

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 20 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Van Buren Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

(See Verbal Boundary Description)

main street, bounded by Canal Hill St. and
the Arkansas River.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Crawford

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☒ DISTRICT☐ PUBLIC☒ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ BUILDING(S)☐ PRIVATE☐ UNOCCUPIED☒ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ STRUCTURE☒ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE**PUBLIC ACQUISITION****ACCESSIBLE**☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership - Public and Private

STREET & NUMBER

City of Van Buren

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Crawford County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

That portion of downtown Van Buren hereby proposed as the Van Buren Historic District includes of some twenty commercial structures along six blocks of the city's Main Street. The area includes the railroad depot at the north end of the district and extends southwest to the Arkansas River. The majority of the structures in this district were constructed in the 1880-1900 period, when Van Buren prospered with the coming of the railroads. The architectural styles are varied and unusual, but predominantly Victorian. There have been several intrusions in the district. The facades have not been permanently altered. Aluminum has been placed over many of the facades for a more modern appearance; the aluminum could be stripped off quite easily.

There are five structures within the district which are especially interesting. The Van Buren railroad depot at Main and Fayetteville Streets was constructed c. 1900. The brick structure is topped with a high hipped roof of clay tile. Hip-roofed dormers project from each elevation. Twin chimneys extend above the one-and-one-half storey building. The depot features wide supportive brackets, typical of many Arkansas railroad depots.

The most architecturally unusual building in the district is the Crawford County Bank at Seventh and Main Streets. The three-storey building was constructed in 1889. The brick bank features a decorative corner turret capped with a conical roof and topped with a finial. The third storey has scalloped shingles and rounded ornamental pilasters on its exterior walls. The pilasters are capped with conical roofs. Other features of the building include semi-elliptical window heads and keystones, dentiled cornices and decorative brackets.

Next door to the Crawford County Bank is another bank building also built in 1889. This three-storey brick structure was the second building built by the Citizens Bank. It features a center-pediment with a finial extending above the roofline. Corbelling at the roofline gives a ribbon-like effect.

The building which first housed the Citizens Bank was built in 1887 at 524 Main Street. This building features a corner entry and is interesting in the round arched window heads which feature alternating segments of cut and cast stone.

The Anheuser-Busch building at Fifth and Main Streets was constructed c. 1890. This two-storey rectangular building features a terra-cotta Anheuser-Busch crest in the front parapet. It is one of the few remaining beer depots in Arkansas.

The site of the Crawford County Courthouse at Third and Main Streets has been the center of Crawford County government since 1842. The original courthouse was built 1840-41 and housed the District Court for western Arkansas (1851-71). The courthouse burned in 1876 but the walls were so built that they were not damaged and were retained for the new building which erected c. 1890. The main building is flanked by two wings. A

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three-storey clock tower with a bellcast roof rises from the center of the two-storey building. Paired brackets are featured along the paneled frieze. A classic portico supported by Doric capital columns marks the facade.

The Van Buren Historic District includes approximately twenty acres of the historically significant commercial area of the city. The area effectively represents the commercial importance Van Buren once had in western Arkansas.

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Listed below are the addresses of business within the Van Buren Historic District. They are divided into two categories: (1) businesses within buildings of historical significance. These buildings were all constructed in the 1890-1900 period. From this list the five most significant are discussed in the narrative of the description; (2) New structures which do not blend with the historic buildings in the district.

INVENTORY OF BUSINESSES WITHIN THE VAN BUREN HISTORIC DISTRICT

Businesses in Historic Buildings

1. 213 Main	22. 506 Main	43. 618 Main	64. 718 Main
2. 305 " "	23. 507 " "	44. 620 " "	65. 719 " "
3. 410 " "	24. 509 " "	45. 624 " "	66. 720 " "
4. 411 " "	25. 510 " "	46. 627 " "	67. 721 " "
5. 412 " "	26. 511 " "	47. 629 " "	68. 722 " "
6. 414 " "	27. 512 " "	48. 631 " "	69. 723 " "
7. 415 " "	28. 513 " "	49. 633 " "	70. 724 " "
8. 416 " "	29. 520 " "	50. 700 " "	71. 800 " "
9. 417 " "	30. 522 " "	51. 701 " "	72. 802 " "
10. 418 " "	31. 601 " "	52. 703 " "	73. 804 " "
11. 419 " "	32. 603 " "	53. 704 " "	74. 808 " "
12. 420 " "	33. 605 " "	54. 706 " "	75. 812 " "
13. 421 " "	34. 607 " "	55. 708 " "	76. 814 " "
14. 422 " "	35. 609 " "	56. 710 " "	77. 816 " "
15. 424 " "	36. 610 " "	57. 711 " "	78. 818 " "
16. 427 " "	37. 612 " "	58. 712 " "	79. 820 " "
17. 500 " "	38. 613 " "	59. 713 " "	80. 822 " "
18. 501 " "	39. 614 " "	60. 714 " "	81. 824 " "
19. 503 " "	40. 615 " "	61. 715 " "	
20. 504 " "	41. 616 " "	62. 716 " "	
21. 505 " "	42. 617 " "	63. 717 " "	

Businesses in New Structures within the Van Buren Historic District

1. 217 Main	8. 401 Main	15. 521 Main	22. 616 Main
2. 309 " "	9. 403 " "	16. 617 " "	23. 618 " "
3. 311 " "	10. 405 " "	17. 619 " "	24. 606 " "
4. 315 " "	11. 407 " "	18. 621 " "	25. 608 " "
5. 317 " "	12. 409 " "	19. 400 " "	26. 810 " "
6. 319 " "	13. 515 " "	20. 402 " "	
7. 321 " "	14. 517 " "	21. 420 " "	

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Van Buren Historic District is the surviving representation of the prosperity which the railroad brought to western Arkansas in the last two decades of the nineteenth century. As the nineteenth century commercial and governmental center of Crawford County, the five-block long Van Buren Historic District is a historically significant area. Van Buren first developed as the center of a large Indian trade and then grew into an agricultural center. With the coming of the railroads through Van Buren in the 1870's and 1880's, the city flourished. The Van Buren Historic District retains much of the ambience of this period despite several intrusions and alterations within the area.

Crawford County was the fifth county to be formed in Arkansas. The original county was organized in 1820, one year after Arkansas became a territory. Most of the land which is now included in Crawford County was in Indian territory until 1828, when by treaty it was added to the original county.

The Van Buren Historic District was the first area of the city to develop due to its closeness to the Arkansas River. The Main Street area has been the center of history in the town long before the railroad brought prosperity to western Arkansas.

The first recorded event in the future town's history was in 1818 when David Boyd, a log-raiser, visited the future town-site of Van Buren. The first white settler, Thomas Martin, arrived soon afterward and, with the help of Boyd, built the first log house. Martin claimed squatter's rights to the land. A few people established themselves around Martin, and the settlement became a landing for boats on the Arkansas River. Within a short time the area had become a trading center.

Revolutionary War veteran, James Phillips, and his sons, Daniel and Thomas, arrived at the Martin settlement in the late 1820's. The Phillipses established a wood yard on the river bank to supply fuel to the flat-bottomed steamboats. In 1830 Thomas Phillips bought the squatter's claim of Thomas Martin and became owner of the town-site. The community came to be called "Phillips Landing" and soon contained several stores.

When the post office was established in Phillips Landing, March 30, 1831, Thomas Phillips was appointed postmaster and served until sometime during the latter part of 1836. The post office was named for Martin Van Buren, then Secretary

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette. February 11, 1890.

Eno, Clara B. History of Crawford County, Arkansas. Van Buren, Arkansas: Press-Argus.

Frisco Railroad, Headlight Flashes, Chicago, 1898.

Dr. Lewis Peer. Personal interview, Van Buren, Arkansas, July 22, 1975.

Bob Rayburn, Personal interview, Van Buren, Arkansas, July 22, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 3,7,7 3,1,0 3,9 2,2 2,0,0 B 1,5 3,7,7 4,1,5 3,9 2,2 1,0,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING 560 ZONE EASTING NORTHING 700
C 1,5 3,7,7 0,0,0 3,9 2,1 7,5,0 D 1,5 3,7,6 8,6,0 3,9 2,1 9,1,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The area comprised of one-half block on either side of Main Street stretching from Cane Hill Street southwestward to the end of Main and on either side of any imaginary projection of Main Street to the water's edge of the Arkansas River, the eastern boundary of the area extruding to include the whole block on which the County Courthouse sits.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

September 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Gene Richardson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE September 9, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/30/86

DATE 4-28-86

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of State under President Andrew Jackson. The settlement became known as Van Buren.

Thomas Phillips, advertising lots for sale in Van Buren in the Arkansas Gazette, April, 1836, stated:

"The town of Van Buren, Arkansas, is situated in Crawford County on the left bank of the Arkansas River, about five hundred fifty miles from the Mississippi River, by the course of the river and a few miles from the Indian boundary line. The immediate situation is picturesque and pleasing to the eye, easily approachable by the roads, usually elevated for a distance on the margin of the river, indeed a portion of the townsite is high and commanding eminence, with an abundant and never failing supply of the most palatable and purest water."

Earlier, a rival community, known as Columbus, had appeared about one mile below Van Buren, where a store and ferry had been established. In November of 1836 the owners of the store decided that Van Buren was the best natural location for a town due to the higher elevation. They bought from Phillips his rights to the town-site at a price of \$11,000. In 1837 Van Buren was surveyed and laid out according to the direction of the river, rather than by the cardinal points of the compass.

The seat of government in Crawford County was established in 1838 at Van Buren. In 1842 Van Buren was first incorporated as a city. On January 4, 1845, the city was reincorporated.

Van Buren grew and prospered until the period of the Civil War. From 1862 until the end of the war, Van Buren was occupied by Federal troops. Like many other southern towns, Van Buren was economically drained by the Civil War. The war ended the first period of Van Buren's growth and development.

It was in the mid-1870's that Van Buren began to prosper again. Following construction of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad in 1876 and construction of the "Frisco" Railroad from St. Louis to the Arkansas River in 1883, western Arkansas developed rapidly. The growth of Van Buren in this period prompted a lengthy article in the Arkansas Gazette in 1890. According to the article, the commercial, industrial and financial transactions in Van Buren amounted to \$13,064,319 in 1889. The majority of the buildings in the Van Buren Historic District date from this time of prosperity, from the 1880's until the World War I period.

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In the 1930's national attention was drawn to Van Buren and Crawford County by Bob Burns, who popularized his hometown through fictional tales of Ozark kinfolk on the Kraft Music Hall radio program. Another man of national fame from Van Buren was Cyrus Adler (1863-1940), the Jewish historian and scholar. The Bob Burns Opera House and the site of Adler's birth, both located within the Van Buren Historic District, are landmarks in the city.

The City Council in Van Buren has had for a number of years, a strong desire to preserve the historic structures in the city. This interest inspired the formation of a City Register of Historical Places. The Van Buren Historic District stands as representative of the commercial importance it commanded in western Arkansas in the period between the 1880's and World War I.

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First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Fort Smith, Proud Heritage -
Promising Future - Van Buren.

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From the intersection of the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad and Canehill Street, west along the railroad to an imaginary line equidistant from the centers of Main and Washington Streets, southwest along this imaginary line to a point 275 feet south and west of Third Street, southeast along an imaginary line parallel to Third Street to the northwestern right-of-way of Main Street, southwest along the northwestern right-of-way of Main Street to the center of Water Street, northwest along the center of Water Street to the imaginary line equidistant from the centers of Main and Washington Streets, southwest along this imaginary line to the Arkansas River water's edge, southeast along the water's edge to an imaginary line equidistant from the centers of Main and Webster Streets, northeast along this imaginary line to the center of Water Street, northwest along the center of Water Street to the southeastern right-of-way of Main Street, northeast along this right-of-way of Main Street to the center of Third Street, southeast along the center of Third Street to the center of Webster Street, northeast along the center of Webster Street to the center of Fourth Street, northwest along the center of Fourth Street to an imaginary line equidistant from the centers of Main and Webster Streets, northeast along this imaginary line to the center of Eighth Street, east along a line perpendicular to Canehill Street to the center of Webster Street, northeast along the center of Webster Street to the southwestern right-of-way of Ninth Street, north along a line parallel to Canehill Street to the center of Main Street, west along the center of Main Street to the center of Canehill Street, north along the center of Canehill Street to the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad.

Property

Van Buren Historic District

State

Arkansas

Working Number

10.14.75.1803

TECHNICAL

Photos

7

Maps

1

UTM incorrect on form

Map Coordinates OK

4 cont. sheets (#7-9)

no verbal boundary
description
on map of
district

CONTROL

OK

pl
10.20.75

HISTORIAN

E. Smith

12-4-75

Looks pretty good but we should call for
sketch map indicating intrusions. Sketch
map to be sent. Sketch map rec'd 3-3-76-good.

list of bldgs & district sketchmap
needed before ACCEPTing.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

H. J. Anderson
12/8/75

Watersite included as site of commercial importance
nothing there now.

ARCHEOLOGIST

ACCEPT
LEBOVICH
3-8-76

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
4-22-76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

H. J. Anderson
4-28-76

National Register Write-up

6-1-76

Send-back

Federal Register Entry

Re-submit

Entered APR 30 1976

INT:2106-74



1. VAN BUREN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
MAIN STREET, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTHWEST

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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1 NAME

HISTORIC Van Buren Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Van Buren

____ VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

COUNTY Crawford

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Main Street, viewed from the southwest

PHOTO NO.

147

GPO 892-454

Southwest

Dist

rk

147



2. VAN BUREN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
RAILROAD DEPOT, VIEWED FROM THE EAST

Form No. 10-301a
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____ VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

COUNTY Crawford

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

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DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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4 IDENTIFICATION

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Railroad Depot, viewed from the east

PHOTO NO.

2 of 7

2 of 7



3. VAN BUREN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CRAWFORD COUNTY BANK, VIEWED FROM THE NORTHEAST

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

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____ VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

COUNTY Crawford

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Crawford County Bank, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

3 of 7

GPO 892-454

REGISTER

Hist. Dist.

Crawford Cty., Ark.
oc. Crawford Cty. Bank,
view from northeast

3 of 7



4. VAN BUREN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
SECOND CITIZENS BANK WITHIN

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

COUNTY Crawford

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Second Citizens Bank, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

4 47

GPO 892-454

REGISTERED

Dist

Ark.

Loc. Second Citizens Bank,
viewed from northeast

447



5. VAN BUREN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CRANFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
First

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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CITY, TOWN Van Buren

VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

COUNTY Crawford

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

First Citizens Bank, viewed from the northwest

PHOTO NO.

547

GPO 892-454

Loc.

First Citizens Bank
viewed from northwest.

547



6. VAN BUREN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
Anheuser-Bush Building, viewed from the northeast

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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HISTORIC Van Buren Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Van Buren VICINITY OF STATE Arkansas COUNTY Crawford

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Anheuser-Bush Building, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

6 of 7

Dist

GPO 892-454

LOC.

Anheuser-Bush
Building, viewed fr
northeast

6 of 7



7. VAN BUREN HISTORIC DISTRICT
CRAWFORD COUNTY, ARKANSAS
CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE, VIEWED FROM + NORTHWEST

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

____ VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

COUNTY Crawford

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Crawford County Courthouse, viewed from the northwest

PHOTO NO.

7 of 7

GPO 892-454

st. Dist
Ark.
Court-
house, viewed from
northwest.

7 of 7

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 30 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Van Buren Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Van Buren

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

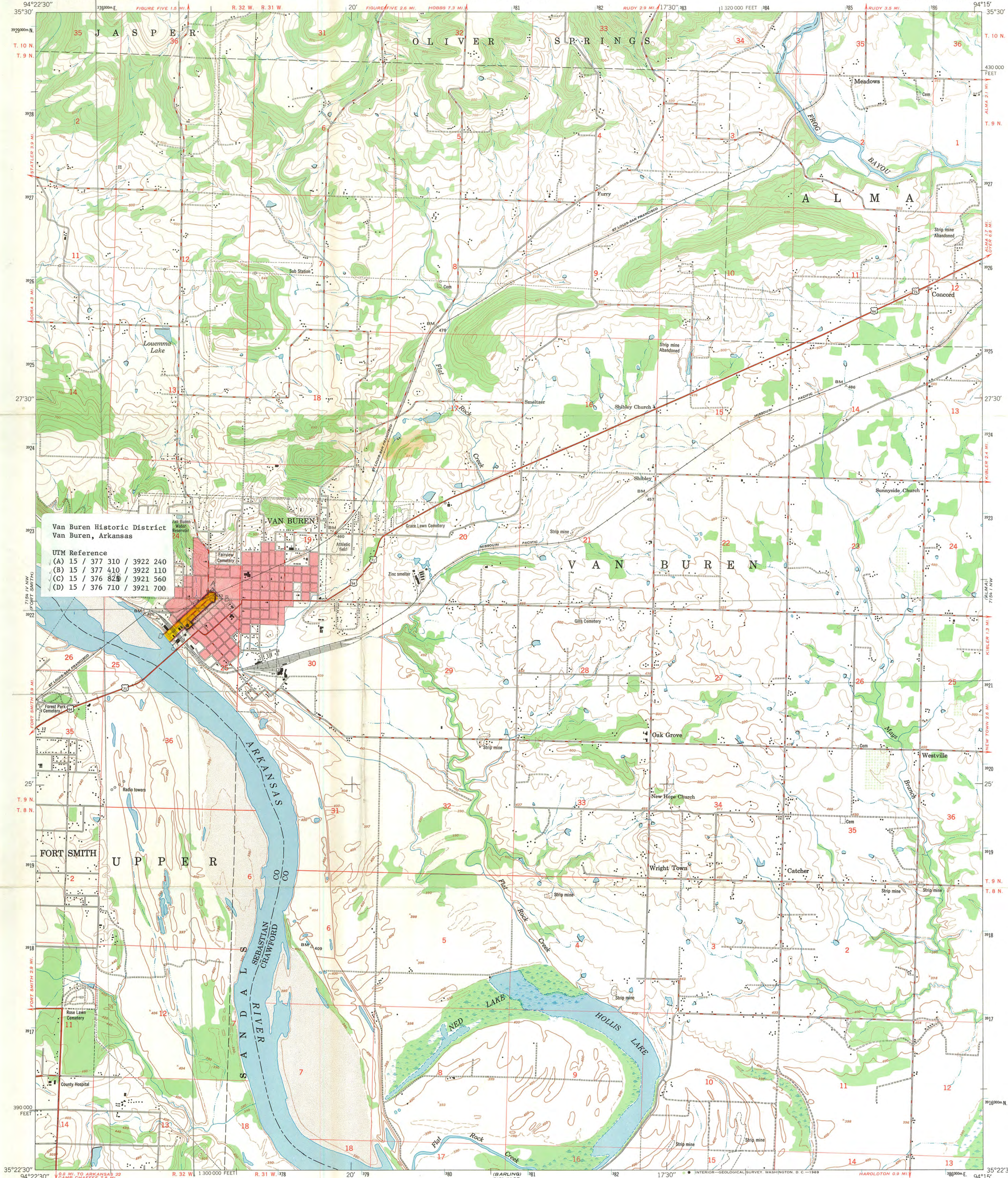
SCALE 1:2400

DATE 1971 (photo revised 1970)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Van Buren Historic District
Van Buren, Arkansas

UTM Reference
(A) 15 / 377 310 / 3922 240
(B) 15 / 377 410 / 3922 110
(C) 15 / 376 825 / 3921 560
(D) 15 / 376 710 / 3921 700

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty... Lane is Lane Light-duty...
Medium-duty... Lane is Lane Unimproved dirt...
U.S. Route State Route

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DASHED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

VAN BUREN, ARK.
N3522.5-W9415.7.5

1947

AMS 7154 IV NE-SERIES V884





ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

FIRST STATE CAPITOL • 300 WEST MARKHAM • LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201



January 23, 1976



Mr. Charles Herrington
Office of Nomination and Review
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: additions to National Register nominations

Dear Mr. Herrington:

Enclosed are a detailed map and two photographs for the Old State House Square Historic District nomination, which we mailed to you on December 24, 1975. Several days ago your office requested the map for the district. The photograph was not available when we mailed the nomination.

Also enclosed are a new detailed map and a new verbal boundary description for the Van Buren Historic District nomination. It is necessary to incorporate these changes because we mistakenly bisected some buildings with the district boundary as previously drawn.

Thanks very much for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jack Doss, Historian
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

JD:js

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **Arkansas**

Date Entered **APR 30 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Main Building, Arkansas Baptist College	Little Rock Pulaski County
Van Buren Historic District	Van Buren Crawford County
Burns, Bob, House	Van Buren Crawford County

Also Notified

Hon. Dale Bumpers
Hon. John L. McClellan
Hon. Wilbur D. Mills
Hon. John P. Hammerschmidt

Regional Director, Southwest Region

PR-M. Mott:fd 5-4-76

State Historic Preservation Office
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director, Department of
Natural and Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Crawford Co. Ark.

July 5, 1978

Mrs. Susan Guthrie
Executive Director
Van Buren Community Development Program
12 South Sixth Street, P.O. Box 644
Van Buren, Arkansas 72956

Dear Mrs. Guthrie:

On June 29, 1978, the Council received a determination from the City of Van Buren that the use of Urban Development Action Grant funds provided through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, for the below listed projects within the Van Buren Historic District, would not adversely affect that property which is included in the National Register of Historic Places:

1. Acquisition and renovation of the Bob Burns Theater;
2. Removal of the asphalt from main street to expose the existing brick street and trolley tracks; and,
3. Placement of a trolley car on main street.

The Executive Director does not object to your determination.

A copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be kept in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320).

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Signed

Louis S. Wall
Assistant Director, Office of
Review and Compliance, Denver

707 13
PRESERVATION
ON HISTORIC
ADVISORY COUNCIL

HCRS:NR
ORC:Bureman
file;AR/VAN BUREN H.D./106/CITY/Burns Theater, etal.
MHB:DRS 07-05-78

cc: Chairman
SHPO:AR
FLO:HUD-Broun, Attn: Karas
HUD-Embry

ADVISORY COUNCIL
ON HISTORIC
PRESERVATION

JUL 13

HEATER AND CONFERENCE' DEPART
VICTOR H. DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF
FOUR 2. HALL

2/10/80

STANDARD LISTS

LONG continued cooperation to appreciate.

Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4301, as amended, 20 Stat. 1330).
Long confidence after section 100 of the National Historic Preservation
Administration Policy Act and should be kept in long records as evidence of
or agreement provided for this understanding in confidence after the National
documentation and this confidence' should be included in any assessment
A copy of long determination of no adverse effect' along after supporting

The Executive Director does not object to long determination.

3. Placement of a stately car on main street.

Other streets and stately streets and

3. Removal of the historic from main street to expose the existing

1. Acquisition and renovation of the Pop Culture Theater.

Register of Historic Places:

not adversely affect that property which is included in the National
the region listed projects within the Ann Arbor Historic District, which
proposed through the development of housing and urban development' for
of Ann Arbor and the use of urban development action plans
on June 30, 1978, the Council received a determination from the City

Long H.A. Office:

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106
13 South State Street, P.O. Box 444
Ann Arbor Community Development Program
Executive Director
H.A. State Office

July 2, 1978

Completed by [signature]

cc: Chairman

SHPO:VZ

HUD-EMPLOY
LTO:HUD-Brown, Allen: Kates

HUD-EMPLOY

MAIL:REG 07-02-78

File:AR\ANN ARBOR H.D.\100\CITY\BURNS Theater, et al.

ORC:RUC: [unclear]

NO: [unclear]



Van Buren Community Development Program

621 MAIN STREET - P. O. BOX 644 - VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS 72956 - A/C 501 474-3446

ROBERT E. "Gene" BELL
Mayor

COMMISSIONERS:
DR. LOUIS H. PEER
FINES BATCHELOR, JR.
RAYMOND ALLEN
SAM H. PARK
JOE KNIGHT

SUSAN GUTHRIE
Executive Director

CONRAD O. PUGH
Attorney

February 13, 1981

Mr. Louis S. Wall
Director
Office of Review and Compliance
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
P. O. Box 25085
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. Wall:

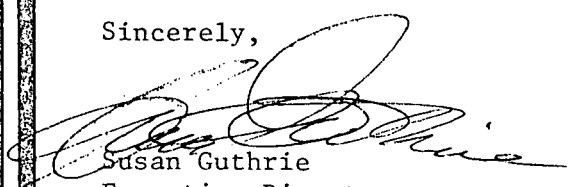
The City of Van Buren has determined that conditions warrant the removal of a partially demolished structure located at 321 Main Street, within the Van Buren Historic District, which is owned by the City. As per 36 CFR Part 800, the City of Van Buren has reviewed the proposed demolition and clearance and redevelopment, and found it to be an action which will have an effect upon property included in the National Register.

As a result of a previous fire the roof and the back wall of the structure collapsed in 1979 and a side wall and one half of the front wall collapsed last month during the demolition of the adjoining structure. In view of the existing conditions and since the structure had been classified as being non-significant by the State Historic Preservation Program at the time of the initial district survey, the City has found that the removal of the remainder of the structure and debris, will have no adverse affect upon a property included in the National Register.

Attached are comments received from the State Historic Preservation Officer concurring in the City's determination.

If you have any questions, or require additional information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Susan Guthrie
Executive Director

SG/jh

CONCUR

MAR - 2 1981

Crawford Co.
COPY



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32-710
CL-03098

APR 1 1982

Arkansas

Honorable John Paul Hammerschmidt
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Hammerschmidt:

Thank you for your letter of March 18 concerning the interests of the merchants of the Van Buren Historic District, Crawford County, in promoting tourism in northwest Arkansas.

The Van Buren Historic District was entered in the National Register of Historic Places on April 30, 1976. Enclosed is information on the National Register program and the effects of listing properties in the National Register. Under Federal law, listing in the National Register does not affect the classification of a property under park and tourism and the subsequent ability to operate businesses on Sundays. It is possible, however, that such listing would have a bearing on the decision by Arkansas State officials to allow the Van Buren merchants to operate on Sundays. The merchants may wish to contact Mr. Wilson Stiles, the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, who is responsible for overseeing the historic preservation programs in Arkansas, as well as nominating the State's significant historic resources to the National Register. Mr. Stiles' address is: Director, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Continental Building, Suite 500, Markham and Main Streets, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service. Your correspondence is returned.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jerry L. Rogers

Associate
Director

Enclosures 3

cc: Mr. Wilson Stiles w/c inc.
bcc: CL w/ticket
001-R.F. 700 710) 190-Gilley)

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN NR (710)
FNP:Harrison:272-3504:CL-03098: pdp 3/31/82 lex P-1/#29

JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT
The Old Town Merchants

HOME ADDRESS:
HARRISON, ARKANSAS

WASHINGTON ADDRESS:
2207 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20541
Phone: 227-432

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 18, 1982

COMMITTEE ON
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
AVIATION
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
WATER RESOURCES
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CEMETERIES AND BURIAL BENEFITS
COMPENSATION, PENSION, AND
INSURANCE
MEDICAL FACILITIES AND BENEFITS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

Joe Berry, Jr, Vice President
The Old Town Merchants
415 Main
Van Buren, Arkansas 72956

Dear Mr. Berry:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing the interests of the merchants of the Van Buren Historic District in promoting tourism in northwest Arkansas.

I appreciate your contacting me with your inquiry as to classification under parks and tourism to permit you to operate with Sunday hours and will certainly look into this matter on your behalf. As soon as a response is provided me, I will be back to you.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT
Member of Congress

JPH:sw

bcc: DoI, Cong. Liaison

Received in Congressional
Liaison Division:

MAR 23 1982

March 15, 1982 MAR 18 1982
415 Main
Van Buren, Arkansas 72956

John Paul Hammerschmidt
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

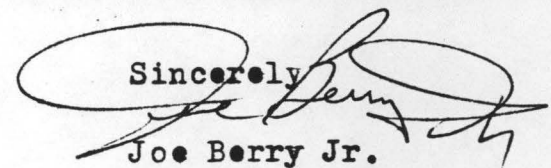
Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of the Merchants of the Historic District of Van Buren in Crawford county, which are known as the Old Town Merchants Association. It has been brought to our attention, as a suggestion in promotions of Downtown Van Buren Historic District, that an area like ours, being on the National Historic Registry, could in fact be listed as a classification for Parks and Tourism. If this is the case, and our purpose is to promote Tourism in Northwest Arkansas. Our request is a need of such listing and be able to open our shops on Sundays. Sundays are the most important days for tourists, especially weekend visitors on short trips from Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Texas, and others short distances away.

Knowing that your time is very important and is used to the best of your constituency, we would appreciate your thoughts, time, and consideration in this matter. If you could just advise us on which route to take in our quest for Sunday openings in our Downtown Historic District.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time and reply.

Sincerely,



Joe Berry Jr.

Vice President

The Old Town Merchants
415 Main Van Buren, Ark.

72956

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Van Buren Historic District 2 OTHER NAMES: 3 date of entry: 4-30-76 4 county code: 033

5 LOCATION street & number: see reverse city / town: Van Buren vicinity of: state: AR county: Crawford 6 NPS REGION: Southwest

7 OWNER ☐ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☒ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name): public/private 8 ADMINISTRATOR:

9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL 10 FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO 11 CONGRESS DISTRICT: 3rd 12 SOURCE of NOMINATION: ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME: NO 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME: NO 15 ACREAGE: 20 16 LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ☐

16 CONDITION ☐ deteriorated ☒ altered ☒ original site ☐ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☒ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated 17 features: ☐ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☒ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS ☒ YES - Restricted ☐ YES - Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☒ NO 20 SAVED? ☐ YES ☐ NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ yes ☐ no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2 ☒ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS / GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) ☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: COMMERCIAL 24 dates of initial construction: 4. 1870-1890 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: CURRENTLY: DITTO major alterations: historic events:

26 architectural style(s): Romanesque Revival 27 architect: 28 master builder: 29 engineer: QUEEN ANNE, Italian Villa, Stick style

30 landscape architect / garden designer: 31 interior decorator: 32 artist: 33 artisan: 34 builder/contractor:

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: Thos. Martin - 1st white settler - built 1st building

EVENTS:

INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP COMMERCIAL DISTRICT OF SOME 20 BRICK, 1 1/2--3-STORY STRUCTURES; NOTABLE ARE THE QUEEN ANNE STYLE CRAWFORD COUNTY BANK (1889), THE ITALIAN VILLA STYLE CRAWFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE (1841, REBUILT 1890), AND THE STICK STYLE VAN BUREN RAILROAD DEPOT (1900). AREA FLOURISHED WITH CONSTRUCTION OF RAILROAD THROUGH TOWN AND SUBSEQUENT COMMERCE; RETAINS LATE 19TH C. CHARACTER.

reviewers initials geoff date 9.15.77

IF ADDITIONAL SPACE NEEDED, NUMBER & PUT ON REVERSE

5. ✓ Main St., bounded by Cane Hill St. and the Arkansas River.