

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPH 0685666
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 10 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1978

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

The Oliver House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

203 West Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Corning

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

COUNTY

Clay

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

___ PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

☒ OTHER: Law office**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Sole, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Corning

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas 72422

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Market and Second Streets

CITY, TOWN

Corning

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

State Survey, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

November, 1971

___ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

County files, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas 72201

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___ EXCELLENT

X GOOD

___ FAIR

___ DETERIORATED

___ RUINS

___ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

___ UNALTERED

X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

___ ORIGINAL SITE

X MOVED

DATE 1895

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Oliver House is a two story, ell shaped, frame structure facing east. The long leg of the ell runs north to south and has a gambrel roof. The short leg projects east with a gabled roof. There is a second gable placed in the gambrel roof south of the roof intersections. South of this gable is a gabled dormer. A second dormer is on the south side of the gable leg. There are two brick chimneys, one centered on the gable leg and the other centered on the gambrel leg. There are three dormers on the rear (west).

A Tuscan column porch begins on the south corner of the east side, wraps the short ell leg and continues across the north side. On the south elevation is a three-bay window. The entrance door and sidelights are oval beveled glass and the transom is a straight pane. Windows on gable ends are one center window flanked by two narrower ones. Windows are one over one (1/1). Windows on the east elevation, first story have diamond pattern upper panes. The building is finished in weatherboard.

Leading from the entrance hall to the second level is a half-turn stair composed of turned banisters with paneling below the stair. At the intersection of the stair and second floor is a half-round projection into the stairwell. The stairwell is enclosed with the same railing as the stair. Woodwork in the structure is original. There are two notable mantels. In the first parlor is a classically detailed mantel. In the parlor behind is a pattern book Victorian mantel. The house is heated with steam radiators, by the American Radiator Company.

Editor's Note: The house was remodeled in 1901 and 1910. Originally, the structure faced north onto Walnut Street. In 1895 it was moved to face the railroad. In 1909 the upstairs and porch were added. The original structure is encased within the present building but there is no physical evidence of its existence. While the first structure was built in 1887, the house existent today should be considered a 1909 structure.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

___PREHISTORIC
___1400-1499
___1500-1599
___1600-1699
___1700-1799
___1800-1899
X 1900-

___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
___AGRICULTURE
X ARCHITECTURE
___ART
X COMMERCE
___COMMUNICATIONS

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

___COMMUNITY PLANNING
___CONSERVATION
___ECONOMICS
___EDUCATION
___ENGINEERING
X EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
___INDUSTRY
___INVENTION

___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
___LAW
___LITERATURE
___MILITARY
___MUSIC
___PHILOSOPHY
___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

___RELIGION
___SCIENCE
___SCULPTURE
___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
___THEATER
___TRANSPORTATION
___OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1880, 1901, 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Oliver House is an example of a dwelling which organically developed from a small Victorian core structure begun in ca. 1880 into a large classically detailed structure, last altered in 1909. The building faces the rail line that spurred the growth of Corning, Arkansas, and is closely linked with one of the community's outstanding twentieth-century merchants, J. L. Oliver, Jr.

The Oliver House is one of the oldest standing structures in Corning. (Note: reputedly the second oldest.) As originally built, the house faced Walnut Street in the north. In 1895 it was moved to face the railroad line across the street and to the east of the house. The exact date of construction for the building is unknown. J. M. Oliver, II, son of an early occupant in the house, believes that the building was erected in the 1870's. This date cannot be confirmed. Furthermore, the present appearance of the building dates from after the turn of the century when owner, Dr. J. M. Oliver, radically altered the appearance of the structure.

Dr. Oliver bought the building from J. W. Harb in 1887, who in turn had acquired the land from the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad one year earlier. After Dr. Oliver's death the building passed into the hands of his son, J. M. Oliver, II. Oliver ran a general merchandise store, Oliver and Company, on the same block occupied by the Oliver House. The Oliver and Company building, though greatly modified, remains standing. The Oliver home and Oliver and Company building were once separated by a horse lot, but a small frame dwelling presently occupies the site between the buildings.

The two major alterations which completely modified the house occurred in 1901 and 1909 leaving in their wake a sprawling, classically-detailed dwelling. In the 1909 alteration a second floor was added to the house and a columned porch was attached to the east and north elevations. An outstanding interior feature of the house is the half-turn stair composed of turned bannisters with panneling below the stair. At the intersection of the stair and second floor is an unusual half-round projection into the stairwell. The stairwell is enclosed with the same railing as the stair. The building also contains two notable mantels, each probably dating from a different remodelling period. One in the front parlor is classically detailed, while one in an adjoining, rear parlour of a Victorian, pattern-book design. The building is still heated with steam radiators cast by the American Radiator Company.

Overall, the exterior of the building, when compared with a 1910 photograph, is unaltered since that date. The interior retains its past 1909 appearance in several rooms; most notably the front parlor and second-floor hall landing. However, paneling has been applied to several rooms which serve as offices for the present owner, attorney Oliver E. Cox.

Mr. Cox is aware of the intrinsic value of the property and plans to preserve the house for use as his law office.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abstract, in possession of Oliver E. Cox, Corning, Arkansas.
Cox, Oliver E., Interview, August 15, 1978.
Oliver, Eulalae. Interview by Oliver E. Cox, Attorney, July 1978.
Oliver, J. M., Interview by Cal Cotton, November, 1971.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Corning, Ar

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:2400

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 717 100 4031 960

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 11 and 12 in Block 20 in the City of Corning, Arkansas.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

Arkansas Clay

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Frezil Miller and Mike Shinn

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

8/29/78

STREET & NUMBER

Main and Markham Streets (Suite 500, Continental Bldg.)

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

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

Anne Bartley
SHPD

10/3/78

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 12-8-78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 12-7-78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

78000578

Property

The Oliver House

State

Ark.

Working Number

10.10.78.4228

TECHNICAL

Photos

12

Maps

*1**Nothing incorrect OK BB*

CONTROL

pl
10.11.78

correctly

Note ~~all the~~ *that* State *is* insisting that we treat as building now exists. Historical associations and their value are stated though not elaborated on --they relate to post 1909 building.

Total property appears to be locally significant - defer to architect on visual contribution of structure.

HISTORIAN

Sheffy
12-7-78
? accept

The building reflects the transformation of 1909. There are classic details (Tuscan columns) a chimney-piece with paneled pilasters) and earlier pattern-book elements (mirrored chimney-piece, entrance). Aside from the installation of paneling the house is relatively unaltered since 1909. The house is reputedly the 2nd oldest in Corning, however, there is no proof

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

of this and the older structure has been completely encased by the later alterations. The statement of significance does not justify the inclusion of architecture as an area of significance; it actually continues to describe the house. The house does give a sense of time. Its integrity has not been destroyed.

ARCHEOLOGIST

Bergson 12/6/78 accept

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Although a complicated property -
accept in context described
above -

Sheffy for
12-7-78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered *DEC 8 1978*

Federal Register Entry _____

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



DEC 8 1978

Oliver's House
Corning, AR

1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

East elevation
photo 1

Clay Co

OCT 10 1978



Oliver's House

Corning, AR

1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

East and North Elevations

photo 2

DEC 8 1978

Clay Co.

OCT 10 1978



DEC 8 1978

Oliver's House
Corning, AR
1978

Mike Shinn
AHPP

South Elevation
photo 3

Clay W.

OCT 10 1978



Oliver's House

Corning, AR

1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

Entrance, east elevation

Photo 4

DEC 8 1978

Clay Co.

OCT 10 1978



DEC 8 1978

Oliver's House
Corning, AR
1978

Clay Co

Mike Shinn
Entrance, east elevation
photo 5

OCT 10 1978



DEC 8 1978

Oliver's House
Corning, AR
1978

Clay Co

OCT 10 1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

window, east elevation

photo 5

Window Front elevation
(east)



DEC 8 1978

Oliver's House

Corning, AR

1978

Clay Co.

Mike Shinn

AHPP

interior, mantel

photo 6

OCT 10 1978



Oliver's House

Corning, AR

1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

interior, mantel

photo 7

DEC 8 1978

Clay Co

OCT 10 1978



Oliver's House
Corning, AR

1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

interior, parlor

photo 8

DEC 8 1978

Clay Co.

OCT 10 1978



Oliver's House
Corning, AR
1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

interior, front stair

Photo 9

DEC 8 1978

Clay Co.

OCT 10 1978



Oliver's House

Corning, AR

1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

interior, stair landing

photo 10

DEC 8 1978

Clay Co.

OCT 10 1978



Oliver's House
Corning, AR
1978

Mike Shinn

AHPP

interior, round turn landing
photo 11

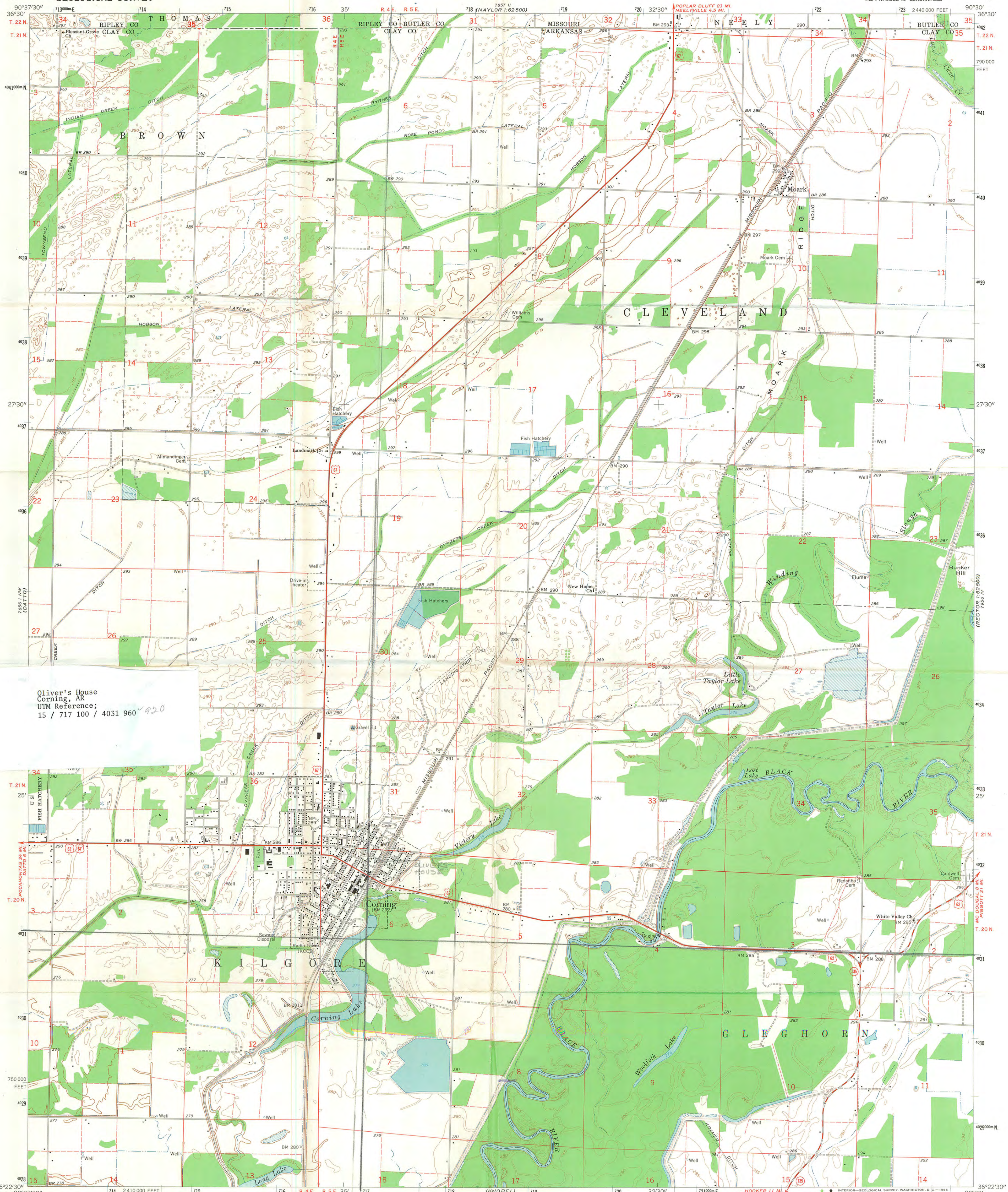
DEC 8 1978

Clay Co

OCT 10 1978

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

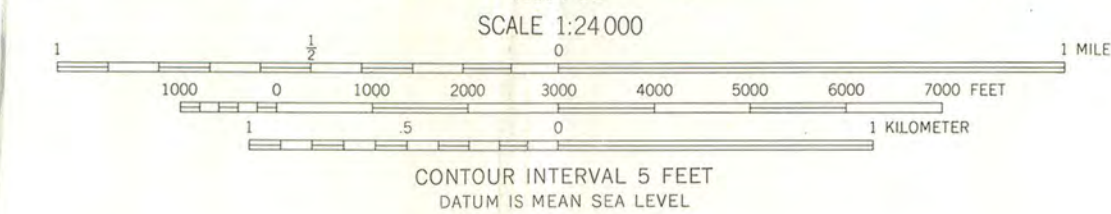
CORNING QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS—MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE/4 KNOBEL 15' QUADRANGLE



Oliver's House
Corning, AR
UTM Reference:
15 / 717 100 / 4031 960

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963 and planimetric surveys 1964
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
AND MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI
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 ———

CORNING, ARK.—MO.
NE/4 KNOBEL 15' QUADRANGLE
N3622.5—W9030/7.5

1964

AMS 7896 I NE—SERIES V884

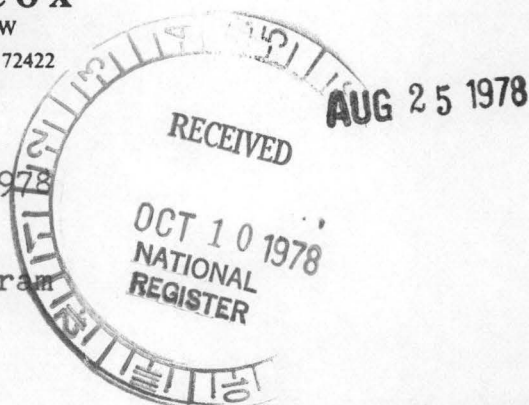
DEC 8 1978

OLIVER E. COX

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
CORNING, ARKANSAS 72422

August 22, 1978

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
Suite 500, Continental Bldg.
Markham & Main Sts.
Little Rock, Ark. 72201



Re: Oliver's House, Corning,
Clay County

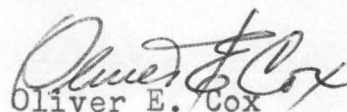
Gentlemen:

Your historic preservation program is one that will have long-range benefits for this state and nation, from the standpoint of our heritage, culture and achievement, because the success of our future is shaped by the significance of our past.

The diverse and broad geographical preservation of historic sites enables the exhibition of the long-founded and widespread faith in America and gives encouragement to the long-awaited and widespread prayers of others in the world.

Preservation of part of our past lies within your discretion of selection. In my opinion, the property herein represents a classic example of lasting character in architectural design and a classic example of confidence in America's destiny.

Yours very truly,


Oliver E. Cox

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered DEC 8 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Oliver House	Corning Clay County
Elias-McKay House	Clarendon Monroe County
McLeod, Angus, House	Fort Smith Sebastian County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers
Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.
Honorable Bill Alexander, Jr.
Honorable John P. Hammerschmidt

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

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Oliver House
 ② OTHER NAMES:
 ③ date of entry: DEC 8 1978
 ④ county code: 021

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 203 W. Front St.
 city / town: Corning
 vicinity of:
 state: AR
 county: Clay
 ⑥ NPS REGION: SW

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

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL
 ⑩ FUNDED? ☐ YES ☐ NO
 ⑪ CONGRESS DISTRICT: 1
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION ☐ STATE ☐ FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form?

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

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

⑱ ACCESS ☐ YES - Restricted ☐ YES - Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☐ NO
 ⑳ SAVED? ☐ YES
 ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☐ yes ☐ no

㉒ 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
☐ INVENTION-14 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain
 'first' ☐
 'oldest' ☐
 'only' ☐

㉔ functions
 WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT:
 CURRENTLY:
 ㉕ dates of initial construction:
 major alterations:
 historic events:
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s):
 ㉘ architect:
 ㉙ master builder:
 ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer:
 ㉜ interior decorator:
 ㉝ artist:
 ㉞ artisan:
 ㉟ builder / contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP