

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received OCT 10 1979

date entered DEC 13 1979

## 1. Name

historic Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

and/or common Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

## 2. Location

street & number 320 Rogers Avenue        not for publication

city, town Fort Smith        vicinity of        congressional district Third

state Arkansas code 05 county Sebastian code 131

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Old Commissary Museum Association, Inc.

street & number 111 Rogers Avenue

city, town Fort Smith        vicinity of        state Arkansas 72901

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk's Office

street & number Sebastian County Courthouse

city, town Fort Smith        vicinity of        state Arkansas 72901

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title        has this property been determined eligible?        yes        no

date               federal        state        county        local

depository for survey records       

city, town        state

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent

☒ good

☐ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

(slightly)

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Atkinson-Williams Warehouse represents a commercial-industrial design of architecture that attempts to soften the cold and sterile image many industrial structures project. The warehouse exterior is an example of classically-derived commercial structures common in the last years of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century which incorporated this historical design vocabulary into a bulky, yet functional, package. Elements of the Atkinson-Williams warehouse that characterize this style include a strong base, symmetrical elevations with well-lighted walls, brick revetments in the attic facade and a capping element, in this case the dentiled and bracketed cornice which terminates the north and east walls.

The building's primary facade faces the north end of a commercial block. A secondary facade faces east onto a side street. The elevations are faced in brick with limited stone trim for the window sills. String courses on the north and east elevations mark the four floors of the edifice. Both the north and east facades are divided into seven bays. The main entrance, on the north elevation, consists of two engaged columns and a set of double doors accented by beveled sidelights and transom. The south elevation was the receiving and shipping area. It consists of six large freight doors adjacent to railroad spurs. The convenience of the positioning made the warehouse the most modern facility in the Fort Smith wholesale district.

The interior of the structure provides broad expanses of open floor areas designed with a high live-load capacity that well suits the functional requirements of warehouse design. The floor and roof framing is constructed of heavy wood supported by steel columns on the first floor and by large wood columns on the remaining floors. The unusual feature of the building is the first floor display area's pressed tin ceiling.

The interior and exterior of the warehouse have undergone a few minor alterations. The railing which once outlined office space was removed in 1948 and replaced with oak paneling which created enclosed offices. On the exterior, the east elevation's windows were replaced in 1930 after the original panes were destroyed in a storm.

The edifice is still in its original condition and is structurally stable.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1906	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

**Specific dates** 1906 **Builder/Architect** Tillman T. Reddick

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1906 Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company warehouse is one of the few remaining early warehouses in Fort Smith. The edifice represents a period of prosperity and growth for the city and its major wholesale suppliers. The warehouse is significantly associated with Colonel Benjamin Atkinson and with W. Buckner Williams, established hardware businessmen in the Fort Smith area. The Atkinson-Williams Hardware Company became an important part of the evolving warehouse district in Fort Smith during the late nineteenth century and during the first decades of the twentieth century. The warehouse is one of three surviving warehouses in the Rogers Avenue district, the other two being constructed at a later date. It is only slightly altered and presents a style of construction that appeared, at the turn of the century, among commercial buildings in Fort Smith. The Atkinson-Williams Warehouse is representative of the increasing economic growth that occurred during this time period. This prosperity was exemplified by an increase in the output of goods and an increase in population. Part of the boom was contributed by the city's development as a railroad center and the opening and settlement of Oklahoma, Fort Smith being located on the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. Fort Smith constituted a distribution center for parts of the newly opened Oklahoma Territory (and later state), northern Texas, Indian Territory, and western Arkansas. This role as a distribution center was reflected in the growth of a warehouse district as wholesale suppliers grew in relation to the needs of the region. Atkinson and Williams, as a result of this prosperity, merged in 1900 as wholesale hardware distributors. Both were involved in the retail hardware business before 1900. Atkinson's father, John C. Atkinson, established a hardware store at Fort Smith in 1843. Williams, although not backed by such family tradition, had been operating retail stores at Hackett and Van Buren, Arkansas. The Atkinson-Williams Company was the exclusive distributor for John Deere, Oliver Chill and Studebaker agricultural equipment, as well as their own specialty brand of agricultural implements, AT-WILL.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### PRIMARY SOURCES

Abstract of Title (Abstract No. 19398, February 8, 1932, 8 a.m.). Made for  
Williams Hardware Company.

(Please See Continuation Sheet)

## 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fort Smith, Arkansas - Okla.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 15 370280 3916740  
Zone Easting Northing

B                    
Zone Easting Northing

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Fort Smith, District. Sebastian County Deed Records #220,  
Lot Seven (7) and Lot Eight (8), Block Five Hundred and Twelve (512),  
~~Reserve edition to the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas~~

### 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 Charlene Akers, Director, Old Commissary Museum / Don Brown, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date September 25, 1979

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Joan Williams Bartholomew*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 25, 1979

For HCRS use only

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

*Sally L. Decker*  
Keeper of the National Register *Chief of Regis*

date 12/13/79

Attest: *Kristin O'Connell*  
Chief of Registration

date 12/6/79



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 10 1979

DATE ENTERED

DEC 13 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

PRIMARY SOURCES (continued)

Arkansas City Directory - Little Rock, Hot Springs, Pine Bluff,  
Eureka Springs, and Fort Smith - 1881, p. 493

Fort Smith City Directories: 1894-1895, 1898, 1900, 1904, 1907, 1912-1913.

Atkinson, J.C., Ledger of, 1837-1854

Mr. Ray Cotton, Owner, Williams Automotive and Industrial Supply Company;  
Interview regarding history of Atkinson and Williams families and their  
businesses; January 10, 1979.

Mr. Ray Cotton, Owner, Williams Automotive and Industrial Supply Company;  
Interview regarding history of Atkinson and Williams families and their  
businesses; August 8, 1979.

Sebastian County Incorporation Book A, p. 200. Sebastian County Clerk's Office.

SECONDARY SOURCES

"History of Fort Smith 1817-1967," by J. Fred Patton; Southwest-Times Record-  
Sequicentennial Edition, pp. 7 and 10.

"Modernizing a 105-Year Old Business," Southern Hardware, pp. 90 and 94, April 1948.

"Prosperity Edition," Southwest American, April 29, 1919.

The Province and the States - Arkansas Biography, p. 412.

Property

Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

79000458

State

AR (Sebastian)

Working Number

10-10-79 2425

**TECHNICAL**

Photos

5

Maps

1,1

**CONTROL**

**HISTORIAN**

Handsome turn-of-the-century warehouse with classical  
stylistic features. Oldest remaining in this trade center; retains  
high degree of integrity

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

Accept  
O'Connell  
12/6/79

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_

Send-back \_\_\_\_\_

Entered DEC 13 1979

Federal Register Entry

2-3-81

Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_





Atkinson-Williams Warehouse  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
Bob Dunn  
1979

*Sebastian County*

Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

East and north elevations viewed  
from the northeast

#1

OCT 10 1979

DEC 13 1979



ATKINSON - WILLIAMS



Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

Fort Smith, Arkansas

Bob Dunn

1979

Sebastian County

Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

Main entrance on the north elevati  
viewed from the north

#2

OCT 10 1979

DEC 13 1979





Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

Fort Smith, Arkansas

Bob Dunn

1979

SEBASTIAN County

Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program

West and south elevations viewed  
from the southwest

#3

OCT 10 1979

DEC 13 1979





Atkinson-Williams Warehouse  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

Bob Dunn

1979

Sebastian County

Arkansas Historic Preservation

Program

Interior of the first floor

#4

OCT 10 1979

DEC 13 1979





Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

Fort Smith, Arkansas

Bob Dunn

1979

Arkansas Historic Preservation

Program

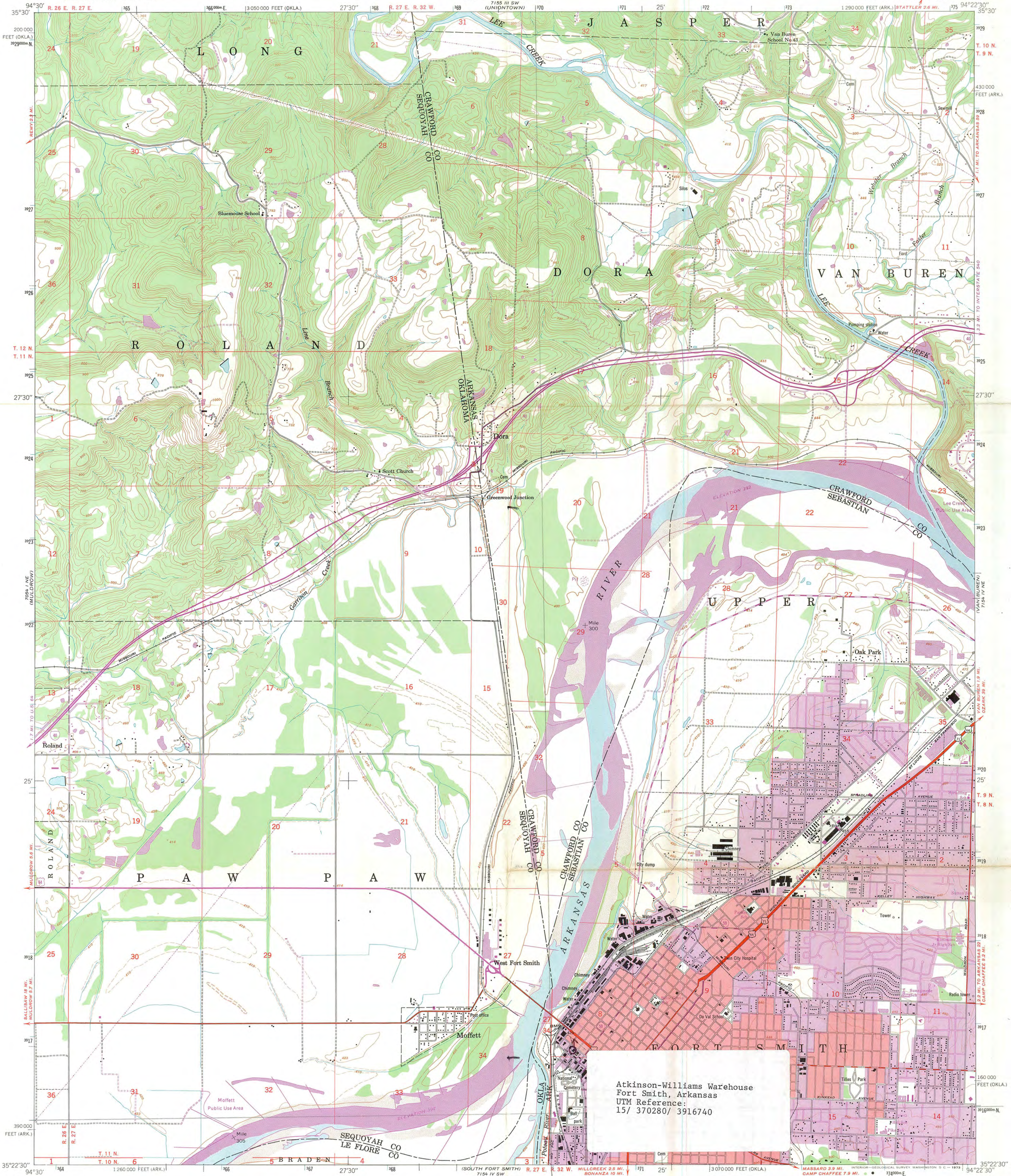
Interior of the second Floor

#5

OCT 10 1979

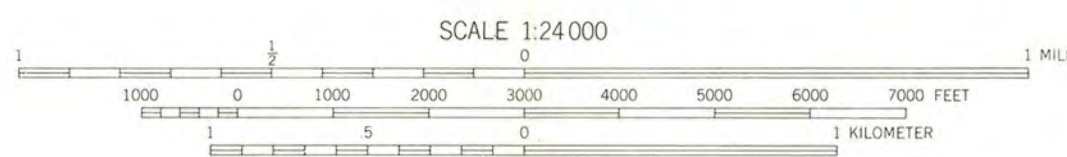
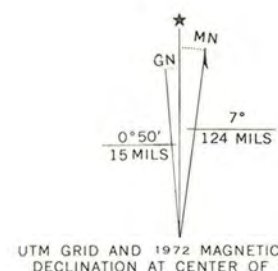
DEC 13 1979





Atkinson-Williams Warehouse  
Fort Smith, Arkansas  
UTM Reference:  
15/ 370280/ 3916740

Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by CE, USGS, and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1946. Field check 1947  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Arkansas coordinate system,  
north zone and Oklahoma coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown  
No distinction is made between dwellings, barns  
commercial, and industrial buildings



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DASHED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

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 COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201,  
AND OKLAHOMA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, NORMAN, OKLAHOMA 73069  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
○ Interstate Route ○ U. S. Route ○ State Route

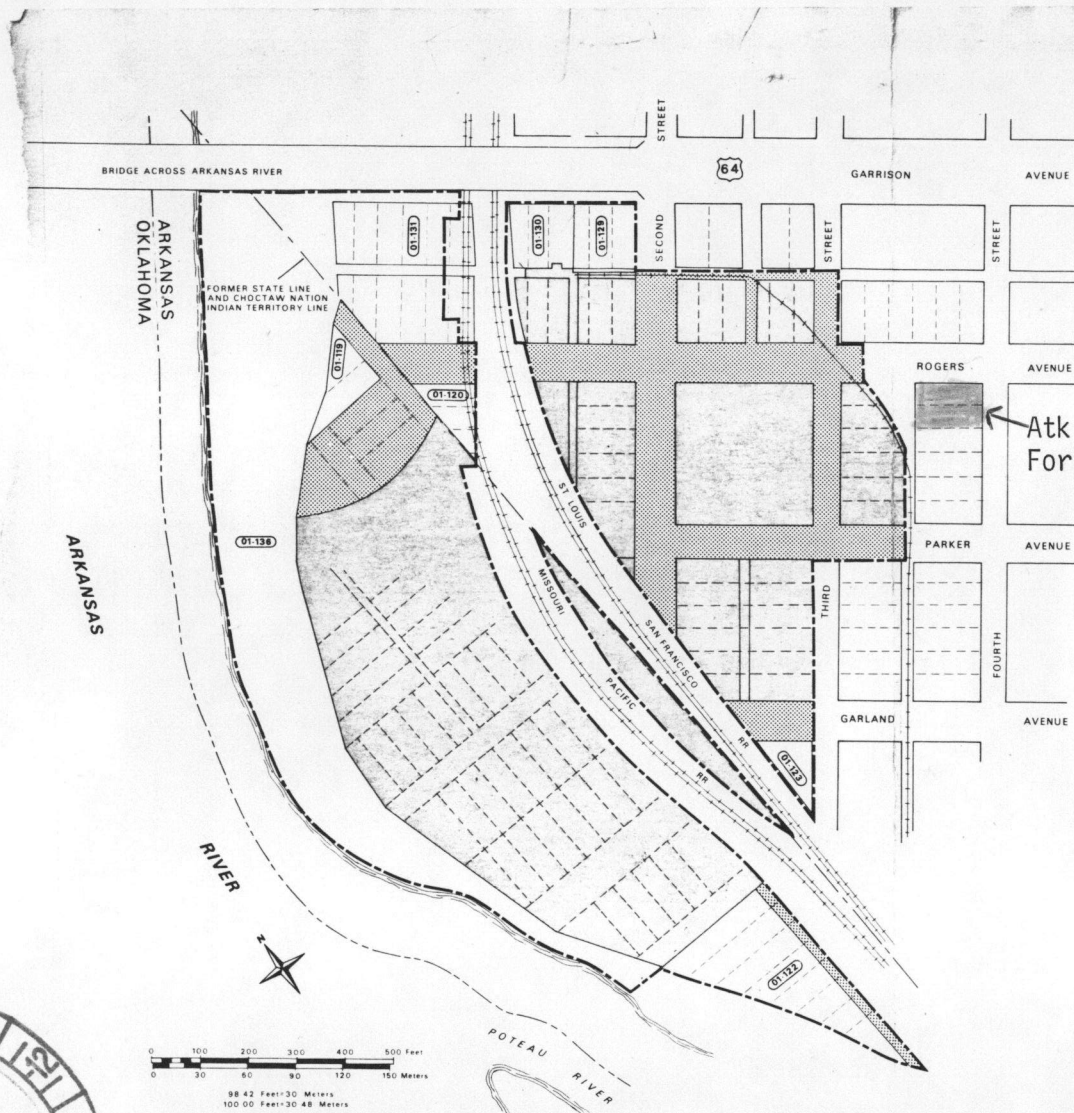
FORT SMITH, ARK.—OKLA.  
NW 1/4 VAN BUREN 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3522.5—W9422.5/7.5

1947

PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 7154 IV NW—SERIES V884







TRACT NO.	OWNER	APPROX. ACRES
01-136	D. MIKE, et al	9.54
01-119	OKLAHOMA GAS & ELECTRIC CO.	0.30
01-120	BELLE POINT BEVERAGE CO.	0.28
01-122	FORGINGS, INC.	1.30
01-123	J. S. LEWIS	0.21
01-129	MITCHELL & ASSOCIATES	0.42
01-130	J.T. WILLIAMS, et al	0.70
01-131	BELLE POINT BEVERAGE CO.	1.68

Atkinson-Williams Building, 320 Rogers Ave.  
Fort Smith, Arkansas

#### LEGEND

- HISTORIC SITE BOUNDARY
- FEDERAL LAND
- CITY LAND
- PRIVATE LAND
- 01-120 TRACT NUMBER

#### LANDOWNERSHIP

FORT SMITH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE  
ARKANSAS



DEC 13 1979

From Fort Smith National Historic Site; General Management Plan, Development Concept Plan, Interpretive Plan, September 1978, p. 21.



## ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building · Markham and Main · Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Phone: (501) 371-2763

September 28, 1979

Mr. Charles Herrington  
Acting Keeper of the National Register  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Herrington:

As State Historic Preservation Officer for Arkansas I have directed the preparation and submission of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places of the following properties:

Atkinson-Williams Warehouse  
Janssen Park

The Arkansas State Review Committee has reviewed and approved each of these nominations prior to their submission to your office. I hereby certify that the Old Commissary Museum Association, Inc. and the City of Mena listed in Section 4 of the nominations are the legal owners of the properties.

Sincerely,

Joan Williams Baldrige  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JWB/fb

Enclosures



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered DEC 13 1979

Name

Location

( Atkinson-Williams Warehouse

Fort Smith  
Sebastian County

Janssen Park

Mena  
Polk County

Also Notified

Honorable David H. Pryor

Honorable Dale Bumpers

Honorable John P. Hammerschmidt

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Ms. Joan Baldrige  
Director, Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program  
Suite 500, Continental Building  
Markham and Main Streets  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

( NR Byers/bjr 12/19/79