

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUN 14 1979

DATE ENTERED

DEC

6 1979

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

Judge Benjamin Shaver House

AND/OR COMMON

Old Redman Hospital

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

501 12th St.

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Mena

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Arkansas

05

Polk

113

**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

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rice

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rural Route #2

CITY, TOWN

New Sharon

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Iowa 50207

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Mena

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY 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

The Shaver House is a two-and-one-half storey Neo-Colonial Revival structure. The roof is a combination of hips, truncated-hips, and gables. The front (east) facade of the structure has a two-storey, full-length gallery from which a gable roof projects. The upper gallery is supported by Ionic columns and linked by bowed balustrades which are composed of turned members. On the bottom level the gallery has straight turned balustrades and Tuscan columns. A garland frieze separates the upper and lower porches. A third porch with two-storey Ionic columns projects from the two-storey gallery. The third porch is a pedimented gable with a Palladian window. There are five gabled and shed additions on the rear. Entrance is gained from a single centered door with an oval glazed panel. Windows are symmetrically placed. The structure is finished in weatherboard. The entrance is a single, oval, glazed panel door with oval sidelights and a rectangular transom.

### Interior

The interior plaster walls have been removed, and dry wall will be hung in their place. A single-turn stair leads to the second floor. The stair is composed of turned members. A jigsaw-cut and ball-and-spindle transom separates the entrance from the parlor. The house will be restored to as near original condition as is possible.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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

1896

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Judge Benjamin Shaver House in Mena, Arkansas, is a large dwelling that is both architecturally and historically significant. The frame Neo-Colonial Revival structure is distinguished by the design and detailing of a two-storey gallery that spans the facade (east elevation). The house is a reminder of the early settlement of Mena. It was built in 1896, only two years after Mena was incorporated. The house is also associated with two of Mena's most historically significant citizens, Judge Benjamin Shaver and his daughter, Dorothy Shaver. Judge Shaver was a prominent lawyer in Mena, and Dorothy Shaver was the President of the Lord and Taylor retail corporation in New York City. The corporation operated the prestigious Lord and Taylor department store. For a brief period during the 1940's the house served as the Mena General Hospital. The building was converted for use as a hospital because of its large size.

Mena was founded along the Kansas City Southern Railroad when it laid track through southwest Arkansas in 1894. Among the early settlers in Mena was Judge Benjamin Shaver, who quickly became one of the city's top lawyers. Shaver's home, which he built in 1896, was one of the largest and most elegant dwellings in the new community. The house was an important gathering place for social events.

Dorothy Shaver grew up in the Shaver House. After college she joined a sister, Elsie, who was an art student in Chicago. The two sisters created and sold dolls which became famous under the name of "Little Shavers." Dorothy Shaver's first contact with the New York firm of Lord and Taylor was brought about by the sale of "Little Shavers" to the company. Her career with Lord and Taylor was spectacular and was capped by her attainment of the company's presidency.

Dr. L. C. Dixon, a Mena dentist, occupied the Shaver House for a number of years after it was vacated by the Shavers. From 1940 to 1945 the house was converted for use as the private Redman Hospital. For a brief time after 1945 the building housed the Mena General Hospital. After its service as a hospital, the Shaver House was divided into apartments. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rice have recently acquired the house, and they are committed to restoring the house to its early grandeur.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Looking Glass, Mena, Arkansas, December, 1975 and May 1978

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Mena Quadrangle

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1: 24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 385840 3827360

B               

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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 #7 Description, Frezil Miller  
#8 Significance, Mike Shinn

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

4/20/79

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Bldg., Main & Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas 72201

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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 Joan Baldridge

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 22, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12/6/79

ATTEST: Bob Grosvenor

DATE 10/4/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

The facade of the two-and-one-half-storey Shaver House is symmetrical. Additions to the rear of the house give the building an irregular configuration. The age of these additions is not known. The roof form is a multiple combination of gables and hips.

The most outstanding visual feature of the Shaver House is the two-storey gallery that spans the facade (east elevation). The gallery is symmetrical and is divided into five bays. The central bay is a forward projection that is sustained by two pairs of two-storey Ionic columns. This projection is pedimented; a Palladian window centers the pediment. The two bays which flank the central bay are distinguished by the curving edge of the frieze which divides the first from the second stories.

Four Tuscan columns support the first floor of the gallery, and four Ionic columns sustain its second storey. The capitals to the Ionic columns have been removed. A frieze, which is ornamented with garland festooning, divides the first and second floors of the gallery. Both levels of the gallery originally possessed a full balustrade that featured turned spindles. Parts of these balustrades are missing, but the owners of the house are restoring them to their original appearance.

The first floor entrance is a single door that is centered by an oval glazed panel. Lights with oval glazed panels flank the entrance. The door and lights are surmounted by a transom. The second storey balcony is centered by a plain double-leaf doorway.

The window arrangement is symmetrical. The windows are rectangular, one over one (1/1), and double-hung.

The interior retains little of its original fabric, but it is currently being restored to its original appearance. The architectural significance of the Shaver House rests entirely with its exterior appearance.

Property

State

Working Number

Shaver, Judge Benjamin, House  
Ark. (Palk) 6.14.79.1448

79003431

## TECHNICAL

Photos

Maps

7

CONTROL

OK 6.14.79

HISTORIAN

Accept 8-9-79

Sheffield

Locally significant through association with early and prominent residents of town, Judge Shaver, and daughter. Her achievement, ~~WASIXXININININ~~ becoming President of Lord and Taylor, was exceptionally significant. No VBD.

The architectural description provided in #8 is ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN more comprehensive than that in #7. The State is aware that the two descriptions should have been merged and condensed. Despite the problem stated above, this Colonial Revival style house has at least local architectural

significance. The interior retains little of its original fabric, possibly due to hospital use in the 1940's, but it is currently being restored. Exterior also needs work; partial repair of south facade visible in photo appears sympathetic. Accept if State can send VBD.

Call  
Gale Books  
8/9/79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

vBD ncb 11/13/79

accept  
B. Groves  
12/4/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

2-5-80

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered DEC 6 1979







The Shaver House  
Mena, Arkansas

Bob Dunn

1979

AHPP

East Elevation from the southeast

#1

Judge Benjamin House

DEC 6 1979

Polk County

JUN 14 1979







Shaver, ~~House~~  
Mena, Arkansas  
Bob Dunn  
1979  
AHPP  
North elevation  
#2

*Judge Benjamin's House*

DEC 6 1979

*Polk County*

JUN 14 1979







Shaver House Judge Benjamin House  
Mena, Arkansas  
1979  
AHPP  
South Elevation.  
#3

DEC 6 1979

Polk County

JUN 14 1979







Shaver, ~~House~~ Judge Benjamin, House  
Mena, Arkansas  
Bob Dunn  
1979  
AHPP  
Northeast corner  
# 4

6 1979  
DEC 6 1979

Polk County

JUN 14 1979







Shaver, ~~House~~ Judge Benjamin House  
Mena, Arkansas

DEC 6 1979

Bob Dunn

1979

AHPP

Foyer Stair

#5

Polk County

JUN 14 1979





Shaver House, Judge Benjamin, House  
Mena, Arkansas

DEC 6 1979

Bob Dunn

1979

AHPP

Second floor landing

#6

Polk County

JUN 14 1979





Shaver House  
Mena, Arkansas

Bob Dunn

1979

AHPP

Detail-Entrance

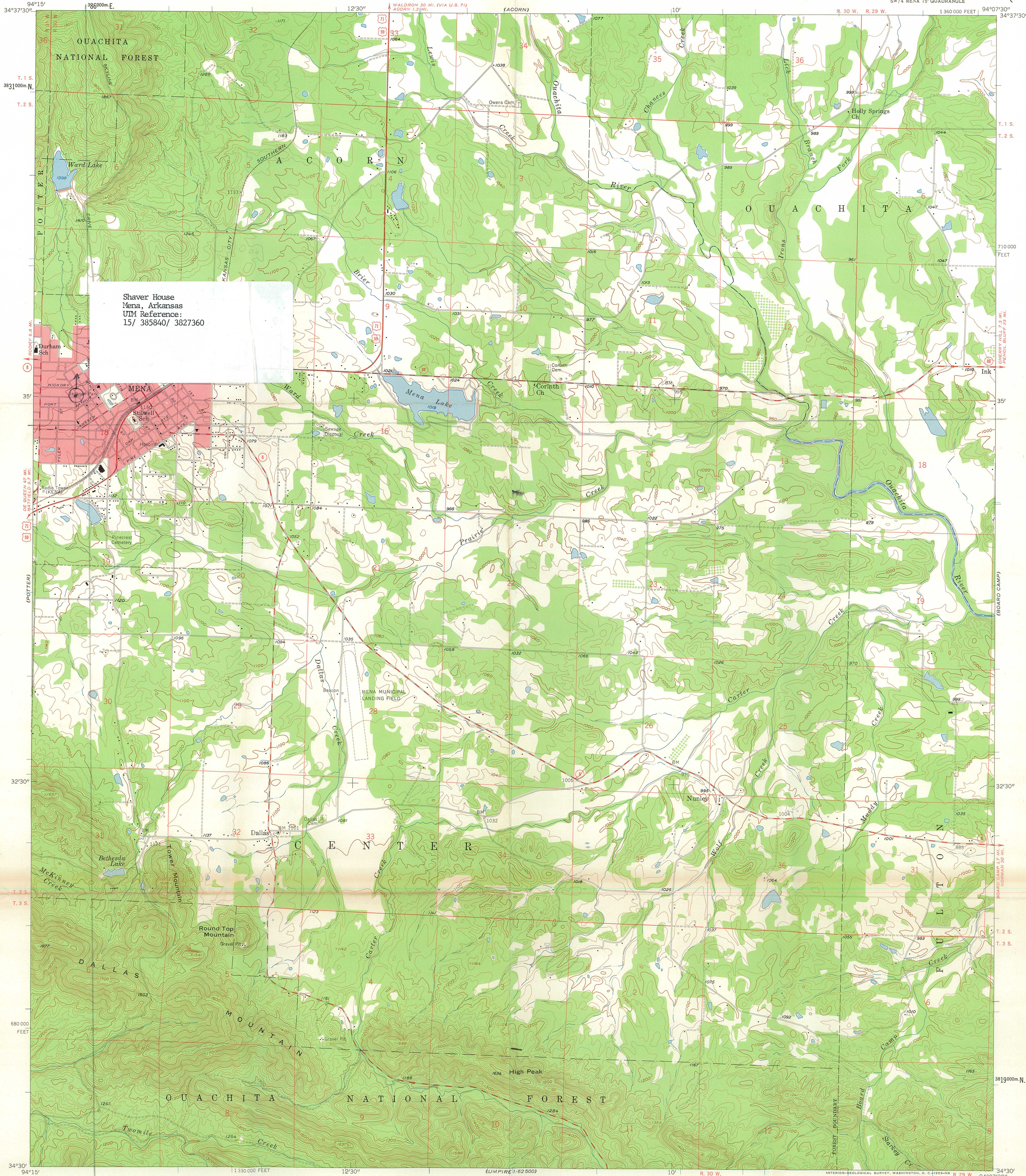
#7

DEC 6 1979

Judge Benjamin, House  
Polk County

JUN 14 1979





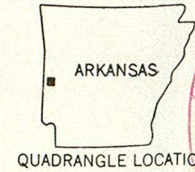
Shaver House  
Mena, Arkansas  
UTM Reference:  
15/ 385840/ 3827360

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1958  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

74°  
TRUE NORTH  
MAGNETIC NORTH  
APPROXIMATE MEAN  
DECLINATION, 1958

SCALE 1:24,000  
1 000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 KILOMETER  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
U. S. Route ——— State Route ———

RECEIVED  
JUN 14 1979  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER

MENA, ARK.  
SW 1/4 MENA 15' QUADRANGLE  
N 3430—W 9407.5/7.5

1958

DEC 6 1979





## ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building · Markham and Main · Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Phone: (501) 371-2763

November 7, 1979

Ms. Carol Shull  
Acting Keeper of the National Register  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Ms. Shull:

Please find below the verbal boundary description of the Shaver House as requested by your office:

The North 120 feet of Lot 1 and the East 9.5 feet of the North 120 feet of Lot 2 all in Block 4 of Olmsted's Subdivision of Block 9 in Eureka Addition to the City of Mena, Arkansas, as per the recorded plat thereof, fronting 109.5 feet on Port Arthur Avenue and 120 feet on 12th Street.

If we may be of further assistance in regard to the processing of the Shaver House nomination, please inform us.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Joan Williams Baldrige  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JWB/fb



THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

NOV 13 1979

DATE REC'D

\_\_\_\_\_  
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered DEC 6 1979

Name

Location

Garland County Courthouse

Hot Springs  
Garland County

Shaver, Judge Benjamin, House

Mena  
Polk County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers

Honorable David Pryor  
Honorable John P. Hammerschmidt

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Ms. Joan Baldrige  
Director, Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program  
Suite 500, Continental Building  
Markham and Main Streets  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NR Byers/bjr 12/12/79