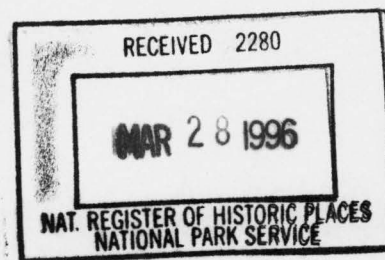


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Ft. Smith Confederate Monument

other name/site number: SB0418S

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: Courthouse Lawn (at the courthouse's northern corner;
near intersection of 6th Street and Rogers Avenue)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Ft. Smith

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Sebastian code: AR 131 zip code: 72901

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
<u>1</u>	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy:" Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934

=====

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet

Cathryn A. Slato

Signature of certifying official

3-12-96

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Edson R. Beall 4-26-96

Beall _____
Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Monument/marker

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Monument/marker

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Neoclassical

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>STONE</u>	roof	<u>N/A</u>
	walls	<u>STONE</u>	other	_____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. _____ See continuation sheet.

Summary

The Fort Smith Confederate Memorial is located on the front lawn of the Sebastian County Courthouse. It is a stone structure made by Monumental Cut Stone Co. The sculpture is of a mustachioed Confederate soldier gazing north in a state of alert readiness. He is holding the upper stock of his rifle, which is grounded at his side and leans slightly forward and away from his body, with his proper right hand. The base of the monument is 390"x130"x131", while the sculpture itself is 72"x20"x20".

Elaboration

The Fort Smith Confederate Memorial is located on the front lawn of the Sebastian County Courthouse. It is a stone structure made by Monumental Cut Stone Co. The sculpture is of a mustachioed Confederate soldier gazing north in a state of alert readiness. He is holding the upper stock of his rifle, which is grounded at his side and leans slightly forward and away from his body, with his proper right hand. The base of the monument is 390"x130"x131", while the sculpture itself is 72"x20"x20".

On the north face of the base is the inscription: "LEST WE FORGET / 1861-1865 / OUR CONFEDERATE DEAD / ERECTED / BY THE / VARINA JEFFERSON DAVIS / CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS / OF CONFEDERACY / FORT SMITH, ARK. / 1903." The base is also embossed with crossed swords on the north sides, crossed Confederate flags on the west side, crossed cannon on the south side, and an anchor on the east side. Thirteen stars are incorporated into the garland that drapes around all four sides.

There is a split on the figure's proper right arm running from the shoulder to the elbow, as well as black crusts and organic growth. The base of the monument shows spalling, sugaring, black crusts, organic growth, and deteriorating joints. A horizontal crack has formed on the east side of the base, and the stars on the proper right of the south side of the base are chipped.

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in

relation to other properties: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): F

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1903 _____

Significant Dates: 1903 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
____ See continuation sheet.

Summary

Criterion A, statewide significance
Criterion Consideration F

The Fort Smith Confederate Memorial is associated with the historic context **"Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934** as a commemorative monument financed and erected through the efforts of an ancestral organization in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Varina Jefferson Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

Elaboration

At the close of the Civil War, a native sandstone shaft was erected in the Fort Smith National Cemetery in honor of Confederate Gens. A.E. Steen and James McIntosh. Both had died in battle in 1862; Steen at Prairie Grove and McIntosh at Pea Ridge. In 1898 this monument was destroyed by a tornado and the government replaced the sandstone shaft with a simple marker with the generals' names and the phrase "The Unknown Confederate Dead" inscribed on it. This new marker, which at five feet tall was dwarfed by the surrounding monuments in the cemetery, was deemed unsatisfactory by many Fort Smith residents. Partially as a result of this, the Varina Jefferson Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was formed on October 9, 1898 with the principle goal to "fulfill the duties of sacred charity toward monuments

to our dead."

For the next five years, the ladies raised money to build what they considered a more proper memorial for the Confederate war dead. Through soliciting donations and holding "teas, dances, suppers, attending booths at street fairs, and various entertainments" they eventually raised \$2,332.39 for the new monument.

The new memorial was much larger and more elaborate than either of its predecessors. On the north face of the base is the inscription: "LEST WE FORGET / 1861-1865 / OUR CONFEDERATE DEAD / ERECTED / BY THE / VARINA JEFFERSON DAVIS / CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS / OF CONFEDERACY / FORT SMITH, ARK. / 1903." The base is also embossed with crossed swords on the north sides, crossed Confederate flags on the west side, crossed cannon on the south side, and an anchor on the east side. Thirteen stars are incorporated into the garland that drapes around all four sides.

The monument was almost completed when, in December 1902, the Quartermaster General of the Army decided that it could not be erected in the National Cemetery because he found some of its content, including the statue of the Confederate soldier, the carved Dixie flags, and, most notably, the inscription "LEST WE FORGET" objectionable. The Quartermaster General passed on his concerns to Secretary of War Elihu Root, who agreed that the monument could not be erected in the cemetery unless certain "suggested modifications" were made. Local newspapers were vehement in their outrage against this decision: J.F. Weaver of the Fort Smith Elevator called it "an exhibition of smallness", and an Arkansas Democrat editorial said the government should be "criticized for its unseemingly intolerance." The matter was resolved when, in January 1903, the city council of Fort Smith granted permission for the unaltered monument to be placed in the yard of the Sebastian County Courthouse.

The monument was unveiled at the courthouse at 2 P.M. September 10, 1903. A large crowd gathered to watch the ceremonies, which featured Confederate war veterans dressed in their gray uniforms, a marching band, and a series of speakers that included military officials and U.S. Senator James H. Berry. The next three issues of the Elevator included extensive coverage of the event.

The Fort Smith Confederate Memorial is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934 as a commemorative monument financed and erected through the efforts of an ancestral organization in Arkansas. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the efforts of the Varina Jefferson Davis Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. Thus, it also meets the eligibility requirements of Criteria Consideration F: Commemorative Properties.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Southwest Times Record, "If not for three words ...", July 27, 1975 (clipping on file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

SOS! sculpture survey materials on file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

___ See continuation sheet.

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 Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>370310</u>	<u>3916730</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u> </u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u> </u>

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

An area around the monument defined by a 25 foot radius centered on the monument itself.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: John Slater, Special Projects Intern/AHPP Staff

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/08/96

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Ft. Smith Confederate Monument

MULTIPLE NAME: Civil War Commemorative Sculpture MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Sebastian

DATE RECEIVED: 3/28/96 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/09/96
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/25/96 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/12/96
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 96000460

NOMINATOR: STATE

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9-26-96 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Fort Smith Confederate Monument
Fort Smith, Sebastian Co., AR

Photo by Mark Christ

September 15, 1995

Negative on file at AHPP

View from north



Fort Smith Confederate Monument
Fort Smith, Sebastian Co., AR

Photo by Mark Christ

September 15, 1995

Negative on file at AHPP

View from east

1861 — 1865

OUR CONFEDERATE DEAD

ERECTED BY THE
VIRGINIA DAUGHTERS OF THE
CHAPTER, DAUGHTERS
OF CONFEDERACY
FORT SMITH, ARK.
1903.

Fort Smith Confederate Monument

Fort Smith, Sebastian Co., AR

Photo by Mark Christ

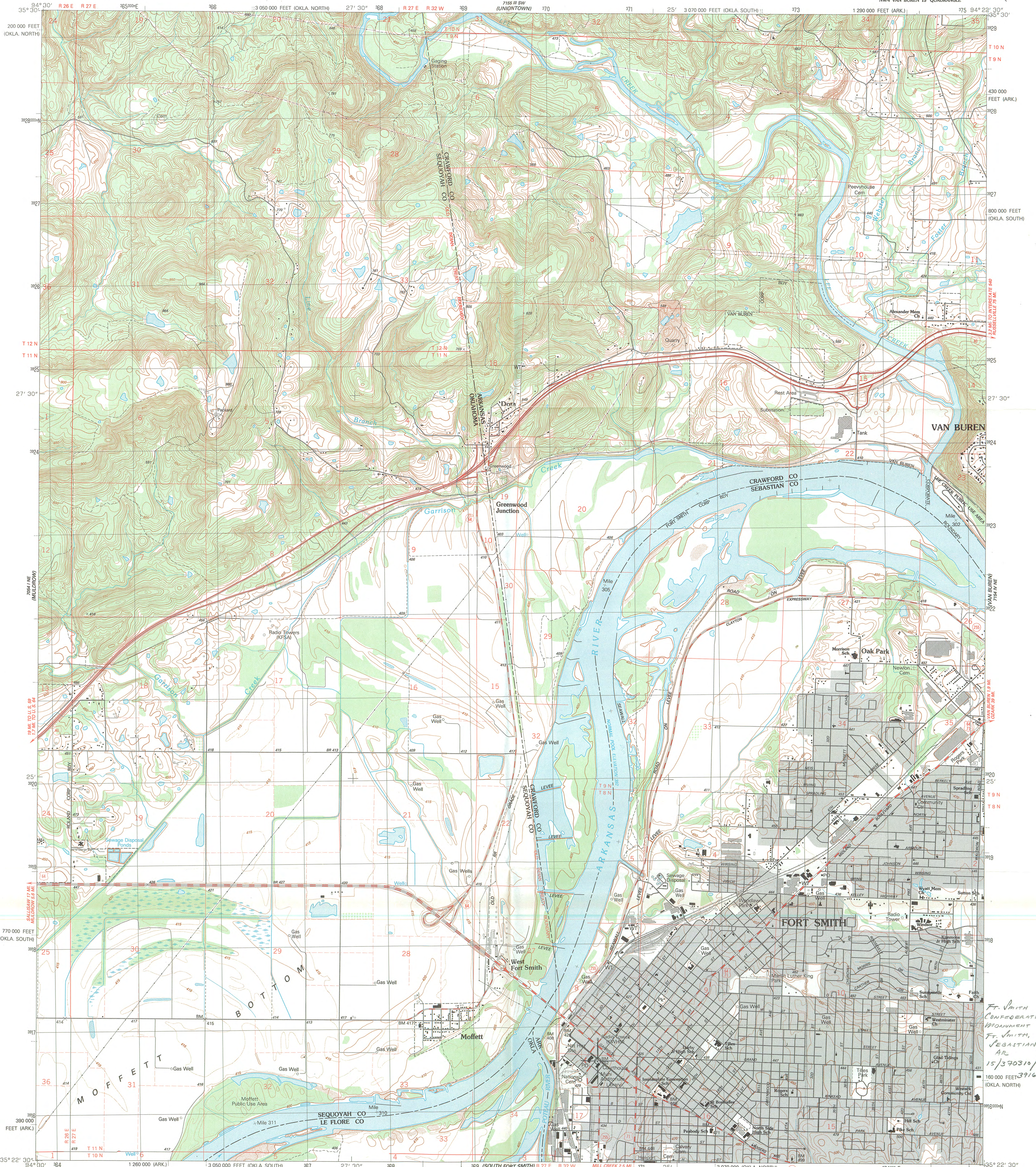
September 15, 1995

Negative on file at AHPP

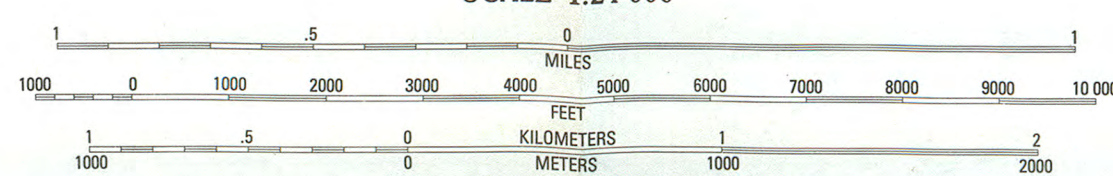
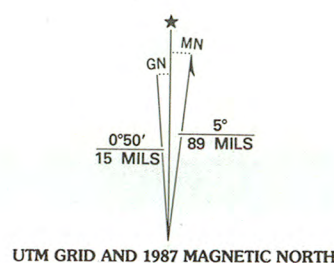
Detail of north face

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FORT SMITH QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW¼ VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
Control by USGS AND NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
taken 1983. Field checked 1985. Map edited 1987
Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1947
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate
system, north zone, and Oklahoma coordinate system, north
and south zones (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 6 meters south and
19 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of
the National or State reservations shown on this map
Gray tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
AND OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



Primary highway, hard surface Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface Unimproved road
Interstate Route U. S. Route State Route

FORT SMITH, ARK.-OKLA.
NW¼ VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE
35094-04-TF-024

1987

DMA 7154 IV NW-SERIES V884