

683

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Foster House  
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 420 S. Spruce St.  not for publication N/A  
city, town Hope  vicinity N/A  
state Arkansas code AR county Hempstead code AR 057 zip code 71801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	2	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
			0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of certifying official: *Cecily H. Byrd* Date: 4-29-91  
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): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper: *Albus Byrd* Date of Action: 6/5/91  
Entered in the National Register

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Foursquare

Prairie School

Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

roof Asphalt

other Wood Trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

IP-99-A  
Date

*Charles A. Blyden*  
Signature of certifying official

See continuation sheet

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Summary**

The Foster House is a two-and-one-half story, brick masonry residence designed in the traditional American plan known as the "foursquare," but with Prairie style and Craftsman influences. Its solid, massive aspect is relieved only by two single story, hipped roof porches on the eastern and southern elevations and a single, central gable roof dormer on the eastern elevation.

**Elaboration**

The Foster House is a two-and-one-half story, brick masonry residential structure designed within the American vernacular idiom known as the "foursquare" house, but with distinct Craftsman and Prairie style influences. As implied by the name, the plan of the main block of the house is essentially square; a low, single story, hipped roof room is attached to the southwest corner of the main block and south of a two-story, hipped roof ell projecting from the main block's northwest corner. Furthermore, an open, single story hipped roof porch extends across the full length of the eastern or front facade, and a smaller, single story hipped roof porte cochere is attached to the center of the southern elevation. A total of three chimneys -- all brick -- project from the hipped roof of the main block: two from the southern roof slope, placed symmetrically along the elevation, and the other from the northern slope, placed centrally. The roof surfaces throughout are covered with asphalt shingles, the walls are dark red brick with wood friezes and brackets beneath the cornice, and the entire structure is supported on a continuous brick foundation faced with concrete.

The eastern or front facade is symmetrically divided into three bays on both of the main floors, with a central, single-leaf entry on the first floor and a central gabled dormer projecting from the slope of the hipped roof. On the first floor, the central entry is flanked by two pair of four-over-one wood sash windows and sheltered by the projecting hipped roof porch, which is supported by four brick columns and two brick wall pilasters resting on a concrete floor. The second floor is lighted by three symmetrically-placed pairs of four-over-one wood sash windows, and the dormer above is lighted with two fixed seven-pane Prairie style windows.

The southern elevation is asymmetrical, with three larger seven-over-one wood sash windows placed irregularly across the second story, along with a smaller window of identical sash configuration. The first floor is accessed via a central, single-leaf entrance with a transom that is flanked to the east by a small pair of multi-pane casement windows and to the west by a taller seven-over-one wood sash window. To the east, a pair of tall, seven-over-one casement windows lights the wall near the eastern elevation; to the west, near the single story room at the rear, is another large seven-over-one wood sash window. The single-story hipped roof porte cochere is supported on two brick columns and two wall pilasters and placed over the central

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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entrance and immediately flanking windows. The northern elevation is also asymmetrically organized. On the first floor, a single grouping to the east consists of two smaller seven-over-one wood sash windows flanking a central, larger window of identical sash configuration. In the center, a pair of seven-pane casement windows to the east of center is balanced by a larger pair of seven-over-one wood sash windows to the west. The story is finished by a single seven-over-one wood sash window to the west. The second story is lighted by a single seven-over-one wood sash window to the east, a smaller wood sash window of identical pane configuration toward the center, a pair of seven-over-one wood sash windows toward the western elevation and two pair of ten-pane casement windows (for the sun porch within) finishing the elevation.

The western elevation consists of another gabled dormer in the center of the roof slope, directly opposite that on the eastern elevation, set above the short hipped roof ell and single story room. The single story room is lighted by two symmetrically-placed seven-over-one wood sash windows, and the wall of the main block above is lighted by a single, asymmetrically-placed wood sash window of identical configuration. The second story of the projecting ell is blank toward the south and lighted by four pair of ten-pane casement windows to the north. The first story below is accessed via a single-leaf entry that is surmounted by a long, horizontal transom that also extends over the horizontal pane windows to the south.

Significant exterior details of note include the variety of multi-pane windows that punctuate the exterior elevations throughout. Especially noteworthy are the seven-over-one Prairie style windows, with their geometric symmetry and thin, delicate muntins. The shallow brackets that decorate the overhanging eaves throughout prefigure the exposed rafters that would become a signature of the Craftsman style, and knee braces -- also a Craftsman feature -- ornament both roof dormers, which are finished with delicately panelled vergeboards. Finally, the geometric decorative brick panelling employed at the tops of the brick columns, pilasters and chimneys echoes the geometry of the windows and further reflects the Prairie style influences and its debt to Japanese architecture.

This geometric theme is carried over to the interior also. In addition to the geometry lent the interior also by the geometric windows, such features as the main brick fireplace on the first floor are designed with the same eye toward the geometric patterning of the brick in both horizontal and diagonal arrangements. Most noteworthy of all, however, is the balustrade that ornaments the main, quarter-turn staircase to the second floor. The newel posts each feature applied geometric stick decoration near the top, surmounted by a wood cap that is both rounded and beveled on four sides. The balustrade between the newels consists of thin pieces of wood jig-sawn to form a delicate, vertical rhythm around the first landing and up the staircase itself. An original wood bench in front of the staircase on the first floor provides a transition from the floor to the staircase that is both visually satisfying and functional. The stairs themselves are constructed of stained wood and feature treads that project slightly from

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the supporting risers. Other interior features of note include a number of multi-pane French doors between rooms and simpler, wood panel doors on the second floor.

The Foster House is in a remarkable state of preservation and has been changed only slightly over the past seventy-four years. The current owner is in the process of restoring much of the original plaster and other finishes within, and plans include only slight modifications to the floor plan on the second floor.

The nomination also includes the original single story, hipped roof brick garage building just to the west of the residence.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1917  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/ A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Witt, Siebert and Halsey  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**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**

A 

1	5
---	---

4	4	5	8	2	0
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3	7	2	5	1	5	0
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Zone      Easting                      Northing

B 

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone      Easting                      Northing

C 

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D 

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lots 4 - 9, Block 20, Brookwood Addition to the City Hope, Arkansas

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ken Story, Architectural Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 4/9/91

street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501) 324-9346

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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National Park Service

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## Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Foster House is eligible under Criterion C with local significance as the best extant example in this neighborhood of Hope of a foursquare plan residence with Prairie style and Craftsman influences. Such details as the panelled vergeboards on the gabled dormer, the geometric brick detailing at the tops of the brick columns and the four-over-one wood sash windows distinguish this design as one of the few examples of the style that was created by Frank Lloyd Wright and spread throughout the country by his students.

## Elaboration

The Foster House was designed in 1917 by the Texarkana firm of Witt, Siebert and Halsey and completed in 1918. It was commissioned by Leonidas Alston Foster, a prominent businessman in Hope and the surrounding vicinity who, along with his wife Elizabeth Walker Foster, could trace his family's roots from Virginia and South Carolina. Mr. Foster's family had been among the earliest to purchase and clear prized Red River bottomlands in Lafayette, Miller and Hempstead counties in the years before and after the Civil War, and these investments later served Foster well.

Hope, in addition to becoming a regional transportation hub with the arrival of several intersecting railroad lines after the Civil War, also became a regional cotton processing and marketing center in southwest Arkansas. The importance of this crop to the entire county was evidenced by the large number of cotton gins that dotted the countryside throughout during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Lee Foster (as he was called locally), between his own agricultural land holdings and his dealings as a prominent Hope cotton broker, prospered sufficiently to become one of the driving forces behind the chartering of the Citizens National Bank of Hope, of which he also became one of the directors. Lee and Liza Foster remained active in the Hope community throughout their lives, and in a variety of arenas. Lee Foster was instrumental in securing the location of the University of Arkansas Experiment Station east of Hope. He also served the First Presbyterian Church as one of its elders, and his wife was active in virtually all phases of church activity. They were both also known to be both socially and politically active in Hope and Hempstead County, though neither ever held any known political office.

It then seems only fitting that the Foster family would desire not only a spacious and imposing residence for themselves and their four children, but also one of the most up-to-date and architecturally sophisticated. Such national architectural publications as *The Western Architect* publicized the early work of the Prairie school architects, the most talented of which was Frank Lloyd Wright, though the work of such other contemporaries as Walter Burley Griffin and Barry Byrne was also innovative and worthy of note. Such periodicals

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had fully embraced the evolving Prairie style by the first few years of the second decade of the twentieth century and reproduced both photographs and drawings for a growing national audience. Thus it is not surprising to detect the influence of this new American style in the architectural designs of such trained architectural firms as Witt, Siebert and Halsey of Texarkana, Arkansas, which were surely keeping a close eye on their contemporaries to try and anticipate the next shift in popular American taste.

However, it is also not surprising that such a firm would adapt this style and certain of its decorative features to more traditional and familiar residential building types given the relatively unsophisticated tastes and conservative attitude that characterized the bulk of their clientele. Witt, Siebert and Halsey manifested this same design synthesis in other contemporaneous residential commissions in Hope, most notably the R.M. Briant residence. This design also displays the tendency to combine essentially conservative and traditional floor plans with more "modern" ornament and details to enhance the status of the design, and that of the owner thereby. Though more simple than the Briant House, the Foster House nevertheless exhibits this same tendency through its abundance of Prairie school-inspired ornament, details and lighting applied to a "foursquare" plan that maximizes the usefulness of all the included square footage.

It is for these reasons that the Foster House stands as the finest example in its neighborhood of this particular type of house design, and hence is eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Bibliography

*A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas, 1875-1975*, (Hope, Arkansas, 1974).

*Prairie School Architecture, Studies from "The Western Architect,"* edited and introduced by H. Allen Brooks, (Toronto, 1975), pp. ix-xviii.

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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000683

Date Listed: 6/5/91

Foster House  
Property Name

Hempstead  
County

ARKANSAS  
State

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*(Signature)* Patrick Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

7/9/91  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 7

This nomination is amended to show the foundation material as concrete.

This amendment was confirmed by phone with the Arkansas SHPO (7/9/91)

DISTRIBUTION:  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Foster House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Hempstead

DATE RECEIVED: 5/02/91 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/91  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/05/91 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/16/91  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 91000683

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 6/5/91 DATE: Entered in the National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acres: verbal boundary description  
boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps USGS maps

OTHER COMMENTS

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_  
REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_  
DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

---

CLASSIFICATION

count       resource type

---

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

---

FUNCTION

historic       current

---

DESCRIPTION

architectural classification  
 materials  
 descriptive text

---

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

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

acreage       verbal boundary description  
 UTM's       boundary justification

---

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

sketch maps      *label on map*  USGS maps       photographs       presentation

---

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



FOSTER HOUSE

HOPE, ARKANSAS

Hempstead C

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHEAST



FOSTER HOUSE

\*Kempster

HOPE, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTH



FOSTER HOUSE  
HOPE, ARKANSAS

Hempstead

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST



FOSTER HOUSE  
HOPE, ARKANSAS

*Nempstead*

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



FOSTER HOUSE  
HOPE, ARKANSAS

Nempstead SC

PHOTOGRAPHERS BY R ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

PORCH COLUMN DETAIL



FOSTER HOUSE

HOPE, ARKANSAS

Hempstead C

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST



FOSTER HOUSE Hempstead  
HOPE, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

ASSOCIATED GARAGE FROM SOUTHEAST



FOSTER HOUSE - Hempstead  
HOPE, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM EAST



FOSTER HOUSE *Hampton a*  
HOPE, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1991  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
WINDOW DETAIL



FOSTER HOUSE  
HOPE, ARKANSAS

Hempstead Co

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

MAIN STAIRWELL DETAIL



FOSTER HOUSE  
HOPE, ARKANSAS

Hempstead Co

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DOWNSTAIRS FIREPLACE DETAIL



FOSTER HOUSE *Hempstead Co.*

HOPE, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHAP

BALUSTER DETAIL



FOSTER HOUSE Hempstead Ct.

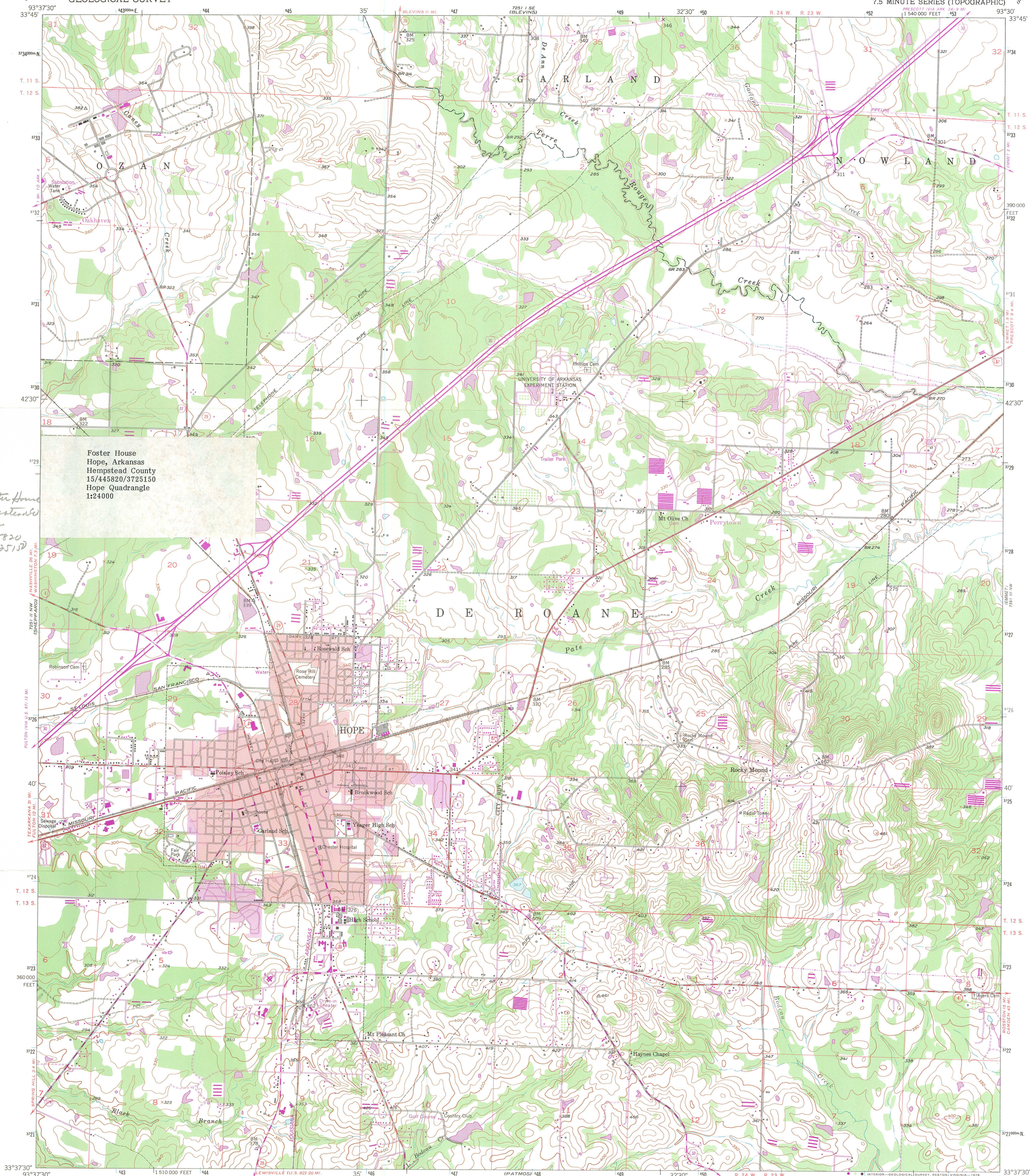
HOPE, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER

JANUARY, 1991

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

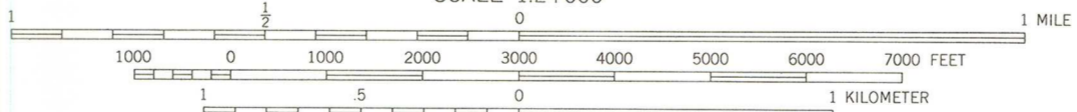
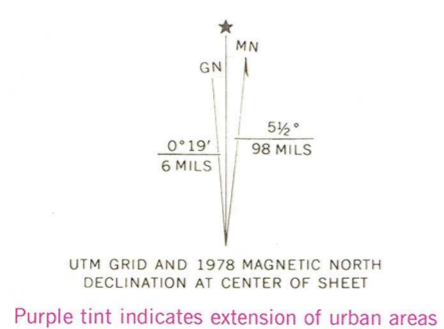
UPSTAIRS FIREPLACE DETAIL



Foster House  
Hope, Arkansas  
Hempstead County  
15/445820/3725150  
Hope Quadrangle  
1:24000

Foster House  
Hempstead Co  
AR  
15/445820  
3725150

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE  
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1948. Topography by plane-table methods 1951  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system,  
south zone  
Red tint indicates area in which only  
landmark buildings are shown  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1976 and other source data. This information not  
field checked. Map edited 1978



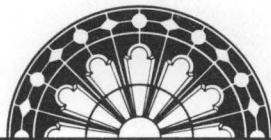
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION	
Heavy-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE
Medium-duty	4 LANE 16 LANE
U. S. Route	State Route
Interstate Route	
Light-duty	Unimproved dirt

HOPE, ARK.  
N3337.5-W9330/7.5  
1951  
PHOTOREVISED 1978  
AMS 7251 II NE-SERIES V884



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED

MAY 02 1991

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

April 29, 1991

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

RE: Foster House  
Hope - Hempstead County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination 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  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

