

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 Pottsville Commercial Historic District
other names/site number Site # PP0253-PP0256 and PP0377

2. Location

street & number 155, 160, 162 and 164 East Ash Street not for publication
city or town Pottsville vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Pope code 115 zip code 72858

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.)

Chechie Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/3/04
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:

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

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	
	3	0	buildings
	0	0	sites
	0	0	structures
	0	0	objects
	3	0	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

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant

GOVERNMENT/post office

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

COMMERCE/TRADE/professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Commercial Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

CONCRETE

roof ASPHALT

other Display windows: GLASS

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.

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 moved from its original location.
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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c. 1887-1955

Significant Dates

c. 1887-1955

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

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:

City of Pottsville

Pottsville Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Approximately two acres.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>495699</u> Easting	<u>3900786</u> Northing	3	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Benita Duvall, National Register Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 9-22-04
street & number 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9880
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Built from 1887 to circa 1926, the Pottsville Commercial District contains buildings that exemplify late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial architecture in Arkansas. These brick structures with their tall store-fronts, large display windows, flat roofs, and awnings, have had few changes to the exteriors during their existence. Another bordering property already individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Potts Inn, also helps convey the overall feel of the historic downtown. To the north, and adjacent to the commercial property, lies a park containing a dipping-vat which also lent to the commerce of the downtown.

ELABORATION

Falls and Sinclair General Merchandise

The Falls and Sinclair store is the oldest and largest in the district, built in 1887. It faces the Shue and Pryor stores, directly across the street on the south side. Its interior still contains the original tin ceilings, concrete floors, and several of the wooden showcases. While it is considerably taller than the buildings across from it, it is built on a slight slope which adds to its towering appearance. The roof is tar, and slopes toward the back, while the exterior side walls become shorter, evident in the step design in the brick parapets.

North Elevation

The North, or front, elevation has the appearance of two connected buildings, with its two front doors, and brick divider in the center. At the top, in a straight line, there is a depressed brick pattern with a checkered appearance. Between this pattern and the awning are four attic vents, with the original metal cover plates. Just above the awning the writing "E. B. Falls & Son" is still visible in white paint. Below the awning from the eastern most side, there is a bay window. Another window is at a 135 degree angle to it, leading to a door. Above the door is a window, which with the door, is the same height as the bay windows. The window pattern is mirrored on the other side of the door. Above each of the flush bay windows and the door are wooden panels divided into two-over-two sections. Opposite the brick divider the entire pattern of windows, door and panels is repeated, making the front of the building symmetrical. A concrete sidewalk runs the width of the building, with three concrete steps leading to it.

West Elevation

On the West side of the building are two round holes, once either windows or louvers, which have been filled in. There are no other openings. "Falls and Sinclair General Merchandise" is still visible painted on the side toward the top and front, and much closer to the ground, and in smaller font, "General Merchandise" appears gain.

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South and East Elevations

The south elevation has had some changes. There is a smaller modern door replacing the original, covered by an awning on the west half of the back. The east half contains a window that is much smaller than the original opening. There is a small eave overhang in the rear as well. The east elevation is identical to the design of the west elevation, with exception to the now-sliding glass doors toward the rear.

Pottsville Citizens Bank (National Register Listed – 2002)

The Pottsville Citizens Bank, adjoining the Pryor Store, was constructed in 1913, as a one-story brick rectangular commercial building. The roof is flat, covered in tar, and the foundation is continuous concrete. A bell used as the alarm still sits atop the building's roof.

South Elevation

The front, or south elevation, is relatively simple, and has changed only slightly since its construction. An original corrugated metal awning shelters the façade of the building. A single doorway provides access to the building with the work "BANK" stamped into the sidewalk leading up to the door. The original door was removed and the entryway made smaller to fit the new door, and a transom light above the doorway has been infilled. A large single-pane window has "CITIZENS BANK" and "CAPITAL STOCK \$15,000" painted on the window. The original lettering wore off, but was recently reapplied to the building using historic photographs as a guide. The window rests on a sill made from locally cut stone and a transom window comprised of thirty-seven diamond-shaped panes crowns the window. Half-inch square ceramic tiles are laid between the sidewalk and the building's foundation.

West, North and East Elevations

The west façade consists three large two-over-one double-hung windows. Each of the three windowsills is made of cut stone matching that of the south elevation. The glass windowpanes have been replaced over the years, but the frames are original. The only alteration to the elevation has been a thin layer of concrete that was applied to the top portion of the facade at an unknown date. The north elevation of the building is laid with a lower-grade, rough brick of varying colors. No windows or doors are located on this elevation. The east elevation shares a wall with the Pryor Store.

Pryor Store

The Pryor Store was built in the early 1920s, sharing its western wall with the Citizen's Bank and its eastern wall with the Shue Store. The Pryor Store is divided into equal halves by an interior wall. While its interior was destroyed by a leaking roof, the exterior remains as it did when it was built, except for minor changes to the rear elevation. The roof is covered by tin.

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South Elevation

The south, or front elevation is level with that of the Citizen's Bank. It has a tall store-front with an awning extending the width of the building. There was an awning originally, though it has been replaced. Above the awning there were originally two vents to the attic which have been enclosed with brick. There is also a narrow open strip extending the length of the building which served as ventilation to the attic. Below the awning, from west to east, there are two windows, a door, the brick divider, a door, and two more windows. The single-pane windows are approximately six feet tall. The doors are original, with the original hardware, except for the addition of deadbolts. The westernmost door has the original post office slot. Covering the front up to the awning, not including the brick divider, are wooden planks.

North Elevation

The back, or north elevation has the original awning extending the width of the building. From east to west, there is a window, a door, the extended brick divider marking the division of the halves, a window and a door. While the windows and doors are in the original openings, they have been replaced. A surround was built of period brick to house the added plumbing pipes.

Shue Store

The Shue store was built in 1926, utilizing the eastern wall of the Pryor Store. Its front is shorter than its neighboring buildings, the bank and store, and is somewhat smaller. It contains the original narrow wooden plank floor and ceiling. The front, or south elevation of the Shue Store has an awning extending the width of the building. It has two large bay windows, with the original door in the middle. Running the width of and above the windows and door are eight side-by-side panes of glass, framed by wood. The eastern facade is solid brick. It has a stair step pattern at the top leading toward the back of the building. The back, or north elevation has a veneer of concrete over the brick and two windows with a door in the middle. The windows have been covered with plywood, and the door has been replaced.

INTEGRITY

The Pottsville Commercial District, built from 1887 through circa 1926, retains all seven elements of integrity. Very little has changed about any one of the buildings since each building's construction. Just as when the downtown was the hub of activity for the town and surrounding communities, benches are still in front of each building, inviting people to gather and share news, or whittle the day away. Each has seen several owners through the years, but all four have been in use the majority of the time. The Sinclair Store now serves as a flea market and apartment for the owner. The Pottsville Citizens Bank is now a museum, toured in conjunction with Potts Inn. The Pryor Store is now a photography studio and the Shue Store is now a pharmacy museum. Each is still a wonderful example of commercial architecture dating back to the late

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n and early twentieth century, and still represents the commercial development of downtown during that time.

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SUMMARY

Constructed between 1887 and circa 1926, the Pottsville Commercial District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its role in the commercial development of Pottsville, Pope County, Arkansas. The district was the hub of activity for residents during that time, where they could purchase household and farm needs, do banking, check for mail, eat lunch, and get a haircut while catching up on the news. The district also qualifies under **Criterion C** for its excellent presentation of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture for the area.

DESCRIPTION

Kirkbride Potts first settled in the Galla Creek area of Pope County in the 1820s. After three trips to California for gold and then twice more to sell cattle to the miners, Kirkbride built a two-story home. He needed this home for his large family and for the travelers who stopped periodically on the Butterfield Overland Stage. A town grew around his home. In 1897, a group of citizens petitioned the government to allow them to incorporate as a town. The name Pottsville was chosen in honor of Kirkbride Potts. General stores, a train depot, drug stores, doctors' offices, a blacksmith shop, café, sorghum mill, and saw mill were some of the businesses opened over the years around the Kirkbride Potts home.

The store now known as Pottsville Grocery (Falls and Sinclair Store) was built circa 1887. According to an advertisement completed by the late Kathleen Hollabaugh, an advertisement placed in a 1936 newspaper stated the store had been in business since 1887, ten years before the town was officially incorporated. It was the first building in town. The late E. B. Sinclair was the most active owner in its operation for the longest period of time. It was advertised that the store sold "almost anything you need" – hats, shoes, yard goods, and groceries, farm implements, and seed. According to a 1926 *Pottsville Pilot* school newspaper, the store also supplied Avery farming tools and implements, including middle buster plows and blackland mowing plows. Before the state started supplying text books to public school students, the Falls & Sinclair Store was the place to go in Pottsville to purchase these and other needed supplies. The Falls & Sinclair Store is still visible on the front of the building. As with most stores during and after the Depression, the Falls & Sinclair Store sold supplies to local farmers on credit. The owners of the store were probably experiencing the same hard times as the farmers. According to the late Maureen Reynolds Brewer, Sinclair would go from farmer to farmer in the area that had open accounts at the store to try to get them to put up some collateral for their bills. Some farmers chose not to supply any collateral. According to Brewer, Sinclair would go to her husband, Ike, as he was working in their yard. She watched from the kitchen window as the two talked. When Brewer went inside to discuss with his wife privately about what she thought about supplying some collateral, she took offense that Sinclair felt they might not pay their bill. Brewer then went to inform Sinclair they would not be signing any papers at that time. The Brewers did eventually pay their complete bill to the Falls & Sinclair Store.

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The buildings across the street from the Pottsville Grocery, were used in a variety of ways. The Citizens Bank, which was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002, remained a bank until 1991 when the city purchased it for use as a museum. The building which currently houses Benita's Photography was divided into two stores. Mr. J. P. Pryor owned the businesses in 1924. He advertised in the *Pottsville Pilot* newspaper of February 4, 1926, that his store provided "candy, soft drinks, cigarettes, tobacco, groceries, fruit, lunch or short order, I have it ready to serve." A second ad in the newspaper advertised Bermuda onion plants and cabbage plants. A third ad asked local citizens to "patronize the fellow who tries to build his town" by using his barber shop. Business must have fallen during the Depression as he moved his barber shop to the Citizens Bank Building. Charles W. Oates of Pottsville remembers that a person got his money's worth from a hair-cut by Pryor, since it took him an entire hour to complete one.

The Pottsville Post Office was moved into the western half of the building at a later date. The door with the mail slot is still used as the entrance door into the current business. In 1928, the post office was robbed by a man claiming to be from Chicago. He entered the building through the roof, stole what change he could find and then entered the Citizen's Bank, again through the roof, and attempted to gain entry into the safe, to no avail. He was later caught. A later attempt in the early 1960s to rob the Pottsville Citizen's Bank also included an attempted entry through what now is the photography studio. The late postmaster George Kirkbride Potts was told of some movement seen in the building at night by the owner of the Falls & Sinclair Store. Mr. Potts and the local constable decided to have a stake-out. They thought the would-be robber was trying to gain entry to the post office, so they waited in the part of the building next to the bank. One of the men leaned against the wall when he suddenly realized he was leaning against the cold metal of the bank vault and not the brick wall that should have been there. They learned that the soon-to-be-caught robber was actually trying to gain entry into the bank.

S. M. Shue operated a grocery in the building which currently holds the Oates Pharmacy Museum. Shue opened his store in 1926. Shue was quoted as saying "I have met all sorts of people" and had never been robbed. He was remembered as a generous man, also. Some local teenagers once asked to borrow a skillet and some lard from Shue. Without question, he supplied the boys with the asked for supplies. The boys then took one of Shue's chickens out into the woods and prepared it for their supper. Upon returning the skillet, the boys confessed to Shue. He just laughed at their prank. After Shue moved his business to Hwy. 64, the Pottsville Post Office moved into the building. The post office occupied the building until 1975. Currently, Charles Oates, a retired pharmacist, is using the building to house part of his collection of pharmacy paraphernalia and family heirlooms, including a refinished stove which was purchased new by his grandfather in the 1920s.

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A cattle dipping vat is located in the northwestern corner of Rankin Park, which joins the north side of the Pottsville Citizen's Bank, Benita's Photography, and the Oates Pharmacy Museum. Will Rankin operated a large cotton gin on the land, and people came from several surrounding communities to have cotton ginned or livestock dipped. As they sometimes had to wait, they would often go to Pryor's or Shue's grocery stores and purchase cheese from a large cheese wheel and crackers from a barrel to consume for their noon meal.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed between 1887 and circa 1926, the Pottsville Commercial District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its role in the commercial development of Pottsville, Pope County, Arkansas. The district was the hub of activity for residents during its prime, where they could purchase household and farm needs, check for mail, eat lunch, and get a haircut while catching up on the news. The district also qualifies under **Criterion C** for its excellent representation of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial architecture for the area.

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Bibliography

Oral history as told by *Baker, Velva*. Long-time resident. Interview by Pam Scarber, July 18, 2001.

Oral history as told by *Blake, James H.* Former resident. Interview by Pam Scarber, July 21, 2001.

Oral history as told by *Brewer, Ike & Maureen*. Long-time residents, now deceased. Interviews by Pam Scarber, 1975-1998

Oral history as told by *Falls, Jeanice*. Long-time resident. Interview by Pam Scarber, July 18, 2001.

Oral history as told by *Oates, Charles Wade*. Interview by Pam Scarber, July 2004.

Oral history as told by *Potts, David*. Long-time resident. Interview by Pam Scarber, August 2004.

Oral history as told by *Taylor, Kenneth*. Long-time resident. Interview by Pam Scarber, July 20, 2001.

Oral history as told by *Taylor, Wanda*. Long-time resident. Interview by Pam Scarber, July 20, 2001.

Oral history as told by *Teeter, Russell*. Long-time resident. Interview by Pam Scarber, July 20, 2001.

Oral history as told by *Teeter, William*. Long-time resident. Interview by Pam Scarber, July 20, 2001.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the southeast corner of the Highway 247 and East Ash Street intersection, proceed easterly 800 feet along the south side of East Ash Street to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning, proceed southerly 160 feet, thence proceed easterly 60 feet, thence proceed northerly 160 feet, thence proceed easterly 40 feet, thence proceed northerly 240 feet, thence proceed northwesterly 140 feet, thence proceed southerly 300 feet to the point of beginning.

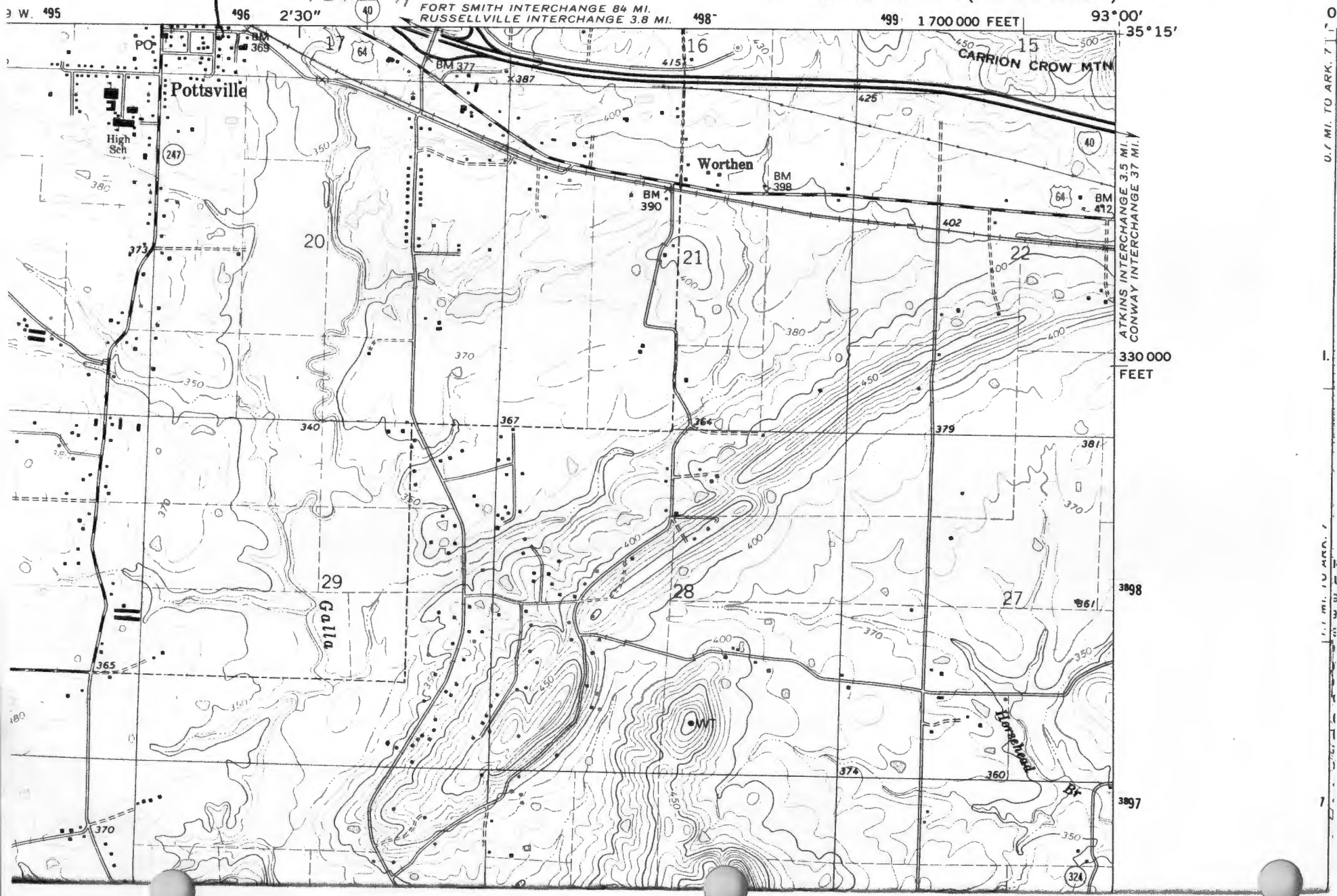
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all land historically associated with the Pottsville Commercial District.

Pottsville Historic
Commercial District
Pottsville, Pope Co. AR
UTM Reference:
15/495 822/3900791

HOLLA BEND QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7454 IV SW
(MORELAND)



0.1 MI. TO ARK. 7'