

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Averitt House

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: 6 miles south of Texarkana; west off U.S. Route 71

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Mount Pleasant

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Miller code: AR 091 zip code: 72561

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

6-24-92
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

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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): _____

Entered in the
National Register

Alvina Byrd 7/24/92

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

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Historic: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

Current : Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

Architectural Classification:

Other Description: Rustic

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt
walls Log other Stone

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

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local _____.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1933

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Tom Averitt

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Averitt House is a single-story, wood log structure designed in the style generally known as "Rustic." It features an irregular, roughly "L"-shaped plan, with a shed roof porch on its northeastern elevation. A single fieldstone chimney rises through the gable roof near the intersection of the two gable-roof sections. The asphalt shingle roof and log walls are supported upon a continuous stone foundation.

Elaboration

The Averitt House is a single-story, wood log structure designed in the style generally known as "Rustic." It features an irregular, roughly "L"-shaped plan, with a shed roof porch on its northeastern elevation. A single fieldstone chimney rises through the gable roof near the intersection of the two gable-roof sections. The asphalt shingle roof and log walls are supported upon a continuous stone foundation.

The northeastern or front elevation is formed by the two intersecting gables, consisting of the side of one gable and the gable end of the other. A single-story, shed roof porch projects from the side gable wall, and is supported upon four rough log posts. The wall beneath is accessed via a single, central entrance flanked by two six-over-six wood sash windows. The section of the wall of the intersecting gable that is also beneath the shed roof is accessed via a single entrance. A single, central window lights the gable end to the south. The southeastern elevation features a single-leaf entrance to the southwest and two modern windows to the northeast, all of which are located directly above a modern, flat wood deck with a balustrade. Two single six-over-six wood sash windows flanking a central, smaller window complete the elevation. The southwestern elevation is fenestrated with a single six-over-six wood sash window in the side gable wall that is recessed to the northwest, a bank of windows in the center (now boarded-over) and a single smaller wood sash window to the southeast. A single-leaf entrance accesses the perpendicular wall section between the recessed side gable to the northwest and the projecting, shed roof section near the center. The northwestern elevation is composed of the side gable at the end of the porch described above and the gable end that is fenestrated with a pair of six-over-six wood sash windows.

There is little significant exterior ornament of note, for as is typical of the Rustic style, the saddle-notched, round logs that compose the walls and the sloping corners provide the only detail besides the unfinished log supports beneath the shed roof front porch.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The principal living area within the structure survives in a remarkable state of preservation. The large, rough-hewn fieldstone fireplace with its broad, wood mantel remains at one end, while a series of exposed, stained log cross-ties lead to the unhewn stick and log balcony at the opposite end. The cathedral ceiling has been resheathed with particle-board for insulation purposes, and other of the adjacent rooms have suffered some modernization, but overall the entire structure retains much of its original appearance throughout. There have been few other alterations to the structure of note.

Also included in the nomination are two outbuildings: a log construction, automobile garage and a later, concrete block storage building (non-contributing).

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The Averitt House, constructed c. 1933, is locally significant under Criterion C as the best example of the Rustic architectural style, and probably the only such design ever constructed in the entire county. The logs visible on its exterior remain largely visible on the interior, and especially so in the large family room, or hall, located at the northwestern end of the larger gable roof section. An original stone fireplace and loft balustrade constructed from unfinished branches also survive.

Elaboration

The Averitt House is located on Hwy. 71, to the south of the crossroads that forms the small community of Mount Pleasant (now little more than a church). The area has always been covered with pine forest and occasional hardwoods, and thus has been ill suited to farming or hardwood timbering. Thus the area has always been sparsely populated, as it remains until this day.

The arrival of the automobile and the dramatic increase in mobility it afforded Americans opened up for settlement parcels of land that had been previously unattractive due to their remove from larger urban centers and their inability to afford any kind of living in their own right. The automobile, even moreso than the railroad or any combination of commuter trains and/or trolley cars, made the idea of residing several miles away from one's workplace not only feasible, but with the increase in overall noise and congestion brought about by the dramatic growth in American cities during the early twentieth century, even preferable. Such developments played an important role in the settlement of such areas as the stretch of U.S. Hwy. 71 south of the historic community of Mount Pleasant, whereon the Averitt House was constructed.

The Averitt House was constructed by Tom Averitt between the years 1931 and 1933, reputedly by himself and without the help of other laborers. Averitt was a health inspector for Miller County, and probably built this house for himself and his wife Blanche due to the relatively central location of the site relative to the overall county boundaries. The logs for the construction were cut from the site during the clearing process, and Averitt used this available lumber for the construction of the house itself.

Averitt's choice of a clearly Rustic style of architecture, though not at all inappropriate for the Depression era, remains somewhat of a mystery given the fact that there was virtually no documented Civilian Conservation Corps activity in Miller County, though they were actively constructing various facilities for the Ouachita National Forest, the southern boundary of which was located about sixty

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

miles to the northeast. However, given that Averitt was a health inspector, it seems likely that he was well read and was probably familiar with the aesthetic then popular for such rural public works construction, and particularly within wooded settings much like the one he selected for the construction of this home. Regardless of the source of the inspiration, however, the Rustic style clearly influenced Averitt in the design of his home. The use of unfinished logs on both the interior and exterior of the house, the selection of uncoursed, unfinished stone for the fireplace, and the dark, natural look of the handsome wood throughout the house combines with the overall emphasis on horizontality and the broad, overhanging eaves to reveal strongly the influence of the Rustic style. This aesthetic is carried over to the associated automobile garage/storage building to the rear of the house, also included in the nomination.

The Averitt House is the only example of this style of construction known to have ever existed in this rural, central section of Miller County, and it is certainly the only such example extant. As such, it is eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource, both around and between the house and the two outbuildings.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Interview with Ann Turk; September, 1991.

Miller County Home Extension Scrapbook, 1938.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Ken Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 6/23/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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 Averitt House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Miller

DATE RECEIVED: 6/25/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 7/07/92
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/23/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/09/92
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000958

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 7/24/92 DATE

Entered in the
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA _____
REVIEWER _____
DISCIPLINE _____
DATE _____

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

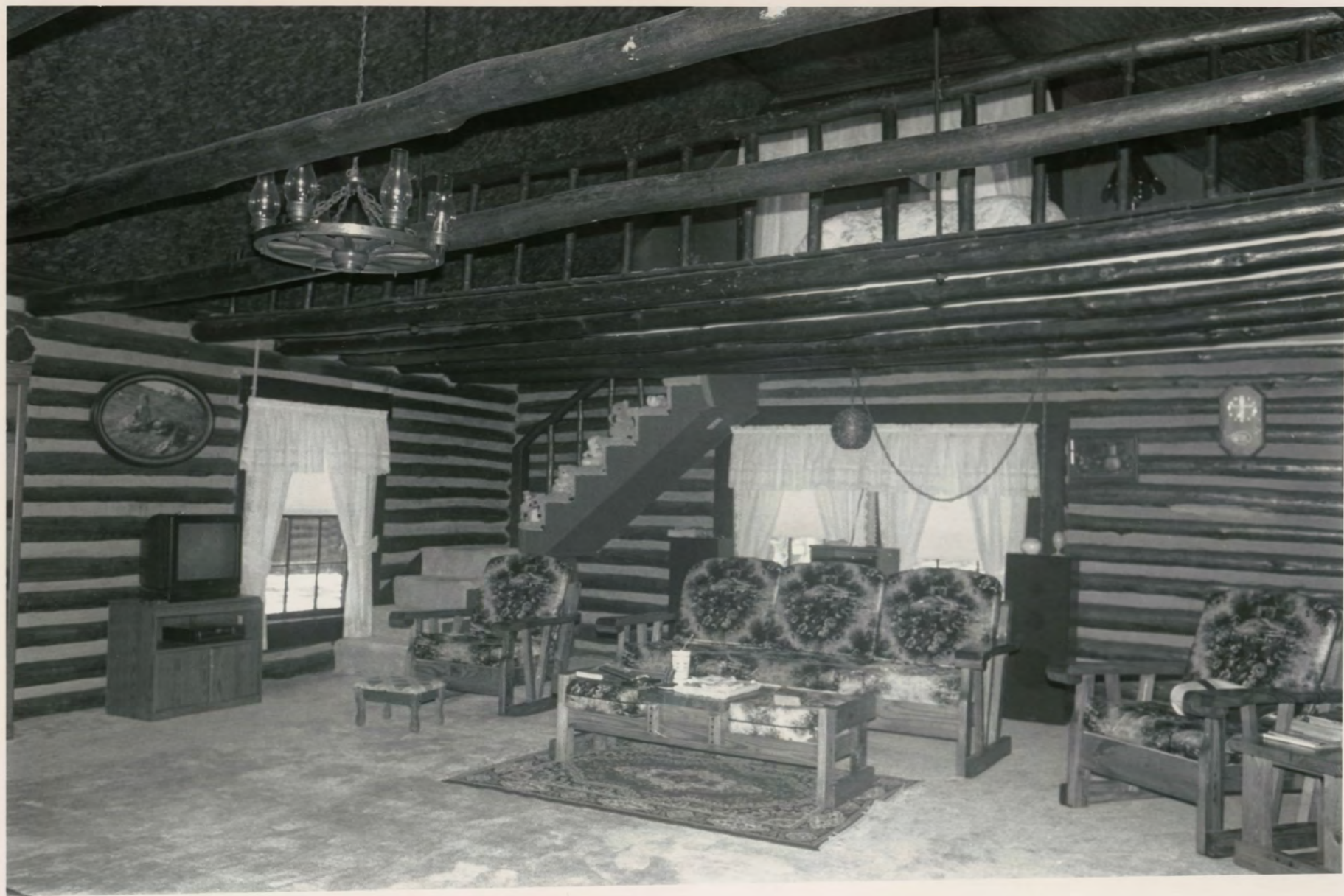
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed _____ Phone _____

Date _____



Averitt House
Miller Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollner
September 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the north



Averitt House

Miller Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Patrick Zolher

September 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View of interior from the east



Averitt House
Miller Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollner
September 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View of saddle notching



Averitt House
Miller Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollner
September 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the northeast



Averitt House
Miller Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollner
September 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the southwest



Averitt House
Miller Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollner
September 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View of garage outbuilding from the east.

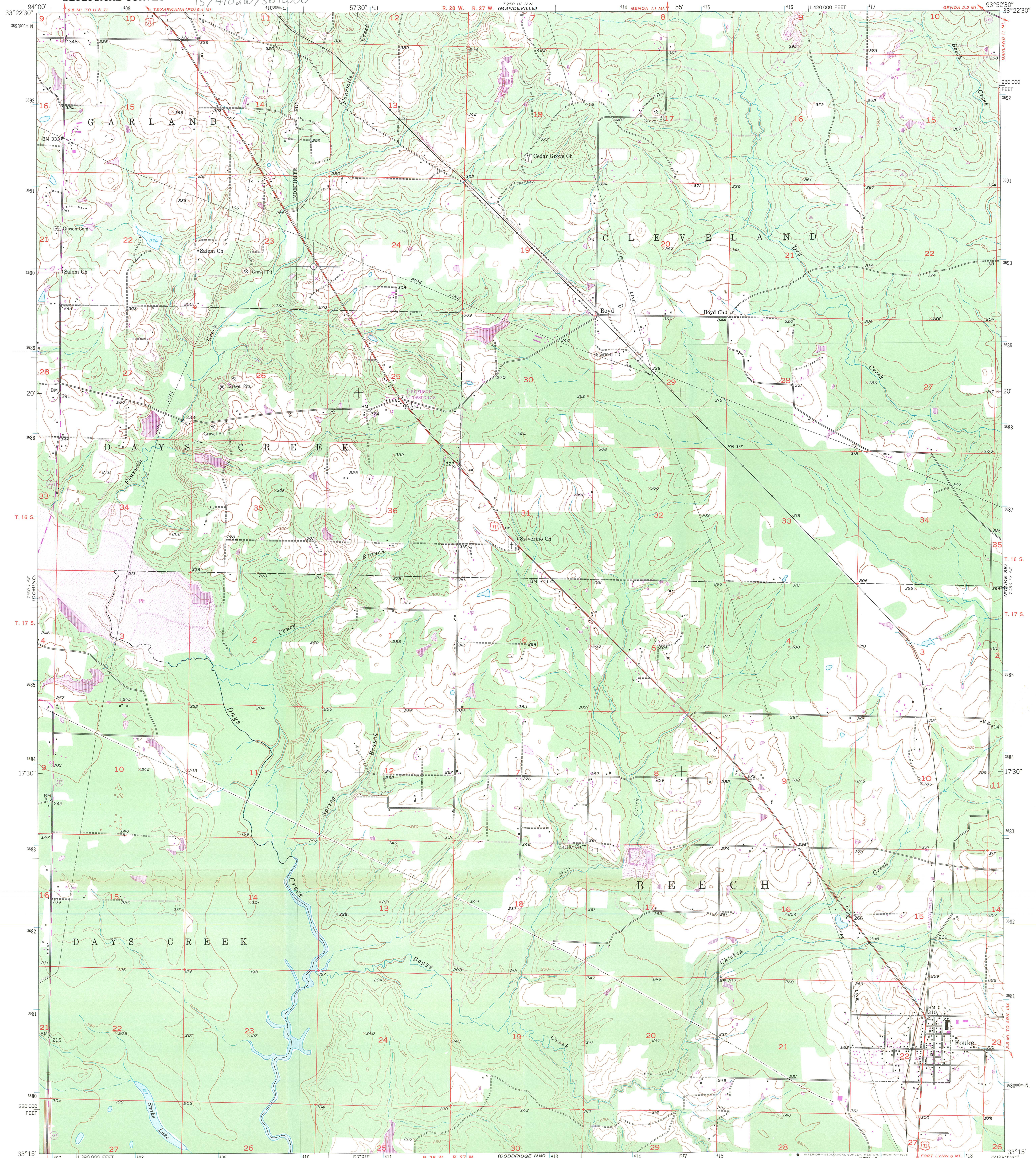


Averitt House,
Miller Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolher
September 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View of porch supports
from the northwest

Averitt House
Mount Pleasant vic., Arkansas
UTM
15/410280/3690000

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

FOUKE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-MILLER CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs

taken 1948. Topography by plane-table surveys 1951-1952

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

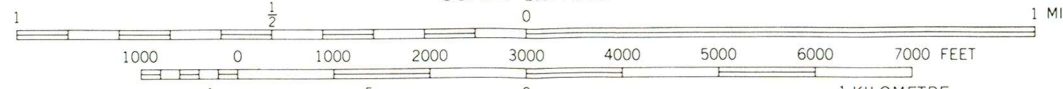
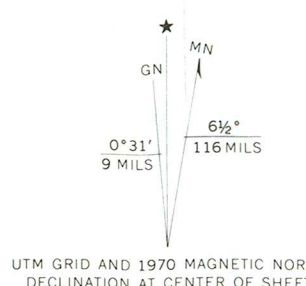
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone

1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,

zone 15, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs

taken 1970. This information not field checked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

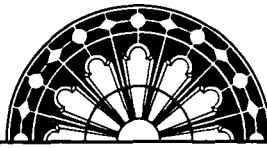
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

FOUKE, ARK.
N3315-W9352.5/7.5

1952
PHOTOREVISED 1970
AMS 7250 IV SW-SERIES V884



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

RECEIVED
JUN 25 1992

NATIONAL
REGISTER

June 24, 1992

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Averitt House
Mount Pleasant, Miller County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

