

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceRECEIVED
MAY 17 1990National Register of Historic Places
Registration FormNATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Johnson Barn

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Cato Springs Road

☐ not for publication N/A

city, town Fayetteville

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Washington

code 143

zip code 72701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
☐ removed from the National Register.
☐ other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/

Agricultural Outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/ Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Fieldstone

walls Weatherboard

roof Sheet metal

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Johnson Barn is a two story, balloon-frame, gambrel roof agricultural building. It features a rectangular, side-drive plan. It is supported by a fieldstone foundation, sheathed with wood weatherboard siding, and constructed with solid walnut columns on the first floor and long, unspliced truss members that frame the gambrel roof.

Elaboration

The Johnson Barn is a two story, balloon-frame, gambrel roof agricultural building. Its rectangular, side-drive plan features a drive to the west and three cribs to the east on the first floor, and an open loft on the second floor. The roof is covered with sheet metal, the walls are sheathed with weatherboard and the continuous foundation is constructed from fieldstone.

The southern elevation is accessed by a large wooden sliding door to the west and a smaller wooden sliding door to the east, the latter of which is placed slightly lower due to the decrease in grade. A square hay chute is placed centrally above the doors. The gable roof hay hood at the top of the elevation shelters a large, rectangular loading bay the door of which features a hinged, triangular top that allows it to be raised more easily via a rope and pulley system. Two square, fixed four-pane wood windows are placed symmetrically to either side of the hay hood. The first story of the northern elevation is identical to that of the southern elevation. The only punctuation of the elevation above the square hay chute is formed by the two four-pane fixed windows placed symmetrically beneath the breaks in the roofline and the smaller vent just beneath the roof peak.

The eastern and western elevations are similar, in that both are relieved with four-pane fixed wood windows. The only difference is the fact that the seven windows that light the drive on the western elevation are evenly placed across its full length, while those that light the eastern elevation are grouped into two sets of three at either end of the elevation and a central set of two, which are more widely spaced apart. This configuration corresponds to the placement of the cribs behind, with the central crib receiving the two lights and the other two receiving three.

The interior is simply appointed. The first floor has a dirt floor with the exception of the central crib, which has a pine floor like the second story loft. The upper story is accessed via a ladder in the southern crib which abuts the southern wall of the center crib.

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1933

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Johnson, Ben F. III

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A

1	5	3	9	1	3	4	5	3	9	8	6	1	3	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 4 May, 1990

street & number 225 E Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Johnson Barn was designed in 1933 by Ben F. Johnson III, a graduate of Harvard University's Landscape Architecture Program, and built by the Johnson family. The design as built is the product of the observation and study of various barn types indigenous to northwest Arkansas conducted by Ben Johnson and his brother Arthur, the point of which was to select the best design features of each and incorporate them into an 'ideal' barn structure. The result was a creative synthesis of agricultural form and function unique to this region.

Elaboration

Benjamin Franklin Johnson III was born in Everton, Missouri in 1901, the last child born to the union of Benjamin Franklin Johnson, Junior and his wife Rachel Elizabeth Divelbiss. The elder Johnson brought his family to this location south of Fayetteville, Arkansas, on the Old Wire Road South (now known as the Cato Springs Road) in 1908. Ben Johnson, Jr. had grown pears in Everton, which he then sold in his merchandise store, and his familiarity with this pursuit led him to settle on this apple and pear orchard outside Fayetteville. It was on this farm that Ben Johnson III and his siblings were raised.

Ben Johnson III completed his secondary education at the University of Arkansas Training High School, called Peabody, before receiving a bachelor of arts degree from the Missouri State Normal School (MSNS) in Springfield in 1926 and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from Harvard University in 1930. His subsequent travels in Europe and Egypt, followed by both his private landscape design practice in Rochester, New York and his public service as the city planning engineer for the city of Houston, Texas prevented him from living on the Fayetteville farm until his retirement in 1965. As a full-time farmer, he devoted himself to gardening, landscaping and harvesting pears from the old pear trees, as well as planting fourteen varieties of new trees with his son, Benjamin IV. He was also an active leader in the formation of the Farmers' Market in Fayetteville in 1975.

The earlier barn on this site collapsed on April 7, 1933, under the weight of an unusually heavy snowfall. Ben returned to the farm, and he and his brother Arthur travelled throughout northwest Arkansas studying local barns, making sketches and notes along the way of the best features of each for use in designing the new barn for the Johnson farm. As it was during the Depression, the family employed fourteen local men to help construct the barn at the wages of one dollar per day. They worked quickly, as the first load of hay was hoisted into the loft just thirty days after the furrows had been dug to receive the foundation stones. The lower level was used milking cows, sheltering animals, and storing implements and farm machinery. Apples and pears from the orchards, as well as hay, were stored in the upper level. The barn was used by the Johnson family until the mid-1970's.

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Section number 8 Page 2

The barn is obviously noteworthy for its impressive size and classic appearance; however, it is remarkable for more functional features, such as the hinged loft door, making lifting it to cover the loft opening much easier to accomplish, and the provision of external livestock doors for each of the end cribs, allowing the animals access to the shelter of the barn without having to pass around any farm machinery stored in the side drive. Equally impressive is the soaring interior space of the upper loft, supported as it is by the trusswork - which follows the roofline closely, not intruding into the space - and not by vertical load-bearing supports of any kind. Furthermore, the barn has suffered virtually no additions or alterations. The Johnson Barn stands as an architecturally and functionally unique example of a modern gambrel roof barn designed by a trained and innovative craftsman and landscape architect.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Dallett, Anne, "One family's first Fayetteville Christmas", *Northwest Arkansas Times*, December 18, 1988.

Interview with Ben F. Johnson and Anne Dallett.

Noble, Allen G., Wood, *Brick and Stone, Vol. 2: Barns and Farm Structures*, (Amherst, Massachusetts, 1984), pp. 1-14.

Zodrow, David, "Old-timers claim great barns interlopers", *Northwest Arkansas Times*.

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Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southeast corner of the barn (located 325 feet due east from the point where old Washington County Rd. 242 turns due west for Rieff Chapel Cemetery), proceed northerly along the eastern elevation to the barn's northeast corner; thence proceed westerly along the northern elevation to the northwest corner; thence proceed southerly along the western elevation to the southwest corner; thence proceed easterly along the southern elevation to the southeast corner and the point of beginning, comprising in all less than one acre.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Johnson Barn
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 5/17/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/29/90
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/14/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/01/90
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90000896

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6/21/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Property unusual -
recognized as type
locally
not to count in the ^(ann) audit*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept C
REVIEWER AFederman
DISCIPLINE Arch Hist
DATE 6/21/90

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

CLASSIFICATION

___count ___resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

___historic ___current

DESCRIPTION

___architectural classification
___materials
___descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

___summary paragraph
___completeness
___clarity
___applicable criteria
___justification of areas checked
___relating significance to the resource
___context
___relationship of integrity to significance
___justification of exception
___other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

___acreage ___verbal boundary description
___UTMs ___boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

___sketch maps ___USGS maps ___photographs ___presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

_____ Phone _____

Signed _____ Date _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000896

Date Listed: 6/21/90

Johnson Barn
Property Name

Washington
County

AR
State

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.

Amy Federman
Signature of the Keeper

6/21/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The Architectural Classification should read, "Other: Gambrel Type Barn."

Discussed and concurred in by the Arkansas SHPO on June 21, 1990.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



JOHNSON BARN

FAYETTEVILLE VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

Washington Co



JOHNSON BARN

FAYETTEVILLE VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF HAY HOOD

Washington CV



JOHNSON BARN

FAYETTEVILLE VIC., ARKANSAS

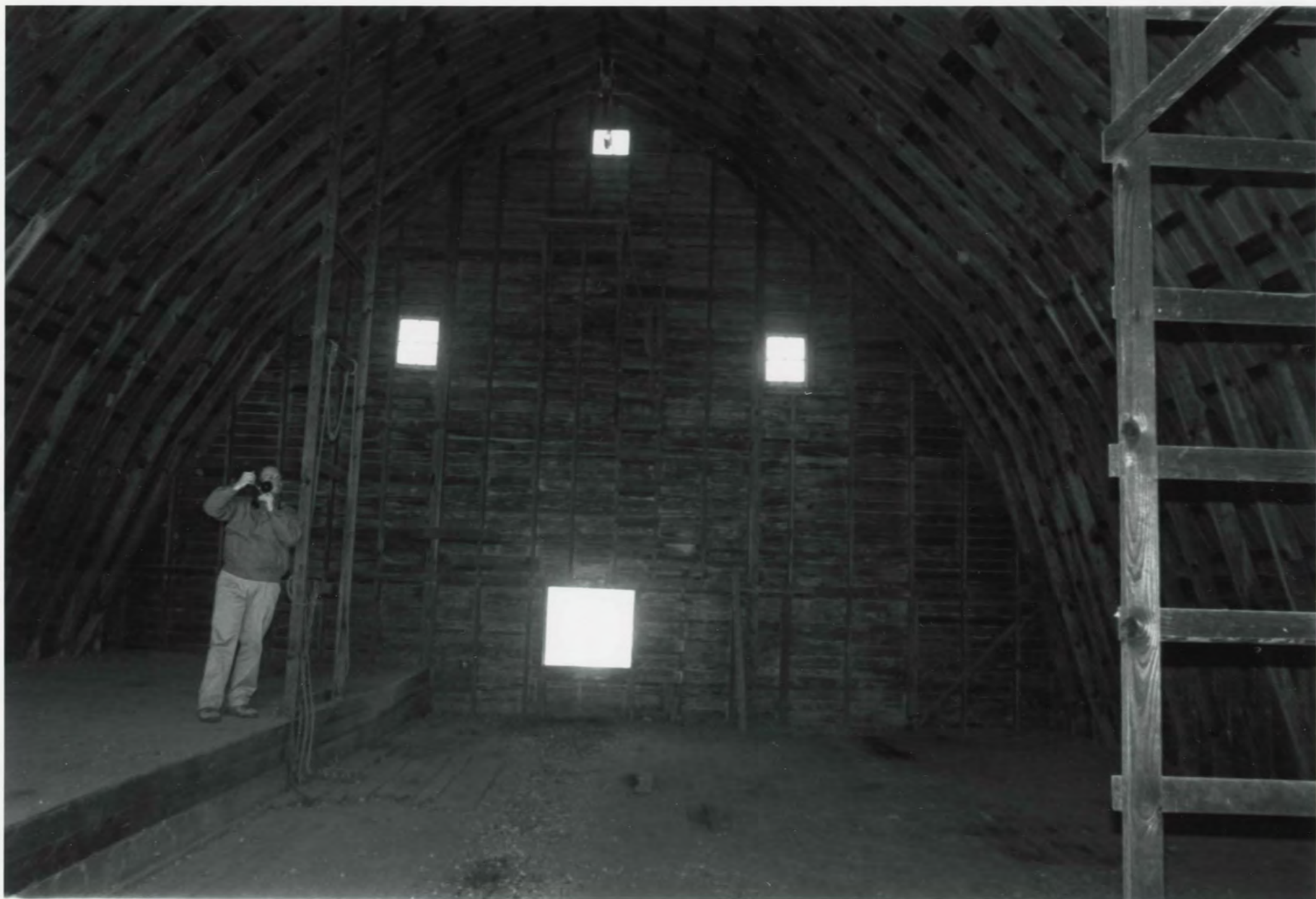
PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. BAKER

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF INTERIOR FRAMING

Washington C)



JOHNSON BARN

FAYETTEVILLE VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. BAKER

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF INTERIOR LOFT



JOHNSON BARN

FAYETTEVILLE VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. BAKER

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM WEST

Washington Co



JOHNSON BARN

FAYETTEVILLE VIC., ~~LA~~ ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

FOUNDATION DETAIL

Washington Co.



JOHNSON BARN

FAYETTEVILLE, VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. BAKER

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST

Washington Co



JOHNSON BARN

FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

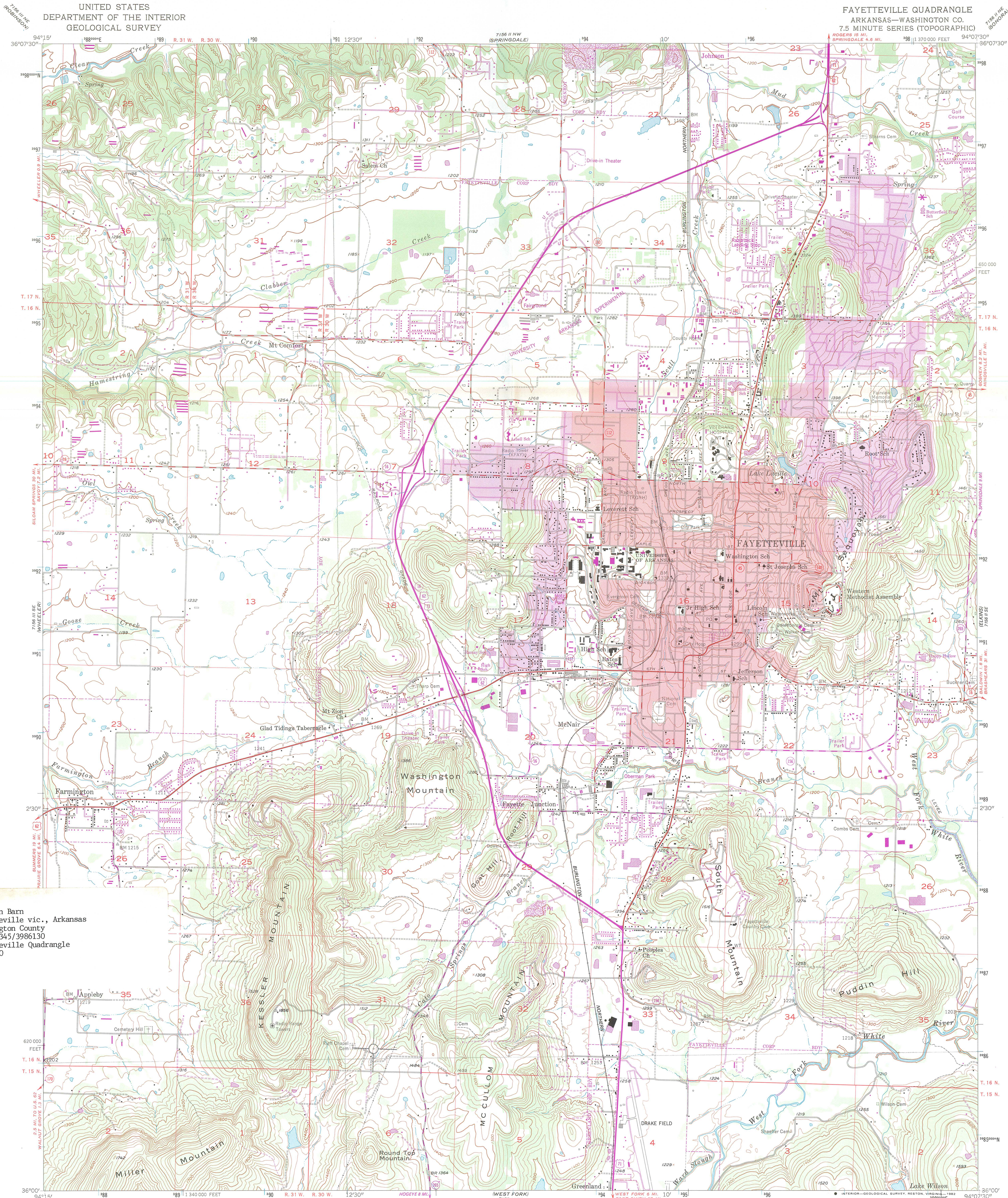
PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. BAKER

JANUARY, 1990

NEGATIVES ON FILE AT AHPP

Washington CV

VIEW FROM NORTH



Johnson Barn
Fayetteville vic., Arkansas
Washington County
15/391345/3986130
Fayetteville Quadrangle
1:24000

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter

Aerial photographs taken 1957. Field check 1958

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Red tint indicates area in which only
landmark buildings are shown

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 5 meters south and
17 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1980
and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area

UTM GRID AND 1982 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24 000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



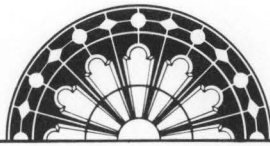
QUADRANGLE LOCATION

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

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK.
N 3600—W 9407.5/7.5

1958

PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 7156 II SW—SERIES Y884



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

RECEIVED
MAY 17 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

May 4, 1990

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Johnson Barn - Fayetteville, Arkansas

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
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:dg

Enclosures

