

NR 8-19-75

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 Fones House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

902 West Second

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ben McMinn

STREET & NUMBER

902 West Second

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Fones House was built in 1878 by one of Little Rock's leading financial figures, Daniel G. Fones. The two and one-half storey red brick structure is characteristic of Victorian Italianate architecture.

The exterior is marked by several distinguishing features. A steep gabled roof lies above the bracketed frieze. Topping the house is wrought iron cresting, sometimes referred to as a widow's walk. The door and window heads are in several different styles. A dominant window head style found on several second storey windows is the keystone arch. The windows on the first floor are predominately grouped in triplets whereas the second storey windows are found in pairs. Located on the southeast bay and east elevation is a band of decorative woodwork which marks the second storey line.

A dominant exterior feature is the two-storey bay which projects from the southeast corner of the house. The three first floor windows are covered by a single plain semi-elliptical window head. An ornately railed balcony projects from the second floor. The gable end is marked by a decorative air vent.

The facade of the house features a porch supported by bracketed posts. A second storey balcony extends across the facade and is bordered by a decorative railing. An air vent similar to the one found in the bay gable marks the gable end of the facade.

The interior of the Fones House is much less ornate than the exterior. Features of note are the carved walnut newell post with round and elliptical shaped panels located on the stairway in the foyer, and the unusual shaped ceiling medallions which ornately combine a floral and foliage pattern with inset square patterns. There are six fireplaces in the house, three on the first floor and three on the second floor. All but one of the mantels are cast iron. A walnut mantel found in the west parlor features baluster like columns with a centered foliage pattern between two panels of vertical grooves located under the mantelpiece. Found in the transom over the windows in the first floor room of the southeast bay is the original stained glass.

For approximately thirty years, Dr. Samuel T. Wallis Cull occupied the house. He resided upstairs and maintained a medical clinic on the first floor of the house. The rooms were altered to accomodate the clinic. Linoleum flooring was placed on the first floor and in removing it, the damage to the pine floor was found too extensive to be repaired. For this reason the present owner has put in parquet flooring downstairs. Upstairs the original pine flooring remains.

Exterior alterations to the house have been minimal and are concentrated on the north elevation. The lattice porch was glassed in and a second storey enclosure was added to facilitate use of the back stairway, which has also been added. The two second storey windows on the north elevation have been

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

shortened. The present owner is in the process of replacing the mortar in the brick which accounts for the variance in color.

The Fones House lies on a large corner lot which is still enclosed by the original iron fence. To the rear of the house stands a two-storey rectangular shaped building which is commonly referred to as the carriage house. It is also constructed of red brick.

The Fones House remains in good condition and the present owner, Ben McMinn is restoring the exterior to near the same appearance as when Daniel G. Fones resided in the house from 1878 to 1912.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Fones House, located at 902 West Second in Little Rock, lies primarily in two areas. Architecturally, the house presents characteristics of the Victorian Italianate style which is infrequently found in the Little Rock vicinity. In the area of commerce, the house is representative of a prosperous businessman's home during the Gilded Age in central Arkansas. Daniel G. Fones was considered one of the leading financial figures in Little Rock and the business he founded in 1859 is still operating successfully.

The two and one-half storey Fones House is constructed of red brick. The exterior features a bracketed frieze topped by a steep gabled roof with wrought iron cresting, decorative window heads in several different styles and ornately railed balconies.

Daniel Gilbert Fones was born in Decatur, Georgia on August 19, 1837, the eldest son of Alvan T. and Adelia A. Cone Fones. His father was a native of Raleigh, North Carolina and a son of Daniel Fones. Alvan T. Fones moved to Decatur, Georgia when a young man and engaged in the tin and stone business. Adelia A. Cone, whom he married, was born in New York State in 1821. She was the daughter of Gilbert Cone, who migrated to Georgia with him family about 1828.

Alvan T. Fones died when his sons Daniel, James and Alvan were quite young, leaving the family in reduced financial circumstances. Despite his father's death, Daniel G. Fones received a common school education at Sardis Academy, a Presbyterian School near Rome, Georgia. At the age of fifteen, Daniel Fones became an apprentice to a tinsmith to help support the family. After learning the trade he relocated in 1855 to Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and in 1859 moved to Little Rock. His mother and brothers followed his move to Little Rock in 1860.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Fones enlisted in the Confederate Army and his trade as a journeyman tinsmith secured for him the position of foreman of the tin shops in the ordinance division of the Trans-Mississippi Army. At the end of the war he returned to Little Rock.

Before joining the Confederate army he had formed a partnership with his brothers in 1859 known as Fones Brothers'. The business dealt in hardware,

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ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

but was primarily a tin and stone business. Later the firm incorporated and became known as the Fones Brothers' Hardware Company, which became one of the strongest wholesale hardware houses in the southwest.

Fones was president of the Fones Brothers' Hardware Company, President of the Arkansas Building and Loan Association, Vice President of the Equitable Building and Loan Association, President of the German National Bank and was associated with many other financial enterprises. He served as an alderman in Little Rock and in 1916 was elected to the Little Rock School Board.

Fones married Texanna Dustan Reaves on May 30, 1867, who died in 1893. In 1899 he was married to Mrs. James Hennegan Tucker. Fones, who had no descendants, died May 28, 1916.

The Fones House was utilized by Dr. Samuel T. Wallis Cull as a medical clinic for over thirty years. Although it was altered to accommodate the doctor's offices the house remains in good condition. Since 1968, the Fones House has been owned by a Little Rock attorney, Ben McMinn, who is in the process of restoring the exterior to its original condition.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, May 29, 1912.

Brock, Mrs. Edward C., "Mrs. James A. Fones" Archives, Arkansas History Commission, May 1954.

McMinn, Mrs. Ben. Personal interview at Fones House, Little Rock, Arkansas, April 30, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	56,50,2,0	3,84,59,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

6-10-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

William E. Henderson



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 6-10-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

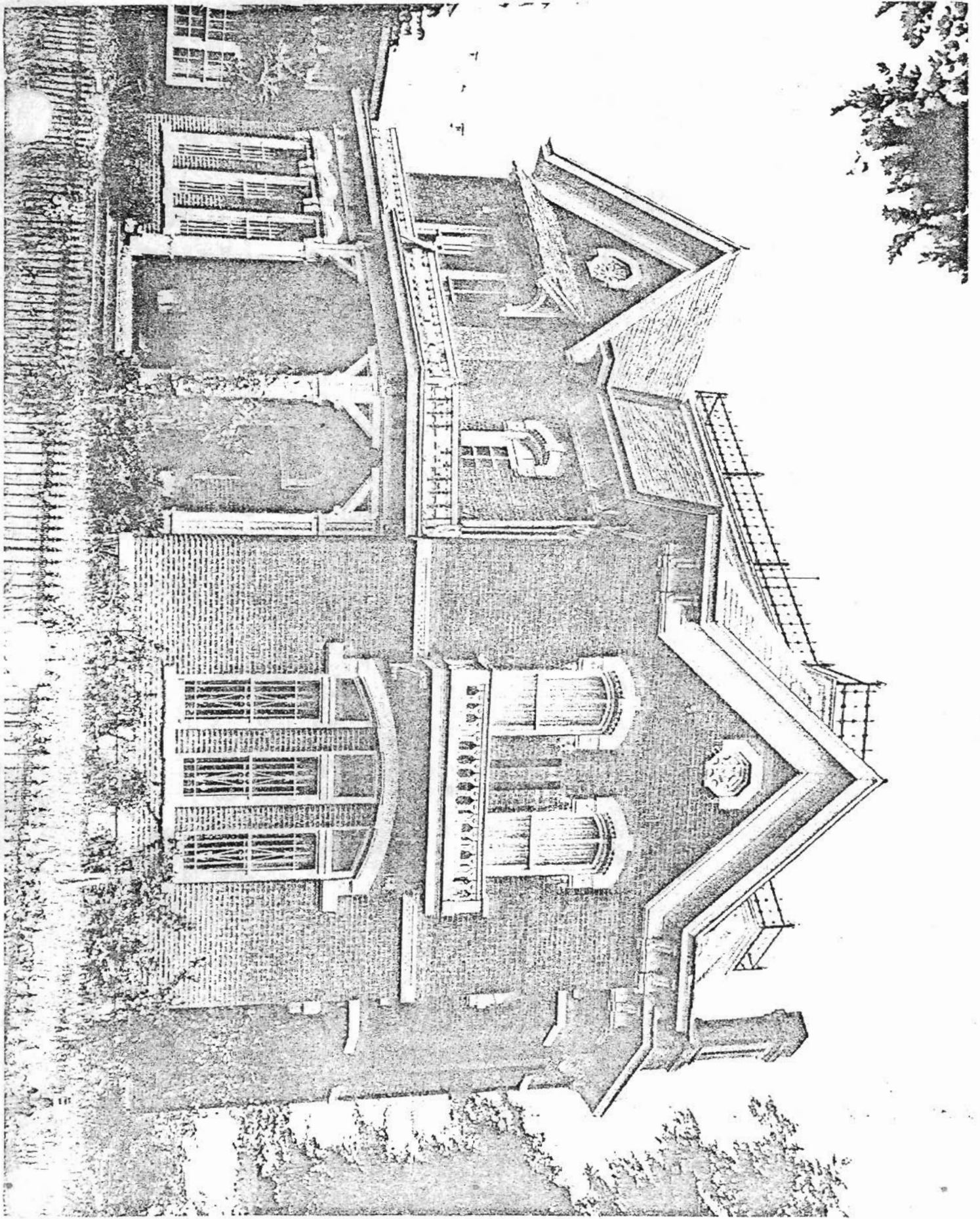
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fones House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY
Pulaski

STATE
Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Facade, viewed from southeast

PHOTO NO.

1



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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

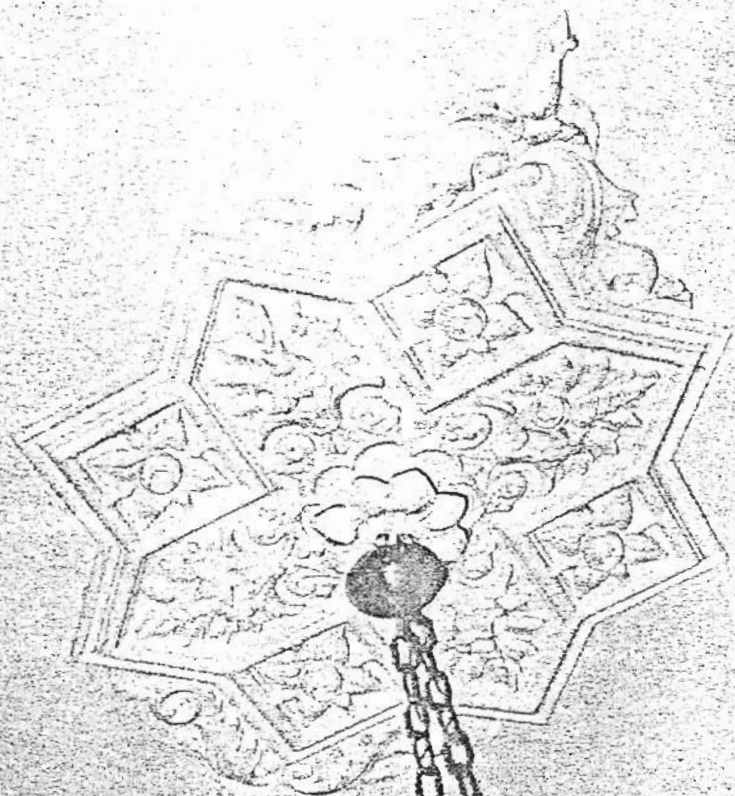
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Interior windows, southeast bay

PHOTO NO.

2



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IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Ceiling medallion

PHOTO NO.

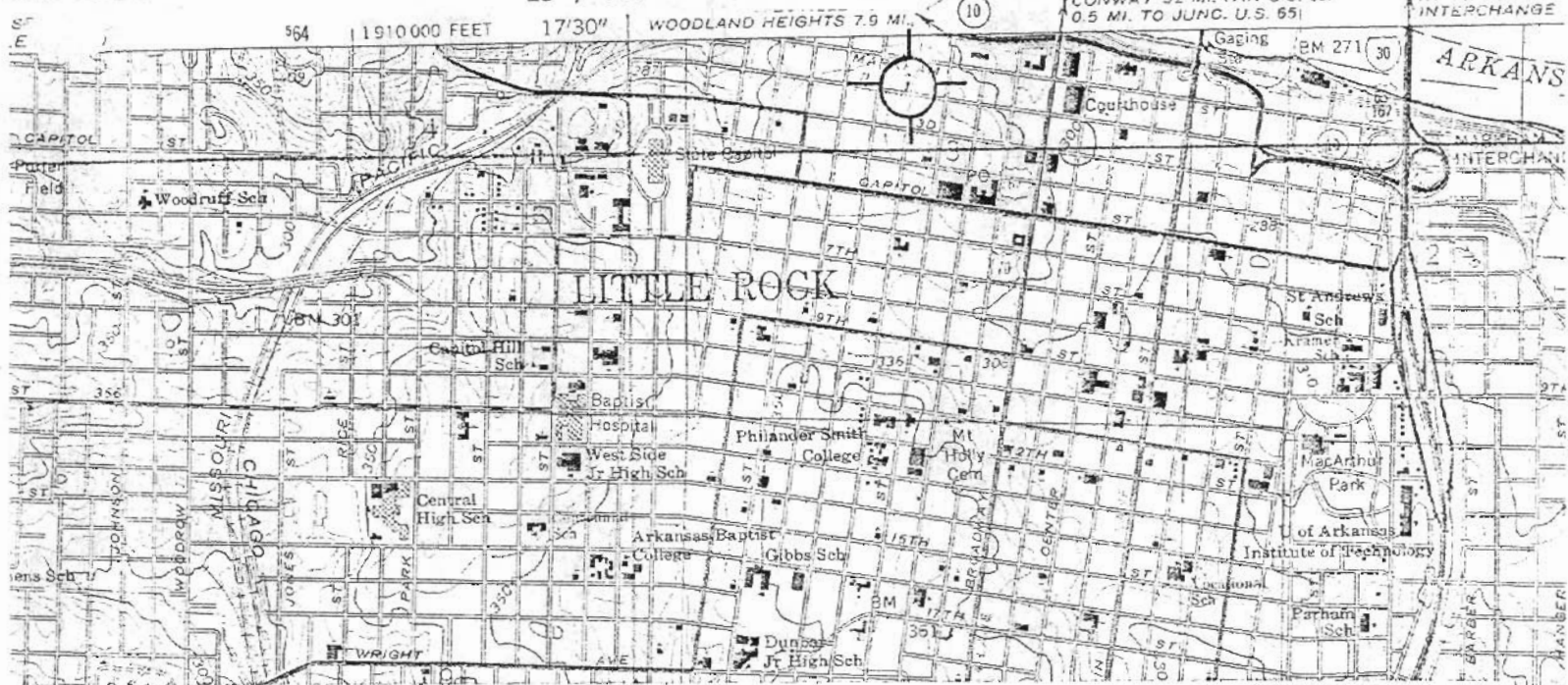
3

Fones House
Little Rock, Arkansas

LITTLE ROCK QU.
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (1
NE/4 ALEXANDER 15' Q

AREA PLANNING
PULASKI COUNTY

UTM Reference
15 / 565 020 / 3845 910



Form No. 10-301
(Rev. 10-74)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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1 NAME

HISTORIC Fones House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Little Rock

— VICINITY OF

COUNTY Pulaski

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:2400

DATE 1961 (photo revised 1970)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES