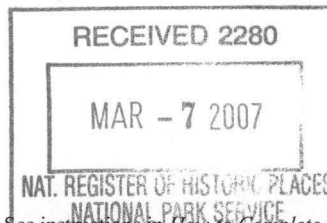


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Argenta Historic District- Boundary Increase II

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by N. Poplar, 9th Street, N. Broadway, W. 4th, Broadway ☐ not for publication

city or town North Little Rock ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 Zip code 72114

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.)

Carrie Maccher
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/2/07
Date

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:) _____

for *Daniel J. Vinton*
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

3/8/07



1. City Hall - 300 Main Street
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski City, AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. Negative At North Little Rock History Commission
6. View Looking Northeast
7. Photo #1



1. 313-15, 317-19, 323 Main St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. View Looking Northwest
7. Photo #2



1. 324, 318, 314, 312, 304, 300 Main
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking southeast
7. photo #3



1. 400 Main; 324 Main
Arcenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty. AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NCR History Commission
6. View Looking Southeast
7. Photo #4



1. 401, 405, 409, 411, 413, 415, 417-19, 421-25 Main
Argenta Historic District
2. Polaski Cty. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking northwest
7. photo #5



1. 405, 409, 411 Main St, 805 Willow
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking west
7. photo #6



1. 417-419; 421-23-25 Main
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Ch. AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at the North Little Rock History Commission
6. View Looking North West
7. photo #7



1. 421-425, 417-419, 415, 411, 409, 405, 401 Main
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski City, AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at the NLR History Commission
6. view looking southwest
7. photo # 8



1. 420, 500, 506 MAIN
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-806
5. NEGATIVE AT NLR History Commission
6. view Looking Northeast
7. photo #9



1. 506, 500, 420 Main St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view southeast
7. photo #10



1. 109 W. 5th. 507 MAIN
ARGENTA Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking west
7. photo # 11



1. 507, 513, 515 MAIN ST.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at the NLR History Commission
6. View Looking Northwest
7. photo # 12



1. 117 E. BROADWAY; 123 E. BROADWAY
ARBENTHA Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty. AR
3. photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
- 4- 10-8-06
5. negative AT NLR History Commission
6. view Looking north east
7. photo # 13



1. 701, 705, 707, 709, 711, 713, 715, 77-719 Main
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Ct. AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-806
5. Negative at NLR History Commission
6. View Looking Northwest
7. Photo #14



1. 800 MAIN STREET - NORTH LITTLE ROCK ELECTRIC BUILDING
ARGENTIA HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. PULASKI CTY. AR
3. PHOTO BY SANDRA TAYLOR SMITH
4. 10-8-06
5. NEGATIVE AT NLR HISTORY COMMISSION
6. VIEW LOOKING NORTH
7. PHOTO # 15



1. 123, 115, 111 W. 7th St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NCR History Commission
6. view looking
7. photo # 16



1. 321-323 Maple; 201 W. 4th
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski City AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-806
5. negative at NCR History Commission
6. view looking northwest
7. photo #17



1. 423 Maple St; 210-212 W. 5th St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking S southwest
7. photo #18



1. 1st Presbyterian Church - 201 W. 4th STREET
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NCR History Commission
6. photo view Looking northeast
7. photo #19



1. 200 W. 6th, 216 W. 6th
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. Negative At NLR History Commission
6. View Looking Southwest
7. Photo #20



1. 401 W. 4th; 415 Willow
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. Negative at NLR History Commission
6. View looking Northwest
7. photo #21



1. 417, 415, 413 W. 4th St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. Negative at NLR History Commission
6. View Looking Northeast
7. Photo # 22



1. 217 W. 5th St.; 221 W. 5th
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. View Looking North
7. photo #23



1. 410, 412, 500 W. 5th St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at ALR History Commission
6. view looking southwest
7. photo # 24



1. 415, 413, 411, 409 W. 5th St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-806
5. negative at North Little Rock History Commission
6. View Looking northeast
7. Photo #25



1. 415, 501, 505, 507, 509 W. 5th St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking northwest
7. photo #26



1. 507, 505, 501 W. 5th STREET
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty, AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative AT North Little Rock History Commission
6. View Looking northeast
7. photo #27



1. 508, 510, 512 Willow St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at North Little Rock History Commission
6. View Looking northeast
7. photo # 28



1. 520, 518, 512, 510, 508 Willow Street
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-806
5. negative at North Little Rock History Commission
6. View looking Southeast
7. photo # 29



1. 601, 605, 607, 611 Willow Street
Arsona Historic District
2. Pulaski Co, AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking northwest
7. photo # 30



1. 616, 618, 620 Willow Street
Argentina Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking northeast
7. photo # 31



1. 620 Willow; 319 W. 7th; 323 W. 7th
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-806
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. View Looking Northeast
7. photo # 32



1. 701, 703, 707, 717, 719, 801, 805, 807 Willow
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 18-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking northwest
7. photo # 33



1. 220 W. 7th STREET
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking southeast
7. photo # 34



1. 301, 305, 307-09, 311, 319, 323 W. 7th St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. photo by SANDRA Taylor Smith
4. negative at North Little Rock History Commission
5. 10-806
6. view looking northwest
7. photo # 35



1. 623 Orange St.; 301, 305 W. 7th
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at North Little Rock History Commission
6. View Looking Northwest
7. photo # 36



1. 223 W. 17th, 718 Orange Street
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty, AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. Negative at North Little Rock History Commission
6. View Looking North
7. Photo #37



1. 718, 720 Orange
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking northeast
7. photo # 38



1. 364 W. 8th, 320 W. 8th; 805 Willow
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking southwest
7. photo #39



1. 808, 810, 812 Orange
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. Photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking northeast
7. photo #40



1. 805, 813, 817, 821 Maple St.
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co. AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view looking northwest
7. photo #41



1. 254, 258, 262 Melrose Circle
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Ck., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative AT NLR History Commission
6. View Looking EAST
7. photo # 42



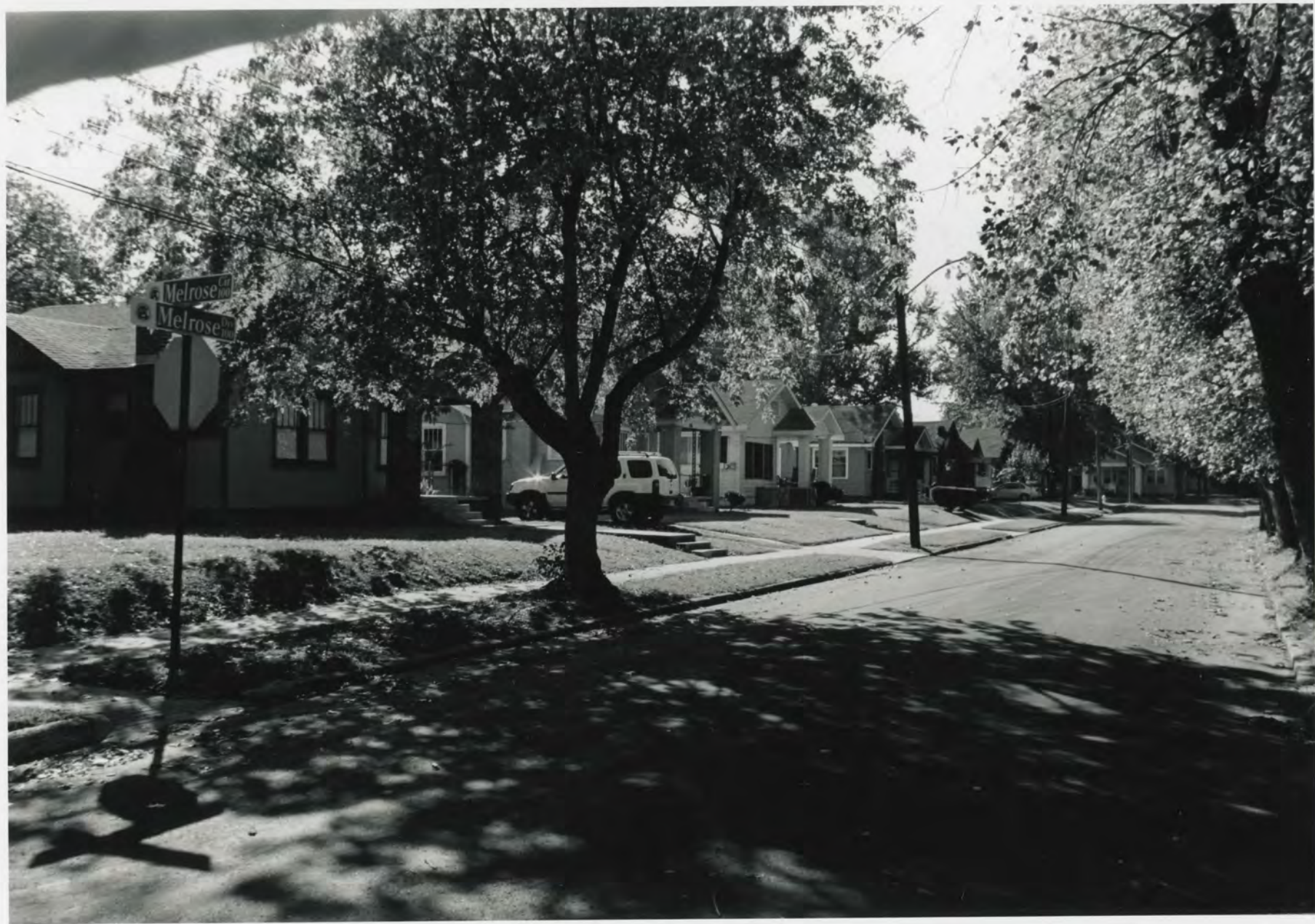
1. 242, 246, 250, 254 Melrose Circle
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view Looking southeast
7. photo # 43



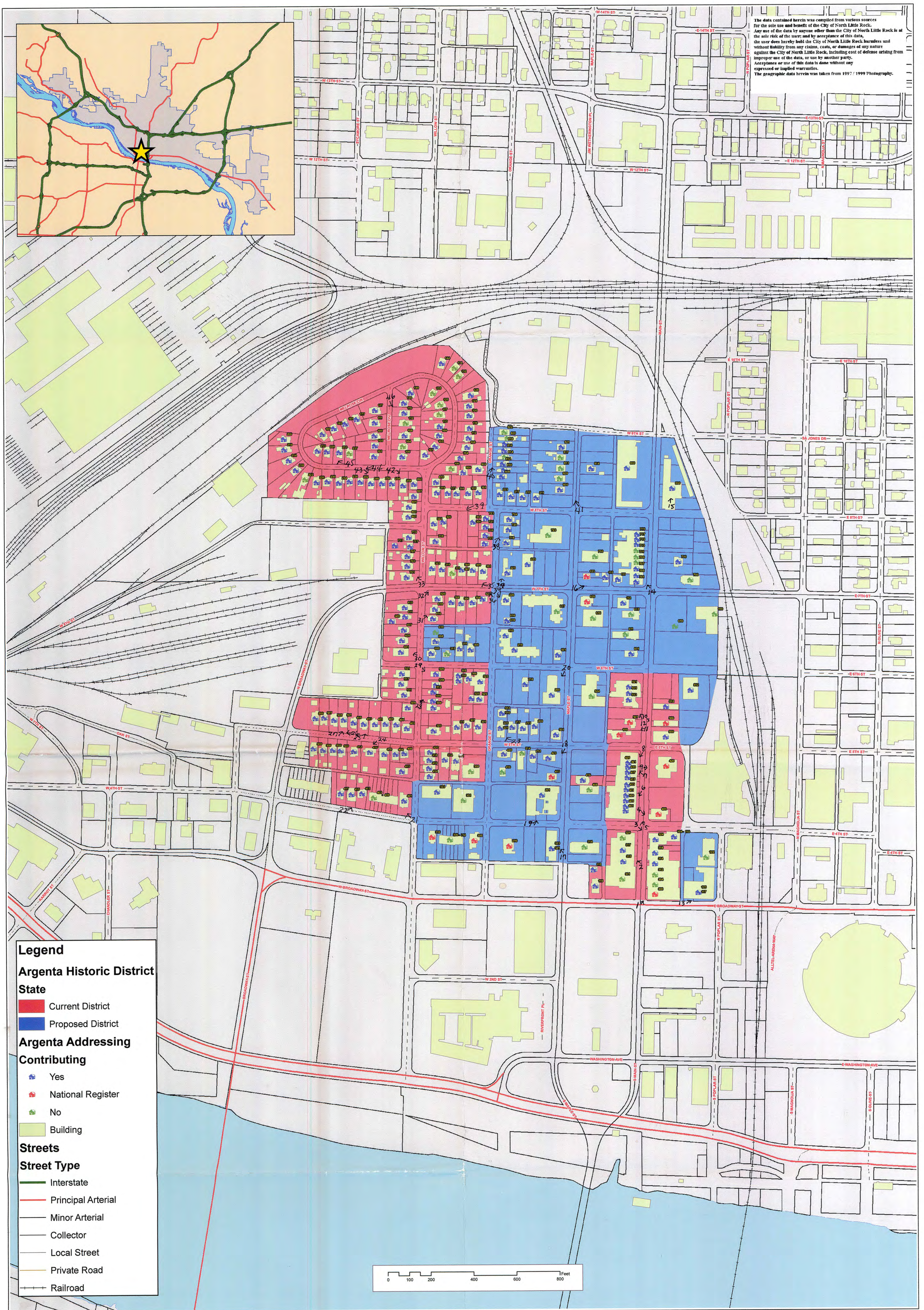
1. 246, 238, 234, 230, 226, 222 MELROSE CIRCLE
ARGENTA Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. NEGATIVE AT North Little Rock History Commission
6. View Looking Southwest
7. Photo #44



1. 237, 233, 229 Melrose Circle
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Cty., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-806
5. negative at the North Little Rock History Commission
6. view looking northwest
7. photo #45



1. 120, 116, 112, 108, 104, 100 Melrose Divide
Argenta Historic District
2. Pulaski Co., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 10-8-06
5. negative at NLR History Commission
6. view Looking southeast
7. photo # 46



North Little Rock, Arkansas Argenta Historic District



1 inch equals 200 feet
Scaled for print size 8.5" x 11"



CITY OF NORTH LITTLE ROCK
COMMUNITY PLANNING
GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM
120 MAIN ST.
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, AR 72114
PHONE (501) 975-8835

Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
Argenta Historic District (Boundary Increase II)	Pulaski, Arkansas	06001217

The following Core Documentation is missing from this entry:

☐ Nomination Form

☐ Photographs

☒ USGS Map

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

198

48

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

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

12

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic- Single Dwelling; Multiple Dwelling

Commerce/Trade- Specialty Store; Financial Institution;
Department Store

Social- Meeting Hall

Government- City Hall; Fire Station; Post Office

Religion- Religious Facility; Church Residence

Funerary- Mortuary

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic- Single Dwelling; Multiple Dwelling

Commerce/Trade-Specialty Store; Restaurant; Professional

Social- Meeting Hall

Government- City Hall; Fire Station; Post Office

Religion- Religious Facility

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial- Dutch

Late Victorian- Italianate; Queen Anne

Late 19th/20th Century Revivals- Colonial Revival;
Beaux Arts; Classical Revival; Spanish Revival; Tudor
RevivalLate 19th/Early 20th Cent. American Movements-
Bungalow/Craftsman

Modern Movement- Minimal Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; Concrete; Stone; Wood

walls Wood; Brick; Stucco

roof Asphalt; Ceramic Tile

other

Narrative Description

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

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Background

The Argenta Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places 03-15-93 as two discontinuous districts. The boundary determinations of the original district were based on information contained in a comprehensive architectural survey in 1992 of all buildings (277) in an area of downtown North Little Rock. A determination of eligibility review of each property in the survey led to the definition of the 1993 National Register boundaries to obtain a majority of contributing properties. In 2002 a boundary increase added portions of two blocks to the historic district. The 2002 boundary increase included six contributing and two non-contributing properties.

A concentrated revitalization of downtown North Little Rock since the Argenta Historic District was listed in the National Register in 1993 has dramatically changed the overall appearance of the district. Many houses have been renovated, commercial buildings have had metal coverings and other non-historic alterations removed and have been restored to near original appearance. A local ordinance historic district was enacted in December 1993 and as a result all exterior changes in the boundaries of the 1993 National Register district are reviewed by the North Little Rock Historic District Commission. The city has participated in the rebirth of downtown North Little Rock through restoration of the 1914 City Hall, reconstruction of the Old Fire Station at 506 Main, and completion of a streetscape project along Main and Maple Streets, rebuilding sidewalks and installing streetlights similar to those that were downtown from the 1910s through 1960.

The same area originally surveyed in 1992, including the original 1993 National Register district and the 2002 boundary increase was re-surveyed in the spring of 2005 and submitted to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program for re-evaluation of eligibility. The area now contains 258 properties, of which 210 or 81% contribute to the historic significance of the area. This second boundary increase provides new information about the original district and the 2002 boundary increase and redefines the boundaries of the Argenta Historic District to contain the most cohesive group of buildings in the city's historic downtown, encompassing some 29 blocks, within one contiguous district.

Summary

Located three blocks north of the Arkansas River, the Argenta Historic District encompasses the most contiguous extant group of buildings in North Little Rock's historic downtown. Construction dates of historic properties in the district range from the late 1880s through the mid 1950s. The primary commercial vein in the district is Main Street with five blocks of business buildings, city hall, a federal post office and the city's first fire station and city hall. The commercial district is composed of vernacular versions of American commercial architecture. The simple, panel brick commercial style that was popular throughout the country during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is the prevailing type of building found on Main Street, although there are outstanding examples of Colonial Revival, Spanish Revival and Classical Revival on Main Street. Maple Street, to the west of Main Street, is a mixture of commercial and residential with two churches. West of Maple Street is the historic residential neighborhood. Though largely vernacular

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in architectural designs, it reflects the influence of the principal architectural styles in vogue during the early twentieth century: the Craftsman, the English Revival, and the Colonial Revival.

Twelve buildings in the district are individually listed in the National Register: North Little Rock City Hall at 300 Main- listed 8-6-75; the Faucette Building at 400 Main, listed 12-6-78; the Federal Post Office at 420 Main, listed 12-22-82; the Old Central Fire Station at 506 Main, listed 12-22-77; the Barth-Hempfling House at 507 Main, listed 10-16-86; the Baker House at 109 W. 5th, listed 12-6-78; the Manees House at 216 W. 4th, listed 8-6-75; the Howell-Garner-Monfee House at 300 W. 4th; listed 12-22-82; the James P. Faucette House at 316 W. 4th, listed 1-4-78; the First Presbyterian Church Manse at 415 Maple, listed 11-19-93; the Rapillard House at 123 W. 7th, listed 11-19-93; Hodge-Cook House at 620 Maple, listed 11-19-93.

The Argenta Historic District contains 258 buildings of which 210 (81%) contribute to the historic significance of the district. The majority of the buildings in the district were constructed between 1900 and 1940 although the earliest extant building was built in 1886. Eighty-one percent of the buildings in the residential portion of the district were constructed between 1920 and 1930.

Elaboration

The Argenta Historic District contains the extant resources associated with the earliest development of the north side of the Arkansas River. The district contains 258 properties and is roughly bounded by Broadway on the south, N. Broadway on the west, 9th Street on the north and the alley east of Main Street on the east. The historic commercial downtown of North Little Rock is included in the district, as well as the residential neighborhood associated with downtown.

Since the 1960s the historic downtown of North Little Rock has been in transition. With massive changes in the southern blocks of the city's downtown through the Urban Renewal Program, including demolition of many historic buildings, the perimeters of the downtown area have taken on a different appearance. New traffic patterns designed to alleviate congestion exposed areas of the residential section to high traffic accompanied by deterioration of the historic streetscape. Between 1950 and 1970, as the city of North Little Rock grew northward, downtown began to decline.

Construction dates of contributing buildings in the district range from 1886 to 1955. The residential area of the district, though largely vernacular in nature, reflects the influence of the principal architectural styles in vogue during the early twentieth century: Craftsman, English Revival, and Colonial Revival. The commercial area of the district, though also vernacular, tends to reflect the simple, panel brick commercial style that was popular throughout the country for such construction during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as well as such other influences as the Colonial Revival, the Classical Revival and the Spanish Revival styles.

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Streets in the Argenta Historic District are laid out in a grid pattern, with the exception of the Melrose Place Addition, which is curvilinear. Although there are ten buildings in the district that were constructed prior to 1900, the majority of the development in the Argenta Historic District occurred between 1900 and 1950. Sixty-seven percent of the buildings in the district were constructed in the 1920s and the architectural styles nationally popular in that era compose the prevailing character, predominately the Craftsman style.

Five blocks of the city's historic commercial corridor along Main Street are included in the boundaries of the Argenta Historic District. Maple Street, the next street west of Main Street, has been a mixture of residential and light commercial for more than fifty years. West of Maple Street is the historic residential district, most of which are single family residences. Two churches are located on the west side of Maple Street. Another building constructed as a church auditorium is located at 124 E. 4th. The district is anchored on the south by the Elks Lodge Building at the corner of Poplar and E. Broadway and City Hall at 300 Main Street. The 1955 North Little Rock Electric Department Building at 800 Main is situated in the northeastern corner of the district. Located in the northwest corner of the district is the Melrose Place Addition. The western boundary of the district follows N. Broadway and includes the historic residential neighborhood.

North Little Rock City Hall at 300 Main Street, listed on the National Register 08-06-75, is a visual anchor in the commercial district. The Neo-Classical Revival design of the building has been maintained with pride by the city and continues to function in its original capacity as the seat of North Little Rock city government. In the late 1990s, the city through Historic Preservation Restoration Grants removed c. 1970 non-historic windows and replaced them with wood double-hung windows and transoms appearing like the originals. The North Little Rock Post Office at 420 Main was constructed in 1931 on the site of the former city park. The two-story Colonial Revival style building is listed on the National Register in the Charles L. Thompson Thematic Group. Also individually listed on the National Register is the Faucette Building at 400 Main Street and the Old City Hall and Fire Station at 506 Main. Both buildings reflect vernacular commercial design in their construction and have been restored to their historic appearance.

Two other previously listed National Register properties within the boundaries of the Argenta Historic District are the Baker House at 109 W. 5th and the Barth Hempfling House at 507 Main Street. Located on the same block, these residential buildings are a striking contrast. The 1897 brick Baker House is one of the two remaining Queen Anne style residences in North Little Rock and features a three-story round turret and decorative spindlework. The 1886 Barth Hempfling House represents an earlier and more common one-story vernacular design with folk Victorian detailing and is more representative of the type of residence indigenous to the area.

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Section number 7 Page 4

Other residences located near the commercial portion of the district include the c.1920 Dornell House at 115 W. Broadway. This house is an example of the influence of the English "period" revival popular in the 1920s. Three pronounced gables mark the façade (south) of the house which is basically unaltered on the exterior. The J. A. Martin House at 416 Maple is a basic 1920s brick bungalow with front facing gable. Both the Dornell House and the J. A. Martin House have been used for commercial purposes since the 1940s.

Examples of typical buildings in the commercial area of the Argenta Historic District include the two-story Twin City Hotel at 314 Main with its arched second story windows. The Argenta Drug Store buildings, comprised of a one-story virtually unaltered small two storefront building with classical columns flanking each entry and a two-story two-storefront building on the corner of 4th and Main Streets, were constructed in 1887 and are the oldest standing commercial buildings in the city of North Little Rock. An annex was constructed east of the Argenta Drug Store building in 1891. This one-story building is located at 104-110 E. 4th Street and is connected to the rear of the 324 Main building. The Argenta Drug Store buildings reflect a slight Italianate style influence in their arched windows.

Small vernacular examples of contributing commercial buildings in the Argenta Historic District include the Malnik Building at 409 Main and the McPherson Building at 411 Main. These are simple, one-story brick buildings with little ornamentation other than brick patterned cornices. The one-story building at 413-415 Main was constructed in 1929 and features some modest Art Deco cast concrete detailing.

Italianate influence is seen in the Street Building at 417-419 Main and the Cook-Faucette Building at 421-425 Main. Constructed in 1895, these buildings are two-story, of brick construction and feature projecting cornices with paired brackets, decorative brickwork, windows with crowns and cast iron storefronts.

The lone example of the Spanish Revival style in the Argenta Historic District is the Owens Funeral Home Building at 500 Main Street. The building was designed by Arkansas architect H. Ray Burks and was constructed in 1928. The unaltered exterior of the building features textured stucco walls, balconies, wrought iron detailing, and red tile roofs. A bell tower marks the secondary entrance on E. 5th Street.

Of particular historic significance to the district, the 1890 Vogel Grocery Store Building at 323 Main Street, has been stuccoed over brick, windows enclosed, storefront windows replaced and a large wooden storefront awning erected. The adjacent Manees Buildings, erected in 1912 and 1924, are of brick construction with simple brick pattern ornamentation.

Two of the three historic church buildings in the district were designed by architect John Parks Almand, designer of the Little Rock Central High School. The Church of Christ building at 200 W. 6th Street was constructed in 1949 and is a buff-colored two-story brick building with little ornamentation other than arched

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openings at the main entry. The First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary at 201 W. 4th Street, was also designed by Almand. Built in 1954, this building is a tall one-story building with dormers and simple exterior styling. Interiors of the church feature the lavish use of dark woods and stained glass.

The Church Medical Clinic Building at 323 Maple is a vernacular expression of the International style. Constructed in 1947, this one-story brick and cut stone building features the strong horizontal streamlined elements characteristic of the style.

The residential area of the Argenta Historic District significantly expresses a working class neighborhood. The tree-lined streets are laid out in a grid pattern. The exception to the grid is Melrose Place Addition which is circular with a dividing street in the center. Scattered about the neighborhood are a few "grand" homes, but the majority of residences are, like the commercial portion of the district, vernacular expressions of a particular style. Most are single-family homes, but there are several duplexes and three historic apartment buildings. The Lynch Apartments at 523 Orange, built in 1927, is a vernacular application of English Revival design as seen in its steep hipped roof, eyebrow dormers, and arched entries. The Grange Apartments at 809 Orange, constructed in 1928, also modestly employs English Revival characteristics in its two-story fieldstone porch with arched openings. The Leonard Apartments at 810 Willow is minimally decorated with Craftsman style window pane arrangement. Constructed in the mid 1930s, the Leonard Apartments is a two-story square building faced with buff-colored builder's brick.

Among the earliest buildings in the residential portion of the district are twenty-one small Colonial Revival style houses. Originally, all four houses on the east side of the 400 block of Willow had identical floor plans. Houses at 414, 416, and 418 Willow have been restored to near original appearance. The house on the corner at 420 Willow is the only one of the originally similar houses that has not been restored to its original appearance.

Vernacular versions of the Colonial Revival style were found on the houses in the 300 block of W. 7th Street. These houses have been altered through porch and window replacements and non-original siding. Although currently sheathed in asbestos, the Farmer House at 623 Orange is an excellent example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. Constructed c. 1913, the house is characterized by its front facing gambrel roof and shed roof dormers. The design of the Moseley-Zimmerman House at 410 W. 5th is a period revival of the Colonial Revival style popular in the 1920s with its two-story side gable roof and symmetrical façade with classical entry. The McDermott House at 413 W. 4th Street is a 1940s two-story Minimal Traditional style house with Colonial Revival detail in its porch roof balustrade.

The vernacular folk house is commonly found in the residential portion of the Argenta Historic District. The shotgun house such as the one at 510 Willow was constructed in the Argenta neighborhood from the late 19th

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century through the 1920s. A Craftsman detailed shotgun house is located at 611 Willow and two shotgun houses were joined in the mid 1920s at 306 W. 8th. Groupings of shotgun form houses are found in the 500 block of Willow Street and in the 800 block of Orange Street.

Although not the one-room wide shotgun, the 700 block of Orange features a row of four small vernacular houses. Virtually identical, these four small frame one-story houses appear unaltered from their original appearance.

The influence of the Craftsman style is well expressed in the houses in the Argenta Historic District. The earliest Craftsman houses in the district include the Mobley-McAninch House at 417 W. 4th. Constructed in 1915, the Craftsman influence is seen in wide eaves with triangular knee braces and a two-story shed roof bay. Another early Craftsman vernacular form is found in the details of the Morris House at 301 W. 7th Street. A heavy gablet roof, broad eaves and classical columns on brick piers distinguish this transitional vernacular adaptation of Craftsman details to a Colonial Revival style form.

A cluster of three early side-gable Craftsman style houses is found at the southwest corner of W. 5th and Willow Streets. The Moseley House at 415 Willow Street was constructed by Edgar Moseley as his family residence. Sharing the same lot, but facing W. 5th Street, the house at 400 W. 5th and 404 W. 5th were also constructed by Moseley. All three houses, constructed in 1917, are similar in their side-gable Craftsman design with wide eaves, triangular knee braces, gable roof dormers also with braces, shed roof bay and battered columns on piers. The Starnes House at 521 Willow is a two-story version of Craftsman design featuring broad eaves, triangular knee braces, and Craftsman windows. The Freedman-Zimmerman House at 409 W. 5th is a Craftsman form unique to the area featuring a gablet roof with notched rafter ends, granite columns and balustrade on the full front recessed porch, and a rear two-story hipped roof section.

By 1920 development in the western section of downtown North Little Rock was proceeding at a rapid pace. Clearly the largest growth period in the area was 1920-1930 when 75% of the houses in the district were constructed.

The most dominant type of house in the Argenta Historic District is the one-story Craftsman Bungalow. Small one-story versions of these bungalows are found throughout the district, but the largest concentrations are located along W. 5th Street, Willow Street, and Melrose Place Addition. The district's only "Airplane Bungalow" is a stucco house located at 505 W. 5th, designed and occupied by Frank Carmean, architect with the Justin Matthews Company which developed North Little Rock's first suburban development, Park Hill (listed on the National Register of Historic Places 8-16-00).

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The Melrose Place Addition was planned and platted by local Twin City Bank in 1924. Fifty-two small frame Craftsman Bungalows, all fairly similar in plan and scale, were constructed in the addition between 1924 and 1928. The continuity of this circular addition and its streetscape remain intact. A unique area of its own on the northwestern portion of the Argenta Historic District, the Melrose Place Addition was marketed specifically to railroad employees who could literally walk to the nearby repair shops. It was advertised in newspapers in 1926 as the last residential area that would be developed in downtown North Little Rock.

The period English Revival style is most often seen in the district in subtle uses of detail such as steep front facing gable roofs and mixed use of brick, stucco and stone. The most outstanding example of English Revival period design is seen in the Owens House at 401 W. 4th Street. This two-story brick house was constructed in 1927. Steep gable roof lines with pseudo half timbering in prominent gable ends and use of brick, stucco, and stone add to the distinctiveness of this high styled house.

Demand for more housing in North Little Rock began in 1939 with the nearby Camp Joseph T. Robinson filled with over 50,000 soldiers and continued through to the years following World War II. Several houses in the Minimal Traditional style were constructed in the few available lots in the area. The house at 223 W. 7th Street was built in 1941 and is a one-story frame house with low hipped roof and the characteristic close eaves and rake with minimal detail typical of the houses built in the late 1930s through 1940s. The house at 618 Willow and the duplex at 305-307 W. 5th feature the characteristic close eaves and rake with minimal detail typical of the houses built in the late 1930s through 1940s.

The neighborhood has always catered to railroad workers with boarding houses and apartment buildings. However, in the years from the 1960s through the early 1990s an increase in transient residency occurred as once well-maintained large family homes were converted to rooming houses and apartments. Many of the homes in the Argenta Historic District, which were altered to accommodate division into as many apartments as possible, often enclosed porches and made other alterations that obscured the original character of the houses.

As a result of listing in the National Register of Historic Places in 1993 and the organization of a local non-profit for the purpose of renovating houses in the district, the Argenta Historic District has experienced a tremendous rebirth. Over seventy houses and buildings in the district have been renovated since 1993, vastly enhancing the historic character of the area. New construction on vacant lots has occurred and a historically significant house from another area of town, threatened by demolition, was moved into the district at the corner of W. 5th and Maple Streets.

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Integrity

The buildings comprising the Argenta Historic District strongly retain their integrity of location, design, workmanship, and materials. A sense of time and place is conveyed in the tree-lined streetscapes of the residential area as well as along the city's principal historic commercial corridor, Main Street. Restoration of buildings in the Argenta Historic District has dramatically affected the historic character of the district. Expansion of the district is a direct result of the preservation efforts made by the community, which takes great pride in the city's historic downtown.

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** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **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

Commerce

Community Planning

Period of Significance

1890-1955

Significant Dates

1890-1955

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)**Architect/Builder**

Charles L. Thompson; H. Ray Burks; Guy Swaim;
John Parks Almand

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
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

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Summary

The Argenta Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 15, 1993 as two discontinuous districts. Although the entire area represented in this amended nomination was surveyed in 1992-1993, there was a high number of buildings that had been altered and significantly changed from their original appearance and did not contribute to the district. Since the listing of the Argenta Historic District and the subsequent enactment of a local historic district ordinance, a group of property owners and interested citizens formed a private non-profit corporation whose mission is to reclaim the neighborhood. Simultaneously, private property owners have renovated their homes and business buildings. The city has participated in renovation of the downtown with restoration of the 1914 City Hall building and a massive streetscape project.

The Argenta Historic District is locally significant under Criteria A and C as the group of historic buildings most directly associated with the historic community of Argenta, the earliest settlement north of the Arkansas River at this location that later became what is now known as North Little Rock. More than any other area in North Little Rock, the Argenta Historic District represents a continuum of the city's development. The era between 1890 and 1955 is the period when North Little Rock established itself as a city of the first class and emerged as an industrial center. At the crux of the development of North Little Rock was the strong role the railroad played in the city's economic base and its effect on the industrial nature of the city. The process by which North Little Rock grew from a small settlement to a city of the first class is an important part of the development of central Arkansas' urban center. The foresight and ingenuity of early leaders in North Little Rock is a significant example of community planning and development.

Elaboration

The area along the north bank of the Arkansas River did not parallel the development of Little Rock, Arkansas' capital city across the river. Chronic flooding and swamps discouraged larger settlements across from "the little rock" in the early 1800s as white settlers began moving into the area. The north side was referred to as "Opposite Little Rock" on early maps and served primarily as a terminal where ferries shuttled passengers across the river and river boats docked. It was used extensively as a major junction during the relocation of Southeastern tribes to Oklahoma in the 1830s and 1840s. In 1838 an army officer named Richard DeCantillon Collins, who surveyed roads and rivers in Arkansas for the government, registered with the Pulaski County clerk's office eight square blocks for sale on the north bank. The first name given to the area was DeCantillon, but the townsite fell victim to a flood in 1840.

Another early settlement in the area called Huntersville may have been named for Captain R. L. Hunter who surveyed a route for the Little Rock-Fort Smith railroad. The first rail route built in Arkansas was the western division of the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad. Completed in 1862, the railroad ended at a depot on the north river bank "opposite Little Rock" where passengers were ferried across the river to Little Rock. In 1871 the Arkansas Gazette published an editorial in an attempt to clear general confusion about the name of the town "opposite Little Rock". This editorial explained that during the Civil War the U.S. military

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superintendent of the north side depot was William Hunter and the location was known as the military post of Huntersville. By 1872 what was left of the Huntersville settlement had been destroyed by fire. Yet another development on the north side, though not as well known as DeCantillon, Huntersville, or Argenta, was the town of Quapaw. In 1865 William E. Woodruff advertised riverfront lots adjacent to "Huntersville" but there is no evidence of any deeds recorded.

In 1866 the town of Argenta was surveyed and platted by the heirs of Thomas W. Newton Sr. The name was derived from Argentum, Latin for silver. Folklore says that silver had been discovered about ten miles north of the town site. "Kellogg's Diggins" was primarily a lead mine, which did yield some silver, and was intermittently mined through the mid-1920s. Although a post office was established in Argenta in 1871, the town did not incorporate. In 1873 the completion of the Baring Cross bridge across the Arkansas River just to the west of Argenta, connecting it with Little Rock and the southwest, heralded the beginning of a long period of growth for the Town of Argenta. By the late 1870s, Argenta was a major railroad line crossing. As the railway-related shops, warehouses and workforce increased so did the town of Argenta. Additions to the west of the plat of the Original Town of Argenta were laid out in the 1880s including DeCantillon Addition, Hudson's Addition, and Clendenin's Addition. It was common for a large portion of railway labor to be migratory and large numbers of these "boomers" as they were called passed through Argenta. The railroad people who settled in one place were called "homeguards." With a rapidly growing population and little organized means of enforcing the law, the disorderliness and the town's many saloons inspired several editorials in the *Arkansas Gazette* in the 1880s demanding either incorporation or annexation by Little Rock for the purpose of obtaining control of "lawless conditions."

However, efforts to incorporate Argenta failed until 1890. Residents of Argenta filed a petition for incorporation, but Little Rock's city attorney advised the City Council that since the boundaries of Little Rock and Argenta extended to the middle of the Arkansas River, the cities were considered contiguous, which empowered Little Rock to annex the north side. In an election in April 1890, Little Rock voters decided to annex the north side and make Argenta Little Rock's Eighth Ward. Although C. L. Vogel (Vogel Grocery, 323 Main) challenged the legality of the election in the Supreme Court of Arkansas, it was affirmed that the annexation was legal. At the time of its annexation to Little Rock, Argenta was still considered a "rough" town and was "off limits" even to soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Logan H. Roots military base. Saloons and gambling houses filled the buildings along Argenta's primary street, Newton Avenue (changed to Main Street in 1904). There were no paved streets, no treated water system, plank sidewalks, a small police force, and only a bucket-brigade fire protection (until Little Rock built a fire station in 1895). Low lying streets with no drainage system often flooded, leaving Argenta a muddy mosquito infested area. Although a "free" steel and wooden bridge was constructed across the Arkansas River in the late 1890s, little improvements were made in Little Rock's Eighth Ward.

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The name Faucette is synonymous with the history of North Little Rock. Brothers William C. and James P. Faucette were foresighted businessmen who played a significant role in the independence and development of Argenta/North Little Rock. After settling in Argenta in 1878, both men worked on the Little Rock-Fort Smith Railway. As an early business venture the Faucette brothers operated a boarding house which catered to railroad workers at 400 Main Street. Later they bought land in downtown Argenta at 8th and Main Streets and built a private electric light plant. As one of the first aldermen elected from the Eighth Ward of Little Rock, William Faucette pushed for improvements on the swampy north side. In 1901 a group of men from the Eighth Ward led by the Faucette brothers secretly organized for the purpose of separating Argenta from Little Rock. An area immediately north of the Eighth Ward (what is roughly today 15th Street on the south, Pershing Boulevard on the north, Locust on the east and Pike Avenue on the west) was incorporated as the "Town of North Little Rock" in July 1901. The Faucette brothers paid the filing fee for the incorporation of North Little Rock and Frank O. Cook was elected the first mayor.

The group from the Eighth Ward then manipulated a bill through the Arkansas 34th General Assembly in 1903. Prepared by state Senator James P. Clarke, this bill was written to permit the annexation or consolidation of all or part of one municipal corporation located within one mile of any other municipal corporation. The act was called the "Hoxie-Walnut Ridge Law" and the men from the Eighth Ward paid a lobbyist from Walnut Ridge to ascertain its passage. There was little attention paid to this piece of legislation by the General Assembly as it was thought to have been a special interest bill written to permit the cities of Hoxie and Walnut Ridge to consolidate. The Hoxie-Walnut Ridge bill was signed into law in March 1903. On May 11, 1903, soon after the legislature adjourned, William C. Faucette announced that he had petitions signed by Argenta property owners asking to be annexed to the incorporated town of North Little Rock under the provisions of the Hoxie-Walnut Ridge Bill. A special election was held on July 21, 1903, and the citizens of North Little Rock and Argenta voted to secede from Little Rock and become part of an independent city on the north side. Frank O. Cook had resigned as mayor in January 1903 and William Mara had become the second mayor of North Little Rock.

The annexation of Argenta by North Little Rock was in dispute in the courts for over six months but on February 6, 1904, the Arkansas Supreme Court upheld the "Hoxie-Walnut Ridge" legislation and the creation of the City of North Little Rock. William Faucette was elected mayor in the city's first general election. In addition to the mayoral position, a full slate of city officers was elected and the city was divided into four wards. With a population of 8,203, North Little Rock became a city of the first class on February 26, 1904. William Faucette was re-elected mayor in 1905 and 1907. E.A. Ramsey was elected mayor in 1909, but resigned in September 1910 and was replaced by William Faucette, who served again until January 1911. James Faucette was selected to fill the unexpired mayoral term and was elected mayor in April 1911. It was the Faucette brothers who set up improvement districts which included paving streets and installing a drainage and sewer system. The privately owned Faucette Brothers Bank (established in 1901) changed its

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name to Twin City Bank with James Faucette as president and then incorporated as a public bank in April 1904.

Manufacturing and railroad business expanded and the city flourished. On October 26, 1905 President Theodore Roosevelt reviewed the troops at Fort Roots and visited the city, remarking, "Mr. Faucette, I am delighted to meet the mayor of Argenta." In January 1906 a city ordinance was passed changing the name of the city to Argenta.

Argenta experienced an economic boom in the first decade of the 20th century. Four railroads were located in the city. Cotton oil mills and the lumber industry provided a strong economic base for growth. In 1910 Justin Matthews, a local businessman and real estate developer, built a two-story building with full basement (razed) which covered an entire block. Other local businessmen built brick buildings along Main Street, including the Manees family (313-315 Main, 317-319 Main), C. J. Humphreys (Argenta Drug Store at 318-324 Main), and the Faucette brothers at 405 Main and 425 Main. The Faucette brothers were the force behind construction of a new city hall building in 1914 at 300 Main Street which remains an outstanding architectural and governmental anchor in the commercial corridor. There were about 15 saloon and gambling houses in the

downtown area at the turn of the century. When prohibition laws were enacted in Arkansas in 1916, these establishments were forced to close and the face of Main Street began to change as stores and restaurants replaced the saloons.

The name of the city remained Argenta until 1917 when it was changed to North Little Rock and has remained as such since (although in 1958 there was an unsuccessful campaign to change the name back to Argenta). The 1917 name change to North Little Rock was fostered by James Faucette after a trip to California where he saw the economic benefits to a small town close to Hollywood after changing its name to "West Hollywood." James Faucette was convinced that changing the name of Argenta back to North Little Rock would be a financial boost to the city.

As the city's business section grew, its residential area was changing west of Main Street. Although additions had been platted, there was little building in most of the area west of Main Street. Orange and Willow Streets were occupied by black families. At least two black churches and one school were once located on Orange Street. In the early years of the Twentieth Century, white and black families often lived on the same blocks. By 1915, however, most of the downtown residential neighborhood was occupied by white local business owners and workers and employees of the railroad. Within the Argenta Historic District are business buildings and the residences of those businessmen. The Gerlach House at 217 W. 5th is an early twentieth century Colonial Revival style house built and occupied by North Little Rock's first city clerk, Adam Gerlach. The Rapillard Building at 707 Main was built c. 1890 and housed the family grocery on the first

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floor and residence on the second story. In 1927, the Rapillard family built an English Revival style home less than a block away at 123 W. 7th Street. The Manees family home was at 216 W. 4th Street and their two business buildings at 315 and 317 Main Street. James P. Faucette's house was located at 316 W. 4th, while the building he and his brother William constructed is located at 400 Main Street. The Koehler Bakery buildings were located in the 700 block of Main and the family residence at 306 W. 8th Street.

In 1923 the Broadway Bridge over the Arkansas River was dedicated. A key force in the construction of this bridge was Justin Matthews. The "free bridge" built in the 1897 was replaced in 1924 by a concrete bridge, known as the Main Street Bridge. Replacement of a dangerous steel and wood viaduct built in 1907 over the railroad tracks at 8th and Main Streets with a new concrete viaduct in 1927 accessed the areas north of downtown for further development. The city had a streetcar system (1907 to 1938) in its downtown and was in such good financial condition that a banner was placed on the eastern edge of town reading on one side "Locate in North Little Rock- A City Without Indebtedness" and "Welcome to North Little Rock, The Industrial City of Arkansas" on the other side.

Both the commercial and residential districts of downtown North Little Rock remained viable through the 1960s. In the latter part of the 1960s Urban Renewal projects cleared a two block wide path along the Arkansas River. Commercial buildings in the first two blocks of Main Street were razed and two modern bank

buildings were constructed in the 200 block of Main Street. Buildings in the first two blocks of Maple, Orange and Willow were also cleared as a part of the Urban Renewal projects. To the east of the Argenta Historic District, construction of Interstate 30 interrupted that portion of the historic downtown neighborhood. West of the residential portion of the district, more "improvements" and rerouting of traffic arteries opened once serene streets to heavy use.

Although the fabric of the Argenta Historic District has been confined to a small core area, a sense of the original historic character of the neighborhood and commercial corridor remains. The architectural character of the Argenta Historic District is based on the simple vernacular nature of the area's historic buildings, which were built between the late 1880s and 1940. It features a broad section of architectural styles, including the elaborate Queen Anne style Baker House at 109 W. 5th, simple shotgun houses such as one located at 510 Willow, Colonial Revival as seen in 414 and 416 Willow, English Revival as in the Owens House at 401 W. 4th, and Craftsman Bungalows as exemplified in the Simon-Ivy House at 710 Willow. The Owens Funeral Home building at 500 Main is the district's lone example of Spanish Revival design.

The wide range of interpretations and vernacular adaptations of the style influences represented in the district is significantly reflective of the development of the City of North Little Rock with its working class foundations. As a city whose economic base was the railroad industry, the character of North Little Rock

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developed as a much different city than Little Rock. An advertisement for the sale of lots and houses in Argenta at the turn of the 20th century boasted that even the poorest workman could easily own his own home by practicing "a little self-denial and economy."

The Melrose Place Addition, located in the northwest corner of the Argenta Historic District, is a 14.21-acre tract bought by North Little Rock's Twin City Bank in the 1924. Twin City Bank platted the subdivision in 1924 and constructed 53 small Craftsman bungalow homes between 1925 and 1929 (two historic homes have been razed and one ranch house c. 1960 has been constructed). A large span of vacant land north of Melrose Place was never developed and was commonly used by railroad workers as walking access to the railroad yards just to the north of this green space, and prior to construction of the new high school in 1929 was used as a football practice field. The land is now known as Melrose Park and features playground equipment and picnic tables. Most of the houses in the Melrose Place Addition are frame front-facing gable roof bungalows. A few are faced in brick (116 Melrose Circle, 120 Melrose Circle, 144 Melrose Circle, and 117 Melrose Divide). One house, 113 Melrose Circle, which was originally frame, was faced in fieldstone with brick trim in the 1947.

Despite the fact that the neighborhood deteriorated, the character of the Argenta Historic District clearly is derived from its early 20th century buildings. The alteration of many of these buildings was an adaptation to a changing economic base and growth away from downtown. As early as the 1920s many of the larger homes were divided into apartments or opened as boarding houses. During the World War II years, more of the

housing in the district was converted to apartments to provide overflow housing for some of the soldiers stationed at nearby Camp J. T. Robinson. As with many inner city neighborhoods, deterioration set in. Many of the frame houses were sided with synthetic materials in an attempt to reduce maintenance costs. Some commercial buildings have been stuccoed or faced with aluminum panels. Despite these changes, the historic aggregation in the district remained.

Crime in the downtown area of North Little Rock increased dramatically in the 1980s and early 1990s and threatened the stability of the neighborhood. A strong neighborhood organization formed in 1991 aggressively sought preservation of the area. The Boosters for a Better Downtown North Little Rock, which is composed of residents, business owners, city officials and other interested people, has brought the needs of their historic neighborhood to the forefront. Bright street lights and police protection have improved conditions. The Argenta Community Development Corporation formed in 1992 has rehabilitated forty-six properties within the district, investing \$3,646,753 in these projects. The North Little Rock city government has also taken an active role in the revival of the downtown. The hope that through interpretation of this area's historic significance to the city, the neighborhood can be revitalized as a commercial center and unique residential neighborhood has come to fruition and continues to gain momentum.

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Statement of Significance

The National Register of Historic Places registration form for the Argenta Historic District, originally listed on 03-15-93, is being amended to include the entire area of the historic downtown of North Little Rock. As a result of tremendous efforts in restoration and rehabilitation of buildings in the district, the area as a whole contains a high percentage of properties that contribute to the historic significance (81%) of the downtown. Although many changes have occurred in and around downtown North Little Rock, the historic ambiance of the district has been reclaimed. Containing a total of 258 buildings, the Argenta Historic District documents the development of North Little Rock from a muddy, rough settlement to a city of the first class.

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Argenta Historic District

Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas

County and State

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Argenta Historic District

Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Approximately 41 Acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>566533</u>	<u>3846786</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>15</u>	<u>567138</u>	<u>3846806</u>

3	<u>15</u>	<u>567128</u>	<u>3846049</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>15</u>	<u>566543</u>	<u>3846090</u>

☐ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Sandra Taylor Smith, Directororganization North Little Rock History Commissiondate October 30, 2006street & number 506 Main Streettelephone (501)371-0755city or town North Little Rockstate ARzip code 72114**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 locationA **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 Multiple Property Owners- Private & Public

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 Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description- Argenta Historic District Boundary Increase II

Beginning at the alley east of North Little Rock City Hall (300 N. Main Street) at E. Broadway, the boundary runs east along E. Broadway to its intersection with N. Poplar Street where it turns to run north along the center line of N. Poplar to its intersection with E. Fourth Street. The boundary runs west along E. Fourth Street to its intersection with the alley east of the 300 block of Main Street then runs south along the alley to the point of beginning at E. Broadway.

Beginning at a point at the intersection of E. Fifth Street and N. Poplar Street, the boundary runs north along the rear property lines of buildings on the east side of the 500 block of N. Main Street. The boundary continues to run north, bounded by the railroad tracks on the east to E. Ninth Street. The boundary runs west along the centerline of E. Ninth Street to its intersection with N. Orange Street. The boundary then runs south along the centerline of N. Orange Street to its intersection with W. 7th Street. At this point the boundary runs east along W. 7th Street to the alley between the 600 block of Main and Maple Streets. The boundary then runs south along this alley to its intersection with W. 6th Street where it then runs west to Willow Street. At Willow and W. 6th the boundary runs north on Willow ½ block to the alley between the 300 blocks of W. 7th and W. 6th Streets. The boundary runs east along this alley to its intersection with Orange Street, then turns to run south on N. Orange Street to its intersection with W. Fifth Street where it turns west on W. 5th Street to the western property line of the building at 300 W. 5th. At this point the boundary runs south to the alley between the 300 blocks of W. 4th and W. 5th Streets west along the alley to its intersection with N. Willow Street. At N. Willow Street the boundary runs south to the alley south of the 300 block of W. 4th Street where it turns and runs east along this alley to its intersection with the alley west of the 300 block of Main Street. The boundary then turns north along the alley west of Main Street to its intersection with the property located at 416 Maple Street where it runs around that property back to the alley west of the 400 block of Main Street. The boundary runs north on the alley west of Main Street to its intersection with W. 6th Street. At this intersection the boundary turns to run east along W. 6th Street to its intersection with the alley east of the 500 block of Main Street then south to the point of beginning at W. 5th and N. Poplar Streets.

Boundary Increase II includes:

South ½ of Block 3, S ½ and Lots 10, 11, 12 of Block 4, and North ½ of Block 5- Hudson's Addition to the City of North Little Rock

Blocks 1 and 2 of Martha B. Cohen's Addition to the City of North Little Rock

East ½ Block 21, East ½ Block 31, Block 40, 41, 50- Original City of Argenta

East ½ Block 1, Blocks 2, 3, 4, 5, West ½ block 6, East ½ block 7, Blocks 8, 9, 11, 12- Clendenin's Addition to the City of North Little Rock

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

The Argenta Historic District as listed in the National Register of Historic Places 1993 with Boundary Increase I in 2002 and Boundary Increase II:

Beginning at a point at the intersection of E. Broadway and N. Poplar Street, the boundary runs north along the centerline of N. Poplar to its intersection with E. Fourth Street. At the intersection of N. Poplar and E. Fourth Streets, the boundary turns and runs west along the center line of E. Fourth Street to N. Poplar, then runs north along the centerline of N. Poplar to E. Fifth Street. At N. Poplar and E. Fifth Street, the boundary runs north at the rear property lines of buildings on the east side of the 500 block of N. Main Street. The boundary continues to run north, bounded by the railroad tracks on the east to E. Ninth Street. The boundary turns west at E. Ninth Street and runs due west to its intersection with the Melrose Place Addition. The boundary runs around the Melrose Place Addition to the point it intersects with the alley west of Willow Street properties. The boundary then runs south in the center of the alley to the west of Willow Street to its intersection with the alley north of W. Fifth Street. At this juncture, the alley turns and runs west along the centerline of the alley north of W. Fifth to its intersection with N. Broadway then south to the intersection of N. Broadway and W. 5th Street. The boundary turns and runs east along W. Fifth Street then turns and runs south along the west property line of the house at 508 W. Fifth Street to the alley between W. Fifth and W. Fourth Streets. At this point the boundary runs east along the centerline of the alley to the west property line of the house at 417 W. 4th Street. The boundary turns south to the centerline of W. Fourth Street and runs east to the intersection of W. 4th and Willow Streets where it runs south ½ block to the alley south of W. Fourth Street. At W. Fourth Street and the alley, the boundary turns and runs east along the center line of the alley to the western property line of the house located at 115 W. Broadway then south along the west property line to W. Broadway. At W. Broadway, the boundary turns east along the centerline of Broadway to the beginning point at E. Broadway and N. Poplar Streets.

Blocks 21, 30, 31, 40, 41, 50 and portions of blocks 32 and 33 in the Original City of Argenta.

Blocks 1,2, and 3 in the Melrose Place Addition to the City of North Little Rock

North ½ of block 4, north ½ of block 5 and all of block 6 in Hudson's Addition to the City of North Little Rock;

Blocks 1-12 of Clendenin's Addition to the City of North Little Rock;

Blocks 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 Faucett's Addition to the City of North Little Rock;

Blocks 1 and 2 in Martha B. Cohen's Addition to the City of North Little Rock.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Argenta Historic District were drawn to include the concentration of resources not previously listed as part of the Argenta Historic District (1993) or the Argenta Historic District Boundary Increase (2002). Roughly bounded by Orange Street on the West, East Broadway Street on the South, railroad tracks on the East, and West 9th Street on the North.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property _____

County and State _____

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable) _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06001217

Date of Listing: March 8, 2007

Property Name: Argenta Historic District Boundary Increase II

County: Pulaski

State: Arkansas

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Daniel J. Vivian
Signature of the Keeper

March 8, 2007
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 1. Name of Property

The historic name of the property is hereby changed to: Argenta Historic District (Boundary Increase II and Additional Documentation).

[This change was made in consultation with and approved by the National Register staff of the Arkansas SHPO.]

The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

NAME: Argenta Historic District (Boundary Increase)

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski County

DATE RECEIVED: 03/07/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/21/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001217

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

___ACCEPT___RETURN___REJECT___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Documentation justifies boundary increase of locally significant district under criteria A and C, and also provides updated information about resources in original district and earlier boundary increase.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A & C
REVIEWER Daniel Vivian DISCIPLINE Historian
TELEPHONE (202) 354-2252 DATE 3/8/07

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

Mike Beebe
Governor

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

*

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

*

Delta Cultural Center

*

Historic Arkansas Museum

*

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

*

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

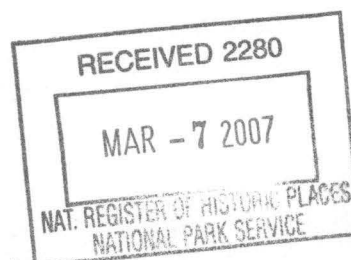
www.arkansaspreservation.com

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February 26, 2007

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



RE: Argenta Historic District – North Little Rock, Pulaski
County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsu

Enclosure

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Evaluation/Return Sheet**

Property Name: Argenta Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Pulaski, Arkansas

Reference Number: 06001217

Reason for Return:

This nomination is being returned so that its intended purpose may be clarified and for revisions to the verbal boundary justification.

Based on the information provided, it appears that the documentation is intended to amend both the Argenta Historic District (listed March 15, 1993) and the Argenta Historic District (Boundary Increase) (listed February 22, 2002) by providing an updated inventory of resources for both properties, and also to expand the boundary of the Argenta Historic District to include an area of approximately 60 acres lying east of the main (westernmost) portion of the district. The proposed expansion area appears to surround the 2002 boundary increase. Although the narrative property description includes some information about the district listed in 1993, the 2002 boundary increase is not mentioned, and the specific purposes of this amendment are not explicitly stated. For these reasons, we recommend that the discussion under the heading "Background" (Sec. 7, page 1) be revised to: 1) identify both the district listed in 1993 and the 2002 boundary increase, and 2) explain that this documentation provides new information for both of these properties and proposes a second boundary increase.

Consistent with these revisions, it appears that the name of the property should be changed under Section 1 of the registration form. If this documentation is indeed intended to serve the purposes described above, the name of the property should be changed to Argenta Historic District (Boundary Increase II and Additional Documentation).

A related matter concerns the acreage listed under Section 10 the registration form. Does the "approximately 60 acres" include the 2002 boundary increase? The figure entered here should only reflect the acreage of the property proposed for listing in the National Register—in this case, the new boundary increase. Thus, if the 2002 boundary increase is included in the "approximately 60 acres," this figure should be revised.

The verbal boundary justification does not explain why the boundary was drawn as described. It appears that the boundary was drawn to encompass the concentration of resources determined to be significant under criteria A and C. The verbal boundary justification should provide a clear rationale for the boundary of the nominated property and be based on the historic significance and integrity of the component resources. In this case, it appears that the boundary was drawn to include the concentration of resources not previously listed as part of the Argenta Historic District or the Argenta Historic District (Boundary Increase), and which are roughly bounded by Orange Street on the West, East Broadway Street on the South, railroad tracks on the East, and West 9th Street on the North. If this is correct, we recommend that the verbal boundary description be revised accordingly.

We hope you find these comments helpful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. You may reach me at (202) 354-2252 or by email at <Dan_Vivian@nps.gov>. We look forward to receiving a revised nomination.

Daniel Vivian, Historian
National Register of Historic Places

December 29, 2007

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Argenta Historic District (Boundary Increase)
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pulaski

DATE RECEIVED: 11/20/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/03/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001217

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT ___DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Return. Please see attached comments.

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

Daniel V. ...

DISCIPLINE

Historian

TELEPHONE

(202) 354-2252

DATE

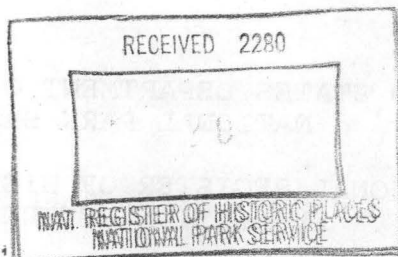
12/29/06

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1217

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 Argenta Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by N. Poplar, 9th Street, N. Broadway, W. 4th, Broadway ☐ not for publication

city or town North Little Rock ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 Zip code 72114

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.)

Adrian MacArthur
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/15/06
Date

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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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:) _____



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building
323 Center Street
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

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November 15, 2006

Dr. Janet Matthews
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Argenta Historic District – North Little Rock, Pulaski
County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure

