

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NEListed 1-21-04

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Biscoe, Nannie Gresham, House

other names/site number CL0264

2. Location

street & number 227 Cherry Street ☐ not for publication

city or town Arkadelphia ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas Code AR county Clark code 019 zip code 71923

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

I, as the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/08/03
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Date of Action

Biscoe, Nannie Gresham, House

Name of Property

Clark County, Arkansas

County and State

Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

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)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet.

Biscoe, Nannie Gresham, House

Name of Property

Clark County, Arkansas

County and State

Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1901

Significant Dates

1901

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- X 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

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Biscoe, Nannie Gresham, House

Name of Property

Clark County, Arkansas

County and State

Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 495468 3775588
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Caroline Woodell Cagle, Edited by: Zac Cothren, Survey Historian
organization AHPP date 8/25/2003
street & number 323 Center Street, Suite 1600 telephone 501-324-9789
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Attach the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Caroline Woodell Cagle
street & number 227 Cherry Street telephone 870-246-2715
city or town Arkadelphia state AR zip code 71923

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Nannie Gresham Biscoe House is located on two lots at 227 Cherry Street in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. Constructed in 1901, the house is an excellent example of Queen Anne style architecture. Built as a family home and boarding house, it has remained in the family since it was built, having been passed down from mother to daughter for four generations.

The two-story building rests upon a brick pier foundation with brick latticework enclosing the crawl space that extends under the entire house. A hinged door in the back provides access to the space under the house. The wood-frame house is covered with weatherboard siding and topped by a composition shingle roof. Originally, three brick chimneys pierced the roof, but they were removed in the 1960s or early 1970s. The only other noticeable changes to the exterior are the addition of a bay window in the kitchen at the back of the house, metal siding on the back wall, and an outside door at the back that provides access to the attic.

ELABORATION

Constructed in 1901, the Nannie Gresham Biscoe House located at 227 Cherry Street in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, is an excellent example of Queen Anne style architecture. The two-story building rests upon a brick pier foundation with brick latticework enclosing the crawl space that extends under the entire house. The wood-frame house is covered with weatherboard siding and topped by a composition shingle roof. The home has been painted gray with contrasting gray and green trim. Built as a family home and boarding house, it has remained in the family since it was built, having been passed down from mother to daughter for four generations.

The front of the house faces north with the eastern most part of the façade projecting forward in the form of a two-story bay projection topped with a front-facing gable roof sheathed in decorative wood shingles. The projection is sheathed in a combination of diagonal and horizontal siding, both of which are original. Three one-over-one, double-hung windows fenestrate the bay projection on both the first and second story. Moving west, a one-story wrap-around porch supported on columns provides shelter for the first-story entrances. The wall material below the porch's roof is diagonal board and the wall covering above the porch roof is weatherboard. The home's primary entrance is through a wooden door that is flanked on each side by two side-lights and crowned with a single-pane transom. The entryway is followed by two one-over-one windows. A secondary door crowned with a transom is located at the western extreme of the front façade. Above the porch, the second-story is fenestrated by a single-pane window that is crowned with a decorative transom and flanked by one-over-one double-hung windows. The window grouping is centrally located under the front-facing gable end sheathed in decorative wood shingles. The final window on the front façade's second story is a simple one-over-one window located above the secondary entrance.

The west side of the house is fenestrated by a ribbon of two single-pane windows located under the roof of the wraparound porch. The house then projects slightly westward and is topped with a side facing gable. As with the front elevation, the gable end is sheathed in decorative wood shingles. The projection is fenestrated

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by a ribbon of three one-over-one windows topped with a two-pane transom window. Located directly above the lower story windows is a pair of one-over-one windows. Moving south, the building has a side door that is crowned with a transom. The final first story window is smaller than most of the home's other windows. It is double-hung with an eight-over-eight pane configuration. Two more one-over-one windows fenestrate the second story of the building.

The back of the house faces south with the westernmost portion extending southward from the main body of the house creating an L shaped rear elevation. The projecting section of the rear elevation features a bay window that was a later addition to the kitchen. The only other window is a one-over-one double-hung window located on the second story. The east facing portion of the "L" and the remainder of the home's south elevation are both part of a two-story porch. The porch is screened-in on both the first and second story. Although the screened porch conceals the building's rear windows and doors, all remain intact behind the screen.

The house's east facing elevation is fenestrated on the first story by a ribbon of two one-over-one double-hung windows and another single one-over-one window located near the northeast corner of the building. There are also two windows on the east elevation's second story. The first is a one-over-one double-hung window located directly above the ribbon of windows. The second window is also one-over-one and located near the home's northeast corner.

Several wonderful original features remain inside the home. A visitor enters the home from the front porch into an entrance hall. To the right a beautiful staircase with a carved banister and two landings leads up to the second floor. The downstairs also features original pocket doors. A carved and tiled mantel in the living room remains in its original condition. Original pine flooring remains in the front part of the house.

Some interior alterations have occurred. The kitchen and downstairs bathroom have been remodeled. An additional bathroom was added upstairs where a chimney and closet had been. Back-to-back mantle pieces are still in place in the living room and sitting room, but the fireplaces have been enclosed. The house was built with gas light fixtures, but was wired for electricity sometime during the teens. Several gas jets are still functioning at floor level to permit the use of gas stoves in case of power outage.

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SUMMARY

The Nannie Gresham Biscoe House at 227 Cherry Street in Arkadelphia, Arkansas is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a well-preserved excellent example of Queen Anne style architecture. The house is located in an old, nicely maintained residential neighborhood bordering Ouachita Baptist University. The house was built to serve as both a family home and boarding house. It has remained in the same family since it was built having been passed down for four generations from mother to daughter.

ELABORATION

Nancy Caroline "Nannie" Gresham Biscoe, a widow, purchased the land at 227 Cherry Street in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, from S. B. and Mattie Earle for \$450 on February 23, 1901. She then built a two-story home that would also provide income as a boarding house. As her obituary notes, "A number of the school boys boarded with her." The original owners of the Adams home next door and the Jackson home just to the east of the Adams home lived with Mrs. Biscoe while their houses were under construction. Mr. Adams arranged to have the house wired for electricity during that time. Significantly, the house has remained in the family for over a century, having passed from mother to daughter through four generations of teachers. It now belongs to Mrs. Biscoe's great-granddaughter, Dr. Caroline Woodell Cagle.

Mrs. Biscoe was born in Walton County, Georgia, in 1847, the daughter of John L. and Mary Kelsey Gresham. She was married to John Basil Biscoe in 1871. After the death of her husband in 1883, she left Forest, Mississippi, bringing four children of her own – Don, Mattie, Hamilton and Gibbs – along with an adopted nephew, Pat Biscoe, to join her brother in Arkadelphia. Soon after Ouachita College opened its doors in 1886, "Mother Biscoe" began teaching in the College Preparatory Department. For a time she lived in the young ladies' dormitory on the campus. All five of the children graduated from Ouachita. Three of the boys became doctors and Mattie became a teacher.

According to her obituary in 1931, "Mrs. Biscoe, one of the most beloved characters ever associated with local educational institutions, became an instructor at Ouachita College when it was a young school. She was dean of women there also, serving altogether 11 years as a member of the college faculty. Later she became a member of the faculty of Arkadelphia High where she was admired for her ability and thoroughness and greatly beloved for her character and fine disposition which continued to endear her to the people of Arkadelphia after she retired as a teacher." Her career as an educator spanned fifty years. In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Mrs. Biscoe served in 1897-98 as the first president of the newly organized Women's Library Association. This group of women arranged for the construction of a county library designed by the noted architect Charles Thompson of Little Rock and completed in 1903. The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Mrs. Biscoe's daughter Mattie was born in 1874. In 1901, she married Jeremiah Clarke, a lawyer practicing in Ennis, Texas. After the death of her husband in 1919, Mattie returned to the family home with her two

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daughters, Caroline and Martha. Mattie taught English at Arkadelphia High School for twenty-five years and remained in the home until her death in 1945.

Both of the girls graduated from Ouachita and became teachers. Caroline moved to Chicago and married Jess Becker. They returned to Arkadelphia when they retired. Martha taught fifth grade in Foreman, Arkansas, during the Depression, and then married Russell Woodell, a pharmacist, in 1936. The couple immediately moved into the "the big white house on Cherry Street." He later established Woodell Drug Store on Main Street. They had two daughters. Martha Caroline graduated from Ouachita in 1961 and taught for a year at Stamps, Arkansas. She then married Thomas Gordon Cagle, a Navy Ensign, and moved to Washington, D.C. Her sister Nancy Clarke, whose educational pursuits took her to Texas, met her husband Leonard Marotte at Southern Methodist University.

In 1986, Caroline Cagle moved back home from Arlington, Virginia, to teach Computer Science at Ouachita Baptist University. Her son Clarke Cagle entered Ouachita the same year. He lived in the family home with his mother and his grandparents until he became a fourth-generation Ouachita graduate in 1989. Today, when Clarke and his sister Carrie Morrison visit Arkadelphia, or Nancy Clarke Marotte comes to town with her daughter Melanie Gunter and her son Jeffrey Marotte, all of their children – Michelle Cagle, Marina and Carolan Morrison, Anna and Jenna Gunter, and the twins Ethan and Olivia Marotte – represent the sixth generation to gather together for holiday celebrations in the Nannie Gresham Biscoe home on Cherry Street.

Statement of Significance

The Nannie Gresham Biscoe House at 227 Cherry Street in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture. Although several historic homes are located on the same street, the well maintained and near unaltered condition of the Biscoe House makes it the best example of a Queen Anne style house on Cherry Street.

Biscoe, Nannie Gresham, House

Name of Property

Clark County, Arkansas

County and State

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Bibliography

Property deed for 227 Cherry Street.

Dr. Caroline Cagle- Biscoe family records, newspaper clippings, and family writings.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

From the original Warranty Deed granted by S. B. Earle and Mattie Earle to Nannie G. Biscoe by a deed recorded in Book 37, Page 503, dated February 23, 1901, and corrected on April 5, 1922 in Book 105, Page 308, in the Deed Records of Clark County, Arkansas:

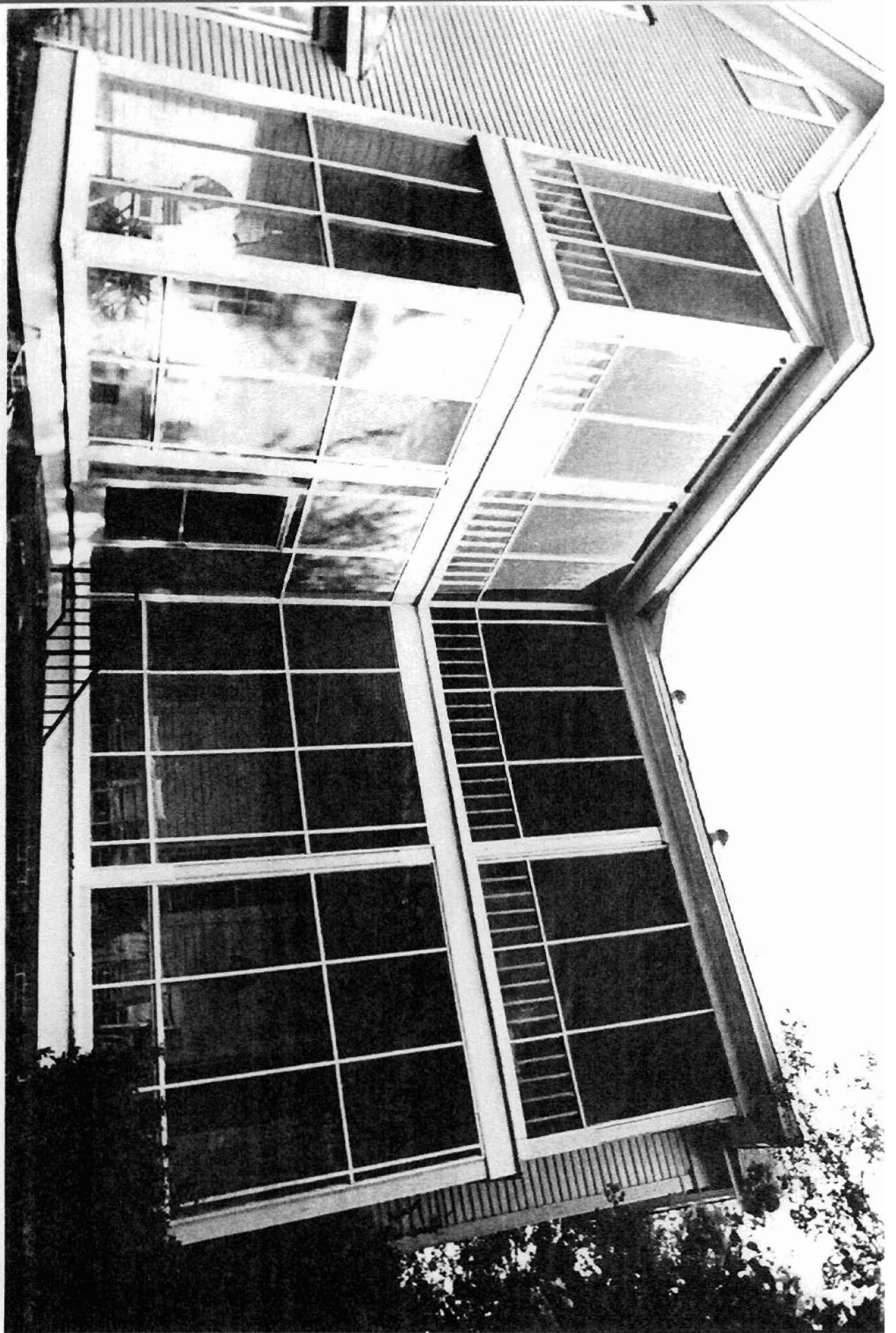
Beginning at a point One Hundred (100) feet East of the Northwest Corner of Block Ten (10) in Duncan's Addition and running thence East One Hundred feet across Block "H", Sixteenth Section Addition, thence Two Hundred and Fifty (250) feet South to a point on Block "F", Sixteenth Section Addition, thence One Hundred feet East to a point in Block Ten first mentioned herein, thence Two Hundred and Fifty (250) feet North to a point of beginning, in the City of Arkadelphia and State of Arkansas.

From the Mutual Quit-Claim Deed between Wilson C. and Beatrice L. Hansard (next-door neighbors) and Martha Clarke Woodell, recorded in Book 323, Page 94, dated June 27, 1974:

A part of Block 10 of Benjamin S. Duncan's Addition to Arkadelphia, Arkansas described as beginning at a point 100 feet East and 250 feet South of the Northwest corner of said Block 10, (which point is 280 feet South of the center of the pavement of Cherry Street and is the Southwest corner of the lands conveyed by S. B. Earle and wife to Nannie G. Biscoe by Warranty Deed, Book 37, page 503 and Book 105, page 308) from said point of beginning run thence South 40 feet to a point which is an extension of the South line of Block F of Sixteenth Section Addition; thence run East following the old fence line (as now shown be the fence embedded in various trees 50 feet to the Southwest corner of Block f of Sixteenth Section Addition; thence North along the line dividing Duncan's Addition and Sixteenth Section addition forty feet; thence West fifty (50) feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary encompasses all property historically associated with the Nannie Gresham Biscoe House.









STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
LITTLE ROCK

Nannie Gresham Biscoe House
Arkadelphia, Clark Co., AR
UTM: 15/495468/377588

