

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 28 1984

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Solomon Gans House

and/or common Rommel Building

2. Location

street & number 1010 West Third Street N/A not for publication

city, town Little Rock N/A vicinity of

state AR code 05 county Pulaski code 119

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Pratt Rommel

street & number 1010 West Third Street

city, town Little Rock N/A vicinity of state AR

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pulaski County Courthouse

street & number 405 West Markham

city, town Little Rock state AR

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
☐ excellent	☐ deteriorated	☐ unaltered	☒ original site
☒ good	☐ ruins	☒ altered	☐ moved date _____
☐ fair	☐ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Incorporating rusticated stone masonry construction and wide round arches, the design of the Solomon Gans House demonstrates the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque, a style which, though popular in other areas of America, was infrequently found in Arkansas. Built in 1896, this building possesses three towers, straight-topped and arched windows on each elevation, a fireplace with a low arched opening and smooth dressed stone lintels and columns juxtaposed with a predominate rock-faced stone, all of which are characteristics associated with this style. Several classical details foretell the approach of the Colonial Revival, lending the structure a subtle transitional character. The use of ornament is restrained on the exterior, the dominating features of which are the structure's configuration and the texture of its massive stone walls. The Gans House is extremely significant as the best remaining Arkansas example of a residence influenced by a style much more frequently employed in church and public building design than domestic.

ELABORATION

Aside from the rock-faced gray granite of which the Solomon Gans House is built, the most prominent elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque are found on the principal (south) facade of the house. The one-story, flat-roofed front porch, reached via a flight of seven granite steps on the right (east) side of the elevation, is enclosed by a low stone wall. Like most of the house, the porch sits on a stone foundation which is barely distinguishable from the stone walls by a projecting water table. Round arches spring from three squat, smooth-dressed stone columns, one positioned just right of the center of the porch and the other two at either end of the porch. Because the middle column is off-center, the two arches springing from it are of unequal width. The narrower of these two arches frames the entrance to the porch. Two more round arches, one at each end of the porch, spring from the porch's end columns and meet the front wall of the house. All four round arches are characterized by radiating rock-faced stone voussoirs.

The unequal division of the front of the porch into two arches of different widths is echoed in the unequal division of the first floor facade into two bays of different widths. Directly behind the wider arch is a projecting bay having a larger picture window with a stained glass transom. The surround of this window, like those of all windows in the Gans House unless otherwise noted, is comprised of a smooth-dressed stone lintel and sill with plain wooden moldings on each side. On the right (east) side of the first-floor elevation, directly behind the arch which frames the entrance to the porch, is the main entrance to the house. Although the entryway now is obscured from exterior view by a wooden box-like shelter added when the house was converted into offices, all of the original fabric of the entryway is intact inside the shelter.

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Item number 7

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The oak front door, the upper portion of which is glazed, is recessed behind another round stone arch, and the full recess, top and sides, as well as the wall around the door, is paneled in oak. On the east side of the recess is a small round-arched opening through the exterior wall.

On the second story of the principal facade, immediately above the porch, are two pair of symmetrically-positioned straight-topped windows. Each pair of windows is divided by an engaged wooden column, square at the top and bottom but turned in between. Tucked beneath the steeply-pitched gable roof, the attic story of the principal facade is defined by a band of four narrow, straight-topped windows. The band effect is heightened by courses of smooth stone above and below the windows. The boxed cornice and frieze trimming the gable end of the roof are among the classical elements incorporated in the design of the Gans House. A turned finial tops the gable.

The east side of the house is distinguished by two round towers, one taller than the other but both breaking through the roofline. The tower at the south end of the east elevation is two and one-half stories tall. An unembellished chimney, built of the same rock-faced granite as the main body of the house, runs up the east side of the tower. One-over-one, double-hung windows are located on either side of the chimney on the first and second floors. The first-floor windows have stained-glass transoms. Pairs of square, fixed-sash windows form bands on either side of the chimney on the attic floor. Again, the band effect is heightened by courses of smooth stone above and below the windows. The bell-shaped roof of this tower is topped by a metal finial. The tower near the north end of the east elevation is part of the configuration of the main interior staircase, and its height--something less than two full stories-- was dictated by that role. Enclosed in the lower level of the tower is a circular "under-the-stairs" room from which the basement steps descend. The upper level of the tower encloses a landing which breaks the ascent of the interior staircase between the first and second floors. Three windows define each level of the tower. Those on the first level have single sashes. One-over-one, double-hung windows mark the upper level of the tower, which is capped by a conical roof ending in a metal finial. The section of the east side of the Gans House between the two towers has, on the first floor, a semi-circular stained-glass window fully surrounded by bands of smooth-dressed stone. Above this window, on the second floor, is a small round-arched, double-hung window. Still higher, above the boxed cornice and frieze, a gabled dormer projects from the side of the main roof. A pair of round-arched, double-hung windows pierce the vertical face of the dormer, and another turned finial tops the dormer's gable. The section of wall at the northern end of the east elevation is solid and unadorned, except for a single one-over-one, double-hung window at the second-story level. At the northeast corner of the house begins the two-story concrete-block

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addition constructed when the house was converted into offices in the late 1940's. The rectangular addition runs north from this point to the alley behind the Gans House.

The prominent features of the west side of the Gans House are another rock-faced granite chimney and a third tower. Located near the center of the west elevation, the tower marks the point in that elevation where additional grading began to allow for basement windows. The ground level is lower beginning at the tower and running north to the end of the property, and at the base of the tower are three square, single-sash basement windows, hinged at the top to swing outward. The first story of the tower has two pairs of one-over-one, double-hung windows. All four of these windows have stained-glass transoms, and each pair of windows is divided by an engaged wooden column of classical inspiration. On the second story of the tower are two one-over-one, double-hung windows, one over each pair of first-floor windows. This tower barely breaks through the roofline, for its conical roof is truncated to provide room for a square window in the gable which projects from the west side of the main roof and rises above the tower. The vertical face of the gable is covered with slate in a "fishscale" pattern. At the ridge of the gable is another finial. The west elevation's stone chimney, located south of the tower, pierces the cornice and frieze. Two second-story windows one-over-one double-hung windows flank the chimney, but on the first floor there is just one window. It is located on the south side of the chimney and has a stained-glass transom, the design of which is a miniature version of the design of the transom over the picture window in the bay on the principal facade of the house. North of the tower on the west side of the house, the final section of stone wall is pierced by a straight-topped window on the first floor and, directly above it, a round-arched second-story window with a stained glass upper sash. A single-sash basement window is located in the foundation of this section of the west elevation.

The northernmost section of the west side of the Gans House, originally a kitchen and servants wing is built of brick in stretcher bond rather than stone. It appears that the brick originally was stuccoed, probably to imitate stone. It has two stories, but the ceilings of the rooms it encloses are lower than those elsewhere in the house, so the overall height of the brick wing is less than that of the rest of the house. The foundation of the brick wing contains two single-sash windows, both of them topped by segmental arches having radiating brick voussoirs. The sills of these windows are concrete. Directly above the basement windows are two double-hung windows on the first floor, also topped by segmental arches with radiating brick voussoirs but having rock-faced stone sills. The two second-story windows are of basically the same configuration, except that the one to the south is shorter and does not line up with the first-floor window beneath it. A glazed, triangular dormer projects from the roof of the brick wing. Much of the rear

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(north facade) of the brick wing is obscured by an enclosed fire staircase added when the Gans House became offices. Aside from a plain brick wall, all that is visible at the rear are portions of two windows, one on each floor, both of which have been closed.

Though the house was converted into offices nearly forty years ago, much of its original interior fabric remains intact, most notably in the entry hall. Dominated by a round-arched fireplace which is faced with dark green glazed tile and has a six inch mantel trimmed with wrought iron strips and holders for fireplace tools. Much of the oak woodwork in the entry hall, especially the twelve inch cornice and door and window trim, is classically derived. The moulding on either side of the doors and windows was designed to suggest columns which support an entablature across the top of each door and window. The twin newel posts of the oak staircase are small Corinthian columns. The entry hall's lavish oak woodwork, which includes paneled wainscoting, is one of the interior's most distinguishing features. In its adaptation to office use, the interior underwent several changes. Woodwork remains throughout, but some original features have been covered or removed. The original floorplan of the house is still apparent, though some partition walls have been added or moved. The most notable alteration is the c. 1950 two-story concrete block addition at the northeast corner of the house.

At a point in line with, but several feet west of the rear wall of the brick wing, the low granite wall that encircles the Gans property rises in height to about six feet. This taller wall leads north to the west end of the carriage house still standing at the northwest corner of the property. Like the main house, the carriage house is constructed of rock-faced granite. Two sets of double doors, which once admitted the carriages and horses, have been filled in, and a shed-roofed porch has been added to the principal (south) facade. Otherwise, the exterior of the carriage house has changed little since its construction. Even the bars on the windows in what once were horse stalls are still in place. The configuration of the roof of the carriage house is more complex than that of the main house, for it consists of a hipped roof with a central gable projecting in front, twin gables in back, and jerkinhead gables at either end. The vertical face of the central gable is covered with slate and penetrated by an oval window. Across the bottom of the face of the gable runs a course of smooth stone which tops two double-hung windows, the upper sashes of which are divided into diamond-shaped panes.

8. Significance

Period	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/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☒ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1896 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Solomon Gans House, one of the few survivors of a once-fashionable residential neighborhood in Little Rock, demonstrates the strong influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque style. Solomon Gans' success in the Little Rock retail market was publically emphasized by the stylish house he built for himself in 1896. The development of this Third Street neighborhood was stimulated by the construction in 1878 of Little Rock's second streetcar line, which ran west from the business district to the Union Depot, located at what then was the westernmost edge of Little Rock. New residences soon were being built along the streets near the streetcar line, including West Third Street. By the time the Gans House was built in 1896, West Third Street was part of a neighborhood occupied by some of Little Rock's most prominent families. Solomon Gans, the builder of the Gans House, was a member of one such family. His father, Jacob Gans, was one of the "pioneer" members of Congregation B'nai Israel who successfully worked toward the construction of Little Rock's first Jewish temple. From the early 1870's until well after the turn of the century, the Gans family operated successful retail businesses on Main Street in Little Rock. In fact, it was shortly after becoming a partner in "Gans and Sons," a clothing store, that Solomon Gans built his large residence on West Third Street. The Gans House was quite different from its neighbors. At a time when stone buildings, especially houses, were scarce in Little Rock, Solomon Gans built a home of gray granite which came from a quarry just south of the city. Moreover, Gans chose a design for his residence which reflected the influence of the Richardsonian Romanesque, a style rarely used in Little Rock--and then only for public and commercial buildings. The Gans House, in fact, is the only Little Rock residence known to have been constructed in that style, making it especially important from an architectural standpoint. In addition, as West Third Street has turned from a tree-lined residential street into a heavily-traveled four-lane thoroughfare, the majority of its houses have been demolished and replaced by commercial structures. Not only has the Gans House remained standing but its original fabric has remained remarkably intact, making it an important reminder of West Third Street's residential origins.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Little Rock, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	6	5	7	4	5	3	8	4	5	1	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

West half of lots 7, 8, and 9 of block 258, Original City of Little Rock.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cheryl Griffith Nichols; ed. by staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

organization HISTORY, Inc.

date February 21, 1984

street & number 2118 Center Street

telephone (501) 375-2686

city or town Little Rock

state AR

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 *William S. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 21, 1984

For NPS use only

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

John M. ...
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 3/29/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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The Centennial History of Congregation B'nai Israel. Little Rock: Congregation B'nai Israel, 1966.

Little Rock and Pulaski County, Arkansas, Illustrated. Little Rock: M. Ohlander, Publisher, 1907.

Dillard, Tom. "Pulaski People: Solomon Gans," Pulaski County Historical Review 25 (December 1977): 73.

Witsell, Charles, Jr. "Pulaski Places: The Gans-Rommel Building," Pulaski County Historical Review 25 (December 1977): 74.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Gans, Solomon, House
Pulaski County
ARKANSAS

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Working No. FEB 28 1984

Fed. Reg. Date: 2-5-85

Date Due: 3/29/84 - 4/13/84

Entered in the
National Register

Action: ☒ ACCEPT 3-29-84
☐ RETURN
☐ REJECT

Federal Agency: _____

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- ☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☐ good ☐ ruins
☐ fair ☐ unexposed

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____

date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



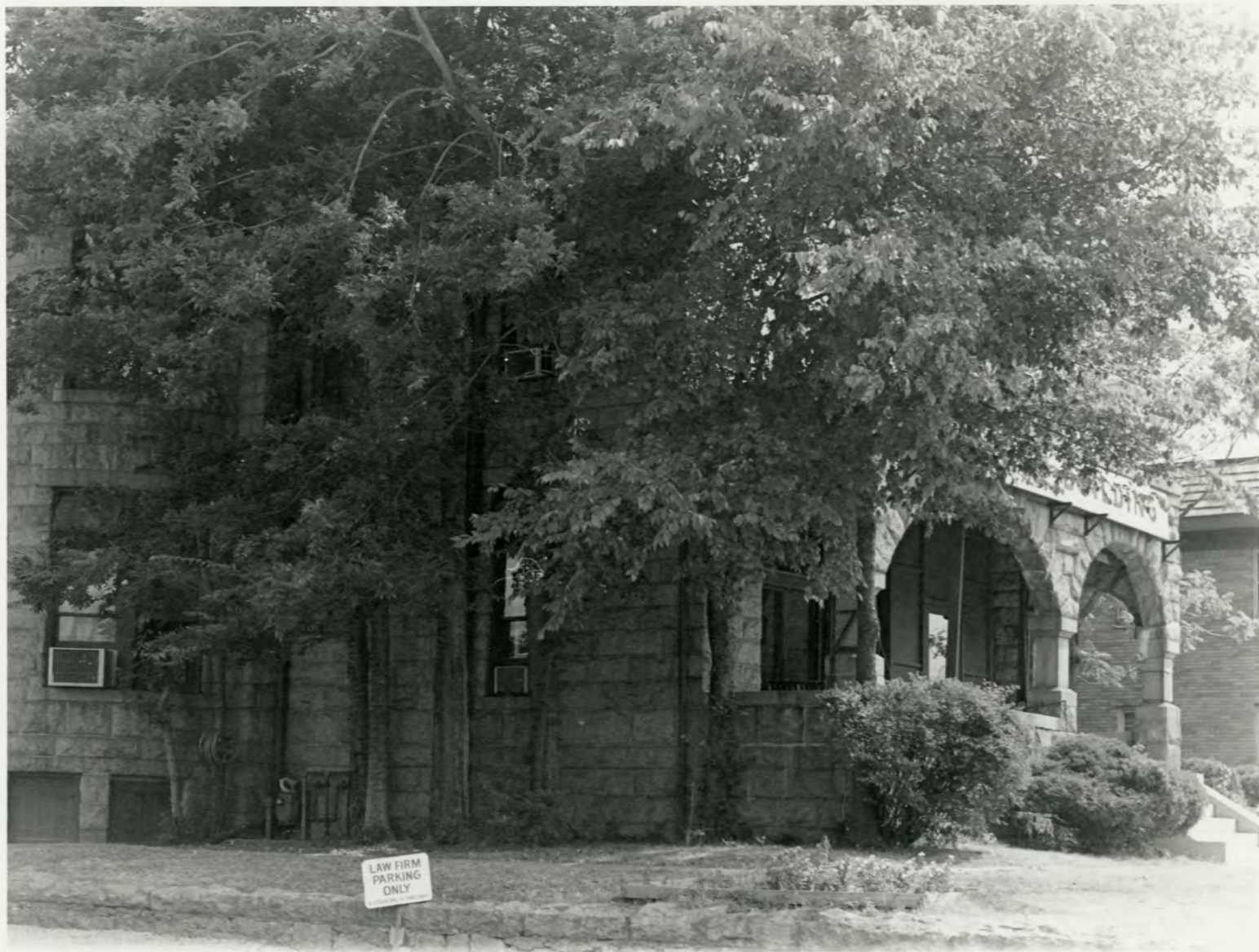
Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the Southeast



Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the Southeast



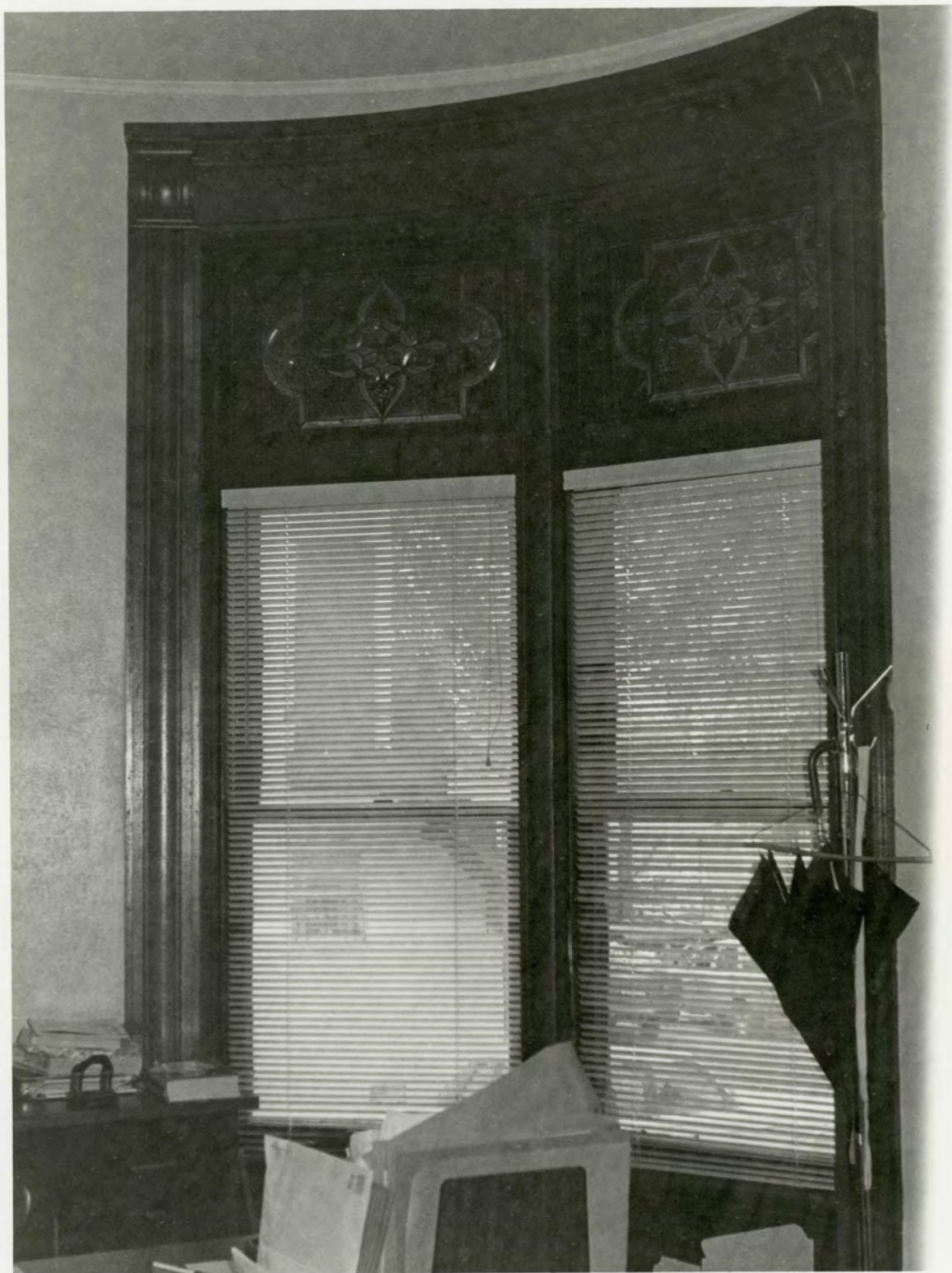
Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the South
Carriage House



Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the Southwest



Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Stairway



Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Window with Stained Glass Transoms



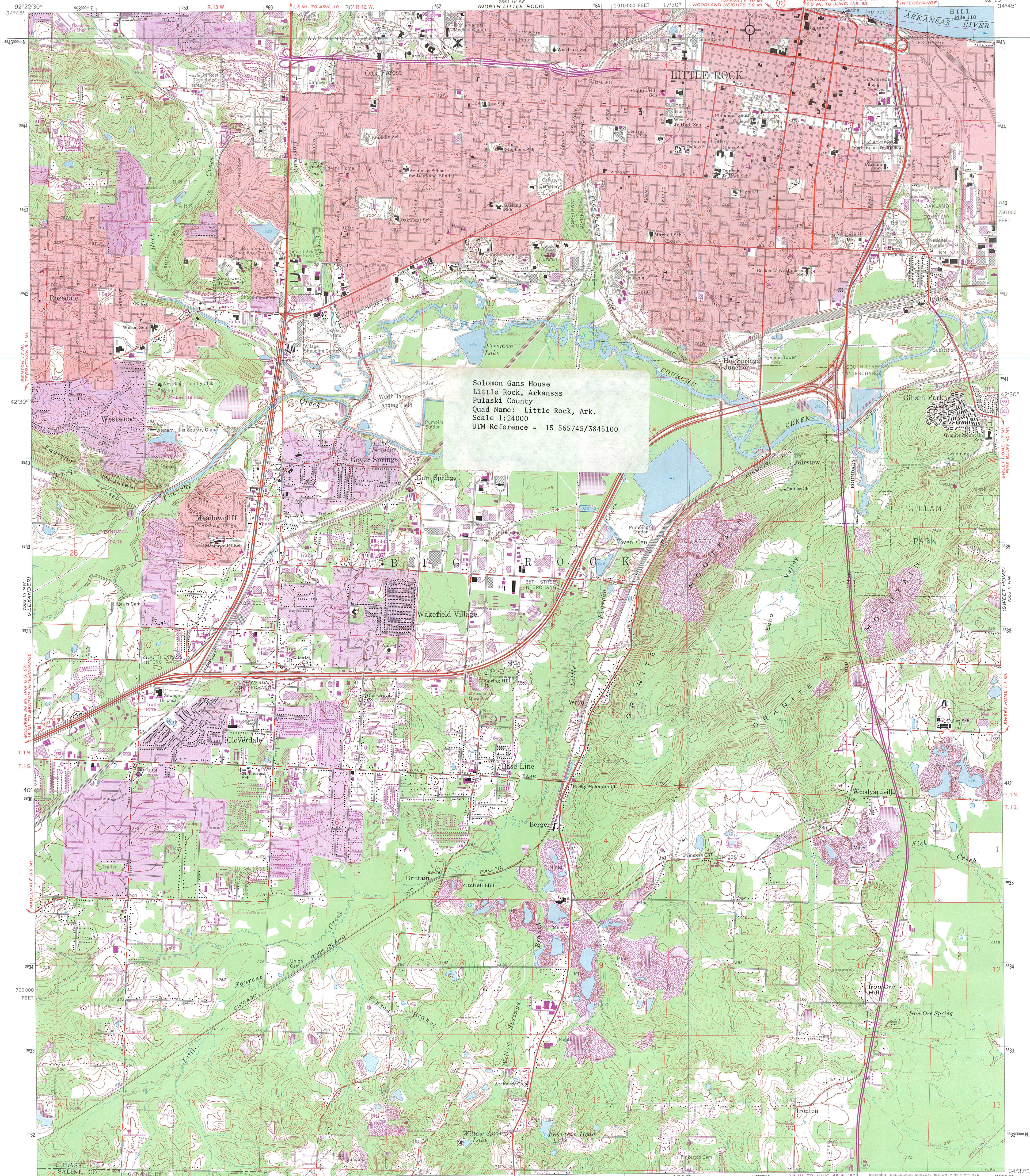
Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Windows in Tower



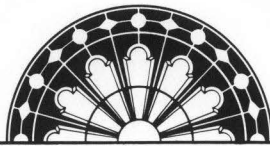
Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Fireplace with Glazed Brick



Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Pulaski County
Photographed by Alice Jones
September, 1983
Negative on file at AHPP
Stained Glass Transom



Solomon Gans House
Little Rock, Arkansas
Pulaski County
Quad Name: Little Rock, Ark.
Scale 1:24000
UTM Reference - 15 565745/3845100



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

February 22, 1984

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Solomon Gans House
1010 West Third Street
Little Rock, AR
Pulaski County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Solomon Gans House in Pulaski County. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/AJ/ss

Enclosure/s

