

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED
3/21/89

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodruff, William, House
other names/site number Girls, Cottage home for
Karolson Manor

2. Location

street & number 1017 East 8th Street ☐ not for publication N/A
city, town Little Rock ☐ vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72201

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Boyd
Signature of certifying official

11-14-88
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

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick

Plaster

roof Asphalt Shingle

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary

The William E. Woodruff house is a rendering of the Greek Revival Style, which was built by a local builder, John Robins. This two-story brick structure was built with a north and south portico which were both one-story and supported by large Doric style brick columns. It was in 1852 when Mr. William A. Woodruff bought 25 acres of land east of town and built his two and one-half story, ten room brick house on this site. This urban farmstead included a vegetable garden, flower garden, beehives, stables, and slave quarters.

Elaboration

The William E. Woodruff house is a two and one-half story, gable-roofed, brick residence with an original main structure of rectangular plan. Originally this Greek Revival Style residence contained ten rooms including a central hall upstairs and down. The stairwell is located on the west side of the hall and is of rectangular design. The two-thirds central porch which formed the front of the south portico of the house was one story supported by two large Doric style columns. These columns were probably hollow and the bricks used in their construction were pie-shaped pieces that were fitted together to give the desired cylindrical appearance. Between 1890 and 1900, the Woodruff home was remodeled and reversed so that the original back of the house became the front. This was done because of city zoning when 8th and 9th Streets were formed. A dormer was added to the third floor on the north side, and some time before 1920 the large round porch on the north side was taken off and a square one built in its place. A small storage or porch addition was also added on the east side of the building at about the same time. The current front entrance on the north side has double doors surrounded by side lights with a transom above. There are four windows above and below with a double door entrance on the second floor leading out onto the porch. These windows are six-light double-hung sash and match those used throughout the rest of the house originally. One chimney on the east wall and one on the west wall, each having two fireplaces, served each of the original four rooms with wood-burning fireplaces. Originally a low pitched hipped roof covered the entire house. Each of the original four rooms measured 20 x 40 feet with 14 foot ceilings. The original floors were wide cypress boards resting on cypress floor joists. There were several out-buildings on the 25 acre property, including slave quarters, a stable, and a laundry.

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Documentation of the construction of the Woodruff House does exist in the form of receipts for building materials and labor. From April of 1852 through August of the following year, William Woodruff spent more than \$9,000 on his new house. The single largest payment was to the builder, John Robins, who charged \$5,772.82, for "executing the brick work and plastering in Woodruff's dwelling house and additions thereto." The array of materials and supplies purchased by Woodruff, everything from paint brushes to lightening rods, included shipments from Cincinnati of doors, blinds, and window weights. Mr. John Robins had the bricks made on location.

The original structure is still sound and the original bullseye window and door facings on the main floor are still intact. The structure is divided into six sections by thick firewalls from the foundation up. Two mantels on the first floor are of Victorian design put into the house in the 1890's. Four mantles that are present on the second floor are the original mantles and are very simple Greek Revival design. In 1924, the Woodruff home became the Cottage Home for Girls, where young ladies who had come to work in the city were allowed to live. Somewhat after that it was turned into apartments and has been apartments since that time.

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☐ C ☒ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Military

Education

Archeology/Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

1853-1885

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

William E. Woodruff

Architect/Builder

John Robins

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Summary

The William E. Woodruff house stands as a building that is significant both for its association with William E. Woodruff and for the historic archeological information the site might reveal. William Woodruff, in addition to founding the first newspaper published west of the Mississippi River, was extremely active and influential in the field of local and state politics. His commitment to Arkansas and the South led him to volunteer for service with the Confederate army in the Civil War, in which he rose to the rank of colonel. His home was also an urban farmstead, and was surrounded by several ancillary structures which were associated with its agricultural activities.

Elaboration

Mr. William E. Woodruff was born on Long Island, New York in 1795. He was apprenticed in 1810 to a printer and newspaper publisher. After completing his apprenticeship, he left New York to work for a newspaper in Louisville, Kentucky where he remained only a few months before moving to Nashville, Tennessee. After a year in Nashville, he moved again, this time to Arkansas Post, where he published the first issue of the "Arkansas Gazette" on November 20, 1819. When Little Rock succeeded Arkansas Post as the Capitol of the Arkansas Territory in 1821, Woodruff made one last move; the first issue of the Gazette published in Little Rock appeared on December 29, 1821. Woodruff spent the remainder of his long life in Little Rock dying at the age of 90 in 1885.

When Mr. Woodruff built this house in 1853 (the same year that he sold the "Arkansas Gazette" to Captain Christopher C. Danley), he was already very prominent in the community, having lived and worked in Little Rock for 32 years. During the thirty-three years that he lived in the house, he made several important contributions to the community of Little Rock. The first library in Little Rock and the first in Arkansas was established by William E. Woodruff in 1843. It was not a free library, but the books were intended for circulation among individuals who were willing to pay a small annual fee. Each book carried the following label "Little Rock Circulating Library established by William E. Woodruff in the year 1843."

☒ See continuation sheet

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Please read and return in two weeks. Price \$2.00 per year." Mr. Woodruff's library contained most of the best histories, ancient and modern, practically all the standard novels, books of travel, biographies, scientific works and a number of the leading poets. This library continued operation until the Civil War, when it came to a tragic end. When the federal troops were in possession of Little Rock, the books were stored in the home of Alden Woodruff. A fire broke out in a building nearby and the contents of Mr. Woodruff's library were carried into the street, preparatory to removal to a place of safety in case it became necessary. Soldiers passing by helped themselves to the books and in this way many of the most valuable volumes were lost. So few books remained that the library would never reopen.

Functioning as both a director of the company and the oldest representative of the press in Arkansas, William E. Woodruff drove the last spike completing the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad from DeValls Bluff on the White River to Little Rock on May 30, 1861. This meant that the trip from Little Rock to Memphis could be made in 32 hours. The fare was \$10. This mode of transportation west to Little Rock was soon disrupted because of the Civil War.

Arkansas seceded from the union on May 6, 1861, and a few days later was admitted to the Confederacy. William E. Woodruff was a sympathizer with the Confederacy and became a Colonel in the Confederate Army under General McCulloch. William E. Woodruff and his battery preceded to Springfield, Missouri, and met the Union troops at Oak Hills (Wilson Creek) and fought a battle on August 10, 1861. The battle lasted five hours and resulted in 1,317 killed and wounded on the Union side and 1,208 on the Confederate. The Union forces were defeated and retreated northward. General McCulloch returned to Arkansas with his troops. By September, 1863, Federal troops occupied Little Rock. The William E. Woodruff house was converted into a Union hospital for officers. The family reoccupied the house after the war.

Politically Mr. Woodruff was a very influential person. He had served a two year term as State Treasurer beginning in 1836. Because of his influence as owner and then as editor of the "Arkansas Gazette," he was very much interested in Arkansas politics. For example, when fighting between the negroes and whites developed at Lewisberg in Conway County, September 2, 1868, William E. Woodruff was among a number of prominent conservatives who issued a public appeal to people to accept the State government as it existed. He deplored violence against the Government saying that "the cause of justice can only be compromised by petty outbreaks." Between 1868 and 1874, William E. Woodruff helped to moderate the debate on tax assessment in the State.

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Woodruff backed Elisha Baxter in the Brooks/Baxter War, a short but violent controversy over the legitimacy of the election of Baxter (the Democratic gubernatorial incumbent). The controversy effectively signalled the end of Reconstruction in Arkansas. In fact, he advanced money to purchase arms for Baxter's men in 1874, and was reimbursed by the Arkansas Legislature in 1875. When President Grant reinstated Baxter, Woodruff got out an extra edition of the "Arkansas Gazette," and he distributed free copies to the crowd.

The William E. Woodruff house is also significant because of the archeological information the site might reveal. It was known that this twenty-five acre property included slave quarters, a stable, and laundry. Northwest of the house on the current property are brick foundations of the slave quarters. These have not been excavated but would be a prime site for archeological evidence of an urban farmstead which has been continuously occupied since 1853. On November 7, 1931, the Arkansas Gazette published a special issue commemorating Little Rock's Centennial as an incorporated town. In that issue were two articles written by Jane Georgene Woodruff, daughter of the Gazette's founder William Woodruff. One of the articles describes the grounds of this house.

"The garden was on the east side of the house, occupying two acres of ground...The year's supply of vegetables was laid up for summer and winter use - the early vegetables being sufficiently protected to last through the summer, and potatoes, turnips, cabbage, etc., being buried for winter use. My father took particular interest in his asparagus bed, which was a new addition to garden products at that time."

It is reported that Mr. Woodruff also brought the first crepe myrtles and tomatoes into Arkansas to plant on this homesite.

The Woodruff home has not served as a family residence since the 1920's when it became the Cottage Home for Girls, a boarding house for young women. It has served as a boarding house for the last fifty years.

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Woodruff House File, Quapaw Quarter Association, Little Rock, Arkansas

The Woodruff House File, Arkansas Territorial Restoration Association

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Woodruff, Jane Georgene: Arkansas Gazette - Special Little Rock Centennial, November 7, 1931
- Robins, John: Receipts and builders materials for materials shipped from Cincinnati 1852-3 in possession of Averal R. Tate
- Thomas, D.Y.: Arkansas and Its People: A History, 1541 - 1930. American Historical Society, 1930
- Herndon, D.T.: Centennial History of Arkansas, S. J. Clarke Publisher, 1922
- Ross, M.: Arkansas Gazette: The Early Years 1819-1866, The Arkansas Gazette Foundation, 1969
- Roy, F. H., Witsell, C., Jr, and Nichols, C.G.: How We Lived: Little Rock As An American City, August House, 1984

☒ 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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than 1

UTM References

A 15 567840 3844270
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lots 1 & 2, Block 10, Woodruff Addition to the City of Little Rock, Pulaski County

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The original 23½ acres purchased by William Woodruff in 1853 has been so extensively subdivided and developed in the years since his death that only the property currently associated with this resource retains sufficient integrity to be included in this nomination.

☐ See continuation sheet

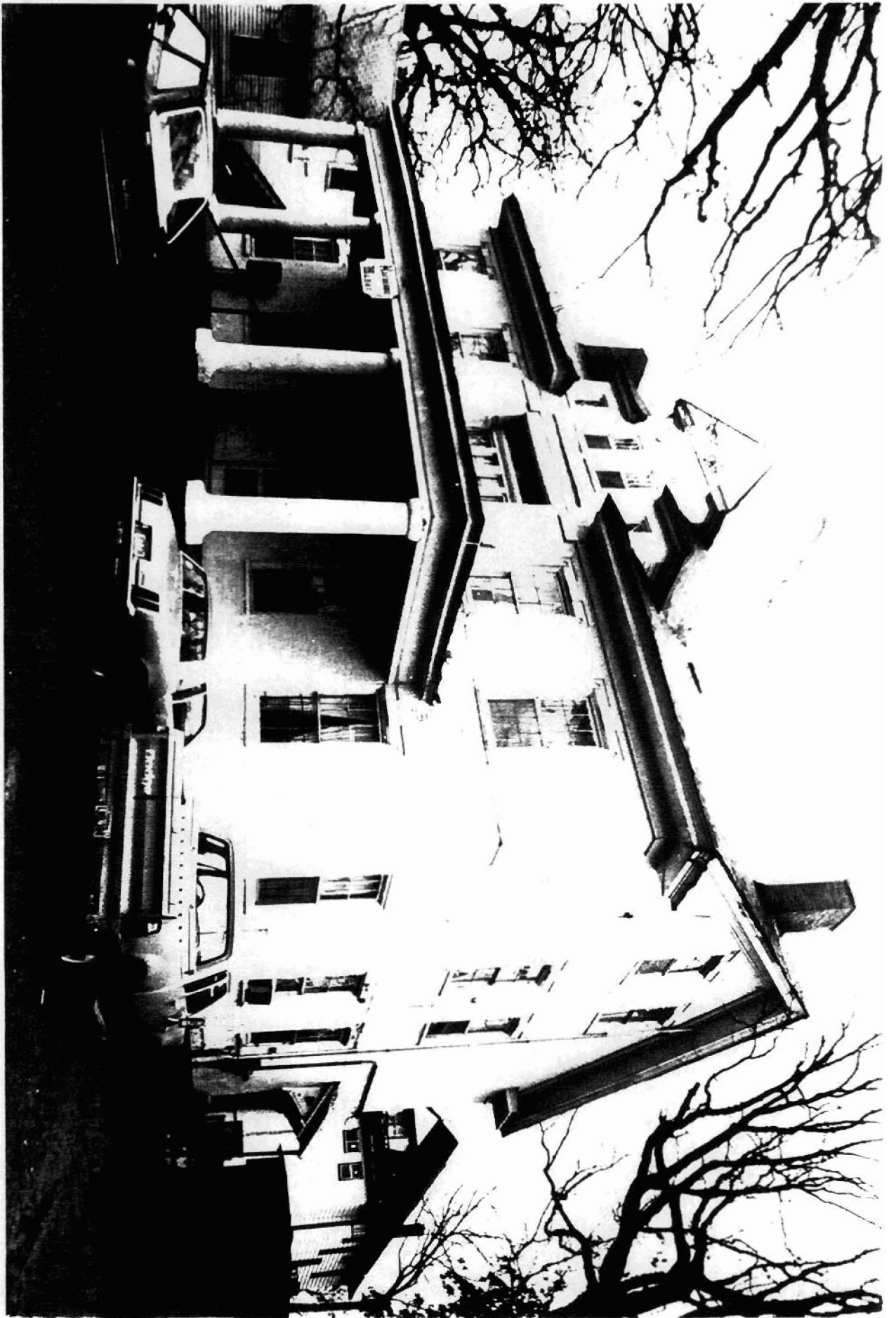
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vicki and John Karolson (owner) and Hampton Roy

organization self date November 15, 1988

street & number 4515 West Pine telephone 758-3609

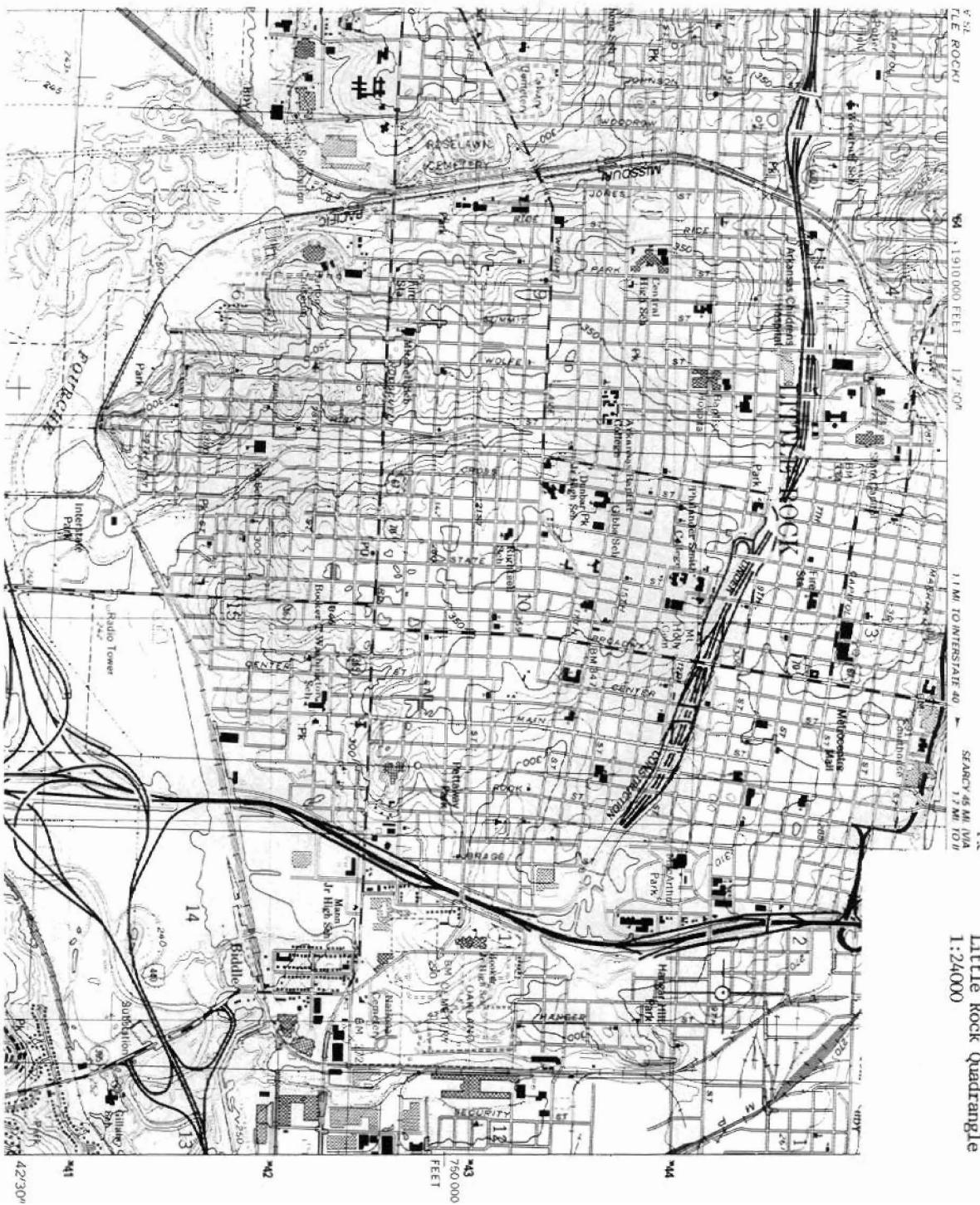
city or town North Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72118











William E. Woodruff House
 Little Rock, Arkansas
 Pulaski County
 15/567840/3844270
 Little Rock Quadrangle
 1:24000