

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **MAR 21 1985**

date entered **APR 18 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic William A. Short House

and/or common Edwardian Inn

**2. Location**

street & number 317 Biscoe

N/A not for publication

city, town Helena

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Phillips

code 107

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                   | Status  | Present Use                            |  |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input type="checkbox"/> public             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied                 | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> park                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both               | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress           | <input type="checkbox"/> educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                   | <b>Accessible</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government    | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                        |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered   | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted          | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                    |
|   | <u>N/A</u>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                         | <input type="checkbox"/> military      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Bed & Breakfast |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Edwardian Inn Partnership

street & number c/o Ernest & Cathy Cunningham, 17 East Ridge

city, town Helena

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Phillips County Courthouse

street & number Cherry Street

city, town Helena

state Arkansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Helena Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

N/A

date 1979  federal  state  county  local

N/A

depository for survey records Phillips County Library

city, town Helena

state Arkansas

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY

Impressive as an early Arkansas example of the Colonial Revival, the William A. Short House was constructed in Helena in 1904. Built by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis, the house is richly and meticulously detailed. The interior possesses an impressive collection of native woods such as oak and cherry which have been used to create elaborate mantels, floors, the stair and trims. The focal point of the exterior is the expansive front porch, which features a curved central projection.

#### ELABORATION

The Short House was built in 1904 by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis for William A. Short and his wife, Sallie Baker Short. The house, of Colonial Revival design, sits high on a terrace of Crowley's Ridge and when it was constructed commanded a magnificent view of Helena and the Mississippi River.

Elevated above Biscoe Street, the Short House has a commanding presence. Situated on a large plot of lawn, the front of the house is reached via sweeping concrete steps, the outside walls of which gracefully curve and terminate with small concrete piers. Parking is located at the front and a drive leads to the porte-cochere and adjacent parking on the north side of the house.

The Short House is a two-and-a-half story frame structure possessing a number of Colonial Revival characteristics. Typical features of this stylistic influence include a symmetrical facade, a rectangular plan with minor projections, a hipped roof with a balustraded deck, large double-hung windows, over-sized dormers and a prominent front entrance. The most notable exterior feature of this residence is the large wrap-around porch. Resting on a brick foundation, the house is clad with clapboards.

The front facade is perfectly symmetrical. Flanking the central entrance on the first floor are a pair of three-sided projections. Each of the three sides possesses a large one-over-one double-hung window, the dominant window type. The large entrance consists of a paneled oak door with an upper sash, flanked by sidelights resting upon paneled oak aprons. A leaded and beveled transom of clear glass is positioned above the door. A simple surround frames these entrance features.

Hip-roofed three-sided projections extend from both corners on the second floor. These projections are not positioned directly above those on the first floor. The two outside windows of each projection have multi-paned upper sash. Separating the two floors, located just above the one story porch roof, is a band of shingles. Echoing the curve of the porch, the center of the second floor features a curved projection with three windows, each with multi-paned upper sash. Finely detailed console brackets support the overhang of the eave, which extends from above the plain entablature. A large hip-roofed dormer projects from the center of the front slope of the dominant hip roof. Clad in shingles, the dormer features a recess,

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National Park Service**

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received

date entered

APR 18 1985

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detailed with a pair of Ionic columns. Small console brackets embellish the eaves. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the primary hip roof.

The wide full front porch is the dominant element of the east facade. The porch, which possesses an entablature detailed with triglyphs, curves outward to form a rounded center projection and wraps around each of the side elevations. (A portion of the south porch has been enclosed to accommodate a bathroom.) The porch rests on painted brick piers, between which is wood lattice. The roof of the large central curve is supported by free-standing Ionic columns, while the porch roof to either side is supported by pairs of Ionic columns that rest on brick piers. Only the curved portion of the porch roof is detailed with the balustrade which is embellished with wood urns resting on paneled wood piers. A porch railing on turned spindles like those of the balustrade is positioned between the columns and brick piers. Two sets of steps lead up to the porch. A chain-suspended light fixture hangs at the center and there is a ceiling fan at each corner.

The north side elevation features a shed-roofed porte-cochere which is an extension of the side porch. A large dormer and three-sided bay projection echo the same features of the front. A side entrance, protected by the porte-cochere, is detailed similarly to the front entrance.

The rear (west) elevation has a cross-gabled central project, to which a two story gable-roofed kitchen and one story sun room addition are attached. Originally the kitchen was detached from the house. The flat-roofed and glass-enclosed sunroom is attached to the south side of the kitchen. An exterior skin of lattice lends it the appearance of an enclosed porch. The railed roof functions as a terrace and serves as a connection between the second floors of the main structure and the kitchen. The gable ends of the cross projection and kitchen are covered with shingles.

The south side elevation clearly reveals the connection of the kitchen to the main structure. A three-sided cross gable projection is similar to the same feature on the rear elevation. An arched attic window pierces the gable end. A portion of the porch extension has been enclosed for a bathroom, however, the lattice exterior of the enclosure appears as a logical alteration.

The focal point of the interior is the entrance hall, which is paneled and floored in quarter-sawn oak. The L-shaped hall connects the front and side entrances and provides access to the sunroom. Built-in paneled oak closets are located in the side entrance hall. Dominating the hall is a stunning open stair with a built-in bench and two landings positioned at the rear of the hall. Two oak arches span the width of the hall at the point of the first stair landing and a pair of columns on paneled bases are positioned between the two doors on either side of the hall. On either side of the front entrance, pocket doors with leaded transoms lead to the dining room which features mirrored alcoves, and the cherry-paneled den, reputedly the first such room in Helena. Each room with the exception of the den, is

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Continuation sheet

2

Item number

7

Page

2

paneled in oak, and all possess beautiful oak floors with parquet borders. There are three classically-detailed and mirrored overmantels on the first floor, each with tile surrounds. Because it was badly damaged, the original dining room mantel was removed and adapted for use as a front desk for the bed and breakfast operation. The attached kitchen is now used as the manager's living quarters.

Curved ceiling beams and built-in cupboards are found in the spacious second floor hall. Paneled oak doors with leaded transoms lead to five bedrooms, each with its own fireplace with beautifully detailed mantels. A door at the west end of the hall leads to the roof terrace of the sunroom.

As part of its recent renovation, twelve "rooms" were created within the Short House, which now functions as a bed and breakfast. Minor alterations include the sensitive addition of closets, bathrooms, the sunroom and free-standing partition walls that divide the larger rooms into suites. Though not original, fixtures are of the period. The attic is finished with beaded boards and now functions as conference space.

## 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below    |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric  | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic     | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input type="checkbox"/> social/<br>humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)         |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   |  |

**Specific dates** 1904 **Builder/Architect** Clem Brothers - Builders

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

Constructed in 1904 for William A. Short, the Short House graces a hill overlooking Biscoe Road and is a marvelous Arkansas example of the Colonial Revival style. The house was built by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis who came to Helena to build several of the finer homes in town. With its outstanding oak woodwork, decorative mantels, and parquet flooring, the house exhibits some of the finest craftsmanship available during the period. The wood used in the Short home is thought to have been cut locally as is the case with others of its type constructed during this period in Helena.

#### ELABORATION

William A. Short and his wife Sallie Baker Short came to Helena from Mobile, Alabama in 1885. Mr. Short had been engaged by the Howell Cotton Company of Little Rock to supervise a branch of their business in Helena. In 1888, Short started his own cotton business and changed the firm's name in 1890 to W. A. Short and Company. In 1895 Short and Y. F. Harrington established a partnership and formed a company in cotton which did over five million dollars worth of business in 1902. Short's business prospered so that he created branch offices in Marianna, Pine Bluff, Brinkley, Newport, Cotton Plant, Clarendon, Forrest City, Marvell, Holly Grove, Memphis and Osceola.

In 1900, Short and Harrington bought a controlling interest in the Citizens Compress Company and Short was made president of the company. W. A. Short and Y. F. Harrington were officers and stockholders in the following firms: New South Oil Company of Helena; Bluff City Oil Company of Pine Bluff; Peoples Savings Bank and Trust Company; and the Helena Hotel Company. They also owned the Grand Opera House of Helena and a northwest Arkansas zinc mining company. Both invested largely in timber and farming interests.

During the early years of the 1920's the cotton market fell and Short lost most of his money. Having begun to suffer financial remunerations earlier, Short was forced to sell the house in 1917. It later served as a funeral parlor and even later as an alcohol rehabilitation center. Most recently, the house has been renovated for use as a bed and breakfast enterprise.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Arkansas Democrat - February 26, 1984.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name LaTour, Ark-Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

### UTM References

A 

|      |   |         |    |   |    |          |    |    |    |    |
|------|---|---------|----|---|----|----------|----|----|----|----|
| 1    | 5 | 7       | 21 | 0 | 50 | 3        | 82 | 12 | 05 | 10 |
| Zone |   | Easting |    |   |    | Northing |    |    |    |    |

B 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |

C 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |

D 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |

E 

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|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |

F 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |

G 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |

H 

|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|---------|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |         |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |
| Zone |  | Easting |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Cunningham, edited by AHPP staff

organization owner

date March, 1985

street & number 17 East Ridge

telephone 338-9155

city or town Helena

state Arkansas

# 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

title Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 13, 1985

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date 4-18-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered APR 18 1985

Continuation sheet 3 Item number 10 Page 1

THAT PART OF PRIVATE SURVEY NUMBER 2295, TOWNSHIP TWO (2) SOUTH, RANGE FIVE (5) EAST, IN THE CITY OF HELENA, PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF LOUISIANA STREET WITH THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BISCOE STREET (U. S. HIGHWAY 49B), THENCE SOUTH 6 DEGREE WEST 18.25 FEET ALONG THE SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE TO THE NORTH LINE OF A TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO DOROTHY ANTOINETTE PAPA BY WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 485, PAGE 581, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS, SAID LINE BEING MARKED BY AN OLD WIRE FENCE; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 6 DEGREE WEST 92.0 FEET ALONG THE SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BISCOE STREET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID DOROTHY ANTOINETTE PAPA TRACT AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE SOUTH 6 DEGREE WEST 111.5 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF A TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO JOE PAPA AND WIFE BY WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 290, PAGE 506, OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS; THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREE WEST 252.9 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO JOE PAPA AND WIFE TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF A TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO HELENA-WEST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 2 BY WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 379, PAGE 494 OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS; THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREE 50' WEST 112.6 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO HELENA-WEST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 2 TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID DOROTHY ANTOINETTE PAPA TRACT; THENCE SOUTH 84 DEGREE EAST 268.2 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Short, William A., House  
Phillips County  
ARKANSAS

Working No. MAR 21 1985  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.4.86  
Date Due: 4/18/85 - 5/5/85  
Action:  ACCEPT 4-18-85  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
National Register

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

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

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                          |                                       | Check one                          | Check one                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> original site    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good      | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins        | <input type="checkbox"/> altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair      | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed    |                                    |   |

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: \_\_\_\_\_



William A. Short House  
Helena  
Phillips County, Arkansas  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
December, 1984  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Front elevation  
Viewed from the east.



William A. Short House  
Helena  
Phillips County, Arkansas  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
December, 1984  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Interior (2nd. floor hallway)



William A. Short House  
Helena  
Phillips County, Arkansas  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
December, 1984  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Interior (Entrance Hall)



William A. Short House  
Helena  
Phillips County, Arkansas  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
December, 1984  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Interior (Entrance Hall)

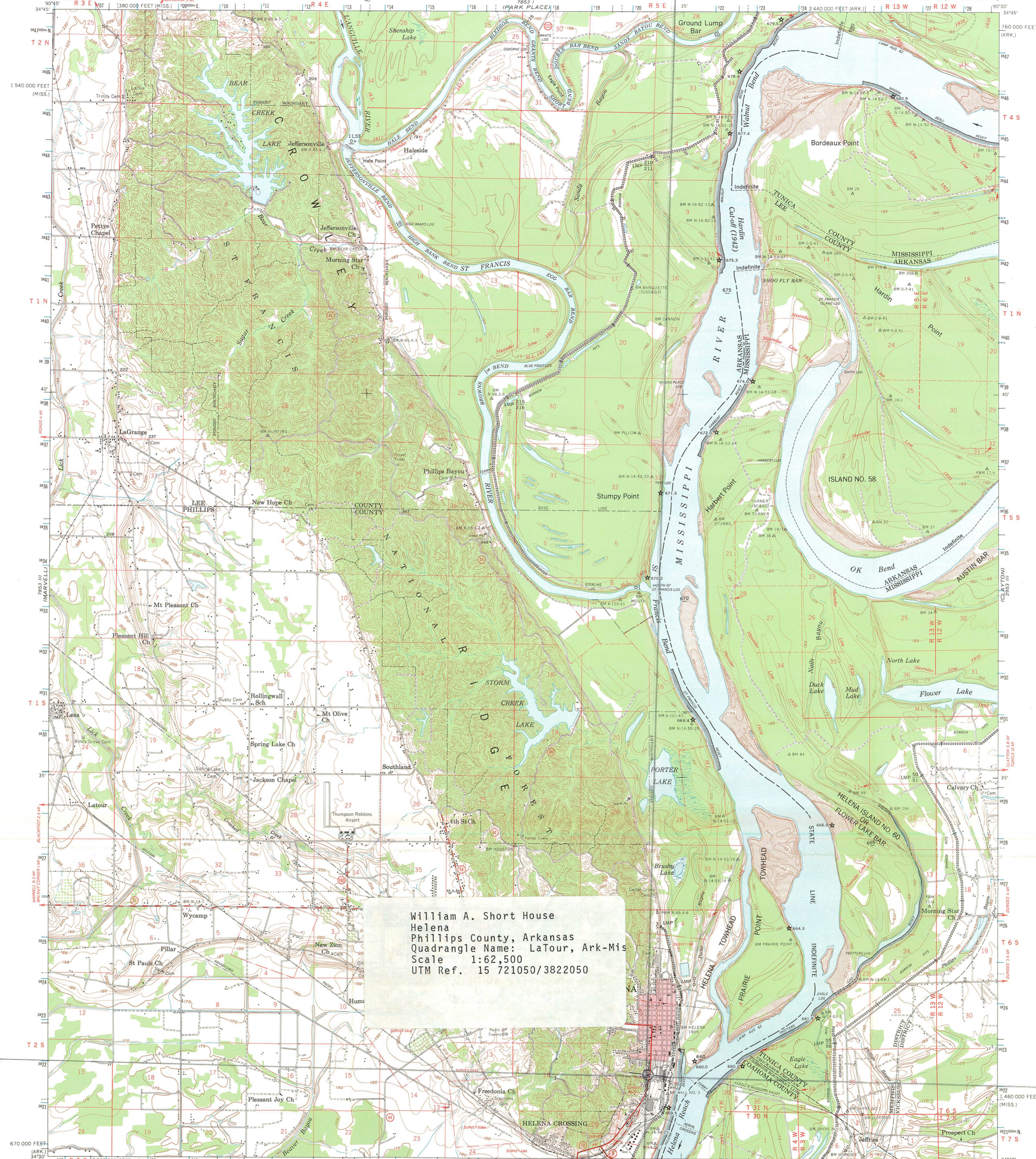


William A. Short House  
Helena  
Phillips County, Arkansas  
Photographed by Alice Jones  
December, 1984  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Interior (Stairway)



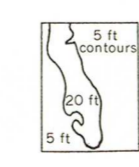
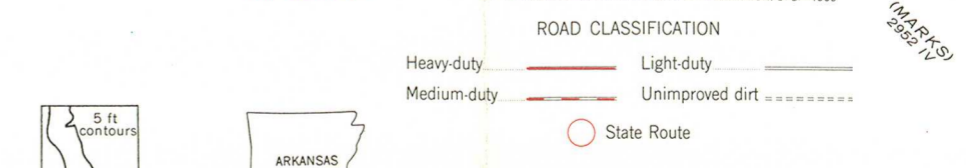
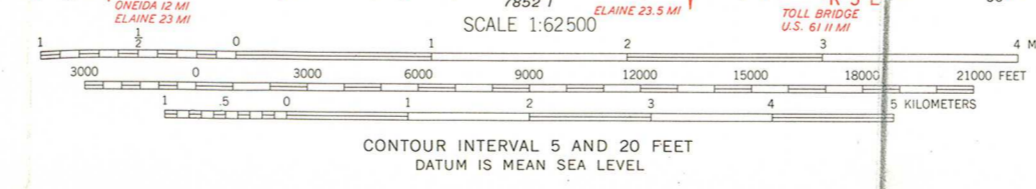
William A. Short House  
Helena  
Phillips County, Arkansas  
Photographed by Jaci Carfagno  
May, 1984  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Parquet Flooring

William A. Short House  
Phillips Co.



William A. Short House  
Helena  
Phillips County, Arkansas  
Quadrangle Name: Latour, Ark-Miss  
Scale 1:62,500  
UTM Ref. 15 721050/3822050

Mapped and edited by the Mississippi River Commission  
Published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1960, and planetable 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



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

LATOUR, ARK.—MISS.  
N3430—W9030/15  
1961  
AMS 7853 II—SERIES V784



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

March 13, 1985

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: William A. Short House  
317 Biscoe  
Helena, AR  
Phillips County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the William A. Short House. 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



*Rec'd 3/21/85*