152

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property			
Historic Name: Star City Commer	cial Historic District		
Other Name/Site Number:LI0064			
2. Location			
Street & Number:	ley Streets		
	Not for Publication: N/A		
City/Town: Star City	Vicinity: N/A		
State: AR County: Lincoln	Code: 079 Zip Code: _71667_		
3. Classification			
Ownership of Property: Private & Pub	lic-Local		
Category of Property:District			
Number of Resources within Property:			
Contributing Noncontributin	g		
	3		
	Total		
Number of contributing resources previ Register: 1	ously listed in the National		
Name of related multiple property listi	ng: 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 pees not meet the National Register Criteria.
Signature of certifying official Date
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program State or Federal agency and bureau
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
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: A entered in the National Register A 20/99
determined eligible for the Mational Register
determined not eligible for the Mational Register removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Signature of Keeper Date Of action

6. Function or Use

Recreation/Culture

Historic: Commerce/Trade Sub: Specialty store

Monument/marker

Current : _ Commerce/Trade Commerce/Trade

Sub: ____Specialty store

Business Recreation/Culture

Monument/marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification: 20th century commercial

Materials: foundation brick roof built up tar other other

stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Star City Commercial Historic District in Star City, Lincoln County consists of thirteen buildings and one object situated on Bradley and Jefferson Streets. Eleven of the buildings are considered contributing, as is a 1926 Confederate Memorial on the town square which was listed on the National Register in April of 1996. Construction dates of the buildings span circa 1916 to circa 1928; they are bordered on the south by Bradley Street, on the west by Jefferson Street and on the north and east by the town square.

Architectural Survey

The Star City Commercial Historic District is composed of brick and stucco 20th century commercial buildings. The store entries and display windows have undergone the inevitable changes through the years but the upper stories and parapets largely retain their historic integrity qualifying them for inclusion in the Register. Ornamentation is simple on the contributing buildings in the district and is largely represented by corbelled masonry. The district also includes the 1926 Star City Confederate Monument (LI0044) which is situated on the town square. The monument was listed on the National Register in 1996 for its association with the efforts of the Captain J. Martin Meroney Chapter No. 1831 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect its members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause. It is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy: Civil War Commemorative Sculpture In Arkansas, 1886-1934."

Several of the commercial structures making up the district have been altered but a few remain relatively unchanged at the level of entry. Some of the more intact entries and display windows are interspersed throughout Bradley and

Jefferson Streets. The 1923 Nichols Hardware Building at 202 Bradley (LI0066) now vacant, could be considered one of the most intact of the district as it retains its original display windows and recessed entry with wooden french door. The only alteration is the application of plywood on a ribbon of transoms above the entry. The brick parapet is simple with two crenellations embellished with inset concrete diamond details.

The Adams Smith Building at 204-206 Bradley (LI0067) was built in 1922 and is a simple structure with four crenellations at the parapet. Buck's Hardware operates from the building now. A metal awning covers two recessed entries with large display windows which are original to the building. Above the window a neon sign remains from its days as the G.D. Smith Mercantile.

The building at 208 Bradley (LI0068) is the Peacock Inn. The 1928 inn, now a flower shop, is a two-story brick structure with recessed entry door and display windows. The transoms have been covered with plywood but the upper story is lit by two one-over-one double-hung windows within an original parapet with a simple soldier course.

The buildings along the west side of the square include the Norton Mercantile Building at 102 Jefferson (LI0074), an unadorned stucco building constructed in 1927. A dress store now occupies the former mercantile but its recessed entry remains. The ribbon of transoms above the display windows has been boarded over.

The building at 104 Jefferson, or the W.D. Davis Grocery Store (LI0075), was built at the same time as 102 Jefferson and is sheathed in plain stucco as well. The building, now a restaurant, does retain its transom windows above the original recessed entry.

The W.A. Trussell Dry Goods Store at 106 Jefferson (LI0076) displays a wood and glass entry door between two large plate glass windows. The display windows and door are flush with the sidewalk which is probably an alteration from its original 1927 appearance. Transom windows above the entry have been covered with plywood. A brick pediment contains rows of soldier bricks as decoration.

The Vick Building (LI0065) at 200 Bradley Street is the most impressive building in the district despite the changes to the first-story. The twostory brick structure - built in 1923 - was probably the first new building erected after a 1922 fire which destroyed all but two buildings on the south side of the square. The building, which currently contains an antique store, has a concrete parapet above two ribbons of four stationary windows with geometric muntins beneath transoms containing similar muntins. Concrete and brick detailing adorn the front facade around the second-story windows and beneath the parapet. The first-story display windows, above new brick bulkheads, have been replaced with metal and glass plate windows, and door, bringing the entry flush to the sidewalk.

The building at 210 Bradley (LI0069) has recently been renovated for use as a law office but it was built in 1928 for the Crow Drug Store. The ribbon of fixed windows above the entry are intact but the display windows and doors on this building have been replaced with modern metal and glass. The parapet above is plain with a row of soldier bricks above the entry.

The building at 216 Bradley (LI0071) was the home of two different drug stores after the turn of the century but now houses the Lincoln Ledger. display windows and door have been altered but the brick parapet is intact with a short length of masonry corbelling and dentil work. Two cast iron star anchors remain.

The building at 218 Bradley (LI0072) is part of the facade for 220 Bradley but is listed as a separate address. This circa 1916 building once served the community as a post office but is now vacant. One-over-one stationary windows have been placed in the display window and around a modern metal and glass door. The entire facade above the entry is covered with a metal awning that extends to the corner of 220 Bradley next door. The length of brick corbelling and dentil work above cast iron star anchors mirrors the detail seen on 216 Bradley.

The Johnson Mercantile Building at 220 Bradley (LI0073) is now the Wynn Insurance Agency. Built in 1916, this building and 218 Bradley are the oldest structures on the square as they are survivors of the 1922 fire. Original wooden bulkheads remain beneath a pair of large two-over-two stationary windows surrounding a modern entry door. Brick corbelling continues uninterrupted from the east half of the building at 218 Bradley.

Changes to the commercial buildings on the square were concentrated mainly on the entries and display windows. These changes involved replacement of wooden millwork on doors, windows and bulkheads with metal or plywood and bringing recessed entries flush to the sidewalk. These alterations are found on a few buildings in the district but are not so intrusive that they preclude the structures from contributing to the district.

Non-contributing buildings

Only two buildings in the district are considered non-contributing due to extensive alterations. The Star Theater at 212-214 Bradley (LI0070) was built in 1928. The theater burned in 1940 and 1948 but was restored each time only to close in 1956. The various restoration efforts resulted in the replacement of original windows on the second-story and infilling of the arched entry with wood and two metal windows around a metal and glass door which are the reasons for its non-contributing status. The Star Theater's marguee has been located after being abandoned in a field for 27 years and is currently being restored for application once again on the facade of the theater. Residents hope to return the building to its original appearance for use as a community meeting hall.

108 Jefferson (LI0077) was constructed in 1927 and was the only bar on the square. The building has been altered extensively with modern window and door replacements. Original sheathing has been replaced with modern brick beneath a large composition-shingled overhang which obscures the pediment of the building. These modern changes make the Elmer Leonard Cafe and Bar noncontributing to the Star City Commercial Historic District.

County and State

8. Statement of Significance			
Certifying official has considered the significance of relation to other properties: Local & State	this	property	in
Applicable National Register Criteria: C,A	-		
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):F	-		
Areas of Significance: Architecture Commerce Social History			
Period(s) of Significance: <u>c.1916-c.1928</u>			
Significant Dates: c.1916-c.1928			
Significant Person(s): N/A			
Cultural Affiliation: N/A			

significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above:

The Star City Commercial Historic District served as the center of the city's business life and as the nucleus of growth in the town. The district consists of two blocks of brick and stucco 20th century commercial buildings and one Confederate Memorial. These structures are simple, sometimes stark, and have been altered to varying degrees but they continue to evoke the commercial landscape of Star City after the turn of the century. The Star City Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance for its representation of early to mid-20th century commercial architecture. The Star City Confederate Memorial was listed on the National Register in 1996 under Criterion A with statewide significance for its association with the efforts of the Captain J. Martin Meroney Chapter No. 1831 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to reflect members' perception of the noble character and valor of their veterans and their cause.

Historical Background

Architect/Builder:

The southeast Arkansas town of Star City is the seat of justice in Lincoln County. Prior to its creation by the county court in 1871 it is believed that

the area was an unsettled wooded tract. The first county judge, George S. Joselyn's offer of land for the seat was accepted as it was near the center of the county, and court records were moved from the Cane Creek church on Sorrell's Ferry Road. The origin of the name Star City is unknown but one of several theories is that the site of the original courthouse is surrounded by five hills which form the points of a star.

A two-story wooden building on the northwest corner of Arkansas and Drew Streets served as a courthouse from 1872 to 1880. The existence of this building so soon after the vote to create Star City is evidence of growth in the area of the town square. In 1876, the year of incorporation of the town, the population had reached 300 persons within boundaries radiating out from the original city center. The first brick building on the square was probably the 1911 courthouse that replaced the 1872 wooden structure, which was moved to Jefferson Street for use as the first public high school. For a span of one year during the construction of the brick courthouse the Ross Silberstein House on Washington Street - which still stands - was used as seat of justice in the interim.

The railroad changed commerce and transportation means in Star City in 1909 when the Gould Southwestern (later Arkansas Railroad) introduced the first train from Gould. The line operated until its closure in 1959. Previously wagons from Pine Bluff transported freight and passengers to the town. Drew Street, or Highway 13 was the first street to be paved in the 1930s. Highway 13 was later designated Highway 81 and moved east to Lincoln Avenue to provide a more direct route through downtown. Improvements in roads and utilities contributed to population growth and by 1920 it had reached 616. By 1970 the total population had passed 2,000.

The economy of Star City has historically been based in farming and timber. Several saw mills operated in the town including a large capacity saw mill, flooring mill, stave mill, handle mill, chip mill and pallet plant. Cross ties, piling and gravel were also sources of revenue. Agriculture in the area gave rise to a cannery, potato shed, tomato shed and a fertilizer plant. Manufacturing industries included a Byrd's shirt plant, Levi Strauss Clothing, and National Wire Fabric Corporation.

The face of the downtown area was influenced by population growth resulting in the construction of several new businesses. However that face was altered by several fires that left their mark on the commercial district of the city. In 1914 the largest retail establishment, J.G. Atkinson's General Store, was destroyed by a fire. The most devastating fire in 1922 destroyed everything on the south side of the square save for two brick buildings, (the 1916 Johnson and Steed Buildings); it then proceeded to engulf eight businesses on Jefferson Street. The west side of the town square was decimated by a fire in 1926 that destroyed seven businesses. A different type of destruction claimed the brick courthouse in 1962. A new courthouse had been constructed on Drew Street in 1943 and various entities were housed in the old courthouse for a time but after the county library vacated the building in 1961 the decision was made to raze the structure. Bricks from the historic building were used to construct a new city hall and fire station and its clock was placed in a new clock tower on the town square in 1992. The Confederate Memorial was moved in 1962 to the grounds of the new courthouse for protection and visibility. As part of the 1992 beautification effort that resulted in the

new clock tower, the memorial was moved back to its location on the town square.

The Star City Commercial Historic District is composed of modest brick and stucco 20th century commercial buildings spanning the dates 1916 to 1928. The structures represent the historic business sector surrounding the town square of Star City. Out of thirteen buildings, eleven are considered contributing. The two non-contributing buildings are historic structures that have undergone changes to their historic integrity that are considered too extensive to be listed as contributing. Those buildings that compose the district are representative of the evolution of the town and of the presentation of merchandising in America in the 20th century. The buildings that retain their original recessed entries with large display windows are indicative of the movement that began at the end of the nineteenth century to meet merchandising demands for larger display space, and technological advances in glassmaking which made it possible for large plate-glass panels to be used. The Star City Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance for its retention of early 20th century architecture that demonstrates the early character of the town and innovations in small retail business storefronts before the advent of strip shopping malls. The Star City Confederate Memorial, a contributing object to the district was listed on the National Register in 1996 under Criterion A, Criteria Consideration F, and is associated with the historic context "Something So Dim It Must Be Holy": Civil War Commemorative Sculpture in Arkansas, 1886-1934.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lincoln County Historical Committee. <u>History of Lincoln County Arkansas</u> 1871-1983. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Company, 1983.

Information submitted by Pat Crow, Star City. 1997.

Arkansas Democrat Gazette 31, December, 1961.

Jackson, Mike. "Storefronts on Main Street: An Architectural History." Illinois Preservation Series. Number 19.

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

Star City Commercial Historic District	Lincoln County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
_ Other state agency _ Federal agency _ Local government _ University Other Specify Repository:	

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.5 acres.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

 A
 15
 606660
 3756200
 B
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 606600
 3756200

 C
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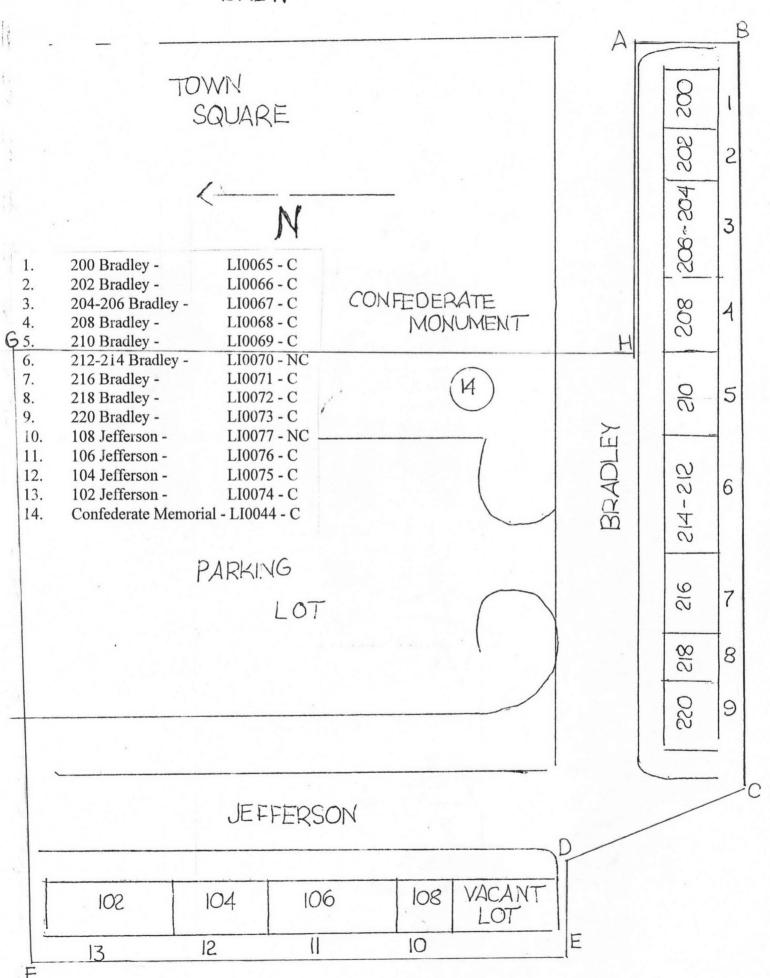
 G
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 H
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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point on the southwest corner of Bradley Street and Drew Street (A), proceed south to the rear property lines of 200-220 Bradley Street (B), proceed west 660' along the rear property lines of 200-220 Bradley Street to the curbline at the southeast corner of Bradley and Jefferson Street (C). Then proceed northwest 150' across the intersection to the northwest corner of Bradley and Jefferson Street (D), turning west 70' to the rear property line of 108-102 Jefferson (E). Proceed north for 285' to the southwest corner of Jefferson and Arkansas Streets (F). Proceed east for 100' across the parking lot to the lawn of the town square (G), turn south for 300' to south curbline of Bradley Street (H). Then proceed east to the point of beginning (A). See attached map.

Boundary Justification:

This nomination includes all of the property historically associated with the commercial properties comprising the Star City Commercial Historic District and includes that portion of the town square containing the Civil War commemorative statue, which was an important part of the historic setting of the commercial streetscape.



11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 11/05/98

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 AC	CTION: NOMINA	ΓΙΟ	N				
PROPERTY S	Star City Comme	erc	ial Historio	c Di	istrict		
MULTIPLE = NAME:	livil War Commo	emo:	rative Scul	otu i	re MPS-		
STATE & COUN	ITY: ARKANSAS	, L	incoln				
DATE RECEIVE DATE OF 16TH DATE OF WEEK		/99 /99	DATE DATE	OF OF	PENDING LIST: 45TH DAY:	1/26/9 2/28/9	9
REFERENCE NU	JMBER: 9900015	52					
REASONS FOR	REVIEW:						
APPEAL: N OTHER: N REQUEST: N	DATA PROBLEM: PDIL: SAMPLE:	N N N	LANDSCAPE: PERIOD: SLR DRAFT:	N N Y	LESS THAN 50 YI PROGRAM UNAPPRO NATIONAL:	EARS:	N N N
COMMENT WAIV	ER: N						
ACCEPT	RETURN		_REJECT		DATE		
ABSTRACT/SUM	MARY COMMENTS	:					

The Star City Historic District is significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Commerce, Architecture and Social History. The district illustrates the simple austere commercial buildings erected in rural Arkansas during the early decades of the twentieth century. Devastating fires destroyed much of the earlier commercial downtown of Star City; the subsequent local rebuilding efforts reflected in this historic district provide an interesting snapshot of vernacular small town construction during a particular period and represent the historic core of Star City's commercial streetscape. The district includes the previously listed Star City Confederate Memorial, which is individually eligible under Criterion A (Social History) and contributes to the overall character and significance of the commercial district.

RECOM./CRITERIA/	
REVIEWER AU LUSIONAN	DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN
TELEPHONE	DATE 2/24/99
DOCUMENTATION see attached commen	nts Y/N see attached SLR (V)N

United States Department of the InteriorNational Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Sectio	n number Page		
	SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING	G RECORD	
	NRIS Reference Number: 99000152	Date Listed:	2/26/99
	Star City Commercial Historic District	Lincoln	AR
	Property Name	County	State
	N/A		
	Multiple Name		
	This property is listed in the National Places in accordance with the attached subject to the following exceptions, ex notwithstanding the National Park Servi in the nomination documentation.	nomination do clusions, or	cumentation amendments,
	Sfl. Jm	2/26/99	
	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Acti	on
	Amended Items in Nomination:		

Significance:

The district is justified under the Area of Significance -- Commerce under Criterion A. This reflects the district's importance as the best remaining illustration of commercial development during early twentieth century history of Star City. [This is not clearly stated in the narrative text.]

The Significant Dates are revised to read 1922 and 1926, to reflect the devastating fire and the subsequent start of substantial rebuilding in the commercial district and the date of erection of the individually eligible Civil War monument.

This information was confirmed with H. Hope of the Arkansas SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



Stor City Conmercial Historic District
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Star City commune of Historic District Store City, Lincoln Co A. Bennett 9/20/98 On file AHPP YIEW From South



Star City commercial Historic District
Star City, Lincoln Co

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ON file AHPP
VILW From East, Bradley St



Star aty Historic District 218:220 Bradley Star City, Lincoln Co Photo by A Bunnett 9120/9 8 Negative of Ale at AHPP VIEN From North



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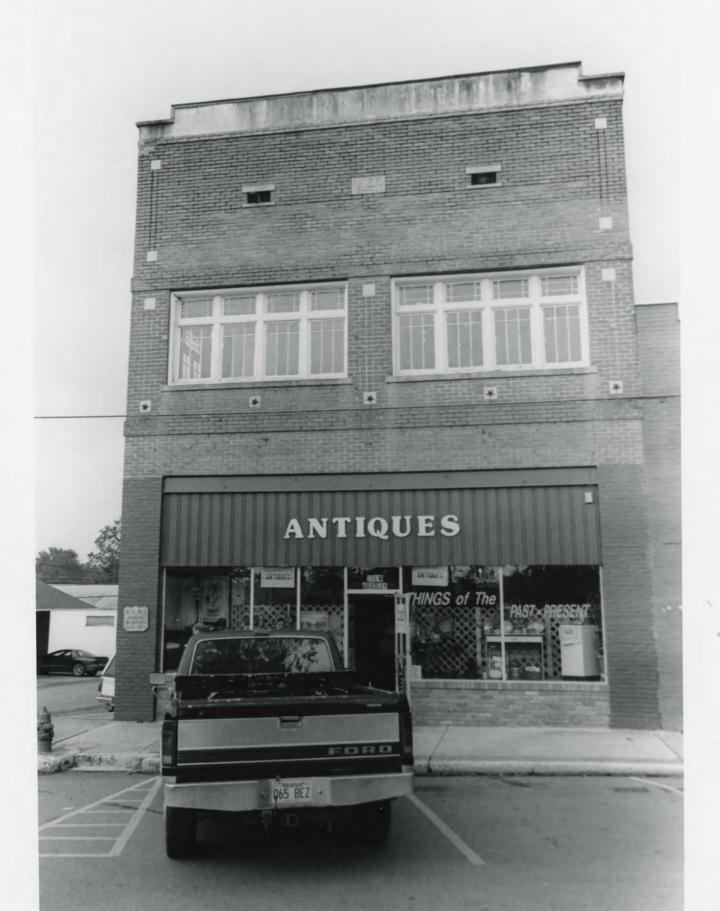




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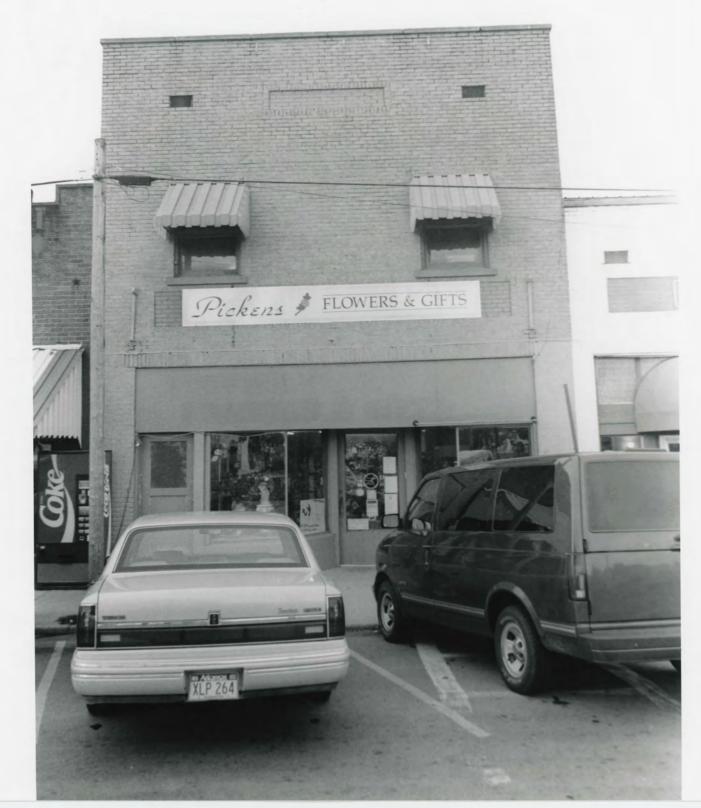
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VIEW From East



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Stor City, Lincoln Co
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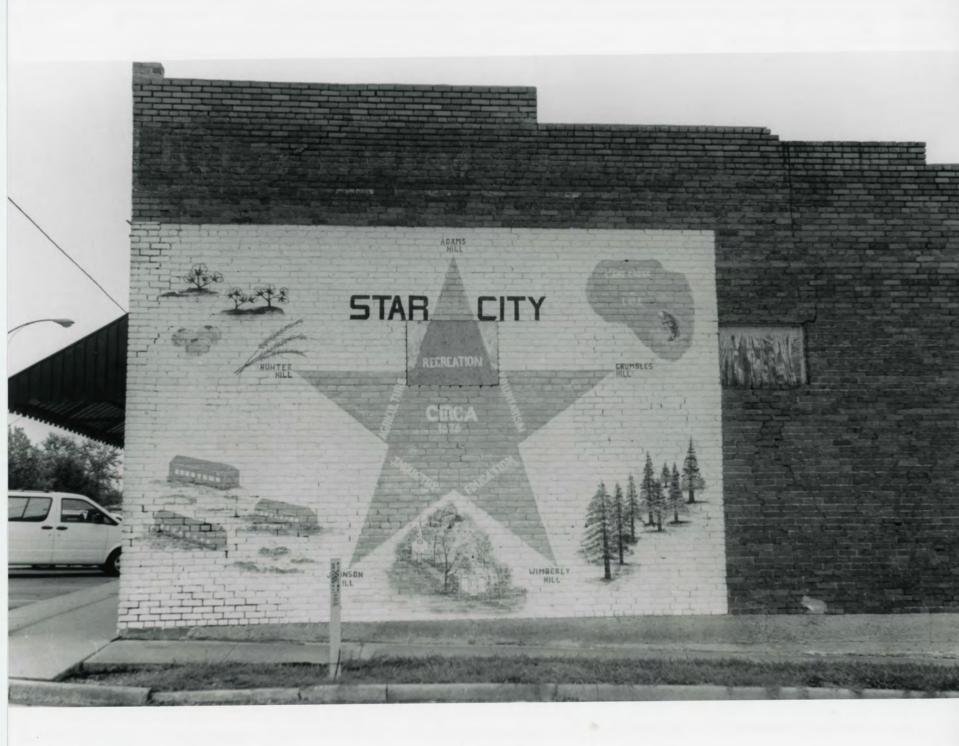
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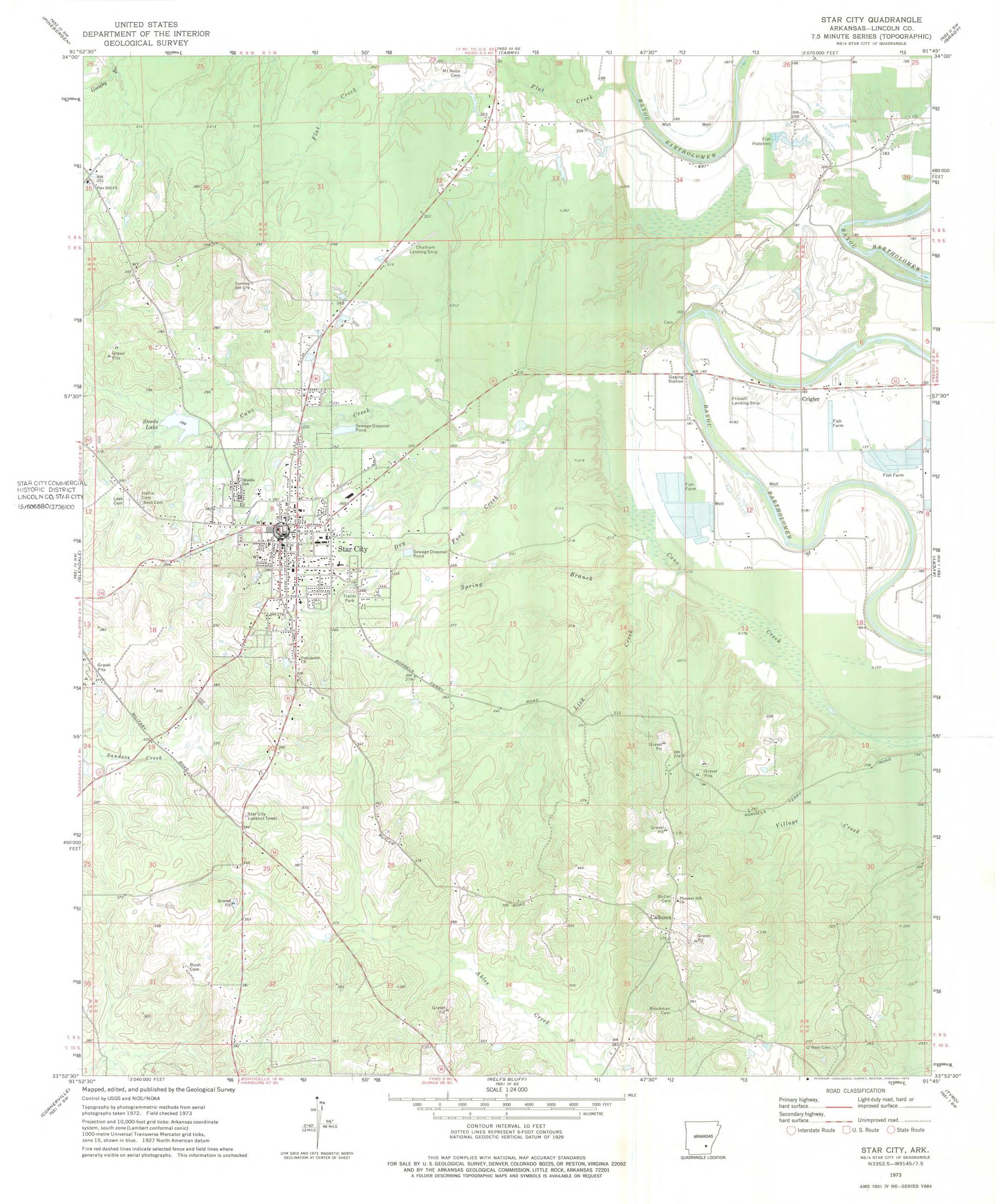


Star City Commercial Historic District
Star City, Sincoln Co

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Y: ew of mural on 218 Bradley from west



Star City commercial Historic District
214-212 Bradley
Star City, Lincoln Co
A. Bonnett
9/20/98
Negative on file at AHPP
View from North





ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

January 6, 1999

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: Star City Commercial Historic District - Star City, Lincoln County.

Dear Carol:

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

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

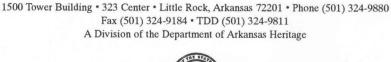
Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater

State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:rm

Enclosures







PROGRAM

February 16, 1999

Paul Lusignan 800 N. Capitol Street, Suite 250 Washington D.C. 20002

Dear Paul:

I am enclosing the required changes to the Star City Commercial Historic District as per your instructions of February 12, 1999. Let me know if I need to clean up anything else. You have probably learned from my original verbal boundary description that if you come to Arkansas you should not ask me for directions!

I am expecting a baby in July and was told that you get real goofy when you're pregnant. That's my excuse and I'm sticking to it.

Sincerely,

Holly Hope



