

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mathis-Hyde House

other names/site number Site #WO0037

2. Location

street & number 400 North Second Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Augusta

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Woodruff

code 147

zip code 72006

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments)

Cathie Mathis
Signature of certifying official/Title

4/6/11
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 for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ 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) _____

Mathis-Hyde House

Name of Property

Woodruff County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

1

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1865

Significant Dates

c.1865

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)**Architect/Builder****Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository: _____

Name of Property

County and State

Acreage of Property Approximately 2 acres

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 648546 3906037
 Zone Easting Northing

2

3
Zone Easting Northing☐ See continuation sheet

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Kip Davis, City Planner, City of Augusta; edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator</u>				
organization	<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>			date	<u>February 22, 2011</u>
street & number	<u>1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street</u>			telephone	<u>(501) 324-9787</u>
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>		state	<u>AR</u>	zip code <u>72201</u>

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Located to the north of Augusta's downtown area, the Mathis-Hyde House is a one-story Greek Revival-style residence located at the northeast corner of Walnut and Second streets. The house sits on brick piers and is sided in wood weatherboard siding. The house's gable roof is covered in standing-seam metal roofing. Engaged exterior brick chimneys are located on each end of the house and the house's fenestration consists almost exclusively of tall four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame windows. The front entrance of the house is sheltered by a central, gable-roofed porch.

ELABORATION

Located to the north of Augusta's downtown area, the Mathis-Hyde House is a one-story Greek Revival-style residence located at the northeast corner of Walnut and Second streets. Built c.1865, the house is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival style, which is illustrated in the cornice line with wide frieze boards, engaged pilasters at the corners, and temple-front front porch.

The house sits on brick piers and is sided in wood weatherboard siding. The house's gable roof is covered in standing-seam metal roofing. Engaged exterior brick chimneys are located on each end of the house and the house's fenestration consists almost exclusively of tall four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame windows. The front entrance of the house is sheltered by a central, gable-roofed portico. The house also has a rear-ell with a porch across the back with Folk-Victorian woodwork.

Front/West Façade

The front façade of the Mathis-Hyde House is symmetrical and centered around the house's front portico. The front façade has a central entrance with double wood doors and double screen doors. The entrance has a three-pane transom window above it and is flanked on each side by two sidelights over a wood panel.

The central front porch is supported at each corner by a brick pier with a pair of square wood columns on each one. The columns have simple wood capitals. The porch also is supported by engaged rectangular pilasters with simple wood capitals on each side where it joins the main body of the house. Flights of six wood steps access the porch from the north and south sides. The gable peak of the porch is supported by a large cornice with wide frieze, and a wide frieze is also present on each plane of the gable slope.

The central porch is flanked on each side by a pair of tall four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame windows. The rest of the front façade is spanned by the same cornice and frieze that is present on the house's front porch. In addition, at each of the front corners are engaged pilasters with decorative wood capitals.

Side/South Façade

Beginning at the east side of the south façade is an exterior brick chimney engaged to the outside of the house. It is wide at the bottom and then narrows just at the top of the façade's windows. The chimney is located in the center of the north facing gable, which has decorative wood cornice returns. To the right of the

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chimney is a tall four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame window in the north-facing gable portion of the house. To the right of the window, in the rear-facing gable portion of the house is a pair of two tall four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame windows followed by a gap and then a second pair of tall four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame windows. As on the front of the house, a wide frieze is located above the windows. At the west end of the house is the north end of the rear porch, which has a rear-facing shed roof.

Rear/East Façade

The rear façade of the Mathis-Hyde House is divided into two sections, the northern section being the rear of the rear ell and the southern section being the rear of the front portion of the house. The rear of the rear ell is spanned by a rear-facing shed-roofed porch. The porch is supported by four turned wood posts with decorative woodwork brackets at the top. Towards the center of this portion of the façade is an entrance into the ell with a wood door and wood screen door with turned spindlework decoration. To the right of the entrance is another entrance flanked on each side by a wood-frame window. However, the entrance and windows are partially boarded up.

The rear façade of the other portion of the house has an entrance on the left end with a wood screen door. To the right of the entrance is a pair of four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame windows. After a small gap with a vertical beam is another group of four, four-over-four, double-hung, wood-frame windows. Another vertical beam is located at the southern corner of the façade. This part of the façade appears to have originally been an open rear porch.

Side/North Façade

Beginning at the east side of the north façade is an exterior brick chimney engaged to the outside of the house. It is wide at the bottom and then narrows just below the façade's cornice return at the front corner. To the left of the chimney, near the rear of the front portion of the house, is a pair of wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows. To the left of the windows is a seam followed by the north end of what appears to have been the open rear porch.

Outbuilding

To the east of the house is a one-story wood-frame outbuilding sided in a variety of wood boards. The outbuilding has a pair of wood doors on the south side, and an open shed-roofed extension on the west side. The building was built sometime after 1941, the date of the last Sanborn map for Augusta, and is considered to be non-contributing.

Integrity

Overall, the Mathis-Hyde House retains good integrity. It is known that the rear of the house has had some alterations, notably the enclosure of what appears to have been an open porch and the addition of the porch on the rear of the ell. The spindlework ornament on the porch, although dating to the late nineteenth or early

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twentieth century, does not fit with the Greek Revival style of the original house. However, these alterations are relatively minor and do not greatly impact the overall Greek Revival character of the house. In addition, the setting around the house retains the small town feel of scattered residences that would have existed in the 1800s when the house was built.

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SUMMARY

The Mathis-Hyde House, which was built c.1865, is an excellent small-scale example of the Greek Revival style in Augusta. As Augusta grew physically and economically after the Civil War, it became easier and more common for the city's residents to build houses in the latest architectural styles. Such was the case with the Mathis-Hyde House. With its symmetrical façade, large cornice and frieze and temple-fronted front porch, the house employed textbook characteristics of the fashionable Greek Revival style. Because of its significance as an excellent example of a Greek Revival-style house in Augusta, the Mathis-Hyde House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Modern Augusta residents claim Thomas Hough as their town's founder, and trace the town's beginning to Hough's 1848 land claim. Exposure to disease, competition with steadily increasing amounts of Anglo settlers, the United States' 1803 acquisition of the territory, and government policy combined to ensure that Indian populations west of the Mississippi River in eastern Arkansas diminished in the early 1800s.¹ Along the river slightly northwest of what became downtown Augusta, newcomers chartered a post office and trading post ca. 1812.² Local histories assert that a man with the family name of Hamilton became the first white person to take up residence on the site of Augusta, called by him and his contemporaries Chickasaw Crossing, in 1820.³ Hamilton's arrival was indicative of a broader trend. That same year the newspaper at Arkansas Post, an outpost established in 1686 and a thriving regional center by 1820, reported that "[s]trangers are arriving here almost daily, with the intention of exploring or settling in this country. Families and others are flooding in great numbers up the White River."⁴ Thomas and Annie Hough arrived at the site of Augusta, named for their niece, ca. 1848.⁵ The same factors of river, river crossing, and opportunities for hunting and farming that appealed to earlier residents likely appealed to the Houghs, who decided to settle there.

Construction and population growth in Augusta were rapid. Six hundred people lived there by the early 1850s, and the town became the county seat in 1852.⁶ As Augusta's population grew, residents quickly constructed buildings along the downtown grid. Front Street, now First Street, paralleled the White River's eastern bank.⁷ Residents constructed warehouses and the settlement's original one-room courthouse along

¹ Holder, "Geography," 134.

² Boyles, Rebecca. Conversation with Kristen Luetkemeier and Andra Kowalczyk, Augusta, 24 October 2007.

³ Massey, Mabel. Untitled Manuscript History of Augusta, Woodruff County Library, ca. 1986, 1.

⁴ National Park Service, Arkansas Post National Memorial: History and Culture, viewed at <http://www.nps.gov/arpo/historyculture/index.htm>, 1 November 2007 and Holder, "Geography," 135.

⁵ Massey, Untitled, 2.

⁶ Fryer, John B. "History of the Seats of Justice, Woodruff County," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 7 No. 4 (1979): 2 and Massey, Untitled, 3.

⁷ Boyles, Conversation.

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the river.⁸ Storekeepers occupied new two-story frame buildings along Second Street.⁹ A few mercantile shops and some saloons were early tenants, and bakeries, livery stables, and blacksmith shops quickly followed.¹⁰ So much traffic passed through Augusta on the river and the roads that it supported at least one hotel, run by resident Penelopy Simmons.¹¹ The Methodist and Presbyterian denominations had presences in early Augusta, as did the Masons; Thomas Hough provided a frame building used by all three in the 1850s. Baptists, also, met in early Augusta.¹² Two sisters opened Augusta's first school, a private academy, in 1860. Residences surrounded the commercial district, and farms surrounded the town.¹³ In 1861, Augusta incorporated.¹⁴

The 1850s were prosperous years for river transportation.¹⁵ The *Waverly* became the first steamboat to pass through the section of the White River around Augusta in 1831.¹⁶ The White River connected Augusta to agricultural markets and centers for consumer goods like St. Louis, Cincinnati, Louisville, and, especially, Memphis and New Orleans. Steamboats took away cotton, lumber, corn, and cattle and left cloth, sugar, coffee, flour, and whiskey.¹⁷ Local historian Davis Fitzhugh described, with a bit of dramatic license, the riverboats' steam whistles signaling their arrival to a local population that would drop everything to troop, en masse, to watch workers dock the boats and unload wares.¹⁸

The Civil War interrupted commerce, farming, and community life. As in other White River communities, the majority of free Augusta residents supported Arkansas's decision to secede from the United States once armed conflict began.¹⁹ Five companies from the county joined the Confederate military. United States troops captured the area in the summer of 1862, and Augusta remained nominally United States' territory throughout the remainder of the war.²⁰ Troops tore down modest homes for building materials and officers

⁸ Massey, Untitled, 4 and Davis Fitzhugh, "A Brief History of Augusta, Arkansas: Continuing the History of Augusta through the Civil War Years to the present time," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 1 No. 2 (1973): 3.

⁹ Massey, Untitled, 4 and Fitzhugh, "Continuing," 3.

¹⁰ Fitzhugh, Davis. "A Brief History of Augusta, Arkansas: From the days of the Indian settlement, Chickasaw Crossing, through the pioneer days of a river port," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 1 No. 1 (1972): 11.

¹¹ City of Augusta, "The History of Augusta," viewed at <http://www.augustaar.org/History.htm>, 31 October 2007.

¹² *Augusta Advocate*, "Churches of Augusta," 13 November 1930.

¹³ Massey, Untitled, 4.

¹⁴ *Augusta Advocate*, "Augusta Has a History," 13 November 1930 and City, "History."

¹⁵ Holder, "Geography," 136.

¹⁶ Huddleston, Duane. "Fine Steamboats Came to Augusta," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 1 No. 4 (1973): 9.

¹⁷ Huddleston, "Fine," 11; *Advocate*, "Augusta;" Massey, Untitled, 3; and City, "History."

¹⁸ Fitzhugh, "From," 10.

¹⁹ Holder, "Geography," 137.

²⁰ *Advocate*, "Augusta;" Holder, "Geography," 137; and Bill Shea, "Regional Summary: Northeast Arkansas," viewed at <http://www.arkansasheritage.com/education-information/educators/pdfs/NEArkansassummary.pdf>, 31 October 2007.

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headquartered in grander houses. Many Augusta residents left.²¹ In the surrounding rural areas, which lacked any civil or military authority during much of the war, roving deserters, stragglers, and criminals preyed on the mostly women and children civilians who remained at home during the fighting. Fleeing these gangs and the parallel threat of starvation for more densely populated areas, residents across rural northern Arkansas also became refugees.²²

After the organized fighting ended, violent racial and political conflict continued. In Woodruff County, the governor declared martial law in 1868 and imprisoned a dozen prominent Augusta citizens to stop local rebellion and the intimidation of the area's black population. Looting, the death of several citizens, and months of turmoil followed until soldiers arrived and established order.²³

By the 1870s, life became more stable. Augusta continued to grow economically and physically throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century. Seven different general merchandise stores advertised in one 1876 edition of the local *Augusta Bulletin*. A jeweler also sought customers with an advertisement.²⁴ In 1881, citizens constructed a community school at the corner of Third and Pearl Streets. Fire consumed thirty downtown buildings in 1884; destroyed were two hotels, the post office, a warehouse, a factory, and a shed with over 100 cotton bales. Such was the strength of the economy and the population that within five years more than twenty general or specialty stores, hotels, a restaurant, stables, shops, and mills rose to replace the lost buildings.²⁵ Another major fire raged in 1897, destroying 28 businesses, and again the town rebuilt.²⁶ The fires and reconstruction efforts resulted in Augusta's downtown largely reflecting the rebuilding efforts at the turn of the century.

River traffic resumed high levels in the 1870s and continued to be a major economic and social force. The steamboat *Chickasaw*, constructed in 1883, was the first boat with electric lights. One local steamboat expert wrote of the excitement in Augusta and other river communities when the *Chickasaw* turned a spotlight on houses and other buildings.²⁷ Showboats docked to perform for residents. Lanterns strung on the docks leant a festive atmosphere.²⁸ Elites in Augusta and other towns hosted parties for steamboat captains and

²¹ Barnett, Paula Harmon. "Augusta (Woodruff County)," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, viewed at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=1017>, 30 October 2007.

²² Shea, Bill. "Regional Summary: Northwest Arkansas," viewed at <http://www.arkansasheritage.com/education-information/educators/pdfs/NWArkansasSummary.pdf>, 31 October 2007.

²³ Barnett, "Augusta."

²⁴ McGregor, Mrs. Dale. "1876 News From the Augusta Bulletin," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 13 No. 2 (1985): 18.

²⁵ Boyles, Virginia L. "Augusta's Three Worst Tragedies," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 2 No. 2 (1974): 37 – 38.

²⁶ Massey, Untitled, 9.

²⁷ Huddleston, "Fine," 19.

²⁸ *Advocate*, "Augusta."

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passengers, and the boats themselves were the sites for additional dances and festivities.²⁹ Captains competed to run the most luxurious boat, and steamboats became symbols of opulence and good times.

River traffic was such a fundamental part of Augusta life that city leaders rejected an 1880s proposition to extend the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railway through the town. They hoped to control access to town, avoid the hazards and inconvenience of a town bisected by tracks and fast-moving trains, and maintain a quiet character. River traffic quickly decreased following the establishment of rail service, however, and residents relied increasingly on the railroad for shipping. Transportation between the rail station a mile south in New Augusta and Augusta proper was inconvenient, so residents in the late 1880s constructed a depot on Second Street and a one-mile spur for improved access.³⁰

Although the builder of the Mathis-Hyde House is unknown, it was constructed c.1865 in a time when the City of Augusta was rebuilding and recovering from the damage it received during the Civil War. The house, like others in the Augusta area, could have been built from timber that was shipped along the river by steamboat or actually cut right along the White River in Augusta. (Augusta did have a saw mill by 1890.)³¹

The Greek Revival had its beginnings in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries when an increased interest in classical buildings developed. Although it first focused on Roman buildings, archaeological investigations in the early 1800s emphasized Greece as the mother of Rome. The interest in Greek architecture was further fueled by the Greek struggle for independence, which resonated with the recently independent American people.³²

The popularity of the Greek Revival style began with public buildings in the northeast, specifically William Strickland's Bank of the United States (1818) in Philadelphia. However, it was not long until the style spread to residential examples, which were most popular between 1830 and 1860, and it was spread by pattern books of such nineteenth-century architects like Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever.³³

The popularity of the style had a gradual decline in the 1800s. In the "fashion-conscious urban centers of the Atlantic seaboard," the style began to be replaced as early as the 1840s by newer styles such as the Gothic

²⁹ Huddleston, Duane. "The Steamer Pocahontas at Augusta in 1915," *Rivers and Roads and Points In Between* Vol. 7 No. 2 (1979): 5 – 6.

³⁰ Massey, Untitled, 6 and Holder, "Geography," 142.

³¹ Information on the Mathis-Hyde House provided by Kip Davis, City Planner, City of Augusta, and *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, p. 283.

³² McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994, pp. 182 and 184.

³³ McAlester and McAlester, p. 184.

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Revival and Italianate styles. However, in states such as Arkansas, and in other rural areas, the style remained a dominant style for domestic buildings into the 1860s.³⁴

Interestingly, by the time the style reached Arkansas, it had also undergone a transformation. In the areas to the east, as Roger G. Kennedy writes in his book, *Greek Revival America*, "affluence displayed...an architecture at once Jacksonian and Roman. Its proportions taller, its members, more ornate, its balances more daring than the Greek of the Whigs and the North..." However, Kennedy further writes:

At its farthest reaches, its scale reduced and its components simplified, this architecture seemed almost Greek again, as, for example, it gathered itself in southwestern Arkansas, along the Red River, for campaigns against Mexico. There, in the hamlet of Washington, remain a dozen "Greek" buildings marking the edge of American nationalism of the 1840s in forms quite similar to those to be found along the St. Croix River in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Arkansas was still too poor to be Roman.³⁵

Although the builder of the house is unknown, it is a simplified example of the style, as described by Kennedy. All of the detailing is comprised of standard millwork that would have been able to be obtained at the local sawmill. There is no fluting on the columns or fluted capitals that would have required the services of a woodcarver, and the resultant higher cost. Even so, the house exhibits the identifying features of the style noted by McAlester and McAlester, notably a low-pitched gable roof, cornice line of the main roof and porch roofs emphasized with a wide band of trim, porches supported by prominent square columns, and a front door surrounded by narrow sidelights and a rectangular line of transom lights above.³⁶

The original family that owned the property is unknown, but the Mathis family was one of the early owners of the property. The Mathis family sold it to the Hyde family. The Hyde family lived in the house until c.1945, but continued to own the house until 1998. In 1998, the Hyde family deeded the house to the City of Augusta so that it can be restored to house a Woodruff County museum. Work on cleaning up the house has been ongoing over the past few years.³⁷

Even though it had been neglected for several years, the Mathis-Hyde House is now being restored so that it can once again be used by the community. The Mathis-Hyde House, with its symmetrical façade, temple-

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ Kennedy, Roger G. *Greek Revival America*. New York: Stewart, Tabori & Chang, 1989, p. 203.

³⁶ McAlester and McAlester, p. 179.

³⁷ Information on the Mathis-Hyde House provided by Kip Davis, City Planner, City of Augusta.

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fronted front porch, and prominent cornice and frieze, remains an excellent example of the Greek Revival style.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The construction and design of the Mathis-Hyde House illustrates the fact that even in towns where things had to be done simply, houses could be built in the latest architectural fashion. The establishment of Augusta along the White River allowed building materials to arrive by steamboat. In addition, the fact that a sawmill existed in Augusta by the late 1800s also allowed some lumber to be obtained locally. The adaptation of the Greek Revival style to be able to be built using standard run-or-the-mill millwork also illustrates the simplification of the style by the time that it arrived in Arkansas.

The Mathis-Hyde House is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style. The house exhibits the identifying features of the style noted by McAlester and McAlester, notably a low-pitched gable roof, cornice line of the main roof and porch roofs emphasized with a wide band of trim, porches supported by prominent square columns, and a front door surrounded by narrow sidelights and a rectangular line of transom lights above. In fact, the description of some of the Greek Revival details in Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* almost seem to have been written while looking at the Mathis Hyde House. It states:

The wide band of trim beneath the cornice of both the main roof and the porch roofs is an almost universal feature of Greek Revival houses. ...As in the preceding Georgian, Adam, and Early Classical Revival styles, elaborated door surrounds are a dominant feature of Greek Revival houses. ...Vernacular Greek Revival houses, on the other hand, commonly have square (and occasionally octagonal columns, which were simple and inexpensive to construct from boards and moldings. Such columns generally lack classical capitals. ...Pilasters are also frequent Greek Revival features. They are most commonly used on the corners of frame houses but are occasionally found across the entire façade in lieu of free-standing columns.³⁸

Because of its significance as an excellent example of the Greek Revival style in Augusta, the Mathis-Hyde House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

³⁸ McAlester and McAlester, pp. 180 and 182.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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National Park Service

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Mathis-Hyde House

Name of Property

Woodruff County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

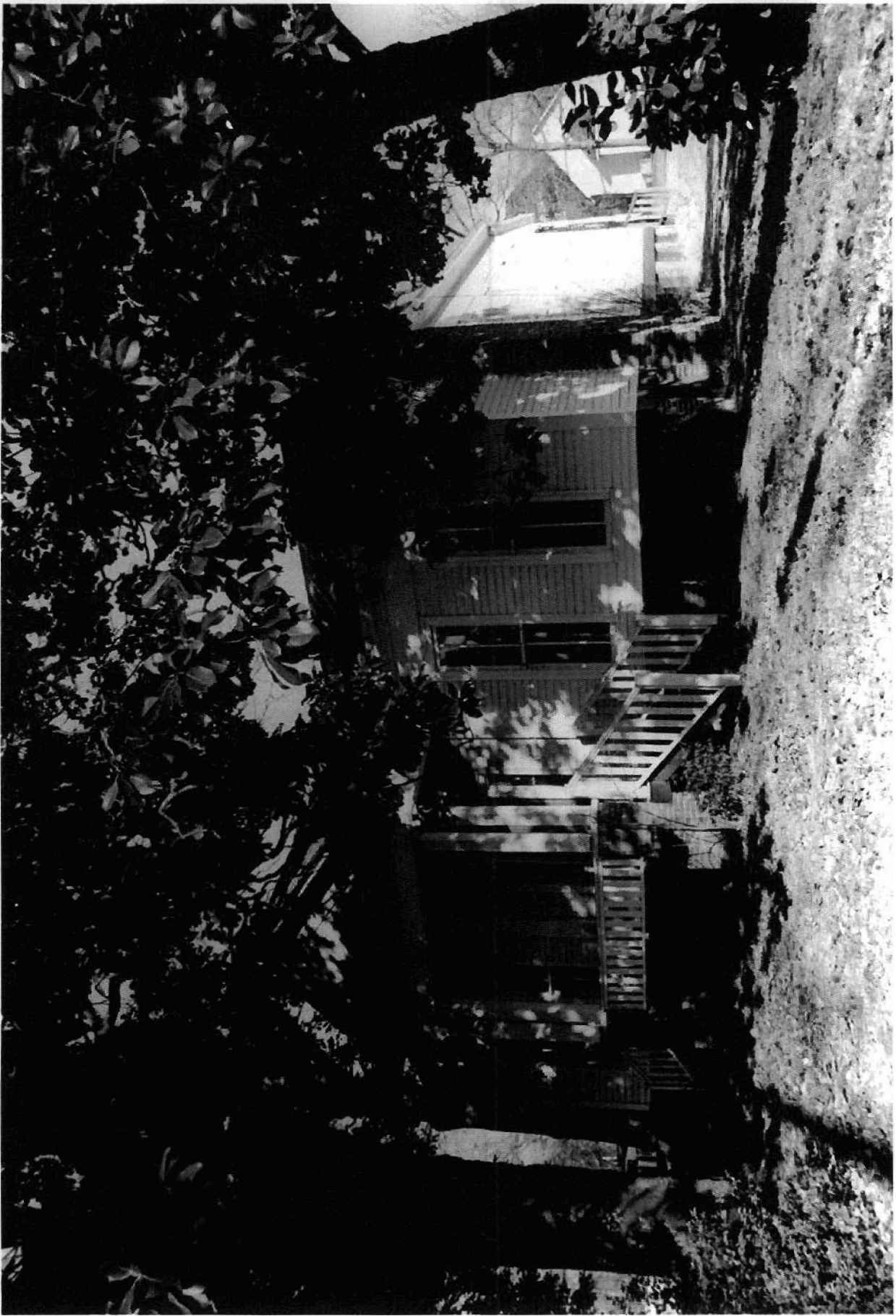
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

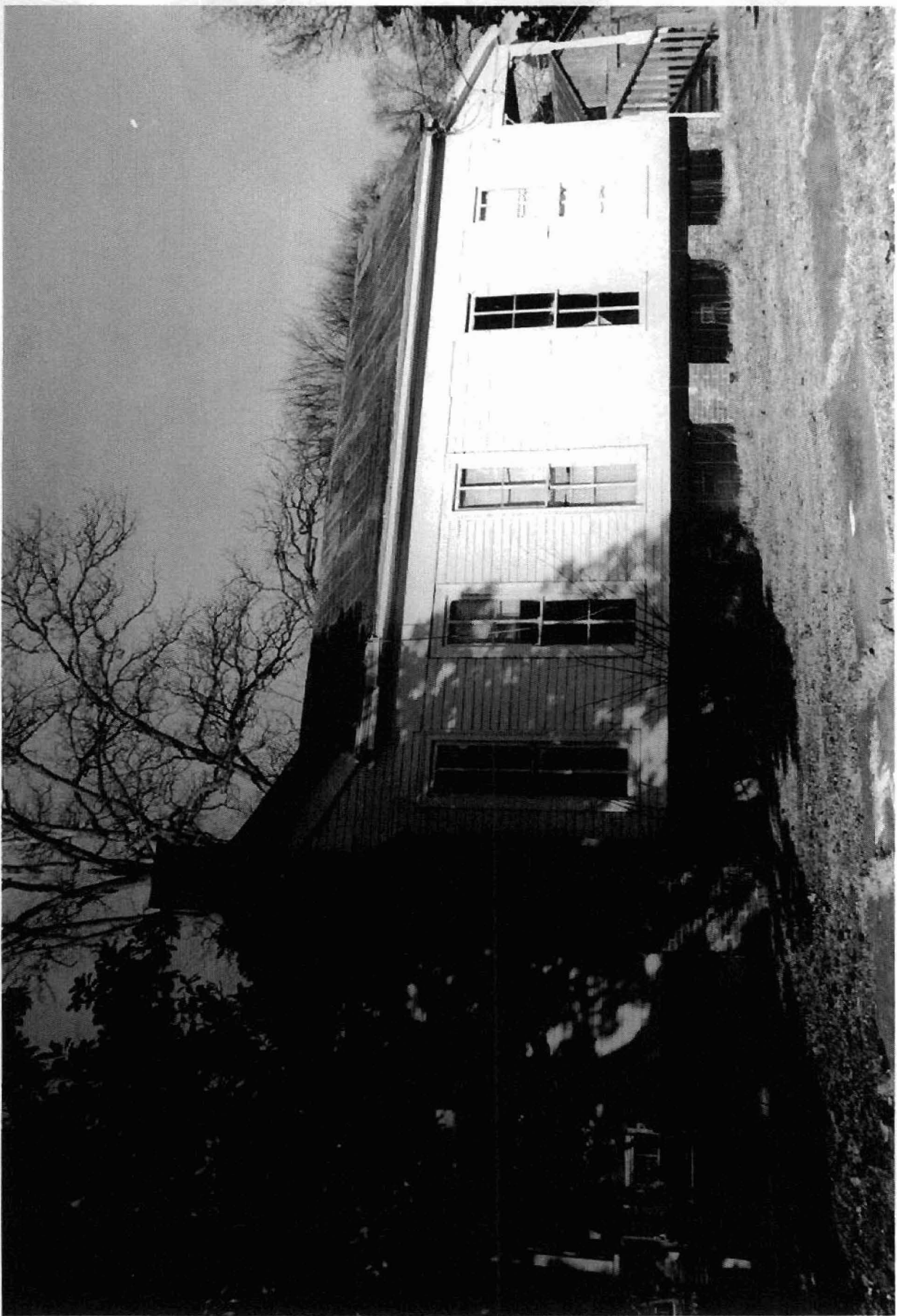
All of Lot 15 & the South end of lots 16, 17, & 18 of Block 32.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains all of the land that is historically associated with the Mathis-Hyde House.





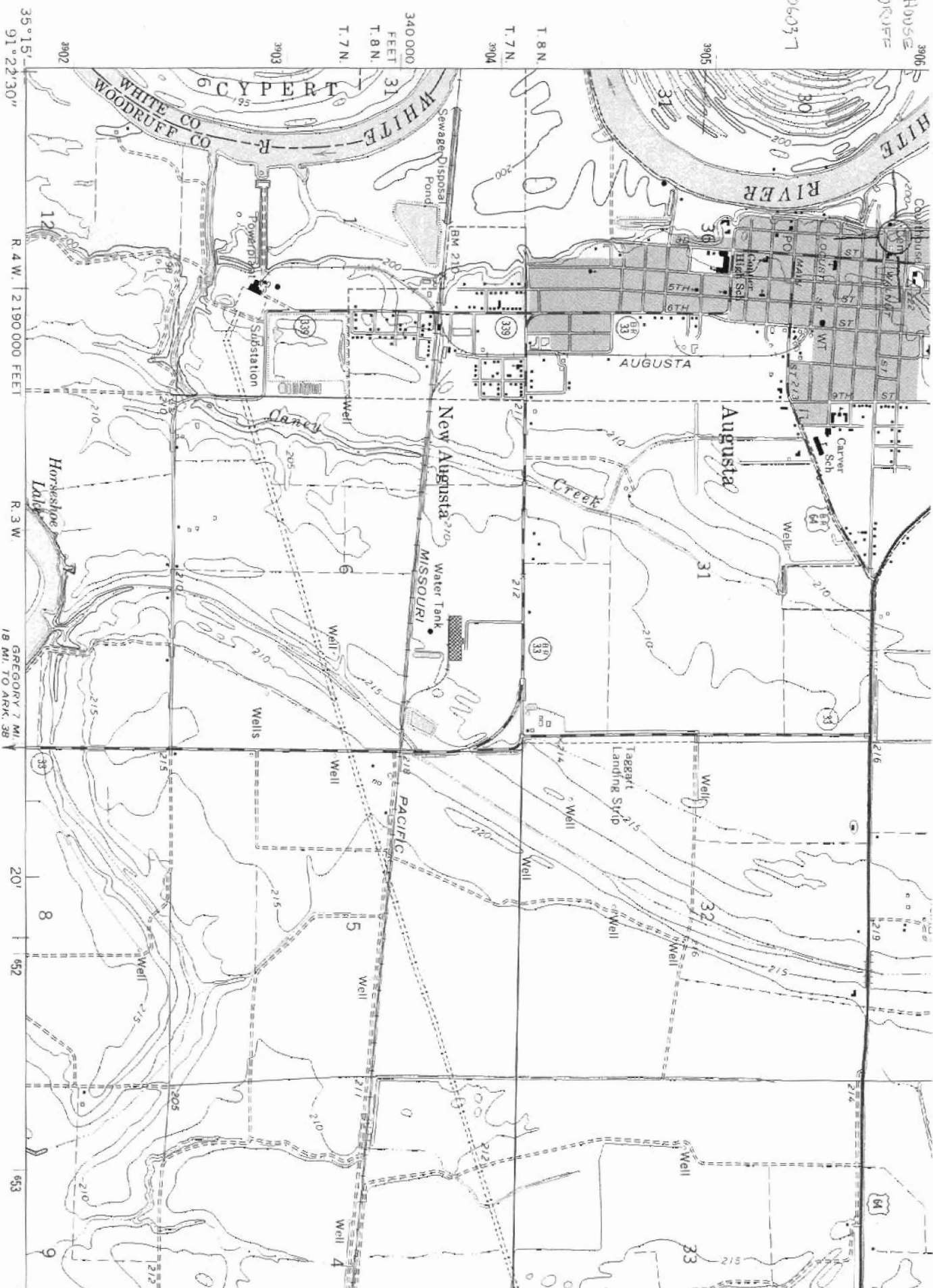








ACTON-HYDE HOUSE
 1005 TA, WOODRUFF
 COUNTY, AR
 1775
 5/645546/3906037



Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1966-67. Field checked 1968
 Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate
 system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue
 1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)

