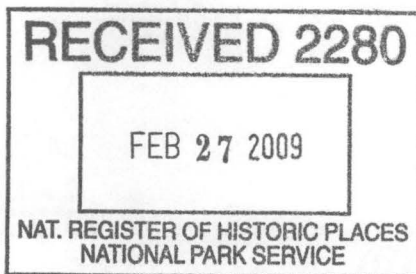


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



081333

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 Hamburg Commercial Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 100-200 block E. Adams; 100 block N. Mulberry; 201 S. Mulberry; 201 and 205 N. Main Street ☐ not for publication

City or town Hamburg ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Ashley code 003 zip code 71646

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.)

Catherine Thacker
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/25/09
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

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:) _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

3/23/2009
Date of Action

Hamburg Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Ashley 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

15

9

buildings

1 (Town Square)

sites

structures

objects

15

10

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store, Restaurant, Financial
Institution

Social: Meeting Hall

Government: Post Office

Domestic: Hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store, Restaurant, Professional,
Restaurant

Social: Meeting Hall

Government: Post Office

Domestic: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements:

Commercial Style

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival

Early Republic: Federal

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete, Brick

walls Brick, Stucco, Metal, Wood

roof Asphalt, Metal

other

Narrative Description

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

See Continuation Sheets, Section 7

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Hamburg Commercial Historic District is being submitted for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criteria A and C**. The proposed district is roughly a two-block area facing the Town Square and portions of two other blocks located just off of the square. This area has historically always been the commercial core of the city and still retains the largest concentration of historic commercial buildings in Hamburg. The district possesses a strong sense of integrity with a total of twenty-four buildings facing a city block, formerly occupied by the Ashley County Courthouse (razed late 1960s), now known as the Town Square. Of the twenty-four buildings and the Town Square, fifteen (62%) contribute to the historic significance of the district. Although only one building was constructed after the period of significance (1908-1959), there are nine considered non-contributing. The historic character of the majority of the historic non-contributing buildings has been disguised through application of aluminum or other non-historic material to the upper wall of their facades.

The buildings in the district are brick, early twentieth-century commercial structures, eighteen (75%) of which were constructed before 1920. This collection of historic commercial buildings situated around a Town Square, validate the Hamburg Commercial Historic District's period of significance by documenting the development and growth of the city from 1908 to 1959.

ELABORATION

Hamburg, Arkansas, is located in Ashley County in southeast Arkansas. It is part of both the Mississippi Alluvial and West Gulf Coastal plains. The eastern part of the county is located in the Mississippi River Delta where soil is rich and significant crops of cotton, rice and soybeans are grown. The western part of the county is comprised of upland forests and since the late nineteenth century, has been a statewide center in the lumber industry.

Hamburg is located in the approximate geographic center of Ashley County and its economic base is divided between agriculture and forestry. Hamburg was chosen as the county seat and laid out in 1849, two months after the formation of Ashley County. The site was in part chosen because Ashley County legislation required that the county seat be within five miles of its geographic center.

The city contains 3.4 square miles at an elevation of 174 feet. The town is flat and laid out in a traditional grid pattern. Streets radiate out from the Town Square, formerly the Courthouse Square. Hamburg was platted around the first Ashley County Courthouse, a log building constructed in 1849. The second courthouse, constructed in 1905, was destroyed by fire in 1921. The third courthouse, a three-story brick building, was constructed in 1923 and used until the late 1960s when it was demolished and the current Ashley County Courthouse was built two blocks to the northeast. As described in The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas with introduction by Elliott West, "Hamburg, seat of Ashley County, is built around a three-story buff-brick courthouse in the middle of the town square, fenced by low iron pickets." Although there is no

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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courthouse on the square, it continues to serve as the heart of the city as a grassy park with gazebo and benches where annual public events occur.

The Hamburg Commercial Historic District includes buildings on the city's Main Street, or U.S. Highways 425 and 82, on the west side of the square. Other streets facing the square, N. Mulberry, E. Adams/City Hall, and E. Lincoln are broad, allowing ample room for traffic lanes and diagonal parking in front of buildings and around the Town Square.

The buildings in the Hamburg Commercial District reflect the largest period of growth in the city between 1900 and 1920, as early frame commercial buildings were lost to fire and substantial brick buildings were constructed in their place. Of the twenty-four buildings in the district, eighteen (75%) were built in the first two decades of the twentieth-century. Buildings in the district are brick, mostly one-story and are of simple vernacular commercial design. Most of the buildings have minimal detail.

100 Block E. Adams/City Hall Street

There are five buildings in this block, which faces the north side of the Town Square. All are brick, one or one and one-half story buildings. The most architecturally detailed building in the Hamburg Commercial Historic District is the Farmer's Bank Building at 101 E. Adams. Constructed in 1919, this Classical Revival style brick building features center double doors with a semi-circular fanlight transom. The one-story building also features Classical headers on front brick pilasters and a dentiled cast concrete cornice.

The building at 103 E. Adams, although constructed c.1911, is considered non-contributing due to the application of a wood shingle upper front wall and awning. Buildings at 105 and 111 E. Adams, both built c. 1911, exhibit their original character on upper front brick walls. Bands of brick and rectangular metal grates provide the architectural interest in the buildings. The Foot's Drug Store Building on the corner of E. Adams and N. Mulberry has been covered in aluminum on its front and east corner and bears little resemblance to its original appearance.

203 E. Adams

The United States Post Office at 203 E. Adams was constructed in 1937 as a part of the governmental buildings built by the U. S. Treasury during the Great Depression years of the 1930s. The building was designed by Louis A. Simon, the U. S. Treasury's supervising architect who was responsible for design of many of the federal post offices constructed in this era. The Hamburg Post Office occupies an entire city block off the northeast corner of the Town Square. The Adam style characteristics of the building include the symmetrical façade and distinctive center door with pediment and columns flanked by narrow sidelights and eagle medallion in the recessed fanlight space above the door. Curving steps with metal handrail accesses the front door. A characteristic Adam style cupola is centered on the roof of the T-shaped brick building. The minimal detail used in building design in the late 1930s is reflected in the close rake eaves with a small

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band of dentiling at the cornice line. The Hamburg Post Office appears much as it did at the time of its construction in 1937 and continues to be used as the city's post office.

100 Block N. Mulberry Street

Six brick buildings, all built around 1910, line the east side of the Town Square on N. Mulberry Street. The Sawyer Drug Store at 100 N. Mulberry is a one and one-half story building on the corner of N. Mulberry and E. Lincoln Streets. The building features a largely unaltered first floor storefront with recessed, center door flanked by plate glass windows. Currently a restaurant, the building's two-story flat roof porch provides mezzanine level outdoor dining space. Decorative pilasters flank the front of the building while the original center rise parapet remains. Other buildings in this 100 block of N. Mulberry have been covered with false fronts and are considered non-contributing.

201 N. Mulberry Street

The Bankston Building at 201 N. Mulberry, a block off of the southeast corner of the square, was constructed in 1914 as a printing shop. Located on the corner of N. Mulberry and E. Polk Streets, the building features a beveled corner entry with plate glass windows on the west and north front corners. The one-story brick building also features a recessed brick panel with decorative brick pattern on the upper wall of the west elevation.

200 Block E. Lincoln Street

The 200 block of E. Lincoln, just off of the southeast corner of the square, contains six buildings, all of which retain their historic appearance. The Watson Hardware Company Building at 200 E. Lincoln was constructed c. 1913 and retains its original elements including storefront with center, recessed entry flanked by plate glass display windows with transoms. The building at 204 E. Lincoln is a simple one-story brick building with three storefronts. Smaller but similarly simple brick commercial buildings at 206, 208 and 210 E. Lincoln retain their historic character. The two-story brick building at 210 E. Lincoln was constructed c.1927 and features cast concrete banding around the parapet. On the rear lot of the building at 208 E. Lincoln a c.1990 freestanding metal building is located at 200 E. Polk.

201 & 205 N. Main Street

The LaGrone Drug Store Building at 201 N. Main Street is located on the busy corner of N. Main and E. Adams Street on the northwest corner of the Town Square. Constructed c. 1917, the building features a beveled corner entry and decorative recessed brick panels with brick patterned cornice on the north elevation. Next door at 205 N. Main Street, a one-story brick building, constructed c.1947, features an unaltered, but boarded storefront.

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Integrity

The Hamburg Commercial Historic District is a cohesive group of buildings that maintain the integrity necessary to convey their architectural and historic significance. The buildings still retain their original setbacks and configurations in their setting on or near the Town Square. This collection of twenty-four buildings and the Town Square, 75% of which were constructed between 1900 and 1920, retain the integrity of their original design and setting, displaying historic materials used in their construction as well as the attention to detail that validates the workmanship used when built.

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PROPERTY LIST

Hamburg Commercial Historic District

<u>Property</u>	<u>Construction Date</u>	<u>Contributing/Non-Contributing</u>
Town Square	n/a	
201 N. Main	c.1917	Contributing
205 N. Main	c.1947	Contributing
200 E. Polk	c.1990	Non-Contributing
100 N. Mulberry	c.1910	Non-Contributing
102 N. Mulberry	c.1910	Non-Contributing
104 N. Mulberry	c.1910	Non-Contributing
106 N. Mulberry	c.1910	Contributing
108 N. Mulberry	c.1910	Non-Contributing
110 N. Mulberry	c.1912	Non-Contributing
201 S. Mulberry	c.1914	Contributing
101 E. Adams	1919	Contributing
103 E. Adams	c.1911	Non-Contributing
105 E. Adams	c.1911	Contributing
111 E. Adams	c.1911	Contributing
109 E. Adams	c.1911	Non-Contributing
203 E. Adams	1937	Contributing
100 block W. Adams	c.1948	Contributing
200 E. Lincoln	c.1913	Contributing
204 E. Lincoln	c.1913	Contributing
206 E. Lincoln	c.1915	Contributing
208 E. Lincoln	c.1908	Contributing
210 E. Lincoln	c.1927	Contributing
212 E. Lincoln	c.1917	Contributing
211 E. Lincoln	1955;1961	Non-Contributing

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

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

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Community Planning & Development

Period of Significance

1908 – 1959

Significant Dates

1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Louis A. Simon, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

See Continuation Sheets, Section 8

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

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

See Continuation Sheet, Section 9

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ 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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Record # _____

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SUMMARY

Located in Ashley County in southeast Arkansas, the Hamburg Commercial Historic District is comprised of twenty-four buildings surrounding a center Town Square. The majority (75%) of the buildings in the district were constructed between 1908 and 1920; fifteen (62%) contributing resources and nine (38%) non-contributing resources. Throughout the years, much of Hamburg's political and economic activity has taken place in the downtown commercial area that comprises the proposed historic district. The district is being nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, with **local significance**, under **Criteria A and C**, with a **period of significance** spanning **1908 to 1959**.

ELABORATION

Hamburg, the County Seat of Ashley County, Arkansas, is situated close to the geographic center of the county where the lands of the Mississippi Alluvial and the West Gulf Coast plains meet. Ashley County was established on November 30, 1848, when the Arkansas Legislature removed land from Chicot, Drew, and Union counties, creating the fifty-third county in the state. The rich soil in the eastern part of the county supported large plantations initially cultivating cotton, later rice and soybeans. Many of the plantation owners maintained a residence in Hamburg and visited their farms when dry roads permitted. The western portion of the county was primarily thick upland forest. Early settlers turned this resource into a regional lumber center with related industries such as the Crossett Lumber Company, later Georgia-Pacific Corporation which grew to own more than 800,000 acres in Arkansas and Louisiana. The lumber company built the town of Crossett, twelve miles southwest of Hamburg, which became the place of business and residence for the population of the western part of the county employed in the timber industry.

Hamburg, platted in 1849 to be the county seat just months after the creation of Ashley County, remains today almost as it was originally laid out. The downtown business area is formed around a large square with the Town Square at its center. Three different county courthouses have stood in the Town Square. Even though the last Ashley County Courthouse was demolished in the late 1960s, the Town Square remains the hub of the downtown business area. In platting the town, the depth of the first row of blocks west of Main Street was shortened to allow for a broad Main Street. This planning allowed for future major roads, U.S. Highway 82 and State Highway 81 (now U.S. Highway 425), to conveniently pass through downtown without disturbing the original integrity of the city's commercial district.

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Listed among the earliest citizens were two merchants, two saloon-keepers, two lawyers, one school teacher, and a sheriff. The large farms east of Hamburg are what drove its early economy. The area boasts of the oldest man-made mound in Arkansas. The Wilmot Mound is estimated to date from about 1,500 B.C. This evidence of early settlement attests to the richness of the soil and the abundance of resources and game that made the region suitable for farmsteads and villages some 3,500 years ago. Early European settlers were drawn to the area because of the same favorable conditions.

The population of Ashley Country grew 400% from 2,058 to 8,590 in just ten years between 1850 and 1860. But the continuing Civil War brought an end to the growth boom. Farms failed, businesses failed, and many young men left to join the Confederate Army. A Hamburg attorney, Van H. Manning, organized the Third Arkansas Infantry. His infantry fought major battles throughout the war with Robert E. Lee's Army of North Virginia, including defending Devil's Den at the battle of Gettysburg. The Third Arkansas Infantry surrendered April 12, 1865.

The years following the Civil War were hard all across the south, and in Ashley County, farmers struggling get out their first or second harvest since the war's end were hit hard when cotton prices dropped from \$0.27 per pound to \$0.11. The next year the cotton crop failed completely. In Ashley County disappointment and dissension flared to a level that Governor Powell Clayton declared the county to be in "a state of insurrection." He enacted Martial law in 1868 and dispatched troops to occupy Hamburg. Little to no growth or improvements occurred in the years to follow until a new state constitution was adopted in 1874. Ashley County farmers returned to their land. Commerce and business returned to Hamburg.

By the 1880s the businesses listed on the square were Dean and Cone, General Mdse ; E. D. Watson; J. H. Pryor Drugs; W. F. McCombs; E. A. Scott Livery stable; and A. H. Wilson and later Wilson and Kittrell. The buildings around the square at this time were wood frame. Late in the 1880s a fire burned the businesses on south side of the square. Both businesses rebuilt using brick construction. Other business interest began replacing their frame buildings with substantial brick buildings.

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Hamburg's first school was in a two-story frame building to the west of the Courthouse and had grown to 150 students by 1889. The school continued to grow and attract new teachers until 1895 when in a dispute over who should be the next principal divided the town and the school. The opposition set up a separate school in a rented home closer to downtown. After months of disagreement the issue had to be settled in court. Two years later school opened once again in the old schoolhouse.

Transportation was always an important factor in the growth of Ashley County and Hamburg. In the early years of settlement, goods were received and lumber and cotton were shipped out on three different waterways. Products were first hauled by wagon to Gaines Landing for transportation on the Mississippi River, or to the Marie Saline Landing to reach the Ouachita River, or to Portland for Bayou Bartholomew. By the late 1880s new railroad lines had reached Warren and Monticello, twenty-nine miles north of Hamburg. Then the rail line from Little Rock was extended in 1889 to the town of Portland only nineteen miles to the east of Hamburg. An attempt to bring a railroad to Hamburg began in mid 1890s when a New York financier, D. C. Corbin, proposed a line from his 10,000 acre plantation in the eastern part of Ashley County to Hamburg. However, Corbin was killed in an accident while surveying the proposed route and the project was abandoned.

When it seemed that the railroad would bypass Hamburg, a group of businessmen formed an organization through which they could contribute land for the use of building a railroad line into Hamburg. A Colorado man, J. M. Parker, with his recently acquired fortune from the Cripple Creek gold strike came to Hamburg and liked the businessmen's proposal. He organized the Mississippi River, Hamburg, and Western Railroad Company. Construction of his rail line began in the spring 1898. When completed in 1899, the rails connected Hamburg to the major north-south Iron Mountain Railroad Line, Lake Village and the Mississippi River.

According to the records of the Hamburg newspaper the *Eagle*, in the first two years of the twentieth-century, 150 new homes were built, five new brick business were erected in the downtown area, and a million dollar sawmill was in construction. Businessmen brought Hamburg its first exposure to ice in the summertime when they opened an icehouse in 1901. Ice sold for one dollar per hundred pounds. The next year, to add to its customers' comfort one of

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the drugstores on the square not only served ice, but installed ceiling fans powered by a gasoline engine. Businesses and residents took advantage of the new telephone switchboard system beginning operation in 1902. Theatrical companies came to town to perform at the Hamburg Opera House located on the second floor of J. J. Deans' store on Main Street, north of the square.

Times were so good by 1903 that the salary of the Hamburg postmaster was increased 30% for the year. The citizens of Hamburg voted a portion of the town's revenue be allocated for the building of a new school. In 1903 construction on a new brick schoolhouse began with a grand ceremony on the Town Square and a parade to the new school campus. In February of that year notice for bids for the construction of a new courthouse were issued. The log courthouse constructed in the square in 1849 had become inadequate to take care of the booming business in Ashley County.

Three sawmills, Hamburg Sawmill Company, Obannon Lumber Company, and Julian's Sawmill Company operated in and around Hamburg by the end of 1903, along with a new brick yard located at the end Lincoln Street. Charles W. Weiss opened the first bakery in town offering brick oven baked bread to many of the people of Hamburg for the first time. A new Catholic Church was built and dedicated in August 1903. The survey for a new rail line from Hamburg to Crossett was completed March of 1903. By 1904 Hamburg had a scheduled five arrivals or departures a day on the new line, the Mississippi River, Hamburg, and Western Railroad.

The new Ashley County Courthouse was completed in 1905. The two-story brick building stood on the same site as the first courthouse in the center of the Town Square. A four-sided clock was donated by local jeweler, W. C. McDermott, and placed in front of the new courthouse. This courthouse stood until the 1921 when it burned.

Even as the timber industry grew in Ashley County, cotton remained the major export. With cotton prices reaching a high by 1907, the town of Hamburg provided a lot for the Farmers Union to construct a warehouse for storing cotton during periods of price fall-off. During the same time the town held a mass meeting with J. W. Parker, who had built the Mississippi River, Hamburg, and Western Railroad, to discuss the possibility of constructing a new rail line from Hamburg to Monroe, Louisiana. With the increasing number of jobs in the public sector and

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industry, a labor shortage developed across Ashley County. Although the large cotton plantations were growing, many young men left the small family farms for the new jobs in town.

The year 1908 saw the arrival of the first moving picture show put on at the opera house and the completion of Hamburg's newest rail line the Arkansas, Louisiana, and Gulf Railroad from Hamburg to Monroe, Louisiana. To celebrate, the first run of the new rail line carried six coach cars filled with Hamburg citizens to Monroe, Louisiana, where they were treated to a baseball game, and barbeque. Also in 1908, two new industries opened in Hamburg, a planing mill and a glove factory. However, the most excitement generated was over the opening of the "Air Dome," constructed on the west side of the square. Electric lights were installed and the best instruments were used to ensure the public experienced complete entertainment with the best attraction in motion pictures. During the early years of the twentieth century, cotton was still the main crop, but different crops were being tried. Two train car loads of Irish potatoes were shipped out of Hamburg in 1908 and in 1909 a land owner grew ten acres of rice with good results despite not having sufficient water.

Hamburg continued to grow and advance the quality of life for its citizens. In 1910 concrete sidewalks were added to the north and east side of the square. The local newspaper, the *Eagle*, called for extension of the concrete sidewalks to the nearby school and the churches. A water and light improvement district was formed to include all of Hamburg in 1910. A fire on the east side of the square in April 1910 destroyed three frame buildings, but brick buildings were quickly constructed in their place. A growth spurt in the downtown took place in 1910 and 1911 with construction of brick store buildings on the north side of the square. There were three banks in Hamburg in 1910, the Farmers Bank and Trust, Hamburg Bank, and the Ashley County Bank which was established in 1894 by an Iowa man, who later sold it to local merchants. The Hamburg Bank was located on the east side of the square and the Ashley County Bank stood on the south side of the square.

With a solid business district, two railroad lines and the coming of two highways, US Hwy 82 and State Hwy 81 passing through the business district, Hamburg was set to prosper on through the 1920s. But as the highway system became the main mode of transportation, Hamburg's rail line the Arkansas, Louisiana, and Gulf Railroad became more unprofitable. It was forced to close

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and was later dismantled. The Mississippi River, Hamburg, and West Railroad Company soon followed the same path. The farm-lumber based economy of the Hamburg area suffered greatly during the depression era that followed the devastating "Flood of 1927". Through it all Hamburg maintained its sense of a small friendly town centered around a consistent and unifying Town Square.

With the decline of small family-owned farming interests in Southeast Arkansas and the general decline of the Delta region, Hamburg has remained steady as the governmental and commercial center of Ashley County.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hamburg Commercial Historic District is being nominated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for the development and growth of the city around a Town Square that that was part of the original 1849 plat of the town. The district is the most cohesive collection of historic commercial buildings at the core of Hamburg. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** for its simple vernacular commercial architecture that reflects a type, period and method of construction. The historic built environment of this district retains its architectural integrity and contributes to the district's period of significance that spans from 1908 to 1959. Throughout Hamburg's history, the commercial center of the city has remained in its original location surrounding the Town Square.

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Section number 9 Page 1

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Sawyer's Restaurant, 100 N. Mulberry, Hamburg, AR. Framed photographs with captions.

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Hamburg Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Ashley County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 7.346 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 612072 3677003
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See Continuation Sheet 10-1

Boundary Justification

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

See Continuation Sheet 10-1

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sandra Taylor Smith, Preservation Consultant, Edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coord.

organization Prepared For: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 27, 2008

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787

city or town Little Rock State Arkansas zip code 72201

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 Owners

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point on the northeast corner of E. Jefferson and N. Cherry Streets, the boundary of the Hamburg Commercial Historic District runs due south along the center line of N. Cherry Street to its intersection with E. Lincoln Street at which point the street becomes S. Cherry. The boundary runs due south along S. Cherry Street to its intersection with E. Polk Street. At this intersection the boundary turns and runs west along the centerline of E. Polk Street to the northeast corner of the property at 201 S. Mulberry Street. The boundary then turns to run south along the property line of 201 S. Mulberry, turning to run east, then west along the property line said building. At the northwestern corner of the property line of 201 S. Mulberry the boundary runs north along the center line of S. Mulberry Street to its intersection with E. Lincoln Street. At E. Lincoln and S. Mulberry, the boundary turns and runs west along the centerline of E. Lincoln Street to its intersection with N. Main Street. At this point the boundary turns and runs north along the centerline of N. Main Street to its intersection with W. Adams Street. The boundary turns to run west along W. Adams Street to N. Elm Street. At this point the boundary turns and runs north to the centerline of the block where it turns to run east along the rear property line of the building at the corner of the 100 block of W. Adams and N. Elm Street, then east along the property line of the building at 205 N. Main to its intersection with N. Main Street. At this intersection, the boundary turns and runs north along the centerline of N. Main to its intersection with E. Jefferson Street. At N. Main and E. Jefferson Street, the boundary turns and runs due east along E. Jefferson Street to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Hamburg Commercial Historic District includes contiguous and intact historic resources at the center of Hamburg's commercial area whose original functions were commercial and governmental in nature. The buildings in the historic district document Hamburg from 1908 through the 1950s. These resources, which surround the Town Square (location of former Ashley County Courthouses 1849-1960s), in conjunction with the streets and lots upon which they are located, provide an excellent picture of the development of Hamburg. The boundaries of the district encompass a large part of the area that has always been Hamburg's commercial core and highlights those buildings that possess the integrity to portray Hamburg's commercial development during the twentieth century.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Hamburg Commercial Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ashley

DATE RECEIVED: 12/12/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/31/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/15/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/25/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001333

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

____ ACCEPT X RETURN ____ REJECT 1/23/2009 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See Attached Comments

(no Fed notification)

RECOM./CRITERIA

Return
[Signature]

REVIEWER

[Signature]

DISCIPLINE

Arch

TELEPHONE

DATE

1/23/2009

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 National Park Service.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Evaluation/Return Sheet

Property Name: Hamburg Commercial Historic District, Ashley County,
AR

Reference Number: 08001333

Reason for Return

This nomination is being returned for procedural error and technical revision.

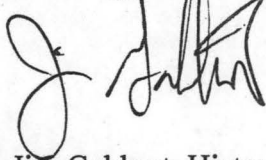
The Hamburg Commercial Historic District contains a US Post Office. There is no indication that the Federal Preservation Officer for the USPS was contacted regarding nomination of the Post Office as part of the district. Please provide a copy of the letter of notification.

The acreage of the district is cited as "less than one" in Section 10. Please recalculate and provide a more accurate acreage.

The district is nominated under Criterion C (as well as A), but the most architecturally significant building in the district, the Post Office, is not depicted in any photographs. While it is not necessary to provide one when this nomination is resubmitted, please refer to NR Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, page 64, for guidelines on what to include. Note that photographic coverage should include "major building types and styles, pivotal buildings and structures..." either in individual photographs or represented in streetscapes.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this nomination and hope that you find these comments useful. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I can be reached at (202) 354-2275 or email at <James_Gabbert@nps.gov>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gabbert', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Jim Gabbert, Historian
National Register of Historic Places
1/23/09

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Hamburg Commercial Historic District

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Ashley

DATE RECEIVED: 2/27/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 4/12/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001333

DETAILED EVALUATION:

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/23/2009 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Addressed Return Comments.

*Locally Significant Commercial district centered on open town square.
It has good examples of early 20th Century Commercial buildings. Served as
Commercial Center for County.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept AHC

REVIEWER J. G. Galt

DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 3/23/2009

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



1. HAMBURG TOWN SQUARE - 100 BLOCK E. ADAMS (LEFT) 100 BLOCK N. MULBERRY (RIGHT)

HAMBURG COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

2. Ashley Cty., AR

3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith

4. 2-17-08

5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP

6. View Looking North East

7. Photo #1



1. 100 BLOCK E. ADAMS STREET
HAMBURG Commercial Historic District
2. Ashley Cty., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 2-17-08
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. View looking northwest
7. photo #2



1. 201, 205 N. MAIN STREET
HAMBURG Commercial Historic District
2. Ashley Cty, AR
3. photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 2-17-68
5. VIEW LOOKING Northwest
6. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
7. Photo #3



1. TOWN SQUARE & 100 BLOCK E. ADAMS STREET
HAMBURG COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
2. Ashley Cty., AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 2-17-08
5. negative at AHP
6. view looking north
7. photo # 4



1. 100 Block N. Mulberry Street
Hamburg Commercial Historic District
2. Ashley Cty., AR
3. photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 2-17-08
5. NEGATIVE AT AHP
6. View Looking Northeast
7. photo #5



1. 200 Block E. LINCOLN STREET
HAMBURG Commercial Historic District
2. Ashley Cty., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 2-17-68
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPD
6. View Looking Southeast
7. Photo #6

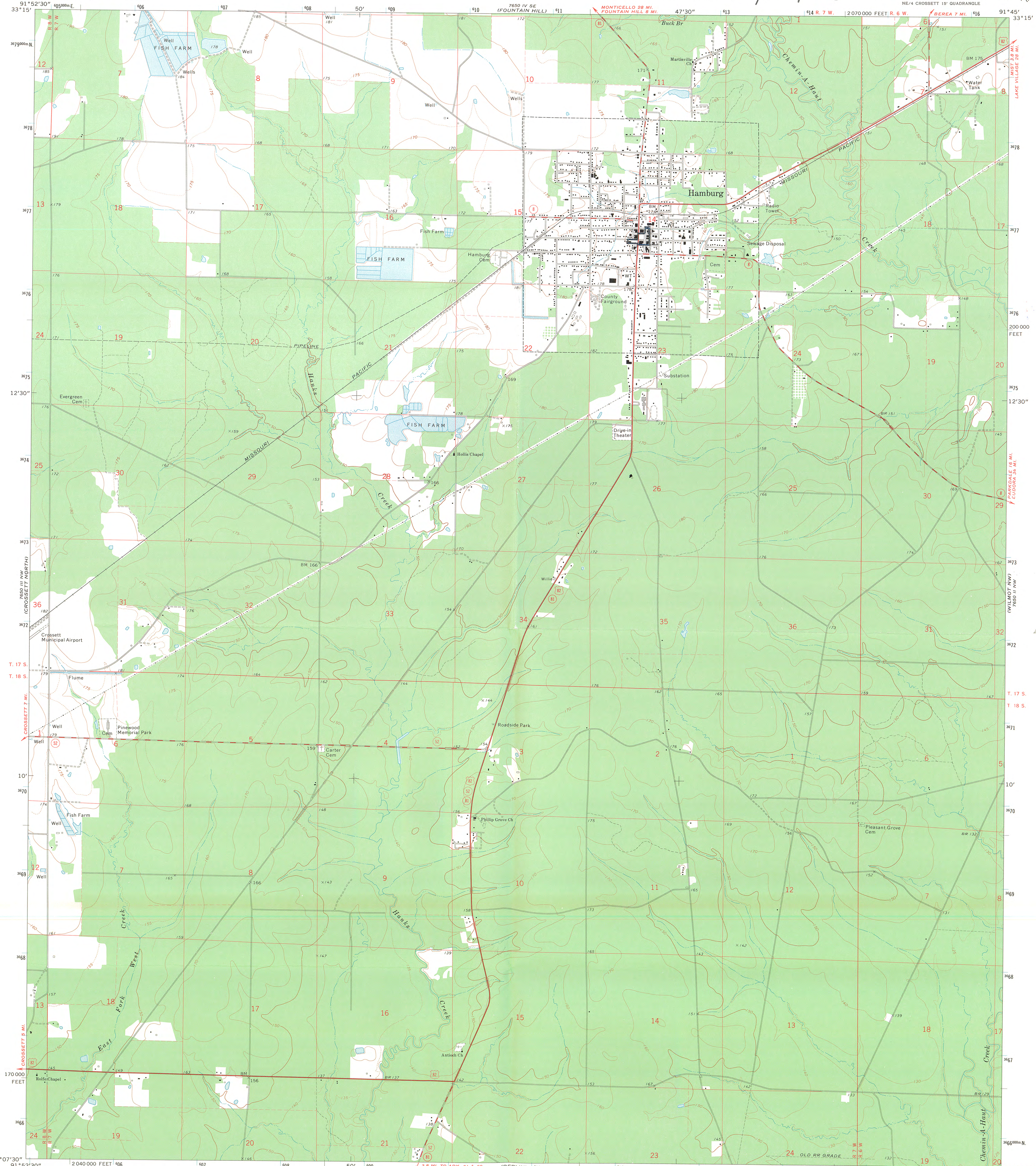
7650 III NW
(CROSSETT SW)
1820 III SW

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Hamburg Commercial Historic District
Hamburg, Ashley County
UTM Reference: 15/612013/367003

HAMBURG QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-ASHLEY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NE 1/4 CROSSETT 15' QUADRANGLE

7650 I SW
(WILMOT SW)
1820 I SW



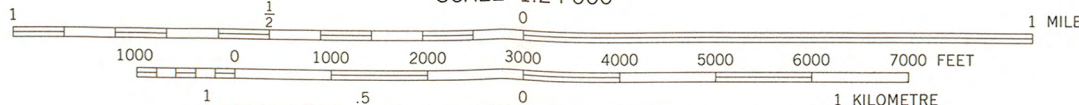
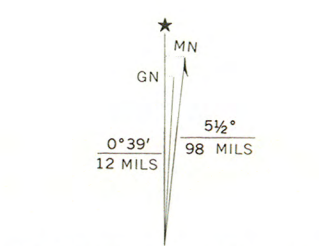
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1972. Field checked 1973

Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate
system, south zone (Lambert conformal conic)
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

HAMBURG, ARK.
NE 1/4 CROSSETT 15' QUADRANGLE
N3307.5-W9145/7.5

1973

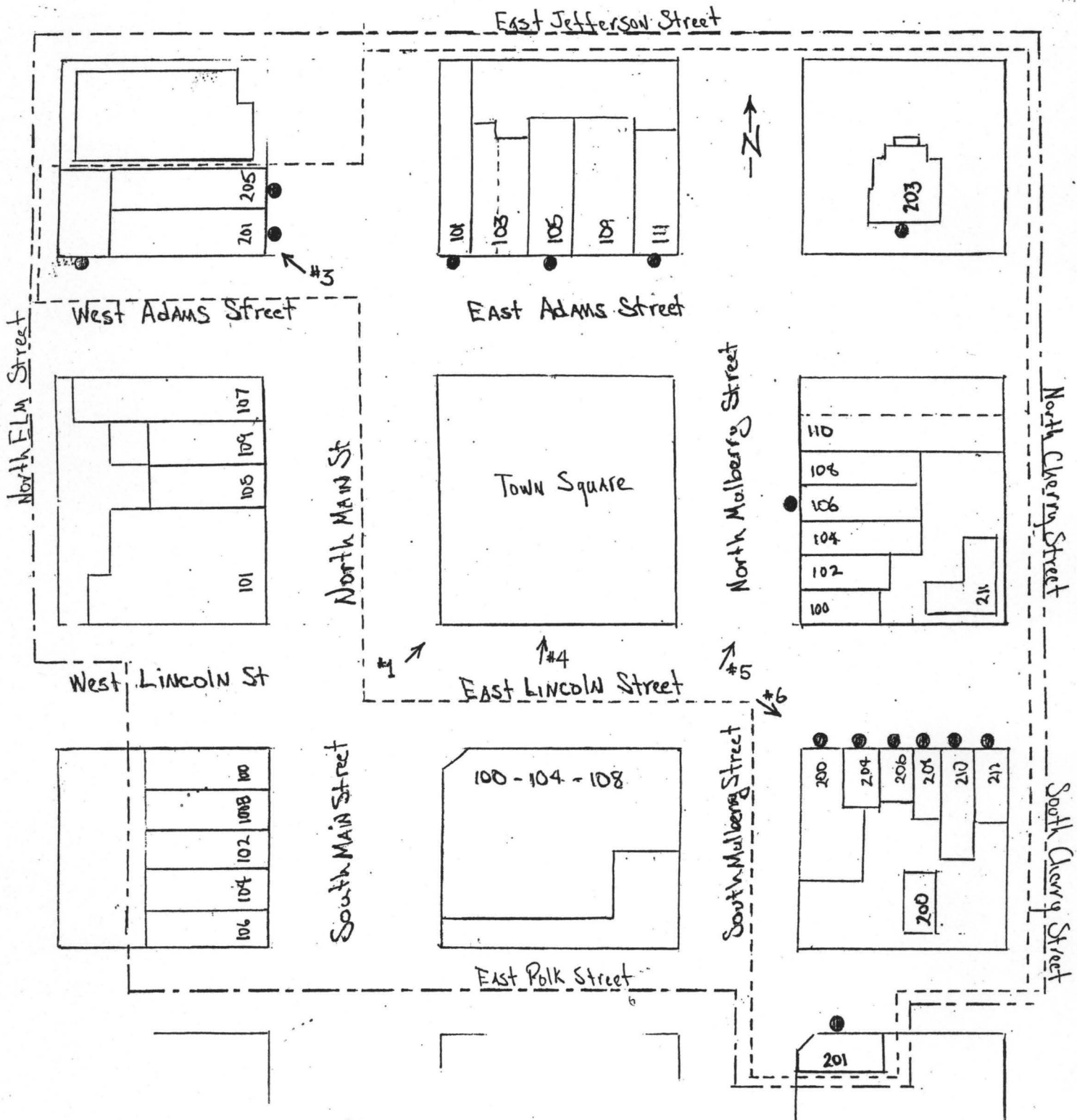
AMS 7650 III NE-SERIES V884

HAMBURG COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT ASHLEY COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Historic District Boundaries - - - - -

Contributing ●

Survey Boundaries - - - - -





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

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com

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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: Hamburg Commercial Historic District – Hamburg, Ashley
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.

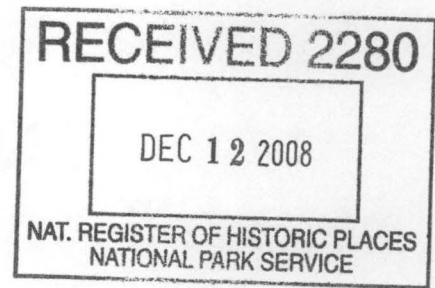
If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure





The Department of
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*

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tdd: (501) 324-9811
e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com

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FEB 27 2009

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

February 25, 2009

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: Hamburg Commercial Historic District – Hamburg, Ashley
County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced revised 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