United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
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See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name		MAN CONTRACTOR	ns to allego byterati
historic Dabbs Store		ione Thursterneous	General all serves
and/or common	rear sometime state	tors two bonds. Jppl	Landston Films
2. Location	de legge de la composição	Santen fortuni	The introduction of
street & number 1320 South Avalon	ow film saft teators	<u>N</u>	/A not for publication
city, town West Memphis	N/A_ vicinity of	congressional district	First
state Arkansas coo	le 05 county	Crittenden	<b>code</b> 035
3. Classification	with its one secondary		oje vijadinjemena
Category districtpublicbuilding(s)structuresiteobjectin processbeing considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owner of Prope	rty	prison out to each	
name Pat K. & Nita H. Magruder	aues, che pui letini s		
street & number 1320 South Avalon	espace entryd begins		
city, town West Memphis	N/A vicinity of	state	Arkansas
5. Location of Leg	al Description	on	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cler	k's Office, Crittend	den County Courthou	se
street & number		- 1200 processos avel	
city, town Marion		state	Arkansas
6. Representation	in Existing	Surveys	
Arkansas Historic Preserva Hitle Program State Survey		perty been determined ele	egible? yes _X_ no
date 1981		federal X_ stat	e county local
depository for survey records Arkansa	s Historic Preservat	tion Program	
city, town Little Rock		state	Arkansas

# 7. Description

Condition X excellent	deteriorated	Check one	Check one X original site	
good	ruins	altered	moved date _	N/A
fair	unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY

Situated south of and isolated from the city's present commercial district, the Dabbs Store building reflects the history of West Memphis' (originally Hulbert) formative years. The brick two-and-one-half story with basement structure was erected on one of the few relatively high elevations on the mississippi flood plains. Facing the tracks of Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad lines from its location diagonally across from the site of a now demolished depot, Dabbs Store retains great integrity of its exterior and interior fabric. The exterior is distinguished by broad store-front windows, wood canopy, decorative multi-paned transom, and a prominent cornice. The interior is characterized by its original fine mill work and pressed tin ceiling.

#### ELABORATION

The asymmetrical principal (south) facade of Dabbs Store is composed of two storefront areas flanking a single entrance that leads to dwelling units upstairs. Access from street level is provided by two concrete stairs leading up to a concrete porch. One is symmetrically located in the front, while the secondary stair invites a western approach. Brick piers, capped with masonry copings, are positioned on the west and east ends of the porch as well as on either side of the principal stairway, subtly emphasizing the main approach to the store. The piers are conected by an iron porch rail.

The principal elevation's storefronts differ in the design of their entrances. A double-leaf entry of single lights over wood panels articulates the west storefront (originally the facade of Hulbert's first post office and general store). The doors are flanked by single paned display windows mounted on decorative wood panels. A single door, one-light-over wood panel, entrance penetrates the east storefront and its display windows are of the same design as those of the west storefront. The Dabbs Brother's dry goods business originally occupied the east section. A single one-light over wood panel door separates the two storefronts. A wood canopy shades the building's storefronts and porch. Transom windows, arranged to reflect the delineation of the storefronts below, appear above the canopy. These windows are characterized by the spoke-like mullions that radiate from the center of each pane.

A fenestration of six-over-one double-hung windows articulates the second floor apartments. Two pairs of windows flank two single openings. The simply-framed windows have stoned sills that interrupt the brick stringcourse that defines the second story. An identical stringcourse marks the attic story which is penetrated by two cast iron vents. These stringcourse enrich all of the building's facades. The principal elevation is capped by an overhanging dentiled cornice that wraps around to the east and west elevations, terminating above their southern most window openings. A parapet with cut stone coping rises above the cornice.

The west elevation of the building presents a simple facade. Three window openings penetrate the basement wall and evidence of a painted sign, "Dabbs Brothers of Arkansas", dominate the first floor. Single window openings appear on the north and south sides of the sign area. The north window is a six-over-one window displaying articulation

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

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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typical to the building's fenestration while the south window, composed of a large pane surmounted by two vertical panes forming a transom relates closely to the design of the storefront windows. Two small stationary six pane windows are located just above the faded sign area. As on the principal facade, a fenestration of six-over-one windows identifies the second floor apartment area on the west elevation. Window details reiterate the articulation of the principal facade. Four vents penetrate the attic story and in the absence of a crowning cornice, the building's parapet caps the facade. A brick chimney, located on the south portion of the roof, rises above the parapet wall.

The delineation of the east elevation corresponds closely to the design of the west side of the building. Although the east and west second and attic story elevations are virtually identical, the first floor facade contains a centrally situated double-door entry surmounted by two two-over-two windows appearing almost as a transom. Originally, this doorway served as Dabbs Store's receiving entrance. A concrete platform, now demolished, once served as a loading area.

The north (rear) elevation, the least distinguished side of the building, is composed of alternating window and door openings on the first floor and four of the building's typical six-over-one windows in the second floor. On the first floor, a metal door with transom, the back-stairs entry, is placed between two windows. A metal fire stair extends across the rear elevation. A six panel wood door provides rear access to the general store and another metal door leads to the basement. While the rear elevation does not have a parapet, three stucco-covered brick chimneys that once served the apartments' kitchens, penetrate the roof.

On the interior, the first floor of the store is composed of two spacious areas divided by a center partition and the front and back stairways. Originally a general store and a post office area were located in the west side of the building. This space is distinguished by built-in shelving and free standing counters, built in 1912 by a traveling French carpenter, that occupy the west and east walls of the room. The finely crafted shelves, equipped with rolling ladders and capped with boxed cornices, are adjustable and cover three-quarters of the wall space. The counters have decorative wood paneled bases which carry the beaded V-shaped base of the wider inlaid wood counter tops. The display windows that distinguish the exterior of the building also impart the spatial quality of the interior. Rising to transom height, the glass-walled display cases form a vestibule for the entrance that they flank. Beaded boards form the base of the cases. Ornate pressed tin panels featuring egg and dart mouldings cover the ceiling and plain pine boards form the floor.

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The east section of the building -- the dry goods area of the store -- survives in marked contrast to the west side of the building. The 60'x 20'x 14' space is divided into a large store and a small storage room. These areas do not exhibit the finely crafted accessories and rich materials that distinguish the general store and post office. A wall with a door opening separates the main store area from the storage room and beaded-boards cover the ceiling.

The second floor apartments were built as living quarters for the Dabbs brothers. Each spacious apartment includes a living room with fireplace, two bedrooms, kitchen and bath.

Fire and deterioration have necessitated modification and rehabilitation of the interior space. On the first floor the east storage room has been converted to a kitchen and bathroom. The original floor has been covered with a contemporary flooring fabric in imitation of wood. The second floor apartments have been provided with modern kitchen facilities and walls have replaced the original pocket doors that once connected the two living rooms. Retaining the majority of its interior's integrity, the building has been successfully adapted for reuse as architects' offices. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program approved the character of the exterior restoration and the interior's rehabilitation.

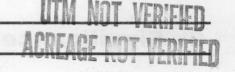
## 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C  archeology-prehistoric  archeology-historic  agriculture  X architecture  art  commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settleme industry invention	g landscape architecture law literature military music	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1912	Builder/Architect	unknown	. 1000000387 1

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1912, the Dabbs Store building is one of the oldest surviving structures in West Memphis. The store, built in the community of Hulbert, is closely tied to the development of this Mississippi riverport located across the river from Memphis, Tennessee. Hulbert, situated on one of the few elevated areas in this part of the Mississippi delta, was one of three turn of the century settlements that formed the nucleus of the present day city of West Memphis. The West Memphis area developed late and slowly due to its vulnerability to the flooding of the Mississippi River. Consequently, few permanent buildings were constructed or survived from the early years of the twentieth century and little unaltered historic fabric remains. Both architecturally and historically significant, Dabbs Store emerges as one of the city's finest resources tied to Hulbert before its incorporation into West Memphis. Harry R. Dabbs, migrating from Memphis, built his drygoods and general merchandise store soon after Hulbert became the location of the Rock Island Company's roundhouse and railroad yard in 1910. The store, clearly reflecting the early twentieth century settlement of the area, served the multi-purpose role of an early substantial structure in this once rural community. The building housed the town's post office, 1923-1948; possessed the first telephone installed in the area in 1912; and briefly served as the school before the construction of the local schoolhouse in 1913. Architecturally, Dabbs Store retains great integrity of its original fabric and setting. Today, the store's orientation to the railroad lines is a vivid reminder of the importance and dependence on the railroad in the development and stabilization of West Memphis as well as Hulbert. The exterior features its original storefronts, unusually decorative transom fenestration, brick stringcourses and prominent cornice all enhanced by the solidarity of this freestanding brick building's cubic proportions. Of particular interest in the structure's interior spaces is the fine millwork and pressed metal ceilings.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References



See continuation sheet

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Verbal boundary description and Part of lot 8, all of		k 61. Showe	ers Sub-division, West Memphis, AR.
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List all states and counties for p	properties overlap	oping state or	county boundaries
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organization Arkansas Historic	Preservation	Program	date June 9, 1981
street & number Suite 500, Con	tinental Build	ling	telephone (501) 371-2763
city or town Little Rock			state Arkansas
	ic Prese	rvation	Officer Certification
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according to the criteria and procedu	res set forth by the		
State Historic Preservation Officer signature	gnature	MF	m the
			date 3/31/82
title State Historic Preserva	tion Officer		date 3/31/82
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this proper		National Regis Entered in National R	ster a the
For HCRS use only		Entered in	ster

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LaCoterie. West Memphis, 1927-1976. West Memphis: Printing Crafts, Inc., 1977

Neill, Kenneth, "West Memphis: Sister City or KISSN'Kin?," Memphis, February, 1979, n.p.

- U.S. Post Office. Records of Appointments of Postmasters: Arkansas 1832-1971. (microfilm: Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, AR)
- U.S. Post Office. Geographical Site Location Reports: Arkansas, 1852-1945. (microfilm at Arkansas History Commission, L.R., AR)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLAC	Al
EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET	National Park Service 020
en and on Assessment	1.
Property: Dabbs Store	Working No. 4/22/82-11
State, County: AB, Crittenden	Fed. Reg. Date: 2-1-83
Federal Agency:	Date Due: 5/20/82 - 6/6/
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resubmission	
nomination by person or local government	National Register REJECT_
owner objection	photos
appeal	maps
Substantive Review:samplerequest	appealNR decision
Reviewer's comments:	
	Posem /Criteria
	Recom. / Criteria
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	Discipline
	Date
	see continuation sheet
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10. Geographical Data	
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11. Form Prepared By	
12. State Historic Preservation Officer	Certification
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State Historic Preservation Officer eigneture	
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13. Other	
Maps	
Photographs	
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Questions concerning this nomination may	be directed to
The state of the s	
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Signed Date	Phone: 202 272-350



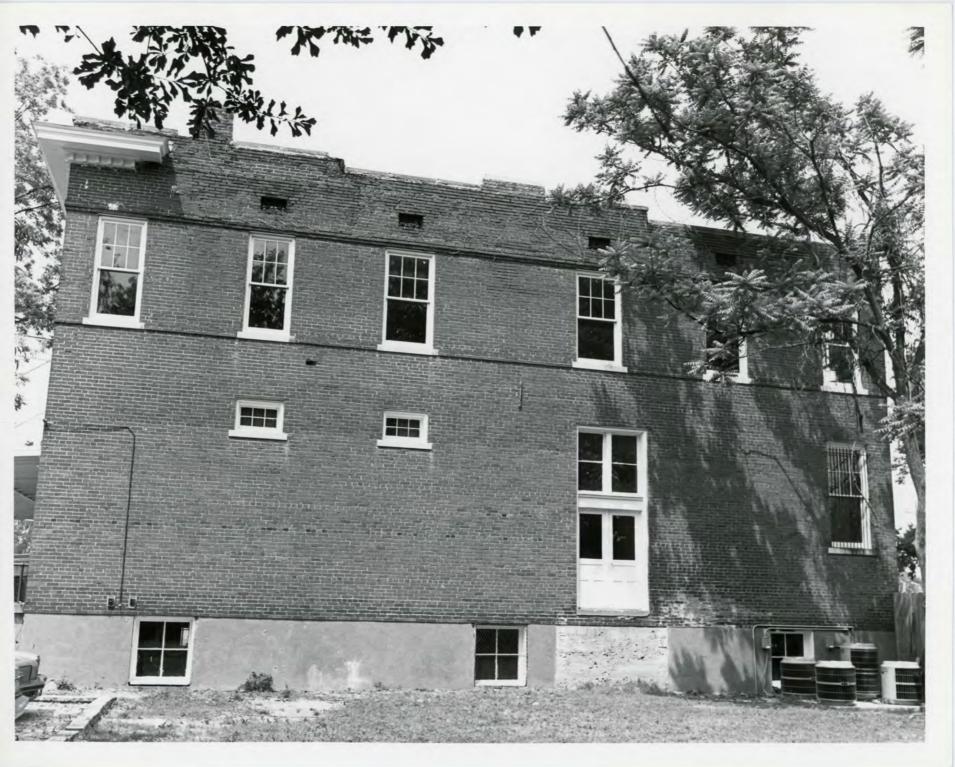
Bob Dunn, photographer May, 1981 Negative at AHPP View from South No. 1 of 7



Bob Dunn, photographer May, 1981 Negative at AHPP View from Southwest No. 2 of 7



Bob Dunn, photographer May, 1981 Negative at AHPP View from Southeast No. 3 of 7



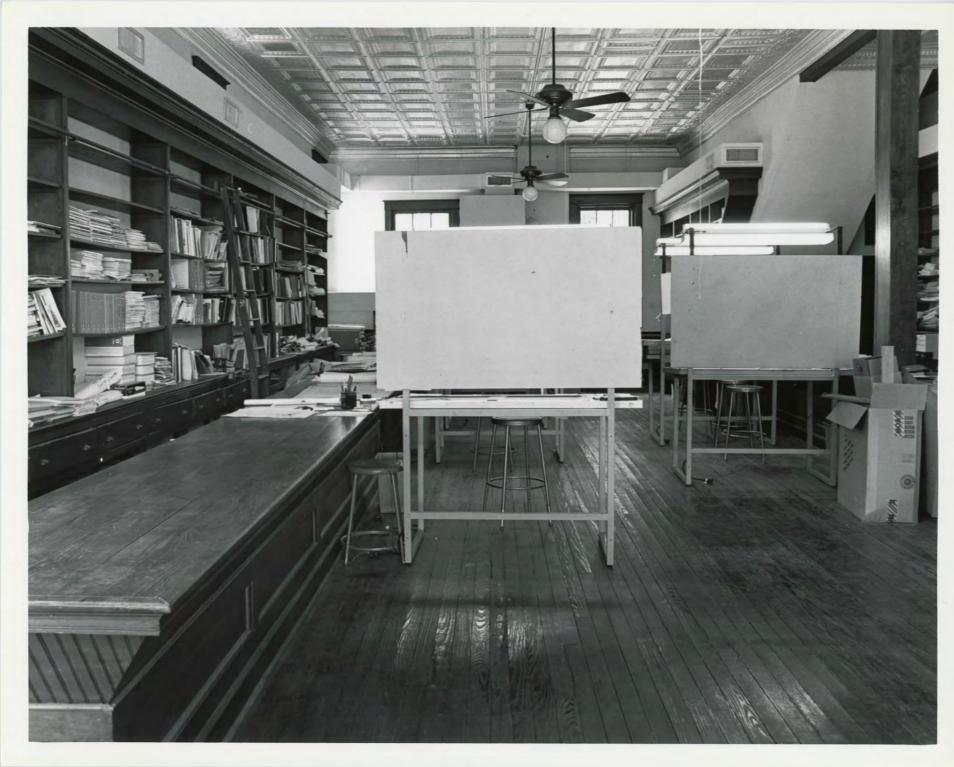
Bob Dunn, photographer May, 1981 Negative at AHPP View from East No. 4 of 7



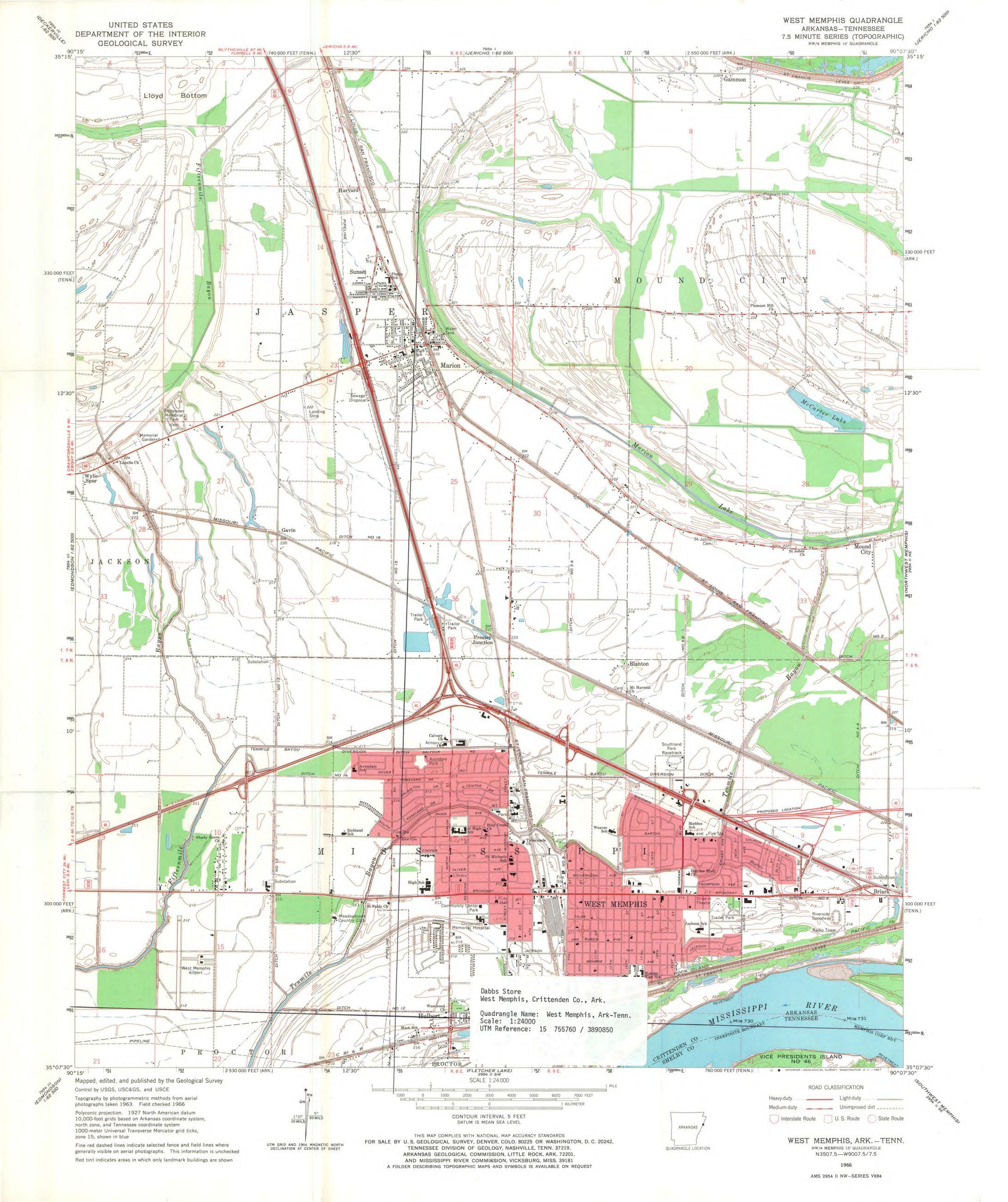
Bob Dunn, photographer May, 1981 Negative at AHPP View from Northeast No. 5 of 7



Bob Dunn, photographer May, 1981 Negative at AHPP View from North No. 6 of 7



Bob Dunn, photographer May, 1981 Negative at AHPP View from South No. 7 of 7



Mr. Wilson Stiles State Historic Preservation Officer Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Suite 500, Continental Building Markham & Main Streets Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Mr. Stiles:

This will confirm that I am fully aware of the effects of listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places. I recognize that, under the National Historic Preservation Act, I am entitled to object to the proposed listing of my property by a notarized written statement. If I am the sole owner and I object, my property will not be listed. If there are multiple owners of this property and a majority of the owners object, the property will not be listed.

Following is the name and adress of my property.

Dabbs Store	
West Memphis, Arkansas	
Crittenden County	-
1320 South Avalon	

I hereby waive my right to object to the proposed listing and notify you that I request that my property be listed in the National Register at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,

Owner of Record

Date

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM Suite 500, Continental Building Markham and Main Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Phone: (501) 371-2763

April 2, 1982

Carol D. Shull
Acting Keeper of the National Register
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
440 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: National Register nominations:
Historic Resources of Evening Shade
Dabbs Store, West Memphis
Hemingway House and Barn, Fayetteville

Dear Carol,

We are enclosing for your review three nominations for the National Register of Historic Places. The two individual properties are:

Dabbs Store in West Memphis, Arkansas and Hemingway House and Barn in Fayetteville, Arkansas. The nomination for the Historic Resources of Evening Shade, Arkansas is a multiple resouce nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for you consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles

State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

WS/js

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