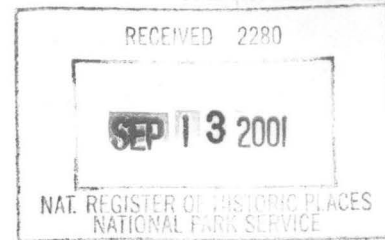


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name Tompkins, Chris House

Other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

Street & number 144 South Oak Drive

☐ not for publication

City or town Burdette

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas Code AR county Mississippi County Code 093 zip code 72321

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Collette Matthews  
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/05/01  
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 for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Entered in the  
National Register

10/28/01

Chris Tompkins House  
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

N/A

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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### SUMMARY

Located at 144 South Oak Drive in the Mississippi County town of Burdette, the Chris Tompkins House is a one-story simplified Bungalow style residence. The house was built circa 1903 along with several other similar houses for use as a residence for mid-level managers of the Three States Lumber Company. The close proximity to the timber mill and the fact the lumber company owned the house accounts for the quality of the materials used on the residence. Originally there was an entire street composed of similar houses. The Chris Tompkins House is the better of the two remaining homes.

The house sits atop a foundation of concrete piers and is topped with a composition shingle hipped roof with a broad overhang and a front facing ventilated dormer. The exterior of the home is clad in original cypress weatherboard siding. The house retains four-over-four windows on the original part of the house and most of the original glass is still intact. The home was originally rectangular in plan with screened in porches on both the front and rear elevations. In 1938 a carport was added to the north side elevation and the rear porch enclosed as a bedroom. The screen was also removed from the front porch and replaced with wrought iron post and handrails prior to World War II. A small dining area addition was added sometime in the 1940s. Original hardwood floors and several original doors remain in the interior. Original wood shingles are still visible from inside the attic and a brick chimney is concealed between the walls of the kitchen and the dining area. Other historic materials in the house include some knob and tube electrical wiring.

### ELABORATION

Located in the Mississippi County town of Burdette, the Chris Tompkins House is a modest one-story Bungalow residence. The house was built in 1903 along with several other comparable houses for use as a residence for saw mill managers and supervisors of the Three States Lumber Company. This is the best remaining example of a company house. The house is sheathed in cypress weatherboard and topped by a hipped roof covered in composition shingles. The roof has a broad eave overhang that extends forward from the house to provide covering for the front porch. The home was originally rectangular in form with screened in porches on both the front and rear elevations. The rear porch was enclosed in 1938 and the screen was removed from the front porch and replaced with wrought iron post and handrails prior to World War II. A small dining area addition was added sometime in the 1940s. Original features remaining on the inside of the home include hardwood floors, doors, and even some elements of the original electrical system.

### West Elevation

The façade of the house fronts west toward South Oak Drive. The elevation features a four-over-four window on each side of the off-center front entrance. The roof extends out from the house, and forms the ceiling of the full front porch. The porch was originally screened in, but sometime prior to World War II the screen, and original posts were removed and wrought iron post and handrails added. The sole dormer on the house is

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

centrally located on the roof above the porch and contains a louvered vent. From the front porch of the house you can look directly across a small oxbow to what remains of the Three States Lumber Company Mill.

### South Elevation

South elevation fenestration includes a pair of four-over-four windows, an eight-over-eight window, a small six-over-six window, and two pairs of two four-over-four windows. The rear portion of the elevation was originally a screened-in porch that was enclosed in 1938 and made into a third bedroom.

### East Elevation

The projection that extends from the southeast corner of the east elevation is what was at one time the back porch. The projection is fenestrated on the east side by three four-over-four windows and on the north side by a small four-over-four window. The main body of the house is fenestrated with a pair of six-over-six windows. Access to the rear of the home is gained through a door on the north side of the east elevation. A carport (added in 1938) is attached to the north east corner of the house. The flat roofed carport is supported by wood posts and covered by a flat roof.

### North Elevation

A small projection added in the mid 1940s is located at the back corner of the north elevation. It is fenestrated by a six-over-six window on the north and east sides of the projection. Four original four-over-four windows fenestrate this portion of the house.

### Integrity

The Chris Tompkins House in Burdette, Arkansas, shows the quality of materials and workmanship used to build these simple, yet durable company homes. There have been some changes to the house since it was first constructed. However, all of the changes occurred more than fifty years ago. Located across the street are the last remaining building and other ruin that made up the Three States Lumber Company Mill. The proximity of the mill gives the home an even stronger association with the company for which it was constructed. The house is the best surviving example of what was at one time a street full of similar company houses.

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

☐ **B** removed from its original location.

☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.

☐ **D** a cemetery.

☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

☐ **F** a commemorative property

☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Levels of Significance** (local, state, national)

Local

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

Circa 1903-1951

**Significant Dates**

1903, 1922

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Three States Lumber Company

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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

**Primary location of additional data:**

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State Agency

☐ Federal Agency

☐ Local Government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository:



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

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### SUMMARY

The Chris Tompkins house located at 144 South Oak Dr. in Burdette, AR is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** for its simplified Bungalow architecture. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** as the most pristine example of management housing associated with the Three States Lumber Company that founded the town. The house is one of only two remaining houses that were built for middle management on what was at one time an entire street of similar houses. The only other remaining company house that has not been heavily altered is a smaller shotgun style house. Burdette is a classic example of a company town. The town was formed to support operations of the Three States Lumber Company Mill. The company moved into Burdette in 1898 and began clearing Mississippi County, which at that time was covered in swampland and dense virgin timber. The company owned the town of Burdette from 1898 through 1922 when logging operations were completed and the majority of the mill disassembled and moved down the Mississippi River to Louisiana.

### ELABORATION

In 1898 the majority of Mississippi County, Arkansas, was covered in swamps and large stands of virgin forest. The area's proximity to the Mississippi River and vast timber resources made it an ideal choice for the location of a large lumber mill. Three States Lumber Company was a subsidiary of the John S. Owen Company headquartered in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The mill at Burdette was one of three such mills owned by the company in the south. The other two mills were located at Laurel, Mississippi, and Marked Tree, Arkansas. By 1902 the company owned over 35,000 acres of timberland in Mississippi County alone. The company president W. A. Gilchrist was one of the strongest supporters of early drainage efforts in the county.

Three States Lumber Company owned the town of Burdette from 1898-1922. During these years Burdette was a classic example of the company towns erected throughout the nation to support timber, mining and other various industries. Many northern timber companies took advantage of the lumber boom at the turn of the century and built towns from scratch. Like gold and oil boomtowns these towns were usually short lived.

Because of the lack of roads, railroads, and other modern forms of transportation each company support town had to be fairly self-sufficient. At its peak, prior to the closing of the mill in 1922, Burdette had a population of over 900. It had schools for white and black children, a company store, health care facilities provided by the company, a bathhouse for the workers, a hotel, a honky tonk, a jail, an open-air movie theater, an ice cream parlor, and a park with a bandstand where concerts and lectures were held. There was a sewer and water system, and thanks to the generator used to power the mill, residences of the town, unlike many other Arkansas citizens, had electricity.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Employee housing for Three States employees was primarily of three types. Superintendents lived in one and one-half story or two story dwellings with screened porches in front, on the sides, and in back. White-collar employees were housed in simplified Bungalow style dwellings such as the one being nominated. Laborers lived in either shotgun or small, hipped roof houses.

Burdette, like other company towns, was built to be expendable. After the timber was cut and the lumber shipped out, the mills would close. In the case of Burdette, 3,200 acres of newly cleared land was purchased for agricultural use by James Tompkins and became known as Burdette Plantation. James had come to Burdette in 1914 as farm manager for Three States Lumber Company. Some of the mill workers' houses became farm laborer houses and remained in the vicinity. A few of the larger houses also remained as housing for the plantation management, but most of the buildings was moved to other locations. Beginning in the 1930s mechanization changed farm labor patterns and fewer people were needed to produce crops. Housing was demolished as the labor force shrank.

The original occupants of the home being nominated are unknown. In 1922 it became the residence of Chris Tompkins. Chris was James Tompkins brother as well as a stockholder and officer of Burdette Plantation. The house remained in the family until 1988 when it was sold to Ricky Robbins. Members of the Tompkins family purchased the home back in 1994. Today it is the residence of Gregory and Charlee Predmore. Mrs. Predmore is a descendant of Chris Tompkins.

Today Burdette's population is only 328. Only two of the many original Bungalow houses remain. The other house has undergone extensive change. The only other company house still recognizable in its original form is a small shotgun house that would have been occupied by a laborer at the mill. There is little remaining evidence of the extensive lumber industry that flourished in Mississippi County in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Besides these houses, the only other evidence of the lumber mill at Burdette is the now decaying, large, red brick building later used as the Plantation headquarters and store. Today all the timber is gone and vast acres of farmland are found throughout the county. The remains of the mill are located across the street and a small oxbow and can be easily seen from the Tompkins House. The men who cleared Mississippi County's flooded forest played a major role in the county's transition from a flooded forest to one of the state's most productive agricultural areas.

### Significance

Constructed circa 1903, the Chris Tompkins House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** because it is the best example of a simplified Bungalow style house in Burdette, Arkansas. It is also being nominated under **Criterion A** as the best extant example of company housing for white-collar employees of the Three States Lumber Company.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Interviews with Emily Tompkins Sullivan, 1999-2001

Interviews with Chris F. Tompkins, Jr., 2000-2001

Residential Real Estate Record Cards, Mississippi County Courthouse, Osceola, AR

"Order Granting Partition of Burdette Plantation", Chancery Court Records, Osceola District, vol. 19, 1941-1944, p. 575-576..

"Order Approving Report of Commissioners...Partition of Burdette Plantation", Chancery Court Records, Osceola District, vol. 20, 1944, p. 25-40

Mississippi County Arkansas: Through the Years. Osceola, AR, Osceola-South Mississippi County Arkansas Historical Heritage Documentation Committee, 1986



Chris Tompkins House  
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	234470	3967310	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Lot W175' E871' N128' S750' Block SE1/4 SW1/4 Addn: 20-14-11 City: Burdette

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all land and resources historically associated with the property.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ruth Hale (edited by Zac Cothren)  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date 7/31/01  
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center St. Telephone (501)324-9789  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name  
street & number telephone  
city or town state zip code

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Tompkins, Chris, House  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Mississippi

DATE RECEIVED: 9/13/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/25/01  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/09/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/29/01  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01001176

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 \_\_\_ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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







1. Chris Tompkins House
2. Burdette, Mississippi County, AR
3. Zac Cothren
4. March 2001
5. AHPP
6. Looking East.
- 7.







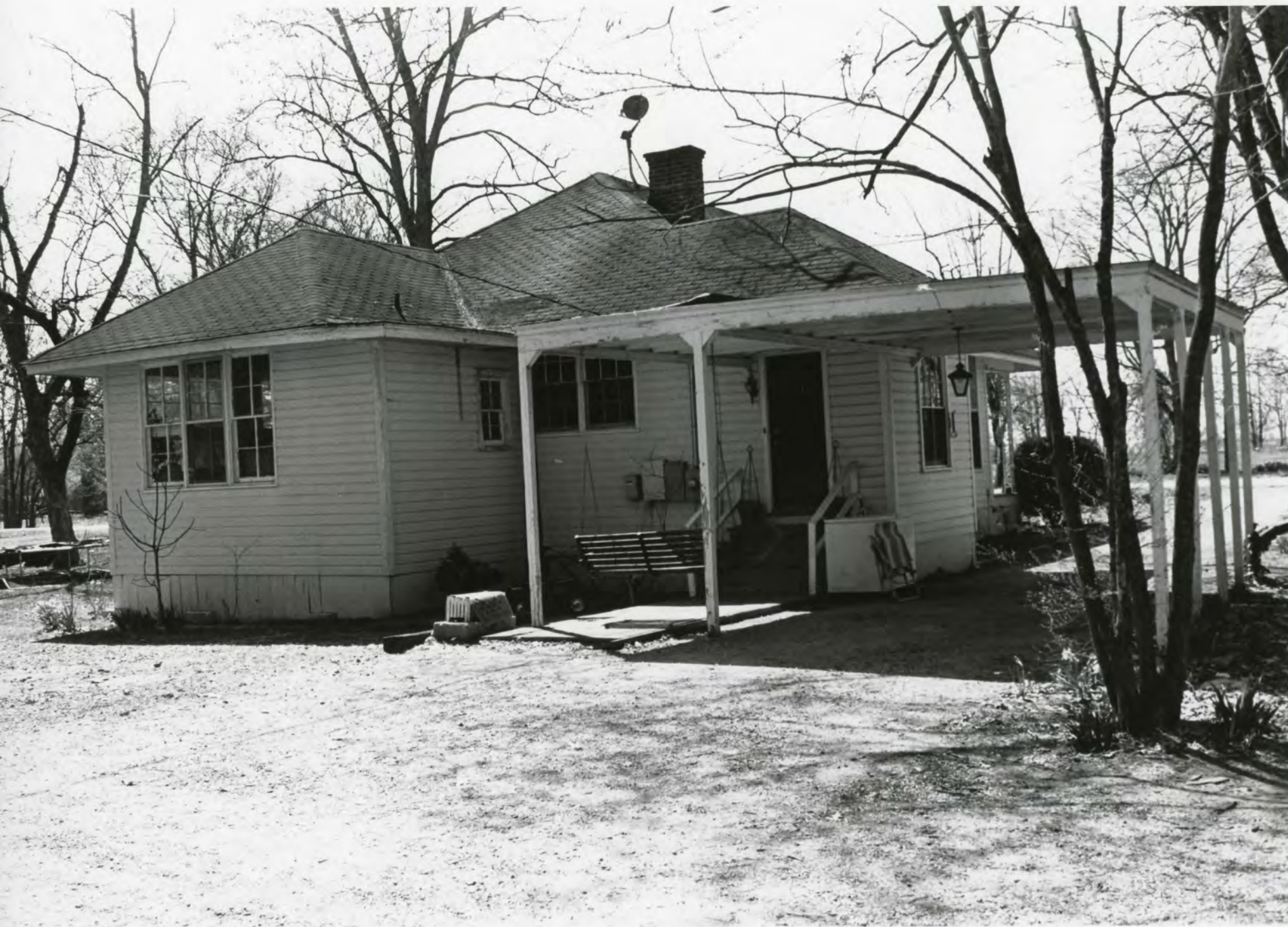
1. Chris Tompkins House
2. Mississippi County, AR
3. Zac Colman
4. March 2001
5. AHPP
6. Looking North







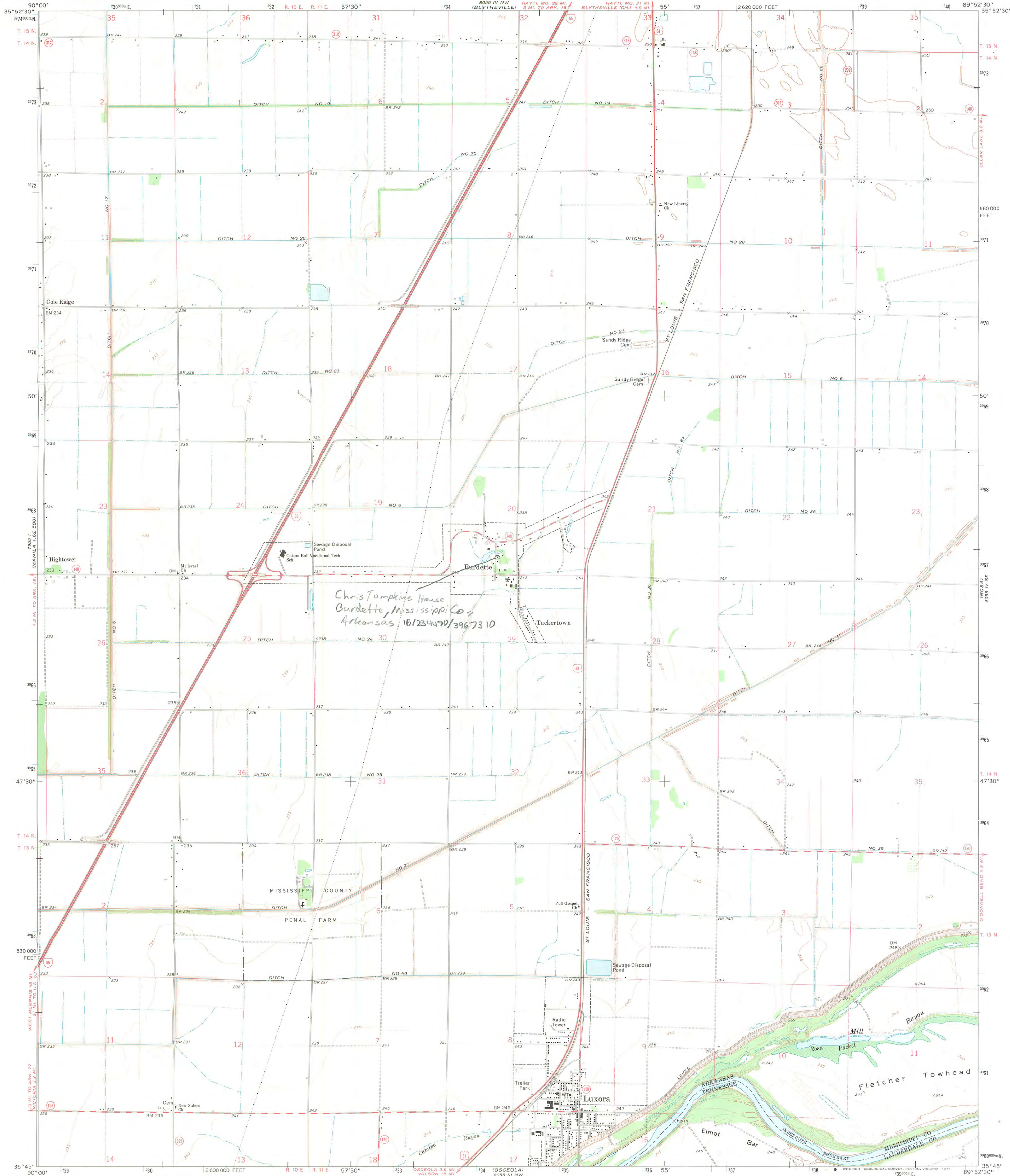
1. Chris Tompkins House
2. Mississippi County, AR
3. Zac Cochran
4. March 2001
5. AHP
6. Looking South



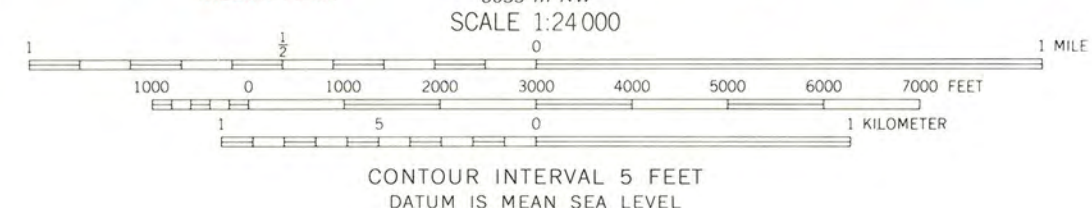
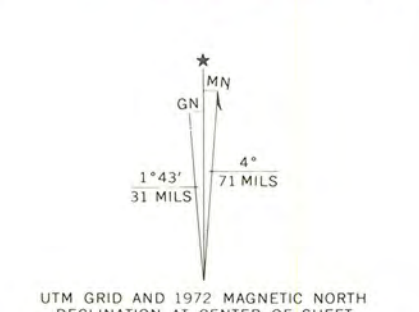


1. Chris Tompkins House
2. Mississippi County, AR
3. Zac Cothren
4. March 2001
5. AHPP
6. Looking West





Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972.  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate  
system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 16, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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

LUXORA, ARK.-TENN.  
SW 1/4 BLYTHEVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3545-W8952.5/7.5

1972

AMS 8055 IV SW-SERIES V884

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 TENNESSEE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST





## The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



### Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

September 4, 2001

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United State Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Chris Tompkins House- Burdette, Mississippi County

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,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:zc

Enclosures

An Equal Opportunity Employer



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