, Sweet Historic District

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
 Derived from imagery taken 1983 and other sources. Photosinspected using imagery taken 1997; no major culture or drainage changes observed. PLSS and survey control current as of 1985. Boundaries, other than corporate, verified 1999.  
 North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27)  
 Projection: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
 10 000-foot ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone and Oklahoma coordinate system, north and south zones  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map.



FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
 ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
 AND OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

FORT SMITH, ARK.-OKLA.

1997

NIMA 7154 IV NW-SERIES V884





The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Beebe  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

\*

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

\*

Delta Cultural Center

\*

Historic Arkansas Museum

\*

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

\*

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

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May 13, 2008

Dr. Janet Matthews  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

RE: May-Lecta-Sweet Historic District – Fort Smith, Sebastian  
County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. 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 Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure