

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Robertson Drugstore
other names/site number Resource #WH2020

2. Location

street & number Spring and Arch Streets ☐ not for publication N/A
city, town Searcy ☐ vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72143

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> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas

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

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. Buford
Signature of certifying official

5-23-94
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

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)

Commerce/Trade /

Specialty Store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade /

Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Commercial Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls brick

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c. 1860

1860-1880

Significant Dates

c. 1860

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Robertson, Dr. P. A.

Architect/Builder

Brundidge, Stephen, Sr.

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

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 # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

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 _____

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting	North
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C

Zone	Easting	North
------	---------	-------

B

Zone	Easting	North
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D

Zone	Easting	North
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☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill Bayles, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 22 March, 1990

street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Description

Commercial buildings of the Development Era (1835-1870) mirrored current architectural trends. Builders during this period in White County did not construct many high-style buildings; they instead used architectural details from these styles to elaborate their basically vernacular buildings. The Robertson Drugstore is no exception to this.

Located on the southwest corner of Spring and Arch Streets, and on the courthouse square, the Robertson Drugstore is located in what was once the economic heart of Searcy. The building is two-stories tall, rectangular in shape with a chamfered corner, and constructed of brick. Even though it was built in c. 1860, it is still in good condition. The storefront windows along Arch St. have been replaced by single-pane fixed frame windows while the windows facing Spring St. have been boarded over. A metal awning which protects the storefront is the only other modern alteration.

Original elements on the ground-floor include cast iron columns framing the windows and supporting the second floor of the chamfered corner. A dentilated belt course separates the first and second floors. While none of the second floor windows are original, they are still framed by decorative brick hood molds with keystones. The flat with parapet roof has a dentilated cornice and a one-bay gabled portion which rises up from the center of the main elevation's roof line.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 **Page** 1

Significance

When this building was constructed, c. 1860, it was one of several businesses which fronted the courthouse. It is the only one of these buildings which has survived the ravages of time. Not only was it the first drugstore in town, it is also the oldest, extant, commercial building in the county.

Robertson Drugstore was built by Stephen Brundidge, Sr., a Searcy bricklayer who migrated to the area from Alabama. With his portable brickmaking machine and oven he built several other buildings in the area. Each one of the bricks was made from river bank clay which was carted to the site and then shaped and baked. Brundidge's legacy was carried on not only through his high quality brick buildings but through his son as well. Stephen Jr. was an Arkansas State Representative for Congressional District 6 between 1897 and 1909.

The building is named after Dr. P.A. Robertson who was the original occupant of the structure and was a druggist from Memphis. His store offered not only the usual drugs and elixirs found in drugstores of the day but other items as well. Robertson had the only glass-cutter in town and he also sold household supplies such as oil, paints, and window panes.

Robertson was important to the community not only for the goods and services his store offered but also for his role in the development of the community. In 1871, he was selected to be the Public Grounds Committee Chairman. This group was responsible for regulating the use, upkeep, and growth of Spring Park which was a popular bathing area and mineral spring. The following year he was appointed secretary of the Searcy Branch Railroad which was responsible for the construction of a wooden, horse-drawn, rail-line which connected Searcy with the Cairo & Fulton Railroad.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Acreage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

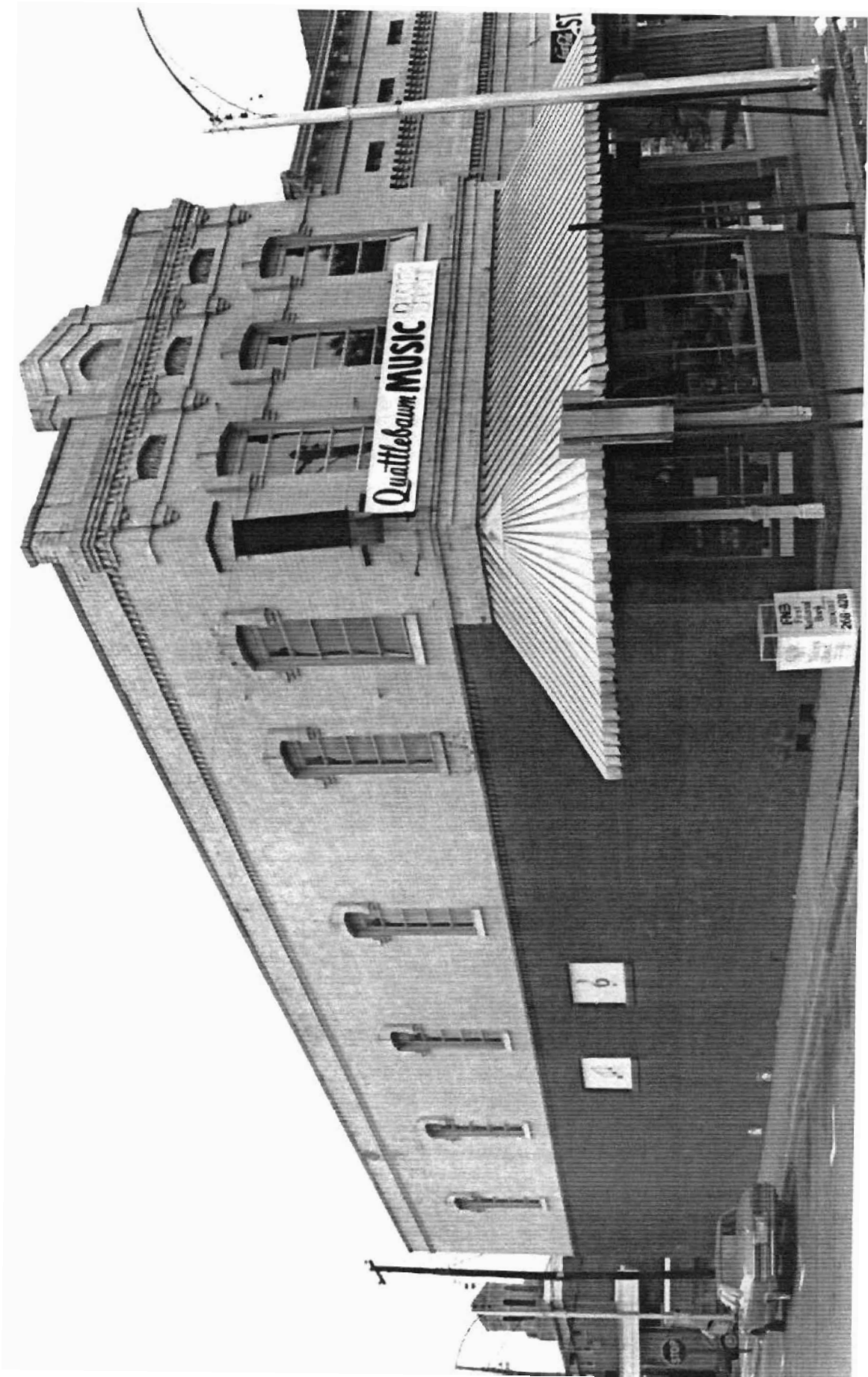
A 15/614835/3901290

Verbal Boundary Description:

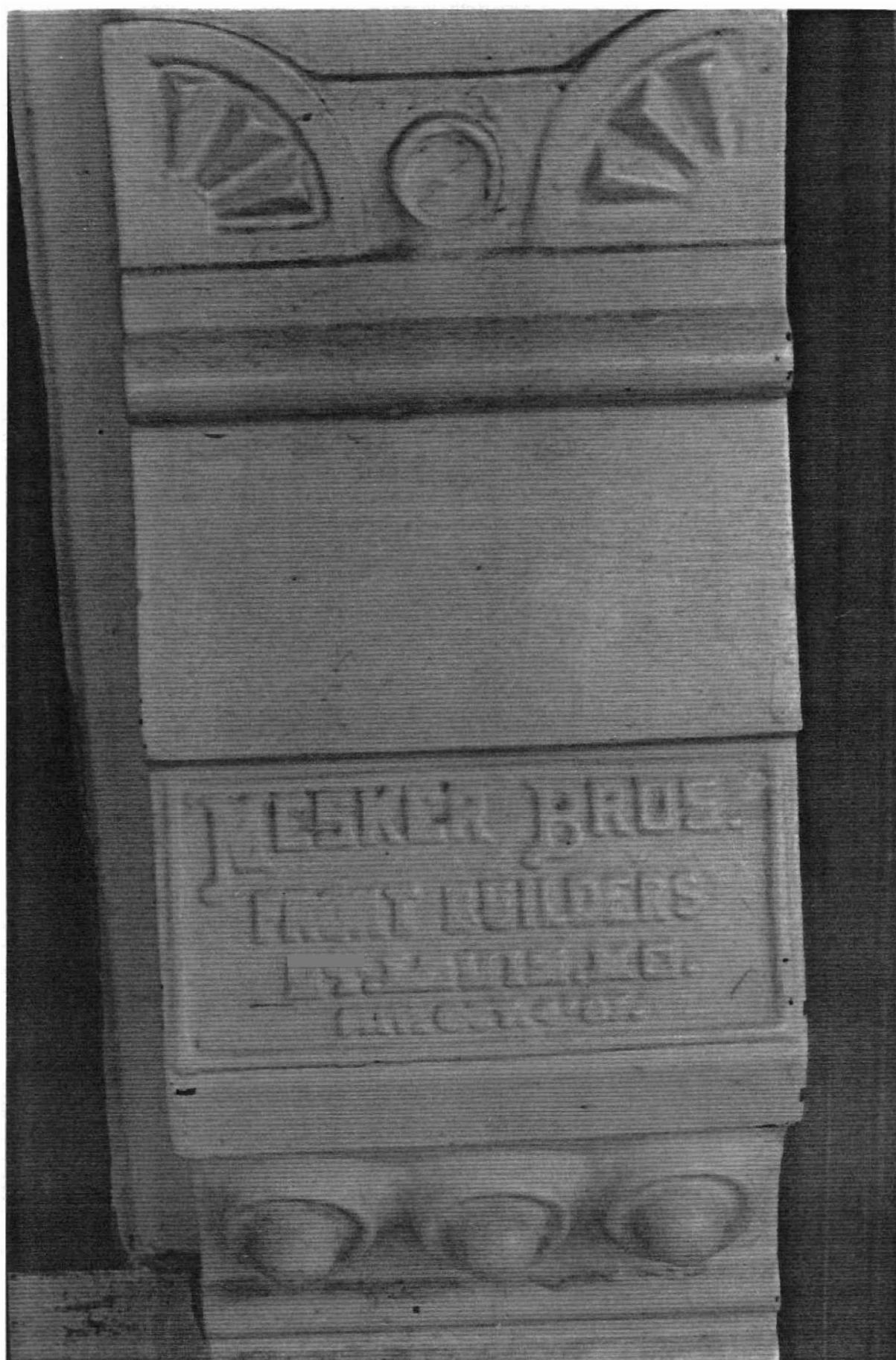
The eastern 23 feet, 1 1/2 inches of Lot 5, Ten Acre Donation to the Town of Searcy.

Boundary Justification:

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







THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

WH2198 WH2020

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WH2144

WH2104

WH2274

WH2180

WH2027

WH2190

Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas
White County, Arkansas
Resource # WH2020: 15/614835/3901290
WH2198: 15/614560/3901210
WH2144: 15/615105/3901270
WH2027: 15/614845/3901170
WH2190: 15/614690/3901130
WH2104: 15/615245/3901170
WH2180: 15/614620/3900840

~~WH2274: 15/614150/3901120~~

Kensett Quadrangle
1:24000

7654 IV SE
(LETONA)

91°45'

35°15'

614000m E

36

8744 0.2 MI

16 A 36

916

AVE

College

Holdings

11

234

232

230

228

ROSEBUD 20 MI
CENTER HILL 8 MI

3900000m N

15

261

252

232

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226

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222

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214

10 MI TO ARK 31

Gum Springs Cem

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3908

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Searcy Municipal
Airport Beacon

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