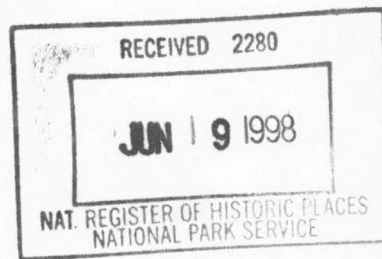


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



857

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

Historic Name: Block, Isaac, House

Other Name/Site Number: Wittsburg House (CS0035)

=====

2. Location

=====

Street & Number: 404 E. Hamilton Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Wynne

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Cross Code: AR037 Zip Code: 72396

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u>1</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Block, Isaac, House
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A Slater 6-12-98
Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
5. National Park Service Certification
=====

I, hereby certify that this 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): _____

Edson A Beall 7.15.98

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

Block, Isaac, House
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic:	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>
	<u>DOMESTIC</u>		<u>multiple dwelling</u>
Current :	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub:	<u>single dwelling</u>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne

Materials: foundation BRICK roof ASPHALT
walls WOOD: weatherboard other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 404 East Hamilton Avenue in Wynne, the Isaac Block House was originally constructed in Wittsburg around 1885. In the early 1900s, the house was divided into sections and moved from its residential neighborhood in Wittsburg to its present location. The journey of approximately seven miles was completed with the help of mule teams, log wheels and oversized wagons.

The exterior of this simple, one-and-one-half story Queen Anne-styled cottage contains relatively few decorative features. The only overtly decorative elements on the exterior are the front gable, a narrow dormer, and a small wraparound porch. The Tuscan columns on wood piers that support the wraparound porch date to the c. 1900 relocation of the residence. Also dating to the relocation is a rear gable addition. The Wittsburg House is currently being re-roofed with architectural grade composition shingles. A modern carport and a dog pen surrounded by a chain-link fence are both located on the property, but are non-contributing to the nomination.

Elaboration

The Wittsburg House is a one-and-one-half story, frame house designed in the Queen Anne style. The asymmetrical massing of the front elevation disguises a central-hall plan. The house rests on a continuous brick foundation and is covered by a gable-on-hip roof with a front-facing cross gable. The northern, or rear, elevation contains a historic gable-roofed ell addition and a one-story gable-roofed pantry addition. Two historic fireplaces are located in the western parlor and the eastern parlor, while a modern brick fireplace is found in the eastern bedroom. Three other chimneys are found above the roof line on the gabled ell addition. These were connected to wood burning stoves that are no longer extant. The fenestration is composed of one-over-one windows, unless otherwise stated. Most of the house is clad in weatherboard. However, fishscale shingles, beaded board, and lattice work screens decorate the front-facing gable end, the dormer, and the small gables above the hipped roof.

The southern, or front, elevation is asymmetrically composed with a large bay projection on the west and a recessed wraparound porch to the east of the elevation. The first story of the bay projection is fenestrated with a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows. The modest Queen Anne details within the pedimented gable include a triangular lattice work screen above the pair of stationary glass windows, fishscale shingles and a wide vergeboard. Beneath the wraparound porch are two wood doors with large single lights. These two doors are capped by transoms and covered by modern aluminum screen doors. The door set into the east side of the gable projection opens directly into the west parlor. The main front-facing entry opens into the central hallway. Also located beneath the porch beside front door are two windows, one of these is set into the rounded western corner. A tall gable with battered sides sits over the main front door. The dormer uses the same decorative elements as bay projections with the addition of a small amount of horizontal and vertical beaded boards surrounding the window.

The side, or eastern, elevation contains the corner of the wraparound porch, an exterior chimney, and the enclosed porch of the rear ell addition. The fenestration of the side elevation of the main house is composed of a one-over-one window under a shed-roofed awning, and a pair a one-over-one windows that flank the exterior chimney. The ell addition contains a porch that was enclosed sometime within the life of the house. Near the main body of the house, the enclosed porch is clad in weatherboard and punctured by two sets of paired, one-over-one windows. The northwestern corner of the enclosed porch is clad in beaded boards and punctured by a ribbon of three, four light windows made by dismantling a four-over-four window and placing the sashes side-by-side.

The northern, or rear, elevation contains the gable end of the ell addition, a one-story, gable roofed pantry addition, and the enclosed ell porch. The enclosed rear elevation porch is punctured by a ribbon of three windows (composed of a dismantled four-over-four window and modern two

light window), a four-paneled door with a large single light, and another pair of four light windows capped by a two transoms. The enclosed porch is clad in vertical beaded board. Located to the west of the enclosed porch is a one-story pantry addition sheathed in ship lap wooden siding and fenestrated on its western and northern elevations by multi-paned stained-glass windows. Located beside the pantry is a one-panel wood door with a large light, capped by a transom and covered by a shed roof awning with triangular brackets. A wooden screen door partially hides the door. Above and centered in the gable end is a small stationary attic light.

The western elevation is composed of the rear ell addition and the main house. Fenestration for this side composed of eight, one-over-one windows. Located to the north of this elevation and between two windows is a shed roof awning supported by triangular brackets. The sole purpose of this awning is to cover an air conditioner fitted into the wall. Located in the center of this side elevation is a wood-paneled door with a single light surmounted by a transom and covered by an awning similar to the one covering the air conditioner.

The interior of the Wittsburg House is decorated with several historic details that include: two "high styled" mantelpieces with beveled mirrors, metal hardware door hinges and knobs festooned with designs, a built-in china cabinet in the dining room, and elaborate baseboard moldings in the kitchen. The foyer contains two sets of French doors. The French doors separating the central hallway are shorter than those leading to the eastern parlor. The latter replaced pocket doors at an unknown date.

Located in the central hallway is a dogleg staircase that features a turned-spindle balustrade, paneled face string with a acornated pendant, and a paneled newel post capped by a turned knob. Quadruple-beaded board covers the area beneath the staircase. Located at the top of this staircase is a three paneled, one light door capped by a transom. The room behind this door is completely finished out and features beaded board walls with bulls-eye trim located in the corners of the window and door surrounds.

A non-historic carport with storage shed is located behind the house. The gable-roofed building is supported by metal poles and is clad in board and batten siding. Also found to the east of the house is a chain-linked dog pen. Both the carport and dog pen are non-contributing to the nomination.

Block, Isaac, House
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1885

Significant Dates: c. 1885, c. 1900

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Isaac Block (builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Isaac Block House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance, as a good example of one-and-one half story, Queen Anne style residence. Of particular note are its wraparound front porch, and decorative fishscale shingles and lattice work in the front gable end and dormer.

Elaboration

After the completion of the Knobel to Helena branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad in 1882, Wittsburg began to decline in importance, and in 1886 the county seat was moved to the new railroad town of Vandale, where a two-story brick courthouse was constructed. Still, by the early 1890s, Vandale had been overshadowed by a more vibrant railroad town to the south, Wynne,

located at the junction of two branches of the Iron Mountain railroad. Consequently, the county seat was moved for the last time to Wynne.

The Isaac Block House was constructed in Wittsburg around 1885 by Isaac Block. Isaac was a son of German Jewish immigrants Maurice and Anna Woubilman Block. Isaac helped with the family business, first working at L. N. Block and Company, and then assuming supervision of David Block and Company (a firm begun by his late father along with John G. Hamilton and Abel A. Luckie and David Block). After the railroad bypassed Wittsburg, Isaac and his brother, Louis Block lingered in the town under the company name of Block Brothers and Company. However, faced with a dying town, Isaac Block decided to move his house to Wynne, where the railroad was bringing the promise of prosperity. Sometime in the early 1900s, the house was taken apart, then each section identified and moved by mule teams, log wheels, and oversized-wagons to its present location at 404 East Hamilton Avenue, Wynne. Fortunately, the original location of the Isaac Block House closely resembled its new location, both were residential neighborhoods nearby the local business district. Despite the difficulty of the task, other prominent residents of Wittsburg also had their buildings dismantled and moved to more profitable towns in the county. For example, Shields Daltroff also had his house relocated to Wynne, and the Johnson Hotel was moved to the community of Vanndale. Consideration was also given to relocating the multi-purpose school, church and courthouse, but this was eventually judged unfeasible.

Adding to the house's eventful history, the single family residence was once divided into a duplex and rented to railroad workers for many years. Also for a time it was owned by a medical doctor who kept a bear penned in the back yard that "brave" young men could feed through a trapdoor in the fence. After this period, the Horn family bought the house in 1947 with the help of the GI Bill and converted the house back to single-family use.

Jim and Wenona Kincade are the current owners of the house. The Kincades plan to restore the house. The Block House is currently being re-roofed with architectural-grade composition shingles with the help of a grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Their restoration plans also include removing the modern wood paneling from the interior of the house.

The Isaac Block House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance, as a good example of a one-and-one-half story, Queen Anne style residence. The exterior of this simple Queen Anne-styled house contains relatively few decorative features. Instead this subdued cottage charms the careful observer with its gable-on-hip roof, its delicate wraparound porch and its decorative gabled bay and dormer. The interior retains an abundance of original detail including: two "high styled" mantelpieces with beveled mirrors, a dog-leg staircase and stained glass windows in the pantry.

Block, Isaac, House
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

Hartness, Richard L., Sr. *Wittsburg, Arkansas: Crowley's Ridge Steamboat Riverport 1848-1890*. Little Rock, Arkansas: Rose Publishing Company, 1978.

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas. Chicago, Nashville, and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.

Chowning, Robert W. *History of Cross County Arkansas*. Wynne, Arkansas: The Wynne Progress, 1955.

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 Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>701260</u>	<u>3900180</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Block, Isaac, House
Name of Property

Cross County, Arkansas
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the northeast corner of Hamilton Avenue and Church Street proceed easterly along a line running parallel with the edge of Hamilton Avenue for a distance of 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's eastern elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's northern elevation; then proceed westerly along said line to the eastern edge of Church Street; then proceed southerly along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all remaining historically significant structures associated with this property.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 5/25/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Block, Isaac, House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Cross

DATE RECEIVED: 6/19/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/29/98
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/15/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/03/98
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000851

NOMINATOR: STATE

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 7.15.98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope

January 1998
AHPP

East elevation, looking west



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope

January 1998

AHPP

Interior, foyer looking northeast



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP

Detail of gable-on-hip roof on
west elevation, looking east



Issac Block House

Cross County, Arkansas

Holly Hope

January 1998

AHPP

West elevation, looking northeast



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP

North and east elevations, looking
South west



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope

January 1998

AHPP

North and west elevations, looking
Southeast



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP

South Facade, looking North



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope

January 1998

AHPP

East elevation, looking west



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP
Interior, looking east



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP

Interior, looking south



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP
Interior, looking south



Issac Black House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP
Interior, looking east



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP

Interior looking southwest





Issac Block House

Cross County, Arkansas

Holly Hope

January 1998

AHPP

Interior, looking north



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope

January 1998
AHPP

Interior mantel in parlor, looking
North



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP
Attic story, looking south



Issac Block House

Cross County, Arkansas

Holly Hope

January 1998

AHPP

Detail of hardware



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP

Interior: Detail of hardware



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas
Holly Hope
January 1998
AHPP

Interior, looking northwest



Issac Block House
Cross County, Arkansas

Holly Hope

January 1998

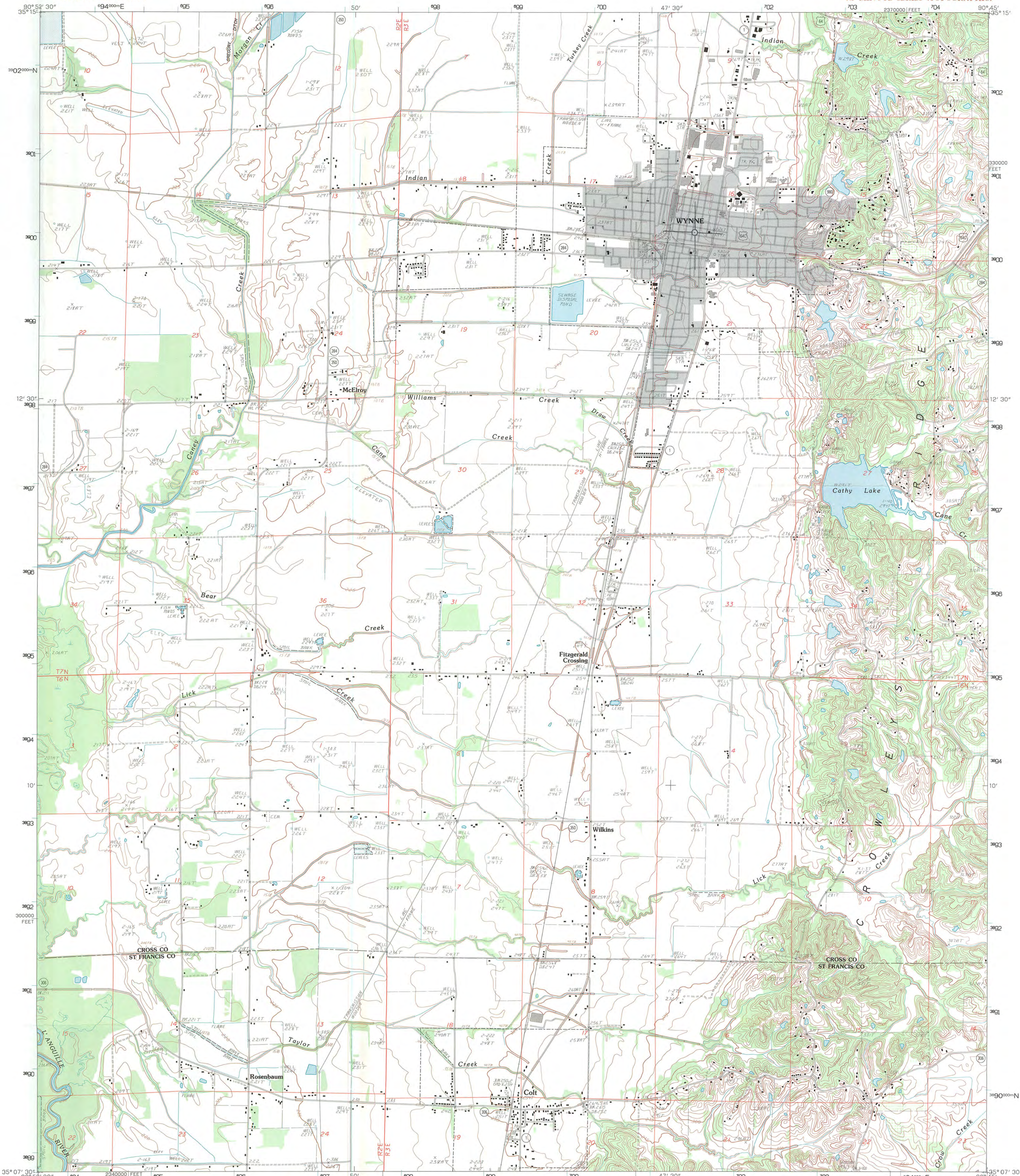
AHPP

Interior, looking up staircase
to attic story

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Black, Isaac, House
Cross County, Arkansas
UTM Reference:
15/701260/3900890

WYNNE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY.....USGS AND NOS/NOAA
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN.....1979-80
FIELD CHECKED.....1982. MAP EDITED.....1984
PROJECTION.....LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR.....ZONE 15
10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICS.....ARKANSAS, NORTH ZONE
UTM GRID DECLINATION.....1°16' EAST
1992 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION.....2°00' EAST
VERTICAL DATUM.....NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM.....1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM (NAD 27)
The difference between 1927 North American Datum and North
American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) for 7.5-minute intersections
is given in USGS bulletin 1875. The NAD 83 is shown by
dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal or State reservations shown on this map.
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown
Photoinsected from 1990 source; no major culture or drainage
changes observed. Boundaries revised and names verified 1992

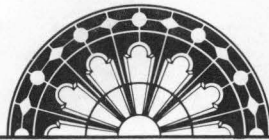
PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography. 1

SCALE 1:24 000
MILES
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
KILOMETERS
0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 AND 10 FEET
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 FOOT
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST FOOT
To convert feet to meters multiply by 0.3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

5 FEET 10 FEET CONTOUR INTERVAL			QUADRANGLE LOCATION			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14

ROAD LEGEND
Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route

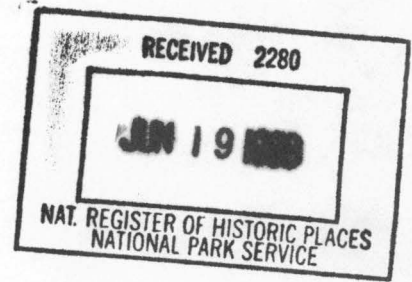
WYNNE, ARKANSAS
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1984
MINOR REVISION 1992
35090-B7-TF-024



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

June 12, 1998

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002



RE: Isaac Block House--Wynne, Cross County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations of the above referenced property. 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,

Cathy Buford Slater
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

