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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED OCT 18 1976

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LOCATION	weller Endreles si	emo censtruction. t	v2 10
STREET & NUMBER			
311 West Ash Street		NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN Brinkley	_ VICINITY OF	CONGRESSIONAL DISTR First	ICT
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE 095
Arkansas CLASSIFICATION	05	Monroe	095
CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRES	ENTUSE
DISTRICTPUBLIC	X_OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE	MUSEUM
X_BUILDING(S) XPRIVATE	_UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL	PARK
STRUCTUREBOTH	_WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL	XPRIVATE RESIDEN
_SITE PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT	RELIGIOUS
OBJECTIN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT	SCIENTIFIC
BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL	_TRANSPORTATION
BEING CONSIDERED	_NO	MILITARY	_OTHER:
OWNER OF PROPERTY Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Burrows STREET & NUMBER 311 West Ash Street	of massives on d	apondos petroeillo entry feathful ross ou turn paraebbazd	oten oden
CITY, TOWN		STATE	107
Brinkley	_ VICINITY OF	Arkansas	5
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COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEEDS,ETC. Circuit Clerk		iound in the gable	oals
STREET & NUMBER Monroe County	Courthouse		
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DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	disputate unterput	DISTRICT COOKIT LOCAL	TWG _
CITY TOWN		STATE	

CONDITION

XEXCELLENT __GOOD

__FAIR

_DETERIORATED

__RUINS
__UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

__UNALTERED _XALTERED

CHECK ONE

X_ORIGINAL SITE
__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Major Black House, located in the southeastern Arkansas town of Brinkley was constructed in 1895. The house is a masterpiece of Queen Anne Victorian architecture as characterized it its variety of textural usage, its towers and its irregular shape. The only structure of its kind in the area, the Major Black House is one of the most architecturally significant structures in south Arkansas.

Of frame construction, the colorful yellow and white Major Black House features a multi-gabled, high-hipped roof. The most dominate feature of the house is a three-story round tower located on the northeast corner. This tower is capped by a steep cone-shaped roof with finial. Decorative supportive brackets are found on the cornice beneath the roof. The tower is divided into four sections; the tall roof, and a first, second and third story level. The third story level of the tower is covered in scalloped shingles and features six double-hung, nine-over-one windows. The first and second story levels of the tower are covered in weather-board siding and contain two double-hung curved windows. The curved glass in these windows is original.

A wide portico beginning in the center of the east elevation curves around the northeast corner and the tower, spans the width of the facade and turns around the northwest corner to extend to the center of the west elevation. The porch features a gabled roof on the east elevation and at the entry on the facade. This portico features decorative spindlework at the cornice of the porch, delicately turned posts and balusters, and ornamental brackets. To the west of the gablet at the entry on the facade (north elevation) the spindlework forms a wide archway between the turned posts. The ornate gablet at the main entry features rows of rosettes set into squares in the gable end. Found on the bargeboard of the gable are unevenly spaced triglyphs and metopes.

The gable on the facade of the house features a pair of double-hung windows found just below two rows of rosettes set into squares. Three air vents also found in the gable end are surrounded by scalloped shingles.

The west elevation of the house is marked by a two-story gable extending from the roof. This gable features chevron and scalloped shingling in its gable end, and a pair of small windows. The bargeboard of the gable utilizes the pattern of unevenly spaced triglyph and metope. A shed roof porch with decorative balusters and railing covers the single door west elevation entry.

The east elevation is marked by two gables, a bay window and a gabled section of the portico. The portico widens at the east elevation and is covered with a gabled entry. The gable end features alternating rows of scalloped and rectangular shingling. A two story gabled bay

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

extends from this elevation. The gable end of the bay is almost identical to that of the gable on the west elevation, including the row of Moorish archmotif. A three-sided, one-story bay window extends from the larger bay. Decorative brackets support the three-sided flat roof which is surrounded by iron cresting. A small decorative gable extends from the roof at the rear of the east elevation.

The south elevation of the Major Black House is marked by a hipped-gable roof with bargeboard on which is found the triglyph and metope design. Scalloped shingling surrounded a single double-hung window at the two-and-one-half story level of this elevation. A second story flat-roofed portico rests atop a projecting first floor section in which an enclosed porch is found.

The entire house features double corner boards. A continuous sill and windowhead also extends around the house.

In general, the Major Black House gives the appearance of being a complex shape with its numerous offset surfaces. However, it is essentially a central hall plan. The exterior refinement is carried to the interior with ornamental latticework in an opening into the west parlor and in a bay window in a rear parlor, symmetrically molded trim about all fenestration, wide baseboards or rich wood and original ceiling stenciling. Each room contains a fireplace with wood overmantels each unique in design. The staircase is of dark paneled woodwork, finely turned balusters and intricately carved posts with a lacing pattern of wood above and below the balustrades. The double entry doors are of heavy, dark wood with a classical trim surrounding them. A narrow horizontal transom rests above the paneled doors which feature beautifully colored and designed stained glass panels in the upper sections of the doors. Most of the original light fixtures remain in the house. On the landing of the stairway is an elegant oval window of clear cut glass.

In 1909 the most destructive cyclone in the history of Arkansas tore through Brinkly, leaving only eight of 1,500 structures in the city still standing. Part of a chimney was blown off on the east side of the Major Black House, otherwise it was undamaged.

The virtually unaltered Major Black House in Brinkley, Arkansas rests on a tree-shaded lot near the downtown area of Brinkley. In excellent condition the Major Black House is an outstanding example of Queen Anne Victorian architecture in Arkansas.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
_1600-1699	_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	_ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X.1800-1899	_XCOMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	*TRANSPORTATION
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)

_INVENTION

SPECIFIC DATES

PERIOD

1895

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of Arkansas' most outstanding Queen Anne Victorian structures is the Major Black House in Brinkley, Arkansas. Constructed in 1895 by the widow of Major William Black, the architectural considerations alone of the Major Black House make it a significant and unusual structure in the southeast part of the state. However, aside from all architectural merits is the history of the man who planned the house and whose descendants live there today.

William Black was born in Toronto, Canada, on November 22, 1836. He moved to Memphis, Tennessee in 1856 at the age of twenty. During his early years in Memphis he worked at ship carpentering. He later established a successful grocery business on Memphis' Jefferson Street and was elected Alderman in the city government. Black served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and took part in many of the battles in and around Memphis. It was during the Civil War that Black earned the title of major.

Major Black was married in 1862 to Miss Bena Corless of New Orleans, Louisiana. He disposed of his grocery business in Memphis and built a sawmill in the midst of a dense forest in southeast Arkansas. There was a small settlement near this area known as Brinkley and in 1870, at the age of thirty-four he moved his wife and three children to this area. The last twenty miles of their trip was made by covered wagon.

In Brinkley, Major Black entered into partnership with Mr. John Gunn and formed the Brinkley Car Works and Manufacturing Company. The growth of this company was due largely to his business management, and it developed into one of the largest concerns of its kind in the South. Major Black was president and principal owner of this company. The company had several railroad contracts, building about twenty-five miles of the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad and about forty miles of the St. Louis, Arkansas and Texas Railroad. His company also built what was known as the W&BRV Railroad and the Brinkley and Helena Railroad. It was mainly through Major Black's efforts that these four railroads ran through Brinkley.

In 1874, only four years after moving to Arkansas, Major Black was elected to the State Senate from his district. At the time of his death, Major William Black was a director and stockholder in the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad, President of the B.H.&I.B. Railroad, President of the Monroe County Bank, Vice-president of the Brinkley Oil Mill Company and principal owner of the T. H. Jackson and Company, the largest mercantile firm in

Almond, Holly, Ed. Bri	nkley Centennial	Yearbook 1872	-1972. Brinkl	.ey:	
The Citizen, 1972	2.				
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 1

eastern Arkansas. He also owned much of the land in and around Brinkley and many of the buildings in the business district, some of which bear his name today.

Major Black is recognized to be one of the strongest forces in the development of Brinkley and the surrounding area. In early publications he was sometimes referred to as the "Father of Brinkley." He was given much credit for the early settlement and growth of the city because of his contributions in the areas of commerce and transportation through the railroads and lumber industry. Not only did these businesses supply much needed materials to unsettled southeast Arkansas, but brought many workers and their families into that part of the state.

On September 18, 1889 at the age of 54, immediately following surgery for a brain abscess, Major Black died at his home in Brinkley. He was survived by his 44-year-old wife, six daughters, and two sons. His widow, in addition to managing the family business and interests, saw to the construction of a house for which Major Black had drawn up the plans before his death. This house was completed in 1895. Since that time the house has been the home of the descendants of Major Black. Mrs. Kathryn Mitchell Burrows, grand-daughter of Major Black and her husband now live in and maintain the excellent condition of the house.

Architecturally, the Major Black House is a masterpiece of the Queen Anne Victorian style. Of frame construction, painted a vivid yellow and white, the house features a variety of textural usage,irregular shape and unusual ornate trim. The house is distinguished by a large round tower on the northeast corner. This tower utilizes decorative brackets, scalloped shingling and rounded glass. The Major Black House is extremely ornate in trim, utilizing an unusual combination of decorative motifs.

The interior of the Major Black House is a combination of perfectly preserved ornamental latticework, stained glass entry doors, stenciled ceilings, and elaborate fireplace mantels. The staircase is exceptionally beautiful featuring turned balusters, carved posts and a lacing pattern below the handrail.

The Major Black House stands as a monument to the man who was largely responsible for the development of Brinkley and the surrounding area. A leading factor in the commercial development of Brinkley, Major Black came to be one of southeast Arkansas' most admired citizens. This is in addition to its architectural significance make the Major Black House a local landmark.

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9 PAGE

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas. Little Rock: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890. Warblow, Mr. and Mrs. Garrett, Personal interview at the Major Black House, Brinkley, Arkansas, July 28, 1976

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INSERT PHOTOS



1. MAJOR WILLIAM BLACK HOUSE MONROE COUNTY, ARKANSAS NORTHEAST CORNER, VIEWED From the NORTHEAST

Title: Black, William Family House.

Monwe County Ackanson

Loc. Moreheast rowner grewn from

moutheast.

credit-Sandra Taylor Smith

PROPERTY OF THE IMPORAL RELECTA

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2. MAJOR WILLIAM BLACK HOUSE MONDOE COUNTY, ANKANSAS WEST ELEVATION, VIEWED from the WEST

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

> > UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- IENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Major William Black House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Brinkley

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY Monroe

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET west elevation, viewed from the west

PHOTO NO.

INT: 2983-75

Monroe Co. persone

Loc. Mest elevation, mener

from the west

2018



3. MAJOR WILLIAM BLACK HOUSE MONDOE COUNTY, ATKANSAS EAST ELEVATION, VIEWED from the NorthEAST

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

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> > NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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2 LOCATION

CITY. TOWN Brinkley

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Monroe

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW. DIRECTION. ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET east elevation, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO. 3 48

NT: 2983-75

Loc. East elevation, weren



4. MAJOR WILLIAM BLACK HOUSE
MONTOE COUNTY, ACKANSAS
SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEWED From the south

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

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2 LOCATION

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___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Monroe

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET south elevation, viewed from the south

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INT: 2983-75

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5. MAJOR WILLIAM BLACK HOUSE MONTOE COUNTY, ATKANSAS STAIRWAY, CENTRAL HAN

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

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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Brinkley

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY Monroe

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra Taylor

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO. 5 6/18

INT: 2983-75

prairway, central hall

5018



6. MAJOR WILLIAM BLACK HOUSE monroe county, Arkansas mantel, front parlor

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE IN PRIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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HISTORIC Major William Black House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY. TOWN Brinkley

_VICINITY OF

county Monroe

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

STATE Arkansas

PHOTO REFERENCE

Sandra Taylor PHOTO CREDIT

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO. 6 48

INT: 2983-75



MAJOR WILLIAM BLACK HOUSE

MONTOE COUNTY, ANKANSAS

GOILL DAY ENTALL INTO FRONT ANDIOR

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 18 1976

DATE ENTERED

DEC 12 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Major William Black House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Brinkley

___VICINITY OF

county Monroe

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

STATE Arkansas

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Sandra

Sandra Taylor

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

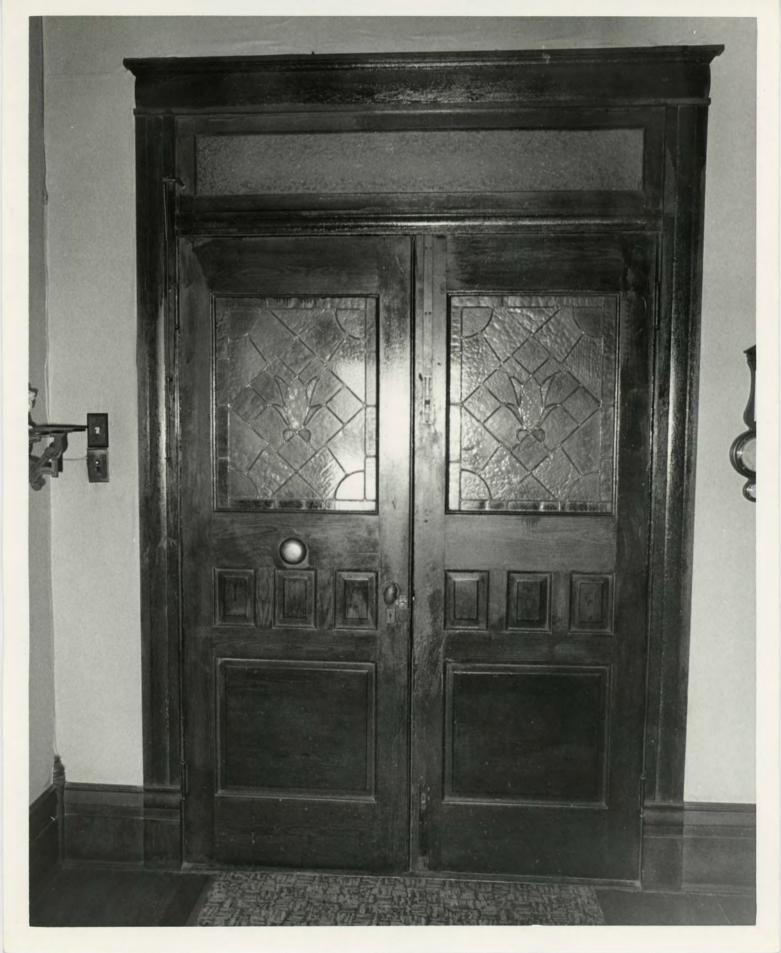
IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET grill in entry into front parlor

PHOTO NO. 7 48

INT: 2983-75

Los. Shill in entry ente front peulon



8. MATOR WILLIAM BLACK HOUSE MONTOE County, ArkANSAS interior of Entry doors

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COUNTY Monroe

STATE

Arkansas

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DATE OF PHOTO 1976

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IDENTIFICATION

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

РНОТО NO. 8 m/8

INT: 2983-75

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

RECEIVED OCT 18 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Major William Black House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY. TOWN Brinkley

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY Monroe

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. Geological Survey

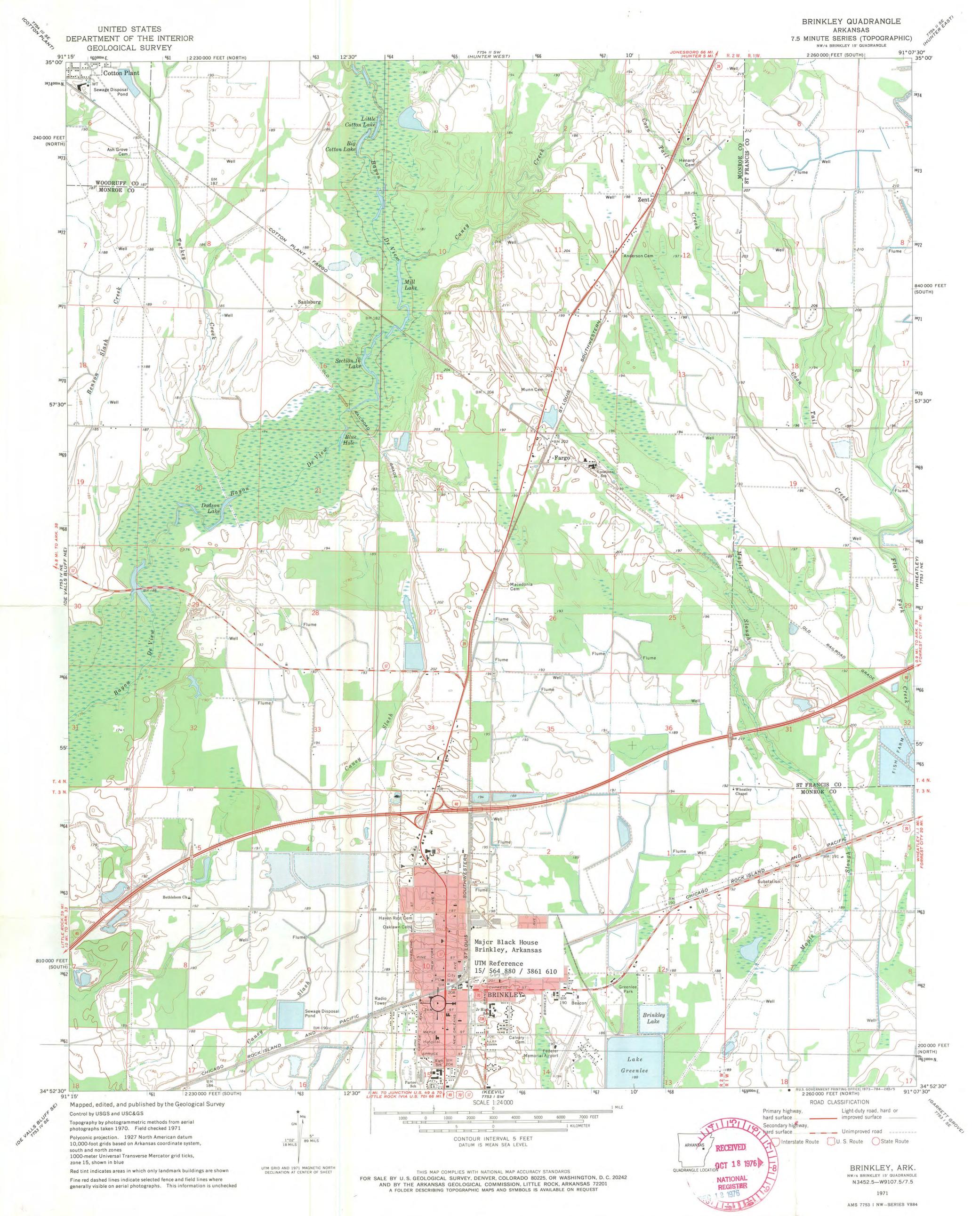
SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1971

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered DEC 12 1976

Name

Location

Black, William, Family House

Brinkley Monroe County

Hunter, Andrew, House

Bryant vicinity Saline County

Halliburton Town Houses

Little Rock Pulaski County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan

Hon. Dale Bumpers

Hon. Bill Alexander

Hon. Wilbur D. Mills

Regional Director, Southwest Region

880

Mott

12/22/76

State Historic Preservation Officer Ms. Anne Bartley Acting Director, Arkansas History Preservation Program Suite 500, Continental Building Markham and Main Streets Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

NR Data Sheet

NR

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Black, William, Family House OTHER NAMES:

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

311 W. Ash St.

CITY, TOWN

Brinkley

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 1st

Arkansas-

05

COUNTY Monroe

code 095

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)

(PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME) :

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N.ATLANTIC

MID ATLANTIC

SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR Substantially intact-1

_ unknown - 4 _ not applicable - 7

EXTERIOR Substantially intact-2

ENVIRONS Substantially intact-3

unknown .-5

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN

not applicable - 8

_unknown -6 _ Not applicable-9

-Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

VEXCELLENT

__DETERIORATED

ALTERED

LORIGINAL SITE

_G000 __FAIR

RUINS UNEXPOSED _Reconstructed

MOVED _Unknown

_Unexcavated

_Excavated

ACCESS -

Yes-restricted

Yes-unrestricted No access

NO

Unknown

historic district?

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

YES

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

IF YES, NAME:

IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE:

YES

NO

Saved?

YES

SIO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

SIGNIFICANCE:

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

ARCHITECTURE

YCOMMERCE

_COMMUNICATIONS

_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC __CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

_ECONOMICS

_EDUCATION _ENGINEERING _EXPLORATION

__INDUSTRY

INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE _LAW/Gov't/politics _science

RELIGION

25 VTRANSPORTATION

_OTHER (SPECIFY)

entertainment _health

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

__recreation

_settlement

_socio/cultural _urban & commun planning

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO

_LITERATURE

PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

_MILITARY

_MUSIC

"only" YES

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:) ween anne

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

personal

(label role

appropriate date)

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1895

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1895 - Present

SOURCE: (OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

MUNICIPAL

FEDERAL 'AGENCY:

ACREAGE: (to nearest tenth of an acre)

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Frame, clap boarding, fish-scale shingling; 2 1/2 stories, irregular shape, hipped and gabled roof sections. from enhance prich w front and side wrap around entrance prich with slightly projecting galled section at the first door, 2nd-story balony own enhance, from gable and round attached corner tower with conecal cap, rear 2-story prich, side proches + projections, decreative prich balestrades and bascies and barochoands; excellent in the woodword and glass work. Queen anne. One of Antamania montgars landing Lucen some devellings; built by un Bena Corless SIGNIFICANCE (maximum two sentences)

The William Black Family House is significant historically for its association with the widow and descendants of major William Black who is generally considered to be the man largely responsible for the development of Brinkley. Arhitecturally it is an outstanding example of I neen anne style architecture in