

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received 077 04 1986

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Perry Street Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

Generally along Perry Street between Pecan and Franklin, also  
street & number including Pecan Street, from Porter to Perry N/A not for publication

city, town Helena N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Phillips code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple-See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town Helena vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Phillips County Courthouse

street & number Cherry Street

city, town Helena state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Helena Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

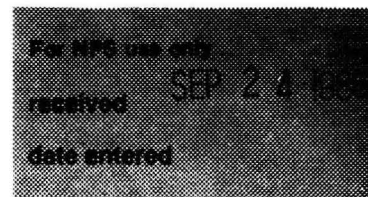
date Spring, 1985 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

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Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

PROPERTY NAME & ADDRESS

First United Methodist Church  
Pecan & Porter Streets

Phillips County Library  
623 Pecan Street

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Pecan & Perry Streets

D. A. Halpren House  
525 Perry Street

Straub House  
531 Perry Street

Moore-Tardy House  
608 Perry Street

Eva Coolidge House  
538 Perry Street

Henry Coolidge House  
532 Perry Street

William Andrew Coolidge House  
526 Perry Street

Emanuel Levy House  
520 Perry Street

Isaac Altman House  
516 Perry Street

J. F. Epes House  
512 Perry Street

Murphree House  
502 Perry Street

Temple Bethel  
406 Perry Street

PROPERTY OWNER & ADDRESS

First United Methodist Church  
Pecan & Porter Streets

Phillips County  
Cherry Street

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Pecan & Perry Streets

John Berry  
540 Market Street

Tom Cheney  
531 Perry Street

Rod & Jorga Frazier  
608 Perry Street

Mike Etoch  
538 Perry Street

Tate Owens  
532 Perry Street

Frank Garner Estate  
720 Poplar Street

Allein Beall  
520 Perry Street

Neil Robbins  
121 Valley Drive

J. F. Epes  
121 N. Summit Drive

Mrs. Frank Reeves  
502 Perry Street

Temple Bethel  
406 Perry Street

## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY

The Perry Street Historic District is a fine collection of early-twentieth century architecture which includes private residences as well as public buildings. Religious buildings within the district boundaries include two churches and a synagogue, built between 1913 and 1916. They represent Helena's best collection of historic religious architecture. The Helena Library and Museum (NR 1975), the oldest public building in Phillips County is also located within the boundaries of this historic district. Residential architecture within the district exhibits a variety of stylistic expression ranging from the exuberant Queen Anne Moore-Tardy House at 608 Perry Street, and William Nicholas Straub House (NR 1985) at 531 Perry Street to the more modest one-story vernacular cottages. The Perry Street Historic District retains a high degree of historical and architectural integrity.

#### ELABORATION

Residential architecture in Helena during the period after the Civil War centered around the western and northern sections of the city. Higher ground was sought for some of Helena's finer older homes and when it was not available, lots were filled to provide the necessary protection from the periodic floods which plagued the city, as well as to provide more impressive siting. While many older residences remain, they are isolated from other historic buildings by new infill construction or structures which are in deteriorated condition. Many of these houses have sought and received individual listing in the National Register. The Perry Street Historic District derives its significance from its fine collection of a range of residential architectural styles displaying several economic levels.

A breakdown of the residential architecture within this historic district reveals there are two Queen Anne buildings, with the remainder exhibiting Colonial Revival and Craftsman influences. Along with the three religious structures, this collection of residential buildings represents a cross section of the economic and religious life in Helena during the early twentieth century.

Four public buildings occur in this district which date from 1891 and 1929. These include three religious buildings and the public library with its museum wing. The Temple Bethel, built in 1913 is the only extant religious building representing the Jewish faith in Phillips County. This Classical Revival building was executed in the greek temple form. The First United Methodist Church and St. John's Episcopal Church are two of Helena's finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture and are also located within the boundaries of the district. The Helena Library and Museum (NR 1975), built in 1891 for this purpose is the oldest continually used public building in Phillips County. As the oldest structure within the boundaries of this historic district, this building is also the only remnant of public building architecture in Phillips County from this period. The similarly detailed Federal Building which was located at the corner of Cherry and Porter Streets was built in the 1880's and razed prior to 1978.

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The Perry Street Historic District consists of fifteen buildings, all but one of which contribute to the significance of the historic district. The period of significance of this district ranges from 1880-1929. The boundaries are defined by vacant land and new construction on the south, west and east, and by deteriorated housing and new construction on the north. The district lies principally along Perry Street between Pecan and Franklin, including one building on St. John's Court.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A reconnaissance survey of the downtown area of Helena, Arkansas was completed in the Spring of 1985 by Jean Sizemore, an historian employed by the Phillips County Foundation for Historic Preservation. The survey area was bounded on the north by the north side of Perry Street, on the west by the west side of Columbia Street, on the south by the south side of Arkansas Street, and on the west by the levee and railroad tracks.



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First United Methodist Church, Porter at Pecan Street, 1914; Gothic Revival, two story, gable roof with cross gable, steel frame construction, gray-brown brick, two corner towers, three story southeast corner tower with crenellations, buttresses and cast stone detailing also, along the southern elevation is a one story elliptical bay lined with stained glass windows, other windows are larger fixed stained glass panes, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

Helena Library and Museum, 623 Pecan Street, 1891, 1929, NR 1975; two story, steel frame construction, brick, rectangular plan, mansard roof structure, ornate cast iron cornice, decorative sawtooth belt courses, Eastlake-type window hoods on second level, fenestration consists of 1/1 sash windows, continuous cast concrete foundation, classically detailed museum wing addition. (C).

St. John's Episcopal Church, Pecan at Perry, 1916; Gothic Revival, 1 story brick with steel frame construction, cross-shaped plan, cross gable roof with a crenellated three story corner tower marking the main entry, the entrance has a compound arch doorway with emblems of St. Mark in the upper section of the arch, gargoyles and arched windows decorate the corner tower, on the principle gable ends, a large arched lead glass window is flanked with two smaller narrowly arched windows, decorative buttresses occur at the corners of the projecting gable ends, windows are double hung sash type, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

D. A. Halpern House, 525 Perry Street, 1917; Vernacular, two story, hip roof, brick, rectangular plan, one story full front porch with a simple wood balustrade and box columns supporting a plain entablature and hip porch roof, deep boxed eaves, 1/1 paired sash windows on the north (facade) elevation and 1/1 sash windows in regular configuration throughout the rest of the building, one exterior end brick chimney, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

William Nicholas Straub House, 531 Perry Street, 1900 (NR 1985); built by the Lyle Brothers of St. Louis, Queen Anne, 2 1/2 story, first floor brick and second floor and above shingle siding, rectangular plan, gable roof with two cross gables and a circular crenellated corner tower, full front porch with ionic columns supporting a plain entablature and hip roof, fenestration consists of 1/1 sash windows in regular configuration, windows on first level have decorative stone sills and lintels, two interior central brick chimneys, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

Moore-Tardy House, 608 Perry Street, c. 1900; Queen Anne, 2 1/2 story, hip roof with gambrel dormer, a cross gable and octagonal tower with peaked roof, frame, weatherboarded, full wraparound porch and porte cochere with tuscan columns and piers supporting the simple entablature and hip porch roof, entrance embellished with a pediment with garland frieze crowned with a slender balustrade with corner urns, fenestration consists of 1/1 sash windows in irregular arrangement, one interior brick end chimney, continuous concrete block foundation, impressive siting on large terraced lot. (C).

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Eva Coolidge House, c. 1920, 538 Perry Street, c. 1920; Vernacular with bungalow influences, two story, gable roof with rear T-shaped addition, load bearing brick construction, full front porch with paired tuscan columns set on brick piers supporting a plain entablature and hip porch roof, exposed rafter ends and decorative knee braces are late indications of bungalow influence, fenestration consists primarily of 1/1 sash windows in a regular arrangement, one interior end brick chimney, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

Henry Coolidge House, 532 Perry Street, c. 1925; Colonial Revival, two story hip roof with central hip roofed dormer, load bearing brick construction, full front porch and porte cochere with paired ionic columns supporting a simple entablature with dentil moldings, simple brackets under eaves, fenestration consists of 1/1 sash windows, three interior brick chimneys, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

William Andrew Coolidge House, 526 Perry Street, c. 1915; Vernacular, two story, gable roof, load bearing brick construction, new balcony above entry, chamfered bay added to west elevation in late nineteenth century, 1/1 sash windows with decoratively infilled arches above the windows on the south (front) elevation and simple cast stone lintels on the other three elevations, four interior brick chimneys, continuous cast concrete foundation. (N/C due to substantial reconstruction - see photos).

Emanuel Levy House, 520 Perry Street, c. 1920: Vernacular with bungalow influences, one story, hip roof, brick, full front porch with tuscan columns supporting a plain entablature, main entry configuration displays paneled single-paned sidelights, a large fixed pane window and 1/1 sash windows complete the fenestration, one central interior brick chimney, continuous concrete block foundation. (C).

Isaac Altman House, 516 Perry Street, c. 1915; Colonial Revival Cottage with bungalow influences, one story, hip roof, central dormer with two attic windows and a hip roof, brick, full front porch with tuscan columns supporting a plain entablature, main entry configuration displays paneled single-paned sidelights, a large fixed pane window and 1/1 sash windows complete the fenestration, one central interior brick chimney, continuous concrete block foundation. (C).

J. F. Epes House, 512 Perry Street, c. 1910; Colonial Revival Cottage, one story, hip roof, frame, weatherboard, wraparound porch with tuscan columns supporting a simple entablature with dentil molding, regular fenestration with 1/1 sash windows throughout the house, three brick chimney stacks with one exterior and chimney and two interior chimneys, continuous concrete block foundation. (C).

Murphree House, 502 Perry Street, c. 1910; Picturesque vernacular with Classical Revival detailing, two story, hip roof, frame, weatherboard, wraparound porch with tuscan columns supporting a plain entablature, simple brackets adorn the eaves of both stories, regular fenestration with 1/1 sash windows throughout the house, central interior brick chimney, continuous concrete block foundation. (C).

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Temple Bethel, 406 Perry Street, c. 1913; Classical Revival, 1 story, load bearing brick construction, gray brick, rectangular plan, gable roof with cross gable, parapet wall defines flat sections of roof edges, a 3/4 length monumental portico occurs across the west (facade) elevation with four giant ionic columns supporting a full entablature and pediment with an ocular window in the tympanum, main entry consists of large copper paneled double doors, portico is flanked by large arched window with decorative springers and keystones, south elevation has a central pediment supported by brick pilasters which flank a large Palladian window, the pilasters support a belt course of cast stone, windows and the pediment are similarly detailed with the facade, window panes are large with two per frame and are either fixed or casement, north elevation is similarly detailed as the south elevation, rear elevation is plain, continuous brick foundation, new education building located on site. (C).



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1891-1929

Builder/Architect

Multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

Most of the growth in Helena, Arkansas was confined to areas along the Mississippi River in Helena from the incorporation of the city in 1840 to the Civil War. Beginning in the 1870's, many of Helena's most elaborate homes were built on high ground to the north and east of the city to take advantage of, among other things, the protection offered from the periodic flooding which plagued the city. Many of these homes remain, surrounded by newer buildings, and some have been placed on the National Register. The importance of the Perry Street Historic District lies in the variety of the structures composing the district. The eleven residential buildings comprise a fine chronology of residential architecture in Helena from 1900 to 1925. The three religious buildings within the historic district represent the finest collection of early-twentieth century religious architecture in the city. The Classical Revival Temple Bethel represents the trend in synagogue architecture of the period to employ different architectural motifs than their Christian neighbors. The Helena Library, the oldest public building in Phillips County, was individually listed in the National Register in 1975. This building, along with the 1929 addition of the Phillips County Museum wing represents the trend which activity moved to the district in the late nineteenth century. The Perry Street Historic District retains its architectural and historical significance.

#### ELABORATION

The first structures built within boundaries of the Perry Street Historic District were churches. In 1880 the Methodist Congregation purchased a cow pasture on the corner of Porter and Pecan Streets and began the construction of their church. Completed in 1885, this building served the congregation until it was destroyed by fire in 1913. The present structure was built on the foundations of the older building and reused many of the original finishes including stained glass windows. The church constructed a detached chapel and school building on the property, also in the Gothic style. This building will contribute to the significance of the district when it reaches fifty years old.

The original St. John's Episcopal Church building was located at the corner of Cherry and Rightor Streets in the 1850's. The congregation decided to move to the corner of Cherry and Pecan Streets and the lot was purchased in 1897. The first building on that site was completed in 1899 and it served the congregation until 1914 when the structure burned. The new building was constructed on the same foundation and in the same style Gothic Revival style as the older structure. One stained glass window was rescued from the fire and it was placed in the vestibule of the new building.



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Although the first Jews moved to Helena in the 1860's and the first permanent rabbi came to Helena in 1875, the congregation did not build a house of worship until 1913. Prior to that time services were held in the Presbyterian Church. This building, executed in the Classical Revival style displays a greek temple-like appearance with its monumental pediment and portico. This building displays the trend prevalent during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century in synagogue architecture when in trying to create an identity which was different than church architecture, synagogues experimented with other architectural vocabularies including greek temple forms and Byzantine/Moorish Revival forms. Few buildings associated with Jewish communities are extant in the mid-south region which gives this fine building added importance.

The Helena Library was built in 1891 with funds raised by the Philomatic Study Group, a women's organization who had previously operated from a room in the Opera House. This large and impressive brick two-story structure supports a tall mansard roof, an unusual feature in Helena. The decorative embellishments on this boxy structure include an ornate cast iron cornice, sawtooth belt courses and elaborate window hoods above the second story windows on the facade. The 1929 museum wing which adjoins the library is a one-and-one half story brick structure with simple classical details.

The residences in this historic district range in time from the turn of the century to the mid-1920's. The most prevalent building material in the district is brick, however the Queen Anne style houses display weatherboard or decorative shingle siding. Most of the houses within the district, with the exception of the Queen Anne style houses, are small, modest residences. All of the residences which are currently listed in the National Register, with the exception of the Almer Store (NR 1974), are grand homes of wealthy Helenians. These more modest homes add a dimension to the role of National Register properties in Phillips County which was previously missing.

The two Queen Anne style houses located within the district are the Moore-Tardy House at 608 Perry Street and the William Nicholas House at 531 Perry Street. Constructed in 1900, the Moore-Tardy House was built for Josephine Moore as a wedding gift when she married W. W. Wilhaite. By 1909, the City Directory listed Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Moore, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Moore, Jr. as residing in the house. C. L. Moore operated several businesses in Helena including the C. L. Moore Dry Goods Company located at 413 Cherry Street. By 1955, the property had been sold to Mrs. Anna Tardy. Built on a high lot, this house displays fine Queen Anne detailing in its woodwork, prominent tower and massing. The William Nicholas Straub House was also built in 1900 for Nicholas Straub, a grocer who operated a business at 201 Cherry Street. Its corner tower, covered in shingles and topped with crenellations makes this property one of the most architecturally significant buildings in the district. This property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

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A fine collection of houses dating from the 1910-1925 period representing the Colonial Revival (512, 516, 532 Perry Street), Craftsman influenced (520, 538 Perry Street) and simple vernacular houses (525, 526 Perry Street) occur in this historic district. These represent the most common range of building styles in this period. The homes built at 526, 532, and 538 Perry Street were built by C. R. Coolidge, a prominent Helena merchant for three of his nine children as wedding presents. These buildings, located at 526, 532, and 538 Perry Street were constructed between 1915 and 1925 with a similar rectangular plan and embellished with the finishes chosen by the newlyweds. Other residents of the area included two businessmen whose establishments on Cherry Street dealt in dry goods, a grocer, and other middle class entrepreneurs.

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IDENTIFICATION OF STRUCTURES IN THE PERRY STREET  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>SURVEY #/</u>	<u>HISTORIC/Common NAME (DATE)</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
107/C	First United Methodist Church (1914)	Porter at Pecan
108/C	Helena Public Library (1891/1929)	623 Pecan (NR 1975)
103/C	St. John's Episcopal Church (1916)	Pecan at Perry
104/C	D. A. Halpern House (c. 1917)	525 Perry
105/C	William Nicholas Straub House (1900)	531 Perry (NR 1985)
101/C	Moore-Tardy House (1900)	608 Perry
100/C	Eva Coolidge House (1920)	538 Perry
99/C	Henry Coolidge House (c. 1925)	532 Perry
98/NC	Willaim Andrew Coolidge House (c. 1915)	526 Perry
97/C	Emanuel Levy House (c. 1915)	520 Perry
96/C	Isaac Altman House (c. 1915)	516 Perry
95/C	J. F. Epes House (c. 1915)	512 Perry
94/C	Murphree House (c. 1915)	502 Perry
102/C	Temple Bethel (1913)	406 Perry

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories; Helena, Arkansas: 1900; 1909; 1917; 1923/24; 1935/36; 1955.  
Goodspeed, HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS OF EASTERN ARKANSAS, Southern Historical Press;  
Reprint ED. 1978.  
Talbot, Anna "The Churches of Helena", HELENA: THE RIDGE, THE RIVER THE ROMANCE, Pioneer  
Press; Little Rock, Arkansas, 1978. - Verticale File, Helena Public Library.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than five acres

Quadrangle name Helena, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References see continuation sheet and map

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Helena-Perry Street Historic District includes: Properties on the north side of Perry Street from the alley between Porter and Walnut to the west corner of Franklin; on the south side of Perry Street between Franklin and Pecan, excluding the vacant lot on the southwest

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robin Bodo, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization For Main Street Helena

date August, 1986

street & number 276 N. Garland #1

telephone (901) 278-3102

city or town Memphis

state Tennessee

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Wilson J. A. [Signature]*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-18-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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National Park Service

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B	102	PERRY			PORTER	
97 96 95 94		D				
100 99 98		E				
101		F				
A		G				
		H				
		I				
		J				

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UTM References:

A 15 721140 3823305	B 15 721390 3823305
C 15 721390 3823260	D 15 721350 3823260
E 15 721350 3823140	F 15 721270 3823140
G 15 721270 3823220	H 15 721215 3823240
I 15 721205 3823260	J 15 721140 3823260

Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

corner of Franklin and Perry; on the west side of Pecan between Porter and Perry;  
and on the west side of St. John's Alley. This includes all the property historically  
associated with the Helena Perry Street Historic District.

86002954

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Perry Street Historic District  
Phillips County  
ARKANSAS

SEP 24 1986

Working No. \_\_\_\_\_

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 10/23/86 - 11/8/86

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 10-23-86

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: 1 technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

- ☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered  
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection

## 8. 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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property

Quadrangle name

UTM References

Verbal boundary description and justification

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Signed DB Byers Date 10/23/86 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_





Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

SEP 24 1986





Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

SEP 24 1986





512 Perry Street -0095  
Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

SEP 24 1986





William Andrew Coolidge House -0098  
526 Perry Street

Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.

Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985





520 Perry Street -0097  
Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

SEP 24 1986





Henry Coolidge House -0099  
Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

SEP 24 1986





Eva Coolidge House -0100  
Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

SEP 24 1986





Moore-Tardy House-0101  
Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985





Temple Bethel - 0102

Perry Street Historic District

Helena, Phillips Co.

Photographed by Jean Sizemore

March 1985

SEP 24 1986







St. Johns Episocopal Church -0103  
Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

SEP 24 1986





525 Perry Street -0104  
Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

SEP 24 1986





SEP 24 1986

Straub House - 0105  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
NR Listed 4/18/86  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985





First United Methodist Church -0107  
Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
Photographed by Jean Sizemore  
March 1985

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Helena Library and Museum - 0108

Helena, Phillips Co.

NR listed 12/06/75

Photographed by Jean Sizemore

March 1985

SEP 24 1986





516 Perry Street -0096

Perry Street Historic District

Helena, Phillips Co.

Photographed by Jean Sizemore

March 1985





502 Perry Street -0094

Perry Street Historic District

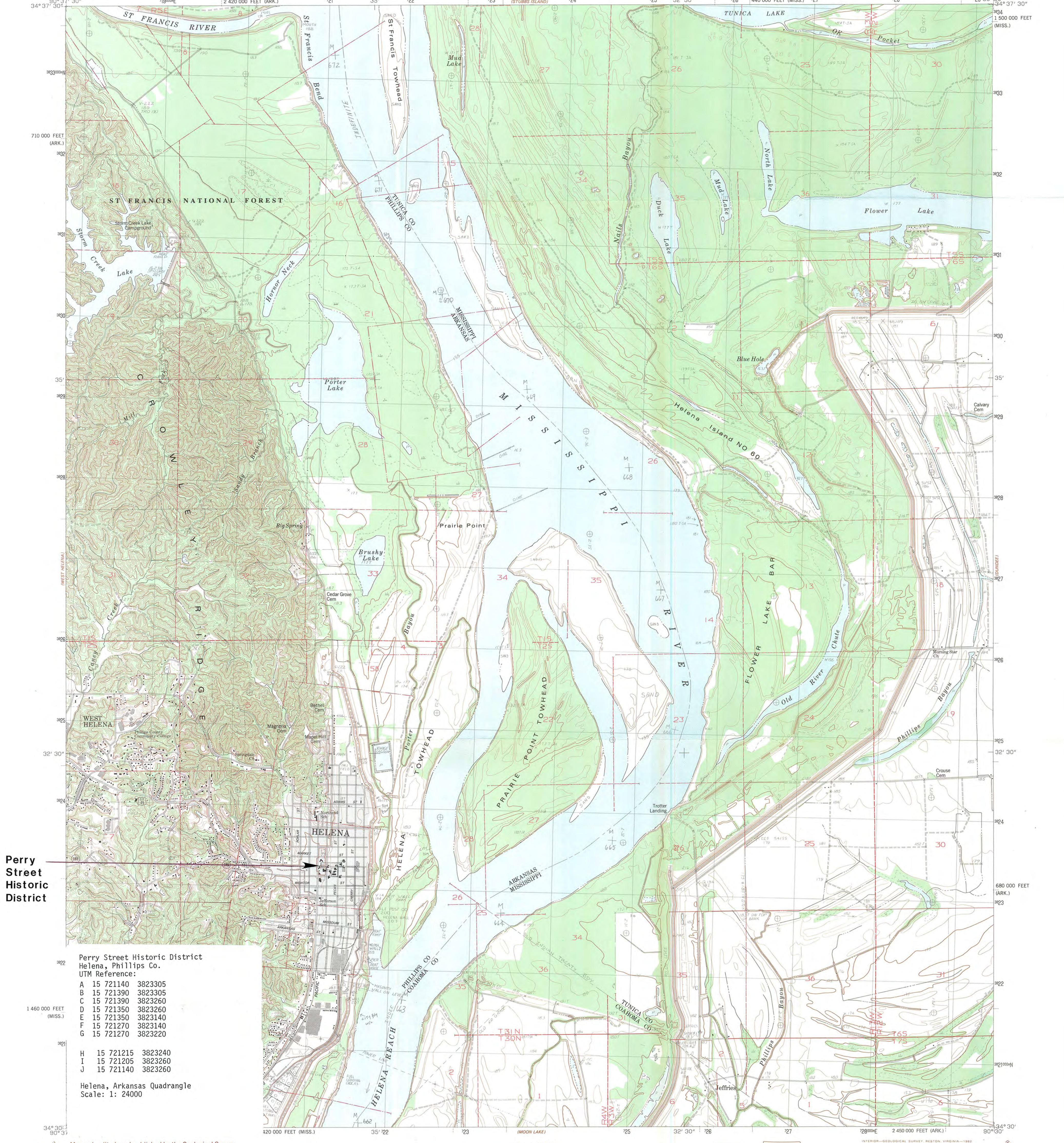
Helena, Phillips Co.

Photographed by Jean Sizemore

March 1985

SEP 24 1986

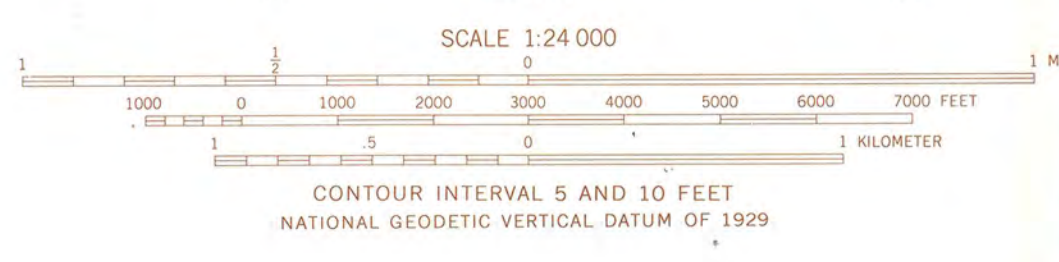
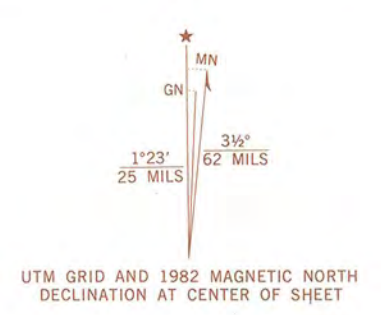




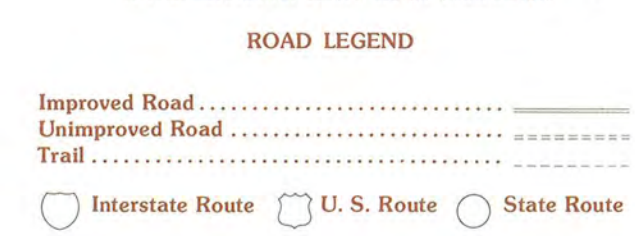
Perry  
Street  
Historic  
District

Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips Co.  
UTM Reference:  
A 15 721140 3823305  
B 15 721390 3823305  
C 15 721390 3823260  
D 15 721350 3823260  
E 15 721350 3823140  
F 15 721270 3823140  
G 15 721270 3823220  
H 15 721215 3823240  
I 15 721205 3823260  
J 15 721140 3823260  
Helena, Arkansas Quadrangle  
Scale: 1: 24000

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1977. Field checked 1978. Map edited 1982  
Projection: Mississippi coordinate system, west zone  
(transverse Mercator)  
10,000-foot grid ticks based on Mississippi coordinate  
system, west zone and Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15  
1927 North American Datum  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 8 meters south and  
9 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map  
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown



PROVISIONAL MAP  
Produced from original  
manuscript drawings. Infor-  
mation shown as of date of  
field check.



HELENA, ARK.-MISS.  
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1982  
34090-ET-024





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

September 18, 1986

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

Re: Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Perry Street Historic District. 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,

Wilson Stiles  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/TJ/do

Enclosure/s



SEP 24 1986

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received SEP 24 1986

date entered NOV 26 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Perry Street Historic District

and/or common

## 2. Location

Generally along Perry Street between Pecan and Franklin, also  
street & number including Pecan Street, from Porter to Perry N/A not for publication

city, town Helena N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Phillips code 107

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple-See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town Helena vicinity of state Arkansas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Phillips County Courthouse

street & number Cherry Street

city, town Helena state Arkansas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Helena Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date Spring, 1985 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas



## 7. Description

### Condition

☒ excellent  
☒ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☒ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY

The Perry Street Historic District is a fine collection of early-twentieth century architecture which includes private residences as well as public buildings. Religious buildings within the district boundaries include two churches and a synagogue, built between 1913 and 1916. They represent Helena's best collection of historic religious architecture. The Helena Library and Museum (NR 1975), the oldest public building in Phillips County is also located within the boundaries of this historic district. Residential architecture within the district exhibits a variety of stylistic expression ranging from the exuberant Queen Anne Moore-Tardy House at 608 Perry Street, and William Nicholas Straub House (NR 1985) at 531 Perry Street to the more modest one-story vernacular cottages. The Perry Street Historic District retains a high degree of historical and architectural integrity.

#### ELABORATION

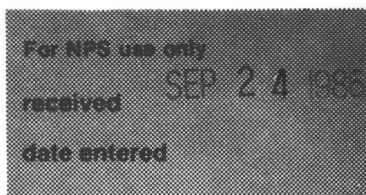
Residential architecture in Helena during the period after the Civil War centered around the western and northern sections of the city. Higher ground was sought for some of Helena's finer older homes and when it was not available, lots were filled to provide the necessary protection from the periodic floods which plagued the city, as well as to provide more impressive siting. While many older residences remain, they are isolated from other historic buildings by new infill construction or structures which are in deteriorated condition. Many of these houses have sought and received individual listing in the National Register. The Perry Street Historic District derives its significance from its fine collection of a range of residential architectural styles displaying several economic levels.

A breakdown of the residential architecture within this historic district reveals there are two Queen Anne buildings, with the remainder exhibiting Colonial Revival and Craftsman influences. Along with the three religious structures, this collection of residential buildings represents a cross section of the economic and religious life in Helena during the early twentieth century.

Four public buildings occur in this district which date from 1891 and 1929. These include three religious buildings and the public library with its museum wing. The Temple Bethel, built in 1913 is the only extant religious building representing the Jewish faith in Phillips County. This Classical Revival building was executed in the greek temple form. The First United Methodist Church and St. John's Episcopal Church are two of Helena's finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture and are also located within the boundaries of the district. The Helena Library and Museum (NR 1975), built in 1891 for this purpose is the oldest continually used public building in Phillips County. As the oldest structure within the boundaries of this historic district, this building is also the only remnant of public building architecture in Phillips County from this period. The similarly detailed Federal Building which was located at the corner of Cherry and Porter Streets was built in the 1880's and razed prior to 1978.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 1

PROPERTY NAME & ADDRESS

First United Methodist Church  
Pecan & Porter Streets

Phillips County Library  
623 Pecan Street

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Pecan & Perry Streets

D. A. Halpren House  
525 Perry Street

Straub House  
531 Perry Street

Moore-Tardy House  
608 Perry Street

Eva Coolidge House  
538 Perry Street

Henry Coolidge House  
532 Perry Street

William Andrew Coolidge House  
526 Perry Street

Emanuel Levy House  
520 Perry Street

Isaac Altman House  
516 Perry Street

J. F. Epes House  
512 Perry Street

Murphree House  
502 Perry Street

Temple Bethel  
406 Perry Street

PROPERTY OWNER & ADDRESS

First United Methodist Church  
Pecan & Porter Streets

Phillips County  
Cherry Street

St. John's Episcopal Church  
Pecan & Perry Streets

John Berry  
540 Market Street

Tom Cheney  
531 Perry Street

Rod & Jorga Frazier  
608 Perry Street

Mike Etoch  
538 Perry Street

Tate Owens  
532 Perry Street

Frank Garner Estate  
720 Poolar Street

Allein Beall  
520 Perry Street

Neil Robbins  
121 Valley Drive

J. F. Epes  
121 N. Summit Drive

Mrs. Frank Reeves  
502 Perry Street

Temple Bethel  
406 Perry Street



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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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The Perry Street Historic District consists of fifteen buildings, all but one of which contribute to the significance of the historic district. The period of significance of this district ranges from 1880-1929. The boundaries are defined by vacant land and new construction on the south, west and east, and by deteriorated housing and new construction on the north. The district lies principally along Perry Street between Pecan and Franklin, including one building on St. John's Court.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

A reconnaissance survey of the downtown area of Helena, Arkansas was completed in the Spring of 1985 by Jean Sizemore, an historian employed by the Phillips County Foundation for Historic Preservation. The survey area was bounded on the north by the north side of Perry Street, on the west by the west side of Columbia Street, on the south by the south side of Arkansas Street, and on the west by the levee and railroad tracks.

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First United Methodist Church, Porter at Pecan Street, 1914; Gothic Revival, two story, gable roof with cross gable, steel frame construction, gray-brown brick, two corner towers, three story southeast corner tower with crenellations, buttresses and cast stone detailing also, along the southern elevation is a one story elliptical bay lined with stained glass windows, other windows are larger fixed stained glass panes, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

Helena Library and Museum, 623 Pecan Street, 1891, 1929, NR 1975; two story, steel frame construction, brick, rectangular plan, mansard roof structure, ornate cast iron cornice, decorative sawtooth belt courses, Eastlake-type window hoods on second level, fenestration consists of 1/1 sash windows, continuous cast concrete foundation, classically detailed museum wing addition. (C).

St. John's Episcopal Church, Pecan at Perry, 1916; Gothic Revival, 1 story brick with steel frame construction, cross-shaped plan, cross gable roof with a crenellated three story corner tower marking the main entry, the entrance has a compound arch doorway with emblems of St. Mark in the upper section of the arch, gargoyles and arched windows decorate the corner tower, on the principle gable ends, a large arched lead glass window is flanked with two smaller narrowly arched windows, decorative buttresses occur at the corners of the projecting gable ends, windows are double hung sash type, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

D. A. Halpern House, 525 Perry Street, 1917; Vernacular, two story, hip roof, brick, rectangular plan, one story full front porch with a simple wood balustrade and box columns supporting a plain entablature and hip porch roof, deep boxed eaves, 1/1 paired sash windows on the north (facade) elevation and 1/1 sash windows in regular configuration throughout the rest of the building, one exterior end brick chimney, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

William Nicholas Straub House, 531 Perry Street, 1900 (NR 1985); built by the Lyle Brothers of St. Louis, Queen Anne, 2 1/2 story, first floor brick and second floor and above shingle siding, rectangular plan, gable roof with two cross gables and a circular crenellated corner tower, full front porch with ionic columns supporting a plain entablature and hip roof, fenestration consists of 1/1 sash windows in regular configuration, windows on first level have decorative stone sills and lintels, two interior central brick chimneys, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

Moore-Tardy House, 608 Perry Street, c. 1900; Queen Anne, 2 1/2 story, hip roof with gambrel dormer, a cross gable and octagonal tower with peaked roof, frame, weatherboarded, full wraparound porch and porte cochere with tuscan columns and piers supporting the simple entablature and hip porch roof, entrance embellished with a pediment with garland frieze crowned with a slender balustrade with corner urns, fenestration consists of 1/1 sash windows in irregular arrangement, one interior brick end chimney, continuous concrete block foundation, impressive siting on large terraced lot. (C).



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Eva Coolidge House, c. 1920, 538 Perry Street, c. 1920; Vernacular with bungalow influences, two story, gable roof with rear T-shaped addition, load bearing brick construction, full front porch with paired tuscan columns set on brick piers supporting a plain entablature and hip porch roof, exposed rafter ends and decorative knee braces are late indications of bungalow influence, fenestration consists primarily of 1/1 sash windows in a regular arrangement, one interior end brick chimney, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

Henry Coolidge House, 532 Perry Street, c. 1925; Colonial Revival, two story hip roof with central hip roofed dormer, load bearing brick construction, full front porch and porte cochere with paired ionic columns supporting a simple entablature with dentil moldings, simple brackets under eaves, fenestration consists of 1/1 sash windows, three interior brick chimneys, continuous cast concrete foundation. (C).

William Andrew Coolidge House, 526 Perry Street, c. 1915; Vernacular, two story, gable roof, load bearing brick construction, new balcony above entry, chamfered bay added to west elevation in late nineteenth century, 1/1 sash windows with decoratively infilled arches above the windows on the south (front) elevation and simple cast stone lintels on the other three elevations, four interior brick chimneys, continuous cast concrete foundation. (N/C due to substantial reconstruction - see photos).

Emanuel Levy House, 520 Perry Street, c. 1920; Vernacular with bungalow influences, one story, hip roof, brick, full front porch with tuscan columns supporting a plain entablature, main entry configuration displays paneled single-paned sidelights, a large fixed pane window and 1/1 sash windows complete the fenestration, one central interior brick chimney, continuous concrete block foundation. (C).

Isaac Altman House, 516 Perry Street, c. 1915; Colonial Revival Cottage with bungalow influences, one story, hip roof, central dormer with two attic windows and a hip roof, brick, full front porch with tuscan columns supporting a plain entablature, main entry configuration displays paneled single-paned sidelights, a large fixed pane window and 1/1 sash windows complete the fenestration, one central interior brick chimney, continuous concrete block foundation. (C).

J. F. Epes House, 512 Perry Street, c. 1910; Colonial Revival Cottage, one story, hip roof, frame, weatherboard, wraparound porch with tuscan columns supporting a simple entablature with dentil molding, regular fenestration with 1/1 sash windows throughout the house, three brick chimney stacks with one exterior and chimney and two interior chimneys, continuous concrete block foundation. (C).

Murphree House, 502 Perry Street, c. 1910; Picturesque Vernacular with Classical Revival detailing, two story, hip roof, frame, weatherboard, wraparound porch with tuscan columns supporting a plain entablature, simple brackets adorn the eaves of both stories, regular fenestration with 1/1 sash windows throughout the house, central interior brick chimney, continuous concrete block foundation. (C).

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Temple Bethel, 406 Perry Street, c. 1913; Classical Revival, 1 story, load bearing brick construction, gray brick, rectangular plan, gable roof with cross gable, parapet wall defines flat sections of roof edges, a 3/4 length monumental portico occurs across the west (facade) elevation with four giant ionic columns supporting a full entablature and pediment with an ocular window in the tympanum, main entry consists of large copper paneled double doors, portico is flanked by large arched window with decorative springers and keystones, south elevation has a central pediment supported by brick pilasters which flank a large Palladian window, the pilasters support a belt course of cast stone, windows and the pediment are similarly detailed with the facade, window panes are large with two per frame and are either fixed or casement, north elevation is similarly detailed as the south elevation, rear elevation is plain, continuous brick foundation, new education building located on site. (C).



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1891–1929 **Builder/Architect** Multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

Most of the growth in Helena, Arkansas was confined to areas along the Mississippi River in Helena from the incorporation of the city in 1840 to the Civil War. Beginning in the 1870's, many of Helena's most elaborate homes were built on high ground to the north and east of the city to take advantage of, among other things, the protection offered from the periodic flooding which plagued the city. Many of these homes remain, surrounded by newer buildings, and some have been placed on the National Register. The importance of the Perry Street Historic District lies in the variety of the structures composing the district. The eleven residential buildings comprise a fine chronology of residential architecture in Helena from 1900 to 1925. The three religious buildings within the historic district represent the finest collection of early-twentieth century religious architecture in the city. The Classical Revival Temple Bethel represents the trend in synagogue architecture of the period to employ different architectural motifs than their Christian neighbors. The Helena Library, the oldest public building in Phillips County, was individually listed in the National Register in 1975. This building, along with the 1929 addition of the Phillips County Museum wing represents the trend which activity moved to the district in the late nineteenth century. The Perry Street Historic District retains its architectural and historical significance.

#### ELABORATION

The first structures built within boundaries of the Perry Street Historic District were churches. In 1880 the Methodist Congregation purchased a cow pasture on the corner of Porter and Pecan Streets and began the construction of their church. Completed in 1885, this building served the congregation until it was destroyed by fire in 1913. The present structure was built on the foundations of the older building and reused many of the original finishes including stained glass windows. The church constructed a detached chapel and school building on the property, also in the Gothic style. This building will contribute to the significance of the district when it reaches fifty years old.

The original St. John's Episcopal Church building was located at the corner of Cherry and Rightor Streets in the 1850's. The congregation decided to move to the corner of Cherry and Pecan Streets and the lot was purchased in 1897. The first building on that site was completed in 1899 and it served the congregation until 1914 when the structure burned. The new building was constructed on the same foundation and in the same style Gothic Revival style as the older structure. One stained glass window was rescued from the fire and it was placed in the vestibule of the new building.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

City Directories; Helena, Arkansas: 1900; 1909; 1917; 1923/24; 1935/36; 1955.  
Goodspeed, HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL MEMOIRS OF EASTERN ARKANSAS, Southern Historical Press; Reprint ED. 1978.  
Talbot, Anna "The Churches of Helena", HELENA: THE RIDGE, THE RIVER THE ROMANCE, Pioneer Press; Little Rock, Arkansas, 1978. - Verticale File, Helena Public Library.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property between 4.5 and 5 acres

Quadrangle name Helena, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References see continuation sheet and map

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Helena-Perry Street Historic District includes: Properties on the north side of Perry Street from the alley between Porter and Walnut to the west corner of Franklin; on the south side of Perry Street between Franklin and Pecan, excluding the vacant lot on the southwest

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robin Bodo, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization For Main Street Helena

date August, 1986

street & number 276 N. Garland #1

telephone (901) 278-3102

city or town Memphis

state Tennessee

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-18-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 11-26-86

for William Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Although the first Jews moved to Helena in the 1860's and the first permanent rabbi came to Helena in 1875, the congregation did not build a house of worship until 1913. Prior to that time services were held in the Presbyterian Church. This building, executed in the Classical Revival style displays a greek temple-like appearance with its monumental pediment and portico. This building displays the trend prevalent during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century in synagogue architecture when in trying to create an identity which was different than church architecture, synagogues experimented with other architectural vocabularies including greek temple forms and Byzantine/Moorish Revival forms. Few buildings associated with Jewish communities are extant in the mid-south region which gives this fine building added importance.

The Helena Library was built in 1891 with funds raised by the Philomatic Study Group, a women's organization who had previously operated from a room in the Opera House. This large and impressive brick two-story structure supports a tall mansard roof, an unusual feature in Helena. The decorative embellishments on this boxy structure include an ornate cast iron cornice, sawtooth belt courses and elaborate window hoods above the second story windows on the facade. The 1929 museum wing which adjoins the library is a one-and-one half story brick structure with simple classical details.

The residences in this historic district range in time from the turn of the century to the mid-1920's. The most prevalent building material in the district is brick, however the Queen Anne style houses display weatherboard or decorative shingle siding. Most of the houses within the district, with the exception of the Queen Anne style houses, are small, modest residences. All of the residences which are currently listed in the National Register, with the exception of the Almer Store (NR 1974), are grand homes of wealthy Helenians. These more modest homes add a dimension to the role of National Register properties in Phillips County which was previously missing.

The two Queen Anne style houses located within the district are the Moore-Tardy House at 608 Perry Street and the William Nicholas House at 531 Perry Street. Constructed in 1900, the Moore-Tardy House was built for Josephine Moore as a wedding gift when she married W. W. Wilhaite. By 1909, the City Directory listed Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Moore, Sr. and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Moore, Jr. as residing in the house. C. L. Moore operated several businesses in Helena including the C. L. Moore Dry Goods Company located at 413 Cherry Street. By 1955, the property had been sold to Mrs. Anna Tardy. Built on a high lot, this house displays fine Queen Anne detailing in its woodwork, prominent tower and massing. The William Nicholas Straub House was also built in 1900 for Nicholas Straub, a grocer who operated a business at 201 Cherry Street. Its corner tower, covered in shingles and topped with crenellations makes this property one of the most architecturally significant buildings in the district. This property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

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A fine collection of houses dating from the 1910-1925 period representing the Colonial Revival (512, 516, 532 Perry Street), Craftsman influenced (520, 538 Perry Street) and simple vernacular houses (525, 526 Perry Street) occur in this historic district. These represent the most common range of building styles in this period. The homes built at 526, 532, and 538 Perry Street were built by C. R. Coolidge, a prominent Helena merchant for three of his nine children as wedding presents. These buildings, located at 526, 532, and 538 Perry Street were constructed between 1915 and 1925 with a similar rectangular plan and embellished with the finishes chosen by the newlyweds. Other residents of the area included two businessmen whose establishments on Cherry Street dealt in dry goods, a grocer, and other middle class entrepreneurs.



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IDENTIFICATION OF STRUCTURES IN THE PERRY STREET  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>SURVEY #/</u>	<u>HISTORIC/COMMON NAME (DATE)</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>
107/C	First United Methodist Church (1914)	Porter at Pecan
108/C	Helena Public Library (1891/1929)	623 Pecan (NR 1975)
103/C	St. John's Episcopal Church (1916)	Pecan at Perry
104/C	D. A. Halpern House (c. 1917)	525 Perry
105/C	William Nicholas Straub House (1900)	531 Perry (NR 1985)
101/C	Moore-Tardy House (1900)	608 Perry
100/C	Eva Coolidge House (1920)	538 Perry
99/C	Henry Coolidge House (c. 1925)	532 Perry
98/NC	Willaim Andrew Coolidge House (c. 1915)	526 Perry
97/C	Emanuel Levy House (c. 1915)	520 Perry
96/C	Isaac Altman House (c. 1915)	516 Perry
95/C	J. F. Epes House (c. 1915)	512 Perry
94/C	Murphree House (c. 1915)	502 Perry
102/C	Temple Bethel (1913)	406 Perry

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UTM References:

A	15	721140	3823305	B	15	721390	3823305
C	15	721390	3823260	D	15	721350	3823260
E	15	721350	3823140	F	15	721270	3823140
G	15	721270	3823220	H	15	721215	3823240
I	15	721205	3823260	J	15	721140	3823260

Verbal Boundary Description (continued)

corner of Franklin and Perry; on the west side of Pecan between Porter and Perry; and on the west side of St. John's Alley. This includes all the property historically associated with the Helena Perry Street Historic District.



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B	102	C				E	
	97 96 95 94	D	103	106	107	F	
	100 99 98		104	G			
A	101	H	105	I			
		J					

PERRY

PORTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEETPerry Street Historic District  
Phillips County  
ARKANSASWorking No. NOV/18 1986Fed. Reg. Date: 2/2/88Date Due: 1-2-87Action: ACCEPT 11-26-86RETURNREJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ resubmission  
☐ nomination by person or local government  
☐ owner objection  
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

## 1. Name

## 2. Location

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

## 4. Owner of Property

## 5. Location of Legal Description

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

## 7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph  
☐ completeness  
☐ clarity  
☐ alterations/integrity  
☐ dates  
☐ boundary selection



## 8. 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

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

## 11. Form Prepared By

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

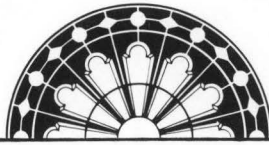
## 13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

November 12, 1986

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

RE: Perry Street Historic District  
Helena, Phillips County

Dear Carol:

Enclosed please find the nomination for the above-referenced property. As requested, we have clarified the verbal boundary description.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Vosmik  
National Register & Survey Programs Manager

JV/dr

Enclosure



NOV 18 1986