DATA SHEET PHO281549

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED CT 1 4 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME HISTORIC Harris House

2 LOCATION			
STREET & NUMBER	5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5 5	A N A	R L sum

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Second

_MILITARY

Hensley STATE Arkansas

AND/OR COMMON

CODE 05

COUNTY Pulaski CODE 119

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP
DISTRICT	PUBLIC
X_BUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE
STRUCTURE	_вотн
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION
OBJECT	_IN PROCESS
	BEING CONSIDERED

_OCCUPIED X UNOCCUPIED _WORK IN PROGRESS **ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED X YES: UNRESTRICTED _NO

STATUS

PRESI	ENTUSE
AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL	PARK
EDUCATIONAL	PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
_INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION

use at present

XOTHER: Not in

NAME Ann Adams Baldridge STREET & NUMBER 316 North Plaza CITY, TOWN Little Rock

_ VICINITY OF

STATE Arkansas

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. STREET & NUMBER

Circuit Clerk's Office

Pulaski County Courthouse

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

CITY, TOWN

DATE

_FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE



_FAIR

CONDITION

__EXCELLENT X_

X_DETERIORATED
__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED X_ALTERED

CHECK ONE

XORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Harris House is located in the southern tip of Pulaski County, three miles east of Hensley, Arkansas. Designed by architect William R. Gibbons, the house was built in 1856. Cypress was used almost exclusively in the construction of the house. Since virgin timber was plentiful on the land only the hearts of the trees were used. The boards, planed by hand, averaged sixteen inches in width.

The Harris House is a one-and-one-half storey structure. A wide one-storey veranda spans the entire width of the five-bay facade. The roof of the veranda features boxed cornice, plain frieze, and architrave; it is supported by six square Doric-capital columns. Three pedimented dormers project from the roof above the veranda. These dormers feature paired, double-hung windows. The dormers are probably a later addition to the house, though this has not been established as certain. The entry door is marked by a transom and sidelights and is flanked by windows, two on each side of the entry.

Five brick chimneys rise above the saltbox roof. The south elevation features two of these chimneys, the two being identical.

The window trim throughout is very simple in style.

Set in the ell of the rear of the house is an open veranda with the same roof features that the front veranda has - boxed cornice, plain frieze, and architrave, all supported by square Doric-capital columns. A dormer similar to those on the facade projects from the roof on the rear elevation of the house.

The interior of the Harris House is organized as a large central hall with one room on each side. A steep single-flight, one-run set of stairs extends to the second floor. First floor rooms are spacious, with fourteen-foot ceilings. The interior continues the simple refinement of the exterior. All trim is plain, as are the fireplace mantels.

In the early part of the twentieth century, an addition to the south elevation incorporated the formerly separate kitchen into the house. This addition is topped by a shed roof. Later, an open shed roof storage area was added.

The Harris House rests in a rural setting close to the Arkansas River. The house is in a fairly deteriorated condition, but not so much so that restoration would be exceptionally difficult.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTORIC 1400-1499 1500-1599	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORICARCHEOLOGY-HISTORICAGRICULTURE	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURELAWLITERATURE	RELIGIONSCIENCESCULPTURE
1600-1699 1700-1799	X_ARCHITECTUREART	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
±1800-1899 ±1900-	COMMERCE	ENGINEERING _XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENTINDUSTRY	MUSICPHILOSOPHYPOLITICS/GOVERNMENT	THEATERTRANSPORTATION
		_INVENTION		OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

1856

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

William R. Gibbons

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Harris House, near Hensley, Arkansas, in the southern tip of Pulaski County, was built in 1856. The same family has owned the house since its construction; this gives the house a rare continuity of history. The Harris House is a significant local landmark in its representation of one of the earliest settlers in the area. Architecturally, the house is an example of the tastes of a small-scale plantation
With its simple plan and expert craftsmanship, the Harris House is an architecturally significant structure.

In the early 1850's Robert G. Harris brought his family to Arkansas in a covered wagon from Pulaski County, Tennessee. They first settled at White Bluff, a flourishing ferry point on the Arkansas River between Little Rock and Pine Bluff. The area was ideal for boat traffic but was not a good farm site. After having his cotton crops covered by the overflow of the river several times, Harris began to search for land on which he could build a home and plant a crop that would survive. In 1853 he was able to acquire several hundred acres in the southern tip of Pulaski County from a man named Thompson. He then obtained several hundred more by land grant. President John Quincy Adams signed the original land grant which later deeded the property to Harris. It was land covered by a dense forest and streams and abounded in fish and game. Harris moved his family into a temporary one-room log cabin built with the help of his teenage son and a number of slaves.

Harris built a water-powered sawmill on the banks of the nearby bayou and a brick kiln near the home site. William R. Gibbons, a prominent architect of that day, was employed by Harris to draw up the plans for a house. Gibbons supervised construction, riding on horseback from his home a few miles away. Cypress lumber was used almost exclusively throughout the house. Only the heart of each tree was used. The boards were planed by hand and averaged sixteen inches in width. The bricks used in constructing the house were made by hand from local material.

In the late summer of 1856 the house was completed and ready for occupancy. The Harris House is a gracious example of Southern architecture. The house has a storey-and-a-half with three large dormer windows above a wide-columned veranda which runs the full width of the facade. The rooms are exceptionally large with fourteen-foot ceilings.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams, Mrs. Eugene. Personal interview at Harris House. Hensley, Arkansas, August 15, 1975. April 7, 1963. Arkansas Democrat. Arkansas Gazette. October 21, 1956. 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre UTM REFERENCES A 1 5 | 5 | 7 6 | 3 2 0 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE COUNTY CODE STATE II FORM PREPARED BY ow of the river several times, Harris began to search for land of JITI MAN Sandra Taylor, Historian DATE Arkansas Historic Preservation Program September 9, 1975 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE 300 West Markham CITY OR TOWN Little Rock Arkansas 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: NATIONAL ____ STATE____ 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 Gene Richardson DATE TITLE September 9, 1975 State Historic Preservation Officer FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER Moting DATE DATE

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

There were many supporting structures surrounding the house, structures which were essential to a self-sustaining plantation in 1856. Harris also operated a commissary and grist mill; he did a flourishing business in buying, selling, banking, and storing.

Sarah Harris, Robert's wife, died in 1864, and Robert Harris died in 1879. The Harris House has never been out of the family and is now owned by a great-great-grandaughter of Robert G. Harris.

The Harris House is a significant local landmark because of the family it housed. The Harrises were among the earliest settlers to the area and still are prominent in local affairs. The house is one of the oldest in central Arkansas, and appears much the same as when it was built. It is a significant example of plantation architecture in antebellum Arkansas.

Property Harris House Pulaski Co.	
State Arkansas Working Number 10,14.75,1796	76000451
TECHNICAL Photos 3 Maps / continhet (48)	CONTROL P 10.20,7
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Federal Register Entry 3-2-76 Re-submit	



1. HARRIS HOUSE
PULASKI (OUNTY, ANKANSAS

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECIEVED OCT 1 4 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC HARRIS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HENSLEY

X_VICINITY OF

STATE ARKANSAS

COUNTY

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

GARY ROUNSAVALL

DATE OF PHOTO 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW. DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET FACADE, VIEWED FROM THE EAST

1 1 3

GPO 892-454



2. HARRIS HOUSE
PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS
SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEWED From the south

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

RECIEVED OCT 1 4 1975

DATE ENTERED JAN 1 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

HARRIS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HENSLEY

X_VICINITY OF

STATE ARKANSAS

COUNTY PULASKI

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT GARY ROUNSAVALL

DATE OF PHOTO 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH

PHOTO NO.

2 43

GPO 892-454



3. HARRIS HOUSE
PULASKI COUNTY, ACKANSAS
REAR EIEUATION, VIEWED From the Northwest

Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

HARRIS HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

HENSLEY

X_VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

PULASKI ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

GARY ROUNSAVALL

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NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

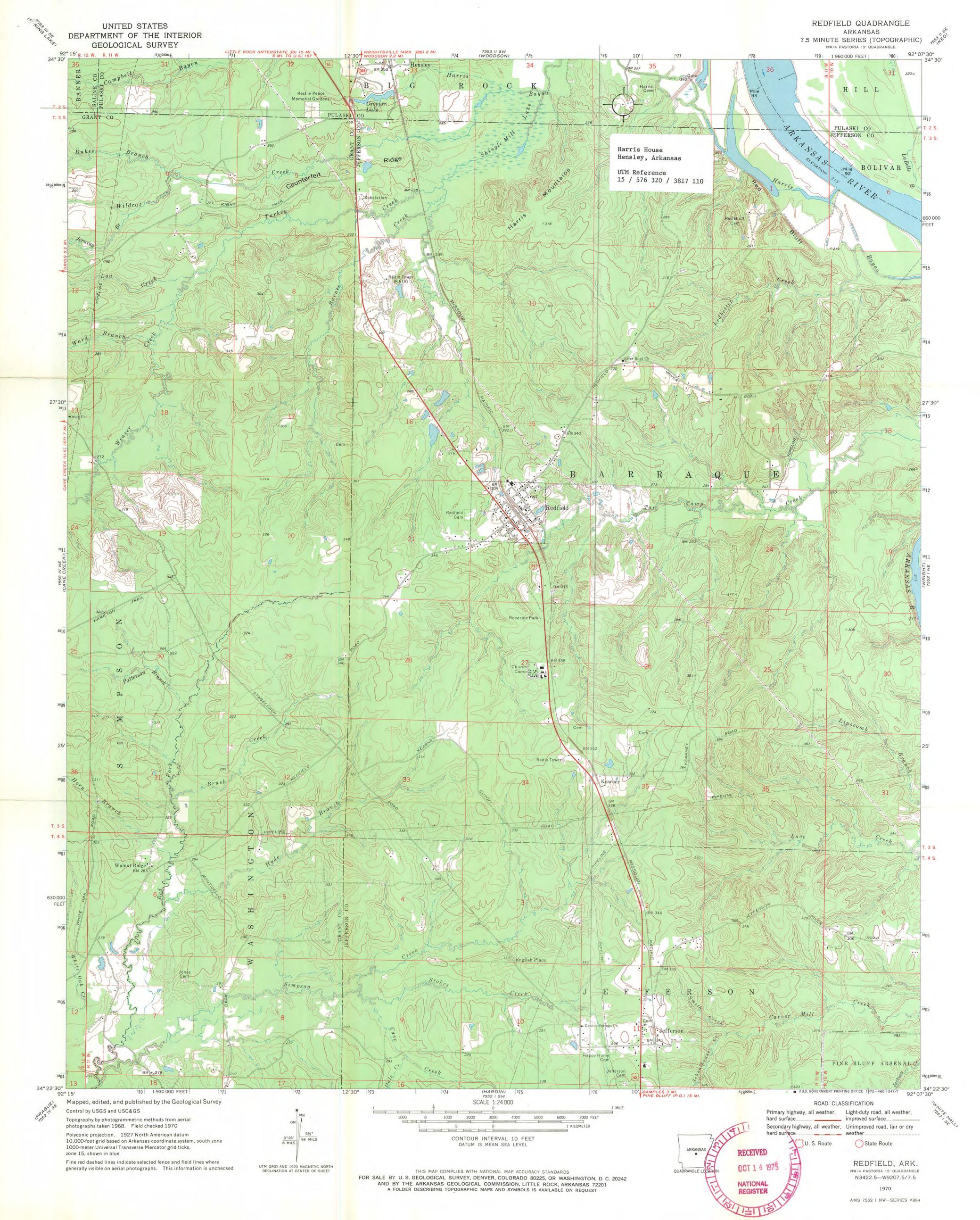
REAR ELEVATION, VIEWED FROM THE NORTHWEST

РНОТО NO

3 43

INT: 2983-75

343



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARVANSAS

Date Entered

April 2 19/6

Name

Jones, Arthur J., House

Harrie House

Curran Hall

Texry, William L., House

Boyd, Thomas Sloam, House

Darden-Gifford House

Location

Little Rock Pulsoki County

Hensley

Pulaski County

Little Rock

Pulaski County

Little Rock

Pulaski County

Lonoke

Lonoke County

Rosebud vicinity

White County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan Hon. Dale Bumpers

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills

Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer

Ms. Anne Bartley

Acting Director, Department of Natural

end Cultural Heritage The Old State House

300 West Makkham

Little Rock, Arkensas 72201

PR MMOTT: pl 1.14.76

INT: 2950-75

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA S	HIEELI
NAME as it appears on federal register: 20THER NAMES:	
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O OWNER PRIVATE OSTATE ONUNICIPAL OCOUNTY OMULTIPLE OFEDERAL (agency name)	
12 SOURCE of NOMINATION CASHIE LIFEDE	RALstate who prepared form?
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DYES, MARKE	
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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: DENGINEERING-11 DANDSCAPE ARCH15 DOLITICS/GOVT21 DRECREATION-28 CLAIMS DARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 DCOMMERCE-6 DENTERTAINMENT-26 DAW-16 DRELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29	S: explain
ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31 COLDECT*	
Mates of initial construction: 1856	ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION
WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: PESIDENCE historic events:	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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