

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Tyson Family Commercial Building

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 151 Adams SE

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Camden

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Ouachita

code: AR 103

zip code: 71701

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

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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I, 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. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

10-11-94
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

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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 Keeper

Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: Department Store

Current: COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: Department Store

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th
Commercial Style

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Brick other Glass

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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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: c. 1923

Significant Dates: c. 1923

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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☒ See continuation sheet.

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>515860</u>	<u>3715900</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Lot number 177 in Block number 22 of the original town of Camden.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Robin Louise Baldwin, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10-10-94

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Summary

Located at 151 Adams Street SE in Camden, Arkansas, the Tyson Family Commercial Building is a one and one-half storey, brick masonry commercial building designed in a plain vernacular style that was common for commercial construction throughout the state during the early decades of the twentieth century. The rectangular floor plan is covered with a sloping, built-up tar roof that is supported by brick masonry walls and a cast concrete foundation.

Elaboration

The western or front facade is composed of a large storefront constructed of three brick pilasters and large single pane window glass supported by metal frames. Six and eight pane transoms are present across the length of the front elevation. Though visible from the interior, large awnings cover the light transoms when viewed from the street. Pilasters divide the facade into two uneven portions. The larger, southern half of the storefront is beveled at an angle. A single-leaf metal and glass entrance separates the short and long arms of the angle. The southern elevation is a solid brick wall. One of the facade pilasters is visible at the western end. The northern elevation is a party wall. The eastern or rear elevation has a single-leaf central entrance raised slightly above the foundation and accessed by a cast concrete stoop. Rear windows were bricked in the 1970's for security purposes.

The interior space is divided into front and rear sections. As is often the case with commercial retail spaces, the front portion has been refinished over the years. However, as noted above, the front light transoms are visible from the interior. Also some original lighting fixtures remain. The rear portion of the building functions as a storage area and remains mostly unaltered. A large manually operated metal elevator -- original to the structure, and used to move items into an upper storage area -- remains intact in this rear section of the building.

The storefront of the building was altered considerably in the 1970's when corrugated metal was placed over the entire facade, covering the brick pilasters and light transoms. At this time the southern portion of the facade was moved back away from the street and the brick wall of the southern elevation was painted beige. In 1992, the owner of this building received a Model Business Grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and rehabilitation work was completed on the structure including the removal of the corrugated metal and the repainting of the brick on the southern side.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Tyson Family Commercial Building is locally eligible under criterion C as an excellent example in this section of downtown Camden of a c. 1920 commercial building designed in a simple vernacular style that was common throughout the state during this period.

Elaboration

The site now occupied by the town of Camden was originally known as Ecore Fabre, or Fabre's Bluff. It was named after the first recorded European who settled at the location, a Frenchman named Fabre. The establishment of a more permanent settlement by 1820 resulted in the community becoming the county seat in 1843. The town was renamed Camden in 1844 by General Thomas Woodward who named it in remembrance of his boyhood home in Alabama. The geographical location of Camden has always played an important role in its development. The Ouachita River was a major transportation route into southeastern Arkansas, and Camden's position on the waterway was advantageous to the community's economic growth. Camden's most important early industry was cotton. The land surrounding the town was well suited to growing cotton crops, and its position on the Ouachita River contributed to a booming cotton trade as well.

Camden became a regional transportation hub after 1873 when the Iron Mountain Railway constructed a branch from its Missouri-Texas line through Gurdon to Camden. Later other railroad companies including the Chicago Rock Island, Missouri -Pacific, and St. Louis Southwestern ran lines into and through Camden. This allowed Camden to expand as a transportation center to include the lumber and oil industries as well as their traditional farm related exports. Local industries flourished as well during this period and included a woolen mill, a furniture company, and a pottery plant.

In the 1920's Camden was still in a period of economic prosperity. The Tyson Family Commercial Building was built during this time. The building was constructed with an emphasis on function rather than style. It housed a general mercantile store which was family operated and served the many and varied needs of the still growing community of Camden. In the surrounding vicinity of this general store were a number of similar buildings, built in simple vernacular styles that reveal an emphasis on function rather than aesthetics. However, many of these similar structures were destroyed by a fire which damaged an entire city block in the 1960's. The current occupant, Western Auto, has occupied the space for approximately forty

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years. In essence it served the same purpose as the Tyson Family store, simply to fill the general needs of the local community.

Within the context of the extant commercial fabric of downtown Camden, the simple vernacular facade of this building is locally significant under Criterion C.

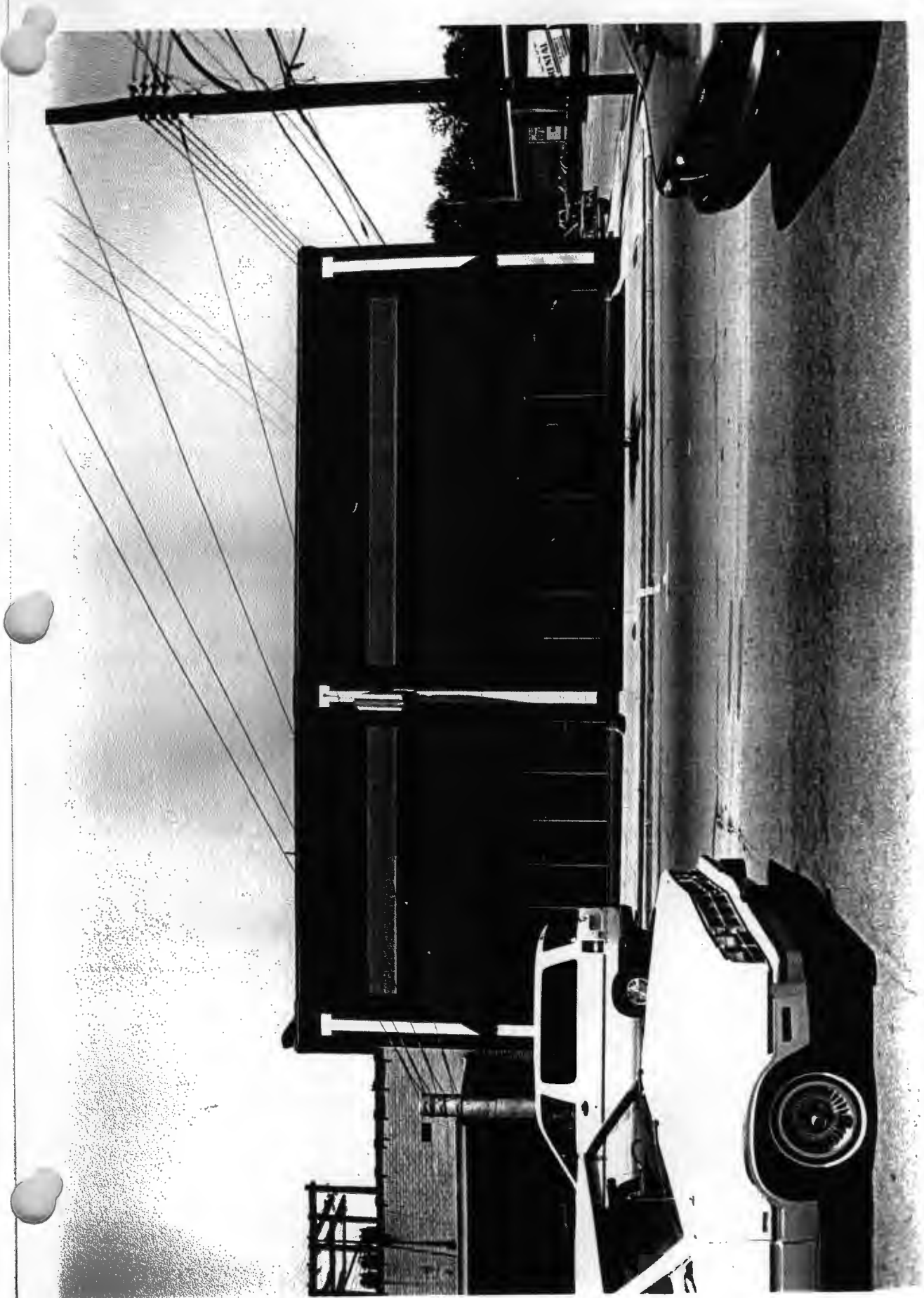
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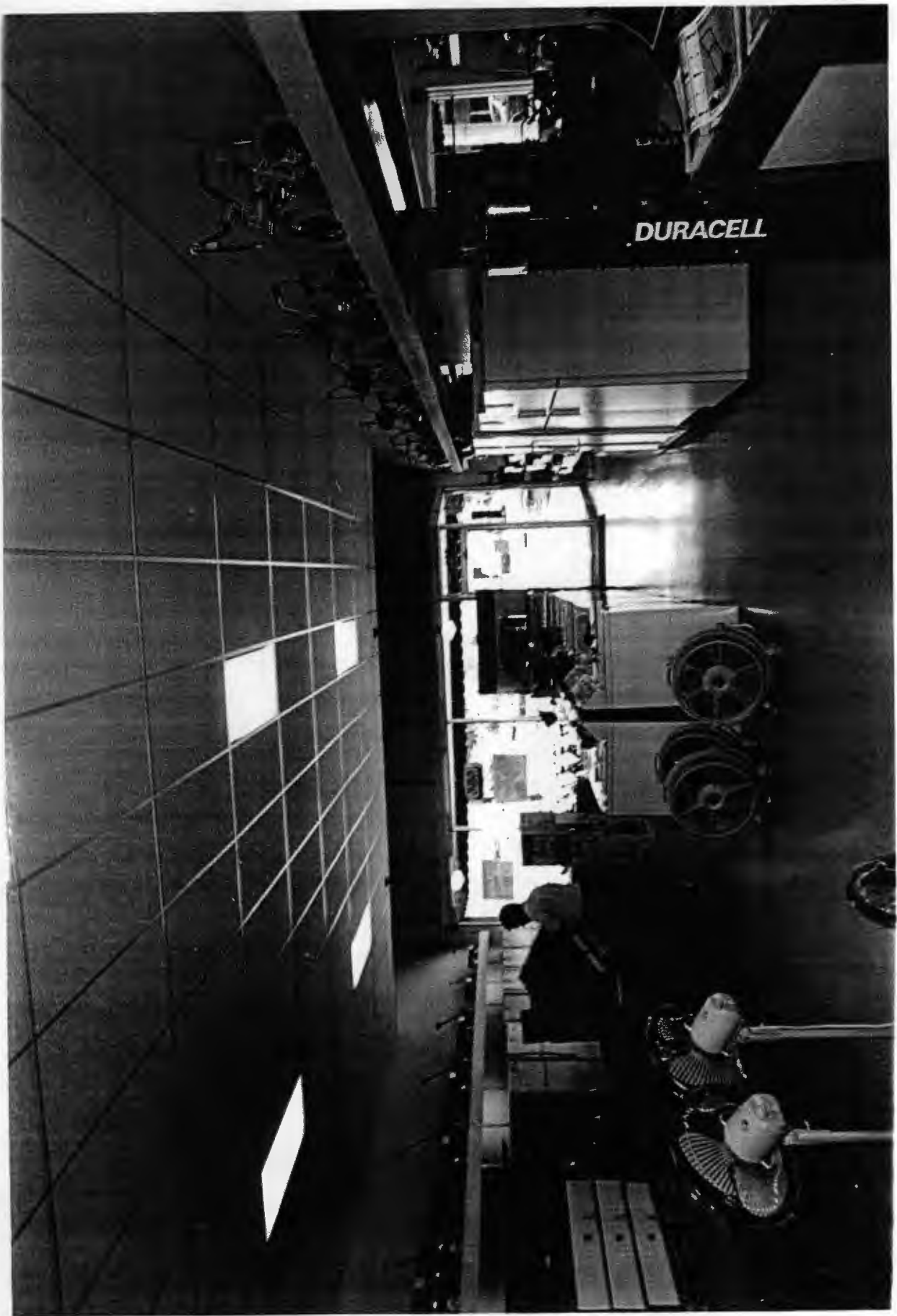
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Bibliography

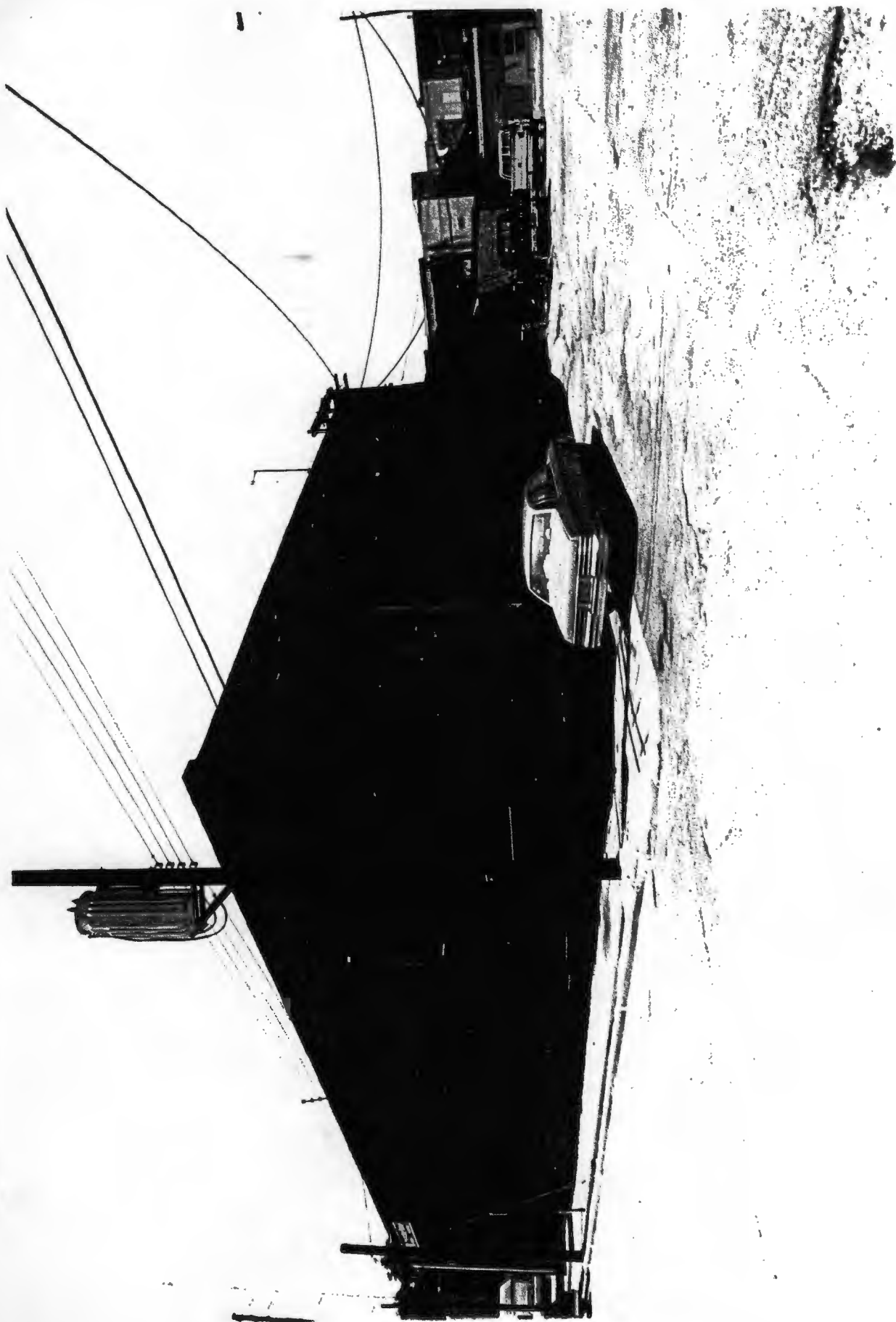
Information provided by Ed Falwell, owner.











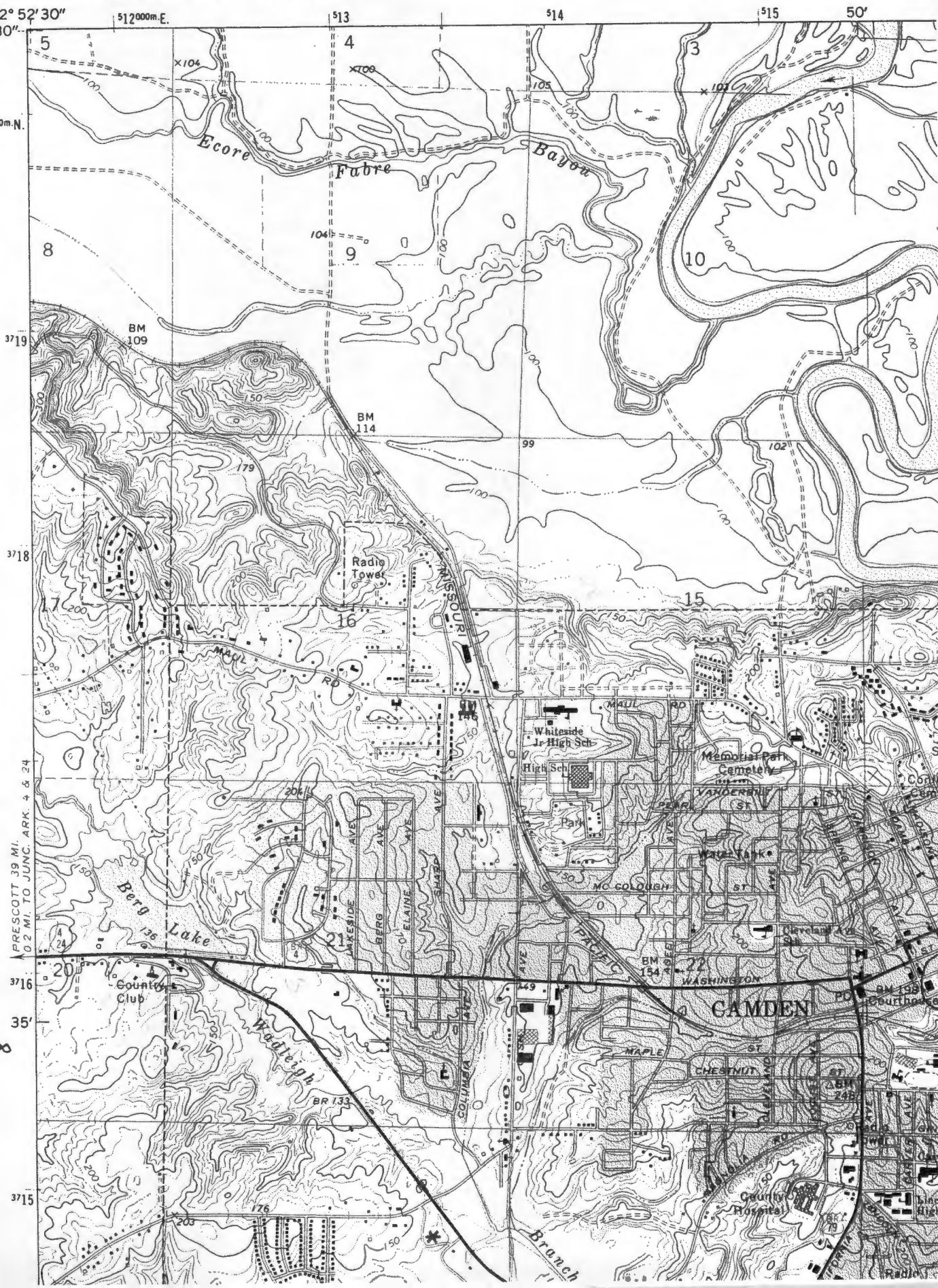
7451 III NW
(BRAGG CITY)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

92° 52' 30" 512000m.E. 513 514 515 50'

33° 37' 30"

3720000m.N.



Fyson Family
Commercial
Building.
Camden
Ouachita County
Arkansas
51515860/3715900