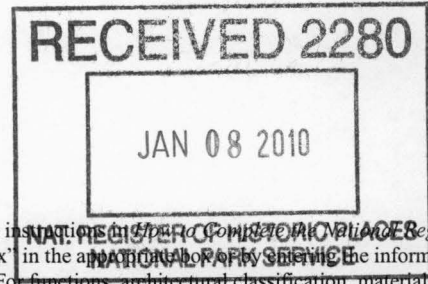


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

0900772



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. If 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 Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District

other names/site number CS0050, CS0052-CS0054, CS0056

2. Location

street & number Corner of W. Merriman Ave. & Martin Luther King Dr.

☐ not for publication

city or town Wynne

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Cross code 037 zip code 72396

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.)

Catherine M. Smith Signature of certifying official/Title

12/30/09 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:) _____

James S. Galt Signature of the Keeper

1/25/2010 Date of Action

Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic
District

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

3

1

buildings

sites

1

structures

objects

4

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/waterworks

COMMERCE/warehouse

AGRICULTURE/processing

COMMERCE/specialty store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/waterworks

VACANT/NOT IN USE

COMMERCE/warehouse

WORK IN PROGRESS

COMMERCE/business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

OTHER: water tower

OTHER: cotton gin

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, CONCRETE

walls BRICK, CONCRETE, STUCCO, METAL

roof METAL, COMPOSITION SHINGLE, TAR BUILT-
UP

other

Narrative Description

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

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Summary

The City of Wynne developed around the intersection of the Memphis and Helena branches of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad. These railroad lines provided transportation both east-west and north-south. Naturally, the commercial areas of Wynne were situated around the railroad track crossing. Retail businesses were constructed southeast of the track intersection along Front Street, which runs parallel to the north-south Helena branch. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Freight Depot was located southwest of the track intersection, and a wholesale commercial area quickly developed near the freight depot just across the tracks from the retail center of Wynne. The Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District consists of five resources, four of which (80%) are contributing to the historic significance of the district. The district includes the Wynne Municipal Waterworks, the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company Building, the R. J. Jackson Gin Company cotton gin, the Sharp Floral Building, and the Wynne Ice & Coal Company Ice House. The ice house is the only non-contributing building in the district boundary.

Elaboration

The City of Wynne developed around the intersection of the Memphis and Helena branches of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad. These railroad lines provided transportation both east-west and north-south. Naturally, the commercial areas of Wynne were situated around the railroad track crossing. Retail businesses were constructed southeast of the track intersection along Front Street, which runs parallel to the north-south Helena branch. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad Freight Depot was located southwest of the track intersection, and a wholesale commercial area quickly developed near the freight depot just across the tracks from the retail center of Wynne. The Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District consists of five resources, four of which (80%) are contributing to the historic significance of the district. The district includes the Wynne Municipal Waterworks, the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company Building, the R. J. Jackson Gin Company cotton gin, the Sharp Floral Building, and the Wynne Ice & Coal Company Ice House. The ice house is the only non-contributing building in the district boundary.

Wynne Municipal Waterworks

The current waterworks building, which was constructed sometime between 1904 and 1908 with a pump room and a boiler room, was altered sometime between 1945 and 1951. The rear boiler room was removed, leaving the firewall that had previously separated the two rooms as the rear wall of the building. The front pump room is what remains today. The one-story building has a simple rectangular plan with a gable roof. Two metal vents are centered along the ridge of the roof. A stepped parapet adorns both the front and back elevations. The building rests on a continuous cast concrete foundation, and the walls are covered in stucco. The building's eastern or front elevation is divided into two bays. The southern bay is fenestrated by a solid metal door and an eight-pane metal casement window. The window's four-pane transom has been replaced

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with a louvered vent. The northern bay features a metal roll-up door, which appears to have replaced an older door which moved side-to-side on a track above the door opening. The building's southern or side elevation has one solid metal door located in the center, and one eight-pane metal casement window with a four-pane transom is situated on either side of the central door. A small louvered vent is located near the foundation on the western end of this elevation. A shed addition was constructed on the building's western or rear elevation. It is made out of metal and has a roll-up door on its northern side. However, the addition does not detract from the historic integrity of the building because it is constructed below the stepped parapet on the western elevation. The northern or side elevation features one pair of eight-pane metal casement windows with four-pane transoms as well as another small metal shed addition. This addition is only along half of the northern elevation, and it is open on its eastern side to provide easy access to replacement pipes.

The water tower was constructed sometime between 1919 and the mid-1930s to replace a 1908 tank; no manufacturer information exists on the tower. The water tower stands on four steel lattice support columns that slope inward as the columns rise. Steel lattice box beams provide horizontal strength between the legs. Additional support is given by the attachment of diagonal steel rod bracing at the junctions of the legs and cross beams. Water was conveyed to and from the tank by a large-diameter pipe through the center of the tower. The City of Wynne currently uses the water tower as a back-up water system. The water tank itself is a Horton-style tank with a hemispherical bottom and cone-shaped top.¹ It is 100 feet tall and has a capacity of 100,000 gallons. There is a metal walkway around the diameter of the tank. Access to the metal walkway is by way of a metal ladder. The tank was fashioned of steel plates, each welded together. Although in need of new paint, the water tank serves as a visual landmark in downtown Wynne.

A small one-room brick building with a hipped roof was constructed just to the east of the water tower about 1955 to serve as storage. It is fenestrated by a half-light metal door on its front or northern façade. The eastern and western elevations are each punctuated by one one-over-one double-hung window.

During the period between 1919 and 1945, several ancillary structures were built to the south of the water tower, including a settling basin, 110,000-gallon reservoir, and a small storage building. Since 1951, a new concrete water reservoir was constructed to replace the first reservoir, and two metal buildings were erected to house offices for employees of the City of Wynne's Public Works Department.² However, the waterworks complex is still used by the city (as a work station and back-up water system), and the newer structures do not detract from the historic integrity of the water tower, waterworks building, and ancillary storage building.

¹ The Horton-style tank was first developed by George T. Horton in 1894. George was the eldest son of Horace E. Horton, who founded the Chicago Bridge & Iron Company in 1889. The Horton-style tank was the first constructed with a hemispherical bottom, which eliminated the need for a complex tank deck.

CB&I, "History," Internet; accessed 17 June 2009, available from <http://www.cbi.com/about/history.aspx>.

² Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1945 & 1951 maps.

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Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company Building

The Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company Building was constructed about 1917 to replace a previous building which was destroyed by fire that same year. With its irregularly-shaped, five-sided form, the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company Building is a good example of railroad-era architecture. It was constructed to fit on a small lot between Lafayette Avenue (now West Merriman Avenue) and the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad tracks as they curved northwest toward Bald Knob. After the building was completed, a railroad spur was extended along the northern elevation and ran only a few feet from the building's wall. The red brick building features common bond (or American bond) brickwork, which looks like running bond brickwork with every sixth course replaced with a row of headers. This brick pattern is known for being very strong, and this building needed to be well-built because of its proximity to the train, the strain of loading docks, and the weight of bulk groceries. The three corners of the building forming obtuse angles each feature decorative zipper brickwork.

The building rests on a continuous concrete foundation and has a flat roof with a tile-capped parapet. A row of headers directly above a row of stretchers forms a decorative stringcourse on the building's upper façade. The building has a partially-visible basement, and the main floor is about four feet above ground level to accommodate train and truck unloading at the dock areas. The building also has a second story. The floors were made of unfinished wood and supported by massive wooden beams on large wood columns.

The windows feature a segmental arch shape at the top, and the basement and first story windows each have three rows of headers arranged above them to form a decorative surround. The second story windows have decorative surrounds formed by two rows of headers. The eastern elevation or front of the building is fenestrated by a central door with a one-over-one double-hung window on either side. The upper story has one three-pane hopper window. This façade was the main entrance, so the front door is accessed by a series of wooden steps. A small wood and corrugated metal awning above the front door provides a minimal amount of shelter. The northeastern elevation, which faced the railroad spur (the spur was removed in the early 1980s, but the main lines are still extant), features a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows, a three-pane hopper window, and a pair of double doors on the main level. Three evenly-spaced three-pane hopper windows adorn the upper level of this elevation, and two partially-visible basement windows have been bricked-in.³ "Wynne Wholesale Grocer Co." was painted in white letters along the upper façade on this side of the building. The double doors served as a loading dock for railroad cars. A large steel plate, which required two men to lift into place, was laid between the building and the boxcar to allow for the transfer of goods.⁴

³ The basement windows were bricked-in sometime in the 1970s.

O'Neal Taylor, interview by author.

⁴ Marlin Call, interview by author.

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The northwestern elevation is fenestrated by three boarded three-pane hopper windows, and the western elevation is punctuated by four three-pane hopper windows. An irregularly-shaped concrete block addition with a shed roof was attached to the lower portion of the northwestern and western elevations in the late 1960s. This addition provided an extra loading dock facing the railroad spur and another one for trucks on the building's west side. The building's southern elevation, which faces West Merriman Avenue, features (going from west to east along this elevation) two three-pane hopper windows, a wide wooden door, three three-pane hopper windows, and two one-over-one double-hung windows on its main level. The upper level is fenestrated by eight three-pane hopper windows, most of which are missing their muntins and panes. Seven partially-visible basement windows have been bricked-in on this elevation as well. The large wooden door served as a loading dock for trucks. A small wooden bumper was constructed just below floor level so trucks could back up against it. The support beams for a small corrugated metal awning remain above the loading area.

R. J. Jackson Gin Company Cotton Gin

The R. J. Jackson Gin Company cotton gin was built around 1940 and served as one of only two cotton gins in the Wynne city limits.⁵ It is now the only remaining cotton gin inside the city limits. A small office building was located at the southeast corner of the gin lot, and two seed houses were connected to the north side of the gin via metal conveyors. These resources are no longer extant. None of the gin's equipment remains on the interior. The building is currently used as storage for large construction machinery.⁶

The side-gabled gin is of steel-frame construction and clad in corrugated sheet metal. It rests on a continuous concrete foundation. A shed porch spans the length of the gin's southern or front elevation, and a cross-gabled porch is situated just to the east of center on this elevation. Below the porch, the gin is fenestrated by one solid metal door, a set of corrugated metal double doors, and a large metal sliding door on a runner. At least four stationary four-pane windows have been covered by metal material on the lower portion of this elevation. Above the porch on this elevation are five evenly-spaced stationary four-pane windows, all of which are covered with sheet metal except one.

The eastern or side elevation of the gin also features a full shed porch. A three-foot cotton platform was once located on this side of the gin, thus the large corrugated metal door about three feet off the ground centered under the porch. One stationary four-pane window is located above the porch, but it has been covered with sheet metal.

⁵ The Merchants-Farmers Gin Company was located on Commercial Avenue on the east side of the railroad tracks. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1945 map.

⁶ O'Neal Taylor, interview by author; James Cathey, interview by author, 16 June 2009, Wynne, Arkansas.

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The northern or rear elevation has a projecting cross-gabled wing with a square-shaped opening on its upper façade (the opening has been covered with metal). A roll-up door also fenestrates this elevation. Several round openings are visible on the façade, but they have since been covered with sheet metal. They were probably openings for the metal conveyors leading from this side of the gin to the seed houses nearby. The western or side elevation of the gin is void of fenestration.

Sharp Floral Building

The Sharp Floral Building was constructed sometime between 1945 and 1951 to house a wholesale flower business. The one-story brick building is laid out in an "L-shaped" plan. The main portion of the building has a front-facing gable roof bounded by a stepped parapet on the front (south) and rear (north) elevations. A flat-roofed projection extends to the west and accommodated flower delivery vehicles. The building rests on a continuous brick foundation. The building's front or southern façade features a solid metal door with a single-pane transom window. Just to the west of the door is a large plate glass window with green glass panes situated above it. This entry area with the door and plate glass window is recessed and covered with a white metal awning. Just to the west of the recessed entry is a 28-pane metal casement window.⁷ The flat-roofed wing is fenestrated by a roll-up door.

The western or side elevation features one 28-pane metal casement window and a solid metal door on the wing portion. The remaining portion of the western elevation to the north of the wing is fenestrated by three 12-pane stationary windows and one solid metal door.

The building's rear or northern elevation is punctuated by a single 28-pane metal casement window.

The eastern or side elevation is fenestrated by four 28-pane metal casement windows and one solid metal door.

Wynne Ice & Coal Company Ice House

The Wynne Ice & Coal Company Ice House, constructed about 1930, is all that remains from the ice company complex, which originally consisted of an ice plant with freezing tanks and an ice machine, an ice house, a large loading dock, a water tower, a power house, and several ancillary structures. The Wynne Ice & Coal Company Ice House is a non-contributing resource because it was originally about 40' tall, and it has been shortened to around 16' in height within the last twenty years. When the building was shortened, a new front-facing gable metal roof was added. A metal shed addition was also constructed on the building's

⁷ All of the windows are partially boarded to prevent vandalism while the building is undergoing renovations.

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southern elevation. The building is laid out in a simple rectangular plan and rests on a continuous concrete foundation. Its red brick walls are void of fenestration on all sides except the eastern or front elevation, which is fenestrated by a large roll-up door and a smaller solid metal door. Brick pilasters are evenly spaced along each elevation. The shed addition is fenestrated by a roll-up door on its eastern and southern elevations and a solid metal door on its western or rear elevation.⁸

Integrity

The Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District retains good integrity and remains the most intact, cohesive example of Wynne's early wholesale commercial development near the intersection of the north-south and east-west branches of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad. The area remains viable today as the Wynne Municipal Waterworks is still used by the city's Public Works Department, and the Wynne Ice & Coal Company Ice House and R. J. Jackson Gin Company cotton gin jointly house a local construction company. The Sharp Floral Building is currently undergoing renovations. The proximity of these resources to the railroad intersection and the downtown area serves as an indicator of their importance to the local economy in a time when railroads were the primary mode of transportation. Today, Wynne's commercial area is removed from downtown and located near major highways, reflecting a dependence on automobiles for the transportation of goods. Although it no longer stops, the Union Pacific Railroad (formerly the Missouri Pacific) still runs through Wynne today, serving as a reminder of a bygone era when commerce revolved around the railroad.

⁸ James Cathey, interview by author; Syble Brawner, interview by author; Bridget Hart, interview by author.

Wynne Wholesale Commercial
Historic District

Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

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<u>Resource #</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Current Occupant/Historic Occupant</u>	<u>Map ID #</u>	<u>C or NC</u>
CS0054	102 First St.	Waterworks/Waterworks	1	C
CS0052	308 W. Merriman Ave.	Unoccupied/Wholesale Grocer	2	C
CS0053	312 W. Merriman Ave.	J. Cathey & Son, Inc./Cotton Gin	3	C
CS0050	400 W. Merriman Ave.	Unoccupied/Wholesale Florist	4	C
CS0056	101 Second St.	J. Cathey & Son, Inc./Ice House	5	NC

Chart Reference: C—Contributing NC—Non-contributing

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B.** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c. 1905-1959

Significant Dates

c. 1905-1959

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

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Summary

The Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the wholesale commercial development of Wynne. The City of Wynne developed around the intersection of the Helena and Memphis branches of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad, which provided transportation to markets in all four directions. Wynne grew rapidly around the turn of the twentieth century as retail and wholesale commercial buildings were constructed close to the railroad intersection. Wynne grew so quickly that residents voted in 1903 to move the county seat of Cross County from Vanndale to Wynne, where it remains today.

Elaboration

Cross County was one of two counties created by Arkansas's Confederate Legislature in November 1862.¹ Cross County is located in northeast Arkansas and was formed from parts of St. Francis, Poinsett, and Crittenden counties. Crowley's Ridge runs through the middle of Cross County, dividing it into three distinct geographic regions. In Cross County, Crowley's Ridge rises about 75 to 100 feet above the surrounding Mississippi Alluvial Plain. The area east of Crowley's Ridge is drained by the St. Francis River, while the area west of the ridge is drained by the L'Anguille River. Agriculture dominates the county economy, with the lowland soil ideal for growing cotton, soybeans, rice, wheat, milo, and corn.²

Cross County was named after Colonel David C. Cross, who led the Fifth Arkansas Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Col. Cross had a home in southern Poinsett County, which is now northern Cross County. He returned home from the war in 1862 to lobby for the creation of a new county. Cross and his allies slipped past enemy Union troops and went to Little Rock, where they persuaded the legislature to establish Cross County.³ Wittsburg was designated the temporary county seat of Cross County, but it was not recognized as such because Union troops occupied the area. Pineville was chosen as the next county seat in 1863, and the first county clerk, Dr. Burley D. McClaren, lived there, so his house was used to conduct county business. In the spring of 1865, county commissioners selected Cleburne as the next county seat. Cleburne was named

¹ Cross County was established on November 15, 1862, and Woodruff County was created on November 26, 1862. Woodruff County had to be reapproved in 1865 following the upheaval of the Civil War.

Barnett, "Woodruff County," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.

² Seabaugh, "Wynne," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture; *The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited*, 3.

³ Col. Cross would eventually own 85,000 acres of land, making him the most extensive landholder in the county. He relocated to Memphis and later died in August 1874 while visiting Cross County. He was buried in the family cemetery of fellow former Confederate William Percy Wilkins.

The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited, 3.

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after Col. Cross's fallen commander, General Patrick R. Cleburne of Helena. Col. Cross donated land in the center of the town for the construction of a courthouse, and his home in Cleburne was used as the temporary courthouse (because Col. Cross had moved to Memphis).⁴

The county seat was moved again in 1868 to Wittsburg, a thriving town on the banks of the St. Francis River in eastern Cross County. However, when the north-south Helena branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad was completed through the center of Cross County in 1882, Wittsburg declined as the railroad replaced the steamboat as the major form of transportation. Many people relocated to Vanndale, a community located on the railroad. Vanndale was named after a local merchant, John M. Vann. In 1884, the county seat was moved to Vanndale, and a courthouse was erected there in 1888. Meanwhile, it appeared as if the east-west Memphis branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad would come through Wittsburg, possibly providing another shot of life for their town; however, a natural gap in Crowley's Ridge to the north of Wittsburg proved the most economical route for the railroad. The Memphis branch would eventually make its way through the small community of Wynne in 1886.⁵

Wynne can actually trace its history back to 1882 when the Helena branch of the railroad was completed. A train derailed almost due west of then-county seat Wittsburg, leaving behind a boxcar. The boxcar was turned upright, and the site was called "Wynne Station" in honor of Civil War veteran and prominent Forrest City banker Captain Jesse Watkins Wynne. However, the small community experienced rapid growth after 1886, when the Memphis branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad crossed the Helena branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad at Wynne. Wynne was incorporated on May 28, 1888, and the county seat was moved in 1903 about six miles south from Vanndale to Wynne, where it remains today.⁶

Wynne had a population of about 400 people when it was incorporated in 1888; however, by 1890, the population had more than doubled to 1,000. *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* ranked it "among the first of Eastern Arkansas towns" in "commercial importance" in 1890.⁷ As early as 1897, commercial buildings lined Front Street, which runs to the east of, and parallel to, the north-south railroad tracks. The town was situated primarily to the southeast of the railroad intersection

⁴ A courthouse was never constructed at Cleburne.

The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited, 3; James, "Cross County History," unpublished document available at the Cross County Historical Society Museum; *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 322-323.

⁵ *The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited*, 4; James, "Cross County History," unpublished document available at the Cross County Historical Society Museum.

⁶ *The Wynne Progress, Cross County Revisited*, 4; James, "Cross County History," unpublished document available at the Cross County Historical Society Museum.

⁷ *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 326.

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in the early years. Wynne was home to large industries like the Kennedy-Murelock Stave Company and the Wynne Sawmill Company in addition to a host of commercial enterprises concentrated along Front Street between Levesque and Commercial Avenue. However, a fire in September 1897 destroyed over two-thirds of the downtown businesses, amounting to over \$200,000 in damages. The area was quickly rebuilt with more substantial structures, and the town continued to grow.⁸

A promotional brochure published in 1904 by the owner of the Wynne Telephone Exchange, T. A. Bedford, Jr., listed the businesses in Wynne: "one large tight-barrel stave factory; one furniture factory; one large spoke factory; one large hoop factory; two saw mills; one planing mill; one Blacksmith shop; two lumber dealers...; one wholesale hardwood lumber company; one bottling factory; three cotton gins...; two brick hotels, and three other hotels; one wholesale grocery store; forty-five retail business houses...[and] two newspapers."⁹ Wynne also had its own Electric Light and Water Plant as early as 1904 on the same site as the current Wynne Municipal Waterworks. According to Bedford, it was "probably the best equipped in the State" and "lights and water are probably cheaper here than anywhere else in the State, being sold to its subscribers at cost."¹⁰

Cross County (and much of the Arkansas Delta, for that matter) was once covered by vast forests of hardwood timber. Sawmills, stave mills, and associated timber industries operated near the junction of the rail lines at Wynne in order to easily ship their goods. However, "cut out and get out" practices quickly depleted the Delta forests, clearing much of the land for farming.¹¹ In addition to timberlands, much of the county was situated on fertile soil ideal for growing a variety of crops. The lowlands were predominantly planted in cotton in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and as many as three cotton gins were located in the city limits of Wynne from 1903 to 1908. Two gins continued to operate inside the city limits until at least 1951, and Wynne was also home to a large cotton compress and warehouse during those years.¹²

After reaching their lowest post-Civil War levels in 1899, cotton prices rebounded due to World War I and the increased demand for food and fiber. These artificially high prices enticed many people to invest in cotton farming operations, but by the 1920s, the market was flooded and prices were falling. Farmers lost

⁸ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1897 map; *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 326.

⁹ Bedford, "An Opportunity of a Lifetime," 7.

¹⁰ Bedford, "An Opportunity of a Lifetime," 7.

¹¹ Timber companies practiced the "cut out and get out" technique until at least the 1920s, quickly depleting much of the state's hardwood forests. This technique involved purchasing a parcel of land, cutting the trees, processing them, shipping them, and then moving on to another parcel of land.

George W. Balogh, "Timber Industry," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*; Internet, accessed 19 June 2009, available from <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=2143>.

¹² Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1897, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1919, 1945 & 1951 maps.

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their land and were forced to return to sharecropping. The Flood of 1927 further devastated Arkansas's Delta farmers, and the onset of the Great Depression further impacted agriculture in the state. In response to the declining cotton market and the Great Depression, the federal government enacted the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933 in order to establish acreage controls on certain surplus crops in hopes of increasing market prices. Acreage controls on cotton naturally reduced the amount of cotton ginned at local gins, putting a strain on gin operators. Because farmers were forced to reduce their cotton acreage, they turned to rice and soybeans, foreshadowing a change in growing preferences that would signal the end of an era when cotton was king. In addition, the severe drought of 1930-31 caused many of Arkansas's hill farmers to migrate to the Delta in search of work on large farming operations. Some of these newcomers farmed land that traditional Delta farmers deemed undesirable, but they made a profit by planting rice and soybeans, which grew in marginal-quality soil. Beginning in the 1940s, rice and soybeans returned a higher price per acre than cotton, making them the mainstay crop on most Delta farms. The federal government's Farm Bill of 1956 provided subsidies to farmers reducing their cotton acreage, further contributing to the increase in rice and soybean production.¹³

Crowley's Ridge was formed during the most recent glacial advance when the Mississippi River ran west of its current course, and the Ohio River ran along the current path of the Mississippi. These two bodies of water carved out a ridge over 150 miles long, stretching from Missouri to Helena-West Helena. The rivers deposited sand and gravel along the top of the ridge, and the lower portion of the ridge is covered in loess, which was blown up from the Mississippi Alluvial Plain 20,000 to 30,000 years ago.¹⁴ The sandy soil on Crowley's Ridge, along with the ridge's slightly higher elevation, made it ideal for growing a variety of fruits, particularly peaches.¹⁵ Because Wynne is located near the western slope of Crowley's Ridge, the town became a major shipping hub for area fruit growers.

The development of commerce in Wynne was, and continues to be, a reflection of the area's agricultural economy. For instance, there were two lumber companies in Wynne in 1951, but the stave mills, hoop factories, and other timber-related industries were gone due to the depletion of the hardwood forests.¹⁶ As

¹³ Laurie E. Jasinski, "Texas Cotton Acreage Control Law of 1931-32," The Handbook of Texas Online; Internet, accessed 19 June 2009, available from <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/TT/mltpc.html>; C. Fred Williams, "Agriculture," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture; Internet, accessed 19 June 2009, available from <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=385>; Gilbert C. Fite, "Agricultural Adjustment Act," Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture; Internet, accessed 19 June 2009, available from <http://digital.library.okstate.edu/encyclopedia/entries/A/AG002.html>.

¹⁴ Thomas Foti, "Geography and Geology," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture; Internet, accessed 19 June 2009, available from <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=401>.

¹⁵ Peach trees flourish in light, sandy soil, and the higher elevation lessens the impact of frosts. Jackson, "Peach Industry," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.

¹⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1951 map.

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stated previously, two cotton gins operated in Wynne as late as 1951, but they closed by the late 1950s due to a combination of factors resulting in the decline of cotton as a cash crop. Gibbs-Harris Rice Dryer, Inc., the first rice dryer in Wynne, was constructed between 1945 and 1951, indicating a shift to rice farming.¹⁷ Likewise, the resources located within the historic district boundary were a function of their time period.

By 1903, the area west of the north-south railroad was platted as Brookfield's Northwest Addition, and the area immediately southwest of the railroad intersection was platted by 1908 as Raphaelsky's Southern Division. Research indicates that this addition was platted by a successful merchant from Vanndale named Raphael Block. Block operated a general mercantile business in Wittsburg before relocating to Vanndale in 1887. Although *Goodspeed* does not mention it, Block likely moved his business interests to Wynne after it became the center of commerce in Cross County.¹⁸ Raphaelsky's Southern Division was situated around Franklin Square, which was located across Lafayette Avenue (now West Merriman Avenue) between Second and Third streets. Between 1945 and 1951, Lafayette Avenue was extended through the center of Franklin Square. This southwest corner quickly developed as a wholesale commercial area with up to three railroad spurs extended to businesses along the curve of the tracks.¹⁹

The 1897 Sanborn map described the water facilities in Wynne as "not good."²⁰ In fact, the area west of the railroad tracks was not even included on the map. However, by 1903, water facilities had been constructed on the site of the current Wynne Municipal Waterworks at the southwest corner of West Merriman Avenue and Martin Luther King Drive. According to the 1903 Sanborn map, the waterworks consisted of a 50-foot water tower with a 52,000-gallon capacity. The water tower was supplied by two 100-foot wells with deep well pumps.²¹ A 1904 brochure promoting the sale of real estate in Wynne featured a photo of the Electric Light and Water Plant, describing it as "probably the best equipped in the State."²² The photo shows the water tower adjacent to a one-story building with a hipped roof and a cupola. A tall smokestack is also visible. The city owned and operated the plant, and sold water and power to residents at cost. According to the brochure, the population of Wynne was about 1,630 in 1900, and at the printing date in 1904, it had already increased to over 3,200.²³ In order to accommodate this rapid population increase, a new waterworks was constructed by 1908 on the same site, boasting a 90-foot tank with a 60,000-gallon capacity. The Sanborn map shows a roughly 12' x 24' building with two rooms, one of which housed the boilers for

¹⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1945 & 1951 maps.

¹⁸ *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 339-340.

¹⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1897, 1903, 1908, 1913, 1919, 1945 & 1951 maps.

²⁰ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne, Cross County, Arkansas," 1897 map.

²¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1903 map.

²² T. A. Bedford, Jr., "An Opportunity of a Lifetime," brochure (Memphis: S. F. Toof & Co., 1904), 6.

²³ Bedford, "Opportunity of a Lifetime," 5.

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generating electricity by burning coal to create steam, next to the water tower. The other room housed two wells and the pumps.²⁴

Sometime between 1919 and the mid-1930s, the current 100-foot and 100,000-gallon tank was built to replace the previous one. The current waterworks building, which was constructed sometime between 1904 and 1908 with a pump room and a boiler room, was altered sometime between 1945 and 1951. The rear boiler room was removed, leaving the firewall that had previously separated the two rooms as the rear wall of the building. The front pump room is what remains today. The name of the complex also changed during that time period from the Arkansas Power & Light Company to the Wynne Municipal Waterworks.²⁵

As mentioned above, the current Wynne Municipal Waterworks Building was built between 1904 and 1908. The current building consists of the front room, which housed two wells and pumps. Water was pumped into a pipe leading to the water tower. From there, water was sent out to pipes in the street. The water tower was constructed sometime between 1919 and the mid-1930s; no manufacturer information exists on the tower. During the period between 1919 and 1945, several ancillary structures were built to the south of the water tower, including a settling basin, 110,000-gallon reservoir, and a small storage building. Since 1951, a new concrete water reservoir was constructed to replace the first reservoir, and two metal buildings were erected to house offices for employees of the City of Wynne's Public Works Department.²⁶ However, the waterworks complex is still used by the city (as a work station and back-up water system), and the newer structures do not detract from the historic integrity of the water tower, waterworks building, and ancillary storage building.

The Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company Building was constructed about 1917 to replace a previous building which was destroyed by fire that same year. The Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company was founded by C. S. Lemons and G. L. Gholston in 1913 in a nearby building and served as the only wholesale grocer in Cross County and one of the leading firms in northeast Arkansas. A local wholesale grocer business was essential because poor roads made it difficult to reach small towns far from the railroad. As an indicator of its importance to Wynne and the surrounding counties, the wholesale grocer company remained open until 1998.²⁷

With its irregularly-shaped, five-sided form, the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company Building is a good example of railroad-era architecture. It was constructed to fit on a small lot between Lafayette Avenue (now West Merriman Avenue) and the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad tracks as they curved

²⁴ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1908 map.

²⁵ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1919, 1945 & 1951 maps; Bridget Hart, interview by author.

²⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1945 & 1951 maps.

²⁷ Even during its last year of operation, the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company supplied stores within a 50-mile radius. Chowning, *History of Cross County, Arkansas, 1955*, 90; O'Neal Taylor, interview by author.

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northwest toward Bald Knob. After the building was completed, a railroad spur was extended along the northern elevation and ran only a few feet from the building's wall. The building has a partially-visible basement, and the main floor is about four feet above ground level to accommodate train and truck unloading at the dock areas. The building also has a second story. An 8' x 10' freight elevator was located slightly west of the center of the main floor, and it was hand-operated with a pulley system.²⁸ Heavy items like cases of canned goods were lowered to the basement floor for storage, while lighter items like paper products, cigarettes, and dry cereal were stored on the upper floor. The main floor was used to store produce that required no refrigeration, such as 100-pound bags of potatoes and 25-pound and 50-pound bags of onions. Large sacks of flour were also kept on the main level.²⁹

A small office was located on the east end of the main level and housed the manager and secretary. Neal H. Smith became the manager in 1940 after working as a company salesman for 18 years, and he remained the manager until at least 1955. Marie Cookston, who had been employed with the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company since 1917, still served as the secretary in 1955. In the next room, desks for the route salesmen were situated behind a long counter. The salesmen in 1955 were Robert Best, Jake Wiltshire, and Johnny Baus. Mr. Best also served as the bookkeeper. The warehouse foreman was George Russell. By 1955, the Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company had an annual payroll of \$65,000 and 14 employees. The company shipped its goods via the railroad and six large trucks, servicing stores in Cross, St. Francis, Lee, Woodruff, Crittenden, and Poinsett counties. The business operated five and one-half days each week with Saturday mornings reserved for in-town deliveries. The employees were paid every Saturday at noon, and the hourly wage in 1955 was \$1 per hour.³⁰

The R. J. Jackson Gin Company cotton gin was built around 1940 and served as one of only two cotton gins in the Wynne city limits.³¹ It is now the only remaining cotton gin inside the city limits. The gin was constructed on a lot bordering the east-west tracks of the Missouri Pacific Railroad (formerly the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern Railroad; it became Missouri Pacific in 1917). A single dwelling occupied this site prior to the gin's construction. By 1951, the gin complex was called Modern Gin, Inc. The cotton gin operated until the early 1960s when it became uneconomical for it to remain open as rice and soybeans had been claiming an increasing amount of acreage since the 1930s. A small office building was located at the southeast corner of the gin lot, and two seed houses were connected to the north side of the gin via metal

²⁸ The pulley-operated freight elevator was still in use as late as 1951, but by 1958, an electric freight elevator was installed.

²⁹ Marlin Call, interview by author, 8 June 2009.

³⁰ Chowning, *History of Cross County, Arkansas, 1955*, 90-91; O'Neal Taylor, interview by author; Marlin Call, interview by author.

³¹ The Merchants-Farmers Gin Company was located on Commercial Avenue on the east side of the railroad tracks. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1945 map.

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conveyors. These resources are no longer extant. None of the gin's equipment remains on the interior. The building is currently used as storage for large construction machinery.³²

As early as 1903, a public area called Franklin Square was platted across Lafayette Avenue (now W. Merriman Ave.) between Second and Third streets, forcing people to travel north or south of the square before continuing west on Lafayette Avenue. Franklin Square remained in that location until sometime between 1945 and 1951, when Lafayette Avenue was extended through the middle of the square. However, buildings were constructed on the square long before that time. Between 1908 and 1913, a general store was constructed at the northeast corner of Franklin Square and remained there until sometime between 1945 and 1951, when the Sharp Floral Building was constructed on the same site. The founders of Sharp Floral, Cecil and Nora Coffin, built their home about 1933 on the southwest corner of Franklin Square, which would be almost across the street from the Sharp Floral Building when Lafayette Avenue was extended through the square. The Coffins decided to use the name of Cecil's uncle, Maurice Sharp, instead of their own last name for their business because it "sounded better."³³

Cecil and Nora Coffin started their wholesale flower business in 1934 in the basement of their home at 120 Third Street in Wynne. They also used the old general store building that was formerly on the site of Sharp Floral to "grade" the gladiolas they harvested. "Grading" gladiolas involved gathering one dozen similarly-sized flowers, bundling them, and placing them in tall wooden crates for shipment on the train. The Coffins had four gladiola farms by the early 1940s, and they were the largest shippers of gladiolas in the United States. In fact, they had the first overhead irrigation systems in the area. The Coffins stopped operating gladiola farms in 1944 or 1945, but they continued in the flower business by operating a nursery and greenhouse until approximately thirty years ago. The Sharp Floral Building has remained vacant since that time, but it is currently being restored.³⁴

Sometime between 1903 and 1908, the Burke & Company Ice Factory was constructed near Ninth Street just south of the east-west railroad tracks. It would become the Copeland & Howell Ice Factory by 1913. Tennyson Howell and his family moved from their home in Marion to Wynne following the Mississippi River flood of 1913. Howell and his wife, Capitola Vara Willim Howell, purchased the Burke & Company Ice Factory from Mr. E. L. Burke. Nothing is known about the Copeland name. The company sold ice for boxcars shipping perishable goods and delivered ice for iceboxes. The business also sold coal to the railroad to power locomotives and to local residents who used coal to heat their homes. The name of the business changed to the Howell Ice & Fuel Company by 1919, but it remained in the same location. By 1945, the site on Ninth Street was occupied by the Wynne Wood Products Company. The Howell Ice & Fuel Company

³² O'Neal Taylor, interview by author; James Cathey, interview by author.

³³ Carol Lou Eldridge, interview by author.

³⁴ Carol Lou Eldridge, interview by author; John Streeter, interview by author.

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went bankrupt in 1928. Jack Fiscus purchased the business in 1928-29, changed the name to the Wynne Ice & Coal Company, and constructed a new facility on Second Street just south of the east-west railroad tracks, where the ice house remains today.³⁵

Between 1946 and 1951, Fiscus retired, and Hulan Bridges partnered with Vance Thompson to operate the Wynne Ice & Coal Company. Mr. Thompson lived in McCrory, so Mr. Bridges assumed most of the operation and management responsibilities. The company enjoyed a thriving business throughout the 1940s and early 1950s, shipping boxcars of ice (refrigerated cars), delivering ice for in-home iceboxes, and shipping mass quantities of peaches grown on nearby Crowley's Ridge.³⁶ There was only one ice and coal company operating in Wynne beginning with the original Burke & Company Ice Factory around the turn of the twentieth century; therefore, the Wynne Ice & Coal Company had the monopoly on local business. However, the business suffered considerably in the 1950s when railroads began the switch from steam-powered engines to diesel engines, eliminating their need for coal. In addition, railroads would soon begin using refrigerated cars powered by electric generators instead of packing boxcars with blocks of ice. Widespread use of the modern refrigerator (replacing the icebox) also contributed to the decline of the ice and coal company. The Wynne Ice & Coal Company was operating on a small scale in 1955, selling some ice and coal to the few people still using it in their homes. The company also started buying and selling soybeans. The Wynne Ice & Coal Company closed its doors between 1958 and 1961.³⁷

The Missouri Pacific Railroad stopped passenger service through Wynne in 1965, signaling the end of the railroad era and the final push toward the automobile age. The 1910 Missouri Pacific Passenger Depot was demolished in 1993. Although Wynne and Cross County still rely heavily on agriculture, a variety of modern industries have established locations in Wynne, including Addison Shoe Company, Carwell Elevator Company, Inc., Mueller Industries (manufacturers of copper and plastic tubing), McKnight Milling Company, Wynne Exhaust Distributors, and Fulbright & McNeill Incorporation (manufacturers of commercial and industrial machinery). Wynne's commercial area is now situated along major highways, serving as an indicator of our dependence on automobiles to transport people and freight.³⁸

³⁵ The Wynne Ice & Coal Company was constructed on the former site of the J. C. Mebane Cotton Gin, which had been there since at least 1908.

³⁶ Crowley's Ridge was ideal for growing peaches in eastern Arkansas because of its raised elevation and sandy soil. Jackson, "Peach Industry," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.

³⁷ Syble Brawner, interview by author; Bridget Hart, interview by author; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "Wynne," 1903, 1908, 1913, 1919, 1945, 1951 maps.

³⁸ Seabaugh, "Wynne," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.

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Statement of Significance

These buildings serve as a reminder of a time when the railroad served as the center of commerce. The district contains the only example of a mid-twentieth century cotton gin remaining inside the Wynne city limits. Three of the buildings in the district boundary housed some of the most profitable wholesale businesses in Wynne prior to 1950. The Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company supplied goods to the entire northeastern region of the state. Sharp Floral was the largest supplier of gladiolas in the United States throughout the 1940s. Although it is a non-contributing resource, the Wynne Ice & Coal Company Ice House was part of the only ice company in Wynne for about 25 years. For these reasons, the Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the wholesale commercial development of Wynne.

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Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic
District
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately five acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 700719 3900190
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rachel Silva, Preservation Outreach Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 12/11/09
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center St. telephone 501-324-9788
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

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 Multiple owners
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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.

Wynne Wholesale Commercial
Historic District
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

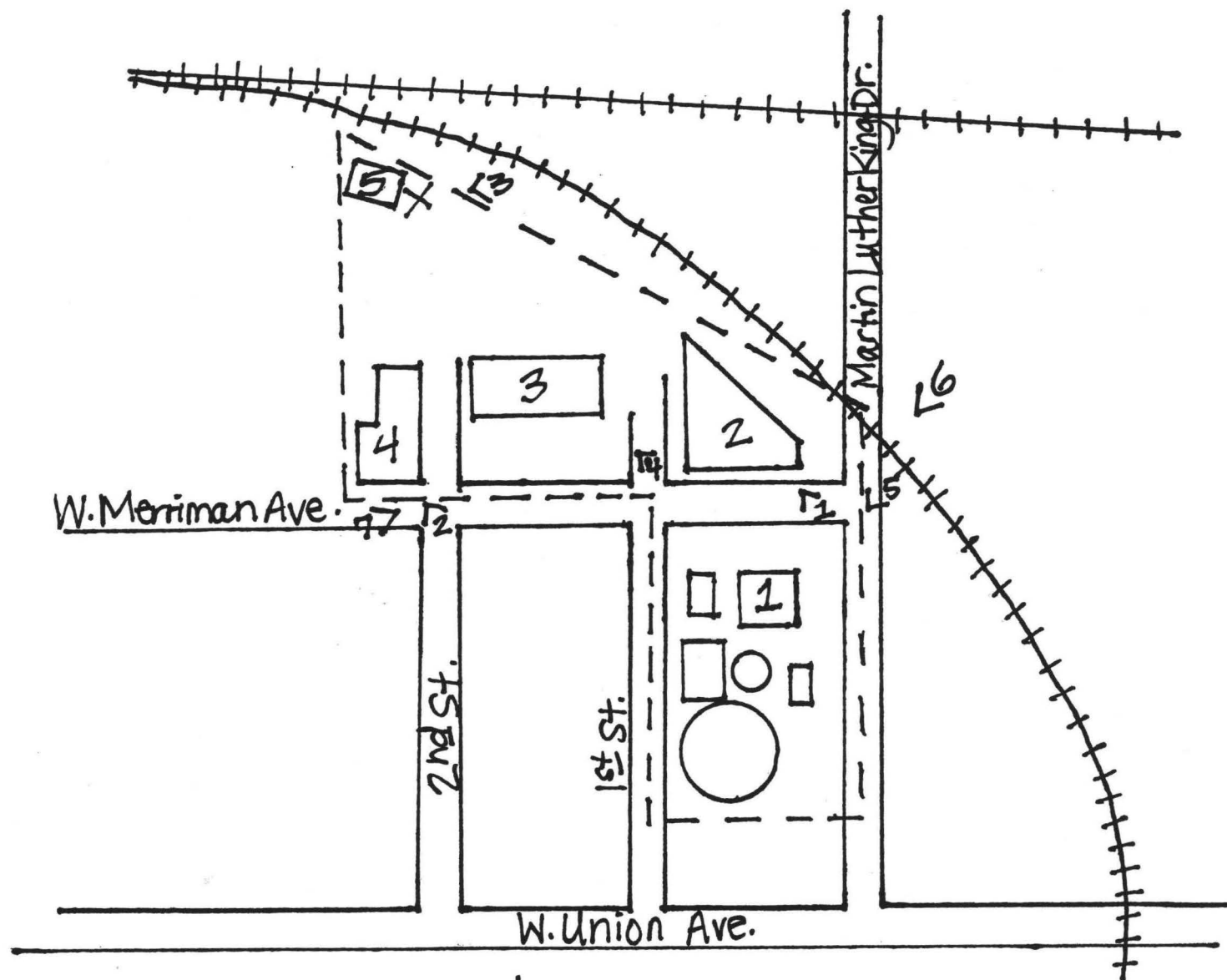
Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 1 Block 4, Block 5-6, Block 1, Northeast $\frac{1}{4}$ of Franklin Square, Raphaelsky's Southern Addition, City of Wynne.

Boundary Justification

The area included within the boundary of the Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District represents the most intact collection of wholesale commercial buildings associated with the early development of Wynne.



----- = District Boundary
 X = Non-contributing

Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District
 Wynne, Cross County, Arkansas



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Wynne Industrial Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Cross

DATE RECEIVED: 8/19/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/08/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/23/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/02/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000772

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ ACCEPT ___ RETURN ___ REJECT 10/1/2009 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See Attached

RECOM./CRITERIA Reborn

REVIEWER J. Gilbert

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.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Wynne Industrial Historic District, Cross County, AR

Reference Number: 09000772

Reason for Return

The Wynne Industrial Historic District appears to be eligible for listing in the National Register. The nomination is being returned for technical and substantive revision.

Technical issues:

The nomination uses a number of UTM coordinates to describe the Verbal Boundary Description. Please refer to the National Register bulletin *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, pages 56-58 for guidance. The best approach would be a metes and bounds description using identifiable points, or use lot and block for platted areas. Also, the form states that this district is approximately 1 acre. It appears larger to me. Please verify the acreage.

Substantive issues:

The nomination checks Criteria A and C, with areas of significance as Industry, Commerce, and Agriculture. Each of these area is typically found within Criterion A. The nomination does not support Criterion C as presented. Also, the areas of Industry and Agriculture are not supported. The presence of agricultural or industrial buildings does not necessarily suppose significance in those areas. The function of the gin, while related to agricultural industry, is more in line with the commercial aspect of the industry, as is function of the grocery wholesaler, the flower wholesaler, and the ice company. Because of the presence of the waterworks, the gin, and the ice plant,

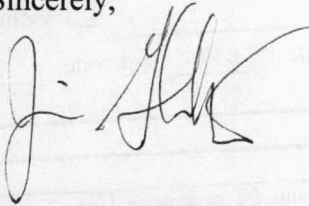
Property Name: Wynne Industrial Historic District, Cross County, AR
Reference Number: 09000772

industrial significance might be substantiated, if a broader explanation of the industrial capacity of the town were provided. What other industries were there? Where were they concentrated? Are they still extant?

Section 7 has too much information that is better suited to Section 8 (and is, in fact, repeated there). Section 7 is supposed to be a physical description of the property and its setting. It is not necessary to include context or background information in that section. It is also not necessary to repeat things in both sections 7 and 8.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at [<James_Gabbert@nps.gov>](mailto:James_Gabbert@nps.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gabbert', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jim Gabbert, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
10/01/2009

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 Wynne Industrial Historic District

other names/site number CS0050, CS0052-CS0054, CS0056

2. Location

street & number Corner of W. Merriman Ave. & Martin Luther King Dr.

☐ not for publication

city or town Wynne

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Cross

code 037

zip code 72396

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.)

Caldee Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/12/09
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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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:) _____

Recommendation: SLR Return

Action: SLR Return None

Documentation Issues-Discussion Sheet

State Name: AR County Name Cross Resource Name Wynne Industrial HD

Reference No. 772 Multiple Name _____

Solution:

[Handwritten signature]

Problem: - AR HD

- Nam-for C but architecture is not noted as area of sig

- Sec. 8 review please - it is scattered/unorganized + noted some text duplication (substantial) - examples incl. 7.2 "the 1897..." and on 8.5 and 7.7 "Between 1908 and 1913" and on 8.8

Resolution:

SLR: Yes No

Database Change:

- use UTM's as boundary points on verbal bound descrip.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Wynne Industrial Historic District

*Name will change to
"Wynne Wholesale Commercial Hist. Dist"*

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Cross

DATE RECEIVED: 1/08/10

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

2/22/10

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000772

DETAILED EVALUATION:

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 1/25/2010 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Resubmission addressed prior comments.

Name of Property to change, better reflecting its history and significance.

*Concentration of wholesale businesses related to town's growth as
a railroad crossroads & shipping point.*

RECOM./CRITERIA

Accept A

REVIEWER

J. Gabbard

DISCIPLINE

TELEPHONE

DATE

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



1. Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District
2. Cross County, Arkansas
3. Ralph Wilcox
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. Wynne Wholesale Grocer Company Building, facing northwest
7. #1



1. Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District
2. Cross County, Arkansas
3. Ralph Wilcox
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. Sharp Floral Building, facing northwest
7. #2



1. Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District
2. Cross County, Arkansas
3. Ralph Wilcox
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. Wynne Ice + Coal Company Ice House, facing west
7. #3



1. Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District
2. Cross County, Arkansas
3. Ralph Wilcox
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. R.J. Jackson Gin Company, facing northwest
7. #4



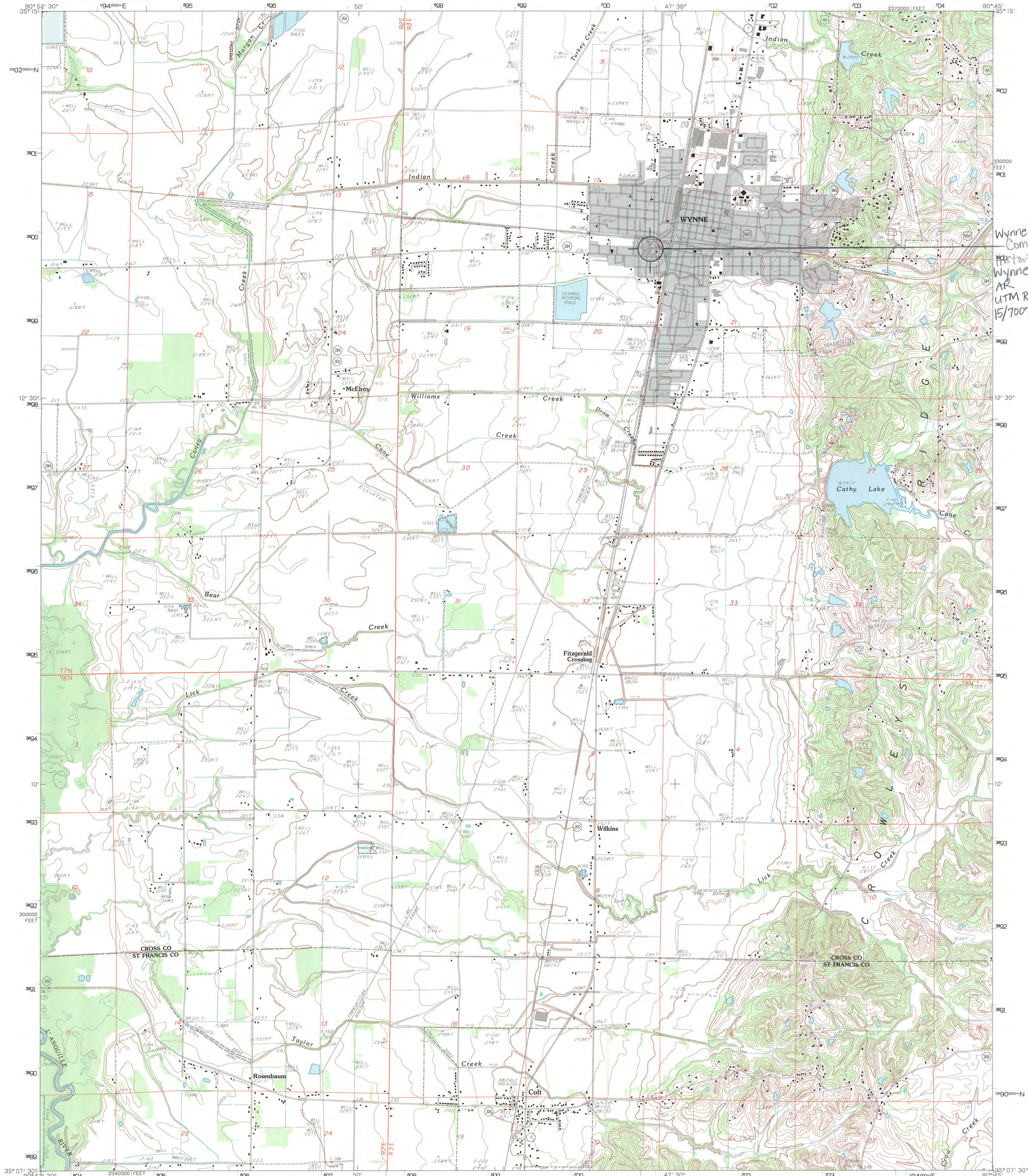
1. Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District
2. Cross County, Arkansas
3. Ralph Wilcox
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. Wynne Municipal Waterworks, facing southwest
7. #5



1. Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District
2. Cross County, Arkansas
3. Ralph Wilcox
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. Streetscape, facing southwest
7. #6



1. Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District
2. Cross County, Arkansas
3. Ralph Wilcox
4. February 2009
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR
6. Streetscape, facing northeast
7. #7



Wynne Wholesale
Commercial
Historic District
Wynne, Cross Co,
AR
UTM Reference:
15/700719/390000

PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY.....USGS AND NOS/NOAA
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN.....1979-80
FIELD CHECKED.....1982. MAP EDITED.....1984
PROJECTION.....LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR.....ZONE 15
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS.....ARKANSAS, NORTH ZONE
UTM GRID DECLINATION.....1.16° EAST
1992 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION.....2.00° EAST
VERTICAL DATUM.....NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM.....1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM (NAD 27)
The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal or State reservations shown on this map
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown
Photorevised from 1990 source; no major culture or drainage
changes observed. Boundaries revised and names verified 1992

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Information
shown as of date of
photography.

SCALE 1:24 000
MILES
KILOMETERS
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 AND 10 FEET
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 FOOT
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST FOOT
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

CONTOUR INTERVAL		QUADRANGLE LOCATION	
1	2	3	Central
4	5	6	Vandalia
7	8	9	Princeton
10	11	12	Hartman
13	14	15	Windsor
16	17	18	Hawkins
19	20	21	Forest City
22	23	24	Madison

ROAD LEGEND
Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

WYNNE, ARKANSAS
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1984
MINOR REVISION 1992

35090-B7-TF-024



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

1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: (501) 324-9811

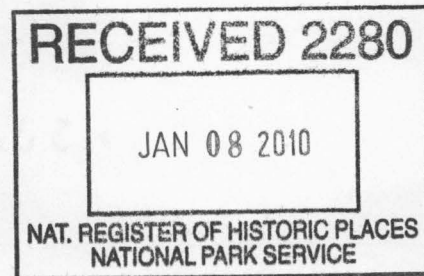
e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer



December 15, 2009

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: Wynne Wholesale Commercial Historic District – Wynne,
Cross County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced revised 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 Rachel Silva of my staff at (501) 324-9788. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rms

Enclosure