

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Elks Lodge

Other Name/Site Number: PLO029

2. Location

Street & Number: 500 Mena Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Mena Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Polk Code: AR113 Zip Code: 71953

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Elks Lodge
Name of Property

Polk 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.

Calvin A. Sater
Signature of certifying official
Date 4-14-98

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register
- _____ determined not eligible for the National Register
- _____ removed from the National Register
- _____ other (explain): _____

B. R. Payne
Signature of Keeper
6/4/98
Date

Signature of Keeper Date
Of action

Elks Lodge
Name of Property

Polk County, Arkansas
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic: Social Sub: Meeting Hall
Health Care Hospital

Current : Commerce/Trade Sub: Professional
Education Specialty Store
Library/Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Colonial Revival
Spanish/Colonial Revival

Materials: foundation Stone, Brick roof Composition Shingle
walls Brick other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Elks Lodge at 500 Mena Street in Mena, Polk County is a rectangular plan, two-story red brick Colonial Revival commercial building on a continuous rough-cut stone foundation beneath a marble belt course. The building features a low hipped roof, double-hung windows with marble lintels, quoins on all corners, multiple porches and a Mission style shaped parapet. The Lodge was built circa 1908 on a sloping lot in the business area of Mena on a street of historic brick and stone structures. Due to fires and changing occupants the Lodge has been slightly altered but it retains its essential architectural integrity.

Elaboration

The Elks Lodge at 500 Mena Street in Mena, Polk County is a two-story, red brick Colonial Revival commercial building on a continuous rough-cut stone foundation beneath a marble belt course. A defining architectural element is the Mission style shaped parapet on the front facade. The building was raised to accommodate the Elks Lodge, No. 781 in 1908. Many changes have been made to the Lodge as a result of fires and remodeling by different tenants, but it retains its essential form and integrity.

The southwestern, or front facade is dominated by a full-width porch supported by four Tuscan columns. A span of decorative balustrades connects the columns and outlines the flat roof of the porch. This is not the original porch, which had a wood floor, (now concrete) but it has been recreated from historic photographs and is authentic in its design. A handicapped ramp leads

Elks Lodge
Name of Property

Polk County, Arkansas
County and State

to the southern corner of the porch. Brick quoins adorn the corners of the building. The wide, one-light paneled front door centered on the porch has adjoining sidelights and a transom under a marble lintel. Two eight-over-one windows with marble lintels and sills surround the front door. The second story is five-ranked with two six-over-one single windows flanking a ribbon of three centered under a shaped parapet. The center window of the ribbon is eight-over-one while the surrounding two are six-over-one. The parapet is detailed with a round nine-light window. At the date of construction the Elks had elaborated this parapet with a pair of mounted elk horns.

The southeastern elevation is simple with six-over-one windows in a variety of sizes with marble lintels and sills. A pair of larger windows open on the southwest corner next to a medium window. Two shorter, wider windows lead to another medium window and a second large window is adjacent to a one-light paneled door with a transom at the northeast. This door opens onto a small wooden stoop with trellised handrail to the east. A marble beltcourse that surrounds the building is visible above the stone foundation. Quoins are the only embellishment. The second story features three six-over-one windows and one short and one tall three-over-one window.

The rear, or northeastern elevation features a series of windows as well. Three louvered openings run across the foundation. The first story is lit left to right by a short window, a set of double windows and two single windows. The second story contains four regular size windows. Quoins adorn the corners of this facade.

The northwestern facade is more symmetrical and in keeping with the front elevation. Four Tuscan columns support a central two-story porch with a balustrade like that seen on the front porch. The decorative railing continues uncovered to the western corner. This facade has a slight U-shape to it and contains the porch. A ribbon of three windows to the northeast of the porch. Within the porch are three windows surrounding a single leaf glass door with fanlight and marble lintel. This door is not original, being heavily damaged in a 1984 fire, but traces of a wider door remain in the brick around the casing. The southwest corner of the building contains another ribbon of three windows. Quoins are also present on this facade.

The second story holds seven windows, two to the left and right, and three in the central recessed area surrounding a single door opening onto the second story porch. Historic photos show a second shaped parapet on this elevation that is no longer extant.

The first floor of the interior is an open lobby with a small store and library in the rear. Two beams running northwest to southeast are supported by four square wood posts which help support the ceiling. The beams and posts were installed during renovations to counteract structural damage after the 1984 fire. The wooden trim on windows and doors is original as are the oak hardwood floors. On the southeastern wall within an inglenook is a large brick fireplace. A central staircase leads to the second story from the northeastern, rear wall. Five steps lead to a landing containing bookshelves. Two posts at the landing attach to a stick balustrade that encloses the landing and serves as a short handrail for the flight of steps leading northwest to the upper story. The second story rooms are divided into several small offices. Wood trim on this floor is not original.

Elks Lodge
Name of Property

Polk 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,A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation
Health/Medicine
Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1908 - 1948

Significant Dates: 1908

Significant Person(s): William Jennings Bryan, Chet Lauck

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Elks Lodge 781 (builder)

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

Summary

The Elks Lodge at 500 Mena Street in Mena, Polk County is a two story red brick Colonial Revival commercial building on a continuous rough-cut stone foundation. A defining architectural element is a Mission style shaped parapet on the front, southwestern facade. In 1908 the Elks Lodge 781 constructed the building in the business section of Mena near such other important landmarks of the community as the post office and City Hall. The building suffered a fire, one of two, in 1984 and was vacant until 1996 when it was rehabilitated and leased to various businesses. It has been restored as closely as possible to its original appearance. A cornerstone of the community since 1908, the Elks Lodge has served local organizations, hosted notable politicians and entertainers and tended to the medical needs of Mena through its tenure as the Mena General Hospital during 1935 to 1951. These historical associations qualify the building for nomination to the National Register under Criterion A. It is also being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best extant example in Mena of a Colonial Revival commercial building.

Elks Lodge
Name of Property

Polk County, Arkansas
County and State

Elaboration

The town of Mena, county seat of Polk County, was founded in 1896 with the introduction of the Kansas City Southern Railway. The line was financed by Mr. Arthur Stillwell and backed by Dutch investors. Jan DeGoeijen was a personal friend of Mr. Stillwell so as a tribute to his friend and his help in establishing the community, he named the town after Mr. DeGoeijen's mother, Mena. Due to heavy public relations efforts to promote Mena, 1000 people were camped at the townsite when the railroad reached the area. It was incorporated soon after.

In 1902, twenty-six people banded together to form the "Hello Bills", a forerunner to the Elks Lodge, 781. The group met in the second story of the Watkins Building across the street from the postoffice. The popularity of the Elks necessitated a move to larger quarters. Their next lodge hall was in the Davis block on Mena Street, later known as the Opera House block. By 1908 the Elks needed even more space so the Elks Lodge was constructed on the corner of Mena and Port Arthur streets. The organization shared their new home with other associations and allowed it to be utilized as a community center. A sizable roof fire in 1925 caused heavy damage to the Elks Lodge which probably accounts for the missing shaped parapet on the northwestern wall.

The Redman Hospital in Mena had outgrown its space in 1935 so the Elks rented the building for medical use to the Mena General Hospital until 1951. At that time the Elks regained control of the building. By this time the wooden porches had begun to rot so they were removed. It is thought that the side porch was removed earlier by the hospital in order to use the side door as an emergency entrance. A metal awning and small concrete porches were added later to the front and west elevations. Other changes included painting the windows white to hide the drinking activities of the Lodge members, partitions on the interior and a false stair over the original staircase.

During its stint as the Elks Lodge the building was the site of a 1908 reception for William Jennings Bryan during his bid for the White House. Actor and Mena resident Chet Lauck, served as the Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge for two years in 1928 and 1929. Many other clubs and organizations like the Lions Club and the Girl Scouts utilized the Lodge during the years and numerous community events took place there. From 1935 to 1951 the Mena General Hospital occupied the building while serving the medical needs of the residents of Mena. These associations with the Elks and other important personages and community groups call for the Elks Lodge to be nominated to the National Register under Criterion A.

The Elks Lodge in Mena is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C for its imposing Colonial Revival architecture. The Lodge features a Mission influenced parapet, marble lintels and sills, brick quoins and historically correct decorative porches.

Elks Lodge
Name of Property

Polk County, Arkansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Materials submitted by Mary Rawlins, Mena, Arkansas. 1997.

Goodspeeds Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas, Southern Publishing Company, Chicago and Nashville, 1891.

Stillwell, Arthur E. and James R. Crowell, "I had A Hunch," reprinted from *The Saturday Evening Post*, LaBelle Printing Company, Port Athur, Texas.

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>386490</u>	<u>3827630</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary includes lots 16,17, and 18 in block 43 of the original townsite of Mena, Polk County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Elks Lodge.

Elks Lodge
Name of Property

Polk County, Arkansas
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 3/31/98

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
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98000616

Date Listed: 6/4/98

Elks Lodge

Polk

AR

Property Name

County

State

N/A

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 of the Keeper

6/4/98
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significance:

Politics/government is deleted as an area of significance.
[The current documentation fails to provide sufficient context for evaluating the significance of the property within this area of significance.]

William Jennings Bryan and *Chet Lauck* are likewise deleted as significant persons.
[The significant persons block is only used for persons evaluated in association with NR Criterion B, which is not claimed in this nomination. In addition, the ephemeral nature of their associations with the property do not sufficiently justify eligibility.]

Elks Lodge 781 is deleted from the Architect/Builder block.
[Entries should refer to the person or persons directly responsible for the design or physical construction of the property and not the group for whom it was built, unless there is clear and documented evidence that the design originated from within that group (i.e. railroad company-designed railroad depots, or U. S. Treasury-designed post offices).]

This information was confirmed with the Arkansas SHPO.

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 Elks Lodge
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Polk

DATE RECEIVED: 5/08/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/18/98
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/22/98
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000616

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

___ACCEPT ___RETURN ___REJECT _____DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Elks Lodge in Mena is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criteria A and C in the areas of Entertainment/Recreation, Health/Medicine, and Architecture. The two-story brick building is a fine local example of Colonial Revival/Classical-styled civic architecture built for a prominent local fraternal organization. The building served as an important community meeting place for various social and entertainment activities during the early twentieth century and also temporarily served as an important local medical facility during the Depression and immediate World War II eras.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Criteria A+C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusowan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE _____ DATE 6/4/98

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



Elks Lodge

Polk County, Arkansas

Photo by Amy Bennett

October 3, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View from South



Elks Lodge

Polk County, Arkansas

Photo by Amy Bennett

October 16, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View from west ~~west~~



Elks Lodge

Polk County, Arkansas

Photo by Amy Bennett

October 3, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

view of front door



Elks Lodge
Polk County, Arkansas
Photo by Amy Bennett
October 3, 1997
negative on file at ALEP
view from north





Silas Lodge

Polk County, Arkansas

Photo by Amy Bennett

October 3, 1997

negative on file at ALPP

View from east



Elks lodge

Polk County, Arkansas

Photo by Amy Bennett

October 3, 1997

Negative on file at AMAP

view of mission parapet



Elks Lodge
Polk County, Arkansas
Photo by Amy Bennett
October 3, 1997
Negative on file at AHPP
View of Lobby



Elks Lodge
Polk County, Arkansas
Photo by Amy Bennett
October 6, 1997
negative on file at AHPP
view of staircase

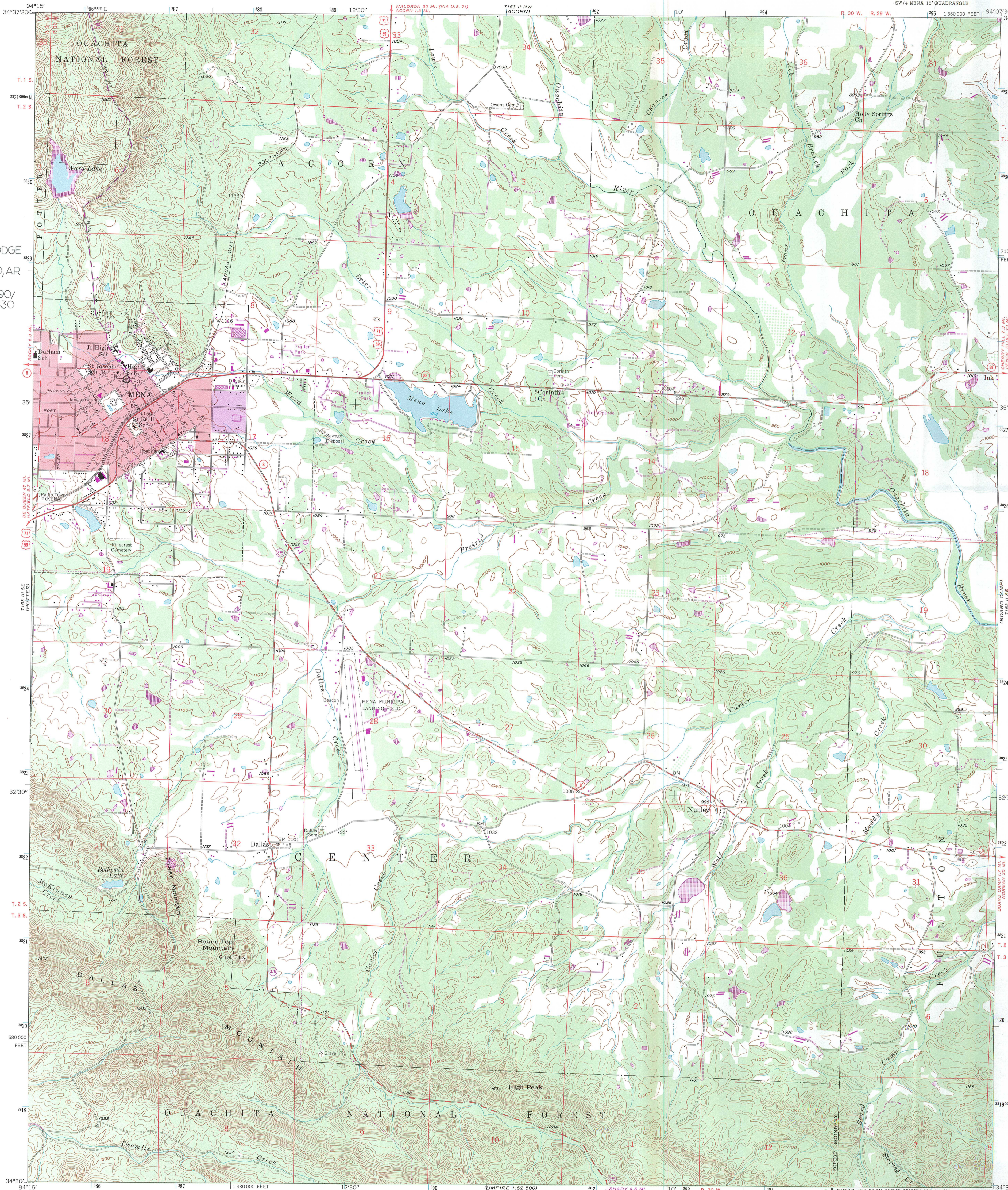


Elks Lodge
Polk County, Arkansas
Photo by Amy Bennett
October 3, 1997
Negative on file at AHPP
View of Lobby

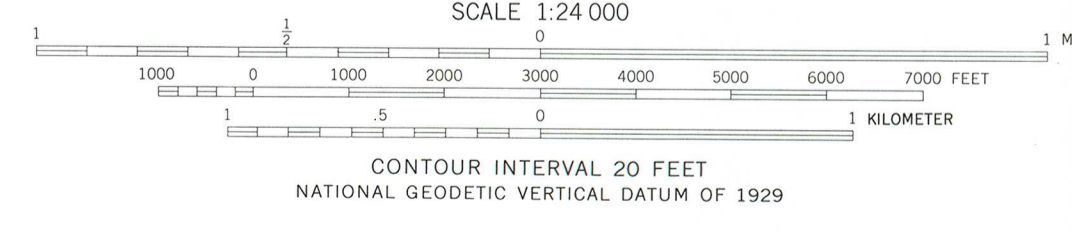
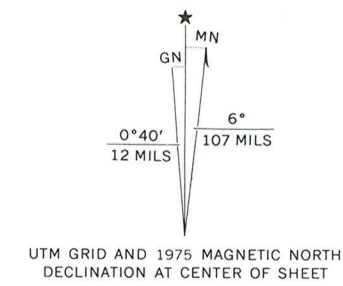


Elks Lodge
Polk County, Arkansas
Photo by Amy Bennett
October 3, 1997
Negative on file at AHPP
View of 2nd story

ELKS LODGE
MENA
POLK CO, AR
UTM
15/386490/
3827630



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods
Aerial photographs taken 1955. Field check 1958
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 7 meters south and
18 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the
National or State reservations shown on this map
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

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

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1975. This information not field checked
Purple tint indicates extensions of urban areas

MENA, ARK.
SW/4 MENA 15' QUADRANGLE
N3430-W9407.5/7.5
1958
PHOTOREVISED 1975
AMS 7153 II SW—SERIES V894



ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

April 15, 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: Elks Lodge. Mena, Polk County, Arkansas.

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

