

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Main Street roughly between Pine and Ash Streets

☐ not for publication N/A

city or town Cotton Plant

☐ vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Woodruff

code 147

zip code 72036

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Debbie Matthews  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/28/08  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other,

(explain:)

Edson H. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

9-25-08  
Date of Action

Cotton Plant Commercial Historic  
District

Name of Property

Woodruff County,  
Arkansas

County and State

## 5. Classification

### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as  
apply)

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

### Category of Property

(Check only one box)

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

### Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
19	6	buildings
0	7	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
19	13	Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

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

0

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

SOCIAL/meeting hall

RELIGION/religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE/music facility

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/city hall

GOVERNMENT/post office

EDUCATION/library

HEALTH CARE/ clinic

VACANT/NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/  
Classical Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY  
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Commercial Style

MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE, BRICK

walls BRICK, METAL, CONCRETE

roof STONE/slate, WOOD/plywood

other

### Narrative Description

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

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## DESCRIPTION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Resource Numbers, Addresses, Historic Names, and Contributing Status

Resource #	Address	Historic Name	C/NC
WO0102	East Main Street, roughly 150 ft. west of the NW corner of the intersection with Vine Street	Building on East Main Street, roughly 150 ft. west of the NW corner of the intersection with Vine Street	C
WO0103	East Main Street, roughly 100 ft. west of the NE corner of the intersection with Ash Street	Nathan's	C
WO0104	Adjacent to the east side of City Hall	Leder's Dry Goods	C
WO0105	Main Street, at NE corner of intersection with Ash Street	Building on Main Street, at NE corner of intersection with Ash Street	C
WO0106	Behind (north of) City Hall	Buidling behind (north of) City Hall	C
WO0107	SW corner of the intersection with Main Street and Ash Street	Building at the SW corner of the intersection with Main Street and Ash Street	C

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WO0108	Adjacent to the west side of the Parts House	Building adjacent to the west side of the Parts House	NC
WO0109	Adjacent to the east side of 133 West Main Street	Building adjacent to the east side of 133 West Main Street	C
WO0110	133 West Main Street	Building at 133 West Main Street	C
WO0008	East of 176 West Main Street	First National Bank	C
WO0111	176 West Main Street	Building at 176 West Main Street	C
WO0112	NW corner of the intersection of West Main Street and Ammon Street	Building at the NW corner of the intersection of West Main Street and Ammon Street	NC
WO0113	Adjacent to the east side of Pyle's Grocery Store	Building adjacent to the east side of Pyle's Grocery	NC
WO0114	South side of Main Street, two buildings east of Oak Street	Building on the south side of Main Street, two buildings east of Oak Street	C
WO0115	One building east of the SE corner of this intersection of Main Street and Oak Street	Building that is one building east of the SE corner of this intersection of Main Street and Oak Street	C

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WO0116	SE corner of the intersection of West Main Street and Oak Street	Huggins Furniture #1	C
WO0117	Building closest to the SW corner of Main Street and Oak Street	Cotton Plant Medical Clinic	NC
WO0118	226 West Main Street	Huggins Furniture #2	C
WO0119	Between 226 and 258 West Main Street	Building located between 226 West Main and 258 West Main	C
WO0120	258 West Main Street	Building at 258 West Main Street	NC
WO0121	308 West Main Street	Building at 308 West Main Street	C
WO0122	279 West Main Street	Cotton Plant Post Office	NC
WO0040	SW corner of the intersection of Main Street and Elm Street	Presbyterian Church	C
WO0123	324 West Main Street	Building at 324 West Main Street	C
WO0124	NE corner of West Main Street and Pine Street	Building at the NE corner of the intersection of West Main Street and Pine Street	C

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Total:	25	
Contributing:	19	76%
Non-Contributing:	6	24%
Individually listed:	0	N/A

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## Summary

Cotton Plant is a small town in Woodruff County, Arkansas, with a population estimated in 2006 of 875 residents. The town straddles Arkansas Highways 17 and 38 in the southeastern corner of the county, a section of east-central Arkansas traversed by rivers, swamps, and pine stands. The old railroad grade runs southwest of the edge of Cotton Plant; Bayou DeView is east of town and Gum Flat Bayou and the Cache River are west of it. Brinkley, about 15 miles southeast of Cotton Plant along Interstate 40, is the nearest population center; Little Rock is about 75 miles southwest and Memphis is about 80 miles northeast. Arkansas Highways 17 and 38 form Cotton Plant's Main Street, and the collection of 25 largely early-20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial buildings that line both sides of Main Street between Central/Ash Street and Pine Street constitute the Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District. South of Main Street is the historically African American residential and commercial section of town and, further south, the site of industrial operations. North of Main Street is another residential neighborhood.

The district is the historic town center; buildings there housed mainly commercial businesses such as dry goods stores, grocery stores, and hardware stores. Included in the district are two gas stations, a church, and a former bank building. Some blocks still demonstrate the series of buildings with shared side walls and a continuous street wall that predominated in early-20<sup>th</sup>-century downtowns and existed historically in Cotton Plant; in other sections demolitions leave gaps. Eleven buildings were constructed ca. 1900, eight between ca. 1915 and 1920, three between ca. 1930 and 1940, and three are post-1958. Nineteen of the buildings are contributing district resources due to their age, architectural and historic significance, and integrity. Six buildings do not contribute. Seven vacant lots are non-contributing sites.

In form and styling, the buildings reflect their historic functions. Most buildings demonstrate the popular one-part commercial block form, though a few have two stories. Typically for both one- and two-part commercial block forms, most buildings have storefronts and flat roofs. Storefronts have a mix of original and replacement elements. Generally, stylistic elements are traditional and restrained, and include elements like parapets, brick corbelling, soldier courses, decorative brickwork, and the occasional arched window or door or storefront columns or pilasters. Occasional buildings demonstrate stronger stylistic influences. One, the historic home of the Presbyterian Church with resource number WO 0040, has three stories and shows a Gothic Revival influence. The former bank with resource number WO 0008 is a Classical Revival building. The former automobile service station near the western edge of the district with resource number WO 0102 and the former furniture showroom with resource number WO 0118 both have Art Moderne elements. The district's buildings and landscape are reflective of its use as a commercial and social center in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Cotton Plant.

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## Inventory and Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Resource Numbers

### 1. WO 0102

This ca. 1930 one-story rectangular commercial building has an exterior of six-course American bond brickwork, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. On the façade, a ca. 1940 multi-light wooden door is flanked by two openings; in one is a one-over-one window and the other is boarded. One side elevation is solid, and in the other are two pairs of three-over-one wooden windows. (C)

### 2. WO 0103

Built ca. 1900, this one-story rectangular commercial building has a six-course American bond brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous brick foundation. On the façade is a ca. 1940 glass-and-paneled-wood door in a ca. 1960 storefront with fixed single-light windows, a metal awning, and an original transom. One side elevation is shared, and the other is solid. (C)

### 3. WO 0104

Constructed ca. 1900, this two-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous concrete block foundation. The façade has three storefronts and six upper bays. In the two eastern storefronts, original elements include recessed single-light double doors, display windows, paneled bulkheads, boarded transom panes, and Tuscan columns; a ca. 1960 metal awning is also present. The western storefront has ca. 1960 glass-and-metal double doors, plywood-covered columns, and fixed window panes in wooden frames. Its transom and the upper column portions remain uncovered. Brick pilasters divide the upper façade, and in the two outer and two inner bays are circular vents with decorative metal covers. (C)

### 4. WO 0105

This ca. 1940 one-story square commercial building has a five-course American bond brick exterior, a flat roof with a parapet and metal coping, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. The façade has original metal windows and four entrances; the eastern two have single-light glass-and-wood doors and transoms, and the western two are recessed. Above the western portion of the façade is a metal canopy. On the western elevation is an original paneled wooden door; the eastern wall is shared. (C)

### 5. WO 0106

Constructed ca. 1900, this one-story rectangular commercial building has a six-course American bond brick exterior, a flat roof with a parapet, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. On the façade is a pair of ca. 1980 metal doors in a slightly arched opening and a corbelled cornice with vertical extensions. The northern elevation has three arched brick-filled former openings and the southern elevation has a window pair and secondary entrance, both with arched openings; the parapet is stepped on the sides. (C)

### 6. WO 0107

Built ca. 1925, this two-story rectangular commercial building has a six-course American bond brick exterior, a flat roof with a parapet, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. On the façade are a soldier course, a brick cornice, and a storefront largely covered with plywood that has a recessed entrance with original single-light double doors. On the eastern elevation are ca. 1930 double doors with a boarded transom and small arched windows; the western wall is shared. (C)

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7. WO 0108

This ca. 1925 two-story rectangular commercial building has a six-course American bond brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. The façade is covered nearly entirely in plywood, and includes a central door and two windows on each side. The eastern wall is shared, and the western elevation is solid. (NC)

8. WO 0109

Built in 1903, this one-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof missing rear sections with a parapet, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. On the façade remains a circa 1980 metal door, a four-pane display window, a multi-pane transom in poor repair, and a corbelled cornice with vertical elements. The eastern elevation is solid, and the western wall is shared. (C)

9. WO 0110

This 1903 one-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof with a parapet, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. The original storefront remains; in its eastern part are a recessed entrance with an original single-light glass-and-wood door, a one-pane transom, and a fluted wooden pilaster, and in the western portion are a display window, paneled bulkhead, and two-pane transom. Also on the façade is a corbelled cornice. (C)

10. WO 0008

Built ca. 1900, this two-story rectangular Classical Revival building has a brick exterior, a flat roof with a parapet, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. Each of the two façade bays has an arched opening; within the eastern one is a recessed tiled entrance with original single-light glass-and-wood double doors, and within the western one are a four-pane transom and display windows, both partially boarded over. Above the eastern bay is a tower-like parapet with a concrete panel reading "BANK" near the top and vertical brick trim below, and above the western bay is corbelling and a tile course. (C)

11. WO 0111

Constructed ca. 1902, this one-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof with a parapet, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. In the façade are original double doors, ca. 1960 metal-framed storefront windows, and an original transom. A canopy supported by simple wood posts spans the façade. The eastern wall is shared and the western elevation is solid. In the rear elevation are three slightly arched openings; in two are two-over-two windows, and in the other is a solid door and a three-pane transom. (C)

12. WO 0112

This ca. 1980 one-story square commercial building has a brick exterior with metal panels below the roofline, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. It has metal-and-glass doors and metal window frames with fixed single panes. Two drive-through bays are on the western elevation. (NC)

13. WO 0113

Built in 1903, this one-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. The building is in poor repair, and half of the upper façade is missing. At the façade's center is a pair of ca. 1960 glass-and-metal doors, and on each side is a ca. 1960 resized

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window; above is a boarded-over transom. The western wall is shared, and the eastern elevation has a secondary entrance. (NC)

14. WO 0114

Constructed in 1903, this one-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. One side of the storefront is largely covered in T-111-style siding, and an original display window and bulkhead are on the other side. It has a ca. 1980 door and original pilasters. Attached is a flat canopy supported by simple wooden posts and shared with the building to the west. On the rear elevation is a metal shed-roofed wing. (C)

15. WO 0115

This 1903 one-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. Its metal threshold reads "Dr L. B. Mor[illegible] 1903." Much of the storefront is covered in T-111-style siding; the storefront also has a ca. 1980 nine-light glass-and-metal door. Shared with the building to the east is a flat canopy supported by simple wooden posts. Above it is a transom with an air-conditioning unit installed. Both side walls are shared, and in the rear elevation is a resized arched entrance and two boarded arched window openings. (C)

16. WO 0116

Built ca. 1915, this one-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. The storefront has its original display windows, paneled bulkheads, recessed entrance with single-light glass-and-wood door, and pilasters. Above are a flat canopy with simple wooden posts and a boarded transom. The upper façade has decorative multiple-colored brickwork. The eastern wall is shared, and in the western elevation is a secondary arched entrance with original solid wooden doors, transom, and brickwork similar to the front façade's. (C)

17. WO 0117

This ca. 1980 one-story rectangular building has a brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. It has an entrance with glass-and-metal doors, windows, and a covered open-air section on the eastern elevation. (NC)

18. WO 0118

Built ca. 1925, this one-story Art Moderne-influenced rectangular building has a six-course American bond brick exterior, a flat roof with a parapet, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. Its curved corner entrance has an original single-light glass-and-wood door; above it is a boarded transom. On the façade are display windows with boarded transoms. Below the transoms, a flat canopy wraps around to shelter the façade, the entrance, and a window and transom on the building's eastern elevation. Below the façade roofline is painted "HUGGINS FURNITURE." East of the window is a pair of original garage doors; a similar pair is on the rear elevation. (C)

19. WO 0119

Constructed ca. 1920, this one-story rectangular commercial building has a six-course American bond brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. Its storefront includes a recessed entrance, siding-covered windows, a transom, and a flat canopy. Projecting from the upper façade is a damaged sign case. Both side walls are shared. (C)

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20. WO 0120

This ca. 1915 one-story rectangular commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. Owners substantially altered the facade ca. 1970; its upper portion is covered in corrugated metal and its lower portion has two bays. In one is a recessed entrance and original display windows, and in the other are resized windows. The eastern wall is shared, and in the western elevation are boarded arched former openings. (NC)

21. WO 0121

Built ca. 1925, this one-story square commercial building has a brick exterior, a flat roof with a parapet, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. The façade has a resized entrance with a ca. 1970 door flanked by a display window and bulkhead on each side. A flat canopy with simple wooden posts shelters the storefront; above it are three arched metal-covered transoms and a soldier course. Both side elevations are solid and have stepped parapets, and a shed-roofed metal wing is on the rear elevation. (C)

22. WO 0122

This 1961 one-story square commercial building has a five-course American bond brick and metal exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. The façade has three bays; the western one projects and is solid with lettering identifying it as the post office, the central one has a bank of windows and, in a side wall, the entrance, and the eastern one is solid with multiple-colored brickwork. Sheltering the two eastern bays is a flat canopy with simple wooden posts. On the rear elevation is a sheltered loading dock. (NC)

23. WO 0040

The Presbyterian Church was completed in 1920 and is a three-story rectangular Gothic Revival church building with a brick exterior, a slate-covered gable roof with a parapet and tower, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. On the façade are three bays; the central one has a projecting entrance with a pair of ca. 1960 doors and a segmented-arch transom accessed via staircases on both sides. Above the entrance bay is a tower with a pair of second story wooden nine-over-nine windows; above them is an arched vent and a damaged crenellated roofline. Both side bays have upper and lower arched windows. A secondary entrance bay is visible on the eastern elevation. On the side and rear elevations are vertical brick elements, corbelling, gabled bays, and arched and rectangular window banks. (C)

24. WO 0123

This ca. 1940 one-story square Art Moderne-influenced building has a concrete block and metal exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous cast concrete foundation. On the façade are four bays with, from west to east, two original paneled wooden garage doors, an original single-light glass-and-wood door with boards over the light, and corner office windows above ca. 1970 perma-stone-like treatment. A ridged cornice is affixed. On the eastern elevation are two original paneled wooden doors, and on the western elevation are three original six-light windows below transoms. (C)

25. WO 0124

Built ca. 1920, this one-story irregular traditional building has a brick exterior, a flat roof, and a continuous stone foundation. On the buildings eastern side is a three-bay garage with an open front and side, and on the building's front is an open-air component with a flat roof and brick posts. Beyond this front component is

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a wooden paneled door and flanking covered storefront windows. The western and rear elevations are solid. (C)

**8. Statement of Significance****Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1900 - 1958

**Significant Dates**

1901 downtown fire

1924 downtown fire

**Significant Person**

(complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References****Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** N/A

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District in Woodruff County, Arkansas, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in commerce and Criterion C for local significance in architecture.

### Criterion A: Commerce

Located equidistant from Memphis, Tennessee, and Little Rock, Arkansas, Cotton Plant developed as an important commercial and cultural center of the county and surrounding area. Nineteenth-century settlers established a trading post there in 1820. Settlers from Kentucky, Tennessee, the Carolinas, and Mississippi continued to arrive over the next several decades. Rail lines, the first in 1881, and another in 1908, enabled the transportation of cotton products, as well as timber, the basis of the town's economy. As the town's economy grew, so did its population, as ample employment opportunities drew workers to cotton gins, sawmills, and retail establishments. Buildings still present along Main Street housed the dry goods, furniture, and drug stores, banks, hotels, churches, and food and entertainment venues that were available to residents and visitors.

### Criterion C: Architecture

The buildings within the Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District represent architectural significance on the local level. Following a 1901 fire, Cotton Plant businesses rebuilt brick store buildings, many of which are extant today. One- and two-part commercial block buildings along Main Street are modest examples of these common early-20<sup>th</sup>-century forms. As the construction of the buildings of Cotton Plant followed either the 1901 or the 1924 fire, they possess a unified appearance and scale typical of small town commercial districts in the region. Though some storefronts have been altered and some historic buildings are missing, the district along Main Street still possesses integrity of location, setting, and materials of an early-20<sup>th</sup>-century downtown commercial district.

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**Narrative**

The earliest historical accounts in the vicinity of present-day Cotton Plant, Arkansas, date to the early 1540s, when Hernando de Soto crossed the Mississippi River. Members of his expedition recorded different native groups populating the area at the time. By 1673, French explorers arriving in eastern Arkansas noted the presence of the Quapaw people, who were not among the native groups present at the time of the de Soto expedition. Quapaw oral tradition portrays the arrival of their ancestors to the Arkansas River Valley from the Ohio River Valley, displacing earlier native people. Various epidemics and raids by other tribes, mainly the Chickasaw, reduced the Quapaw population from at least 3,500 in the late-17<sup>th</sup> century to approximately 750 by 1820.<sup>1</sup>

It was at this time that the first white settlers arrived from various southeastern states and established a small trading post at present-day Cotton Plant. Then, it was called Richmond, and settlers there bartered with the Quapaw and Choctaw. President Andrew Jackson sent out a group of settlers from Kentucky in 1832 to survey the area. This group of early pioneer surveyors included David Garretson, John C. Garretson, Jacob Swan, and Parley P. Hill. Hill and his family came from Kentucky by boat. With them, they brought slaves, who felled walnut and cypress trees to build the family's large mansion about three miles north of the town. On the property of the Hill Plantation were large Indian mounds that the Hill family and, later, Civil War troops used as a place of burial.<sup>2</sup>

Other early settlers to Richmond included Thomas Cook Sugg, William Marshall Bagby, and Charles Meehan. These families became the cornerstones of the community as it developed from an early pioneer town into a cultural and commercial center. Sugg arrived in 1836 with his new bride Mary nee Depriest, shortly after they were married in Mississippi. Thomas Sugg had children from a previous marriage when the family moved to Arkansas with an inventory that suggests he was financially secure: 15 slaves, 20 head of cattle, 65 head of hogs, and 20 head of sheep. The family's household property included six beds. After settling near the town of Richmond between the Cache River and Gum Flat, Sugg and his new wife welcomed an addition, daughter Mary Elizabeth Sugg. Mary Elizabeth later became Mrs. William Marshall Bagby, who settled in Gum Flatt in 1843 with his children from his first wife Missy.<sup>3</sup>

Though cotton had been grown in Arkansas since at least 1800, local history holds that the lucrative botanical came to Richmond as a serendipitous ornamental. Settler William Lynch, who arrived from Mississippi in 1846, brought with him some cottonseed, which he sowed outside the store he built in town. The plant thrived, and locals began calling the town Cotton Plant, a name that became official in 1852, when the town applied for a post office and discovered that the name Richmond was already in use. The

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<sup>1</sup> Joseph Key, "Quapaw," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, available at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/> accessed April 25, 2008; Jeffrey M. Mitchem, "Hernando de Soto," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, available at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/> accessed April 25, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Mrs. Dale McGregor, "The Choctaw Village at Cotton Plant," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 7 No. 3 (1979): 23-24; Gary Telford, "The Battle of Cotton Plant, Fought 144 Years Ago," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* (2005/2006): 65-66.

<sup>3</sup> Katherine McGowan, "First Irish Families of Cotton Plant," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol.2, No. 3, Summer (1974): 26, 28-9.)

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renaming proved auspicious, as the town became a thriving center of commerce and culture based on a cotton economy.<sup>4</sup>

An 1852 register of the Gayoso Hotel in Cotton Plant shows William Marshall Bagby registered there. Though it is unclear whether he had taken up residence in Cotton Plant proper or was simply staying in town for business, the presence of a hotel suggests that the location supported enough commerce to require accommodations for travelers. The town had developed rapidly in the 20 years following official surveying of the pioneer trading post.<sup>5</sup>

As with other communities all across the state, Cotton Plant's citizens and economy were challenged by the upheaval of the Civil War. In 1862, Cotton Plant felt the direct impact of the Civil War. On July 7 of that year, the "Action at Hill's Plantation," also known as the "Action at Cotton Plant," took place, with 5,000 Confederate soldiers battling 20,000 Union troops. Much of fighting took place just northwest of Cotton Plant on the plantation of Parley P. Hill, the early surveyor.<sup>6</sup> Though the outnumbered Confederates lost the fight, the meeting spoiled the schedule of the United States troops' meeting for supplies at Clarendon, approximately 30 miles south, and hindered the ability of the United States' forces to occupy Little Rock that summer.<sup>7</sup>

During the war years, Cotton Plant continued to attract new arrivals, as noted in a handwritten article by Reverend S. W. Davies of the Cotton Plant Presbyterian Church. Ministering there from 1861 to 1874, Davies wrote that during his time as pastor, the growth of the congregation, established in 1859, was not fast, but steady, especially during the period from 1861 to 1871. He noted that half the original members, as well as new joining members, were African American. At the end of the war, "in the face of considerable opposition from a certain class of the community," wrote Davies, "a Sabbath school was started" for the African American community, which met at first "with distrust and indifference." A decline in the congregation beginning in 1871 reflected the "emigration and deterioration," in that part of the state following the war. Davies' hope for Cotton Plant was a "better and more permanent class of immigrants [to] come in to take the place of the moving and thriftless class that now fill the tenant houses on our farms." Seemingly presciently, Davies pondered "unforeseen developments in the future" that might reverse the decline in population.<sup>8</sup>

The Civil War brought general devastation to Arkansas, including its once-thriving cotton economy. Prices fell and remained low through the 1890s. A restructuring of the formerly slave-based industry to wage- or tenant-labor also affected farmers' net gains. Many cotton operations in the delta region ceased to exist. However, the construction of a rail line through Cotton Plant in 1881 assisted in the town's recovery,

<sup>4</sup> Van Hawkins, "Cotton," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, available at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/> accessed April 25, 2008; Paula Harmon Barnett, "Cotton Plant (Woodruff County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, available at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/> accessed April 25, 2008.

<sup>5</sup> McGowan, 26, 28-9.

<sup>6</sup> Jeffrey L. Patrick, "Action at Hill's Plantation," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, available at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/> accessed April 25, 2008.)

<sup>7</sup> McGowan, 26, 28-9.

<sup>8</sup> Reverend S. W. Davies, "Cotton Plant Presbyterian Church," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol.1, Winter (1973): 29-31.

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allowing for the shipment of seed and bales of cotton. The town began to prosper, indicated by a population increase of 98 in 1880 to 429 in 1890.<sup>9</sup>

After the Civil War ended, American-born John Meehan McGowan made his way to Cotton Plant from Ireland. In Cotton Plant, he joined his uncle, with whom he went into business as Meehan and McGowan Merchandise, a business that flourished into the twentieth century. Both Meehan and McGowan were among the 32 men who signed the petition to legally incorporate Cotton Plant in 1887. By 1892, John McGowan had married widow Annetta Bagby Canterbury, daughter of the fallen Confederate captain William Bagby.<sup>10</sup>

In 1890, Cotton Plant produced 1,500 to 2,000 tons of cottonseed and 4,000 to 7,000 bales of cotton. One bale of cotton equaled 500 pounds of raw lint and represented the yield of one acre in a good year. After the cotton industry rebounded from the Civil War, one pound of cotton could fetch 30 cents.<sup>11</sup> One bale of cotton, therefore, could bring \$150.00. At a minimum production of 4,000 bales, or 2 million pounds, Cotton Plant growers brought in \$600,000 in 1890.

The jump in Cotton Plant's population between 1880 and 1890 reflects the boom following the completion of the railroad in 1881. In the next decade was slow growth with the town growing only to 458 by 1900. However, the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century marked a second period of growth with Cotton Plant's population jumping to 1,081 by 1910 and 1,661 by 1920.<sup>12</sup> The increase after 1900 was perhaps prompted by a devastating fire in the town in 1901, which consumed much of the wooden commercial buildings and sidewalks of Cotton Plant. Business owners rushed to rebuild stores, this time with brick from the Doyle Brick Yard, a mile away. The rebuilding of the town enabled newcomers to invest in the town's future. This construction is reflected in store thresholds on existing buildings dated 1902 and 1903 following the fire. These new brick buildings were designed to be more fire-proof and reflected the styles of the period. Several of these early-20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings are extant today in Cotton Plant, while others were replaced again by 1925 following a second fire.<sup>13</sup>

By the late 1800s, Cotton Plant's premiere lodging was the Spivey Hotel located on the north side of Main Street.<sup>14</sup> Guests at the hotel and locals had ample selection of consumer goods and entertainment opportunities from various establishments along Main Street. Cotton Plant's centerpiece of culture was the Frances Opera House, located on the second floor of the Boone and Echols Building at the southwest corner of Main and Central (now Ash Street south of Main) Streets. One of the first brick buildings in Cotton Plant, the building survived the 1901 fire. On the street level, the building housed two dry goods stores. The opera house shared the second floor with a Masonic Hall and some offices. (The Boone and Echols

<sup>9</sup> Barnett, "Cotton Plant (Woodruff County)."

<sup>10</sup> McGowan, 26, 28-9.

<sup>11</sup> Barnett, "Cotton Plant (Woodruff County)."

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Mrs. Dale McGregor, "Stepping on Cotton Plant History," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol.5 No. 2 (1977):

9.

<sup>14</sup> Shelby Crafford, "The Old Spivey Hotel in Cotton Plant," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 10 No. 3 Summer (1982): 15.

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Building did not survive the fire of 1924, and the Bush Jones Grocery Store was located in its replacement building, which is extant.)<sup>15</sup>

The local newspaper, *The Hustler*, described the Frances Opera House in 1905 as one of the best playhouses in northeast Arkansas, with lights, stage fixtures, movable scenery, good ventilation, folding chairs to accommodate 450 spectators, and perfect acoustics. Cotton's Plant's regional prominence is evidenced in the opera house's position as one of seven cities of a troupe circuit. Named for the daughter of one of the building owners, Frances Echols, the Frances Opera House's offerings were of "moral tone...in keeping with the chaste life of the little child."<sup>16</sup>

Late-night entertainment in Cotton Plant included dances held several times through the year, as early as 1884 and into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These "Social Hops" were held by invitation at Meehan Hall, on the second floor of Charles Meehan's store building. Dancers enjoyed music by bands from Memphis, who would play until midnight, or longer for an additional collection. It is likely that the Meehan Building that hosted these events burned in 1901. Several tandem buildings owned by Meehan and/or his nephew John M. McGowan line the south side of Main Street, mid-block between Central and Ammon Streets. These buildings were constructed in 1903 as noted on their thresholds, and two are extant.<sup>17</sup>

Also in this block, west of the Boone and Echols Building and east of the Meehan and McGowan row, remains a 1903 building that housed the J. G. Barnett and Bro. store. The brothers evidently rebuilt their business following the 1901 fire, as a 1905 issue of *The Hustler* notes that their 20 years of experience benefited shoppers in Cotton Plant with up-to-date clothing, shoes, hats and home furnishings, as well as professional displays. The newspaper itself was printed at Hawk Printing Company, located in one of two buildings owned by Dr. L.B. Moore. The thresholds of these buildings bear his name and a construction date of 1903. The adjacent building housed various stores, including the Kroger Grocery Store. They are located on the west side of the Meehan and McGowan row. The extant building at the southeast corner of Main and Ammon Street housed Huggins Furniture and was also known as the Doyle Building, which housed a dry good store.<sup>18</sup>

On the north side of this block of Main Street is a bank building and an additional building that Dr. Moore owned. The former was the original home of the Planters Bank and Trust Company, which relocated to the southeast corner of Main and Central (now Ash) Streets in 1915. At that time, the vacant bank building became the home of First National Bank, which is laid in tile on its doorstep. In the building next door, Sam Kyle operated a restaurant which advertised fresh oysters and lobster, "the best chilli to be found," "old-time popular temperance drinks," and a convenient place for young people and travelers to escape from summer sun or winter cold. In 1905 the north side of Main Street, between Ammon and Center Streets,

<sup>15</sup> McGregor, "Stepping on Cotton Plant History," 14.

<sup>16</sup> "Cotton Plant's Opera House," From *The Hustler*, 1905, in *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Volume 2 Spring (1974): 11-12.

<sup>17</sup> "1884 Invitation for Cotton Plant Dance," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 5 No. 3 Summer (1977): 20; McGregor, "Stepping on Cotton Plant History," 15.

<sup>18</sup> McGregor, "Stepping on Cotton Plant History," 16-17.

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featured several more establishments in ca. 1902 buildings, including dry goods, clothing, and drug stores, a grocer, a bakery, and a butcher shop.<sup>19</sup>

The prosperity of early-20<sup>th</sup>-century Cotton Plant is attributable, indeed, to cotton, and not only in raw lint shipped out as bales. In the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, the cotton grown locally and in other area towns supported four cotton gins, a cotton compress, and several large warehouses by 1920.<sup>20</sup> The Cotton Plant Oil Mill alone employed forty to fifty people. In the 1905 *The Hustler* were listed the mill's officers and directors, including Charles Meehan, L. B. Moore, R.R. James, and R.C. Lynch. The mill's main building was of brick construction, and an adjacent cotton gin was of wood construction. There was also a seed hull house and a two-story tin building next to the gin. The plant was considered modern for its time:

"This mill proper is of the Van Winkle type and has three presses with a capacity of sixty tons a day, while the up-to-date gin in connection is an eight-stand, seventy-saw, continental system of the Munger gins. Two ponderous Corliss engines of the Murray pattern furnish the motive power for the two plants, while the steam for driving these massive machines comes from three modern Murray boilers having a combined capacity of several hundred horse power."<sup>21</sup>

*The Hustler* article went on to note that the 1905 season was financially problematic, with high seed prices and low product prices. However, the Cotton Plant Oil Mill was financially solvent, unlike many other mills, and their product enjoyed an "unexcelled reputation wherever sold." The plant changed ownership a few times, with John McGowan and A.C. Carter purchasing the gin in 1922 and operating it until 1941. It was later bought by Richard Cole, who kept the gin in operation into the late 1970s.<sup>22</sup>

During the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, Cotton Plant also benefited from the growing timber industry. The Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad completed a line from Helena to Cotton Plant in 1908, facilitating the town's expanding economy. The following year, the Standard Stave and Hoop Mill opened in Cotton Plant, and by 1920, the town boasted five sawmills and seven woodworking factories and was home to Southwestern Veneer Mill, the largest veneer plant in the state.<sup>23</sup>

By ca. 1925, Cotton Plant had largely achieved its current architectural character. Rebuilding in the decades after the 1903 fire resulted in a linear downtown composed of one- and two-part commercial block buildings lining Main Street. The buildings shared side walls to form a continuous streetscape in a pattern typical of early-20<sup>th</sup>-century downtowns. Owners predominately used substantial brick construction to protect against future fires and project a solid appearance. Most buildings included traditional storefronts with typical elements of display windows, public entrances, bulkheads, and transoms. Cotton Plant owners and shoppers preferred understated styling, and masonry patterns provide the defining elements of many

<sup>19</sup> Ibid., 10-13.

<sup>20</sup> Barnett, "Cotton Plant (Woodruff County)."

<sup>21</sup> Mrs. Dale McGregor, "The Cotton Plant Oil Mill," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 5 No. 3 Summer (1977): 18-19.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 19-20.

<sup>23</sup> Barnett, "Cotton Plant (Woodruff County)."

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buildings. A few buildings have bolder styling, representing popular early-20<sup>th</sup>-century trends like Gothic Revival, Classical Revival, and Art Moderne. Downtown Cotton Plant's landscape configuration and the appearances of its individual buildings illustrate typical early-20<sup>th</sup>-century regional patterns of geographic and architectural development.

Many businesses closed due to economic hardships during the Depression years, and population growth slowed. The price of cotton fell from a high of 30 cents to a nickel or dime per pound. Several stave mills and two banks closed.<sup>24</sup>

After a general merchandise chain store failed in 1929, four Cotton Plant businessmen grouped together to buy the building on North Main Street and open a new dry goods store. These men, J.D. McGregor, C.T. Doss, Flynn Horne, and Roger Wilkerson, opened the Leader Company store in 1930, a local institution that remained in operation until 1969.<sup>25</sup> Long-time Cotton Plant residents still remember that Leader's offered "IOU" coupon books to customers who relied on their fall harvest for income and that, even in depression years, Cotton Plant sidewalks were so crowded on Saturdays, one could not walk a direct path through the socializing masses.<sup>26</sup>

Many rural residents came into town only once a week, and used the opportunity to visit friends, shop for staples, and take in a movie. The Leader Company stayed open as late as necessary to accommodate the Saturday crowds, often until two or three o'clock in the morning. Saturdays also found Southwestern Veneer Mill workers at the Leader store, cashing their paychecks, as banks had closed before shifts let out. The Leader store was known to assist Cotton Plant families who, during the depression years, otherwise might have gone without food or clothing.<sup>27</sup>

During the 1930s, education was not a priority for the seated administration of the state of Arkansas, though some New Deal programs did contribute to the construction of school buildings. As across the South, schools were segregated in Cotton Plant, and African Americans of the town considered it a good fortune to have the option to send their children to a parochial school there, rather than the public school for black children. The Cotton Plant Academy was operated under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church of New York. Adult residents of Cotton Plant today remember attending the school, as well as the imposing figure of its principal, Reverend Stinsel.<sup>28</sup>

Census records indicate that the population of Cotton Plant peaked in 1950 with 1,838 residents. Young men returning from World War II service helped Cotton Plant rebound during the 1950s. However, as

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Dorothy Wilkerson White, "I owe my soul to the Leader Store..." *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 27 (1999): 1, 2, 4, 5.

<sup>26</sup> Eloyce Powell, H. W. Vault, Deborah Vault, Conversation with Kristen Luetkemeier and Andra Martens, Cotton Plant, April 1, 2008; White, 1, 2, 4, 5.

<sup>27</sup> White, 4.

<sup>28</sup> Marc J. Holley, "Education Reform," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, available at <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/> accessed April 30, 2008; Eloyce Powell, H. W. Vault, Deborah Vault, Conversation with Kristen Luetkemeier and Andra Martens, Cotton, Plant, April 1, 2008.)

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young families sought greater employment opportunities, they moved away from Cotton Plant. The Cotton Plant Academy closed in the 1950s, businesses slowly began closing, and the population dwindled with each decade. In 1968, many white families moved to Brinkley, Arkansas, following the desegregation of public schools. By the year 2000, 960 residents remained in Cotton Plant.<sup>29</sup>

Despite the loss of some historic buildings in the commercial district within the last 30 years, downtown Cotton Plant retains a concentrated collection of buildings that collectively demonstrate historic and architectural integrity through elements of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Though many buildings are currently vacant, the collection remains largely intact and usable, and is well poised for commercial reuse and local renewal. Due to downtown Cotton Plant's local historic and architectural significance and its existing integrity, the Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District meets the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

<sup>29</sup> Barnett, "Cotton Plant (Woodruff County)," Eloyce Powell, H. W. Vault, Deborah Vault, Conversation with Kristen Luetkemeier and Andra Martens, Cotton, Plant, April 1, 2008)

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## Illustrations



*The 1920 Presbyterian Church at the southwest corner of Main and Elm Streets, photographed by Thomason and Associates in 2008, is of the Gothic Revival style.*



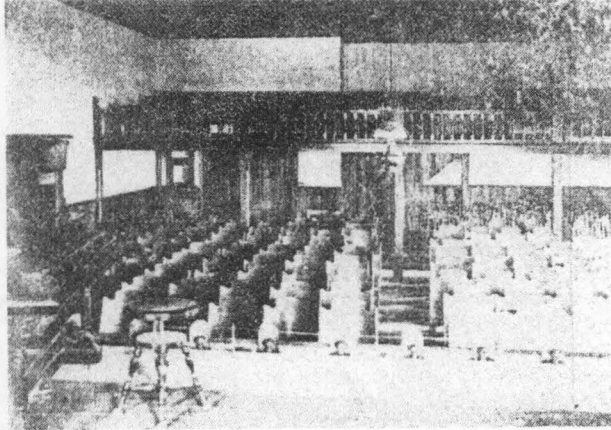
*This 1890s photo depicts the store of uncle-nephew business partners Charles Meehan and John McGowan. From left to right are Meehan, Flint Horne, McGowan, and an unidentified store employee.*

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*The photo on the left is of the Boone and Echols Building, which housed the Frances Opera House, right, on the second floor.*



*Cotton Plant proprietor J.R. Shelton stands behind the counter of his store in 1918.*

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*In this 1919 photo, mule-drawn wagons are loaded with cypress wood shingles, one of Cotton Plant's timber industry products.*



*The Welch Market, pictured above in 1929, was located within the small building pictured below at 308 Main Street across the street from the current post office.*

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*Thomason and Associates photographed the building at 308 Main Street in 2008. It is an example of the one-part commercial block building typical of small town business districts of the early-20<sup>th</sup> century, with a central entrance, flanked by display windows, a shed awning, transom, stepped parapet roof, and signage space below the cornice on the façade.*



*The Leader Company store was located in this two-part commercial block building, a design typical of small town business districts of the early-20<sup>th</sup> century. Above the display windows and entrance were transom lights, sometimes with an awning. Below the cornice of this example is decorative brick corbelling. Thomason and Associates photographed the building in 2008.*

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Powell, Eloyce, and H. W. Vault, Deborah Vault. Conversation with Kristen Luetkemeier and Andra Martens, Cotton, Plant, April 1, 2008.

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Cotton Plant Commercial Historic  
District  
Name of Property

Woodruff County,  
Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8.25

### UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>659330</u>	<u>3874980</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>15</u>	<u>659703</u>	<u>3874975</u>

3	<u>15</u>	<u>659596</u>	<u>3874937</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>15</u>	<u>659388</u>	<u>3874927</u>

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andra Martens, Preservation Planner and Kristen Luetkemeier, Architectural Historian  
organization Thomason and Associates date April 2008  
street & number 1907 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue South telephone 615-385-4960  
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37212

### Additional Documentation

submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

#### Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 Or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

#### Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO) or FPO for any additional items

### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of the Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District encompass three blocks along Main Street in downtown Cotton Plant. With one exception, WO 0106, properties front Main Street directly. On the east, the district is roughly bounded by Vine Street, and on the west it extends to Pine Street. The district includes the following blocks and lots or portions of lots on Cotton Plant's plat map: block 10 lots 1 – 6 and 25 – 32, block 11 lots 1 – 7, block 12 lots 1 – 3, block 17 lots 7 – 12, block 18 lots 1 – 2, and block 19 lot 19.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District boundary is drawn to encompass the concentrated collection of extant commercial properties in downtown Cotton Plant. The district includes the buildings and landscape at the center of public life for Cotton Plant's white residents during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The district represents the entirety of what remains of this downtown landscape; the character of the area adjoining the boundaries is almost exclusively residential.

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- 
1. East Main Street, roughly 150 feet west from its northwest intersection with Vine Street  
White River Levee District  
Box 65  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036
  2. East Main Street, roughly 100 feet east of its northeast corner with Ash Street  
Marie Caffey  
125 Vine Street  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036
  3. 178 East Main Street  
Fred and Janice Tucker  
PO Box 294  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036
  4. Main Street at northeast corner with Ash Street  
City of Cotton Plant  
City Hall  
Main Street  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036
  5. Ash Street, behind City Hall  
Unknown
  6. Main Street, southwest corner with Ash Street  
Medi Mart Pharmacy, Inc.  
141 Pine Crest  
Brinkley, Arkansas 72021
  7. Main Street, adjacent to west side of building at southwest corner with Ash Street  
Michael O'Suggars  
Unknown
  8. Main Street, adjacent to east side of 133 West Main Street  
Marilyn Faye Miller  
PO Box 217  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036
  9. 133 West Main Street

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Linder Anderson  
PO Box 183  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

10. east of 176 West Main Street  
Debbie Bozarth  
364 Mulberry Street  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

11. 176 West Main Street  
Stuart Malin  
2201 North Central Avenue  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

12. northwest corner of West Main and Ammon Streets  
Don G. Salmon  
PO Box 15052  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72231

13. adjacent to east side of building on the south side of Main Street two buildings east of Oak Street  
George Hallum  
1202 N. Charlyne  
Brinkley, Arkansas 72021

14. on the south side of Main Street two buildings east of Oak Street  
Marilyn Faye Miller  
PO Box 217  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

15. one building east of the southeast corner of Main and Oak Streets  
Earnest and Earnestine Pyle  
Box 118  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

16. southeast corner of West Main and Oak Streets  
Natacki, LLC  
168A Fay Street  
Edison, New Jersey 00837

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

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

Section number      Property  
                            Owners      Page      3

Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Cotton Plant, Woodruff County, Arkansas

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17. closest to southwest corner of Main and Oak Streets  
White River Rural Health Center  
PO Box 497  
Augusta, Arkansas 72006

18. 226 West Main Street  
Nicole Marie Burks  
2363 Woodruff 780  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

19. between 258 and 226 West Main Street  
Ervin Lewis  
Box 315  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

20. 258 West Main Street  
Eddie Johnson et al  
PO Box 315  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

21. 308 West Main Street  
Patricia Stewmon  
PO Box 389  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

22. 279 West Main Street  
Nationwide Postal Management  
123 Grove Avenue  
Suite 222  
Cedarhurst, New York 11516

23. southwest corner of Main and Elm Streets  
Cotton Plant Restoration, c/o Mary Hooker  
20127 Highway 17  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

24. 324 West Main Street  
City of Cotton Plant

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Property  
Owners \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4

Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Cotton Plant, Woodruff County, Arkansas

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City Hall  
Main Street  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

25. northeast corner of West Main and Pine Streets  
R & R Oil Company, Inc.  
PO Box 479  
Cotton Plant, Arkansas 72036

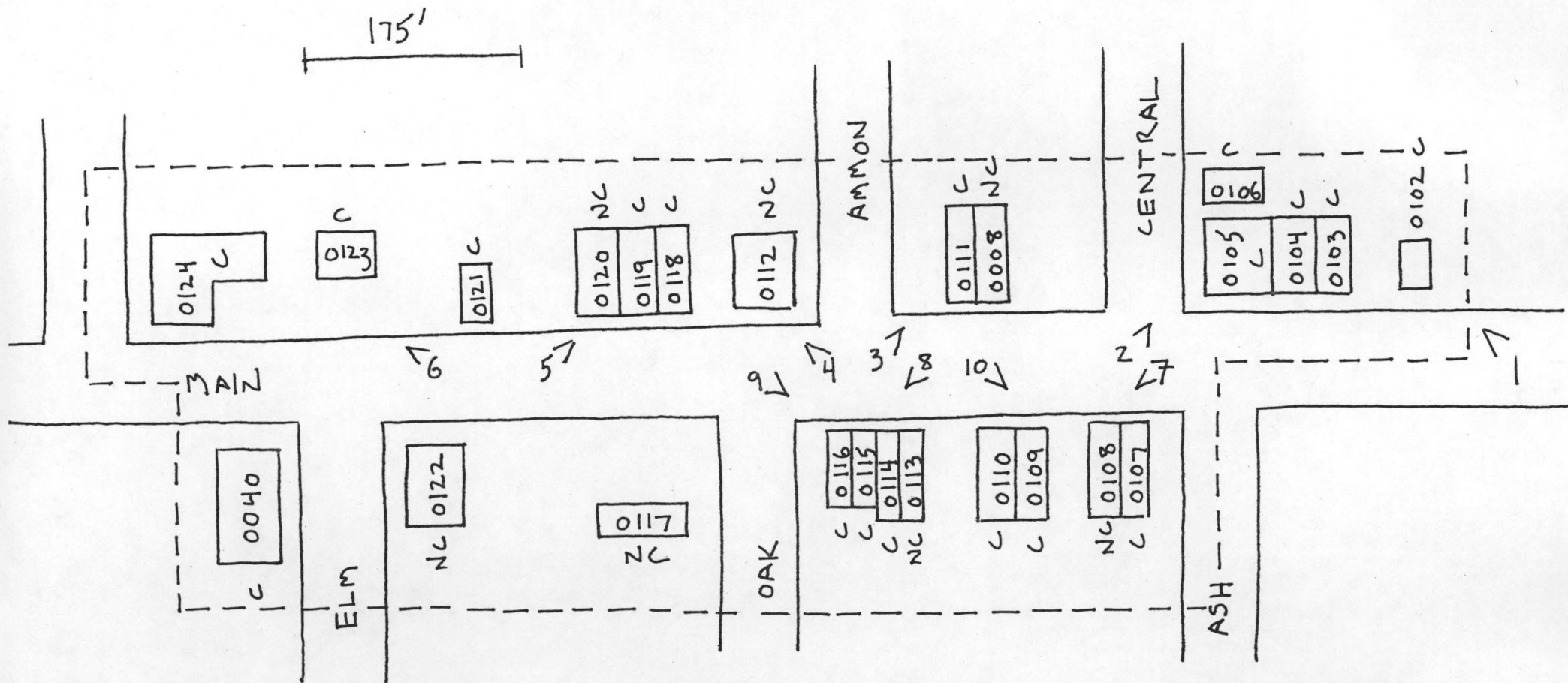
# COTTON PLANT COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT WOODRUFF COUNTY, ARKANSAS

C = CONTRIBUTING

NC = NON-CONTRIBUTING

> = PHOTO LOCATION

-- = BOUNDARY



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Woodruff

DATE RECEIVED: 8/13/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/08  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/17/08 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/26/08  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08000946

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: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9.25.08 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Kristen Luetkemeier

April 1, 2008

Negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Northwest view of East Main Street

Photograph 1



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Kristen Luetkenmeier

April 1, 2008

Negative of Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
northeast view of East Main Street

Photograph 2



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Kristen Luettkemeier

April 1, 2008

Negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Northeast view of West Main Street

Photograph 3



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Kristen Luetkemeier

April 1, 2008

Negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

northwest view of West Main Street  
Photograph 4



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas  
Kristen Luetkemeier

April 1, 2008

Negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

northeast view of West Main Street  
Photograph 5



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Kristen Luetkemeier

April 1, 2008

negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

northwest view of West Main Street  
Photograph 6

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Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Kristen Luetkemeyer

April 1, 2008

negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

Southwest view of West Main Street  
Photograph 7



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Kristen Luetkemeyer

April 1, 2008

Negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

Southwest view of West Main Street  
Photograph 8



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Kristen Luetkemeier

April 1, 2006

negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

Southeast view of West Main Street  
Photograph 9



Cotton Plant Commercial Historic  
District

Woodruff County, Arkansas

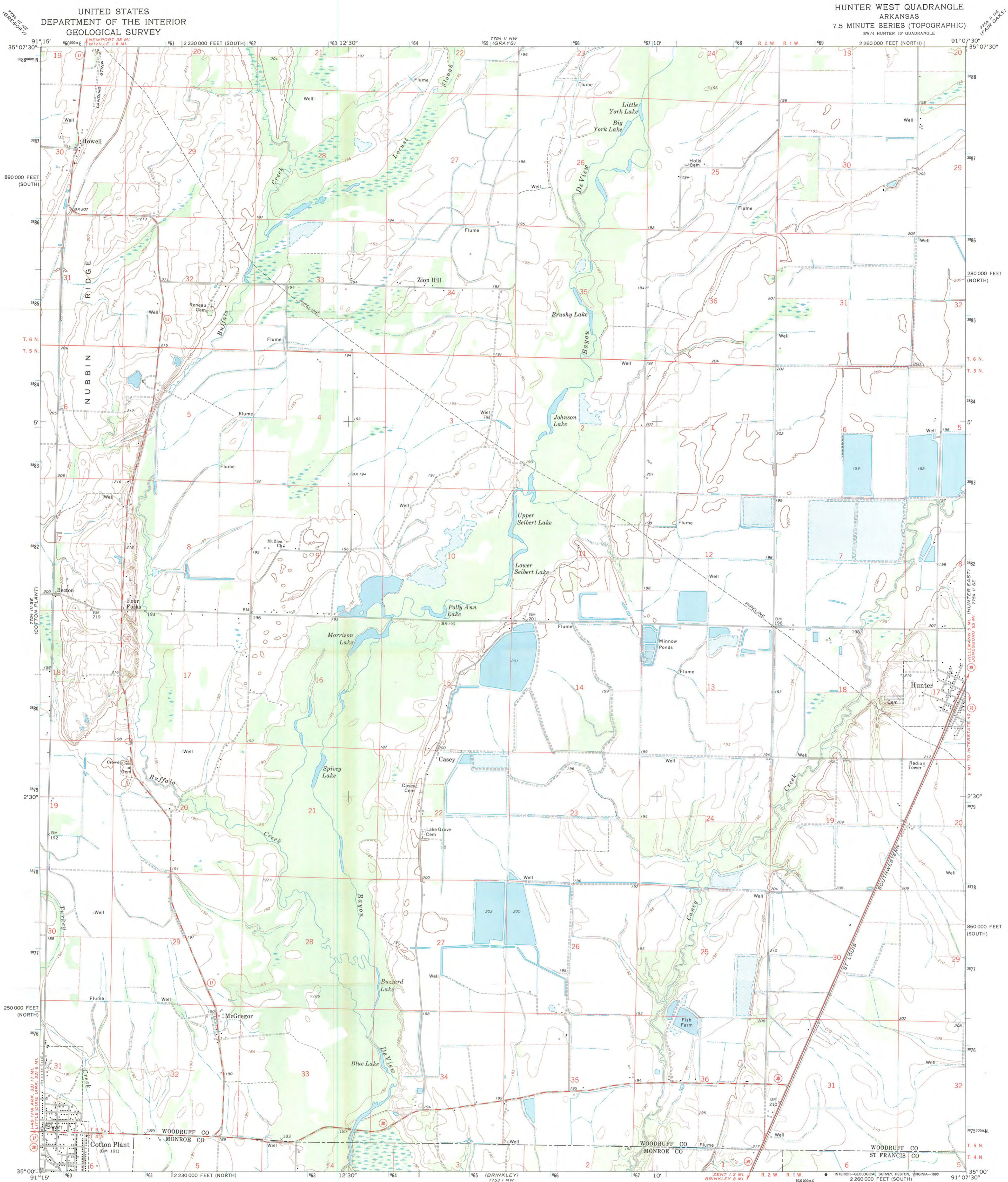
Kristen Luetkemeier

April 1, 2008

negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

southeast view of West Main Street

Photograph 10



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

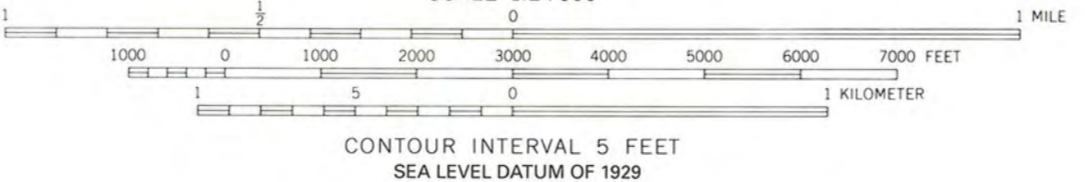
HUNTER WEST QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1970. Field checked 1971  
Projection: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone  
(Lambert conformal conic)  
10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate  
system, north and south zones  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue  
1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks  
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute  
intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Photosinspected from 1990 source, no major culture or drainage  
changes observed. Boundaries revised and names verified 1993

MAP SALES  
AND  
SERVICES  
1100 Lakeside Rd  
Nashville, TN 37210  
615-242-1388

UTM GRID AND 1993 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

1° 02' 18" N  
21° 44' 18" N



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
SEA LEVEL DATUM OF 1929



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

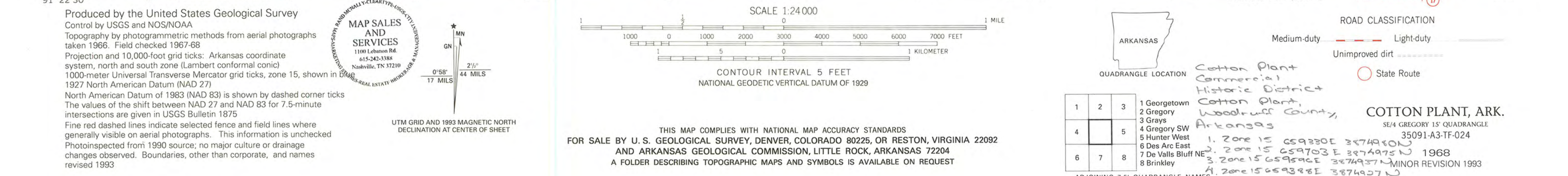
Primary highway, hard surface	Light duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road

Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092, 1. Zone 15 659330E 387490N  
2. Zone 15 659703E 387490N  
3. Zone 15 659596E 387490N  
4. Zone 15 659382E 387490N  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Cotton Plant  
Commercial  
Historic District  
Cotton Plant,  
Woodruff County,  
Arkansas

HUNTER WEST, ARK.  
SW/4 HUNTER 15' QUADRANGLE  
35091-A2-TF-024  
1971  
MINOR REVISION 1993  
DMA 7754 II SW-SERIES V884





The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Beebe  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

\*

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

\*

Delta Cultural Center

\*

Historic Arkansas Museum

\*

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

\*

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

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

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.com](http://www.arkansaspreservation.com)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



August 6, 2008

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

RE: Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District – Cotton Plant,  
Woodruff County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

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

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

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure





The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Beebe  
Governor

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Arkansas Arts Council

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Delta Cultural Center

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Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

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

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



August 7, 2008

Mr. Dallan C. Wordekemper  
Federal Preservation Officer  
CPM, Real Estate Specialist  
Facilities  
United States Postal Service  
4301 Wilson Boulevard  
Suite 300  
Arlington, VA 22203-1861

Dear Mr. Wordekemper:

I am enclosing a copy for your files of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Cotton Plant Commercial Historic District in Cotton Plant, Woodruff County, Arkansas. The historic district includes the Cotton Plant Post Office.

If you have any questions or need any other information, feel free to give me a call at (501) 324-9787 or E-mail me at [Ralph@arkansasheritage.org](mailto:Ralph@arkansasheritage.org).

Sincerely,

Ralph S. Wilcox  
National Register and Survey Coordinator  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

RSW:rsw

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Janet Matthews, Chief of Registration, National Park Service