

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NR LISTED
JUN 03 1998
AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Hamilton Apartments

Other Name/Site Number: CTO105

2. Location

Street & Number: 113 West Danner Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: West Memphis

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Crittenden County Code: AR035 Zip Code: 72301

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Deborah Ferguson

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

1

1

1

Buildings
Sites
Structures
Objects
Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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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.

Cathryn A. Slatu
Signature of certifying official

4-14-98
Date

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): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
Of action

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5. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic Sub: Multiple Dwelling

Current : Domestic Sub: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Craftsman
English Revival

Materials: foundation Cast concrete roof Composition Shingle
walls Brick other _____
Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 113 W. Danner Street in West Memphis, the Hamilton Apartments is a two-story brick veneer and stucco building constructed in 1936. The building rests upon a continuous concrete foundation and contains a partial basement. Red tapestry brick is utilized for the first story and up to the bottom of the second-story window sills, and cream-colored stucco is used for the balance of the story. A red composition-shingled, gable-on-hip roof caps the building and features one centrally placed interior brick chimney on the northern slope of the roof. The interior is virtually unaltered and features a central staircase, original oak flooring, plaster walls, wood doors, and door and window moldings.

Elaboration

Located at 113 W. Danner Street in West Memphis, the Hamilton Apartments is a two-story brick veneer and stucco building constructed in 1936. The building rests upon a continuous concrete foundation and contains a partial basement. Red tapestry brick is utilized for the first story and up to the bottom of the second-story window sills, and cream-colored stucco is used for the balance of the story. A red composition-shingled, gable-on-hip roof caps the building and features one centrally placed interior brick chimney on the northern slope of the roof.

The front, or southern, elevation contains a single-leaf, nine-light wood door in the center of the first story. The entrance surround is composed of two simple pilasters and a prominent entablature. Two pairs of six-over-one,

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double-hung, wood windows with brick sills are symmetrically arranged to either side of the entrance. Above the front entrance is a cantilevered gable-roof bay that is finished with stucco and false half-timbering. This bay contains a central pair of six-over-one windows, positioned mid-level between the two stories, that light the interior stairway landing. A louvered wood vent is located in the peak of the gable. Fenestration for the second floor is identical to the first level.

On each end of the front elevation is a two-story porch bay that is created by gables projecting to the east and west, respectively. Originally, these were screened-in porches; however, the lower east porch was enclosed with single-pane glass windows sometime after construction by Dr. Hamilton to create a den. The remaining three porches were enclosed with single-pane glass during the past year.

The eastern elevation of the eastern porch reveals the new glass windows and a stuccoed and the false half-timbered pediment area of the gable end. A triangular drain for the second-story porch is visible. The northern elevation of the porch contains a single-leaf entrance (with a modern door) underneath a cantilevered shed roof that features a beaded-board ceiling, vertical novelty siding side walls, and a historic light fixture. The remainder of the eastern elevation consists of a smaller six-over-one, double-hung, wood window on each floor immediately to the north of the porch. North of these windows, the wall is recessed and a pair of regular six-over-one windows is found on both stories.

The rear, or northern, elevation is almost symmetrically arranged around a central stair tower. The eastern portion is comprised of a pair of six-over-one windows on each floor, a single six-over-one window per floor, and an odd-sized six-over-one window on the first floor and a small six-over-one window on the second story at the wall juncture with the east-facing wall of the stair tower. The stair tower is stuccoed with a half screened-in porch on the second story just below the shed roof extension from the main roof. A small three-over-one window is positioned in the eastern elevation wall, the northern elevation is blank, and the western elevation contains a pair of single-leaf entrances. A six-light, three-paneled wood door to the north leads to the staircase, while the adjacent door leads into a utility room to the rear of the kitchen. The paired entries are sheltered by a cantilevered (now augmented by a paired 2"X 4" post) shed roof porch with detailing similar to that of the eastern cross-gable shed roof.

From the central stair tower to the west, the rear elevation is arranged with a small six-over-one window on the first floor (under the cantilevered roof) with an identical window above, another small six-over-one window on the first story with a regular-sized, six-over-one window on the second floor, and a pair of regular six-over-one windows per floor to complete the elevation.

The western elevation is almost identical to the eastern elevation with the exception of a four-over-one window instead of the six-over-one type immediately to the north of the porch on the first story. Also, there is no shed roof over the single-leaf entrance to the porch from the north.

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The interior is virtually unaltered. One enters into a combination hall and staircase and rises six steps to the first-story level. Although the building was originally designed to have two downstairs and two upstairs apartments, Dr. Hamilton installed a door between the two first-story apartments and utilized the entire floor as his residence. Original oak flooring, plaster walls, wood doors, and door and window moldings remain. The walnut-paneled den in the lower eastern section of the building encompasses the original eastern porch, which was enclosed sometime after construction by Dr. Hamilton. The staircase is relatively simple in composition and consists of a plain stick balustrade. Other details of note include: original fixtures, black-and-white tiled bathroom floors and walls, telephone niche, and ten-light French doors leading onto the end porches.

At the rear of the apartment building is a corrugated, metal-clad five-bay garage of unknown age which is non-contributing. A historic concrete sidewalk along the street curb and an additional historic concrete walk that extends the length of the front facade to either side of the front entrance stoop are located on the property. There is also a graveled drive that circles the apartment building. A new concrete patio has been added to the rear entrance bay area.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1936

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

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

Summary

The Hamilton Apartments, built in 1936, are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance. The building is an excellent example of Craftsman-style architecture with Tudor Revival influences built at a time when West Memphis was a routine victim of floods from the backwaters of the St. Francis River.

Elaboration

West Memphis and the surrounding areas in Crittenden County have been subject to some of the country's most disastrous flooding due to the Mississippi River backing into the St. Francis River. The flood of 1927, called the greatest economic disaster in the history of the United States, and the 1937 flood had the people of West Memphis searching for higher ground. Despite the efforts of Crittenden County to protect itself from the floods with levies, the growth of cities, like West Memphis, was delayed. The population of West Memphis had not exceeded 10,000 in 1950 as compared to 28,259 in 1990.

The Hamilton Apartments were constructed in 1936, a year before the 1937 flood. The structure was safe from the record 50.4' high waters because it was built on a sandy ridge that did not flood. The surrounding structures on that ridge were mostly housing for the employees of the numerous sawmills.

The Craftsman style with Tudor influence shows a transition of architectural styles. The Tudor style began to gain popularity in the 1930s rivaled only by Colonial Revival. The Hamilton Apartments is significant locally as one of the few buildings of architectural notability to survive the floods of the region.

On November 21, 1949, after leasing the building, Dr. Ralph Hamilton, a leading community figure, bought the apartment building. Dr. Hamilton was selected West Memphis Man of the Year in 1950. His compassion as a physician for the care of his patients made him not only a leading community figure, but a local legend. Five years after Dr. Hamilton's death, in July of 1996, Dr. Hamilton's wife and son sold the Hamilton Apartments to its current owners. The Hamilton Apartments are important as the best remaining example in West Memphis of an architecturally significant circa 1936 apartment building.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Information submitted by Deborah Ferguson, September, 1996.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*
New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1990: pp.354-371, 452-463.

Woolfolk, Margaret. *History of Crittenden County, Arkansas*.
Greenville, S.C., Southern Historical Press Inc.; 1993.

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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 acre.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>756403</u>	<u>3893108</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

West one hundred feet (100) of Lot seven (7) in Block seven (7) of the Compress Subdivision to the City of West Memphis, Arkansas being situated in the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 12, in Township 6 North, Range 8 East in Crittenden County, Arkansas

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Hamilton Apartments in West Memphis, Arkansas.

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11. Form Prepared By

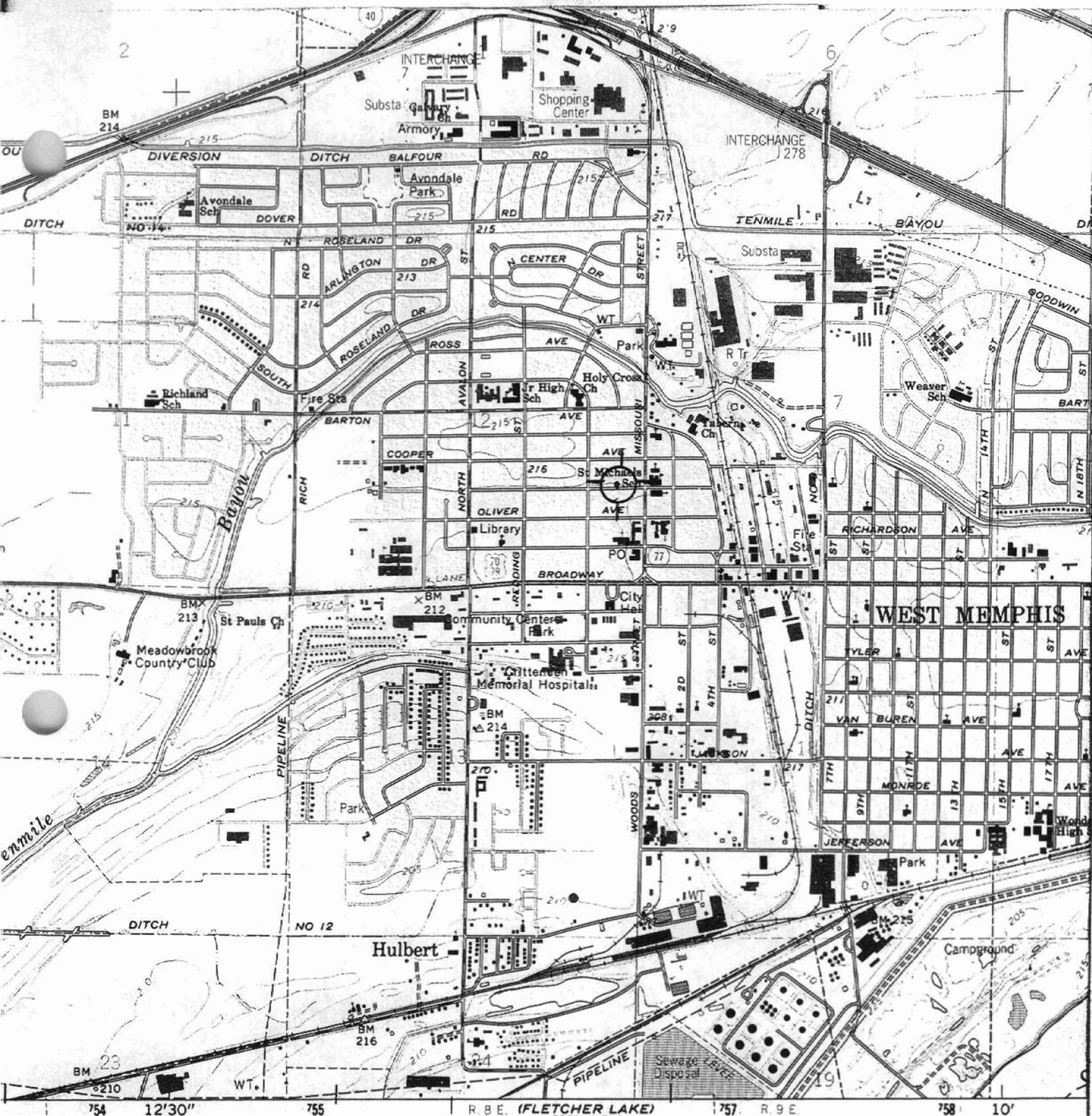
Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/30/98

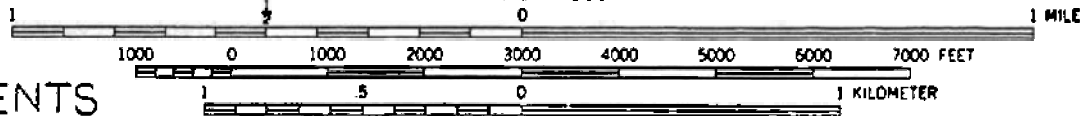
Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock

State: AR ZIP: 72201



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

HAMILTON
APARTMENTS
WEST MEMPHIS
CRITTENDEN CO, AR

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
AND TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION, DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

UTM

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Revisions
photograph
information
Information

