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N 3823700

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Arkansas
COUNTY:	Phillips
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 9 1974

#### 1. NAME

COMMON:  
Major James Alexander, Tappan House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

#### 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
727 Columbia Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Helena

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE: Arkansas      CODE: 05      COUNTY: Phillips      CODE: 107

#### 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

#### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

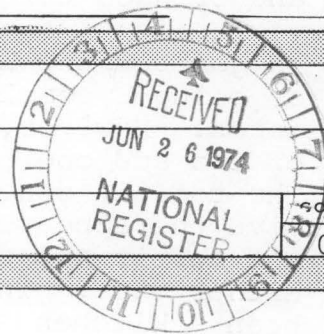
OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. Moore Tappan

STREET AND NUMBER:  
727 Columbia

CITY OR TOWN:  
Helena

STATE:  
AR

CODE:  
05



#### 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Phillips County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Helena

STATE:  
AR

CODE:  
05

#### 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic Helena and West Helena

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Phillips County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Helena

STATE:  
AR

CODE:  
05

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

SEP 9 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ADP P. 93c

The Major Tappan House was constructed <sup>in</sup> approximately 1892. It is the typical Queen Anne style with a round corner tower with cap and finial, an inset balcony with low balustrade, a curved veranda with spindles and elegant slender columns, and oriels. An overall quaintness is apparent in the small scale of the bracketed cornice with decorative panels, and the use of scalloped shingles in a wide band between the first and second stories and on the corner tower. Slender proportioned window casements with simple trim are subordinate to the finer features of the exterior.

This refinement is carried to the interior with ornamental latticework in interior openings, symmetrically moulded trim with corner blocks about all fenestration, and elaborate fireplaces with overmantels of cherrywood. Colorful tile is set about the fireplace openings. Of special note in the interior is the three run enclosed stairwell. The staircase of dark paneled woodwork, finely turned balusters, and intricately carved posts is accented by warm yellow light penetrating the side and transom tracery windows of the front entry.

In general, the Major Tappan House gives the appearance of being a complex shape with its numerous offset surfaces. However, it is essentially a central hall plan of two and one-half stories with a high hipped roof. The roof is penetrated by several dormers, two of which give the appearance of being oriels in that they pierce the soffit and are supported by elongated brackets at either side. The only alterations to the house have been a kitchen added to the rear and an enclosed porch along the entire back of the house.

The house is raised approximately four (4') feet above grade on a brick foundation on the front elevation, which increases to a full basement depth at the rear due to a sloping grade. There are two possible explanations for raising the house. Water drainage was a problem in early Helena, and an aboveground basement would have protected the rest of the house from possible water damage. It is suggested that the kitchen which is connected to the house by the enclosed porch, was originally located in the basement. The first explanation bears more credence than the latter.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**6. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The James A. Tappan House is representative of a wealthy Arkansas businessman's home at the turn of the century. This large Victorian structure was built about 1892 to house one of Helena's most prominent families. It stands today as a visible reminder of the Gilded Age in eastern Arkansas.

James Alexander Tappan (1847-1914) was born in Tennessee. At age 16 he joined the Confederate army, was promoted to major within two years and earned the Bronze Cross of Honor. Following the Civil War he became a civil engineer, and his work for a railroad brought him to Helena to survey the Arkansas Central Railway running from Helena to Clarendon. Major Tappan liked Helena and decided to settle there permanently.

Throughout his adult life Tappan tested his business abilities in many fields, and was successful in all. After completing his work with the railroad he took over the Helena Gas Company and added to it an ice house, purported to be the second ice house to open in the South.

In 1882 Major Tappan established the Tappan Coal Company, a business that is still a family operation today (1974). As the local representative of a Pittsburg dealer, Tappan sold coal to Mississippi River steamboats and packets which stopped at Helena to refuel. He also sold coal to homes and businesses in Helena and surrounding towns.

The Tappan Hardware Company was founded in 1888 and was one of Arkansas' largest at the time. Major Tappan was a stockholder in one Helena bank, and a director in another. He was also interested in agriculture and managed his own farm until his death.

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**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Hollowell, Louise B. "Make Way for the Major." Phillips County Historical Quarterly, IX (September, 1969), pp. 15-22.

Kirkman, Dale. "James A. Tappan House." Unpublished Report for Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas, February, 1974.

"Major James A. Tappan Home." Historic Helena and West Helena. Helena, Arkansas: Phillips County Chamber of Commerce, 1973.

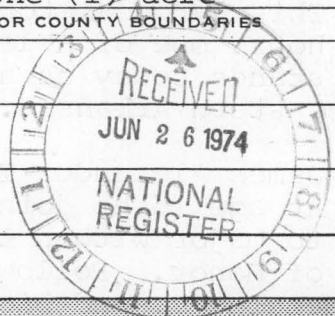
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0 , "	0 , "		0		
NE	0 , "	0 , "		34	31	47.5
SE	0 , "	0 , "		90	35	31.5
SW	0 , "	0 , "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one (1) acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Dianna Kirk, Research Historian; Anthony S. Riddle, Architect

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program DATE: March, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Suite 1030 - Plaza West Building

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: AR CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>William E. Henderson</u></p> <p>Title: <u>State Historic Preservation Officer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>June 11, 1974</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>AR Wooten</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: <u>9/9/74</u></p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p><u>Charles H. ...</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: <u>9.6.74</u></p>

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Arkansas	
COUNTY	Phillips	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE
		SEP 9 1974

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued - Page 2)

This versatile businessman was also popular in the community. In 1899 over two hundred Helena voters signed a petition asking that Major Tappan be a candidate for mayor. The Major acquiesced, and was elected without an opponent; however, he was most unhappy in his new and unsolicited role, and resigned the office after serving only six weeks.

In 1874 Major Tappan bought the property on Columbia Street. The house which now bears his name was built to replace a smaller residence which burned about 1890. Lyle Brothers, a highly regarded contracting firm in Helena, built this elegant residence.

Major Tappan's home is significant because it is a fine example of Victorian architecture in eastern Arkansas, and because it exemplifies the private residence of a successful Arkansas businessman at the turn of the century.







Arkansas  
Phillips County  
Major James Alexander Tappan House  
EAST FACADE VIEWED FROM SOUTHEAST

FORM 10-301 A  
(6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)*

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>
Major James A. Tappan		SEP 9 1974
2. LOCATION		
House		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Phillips	Helena
STREET AND NUMBER		
727 Columbia Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	April 18, 1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		
East facade viewed from the southeast		

#1  
PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



GPO 932-009

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

**1. NAME**

COMMON

Major Tappan House

AND/OR HISTORIC

→ Tappan, Major James  
Alexander House

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

SEP 9 1974

**2. LOCATION**

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Phillips

TOWN

Helena

STREET AND NUMBER

727 Columbia Street

**3. MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

U.S.G.S. Map, Latour,  
AR, 15 minutes

DATE

1961

SCALE

1:62,500

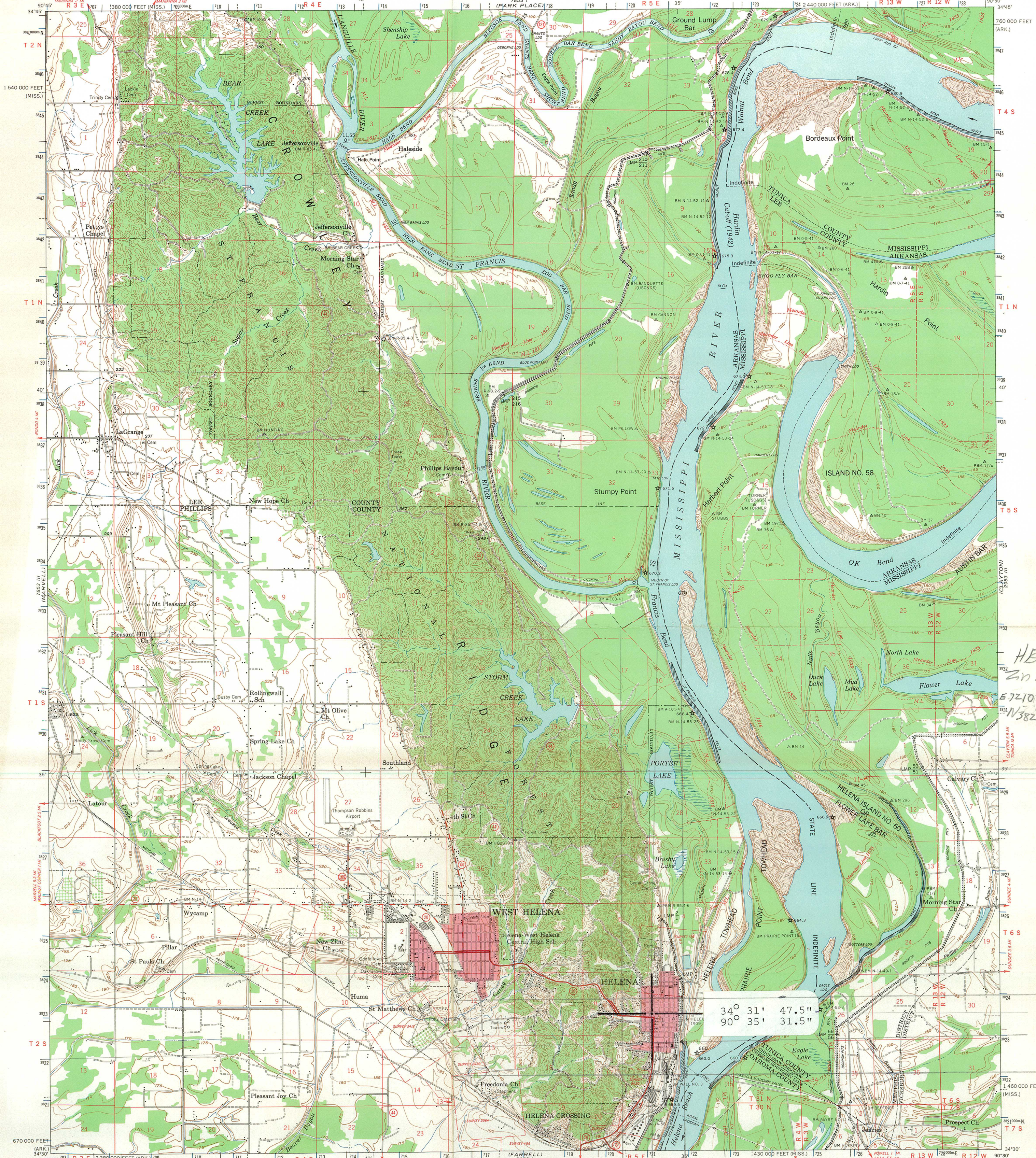
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW:



Major J. A. JAPPAN House

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

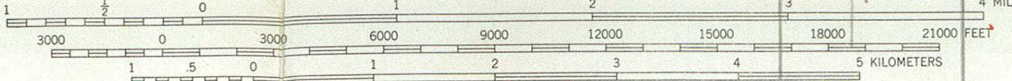
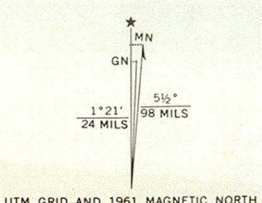
LATOUR QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS—MISSISSIPPI  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



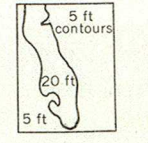
HB  
2015  
E721075  
W823700

34° 31' 47.5"  
90° 35' 31.5"

Maped and edited by the Mississippi River Commission  
Published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&S, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1960, and plane-table surveys 1930-1949  
and 1961. Field checked 1961  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Arkansas coordinate system, south  
zone, and Mississippi coordinate system, west zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



SCALE 1:62500  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 AND 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL  
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242,  
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION, VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty  
Medium-duty  
Light-duty  
Unimproved dirt  
State Route  
LATOUR, ARK.-MISS.  
N3430-W9030/15  
1961  
AMS 7853 II-SERIES V784

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE     ARKANSAS

Date Entered   SEP 9 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
<b>Tappan, Major James Alexander, House</b>	<b>Helena Phillips County</b>

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan  
Hon. J. W. Fulbright  
Hon. Bill Alexander  
Regional Director, Southwest  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. William E. Henderson  
Director  
Arkansas Department of Parks and  
Tourism  
State Capitol - Room 149  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR     MMott/row     9/12/74