**United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

## SUMMARY

The Habicht-Cohn-Crow House, located at Eighthand Pine Streets, is one of the oldest structures in Arkadelphia. Built in 1870, this frame residence has a central hall plan and is two rooms deep. Predominately influenced by the Greek Revival, this finely-detailed structure is embellished with elaborate brackets and jig-sawn trim, thus eloquently revealing the eclectic nature of stylistic transitions.

## ELABORATION

Sited on an ample corner lot, the Habicht-Cohn-Crow House is picturesquely fronted by two large magnolia trees. Built by Captain Anthony E. Habicht, a Northerner reputedly influenced by The Burn in Natchez, the design of this one-story residence was strongly influenced by the Greek Revival, a style which enjoyed great popularity in Arkansas.

The original house, before any additions, consisted of two rooms of equal size on either side of a central hall. The Greek temple-fronted house is of frame construction, with weatherboard siding and a hip roof pierced by brick chimneys. The structure is supported by brick piers, between which brick infill replaces the wood lattice visible in a 1926 photograph. A belvedere, which was an original feature of the house, was removed c. 1935. Extended eaves are supported by large jig-sawn brackets. A wide simple cornice extends around the front portico and the original four elevations. Pilasters with simple caps are located at each corner of the original rectangular mass. Since its construction, several additions and alterations have occurred that reflect turn-of-the-century and early twentieth century tastes.

A gabled Greek temple-front, portico projects from the rectangular mass of the house, extending across six-eights of the front facade. The large gabled pediment is supported by four slightly tapered paneled square columns with simple caps. Large brackets project from the wide frieze and simple cornice. A large multi-paned arched attic window is centered in the flush board-sided tympanum. Slender compound pilasters flank the attic window and three rows of jig-sawn ornament embellish the deep raking cornice. The impressive entrance has wood paneled double-doors with four-light sidelights and a five-light transom. The sidelights are flanked on either side by compound pilasters. Further enriching the classical door surround are five triglyphs above the transom and extensions of the compound pilasters beneath the transom. Large six-over-six double-hung windows with architrave trim with ancones flank the entrance. Pilasters that echo the two outer columns are positioned between the windows and the corner pilasters. Wood panels extend from the inside pilasters to the entrance.

The south side elevation, has two six-over-six double-hung windows with a decorative window head of two recessed arches. A 1900 three-sided addition extends from the southwest corner replacing the original detached kitchen. Each side of the bay has a two-over-two double-hung window. A round decorative wood vent is located in the gable end, the bottom corners of which feature elaborate wood trim.

# **United States Department of the Interior National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

Item number

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Page

The rear elevation has a center screened porch between the two 1900 additions. A flat-roofed porte cochere rests on brick piers and extends from the front of the porch. An elliptical attic vent projects from the rear slope of the hip roof above the porch.

The interior of the house has pine floors, plaster walls and plaster ceilings with circular plaster medallions. Ceilings are fourteen feet high throughout. All four rooms and the hall have tall paneled baseboards, and each of the rooms has a fireplace. Though each mantlepiece design incorporates pilasters and a shelf, each of the four is detailed differently. Front and rear rooms are connected by a door located beside the fireplace. Rear rooms are connected to the two 1900 additions by doors next to the fireplaces, which are flanked on the opposite side by closets. Window surrounds duplicate those found on the exterior. The wide central hall was partitioned-off at the west end to provide space for a bathroom sometime around 1950. At the same time, the stair, which leads to the unfinished attic, was reoriented so that it is two flights with a landing rather than one long flight as originally constructed. The stair has a walnut rail, a massive turned newel post and turned-spindle banister. In 1935 the interior was redecorated, at which time several interior paneled wood doors were replaced with multi-paned glass doors.

## 8. Significance

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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

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#### SUMMARY

The Habicht-Cohn-Crow House, located in the small southeastern town of Arkadelphia, was constructed in 1870, for Captain Anthony E. Habicht, who came to the South during Reconstruction, Habicht knew there were fortunes to be made in this small community which had been established long before statehood. He is said to have asked his builder, a Mr. Gebhardt who was a Mennonite, to pattern the house after one he had seen in Natchez, Mississippi. Habicht requested a house whose predominate influence in style and form is the Greek Revival. Yet he drew upon other stylistic influences to create a residence which is clearly distinctive in comparison to others in the state.

#### ELABORATION

Captain Habicht came to Arkadelphia shortly before the Iron Mountain Railroad was completed. The coming of the railroad brought rapid growth to the community which formerly relied on the Ouachita River as a transportation outlet. Habicht left Clark County in 1875, having sold his home to M. McCohn, an Arkadelphia merchant who later moved to Little Rock and established the M. M. Cohn Company, a well known and highly respected specialty shop which is still in operation.

Mr. Cohn sold the residence to A. M. Crow in 1880. Crow was a native of Clark County, having been born there in 1833. During his business career, Crow was engaged in real estate. He served as agent for the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad, overseeing approximately 200,000 acres. Crow represented other companies as well, including Shattuck and Hoffman of New Orleans, Jarvis Conklin Mortgage Company of Kansas City, Little Rock Trust Company, and the Southern Trust Company of Memphis.

The Crow family occupied the house for some time, Fannie Crow, the daughter of A. M. Crow, married William Gerig in 1890. Gerig, the son of Swiss immigrants, was an outstanding engineer who worked on a navigation survey of the Mississippi River. He was also Division engineer in charge of the construction of one of the four segments of the Panama Canal.

In 1915, Gerig was consulting engineer during the digging of the New York Barge Canal. Following a stint as consulting engineer for the building of the Alaskan Railway between Seward and Fairbanks, the <u>Anchorage Daily Times</u> said of him, "Mr. Gerig leaves tomorrow for his home in the states. He has ingratiated himself in the hearts of our people. As a railroad builder his success is a matter of history and is enviable." Gerig and his wife acquired the Habicht-Cohn-Crow House 1932. They transferred ownership in 1937 to their daughter, Mildred Gerig Newberry and her husband, Jacob. In 1971, Mrs. Newberry willed the house to her children. The Wingfield family acquired the house in 1983.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

GPO 894-785

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WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

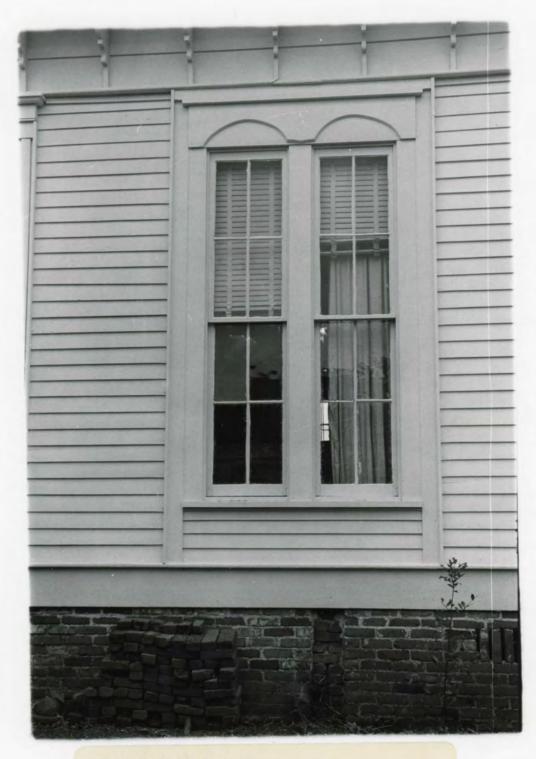
## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

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13. Other			
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duestions concerning the	is nomination may be directed to		
Signed	Date _		Phone:



Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Viewed from the West



Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Window Detail (south elevation)



Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984-- Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer 1900 Kitchen addition



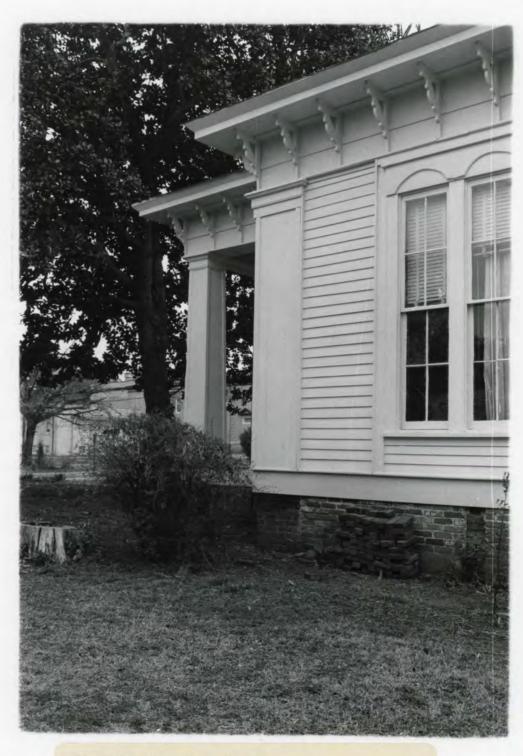
Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Rear elevation (east)



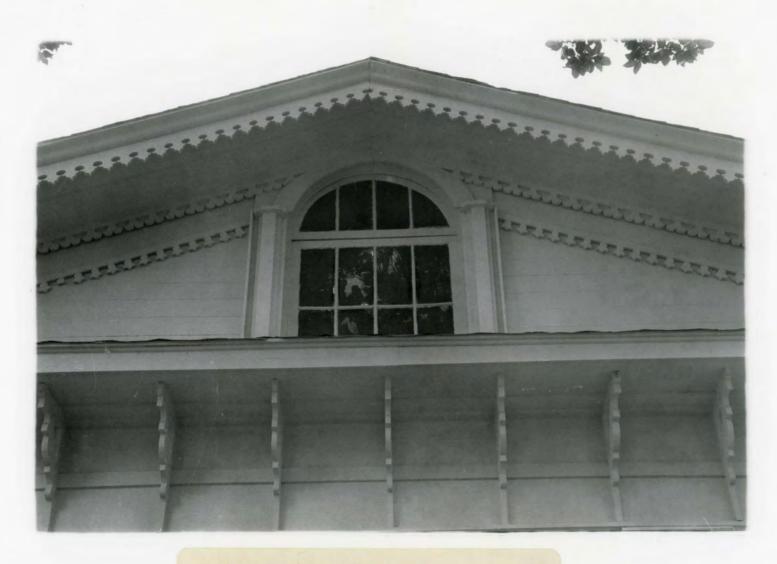
Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Bracket Detail



Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Viewed from Northwest



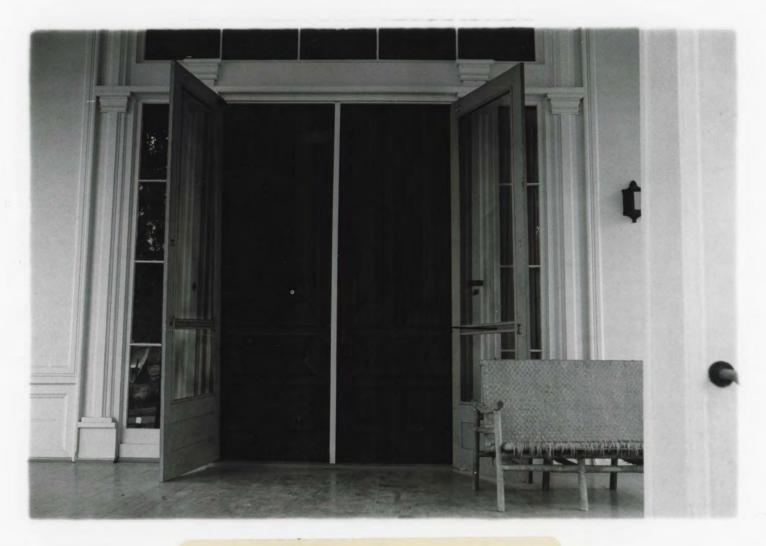
Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Viewed from the Southeast



Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Pediment Detail



Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Parlor mantel



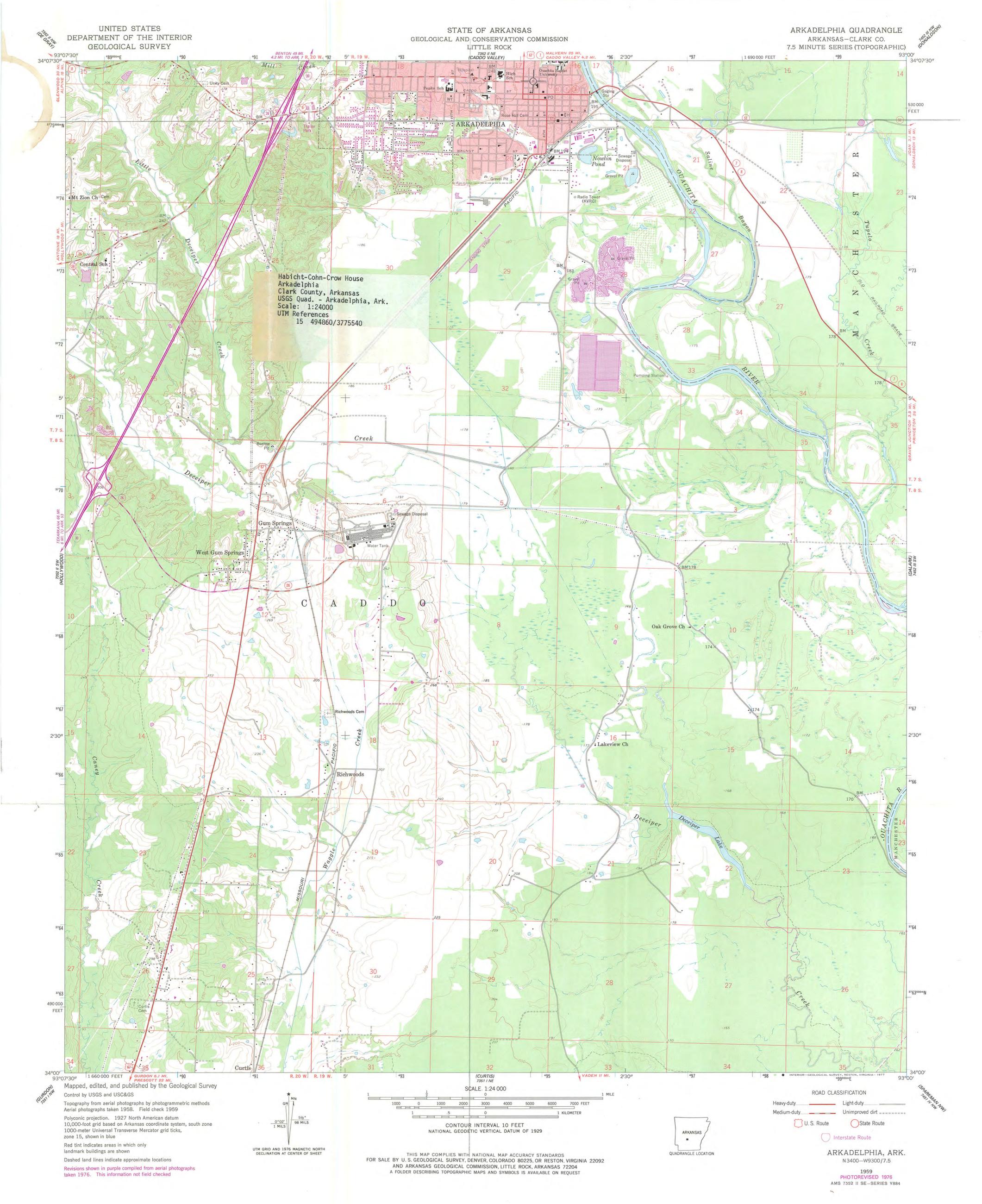
Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Doorway



Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984-- Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Mantel



Habicht-Cohn-Crow House Arkadelphia, Clark County Photographed in 1984--Negatives at AHPP Alice Jones, photographer Interior central hall





ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

August 23, 1985

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Habicht-Cohn-Crow House

Arkadelphia, AR Clark County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Habicht-Cohn-Crow House. 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,

Wilson Stiles

State Historic Preservation Officer

Monshil

WS/AJ/ss

Enclosure/s



Suite 200 • Heritage Center • 225 East Markham • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 • Phone (501) 371-2763