

NR 10-09-86

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Dr. John L. Butler House

and/or common Butler-Sims house

2. Location

street & number 313 Oak Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Sheridan

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Grant

code 053

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Gerry Sims Carter

street & number 300 West Center Street

city, town Sheridan

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Grant County Courthouse

street & number Center Street

city, town Sheridan

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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

Built by one of Sheridan's first physicians and prominent citizens, the Butler House stands as an early intact reminder of the town's early development and prosperity as a south Arkansas lumber center. As one of the finest examples of Colonial Revival architecture in the area, the Butler House gracefully displays the modest details associated with this style. The one-story frame residence maintains its original floor plan and possesses distinctive leaded glass transoms and an L-shaped porch supported by Doric columns with brick pier bases.

ELABORATION

The Butler House is situated on a corner lot, separated from Oak Street by an original wrought iron fence. The exterior of the one-story structure is clad in narrow weather-board siding and possesses the simple yet elegant details of a Colonial Revival cottage.

Certainly one of the finest residential structures in Sheridan, the building rests on a high brick foundation and is covered by a composition shingled hipped roof with transverse gables. Eight-pane casement windows are centered in each pediment. The rear west side is dominated by a sleeping porch wrapped with two-over-two double-hung windows and topped by a three-sided hipped roof. The facade is asymmetrical with a sizeable projection on the southeast front. A gable roof extends to cover the projection with a horizontally placed oval leaded glass window flanked on each side with a keystone and centered in the pediment. The main mass of the structure is pierced by three brick chimneys placed on the east end of the north roof slope and the east and west end of the south roof slope.

The focal window on the front gabled projection is topped with leaded glass and flanked by one-over-one double-hung windows half the width of the focal sash. A porch, supported by simple Doric columns on brick piers and embellished with square brick columns at the three corners, wraps from the front projection to the north gable. The north side is enhanced by a modest projection under the gable from which three nine-over-nine double-hung windows further project supported by brackets. Excluding the sleeping porch, gable and focal windows, all are six-over-six double-hung windows.

The front entry is a single walnut paneled door with a glass upper sash. A broad leaded glass transom and walnut and glass single-pane sidelights surround the door.

With very little modification, the house's original floor plan remains intact. The front entry opens to a large foyer with a fireplace on the center back wall. On the immediate left is the room formerly used by Dr. Butler as an office and presently used as a family room. A doorway to the left of the fireplace opens to a long hallway off of which are located the bedrooms, bathrooms and one of two entrances to the kitchen. The hall ultimately ends in the rear sleeping porch. From the foyer, the door to the right of the simple brick fireplace leads to the dining room. The second entrance to the kitchen is from the dining room. A butler's pantry with a pass-through window to a walk-in pantry and original cabinets are notable features of the kitchen.

All interior entries possess walnut pocket doors with walnut surrounds and glass transoms. Walnut floors are found throughout most of the house.

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Medicine
Specific dates	1914	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Butler House, located two blocks north of the courtsquare in Sheridan, Arkansas, is a noteworthy example of the earliest popular architectural style that can be found in the Grant county seat. Built by one of the town's first physicians in 1914, this property exhibits, in modest proportions, the fine attention to details so often found in a Colonial Revival cottage. In addition to its stylish facade, the Butler House continues to serve as a symbol and reminder of the development of Sheridan and Grant County, through its association with the Butler and Sims families.

ELABORATION

For the most part, nineteenth century settlement and development bypasses what is now Grant County. Although there is evidence of early Indian occupation around Sheridan, the first significant white settlement did not occur until after the Civil War. In fact, the town of Sheridan, named surprisingly enough in honor of the Union Civil War hero General Philip Sheridan, was not incorporated until 1887. It was not until railroad transportation was brought to Grant County in the 1880's that the timber industry began to develop— an industry that would sustain and bolster the Grant County economy to the present time.

Dr. John L. Butler was practicing medicine in Sheridan as early as 1891 and provided medical care to the thousands of workers at Grant County logging camps around the turn of the century. He was active in many civic affairs, serving as a member of the School Board and Grant County Bank Board of Directors, and was considered one of Sheridan's most influential and prominent citizens. It was only natural that Dr. Butler was especially conscious of the location and style of his new home. Oak Street, extending north from the courtsquare, was the first street to be graveled in Sheridan, a mark in 1905 of its importance to residents of the city. Dr. Butler was just one of three physicians who chose to occupy corner lots at the intersection of Oak and High Streets. His neighbors included the county judge, sheriff, school principal, mayor, and prosperous local merchants.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interview with Gerry Sims Carter, July 1985.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland and Hot Springs Counties, Arkansas, Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1885

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Sheridan, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	5	0	6	0	3	7	9	6	4	6	5
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Town of Sheridan, Nixon Addition, Block 8, Lots 1 and 4

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

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gerry Sims Carter and AHPP Staff

organization

date July 5, 1985

street & number 300 West Center Street

telephone (501) 942-7126

city or town Sheridan

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

Wilson Stie

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

7-2-86

For NPS use only

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

date

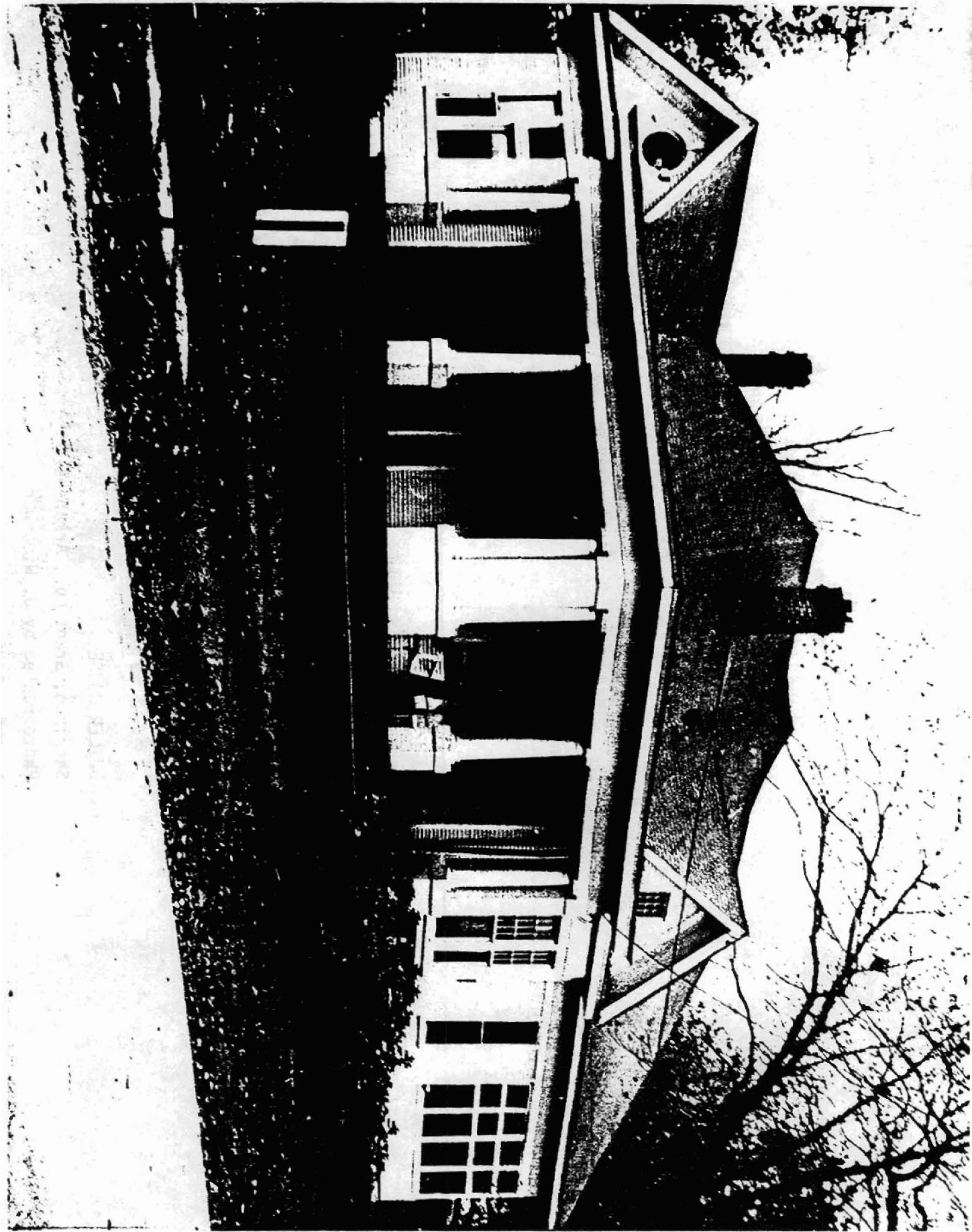
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

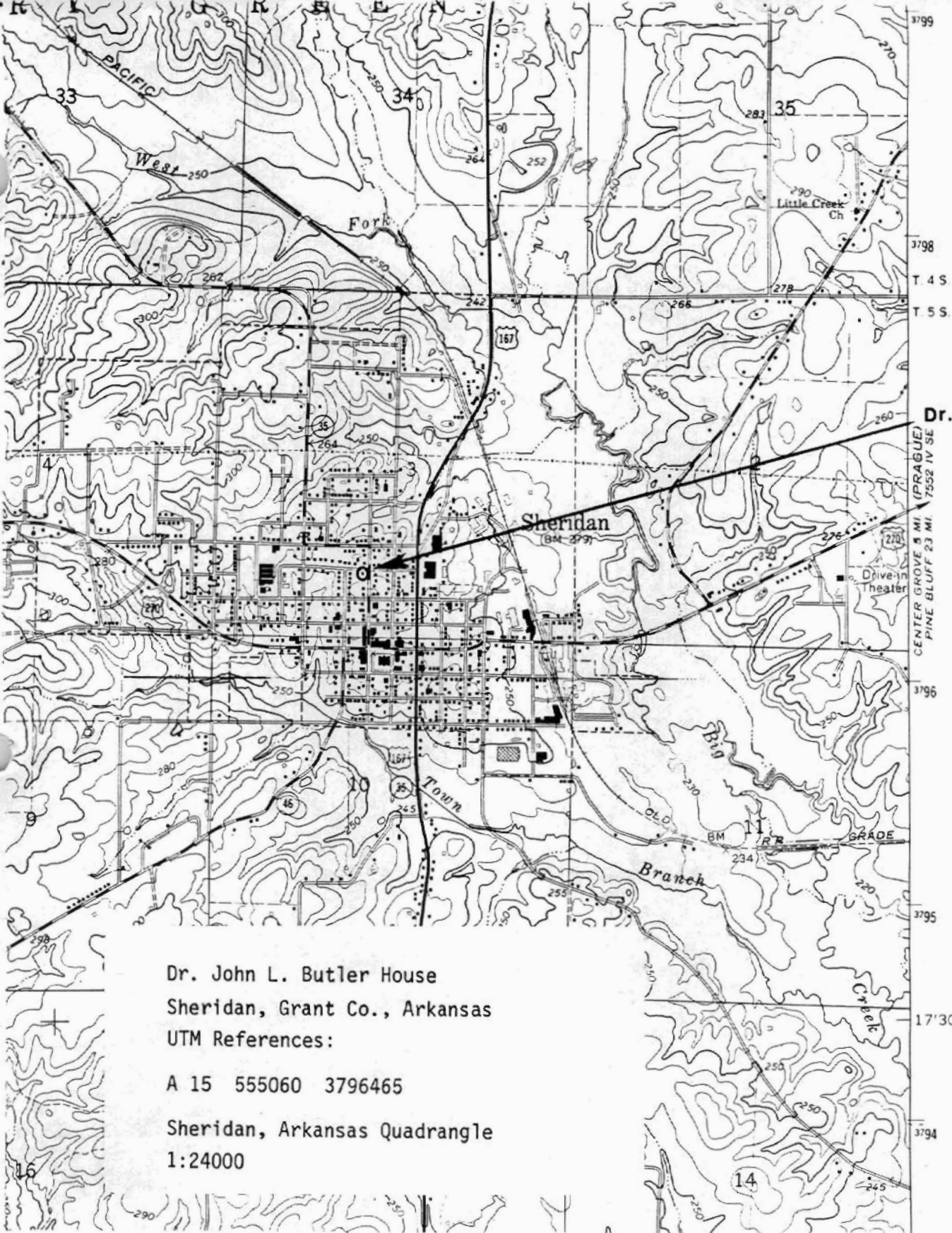
Chief of Registration











**Dr. John L. Butl
House**

Dr. John L. Butler House
Sheridan, Grant Co., Arkansas
UTM References:

A 15 555060 3796465

Sheridan, Arkansas Quadrangle
1:24000

CENTER GROVE 5 MI (PRAGUE)
PINE BLUFF 23 MI

17'30"

3794