

Ashdown Commercial Historic District

Little River, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 5/20/08

**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 any 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 Ashdown Commercial Historic District

Other Names/Site Number LR0087, LR0009, LR0088, LR0089, LR0090, LR0091, LR0092, LR0093, LR0094, LR0095, LR0008, LR0096, LR0097, LR0098, LR0099, LR0100, LR0101, LR0102, LR0103, LR0104, LR0105, LR0106, LR0107, LR0109, LR0110, LR0111, LR0112, LR0113, LR0114, LR0115, LR0116, LR0117, LR0118, LR0119, LR0120, LR0121, LR0122, LR0123, LR0124, LR0125, LR0126, LR0127, LR0128, LR0129, LR0130, LR0131.

2. Location

Street & Number Roughly bounded by Keller Street, E. Main Street, Commerce Street, and N. Constitution Street (U.S. 71) ☐ not for publication

City or Town Ashdown ☐ vicinity

State Arkansas Code AR County Little River Code 081 Zip Code 71822

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☒ statewide ☒ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 commenting or other official

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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

Ashdown Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

☐ other (explain): _____**Little River, Arkansas**

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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 the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
32	14	buildings
	1	sites
		structures
		objects

32	15	Total
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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

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institution
DOMESTIC/Hotel
RECREATION and CULTURE/Theater
COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Stores
COMMERCE/TRADE/Restaurant
GOVERNMENT/Post Office
COMMERCE/TRADE/Department Stores
COMMERCE/TRADE/Professional
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Processing

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling
DOMESTIC/Hotel
LANDSCAPE/Park
COMMERCE/TRADE/Professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/Restaurant
COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Stores
HEALTH CARE/Clinic
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Processing

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movement /
Commercial Style
Modern Movement/Art Deco

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation / Concrete, Brick, Wood
Roof / Asphalt / Composition Shingles
Walls / Brick, Steel, Ceramic Tile, Aluminum, Weatherboard
other

Narrative Description

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS

NR 5/20/00

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SUMMARY

The Ashdown Commercial Historic District is located in Ashdown, Arkansas. Ashdown is located in Little River County in the Southwestern corner of the state. It is located in close proximity to both Texas and Oklahoma, each less than 25 miles away. The Red River forms the boundary between Arkansas and Texas, about 6 miles south of Ashdown. The District is comprised of 47 resources within the boundaries of this district. Ashdown Commercial Historic District possesses a contributing ratio of 68.1% (32 properties), with 31.9% (15 properties) non-contributing.

The period from 1905 - 1958 has the most significance for this district. The buildings that have retained a high level of architectural integrity were built during this 53-year span. The Ashdown Commercial Historic District is a good example of late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style buildings and 1 building in the modern movement, with Art Deco secondary style. These buildings were instrumental in serving the needs of the farming and timber interests of Ashdown and Little River County during this period of history.

ELABORATION

A large number of resources within this district were built during the period between 1905 and 1945. Cotton was king. Cash crops such as summer vegetables were raised and either sold or bartered, but cotton was the primary concern of farmers in the rapidly growing county seat of Little River County. Timber business was also a monumental boost to the economy of the area. Timber was lucrative and readily available for not only the building boom, but also a box plant and factories that made handles for tools could be

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found in Ashdown. Fires were a constant danger in the wood frame buildings that housed the businesses in the early years. Around 1905, business owners began rebuilding, replacing the wooden structures with brick construction. In this proposed district, one of the first brick buildings was built in 1905 by R. M. Price to house the Price Grocery Co. and Price Dry Goods Store. Adolph Goldsmith purchased the Price Building in 1920.

THE R.M. PRICE BUILDING, (1905)

The R.M. Price Building, a large two-story brick building, was erected on the north side of E. Main Street at 46 East Main Street in 1905, to house the R.M Price Grocery Co. It was built in the late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. The roof is flat and has a parapet. The foundation is brick piers. The front façade faces south. The façade is symmetrical with a single buttress visually dividing the building in half. On the first-floor level, each half has recessed double doors that are centered, and a pair of plate glass windows on each side of the recessed doors. The 2nd story has a pair of double-hung windows with 2-over-2 panes, on each side of the buttress. All windows on this façade are covered with metal awnings. The east façade of this structure shows well the stepped parapet and flat roof. There is only one boarded window which accommodates a window air unit on the first story of this façade. There are 5 boarded windows covered with metal awnings on the 2nd story. The rear façade has an angle, about 135 degrees north, on the west side of the one-story brick structure which is attached to the brick wall of the two-story rear façade. It appears to be original to the structure. A metal shed is another addition to the building, covered by a metal shed roof. A rustic quoin was placed at the northeast corner of the

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Near the roofline is a cornice with dentils. This is one of the few examples of ornamentation used in Kaufman's buildings. The east and west facades are joined to other buildings by a party wall. The rear (north) façade is covered with a vertical metal siding. A small loading dock has an overhead door on the west side of the façade. An entrance with a metal single door with a "KAUFMAN SEEDS" sign above it is on the east side of the façade.

OLD KAUFMAN BUILDING #4 (1920)

Kaufman Building #4, at 254 North Constitution Street, is a rectangular brick structure built in the late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style in 1920. It was re-built as a warehouse for seed storage and cleaning. It has a flat roof with a parapet and the characteristic "Kaufman Building" green paint covering the bricks. The front façade (west) has a single metal door which is off-centered to the south side of the façade. The north and south sides of the structure are party walls with the Old Pounds Store building on the south side and the old Post Office Building on the north side. The north and south sides that extend beyond the party walls are old brick, unpainted. There are no windows or doors in these facades. The East façade, (rear) is old brick with double metal doors off-center to north side of the façade. Vegetation covers much of sides and rear of building. A metal awning had fallen off of the building and was lying beside the building.

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KAUFMAN BUILDING #3, (1950)
PLUNKETT - JARRELL GROCERY CO. BUILDING (Circa) 1916

A third warehouse was required in 1950. The Plunkett-Jarrell Grocery Co. was purchased for the purpose of re-constructing the building into a suitable warehouse for Kaufman's Seed Co. It was built in the late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style at 206A N. Constitution Street. It is a rectangular brick structure with a brick piers foundation. The roof is flat with tar built-up roofing material and a stepped parapet. The bricks are painted green. Built adjacent to the railroad, it was more economical for shipping. This third warehouse was the largest of the three. A cornice with brackets adorns the west (front) façade just below the flat roof and parapet. A single recessed metal door was placed off-center on the south side of the façade. There are no windows in this façade. A large horizontal "KAUFMAN SEEDS INC. WHSE. #3" sign is above the door. The south side of the building is in very close proximity to the railroad tracks. Two doors are near the west side of the façade. One is covered with metal and one is a single metal door with a flat metal awning over it. A rolling-door for loading is on the east side of the facade. It also has a flat metal awning. The rear façade faces east and a covered loading dock runs the width of the building. It is covered by a full-width metal awning supported by 3 metal posts. A metal rolling door for loading is on each side of the façade. The north façade is a party wall.

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BUILDING AT 206B CONSTITUTION (Circa 1925)
KAUFMAN BUILDING #3C (Circa 1962)

In 1962, Mr. Kaufman needed his 4th warehouse, a climate-controlled warehouse. He bought the building at 206b N. Constitution and made the changes needed to meet the standards that were required to create a climate controlled atmosphere. This climate-controlled warehouse was the first of its kind in the United States. It was constructed in early 20th century American movement commercial style. It is a brick construction and has a flat roof with a parapet. The bricks are painted green. There were windows and doors prior to the reconstruction, in the north, east, and south facades, but they are all covered with bricks. A single metal door located on the south side of the west (front) façade is the only opening to the structure except for an interior door between building #3b and building #3C.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING (1913)
THE JIM SHAVER BUILDING

The First National Bank Building is located at 87 E. Main. Other addresses assigned to this building are 365-381 Keller. The bank building is a brick construction with a flat roof with a parapet, built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. The roof material is tar built-up. There is an interior end chimney on the rear facade. The foundation is continuous cast concrete. Below the parapet is a cornice with frieze and architrave. The north (front) façade has a single glass door with wood trim and metal door frame. Glass block side

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lights are on each side of the door, which is set off-center on the east side of the façade. The west side of the façade has a 2-over-2 paned window with a concrete sill and a concrete lintel at the top of the window. The door and window are covered by a wood-shingle awning. The east façade is fenestrated by 3 large glass block windows in the north section of the façade, followed by a single wood door with a glass insert, in a metal frame. A transom is above the door, which is flanked by a tall narrow glass block window. Just below the transom, a metal awning covers the door. "THE SOUTHWEST TITLE COMPANY" is attached to the façade above the two glass block windows nearest the door. Next to the door and narrow window on the north side is a plaque with "THE JIM SHAVER BUILDING" engraved on it. The fenestration of the south section of this façade is a pair of double hung windows with 9-over-1 pane arrangement, followed by a metal door with a glass insert, in a metal frame. Then another set of windows and door, and yet another set of windows and a door, followed by another pair of windows. All of the windows are double-hung and have 9-over-1 pane arrangement, and all the doors are alike. Two of the doors have Keller Street addresses, 387 and 375. There is a wooden awning with composition shingles which covers all the 9-over-1 windows and the doors in this section of the façade. Four metal posts support this porch roof. The south (rear) façade of this building has a flat roof with a parapet, and an interior end chimney. On the east side of the façade is a double-hung window with 9-over-1 pane arrangement. A roll-up service door which has been bricked is on the west side of the façade, followed by a small double-hung window with 9-over-1 pane arrangement. The west wall is a party wall. Little River Home Health occupies all of this building.

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BISHOP BUILDING (1908)

The Bishop Building is located at 15 E. Main Street at the southeast corner of E. Main and N. Constitution. Built in 1908, it is a two-story brick construction with a flat roof and a parapet. It is built in early late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. The bricks are painted a soft cream color on the first-floor level. The north (front) façade has two plate glass windows and one metal door with a glass pane inset, on the east side of the façade. A metal door with a large plate glass window on the right side of the door is on the west side of the façade. Above the door, which is an entrance to the stairwell going to the 2nd-story space, is a glass window with many small multi-colored panes. The transom windows above the plate glass windows are covered with plywood. A corner glass door has a narrow side light beside it and a window above the door which is covered with weatherboard. Above the covered window is a transom, which is also covered with plywood. The 4 2nd-story windows and the window over the corner door on this façade, are tall rectangular windows with 2-over-2 pane arrangement. Brick arches top all the upper windows just over the concrete lintels. A decorative cornice below the roofline runs all around this roofline. A cornerstone dated 1908 is located on the east side of this façade. The west façade has painted bricks on the first floor and a recessed metal door and a service window on the south side. The second story of the west façade has 7 tall rectangular windows with 2-over-2 pane arrangement with concrete lentils and brick arches over each window. What can be seen on the first floor level is original brick of the building and bricked-in windows. One double metal door with a brick

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lintel and a brick arch over both doors appears to be in useable condition. Eight electrical boxes are attached to the side of this façade. There are also two air conditioner units by the doors. The second story of this façade appears to have been partially covered with stucco. There are two tall windows with 1-over-1 pane arrangement and a shorter window with the same pane arrangement. There is a lot of vegetation both on and surrounding this south façade. The east façade has a party wall.

THE F.A. LOCKE BUILDING (1909)

The F. A. Locke Building is located at 21 East Main Street, on the south side of the street. It is built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. It was a two-story rectangular brick building with a flat roof with a parapet. There is a single door in the center of the west half of this facade, flanked by a pair of sidelights the height of the door. A single pane plate glass window is on each side of the door. On the east side of this façade are 3 plate glass windows, the center window being slightly wider than the other two. A metal awning covers the windows and door. Above the awning are transoms which are covered with metal siding. Beige brick frames the lower half of this façade except for the metal siding under the windows. The upper level of the façade has the original brick of the structure. A decorative cornice, frieze and architrave are below the roofline on this façade. There are 4 narrow arched windows. All of the windows are covered with bricks. Concrete sills are at the bottom of each window. The east and west facades are party walls. The rear (south) façade has a very large concrete block addition. It is covered by both a metal gable roof and a metal shed roof. On the west side of the facade is a door-less doorframe. A roll-up service door is on the east

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side of the façade. In the upper portion of the building is a wooden door to what appears to be a hay loft or storage space. There are no windows. The build date for this addition is 1940.

SANDERSON BUILDING (1913)

The Sanderson Building is located at 63 and 69 East Main Street. It is a large, rectangular shaped, two-story, brick structure built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. It has a flat roof, tar built up, with a parapet. There is a cast concrete foundation. The front of the building is the north façade. Two store fronts are in the lower level of this façade. The store front on the east side of this façade has two show cases with 2 plate glass windows around each. Recessed double glass doors with metal frames are centered between the two show case windows. The store front on the west side of the façade, are two single plate glass windows with a wood framed glass door centered between them. A metal awning covers these two store fronts. Just above the awning and below the upper story windows is a section of the building that has a combination of weatherboard and brick. The windows in the 2nd story are tall and narrow with 1-over-1 pane arrangement. There are concrete lentils at the top of each window as well as concrete sills. Brick arches are over every window in the façade. Just below the stepped parapet is a decorative cornice. Centered in the façade just below the cornice is the name of the building and the build date, "SANDERSON BLDG. 1913". On the south side (rear) of the building, the bricks are painted white. A door on the first level of the west side of the façade has been bricked. Of the 16 windows on this façade, only 3 had not been bricked or boarded. The east façade is a party wall, but above the roof of "More and Moore

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Treasures" the top of the Sanderson Building can be seen. Below the stepped parapet, there are 3 boarded windows visible.

PRETTY PETALS (Circa 1913)

Built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style, the owners have preserved much of the integrity of the building, changing only the necessary. Historically this was the Caldwell's Dry Goods Store. It is located at 77 E. Main Street. The building is a brick, single story structure, with a cast concrete foundation. The roof is flat, with a parapet, and has tar built-up roofing. Some restoration is being done in this structure. In the front (north) façade, the 4-over-4-paned light windows, which are above the entry and display windows, have been uncovered and refurbished. The light windows are set in wood frames, with wood sills, and are slightly recessed in the stucco-covered bricks. Plate glass windows form a 4-sided display case on each side of the recessed porch entry. The single metal-framed glass door is flanked by narrow side lights. The bricks on the north façade have been covered with stucco. East and west facades are party walls, east side is 1st National Bank Building, on the west is More and Moore Treasures Building. The south façade has wooden double doors in a wood frame centered in this façade. Windows with 4-over-4 pane arrangement are on each side of the doors. Above the lower windows are two windows at a higher elevation on this façade. They have 1-over-1 pane arrangement, with a concrete lintel over the window and a concrete sill. The lower windows have a metal grid covering them. The doors are covered with a metal awning which is attached to the façade. Above the awning is a

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large sign with "ASHDOWN FLORAL DESIGN", the former owner of the building's sign, attached to the façade.

MORE & MOORE TREASURES (Circa 1913)

More & Moore Treasures is located at 73 East Main Street, on the south side of Main. It was built in the late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. This rectangular, brick construction has a tar built-up, flat roof with a parapet. The foundation is cast concrete. The front façade faces north. This façade is covered by a primitive porch of untreated posts (4) supporting a tin shed roof and wood frame. This porch covers 2 large stationary plate glass windows on the east side of the façade and 2 large stationary plate glass windows on the west side of the façade with a single glass door centered between the two sets of windows. Above the shed roof of the awning porch is a large green pediment. Above the pediment, the bricks on this façade have been covered with stucco. The cornice below the roofline shows the original brick wall material. The rear of the façade faces south. The bricks on this façade have been painted white. Five windows have been completely covered with bricks. One upper story window has a small section that is not covered. All of the windows have a decorative brick arch over the top of the window. A wooden double door, set in a metal frame, is centered on the lower section of this façade. The doors are covered by a metal awning. The real treasure in this building is the interior. Original pressed tin ceilings, an original sky light, original flooring, both wood and ceramic tile, a mezzanine with original rails, are all to be found when you get past the front façade.

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WILLIAMS THEATER (1947)

Williams Theater is at 360 Keller Street, facing west. It is a modern movement style building with Art Deco secondary characteristics. It is an unusual building for a theater, one of only a few with a quonset hut. The front façade is very "art deco." The 2-story red brick façade has been covered with stucco and painted red. It has eye-catching geometric designs on the north side of the façade between the four buttresses which run from the top of the marquee past the roofline of the façade. The roof over this section of the building is flat, with tar built-up, and has a parapet. Below the triangular marquee are two glass doors for entry, and a ticket window. The south side of the façade has two wooden doors side by side for entrance to a snack shop. There is a plate glass window on this side of the façade, beside the doors. Party walls exist on the north and south sides of the structure. The rear, (east facade) of the property is a quonset hut. It is a very large half-circle structure made of ribbed metal. Another metal structure has been attached to the quonset hut on the south side, close to the rear of the structure. There is a metal door on the east side of the addition. The quonset hut has double metal doors on the north side of the east (rear) façade.

A.N. WOOD BUILDING (circa 1905)

The A.N. Wood Building located at 390 Keller Street has been drastically altered. The once two-story building has been re-bricked on the front (west) façade, and north and east facades. The building is a one-story brick structure with a flat roof, tar built-up roofing material, with a cast concrete foundation. It was constructed in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style.

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The north façade has a single recessed door. There are no windows in the north or east facades. The west façade has a single stationary window next to glass double doors centered in the façade. A "GUARANTY NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY" plaque is located on the bricks on the north side of the west façade. The window and doors are covered by a white metal awning with a flat roof. The south wall is a party wall. Above the roof-line of the building on the south side of the A.N. Wood Building, the original bricks can be seen on the upper south façade.

DIXIE THEATER/ROYAL THEATER (1915)

The Dixie Theater is a 1915 silent movie theater located at 360 East Commerce. It is built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. The construction material is brick and it has a flat roof with a parapet, with tar built-up surface. The front (north) façade has been covered with stucco. The show marquee and ticket window have been removed and wood siding fills in part of the area on the lower north façade. There are also some white painted bricks on this façade. Two metal-framed glass doors are centered on the façade, and a plate glass window is on each side of the doors. The upper area of this façade has three boarded windows below the cornice one on the east side, one on the west side and one centered. The west façade shows the stepped parapet and 4 boarded windows and a door on the north side of this west façade has been covered with concrete blocks. On the rear (south) side of the building the stucco is falling off revealing the old bricks on the west side of the façade. There is also a boarded door on both west and east sides of the façade. Vegetation covers much of the east facade.

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LITTLE RIVER NEWS BUILDING (1905)

The Little River News building is located at 45A East Commerce Street. The newspaper has been at this location since November 1905, and is still publishing a weekly paper. The single-story building is constructed of brick and is in the late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. It has a flat roof with a parapet and has tar built-up roofing material. It is a narrow rectangular shaped structure with a cast concrete foundation. The front façade faces north. There is very little ornamentation. Two plate glass windows, with a pair of glass doors in wooden frames between them, are centered on this façade. The east (side) façade has five boarded windows. The south (rear) façade has a boarded window on the east side of the façade, a pair of metal double doors which are recessed, on the west side of the façade, and a window in the corner of the west side of the structure near the party wall to the 2nd Little River News building.

LITTLE RIVER FORD SERVICE DEPT.

LITTLE RIVER NEWS ANNEX, B (Circa 1920) Non-Contributing

The 2nd Little River News building is found at 45B East Commerce Street. It was built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. The style is more ornate than most of the buildings in this proposed district, but it has been altered greatly. The North (front) façade is slightly recessed, and is completely bricked with newer-looking bricks, with a cut-out for a door on the far east side of the façade, which has been boarded. The older portion of the façade which remains, acts as a frame around the new brick surface. A crested parapet tops the tar built-up flat roof. Below the roofline is a cornice with a frieze and architrave. The

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east façade is a party wall with door opening on the north end of the façade into Little River News Building A. At the far south end of this façade is a roll-up door, which gives access to this structure and to the 3rd Little River News building which fronts on Constitution Street, but has a Commerce Street address. The south (rear) façade is a party wall. The west façade is a party wall with an opening on the south end for entrance to the Little River News Annex C.

LITTLE RIVER FORD DEALERSHIP (1924)
LITTLE RIVER NEWS ANNEX C (1924)

The official address of this building is 45C Commerce Street. The physical location is on North Constitution. The building is a single-story rectangular shaped, red brick structure built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. The foundation is continuous cast concrete. The roof is flat with a parapet with tar built-up roofing material. The west façade, facing North Constitution, is a red brick structure with green metal siding covering the space above the centered single metal-framed door and the 4 plate glass windows, two on each side of the door. The door and the windows are recessed 12 inches, more or less. White metal siding covers the remainder of the façade to the roof. Party walls form the north and south facades. The east (rear) façade opens into the south end of the east façade of the Little River Annex B.

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MERRILL'S MARKET BUILDING (Circa 1920)

Merrill's Market Building is located at 78 North Commerce. Also known as the Stinson Grocery Store Building, the brick structure is one-story and is rectangular shaped. There is a flat roof with a stepped parapet and a continuous cast concrete foundation. It is built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. The south (front) façade has a cornice beneath the roofline.

Transoms, above the green and white striped canvas awning, are covered with weatherboard. Below the awning, a glass door in a metal frame is centered, with a plate glass window in wood frame on each side of the door. The entire building has been painted dark green. The east façade has a boarded single metal door and a boarded tall rectangular window on the north side of the façade. The north (rear) façade has a wooden door on the east side and boarded window on the west side. The west façade is partially a party wall, and has two stationary windows on the north side of the façade.

ARKANSAS BANK & TRUST BUILDING (1907) THE MILLS BUILDING

The Arkansas Bank & Trust Building is located at 262B N. Constitution Street. The one-story brick building is rectangular shaped, with a flat roof with a parapet. It is built in late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. It has a continuous cast concrete foundation. The original walls were brick, now additions of concrete blocks, stucco, and cut stone exist. The west (front) façade has a portion of the bricks painted yellow. One door is in the north side of this façade. It is a glass single door with a metal frame. Three plate glass windows on the south side of the façade are covered by a

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flat metal awning. Below the roof line is a cornice with a white cement frieze with medallions. Cut stone reinforces the bottom of the buttresses on all facades. The north façade faces Commerce Street. The parapet ends on this façade just past the first window which is a plate glass window with a flat white awning covering it. A single glass door in a metal frame is in the far west end of the façade. The center of the façade has a horizontal rectangular window that has been covered with stucco. The east end of the north façade has door opening that has been concrete blocked. Above the blocked door is a wide horizontal window that has been covered with stucco. A party wall exists on the south façade. Attached to the north and east façades is a concrete block commercial rear addition with a flat metal roof. The entrance to the building is a pair of metal doors set in metal frames and covered with a black wrought iron gate. The doors have small square single pane windows at the top of each door. There is no access to the east (rear) façade.

THE T.L. LOTT BUILDING (Circa 1908)
T & J USED FURNITURE (Circa 1951)

The T.L. Lott building is historically significant. It is located at the corner of N. Constitution and E. Commerce Streets. In 1908, the building was a large two-story building and was a hub of activity during the years from 1910 through 1950, with offices and apartments on the top floor and Ross Cash Grocery, the only store in town with frozen food lockers, on one side of the downstairs retail space. Other retail stores occupied the remaining spaces on the first floor level. The early February 1950's fire that swept through a half-block of eight businesses, left a charred and scarred group of buildings. The fire began in

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the Lott Building on the first floor in the popcorn stand of Henry Wilcox. With what was left of the burned buildings, the owners re-invented their properties and the two-story buildings became one-story buildings, and each of the properties was returned to a usable space. The building at 310 N. Constitution is a single-story brick structure with a flat roof and a parapet. It is still known as the Lott Building. The bricks have been covered with stucco. It was built in the late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style. It has a continuous cast concrete foundation. A red single wood door is set in the beveled corner between the south (Commerce Street) façade and the west (Constitution) façade. Above the red door is a window with 2-over-2 pane arrangement. The west (front) façade has 4 plate glass windows on the south side of the façade and a single wood door in metal frame and a plate glass window on the north side of the façade. The south façade has a window near the west end of the façade. A decorative arch is a reminder of the grandeur of the building "that once was", a grand entrance to a much-used building. The arch has been filled in with concrete blocks and has been covered with stucco. On the far-east side of the façade is a freight door that has been covered with concrete blocks. The wooden frame that surrounded the door remains. There are party walls on the east and north facades.

ASHDOWN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

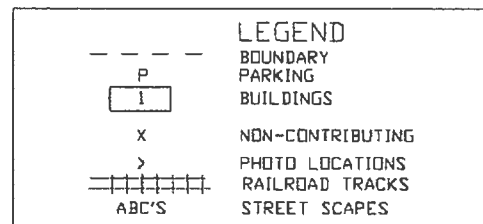
Name of Property

LITTLE RIVER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

County and State

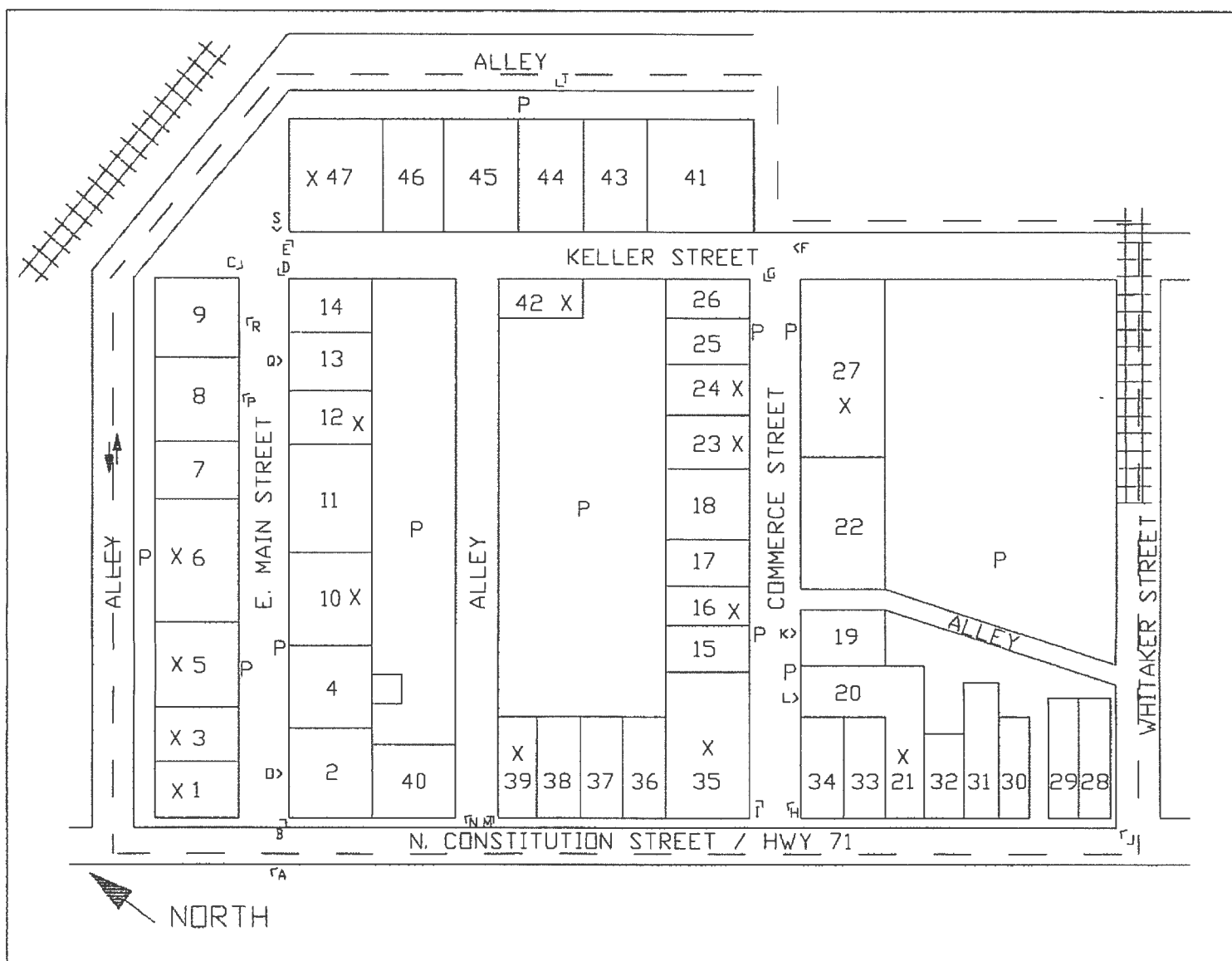
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SKETCH MAP



ASHDOWN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Ashdown Commercial Historic District

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<u>Resource</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Current Occupant</u>	<u>Map ID #</u>	<u>C or NC</u>
LR0087	E. Main & Constitution	Ashdown Welcome Park	1	NC
LR0009	15 E. Main Street	Little River County Museum	2	C
LR0088	20 E. Main Street	Finley Law Offices	3	NC
LR0089	21 E. Main Street	Meeting Room / Storage	4	C
LR0090	22 E. Main Street	Lee's Jewelry/Style Studio	5	NC
LR0091	28 E. Main Street	Morgan Plumbing	6	NC
LR0092	34 E. Main Street	Kaufman Seeds	7	C
LR0093	42 E. Main Street	Ashdown Hardware	8	C
LR0094	44 E. Main Street	Price Building / Storage	9	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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LR0095	61 E. Main Street	Resale Shop	10	NC
LR0008	63&69 E. Main Street	Memories on Main & Sandy's Resale	11	C
LR0096	73 E. Main Street	More & Moore Treasures/Antiques	12	NC
LR0097	77 S. Main Street	A Pretty Petal Florist	13	C
LR0098	87 S. Main Street	Little River Hospital Home Health	14	C
LR0099	26 E. Commerce Street	Lil' Joe's Karaoke	15	C
LR0100	32 E. Commerce Street	Vacant/Storage	16	NC
LR0101	34 E. Commerce Street	Vacant	17	C
LR0102	42&48 E. Commerce Street	Glamour Video & Photo /Vacant	18	C
LR0103	45A E Commerce Street	Little River News Office	19	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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LR0104	45B E. Commerce Street	Little River News Annex	20	C
LR0105	45C E. Commerce Street	Little River News /Vacant	21	NC
LR0106	47 E. Commerce Street	Dixie Theater Building/Vacant	22	C
LR0107	68 E. Commerce Street	Cleopatra's Beauty Shop	23	NC
LR0108	72 E. Commerce Street	Lot at 72 E. Commerce Street	24	NC
LR0109	74 E. Commerce Street	Ashdown T.V. Service	25	C
LR0110	78 E. Commerce Street	Merrill's Market Building/Vacant	26	C
LR0111	S.W. Corner E. Commerce/Keller St.	Mini Storage Units	27	NC
LR0112	206A N. Constitution Street	Kaufman Warehouse	28	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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LR0113	206B N. Constitution Street	Kaufman Warehouse	29	C
LR0114	250 N. Constitution Street	Budget Inn	30	C
LR0115	252 N. Constitution Street	Pound's Grocery Building/Vacant	31	C
LR0116	254 N. Constitution Street	Kaufman's Warehouse/Vacant	32	C
LR0117	262A N. Constitution Street	Paul's World (Furniture) S1/2	33	C
LR0118	262B N. Constitution Street	Paul's World (Furniture) N1/2	34	C
LR0119	310 N. Constitution Street	T & J's Used Furniture	35	NC
LR0120	320 N. Constitution Street	Vacant	36	C
LR0121	330 N. Constitution Street	Vacant	37	C
LR0122	340 N. Constitution Street	Residence	38	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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LR0123	350 N. Constitution Street	Jo's Mug& Brush	39	NC
LR0124	360 &370 N. Constitution Street	Cuttin' Up Beauty Shop	40	C
LR0125	320 Keller Street	Country Furniture	41	C
LR0126	335 & 345 Keller Street	Little River County Corrections Dept.	42	NC
LR0127	340 & 350 Keller Street	Smith Cleaners	43	C
LR0128	360 Keller Street	K. Lee Williams Theater	44	C
LR0129	370 Keller Street	Vacant	45	C
LR0130	380 Keller Street	State Sporting Goods	46	C
LR0131	390 Keller Street	Sissy Welch Photography	47	NC

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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SUMMARY

The Ashdown Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its associations with the agricultural and commercial history in Ashdown and Little River County. The R. M. Price family opened the Ashdown Grocery Co. & Dry Goods Store in the R.M. Price Building, which was built in 1905. The Ashdown Hardware Store, in the Ashdown Hardware Store Building, was also built in 1905. The Little River County Bank, built in 1901, was the first bank in Ashdown. It burned in 1912, and in 1913, the First National Bank Building was built on the site where Little River County Bank had been. These four buildings provided a place where business owners could meet the physical and financial needs of the community. These buildings are good examples of the Ashdown Commercial Historic District's association with agriculture and the farmers in Ashdown and Little River County.

In addition, the Ashdown Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C for the buildings which are good examples of late 19th and early 20th century American movement commercial style, and modern movement with secondary Art Deco style. The Price Building and Ashdown Hardware Building are excellent examples of late 19th and early 20th century American movement style. They were both built 1905. The K. Lee Williams Theater is an excellent example of the modern movement, art deco style. It was built in 1947. We were told that it is one of the few Quonset theaters left in the United States. When you see the art deco front façade, you are totally unprepared for the Quonset hut on the rear facade!

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ELABORATION

The Ashdown Commercial Historic District grew up by the railroad tracks and the Little River for which the county is named. "The coming of railroads meant the shifting of trade centers. The smaller towns missed by the railroads lost their futures." Quoted from A History of Ashdown, Arkansas, this appears to be a true statement. There are many communities that failed to flourish because of lack of transportation to get crops to market and to bring people in to their trade centers. In 1907, three railroads served Ashdown: Frisco Railroad; Kansas City Southern Railroad; and Graysonia, Nashville & Ashdown Railroad. Ten passenger-trains came through Ashdown daily. Hotels were built, and rooming houses were popular. Fires were commonplace. The town thrived in spite of the fires. The buildings in the proposed Ashdown Commercial Historic District are a vital part of the early history of Ashdown.

Southern towns: Land, cotton, timber, rivers, and a railroad - if you have these ingredients, the people will come. That was true during the last half of the 19th century and the first 30 years of the 20th century. As people began moving west looking for land and a place to call home and a way to make a decent living, cotton farms and the timber industry began to grow. All of these farmers and their families needed supplies. Merchants began moving in and opening stores. The river traffic increased; more people came; there were more crops to get to market; which led to a need for more transportation on the river. And then the railroads came- to Ashdown, to Camden, to Stuttgart, to any number of small Arkansas towns. The railroad age came early to Little River County. Work on the right-of-way for the railroad began in 1888. Judge Lawrence Alexander Byrne was a railroad lawyer. He realized

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that the area where the railroad was being built would develop very quickly. On December 17, 1890, William Waddell sold 80 acres to Judge Byrnes for \$664.00. Judge Byrnes, who also owned a saw mill, platted this 80-acre plot into town lots. The town was named Keller for the contractor on the Texarkana and Fort Smith Rail Road that was being built by W.S. Whitaker of Texarkana. Whitaker requested that the name be changed after a dispute with Keller. He told Judge Byrne to name the town since he owned most of it anyway. The town became Ashdown. Keller and Whitaker are familiar names. Whitaker is the name of the south border of the proposed Ashdown Commercial Historic District and Keller is the east border with both sides of Keller included in the district from the north side of East Main Street to Whitaker Street.

East Main Street began to develop. First, the Little River County Bank was built in 1901. The First National Bank Building was built on that site in 1913, when the Little River County Bank building burned. The Price Building which housed a grocery store and mercantile was built in 1905. Next, Ashdown Hardware, which had been on Commerce Street, was moved into the Ashdown Hardware Building which had been built in 1905. Brick structures were rapidly replacing the wood frame buildings.

On the corner of North Constitution and Keller Streets, the Lott Building, a large two-story building was built. It housed Lott's Grocery and a mercantile store on the first floor of the building. There were apartments and offices on the 2nd story level. Down the street was the "Little River News" in a building that was built in 1898 to house the newspaper business. It is still operating in that same location, along with the addition of 2 more buildings. The interior of the newspaper office is filled with antique printing machines and desks. Across from the newspaper

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office was the A.B. Phillips Building with the Phillips Grocery Store. It was constructed in 1904. On the east side of the newspaper office was The Dixie Theater. Built in 1915, it was a silent movie theater. There were barbers and a post office, shoe stores and soda fountains.

The A.N. Wood building was built on the corner of Keller Street and East Main Street in 1905. It was a large 2-story building that housed a grocery store and offices for Dr. A.N. Wood and other professionals. In 1947, a theater was built on Keller Street. The K. Lee Williams Theater was a "talkie," unlike the Dixie Theater on Commerce which was a silent movie theater. It was unique in design also. It was a very tall structure with art deco styling on the front part of the structure and a Quonset hut on the rear.

Constitution Street had several popular buildings in the early years of Ashdown. The Arkansas Bank and Trust Building (1907) was a large red brick building that housed a bank. Mills Watch Shop was in the rear section of the building. Mr. Mills eventually bought the building and expanded his business to include a full line of jewelry and gifts. Across Commerce Street was the T.L. Lott Building. Mr. Lott had a grocery store on the left side of the building, and the rest of the building was rented to other business owners and tenants in the apartments. A fire in 1950 burned 8 businesses on North Constitution, including the Lott Building. The property owners made the best of a bad situation by re-inventing their properties. By using what was left of their buildings, the 2-story buildings became 1-story structures, and each of the buildings were returned to a usable space.

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The period from 1905-1950 was the most dynamic time in the history of Ashdown. The timber industry and farming were the key in the development of the town. Equally important was the role the railroads played. Without the railroads it would not have been possible to get the farm products and the wood products to market in larger cities. Large lumber companies like Georgia-Pacific moved in and put a lot of the smaller sawmills and wood products companies out of business. Cotton was the major money making crop among the farmers. The cotton growing farmers needed cotton gins, cotton oil mills, and warehouses. All of this helped the economy. As synthetic fabrics were being tested and used, the need for cotton decreased. Some of the farmers turned to soybeans for their cash crop. Soybeans never reached the level of success the farmers had enjoyed with cotton. Many farmers stopped tilling the soil and began to raise cattle. Cattle-ranching is still a big industry in this area. This is a resilient group of people. They changed and prospered as the demand changed.

Buildings are made of brick and mortar, stone, wood and metals and glass. They have no life. It is the men who saw a future for Ashdown, and built these buildings. They saw an opportunity and were able make that vision a reality. It's the men we honor and whose history we hope to keep alive through these buildings in the proposed Ashdown Commercial Historic District.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ashdown Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its association with agricultural and commercial history in Ashdown and Little River County. In addition, the Ashdown Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C for its buildings which are good examples of late 19th and early 20th century American Movements commercial style and modern movement/ art deco style.

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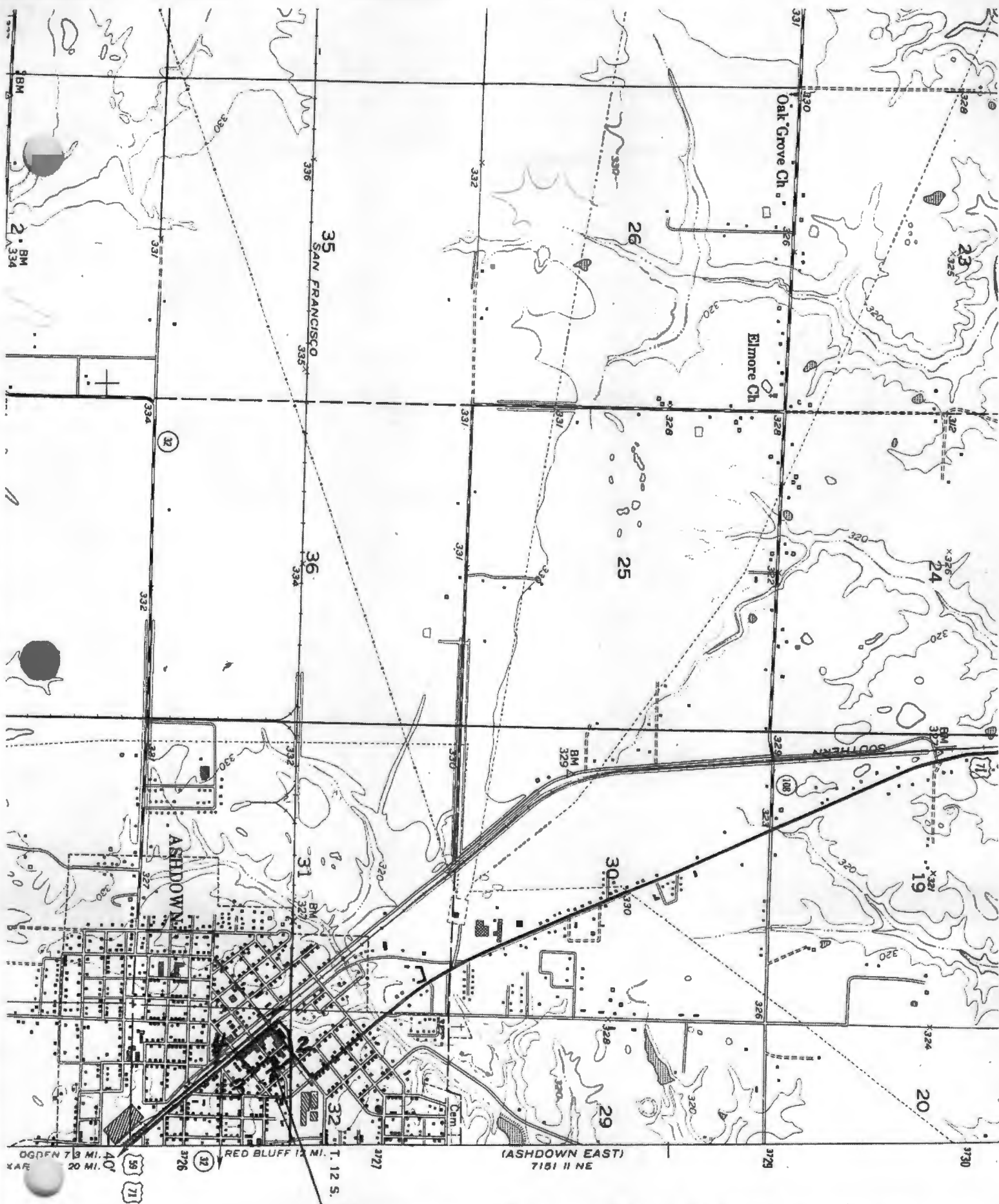
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Verbal Boundary

Beginning at the center of North Constitution Street and alley north of E. Main Street, proceed east along alley behind north side of East Main Street to Keller Street, then proceed southeast to the intersection of East Main and alley on east side of Keller Street. Then proceed south along the alley to the intersection of Commerce Street. Then proceed west on Commerce Street to Keller Street. Then proceed south on Keller Street to Whitaker Street. Then turn west on Whitaker Street and proceed to North Constitution Street. Then turn north on North Constitution Street, and proceed to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

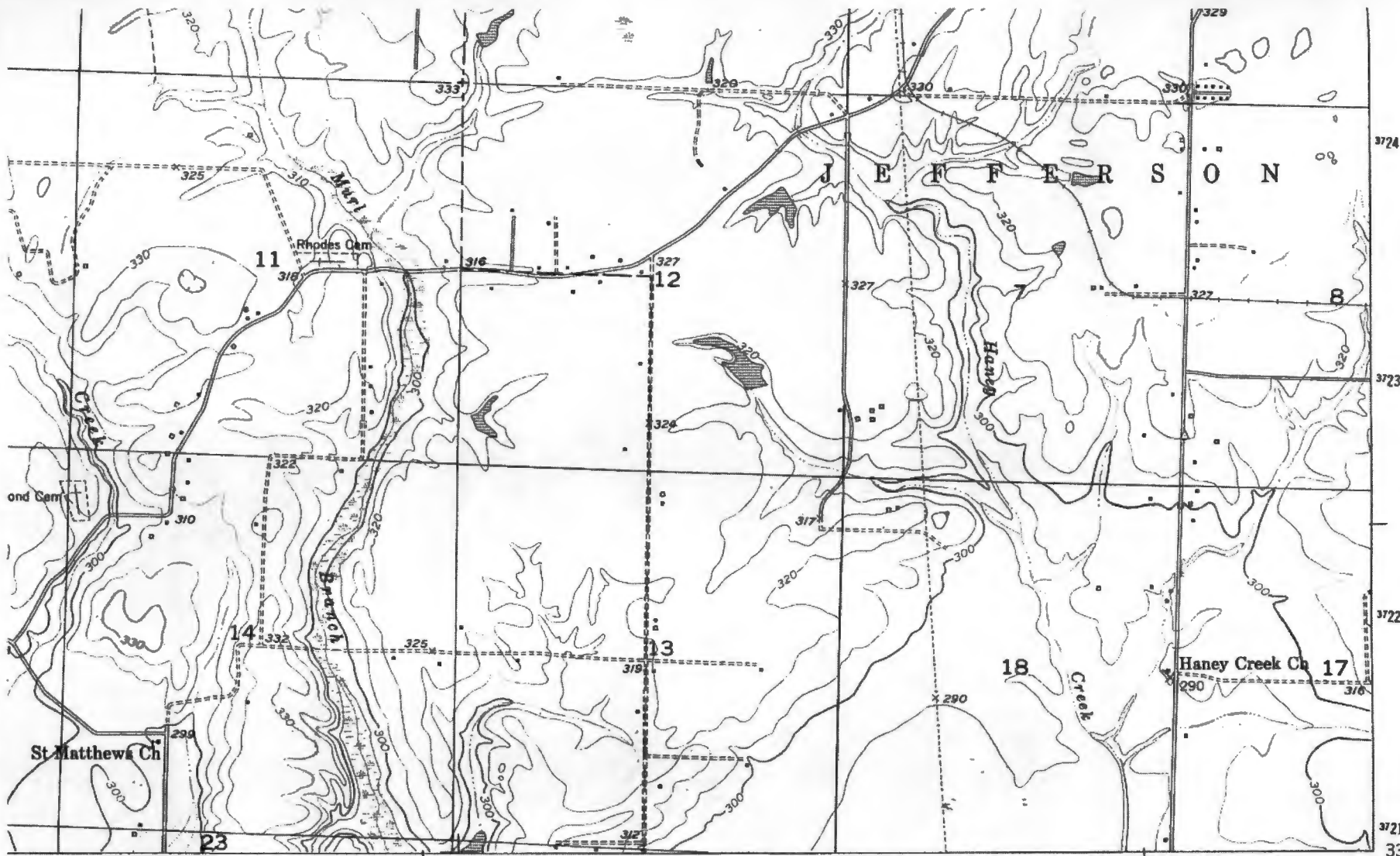
This boundary was drawn to include properties in the downtown Ashdown Commercial Historic District that maintain the highest level of historic integrity in architecture and the relationship of these buildings to commerce.



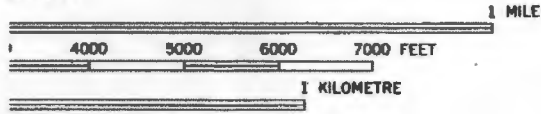
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 3726 506N
 3726 298N

ASHDOWN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 LITTLE RIVER COUNTY, ARKANSAS
 ASHDOWN, ARKANSAS

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COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
ION, LITTLE ROCK, ASAS 72204
AND SYMBOLS IS AVA E ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Light duty
Medium-duty 4 LANE 16 LANE Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route State Route

ASHDOWN WEST, ARK.
N3337.5—W9407.5/7.5

1950
PHOTOREVISED 1975

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