

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Ready, E.S., House
READY - MAYER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

COMFORT THATCH

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

929 Beech Street

CITY, TOWN

Helena

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE
05

COUNTY

Phillips

CODE

107

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERCIAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. James I. Mayer

STREET & NUMBER

929 Beech Street

CITY, TOWN

Helena

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Phillips County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Helena

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

The Ready-Mayer House in Helena is one of a number of residences designed by architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock. During the early twentieth century Thompson's designs were especially popular among wealthy Arkansas families. The Ready-Mayer House, built in 1910, is similar to other Thompson houses in its building materials and simple but elegant style; however, this particular house is built on a somewhat smaller scale than other Thompson houses.

The Ready-Mayer House is a two-and-one-half-storey brick residence painted white and trimmed with black shutters. The symmetrical facade is divided into three bays. Above the outside bays shingled dormers project from the gable roof. Twin chimneys rise above the ridge line near the north and south ends of the roof.

A one-storey portico with balcony covers the front entry. Paired Doric columns support the balcony which has a low railing with cast stone urn-shaped balusters. Both the ground floor and balcony entries are flanked by sidelights and set in an elliptical arch. The main entry has a fan-light transom above the paneled door. A railing similar to that on the balcony surrounds the open concrete porch which covers the entire area immediately in front of the house.

Projecting from the south elevation is a one-storey flat-roofed wing. Though originally open this sun porch is now enclosed. The only other exterior alterations to the structure include the enclosure of two lattice porches on the rear (west) elevation. These porch enclosures have left the basic floor plan unaltered.

The rear elevation of the Ready-Mayer House has two wings projecting from the basic rectangular structure. The south rear elevation has a two-storey wing with the upper porch enclosed. Projecting from the center of the rear elevation is the one storey gable-roofed kitchen wing with a tall brick chimney on the west end. A one-storey flat-roofed porch, now enclosed, lies north of the kitchen.

The interior of the house was completely redecorated in 1974. Floors not carpeted were refinished and are in beautiful condition. The original marble floor in the south sun porch also remains in excellent condition. Several original brass light fixtures are still in place in the dining room and formal living room.

The entry hall is open to the second storey and features a three-run stairway. Slender turned balusters support handrails set between square posts at each landing.

The original blueprints, now on file with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, show that the Ready-Mayer House has changed very little since its construction in 1910. The house remains in excellent condition and rests on its original tree-shaded lot in a quiet residential section of Helena.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT CHARLES L. THOMPSON

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ready-Mayer House is the only Helena residence known to have been designed by architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock. As one of Arkansas' leading architects in the early twentieth century, Thompson designed many buildings for both public and private patrons. The Washington County Courthouse in Fayetteville and the Garrett House in El Dorado are two structures designed by Thompson which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Though on a smaller scale than most residential structures designed by Thompson, the Ready-Mayer House does display other characteristics of his work. Thompson used brick and cast stone in his early twentieth-century designs. Simple balanced floor plans made use of wide hallways and large rooms. Symmetrical facades with dormers and some classical features marked many of Thompson's residential designs.

The Ready-Mayer House is a two-and-one-half-storey brick structure. It has a symmetrical facade with elliptical arch entries on the first and second storeys flanked by twin dormers projecting from the sloping gable roof. Doric columns are used on the one-storey portico and on the sun porch and carport extending from the south elevation. Urn-shaped balusters of cast stone encircle the wide front porch area and the small balcony on the facade.

In 1910 the Ready-Mayer House was constructed for Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Ready of Helena. Mr. Ready was a prominent Helena businessman, and Mrs. Ready was involved in many local activities. She was especially active in the organization and construction of the Helena Library and Museum.

Following Mrs. Ready's death in 1954, the house was sold to a number of successive owners. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. James I. Mayer, purchased and restored the house in 1974.

The Ready-Mayer House exemplifies a wealthy businessman's house in early twentieth-century Arkansas. Architecturally, it is significant as an example of the work of an important Arkansas architect, Charles L. Thompson.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock) December 31, 1961.

Kirkland, Dale. Personal interview, August 4, 1975.

Place file: Helena, Arkansas. Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
---	---

7	2	0	9	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	2	3	5	7	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

C

B

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

September 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock, Arkansas

STATE

Arkansas

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

Gene Richardson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 9, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

1/1/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

12/30/75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Ready-Mayer House
Phillips County
Ark.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 1 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ready - MAYER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

COMFORT THATCH

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
PHILLIPS

STATE
ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO

142

INT: 2983-75

142



Reedy-Mayer House
Phillips
north a
view

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ready - MAYER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Comfort Thatch

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

VICINITY OF

COUNTY
PHILLIPS

STATE
ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DIANNA KIRK

DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

NORTH AND WEST (REAR) ELEVATION,
VIEWED FROM THE NORTHWEST

PHOTO NO

242

INT: 2983-75

242

Property

^{E.S.}
Ready, - Mayer House

Phillips Co.

760004 YJ

State Arkansas

Working Number 10.14.75.1801

TECHNICAL

Photos

2

Maps

1

CONTROL

pl

OK 10.20.75

HISTORIAN

Accept

E. Smith

11-28-75

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

1 Agree w/ name change

ACCEPT HUGAN
12/1/75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept

Cole

12.3.75

BRANCH CHIEF

accept

Hung

12.5.75

KEEPER

Acty
Greenberg
12/30/75

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

3.2-76

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

JAN 1 1976

INT:2106-74

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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JAN 1 1976

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ready ~~MAYER HOUSE~~

Ready, E.S. House

AND/OR COMMON

COMFORT THATCH

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

HELENA

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY

PHILLIPS

STATE

ARKANSAS

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LATOUR QUADRANGLE

SCALE

1:62,500

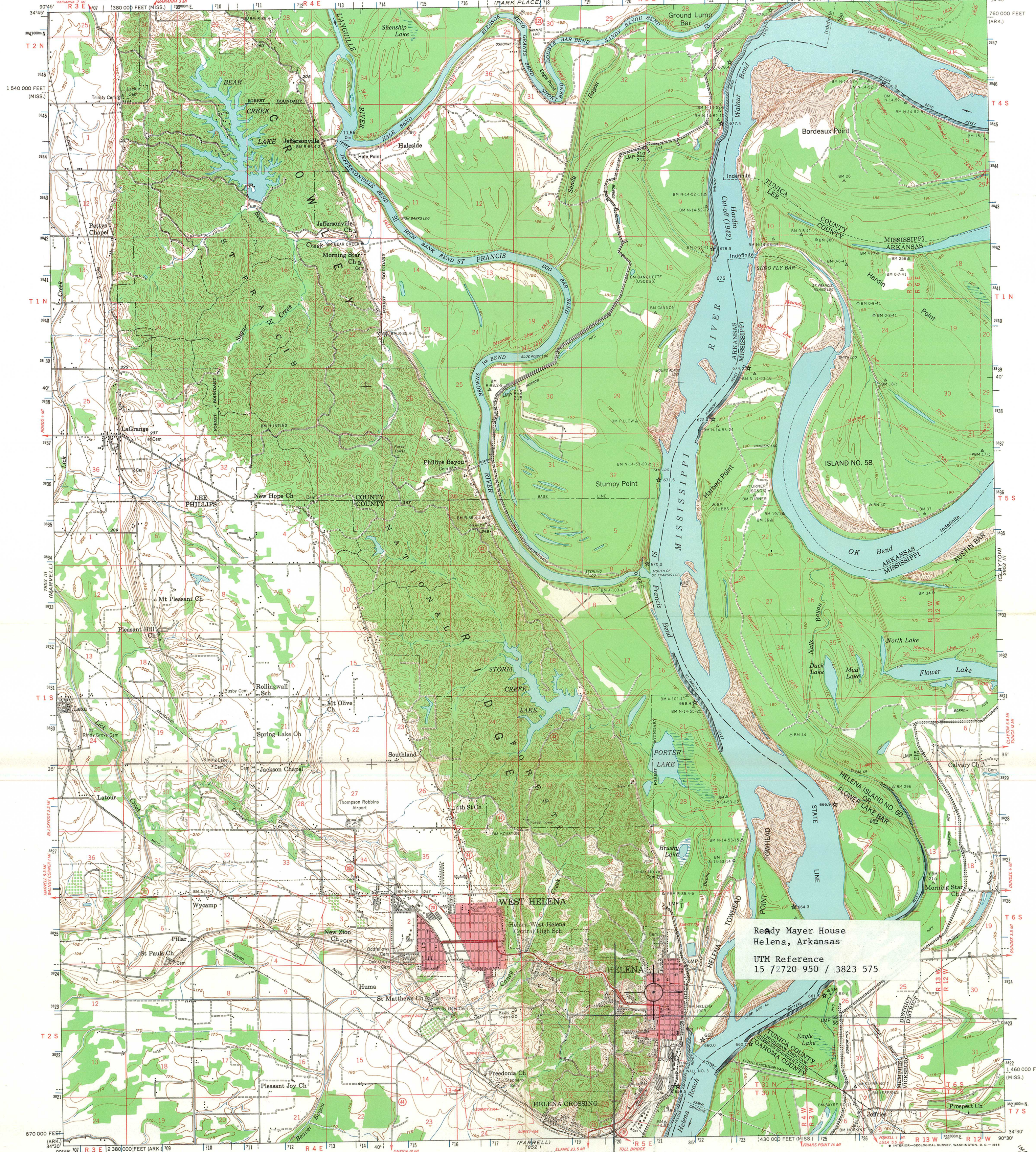
DATE

1961

4 REQUIREMENTS

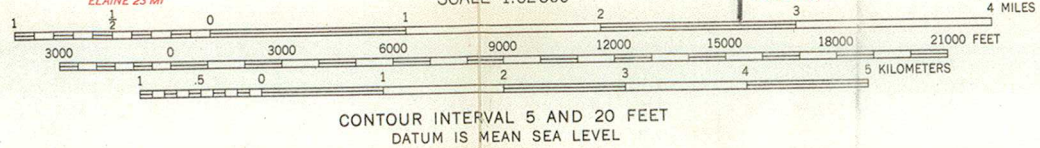
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



Ready Mayer House
Helena, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 72720 950 / 3823 575

Mapped and edited by the Mississippi River Commission
Published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1960, and planimetric surveys 1930-1949
and 1961. Field checked 1961.
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Arkansas coordinate system, south
zone, and Mississippi coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
State Route ———



LATOUR, ARK.-MISS.
N3430-W9030/15
1961
AMS 7853 II-SERIES V784

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242.
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,
AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION, VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered

JAN 1 1975

Name

Location

Dyess Colony Center

Dyess
Mississippi County

Ready, E. S., House

Helena
Phillips County

Also Notified

Hon. John I. McClellan
Hon. Dale Bumpers
Hon. Bill Alexander

Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director, Department of Natural
and Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR MMOTT: pl 1.14.75

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: **Ready, E.S., House** 2 OTHER NAMES: **Ready-Mayer House; Comfort-ell, Thatch** 3 date of entry: **1-1-76** 4 county code: **107**

5 LOCATION street & number **929 Beech St.** city / town **Helena** vicinity of **AR** state **AR** county **Phillips** 6 NPS REGION: **SW**

7 OWNER ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name) 8 ADMINISTRATOR: **SPHO**

9 EXISTING SURVEYS ☐ HABS ☐ NAER ☐ NHL 10 FUNDED? ☒ YES ☐ NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT **1st** 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state, who prepared form? **SPHO**

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ YES, NAME **Helena** 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? ☒ YES, NAME **Helena** 15 ACREAGE **41** 16 LOCAL ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION ☐

16 CONDITION ☒ excellent ☐ good ☐ fair ☐ deteriorated ☐ ruins ☐ unexposed ☐ unexcavated ☒ altered ☐ unaltered ☐ reconstructed ☐ excavated ☒ original site ☐ moved ☐ unknown

17 features: INTERIOR ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 EXTERIOR ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ENVIRONS ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ UNKNOWN-6 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS ☒ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE ☐ YES ☒ NO 20 SAVED? ☒ YES ☐ NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? ☒ yes ☐ no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ INVENTION-14 ☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ PHILOSOPHY-20 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25 ☐ RECREATION-28 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY) _____

22 CLAIMS: explain 'first' ☐ 'oldest' ☐ 'only' ☐

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: **PRIVATE RESIDENCE** CURRENTLY: **PRIVATE RESIDENCE** 24 dates of initial construction: **1910** major alterations: _____ historic events: _____ 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION _____

26 architectural style(s): **NEO-CLASSICAL REVIVAL** 27 architect: **CHARLES L. THOMPSON** 28 master builder: _____ 29 engineer: _____

30 landscape architect / garden designer: _____ 31 interior decorator: _____ 32 artist: _____ 33 artisan: _____ 34 builder/contractor: _____

35 NAMES give role & date PERSONAL:

EVENTS:

INSTITUTIONAL:

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP **Brick, painted; 2 1/2 stories, modified rectangle, gabled roof sections with wide eaves and dormers, front center entrance with side lights and wide fanlight, 2nd-story front center modified Palladian window set within large semi-elliptical arched light, 1-story entrance portico with paired Doric columns and balustraded deck, 1-story side and rear enclosed porches, balustraded front terrace. Neo-Classical Revival dwelling designed by prominent Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson.**