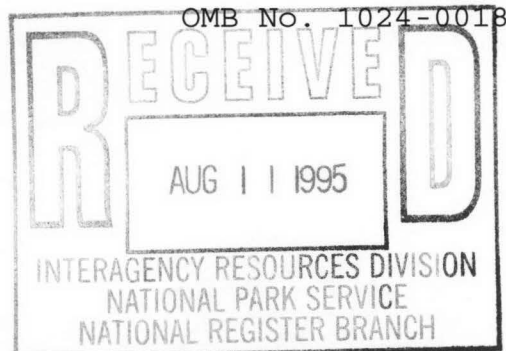


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Maquire-Williams House

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: State Highway 74

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Elkins

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Washington code: AR 143 zip code: 72727

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====
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. State

Signature of certifying official

8-3-95

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
=====

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 F. Beall
Entered in the
National Register

9.7.95

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current : DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

=====

7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other _____

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Stone/concrete roof Asphalt
walls Wood weatherboard/asbestos other Wood porch columns

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

Summary

Located approximately 1.5 miles from Elkins, Arkansas on State Highway 74, the Maguire-Williams House is a one-and-a-half story residence constructed in three stages dating c. 1838 through c. 1877. The first owner of the property, Owen Maguire, is credited with constructing the one-and-a-half story log single pen that featured a frame rear ell. Owen Maguire established a local general store that provided the focus for the later community that became known as Maguiretown. Today the residence retains its c. 1867 and c. 1877 central hallway cottage form with rear shed addition that is credited to Dr. Benjamin Franklin Williams. Dr. Williams served the local area as physician, postmaster, and state legislator.

Elaboration

The Maguire-Williams House is a one-and-a-half story log and frame residence that reflects the growth in size necessary to accommodate expanding families, rising financial and social status, and a country doctor's practice during the early statehood period. The initial phase of construction consists of a single log pen that was built by Owen Maguire in 1838-39. A dendrochronology, conducted by David Stahle of the University of Arkansas, established that the oak logs were cut in 1838. A cut-stone gable end chimney no longer exists. The structure was expanded by Dr. Benjamin Franklin Williams, c. 1867, with a central passageway and adjoining frame pen with a brick gable end chimney. The residence retains its c. 1877 appearance gained from further expansions by Dr. Williams. The only modern alteration is a bathroom extension on a rear shed addition.

The northern or front elevation is composed of six bays with two single-leaf entrances, one set into the horizontal wood in-fill that covers a c. 1867 passageway and one opening from a room added to the eastern end of the structure c. 1877 (presumably to serve as Dr. Benjamin F. Williams' medical office). The in-fill of the enclosed passageway is the same horizontal beaded board that covers both the log and frame pens on either side. A transom and half-sidelights of three lights each surround this single-leaf recessed entrance. The western c. 1838 log pen and the c. 1867 frame pen feature three feet by six feet six-over-six windows surrounded by simple

moldings that are repeated on the door frame, transom and side-lights of the passageway. The eastern end of the front elevation is covered with narrow weatherboards instead of the beaded board indicating this was associated with the c. 1877 additions. It is reasonable to presume that Dr. Benjamin F. Williams added this room to serve as his office.

An eight foot deep porch runs the entire length of the front facade. The simplified Greek Revival decorative elements of the porch include seven squared Doric columns that taper at the top with layered square capitals abutting a beaded frieze with incised decorative molding. The column on the eastern porch end lacks the same tapered form of the remaining six columns indicating it was added at a later time or is a replacement. Corner boards, at the ends of the porch, are vernacular versions of classical pilasters repeating the tapered column form and square capitals. A wide baseboard topped by a simple half-round molding runs the full length of the porch. The wood porch floor has been replaced with a cement floor that rests on an earlier stone foundation.

The simplified Greek Revival decorative elements, the use of decorative moldings, and more formal elongated windows suggests that these additions are attributed to c. 1867 changes made by Dr. Williams since he and his wife's Virginia background, as pointed out in the accompanying history, are likely to have included vernacular forms of Greek Revival influence. Two documented 1850s examples of structures built by Owen Maguire's sons exist and both were very simple frame structures with little or no decorative details. Therefore, it seems that while this structure could have been expanded with a c. 1855 frame addition, the decorative elements seen on the present front facade make it more likely that it should be credited to the Williams family's c. 1867 alterations. The change in treatment from the horizontal beaded board to the weather boarding at the eastern end of the front facade indicates that this room was probably added with c. 1877 changes after Dr. Williams had increased his medical education and his practice expanded.

The southern or rear elevation is composed of a twelve foot wide and thirty-five foot long shed roof addition. The total exterior length of the structure is fifty-seven feet. It contains one single-leaf entrance flanked by a small six-over-six window to the west, two larger six-over-six windows to the east, a narrow three light window serving a more modern bathroom extension and a stone foundation. Except for the bathroom extension, the rear shed roof addition was part of the c. 1877 alterations made by Dr. Williams. A small screened porch addition with brick foundation projects around the single-leaf entrance. The eastern end of the rear facade beyond the shed addition is composed of one three foot by six foot six-over-six window with evidence of an enclosed doorway that would have served the c. 1877 doctor's office. A three foot by six foot six-over-six window was displaced by, and reused in, the bathroom addition. A plain, wide frieze board on the c. 1867 and c. 1877 frame block of the structure echoes the Greek Revival influence. The foundation is enclosed, at this time, by a modern metal insulated covering.

An adjoining cellar entrance on the west side of the rear elevation is a later addition, and leads to a cement walled basement under part of the shed addition. This area reveals the stone foundation and puncheon floor joists of the 18 foot x 20 foot log pen. In the shed addition the exterior of the log pen is exposed at the top of the stairs that leads to the log section's upper half-story room. Here is revealed the previous roof line of an ell addition and a previous enclosure of the passageway between the log and frame pens. It is possible that this earlier rear facade featured an open passageway or a double-leaf entry. The visible area of the log pen appears to have not been exposed to the elements for the logs are not weathered.

Wide weatherboards remain intact over the logs where they were exposed beyond the ell roofline. The ell probably housed the kitchen. Some scorching is evident on the logs so perhaps a fire prompted a change in the form of the structure. Thus, the c. 1838 and c. 1867 appearance of the rear elevation would have been greatly different than the c. 1877 and present appearance.

The east gable end of the structure features a centered six-over-six window and narrow siding. The window trim is plain. The cornice trim outlining the gable is the same incised decorative molding that extends to and encompasses the front porch addition on the north side with a short gable return on the southern end. The c. 1867 east elevation of the structure before the end room was added, featured a brick gable end chimney that punctured this. It contained one firebox that served the frame pen. That chimney was enclosed by the c. 1877 addition of the doctor's office. In the 1950s the chimney was taken down to below the roofline when the current asphalt shingles were applied.

The west elevation is composed of a large single light off-centered 'picture' window with two narrow six light windows at the top of the gable. This elevation is covered with wide asphalt siding that also extends to cover the south rear facade's shed roof addition. The present owner, who has lived in the house since 1949, indicated that when she and her husband moved there a stone chimney and the wood mantel of the fireplace was still in place. The remaining portions of the fireplace and chimney were already removed. While they were absent from the house, the chimney collapsed and the mantle fell inward onto the floor. The window was installed to enclose the opening.

The interior of the house on the lower level does not reveal an obvious existence of the 1838 log pen. The staircase accessing the upper room of the log section is located in the adjoining shed addition along the south wall. An opening under this staircase reveals the rough hewn oak logs. It is from this site that dendrochronology samples were taken. The logs were cut in 1838 and since logs were frequently allowed to season up to one year prior to being used, the construction date was probably 1838-1839. There are no exposed ends of the logs to confirm the type of notching used, but half-dovetail was the most commonly employed notching in this region at that time. An early chinking is still in place at this site and it consists of wood chips and mortar.

The interior dimensions of the lower level room of the log pen are 17 feet by 19 feet with a 7.5 foot ceiling height. The room is sheathed in modern paneling and a tile ceiling. The original flooring of six inch wide pine boards exists under modern carpeting. The window and door framing is plain. The 'picture' window that replaces the original firebox opening is off-center on the west wall. The original staircase leading to the half-story room above has been removed but the upper level flooring reveals the opening of the stairwell to the south of the firebox opening. No photographs of the original mantel for this room are known to exist. During the early statehood period when this log section was constructed, this room undoubtedly was furnished with a table, chairs and one or more bedsteads. It would have been the room where most of the family activities took place.

The staircase to reach the upper level half-story room of the log pen was moved to the adjoining shed roof addition along the south wall during a later expansion. This narrow and steep enclosed staircase provides access to the upper room without cutting through the top plate of the log pen. Maintaining the integrity of the plate has contributed to its stability. The upper room or loft was constructed to serve as additional living space and not just a storage area since the logs are cut to accommodate a firebox opening into this room. The opening for the firebox was boarded over when the chimney

collapsed. The rough hewn logs of this section of the house are in full evidence in this room. They rise 3.5 feet from the wood plank flooring and provide ample head room almost to the edges of the floor. As noted previously, the original stairwell opening is obvious in the southwest corner of the room. What appears to be the original rafters of half timbers remain intact including the wood pegs (pins) and tapered shims used to keep the joints tight.

Recently added wood boards cover most of the roof's area as a nailing surface for the modern asphalt shingles. However, what may be original or early nailing boards, appear to exist where the rafters are attached to the top plate. Discarded wood hand-split shake fragments were found in the crawl space of the adjoining one story passageway and frame pen. At the loft's floor level the notches for porch rafters indicate that a dropped porch extended the full length of the c. 1838 front elevation.

This loft room of the log section still bears white wash that was used on the walls. It stops halfway up the rafters suggesting the existence of a ceiling for this room during its earliest use, presumably as a bedroom because of the firebox opening and the large size of the Maguire family. Several pegs are intact in the logs where clothing was probably hung.

The seven foot wide central hallway is currently covered with modern paneling and a dropped acoustical tile ceiling but nineteenth century horizontal board sheathing is evident from the loft of the log pen above the ceiling. The ceiling height is 11.5 feet. The north end of the hallway features the c. 1867 single-leaf entrance with transom and half side-lights with simple decorative moldings intact. The four handcrafted doors opening into the hallway on each of the four walls are pegged and paneled. The framing for the east and west doorways is plain with a simple half-round decorative trim. The original pine flooring is intact under modern carpeting. The northeast corner of the hallway held the pigeonhole mailboxes that were used in 1867 when Dr. B.F. Williams served as postmaster. The boxes were still attached to the wall when the current owners purchased the house and were taken down by a lifelong resident of the area to be preserved. The hallway has been enclosed since the home served as the Maguires town Post Office, but the c. 1867 rear enclosure varied from the present day form. Evidence of the c. 1867 enclosure of the south end of the hallway exists above the ceiling level of the c. 1877 shed addition. Examples of decorative molding that are the same or similar to those used on the front facade remain at the roof line of the c. 1867 rear opening. The opening abutted the frame ell of the log section of the structure. With the addition of the shed on the rear of the house, horizontal board sheathing was used to fill in around the existing standard size doorway.

The c. 1867 frame pen adjoining the hallway created a central hallway cottage form. The frame pen has the same interior dimensions as the log pen and ceiling height is 11.5 feet. Early twentieth century beaded board on the walls and ceiling has replaced what was originally probably horizontal board sheathing given the use of horizontal board sheathing in the central hallway. No evidence is visible for documentation. A single layer of twentieth century wallpaper covers the narrow beaded board walls. The c. 1867 decorative elements of the room do remain intact and include a chair rail with half-round molding and wide baseboards that also are topped with the half-round molding. The east wall features the original c. 1867 mantel that echoes the simple Greek Revival details on the exterior of the house, including vernacular versions of classical pilasters at the sides, a plain frieze and a simple molding supporting the shelf. Two doorways flank the mantel and appear to be c. 1877 changes when the end room was added. The north doorway with a paneled handcrafted door opens into a closet that was

created by closing off the c. 1867 exterior brick chimney. The south doorway is lacking a door and leads into the end room. The original pine flooring is intact and bears earlier paint that was applied only around the edge of an area carpet. Three elongated six-over-six windows serve the room with a window of the same size being displaced by a doorway leading to a twentieth century bathroom extension on the rear shed. The displaced window was reused on the east wall of the bathroom.

The c. 1877 northern end room of the structure was probably added to serve as Dr. Williams' medical office with the doorway opening from the front porch and a rear doorway that has been enclosed. Modern paneling sheaths the walls; acoustic tile covers the ceiling. The original treatment of the walls cannot be documented. What was the c. 1867 exterior brick chimney serving the frame pen has been enclosed with a closet created on the north side. A six-over-six window is centered on the east wall.

The rear facade c. 1877 shed roof addition presently contains a kitchen and dining room. The rooms in this addition served the same functions originally. The kitchen is located on the western end and did feature a non-extant brick flue for a cookstove. It also featured a doorway leading from the log section of the house (now enclosed). The rear entrance opens into the kitchen from a small twentieth century screened porch.

The adjoining dining room contains the enclosed stairway that leads to the loft of the log section. The narrow stairway retains its original board and batten door with original hardware. A closet is tucked beneath the stairs with its simple board and batten door intact. The walls are currently covered with a modern paneling above the c. 1877 chair rail, horizontal board wainscot, and a wide baseboard. The chair rail and baseboard are topped by a half-round molding to replicate the c. 1867 trim of the frame addition, but the dimensions of the trim are slightly smaller. The room is served by two six-over-six windows. A window air conditioner has been placed in one of these windows. The north wall features two doorways; one was created by the current owners as an entry to the log section after the kitchen doorway to this section was enclosed. The other doorway leads to the central hallway. A door on the east wall leads to the modern bathroom addition. An exterior brick chimney flue, c. 1877, opened onto this east wall but has since been taken down to below roof level and enclosed within the bathroom.

The seventeen acres owned presently by the Rowley family is the original surrounding the Maguire-Williams House. None of the original outbuildings exist but the site of Maguire's tobacco barn is known and was still standing in the early 1950s when the current owners purchased the property. Modern outbuildings consist of a storage building and small horsebarn.

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1838-c. 1877 _____

Significant Dates: c. 1838 _____

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 C, local significance

The Maguire-Williams House is locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of it being an outstanding local example of a rural residence built during the early statehood period. The log and frame structure is the first of a number of buildings referred to since antebellum days as Maguiretown or Maguire's Store, a general store community. It reflects the adaptations dating from c. 1838 to c. 1877 that have allowed it to serve the local community as a family residence, part of a general store community, a post office, a country doctor's office and residence, and home for two nineteenth century state legislators. The Maguire-Williams House is located in Washington County, Richland Township, Range 28W, Section 25. It sits atop a hill above the main branch of White River just off of modern State Highway 74, which at this point follows the same course as the 1830s road.

Elaboration

When Arkansas became a territory in 1819, controversies over Indian relocation left the western part of the state unattractive to new settlement. Northwest Arkansas was an important area of growth in the late 1820s after Indian affairs were settled. Washington County was created in 1828 and two years later it had a population of 2,000 people. For the most part, Arkansas settlers were from the South and this is true for Washington County as well. By 1840, it had more than 7,000 inhabitants making it by far the most populated Arkansas county. Arkansas, as a whole, had only two persons per square mile but Washington County had more than seven. Slaves comprised 12% of the county's population, less than half of the average for Arkansas as a whole. (Bolton, 1993)

In 1840, Fayetteville, although having only 500 residents, ranked among the top 3 centers of commercial activity in Arkansas according to S. Charles Bolton in Territorial Ambition, Land and Society in Arkansas, 1800-1840. Shopkeepers in Washington County apparently bought goods wholesale from merchants in Van Buren on the Arkansas River, who in turn had traded directly with Cincinnati and New Orleans. Bolton states, "...western Arkansas seems to have had a business life largely independent of that in Little Rock." An 1837 ledger in Washington County indicates that such items as sugar, salt,

nails, bibles, calico, shoes, boots, eyeglasses, cups and saucers, and Walker's Dictionary could all be purchased by means of various credits. Types of credit included "use of wagon", "credit by lumber", "credit by labor done." Women made purchases by "credit by butter", and "credit by socks." (Sizemore, 1994.)

Thus, the Owen Maguire family, upon arrival in Arkansas in the 1830s, found a productive rural economy already established in Richland Township. The 1832 General Land Office survey map indicated that Tom Smith operated a "horse mill" for grinding grain. The field notes associated with this survey indicate that Smith "...works about 25 slaves". William Woodruff, editor of the Arkansas Gazette, commented in 1831 that Washington County was producing a "very fine" crop of wheat and he looked forward to the day local wheat would supply the demand of the territory instead of importing flour from Ohio. By the end of the 1850s, Washington County was the leading producer of wheat and corn in the state.

By 1832 Richland Township boasted two sawmills on Richland Creek and a tanyard. The General Land Office survey fieldnotes refers to numerous 'plantations'. While 'plantations' were related more closely to today's small farm, the Washington County commissioners in 1834 claimed the county was "...a rich, fertile, and healthy county, already densely populated, and well supplied with never-failing springs of the best water." Although isolation was typical for many early settlers, Washington County and Richland Township were already flourishing.

The Maguire name is spelled diversely in Arkansas legal records.* Examples include McGuire (1836), McGuin (1837), McGuyre (1838, 1840), and Maguire (1847). Owen's father's will, dated January 1790, spells the name Meguiar.

William Meguiar, Owen's father, was residing in Richland County, North Carolina at the time of his death in 1790. The family may have come to America in the 1680s. William and Ann were parents of five children, including Owen Malory, who was the youngest son. He was born during the latter 1700s (a specific birthdate was not given in the will for him or one sister). By 1800 he and his wife were living in Simpson County, Kentucky, since a daughter, Sarah, was born there that year. She married Nathan Benbrook in Summer County, Tennessee in 1816.

There is some question as to when the Maguire family arrived in Washington County. Various legal records provide some documentation. As noted above, the family was still in Kentucky by 1800. The 1820 census of Simpson County, Kentucky, still lists the Owen Maguire family, but the census of 1830 does not include them. The census indicates that the family included one male 45 years or older (Owen), one male 10-16 years (Green Berry), and four males under 10 years (Hosea Malory, John C., Jefferson P., and an unidentified son). Females included one 26-45 years (Mary) and one under 10 years (name unknown). As noted, by this time a daughter, named Sarah, was married. Names were not included in the census but were derived from other sources.

There is no record of the family in the sheriff's census of Washington County, Arkansas during 1829 or in the census of 1830. The family is first noted in the 1840 census. An obituary of Hosea Maguire from 1888 states that he "...came with his parents to Arkansas in 1832, settling on White River".

*The following history and research related to the Maguire family, the Owen Maguire property and Maguiertown is taken from a series of articles, entitled *Maguire's Store*, by Larry Santeford and published in the Washington County Historical Society's *Flashback*, 1993.

According to the Goodspeed entry for John Quincy Benbrook, son of Nathan and Sarah Maguire Benbrook, this family moved from St. Charles County, Missouri to Washington County, Arkansas about 1835-1836.

The census records suggest the Owen Maguire family left Kentucky between 1820 and 1830. They had not arrived in Arkansas Territory by 1830, but they were in the area by 1836, and, probably sometime before that. The 1832 date may be correct.

The General Land Office survey was conducted during 1832 but there is no mention of a Maguire farmstead. A Plat Book of Original Entries of Washington County and abstracts indicates that Owen received the NW 1/4 SW 1/4 and the S 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 25 as an original entry on April 25, 1836. This was the peak year for sale of public lands in Arkansas: nearly a million acres of public land was sold. This related to record land expansion throughout the United States. On August 20, 1838, the W 1/2 SW 1/4 of Section 25 (80 acres) and the SE 1/4 SW 1/4 of Section 25 (40 acres) were registered by President Martin Van Buren. These areas actually overlap, so the maximum area of land purchased was 120 acres. Vegetation thereabout included hickory, post oak, gum, dogwood, sumac, and vines. The soil was described as second rate but fit for cultivation.

These patents included the present house site. In 1838, a date established by a dendrochronology conducted by David Stahle of the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, the logs were cut to build the 18' x 20' pen which forms the earliest part of the Maguire-Williams house. The location of the Maguire's residence prior to 1838-39 is not known. They may have temporarily settled on land in the vicinity, even on land on which they had filed for a patent, while they looked for the best site for a farmstead.

Tax records are available on the Owen Maguire family for 1836-1845 (except for 1839 and 1844) in Arkansas. Beginning in 1837, the family was taxed for 120 acres of land; Owen never acquired more. Livestock listed included horses (from 4 to 7) and cattle (from 7 to 12). During 1837, they owned one slave 10-15 years and one slave 16-45 years. While tax records do not indicate ownership of slaves during other years, the 1840 Arkansas Population Census (6th) lists Owen McGuiar (sic) as owner of one male slave at least 24 years and under 36 years. The total value of taxable property varied primarily as the result of dropping land and livestock values. In 1837 land was valued at \$4 per acre, horses at \$50 each, and cattle at almost \$13 each. Values peaked about 1841. During 1843 and 1845 land was worth between \$3 and \$3.60 per acre, horses were about \$25 each, and cattle were between \$4 and \$7 each.

The 1840 Arkansas Population Census provides the only record of members of the Owen Maguire family while in Arkansas. There were five free males. The oldest was at least 60 and under 70 years (Owen), the next was at least 30 and under 40 (Green Berry, who was 34 years), and three sons at least 20 and under 30 years. The latter were Hosea (about 27 years), Joahn (25 years), and Jefferson (20 years). Mary, Owen's wife, was at least 40 and under 50 years. Two daughters were listed. One was at least 15 and under 20, and the other at least 10 and under 15 years. No names have been found for the daughters. Six people in the household were employed in agriculture. This included the five men of the family and the one slave, mentioned previously.

There is a tax listing for Owen during 1845, but in 1846 Mary Maguire's name is recorded. There are no details in the tax records as to the events that had occurred. It is concluded that Owen died about this time although there is no record of him in local cemeteries. He would have been 65 to 74 years old. It is presently unknown how long his wife lived. She would have been

45 to 54 years when he died. By 1848, his sons were owners of the 120 acres.

More can be told about the Maguire family by focusing on the way farm families lived in the Ozarks at the time and the nature of the land they owned. Members of the Maguire family take on broader roles as participants in the settlement of early Washington County standing beside numerous other families facing the unknown in Arkansas Territory and, then, the new state of Arkansas.

The Maguires were farmers. In the 1880 Census, Hosea and Green Maguire, Owen's sons, still listed their occupations as farmer, even though they had also been running a well-known general store for more than two decades. The family would have grown as many crops as possible to support themselves and their livestock. Being dependent on the land, they attempted to acquire the most productive land available. Land patents define the legal boundaries of the land owned by the family. It is possible to determine the properties and total acreage of diverse soils, as outlined by Harper, Phillips and Haley (1969) in a soil survey of Washington County.

The White River is a permanent and significant water course that flowed through the farm. Early maps suggest the general face of the farmland was different during the 1830-1840s. The General Land Office survey map of 1832 depicts the White River flowing more directly west-east across the south portion of the land, without the wide loop that is now present. While the surveyors may not have deviated enough from the line to observe the actual course of the river, the Skelton map of 1892 and Fayetteville topographic map of 1899 depict the river without the loop. The plat of 1908 does show it. While further map and geomorphic studies could demonstrate conclusively how much the river has meandered, it is proposed that it has cut further north since initial occupation of the Maguire farmstead. Choosing this particular location for their farmstead may have been influenced by the proximity of roads, shown on GLO maps of 1832, and convenient access to a ford across the river. James A. Walden, a Southern soldier, stated in his diary on November 26, 1861, that his unit passed down Richland Creek and crossed the White River at Maguire's Store.

Six major soil types are present on the Owen Maguire land, but their slopes vary, which affects general soil properties. Total acreages given are approximations obtained by using an acreage indicator. The house is on Savannah fine sandy loam, 3-8 percent slopes. There are only about 2 acres of this soil present. The soil is moderately well drained, but of low natural fertility. It is suited for small grains, hay, pasture, corn, and other row crops, but it is not the best agricultural soil the Maguires' owned. Existing stands of trees on this soil include shortleaf pine, red oak, white oak, eastern red cedar, black locust, and black walnut. A major advantage to the Maguires was that this is the highest point on their 120 acres. It was excellent location for a house.

The least productive soils are Allegheny gravelly loam, 3-8 percent slopes, eroded (5 acres); Montevallo soils, 12-25 percent slopes (8 acres); Montevallo soils, 3-12 percent slopes, (6 acres); and Sogn rocky silty loam (2 acres). The most productive soils are Razort loam (57 acres) and Cleora fine sandy loam (40 acres). Both of these lie south of the house, toward the White River. Razort soils have medium natural fertility and overflow is slight. Cleora soils are on floodplains and also exhibit medium natural fertility. Overflow is a moderate hazard. Both are suited to hay crops, pasture grasses, small grains, corn and other row crops. Cleora soils are also particularly good for black walnut trees.

Henry Miller (1972) prepared a vegetal reconstruction of Washington County

based on the General Land Office maps and notes of 1832. The Owen Maguire land could be divided into two vegetation zones. Immediately along the river was lowland forest while the remainder consisted of oak barrens. Extensive prairies did exist within this area. There were lowland prairies west of the river plus upland and lowland prairies east of the Maguire land.

The oak barrens are also called open woodlands or prairie woods. They are basically grass-covered with interspersed trees and brush. A study conducted in 1964 of early settlers in the Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Michigan regions discovered this sort of area was much preferred. Advantages included availability of timber, healthful qualities of the area, presence of natural pastures for livestock, reduction of areas requiring clearing, proximity of woods for hunting, and availability of mast for free-ranging hogs. These same advantages would have made the land attractive to the Maguire family. In addition to the post oak, blackjacks, black oak, and hickory that could be used in building, there were other wild resources to be exploited. Plants include common milkweed that could be used as greens, wild strawberries, and muscadine grapes. Animals in oak barrens included deer, rabbit, opossum, and prairie chicken.

The adjacent lowland forest, along the White River, is a rich zone. Timber includes red oak, bur oak, black walnut, ash, slippery elm, shagbark hickory, cherry, mulberry, silver maple, persimmon, sassafras, bitternut hickory, and dogwood. Undergrowth is characterized by papaw, wild plum, grapevines, cane, elderberry, and pokeweed, among numerous other plants. Animals to be found include opossum, gray squirrel, black bear, raccoon, beaver, mink, and deer. By exploiting the oak barrens and lowland forests, the Maguires had numerous plant and animal resources available to supplement the crops they grew on the farm and the livestock they raised.

Based on the farm technology of the period and the local economy some crops grown can be identified. Crops grown for human and livestock consumption included corn, wheat, oats, and potatoes. The labor of working land with a bull-tongue plow and animals, followed by hand planting, weeding, and harvesting crops was intense, so the actual acreage considered improved was a small part of the land owned. Also the transportation routes were insufficient to make shipment of crops to outside markets profitable. Many farmers also faced declining productivity of soils once forests were cleared and land planted yearly. It was necessary to allow part of the land to remain wooded, part to be cultivated, and some acreage to remain fallow so that fertility could increase.

The hogs the Maguires owned subsisted most of the year on mast found in the lowland forest along the river. These hogs ranged freely. In a study of nineteenth century diet in Missouri, Denman calculated that a family of six required almost six hogs to support a farmstead with a supply of pork for one year. While there are no figures in the tax records for the number of hogs the Maguires owned, they must have owned more than a dozen since it takes almost 11 hogs to maintain the regular annual production cited above for family consumption. Cattle and horses would have eaten native grasses found in the oak barrens, supplemented with corn and oats. Since cattle also ranged freely, the Maguires would have used timbers from the land for rail fences around the fields and house.

It is possible that the Maguires initiated commercial ventures soon after establishing their farmstead. Wally Waits (Flashback, 1978), in an article on settlement of Richland Creek, provides an excellent overview of early settlement. He suggests that Burrell Holmesley was engaged in raising and trading cattle for market. Tax records for the Maguire family suggest the same. The records show they owned four horses until about 1842; then the

number increased. An alternative explanation is that the family started putting more land into production. From the earliest years they generally had 7-12 cattle more than 3 years old. In the Missouri study, Denman stated that cattle were 3 or 4 years old before they were taken to market or slaughtered.

By the time of Owen's death, two sons, Green B. and John C., were married. Hosea, the third son, had purchased the remaining 120 acres of Owen's lands from his brothers by 1849. Also at this time, Hosea was actively buying and selling additional lands. The immediate area around the house was known by the early 1850s as Maguire's Store or Maguiretown with Green and Hosea as proprietors. The family commercial enterprise could have begun prior to Owen's death in 1845 or 1846. But it is clear that, even prior to 1845, the family size was increasing with married sons staying nearby and involved in family affairs.

Maguire's Store was established as a post office on October 8, 1853, and Hosea Maguire was the postmaster. The exact location of this early store is unknown. Given the multiple functions carried on in small rural residences of the period, the log section of the Maguire-Williams House, or an extinct addition, may have served the family as a residence and as a general store. Later, probably after the Civil War, a brick store was erected across the road from Owen's house. The term Maguiretown was interchangeably used to refer to the area around the Owen Maguire house and this name was probably generated by the fact that a log school had been constructed in the 1830s and in 1866 it was replaced by a frame structure. Arkansas, prior to the Civil War, was the only state without a school tax and early public schools required tuition payments. During this antebellum period Washington County led the state in education with 57 of Arkansas' 632 schools located within its boundaries. (Sizemore, 1994) The Cumberland Presbyterian Church, of which the Maguire and Williams families were members, met in the school building. The location of a blacksmith shop, with the smith's residence immediately behind the shop, has been established by archaeologist, Larry Santeford. Dr. B. F. Williams was a physician and operated his practice from the Owen Maguire house (further history will expand on Dr. Williams).

During the 1850s, Green and Hosea continued numerous business ventures centered around Maguire's Store. Hosea married in 1850 and in 1854 purchased property directly across the road from Owen's house. It is presumed that this is when he built his first residence on that property for his growing family. This residence was a two-room frame structure with no elaborate decorative elements. According to family histories, Green and his family continued to occupy the house his father built. Tax records, available until 1861, along with the 1860 Agricultural Census provide a complete look at what was raised on the land and what equipment was owned prior to the Civil War. The crops raised were wheat, rye, Indian corn, oats, Irish potatoes, and grass seed. Livestock included horses, asses and mules, milch cows, working oxen, other cattle, sheep and hogs. Produced items included wool, butter, and hay. The brothers each owned a small number of slaves during this period.

There is little information about the store or life of the Maguire farmstead during the war. One informant stated that during the war John Enyart, of Oxford Bend, was entertaining a Confederate officer. The officer broke a syrup pitcher and went to Maguire's Store and bought a replacement for the family. In 1941 Lessie Read wrote in the Fayetteville newspaper that one of Hosea Maguire's daughters had described how Yankee soldiers entered their house in the middle of the night and tore covers off the sleeping children. It is possible that such events occurred. Correspondence of officers and enlisted men show that there was at least limited military activity within

the area. John Edward published a book in 1867 on Colonel Shelby, having ridden with his unit during the war. Edward relates that General John S. Marmaduke, a Confederate officer, was ordered by Major-General Thomas C. Hindman to assume command of all the cavalry and go to the front. He states: "He, from his position at McGuire's Store, on the main telegraph road connecting Mud Town with Van Buren, sent rapid couriers to Colonel Shelby in his snow-clad camp, informing him that a large force of all arms was marching toward him and that he wanted immediate reinforcements. In twenty minutes the brigade was in motion -- shivering, freezing, perhaps -- but eager and determined. The advancing enemy halted within five miles of the position taken by General Marmaduke, showed signs of uneasiness, and finally returned to Mud Town without a blow -- a large scout from Colonel Shelby's Command, under Captain Scott Bullard, following them into camp and bringing back fifteen horses and four prisoners."

A letter of Major William G. Thompson (WCHS 1966), dated October 30, 1862, provides the situation from a northern perspective. Herron's troopers attacked a camp occupied by Marmaduke's advance brigade. The southern camp was taken by wagons, horses and mules, and about 150 men were captured. Herron's troopers followed Marmaduke's men but soon returned to Maguire's since Hindman's infantry was known to be in the area.

General Hindman also mentions Maguire's Store in his correspondence preserved in the War of the Rebellion papers. His perspective on events agrees with Thompson's. On November 3, 1862, he was at a camp on Mulberry Creek, on the Van Buren and Clarksville Road. In a letter he stated that on October 16, 1862, he started to Fayetteville from Fort Smith. At that time the unarmed infantry were "...at McGuire's, about 10 miles south of Fayetteville, on the road to Ozark." He soon established a camp "...21 miles south, where the roads come together going from Huntsville and Fayetteville to Ozark." On October 26, 1862, he moved his soldiers. He writes: "On the same day I moved toward Fayetteville, intending to take position at McGuire's Store, which would enable me to get subsistence and forage for a few days, there being considerable wheat and forage and two mills in that vicinity. That position also covers the Frog Bayou road from Fayetteville to Van Buren. I had previously concentrated Marmaduke's cavalry division at McGuire's, and posted Carroll's (Arkansas) cavalry regiment at Huntsville to mask Parson's movement and protect my right."

When Hindman was within 5 miles of Maguire's Store, Marmaduke informed him that he was engaging the enemy. Hindman halted his command and went toward Maguire's himself. The northern troops were able to push into the area, and Hindman notes that the mills he had hoped to get were lost when the enemy reached Maguire's.

Hosea and Green Maguire continued with their commercial ventures into the 1880s. During this decade Hosea Maguire was elected to the state legislature and served until his death in 1888.

After the war there was talk of a railroad to be built from Missouri into Arkansas to open up timber production. There was speculation that it would go through Maguiertown. Benjamin Franklin Williams, of Virginia, had recently completed medical school in Indiana in 1865 and was seeking a rural practice. With the anticipated growth the railroad would bring to the Maguiertown area, Williams and his friend, John Meredith, came by stagecoach to the village to investigate the prospects. They bought a farm and returned

to bring back Williams' family.**

The log house they had planned to build was slow in being completed and while waiting, they were housed in Maguire's tobacco barn. Impatient and uncomfortable, Benjamin bought Owen Maguire's house and five acres surrounding it. Evidently Dr. Williams had arrived in Maguiertown with sufficient funds to construct a house; these funds were then presumably used for improving the house that had been occupied by Green Maguire's family. In 1867 Benjamin F. Williams was listed as the postmaster for Maguiertown and the post office was housed in the hallway of the Williams' home (the central hallway provided space for the post office and privacy for the family). It also must have encouraged the growth of Dr. Williams' medical practice. A c. 1877 shed addition featuring a kitchen and dining room were added to the back of the house replacing the earlier frame ell when Dr. Williams returned from a medical course in St. Louis.

The first Williams of Benjamin's line to come to America from Wales was Thomas, who came with a friend named McCoy, to whose sister Thomas was married. Records show James and John McCoy and Thomas Williams owning land in western Virginia before 1750. These settlers were on an Indian hunting ground and some thought the British were afraid of losing the western territory. In 1763 the Indians made a raid in which they destroyed three families in the most brutal way. The British were suspected of instigating the horror.

Another story tells of Indians kidnapping the two Williams children. McCoy volunteered to rescue them and bartered with the captors until they agreed to release the children.

The names of John McCoy, Jacob Williams and his brother John, John Williams, Sr. and his wife appear in the 1771-1772 records of the store. Official records are not available; they were lost when the British burned the capitol of Virginia in the War of 1812.

The nearest county seat was a long way from the settlement. The family had to go over the mountain for all legal matters, including taxes. This was a real hardship, and dangerous as well. In 1777 the settlers drew up and presented a petition to become a county. John Williams was one of the signers. The petition was granted; Greenbrier County was formed and its borders set.

The next John Williams made a will, beautifully written, in which he left to his son John six hundred dollars with equal amounts to his daughters, all seven of them, and to his granddaughters. He left his wife six hundred dollars, a negro girl named Jude, his bay mare, all farming utensils, one bed and furniture. He died in 1830. In 1833 a town was incorporated and named Williamsburg in honor of the Williams' family, the first settlers.

The next John Williams had land and increased his holdings by numerous grants, some for his service in the War of 1812, during which he was given the rank of captain. At one time he was thought to be the largest landholder in the county, reputed to own 200,000 acres. Among his holdings in 1859 was the Blue Sulphur Spring and Hotel.

**The above information and the following family history is taken from a 1986 *Flashback* article by Dr. Williams' granddaughter, Marceline Campbell Meldrum, wherein she relates that the family came through St. Louis in covered wagons to get to Arkansas.

In the first half of the 19th century it was customary for residents of the South to move, bag and baggage, to the southwestern part of Virginia to escape the heat and malaria. They lived in the hotel and "took the waters." The more the water smelled and tasted of sulphur, the better. The White Sulphur Spring Hotel was the best known. The Blue Sulphur, however, had a fine clientele. It was a two-story hotel with a long porch and all the additional buildings necessary to care for horses, servants, and cooking.

In the late 1850s the Blue Sulphur Hotel lost out to the White Sulphur, as had many other spas. John sold it to the Baptists for a school, and became a member of the school board. The war came before he could collect, the school closed, and northern troops burned it to the ground. Only a gazebo over the spring survived.

John's wife was Jane Knight and they had one daughter and nine boys: John, George, Ken, Benjamin Franklin, Bolivar, James Harvey, Thomas, Albert, and Allen. Several were named after famous men -- Simon Bolivar, for example, was the liberator of South America; Albert Gallatin was a U.S. statesman and secretary of the treasury. Thomas spent six years studying surgery in New York and went to California where he was associated with Stanford University and was chairman of the board when the first stadium was built.

John Williams, Benjamin's father, was a very devout man and a careful father. Benjamin Franklin Williams used to tell his own family of his life as a child on a farm. Although John gave them every advantage, work was a part of their life. For their education a live-in tutor was employed. John invited the neighbors to send their children to share the instruction.

Benjamin's wife was the product of a different life style. Mehettable Bunker (1835-1900) came from a family of German origin. The family came to America in 1713. Mehettable was educated and thoroughly trained in household arts, English and German, and in the Presbyterian church. Her father owned and operated a mill and had considerable land.

Benjamin Franklin Williams was well educated and had resolved to become a minister or a doctor. At his death he left a large library in both fields. He and his brothers were sent to the University of Virginia.

In the normal course of society in a sparsely settled area, it is not unusual for young people to meet, as did the miller's pretty daughter and the handsome son of the landowner. They were born the same year, 1835, and were married on December 27, 1854. Benjamin had decided to become a doctor and had learned that Bloomington, Indiana was the best place to study. At about this time the founder of the Mayo Clinic was studying there. A medical course was one year, but Benjamin and his increasing family remained there until 1865, much of the time unproductive because of the Civil War.

In 1867 the family moved to Maguiretown, Arkansas. They were welcome because a doctor was needed; they were loved because they were good people. While Benjamin was attending his growing practice, Mehettable was taking care of her family and helping anyone in trouble. Family traditions relate that her dress was always clean with a white lace fichu around her neck. When night calls came, she saddled the horse while Benjamin dressed and checked his medical saddle bags. Dr. Williams' medical saddle bags and medical instruments remain in possession of family members. Mehettable had a garden, vegetables and flowers, sheep, chickens and geese. She carded, spun and wove the wool into cloth and quilts. For a long time the post office was a pigeon hole desk in the Williams' front hall.

As there apparently was no resident minister in Maguiretown, Mehettable

taught the small children, a daughter, Meredith, the youth group, and Benjamin the adults for the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation. Dr. Williams also performed marriages, as well as handling legal work for people who could not write.

Benjamin eventually felt the need to improve his skills and to have a degree to show it, so he went to the Medical College of St. Louis and received his Doctor of Medicine degree. The diploma is on vellum, all in Latin, dated March 10, 1876. His thesis was on erysipelas, a disease of the skin. He came back to Maguiretown more active than ever, professionally and as a citizen. He had established the Masonic Lodge on the second floor of the Maguire Store. He was a 32nd degree Mason.

When they had first arrived in Maguiretown, a son named Bennie died. Meredith was asked to find a burial place for the child and selected a plot in the Stokenbury Cemetery, well above flood line. The other members in the family are buried there also.

In the 1890s Benjamin was elected to the state legislature where he served two terms. His quick and ready wit did not always guarantee him a win; in at least one race he came in last.

Benjamin and Mehettable were never well off. If the children did not need the money, someone else always did. Mehettable died in 1901 and a daughter, Racel Anna, died the same year. Benjamin grieved for his wife the rest of his life, even though he remarried. His second wife was the widow of one of his friends in Maguiretown, a man named Towler. Sometime later they moved into Fayetteville.

After the Williams family sold the house in the early 1900s, the Maguire-Williams house has had numerous owners. Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Rowley purchased the house in 1948 and Mrs. Rowley and her daughter continue to reside there.

The Maguire-Williams House is locally significant under Criterion C by virtue of its documentation of the growth evidenced in a residence adapting it for use to accommodate expanding families, as part of a rural general store community, as a post office, as a doctor's office, and as the home of two nineteenth century state legislators. Its c. 1838 log section is one of the earliest documented log structures in the region and helps to establish local building traditions of that period. The frame additions retain outstanding examples of simplified vernacular Greek Revival decorative elements. The associated family histories reflect the settlement patterns and activities of the early statehood period. The structure has been unaffected, at present, by urbanization and serves as an excellent example of a rural residence that retains, essentially, its nineteenth century form. For these reasons, the Maguire-Williams House is a local historic resource of considerable importance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bolton, S. Charles, Territorial Ambition, Land and Society in Arkansas 1800-1840, University of Arkansas Press, 1993.

Meldrum, Marceline Campbell, "Benjamin Franklin Williams Family," Washington County Historical Society's Flashback, May 1986.

Santeford, Larry, "Maguire's Store," Washington County Historical Society's Flashback, May, August, November 1993.

Sizemore, Jean, Ozark Vernacular Houses, University of Arkansas Press, 1994.

___ 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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately 17

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 408940 3987260 B 15 409120 3987150

C 15 409100 3986700 D 15 408930 3986980

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked on the accompanying USGS map by the UTM reference points noted above.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that has not been subdivided from the Owen Maguire's original parcel.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Ken Story, NR/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 2, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. 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 Maguire--Williams House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 8/11/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/22/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/07/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/25/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001093

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 9.7.95 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



~~OWEN MAGUIRE HOUSE~~ MAGUIRE-WILLIAMS HOUSE

ELKINS VIC., WASHINGTON Co., AR

PHOTO BY R. BROWN

~~MAA~~ 5/95

NEC. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTH



~~OWEN MAGUIRE HOUSE~~ MAGUIRE-WILLIAMS HOUSE

ELKINS VIC, WASHINGTON CO., AR

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

5/95

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



~~OWEN MACUIRE HOUSE~~ MACUIRE-WILLIAMS HOUSE

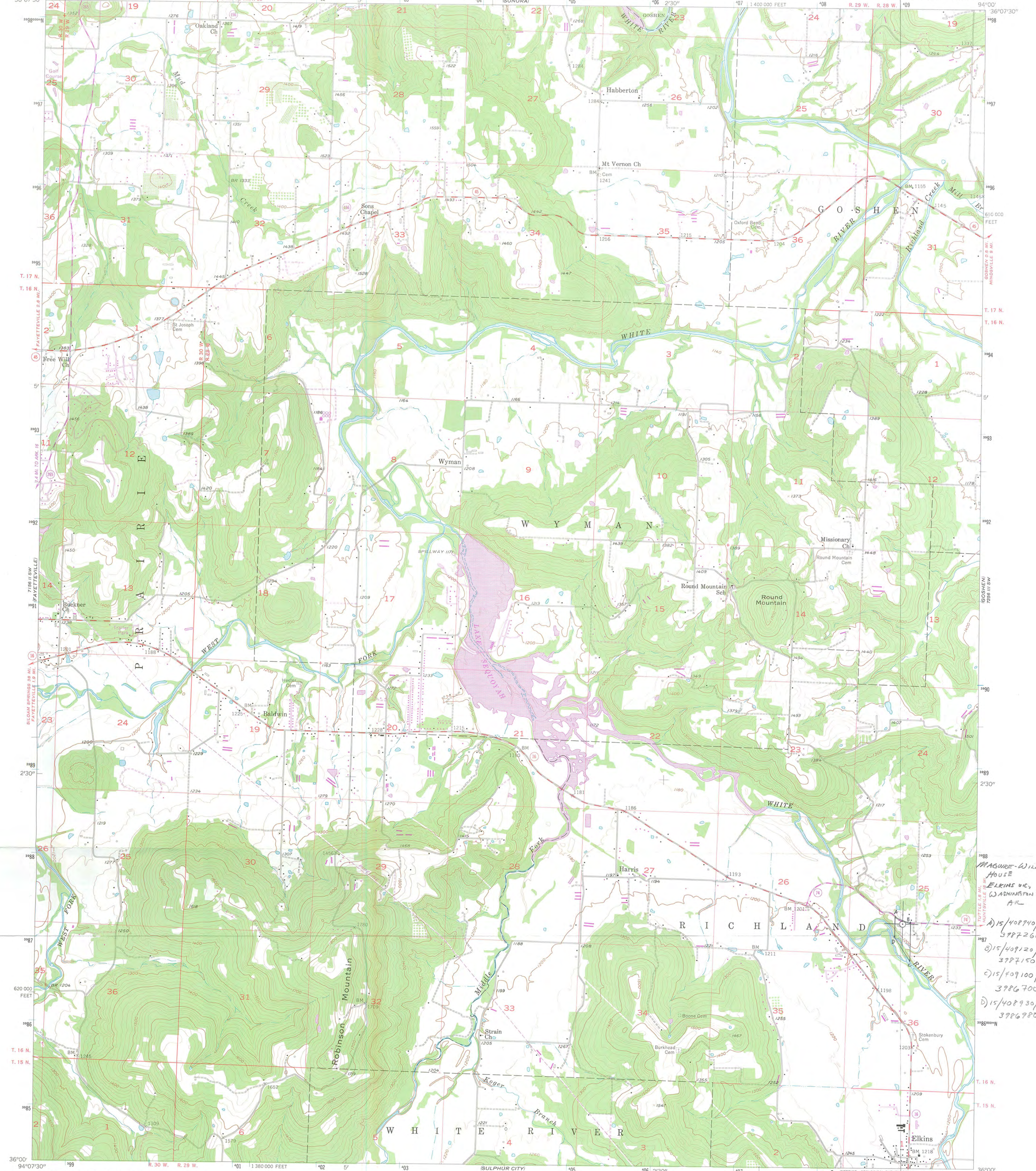
ELKINS VIC., WASHINGTON CO., AR

PHOTO BY R. BLOWIN

5/95

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

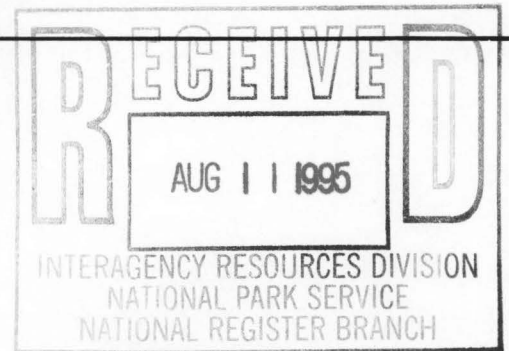
VIEW FROM NORTHEAST





ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

August 3, 1995



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: ✓ Maguire-Williams House
Elkins, Washington County

Lee County Courthouse
Marianna, Lee County

Reeves House
Siloam Springs, Benton County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations of the above referenced properties. 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 Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

