

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR 5/29/08

**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 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 Collison House  
other names/site number Site # WH2511

**2. Location**

street & number 206 North Main Street  not for publication  
city or town Bald Knob  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72010

**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.)

Cedric Matthews 5/31/08  
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 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Collison House

Name of Property

White County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building(s), district, site, structure, object

Table with columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 2, 1, 1, 2.

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Ranch

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK

WOOD/Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT SHINGLE

other

Narrative Description

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

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### Summary

The Collison House was designed by Estes W. Mann and is a one and one-half story, ranch style home with clear Colonial Revival influence. The home has a brick exterior and features double-hung twelve-over-twelve, eight-over-eight, and six-over-six windows more commonly associated with the Colonial Revival style. The front entry of the home features side-lights and a decorative fan light indicative of the Colonial Revival style. Like homes in the true Colonial Revival and preceding styles, the front façade is very symmetrical.

Aside from these Colonial Revival elements the home is a traditional ranch form. A linear ranch, the home features a low sloping, hipped roof with boxed eaves close to the home. Unlike many ranch homes, the front entry is not recessed under the principal roof. A large, open concrete porch protects the front entry and also provides outdoor living space on the front of the home. A contributing building to the home is the detached, two-car garage. The one-story garage is not visible from Main Street, the front of the home, and is connected to the home by an open walkway.

The house is the second Collison home on this site. The previous home, a traditional frame structure, was moved in 1950 to make way for the current home to be built. That home was moved to a location near the Bald Knob High School.

The house is an example of the modern home of the small-town wealthy and remains much the same as when it was as built. Each bedroom has its own bathroom and each is finished in ceramic tile with built-ins in the master bath and the daughter's bathroom. The master bedroom has a private screened porch. The dining room has a chair rail and all rooms have crown molding. The family room/office is paneled in the popular knotty-pine paneling of the day and has a bay window of nine over nine on the sides and twelve-over-twelve in the middle. All major areas except the kitchen, back hall, and utility room have oak hardwood floors. There are a game room, office, and attics upstairs.

### Elaboration

#### West Façade/Front

The front of the house is comprised of three bays. The most prominent is the central bay. This bay is marked by the gable-roofed entry porch. This porch provided covered access for entry into the home and outdoor living space on the front of the home. The porch is supported by four columns. The gable roof has shallow boxed eaves and features an oval leaded-glass window. The front elevation is very symmetrically balanced, and the central bay is fenestrated by six twelve-over-twelve windows of equal size and equal spacing. Two dormers in this central bay are of equal size and proportion to the home.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Each dormer is fenestrated with six-over-six double-hung windows. The front entry to the home features leaded sidelights and a leaded fan window above the front door. The door itself is a six panel. Interestingly, the front door, and all the doors in the home, is hung for left handed operation.

The southern front bay is fenestrated by two, equally-spaced, double-hung, eight-over-eight windows. The northern bay is fenestrated by two double-hung, six-over-six windows.

### South Façade/Side

The south elevation is marked by two distinct bays. The western bay is fenestrated by one eight-over-eight window. The eastern bay is a prominent, spacious screened-in porch accessed only from the master bedroom. The hipped roof porch is supported by six by six inch posts.

### East Façade/Back

While the front of the home retains a roof line indicative of, and common to, the ranch style, the east façade presents an elevation that is much larger. Like the front of the home, the east elevation is comprised of three bays. The central bay is the largest and most prominent with an end-facing gable and shallow boxed eave. The bay extends from the linear home toward the east, though not enough to be considered a T-ranch form. Nine fenestrations are found in this central bay and all are double-hung six-over-six windows. Two of the windows are of smaller scale as they are windows for two of the bathrooms. A third window is for the second floor office. One of the windows faces south and the other north, bringing additional natural light in to the eastern bedrooms.

The southern bay of the eastern elevation is comprised of the rear of the screened-in porch and a double-hung, six-over-six window. The northern third of the eastern façade contains one bay fenestrated by two double-hung nine-over-nine windows and one twelve-over-twelve window. The façade also contains one double-hung six-over-six window, one door with nine pane, inset window and one casement window. The casement windows are only found on the utility room and are three section windows. The left and right sections are one-over-three windows that open to the outside. The middle section is a four-pane stationary section.

### North Façade/Side

This side of the house, like the southern side, has two bays. It is fenestrated by three windows, one double-hung six-over-six window in the kitchen and two, three-section casement windows.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Bibliography

"Obituary of William Warren Collison." *Arkansas Democrat and Gazette*, Nov. 17, 1999.

Collison, Willie May Walker. "Notebook." n.p.:1949-2006. Owned by Gillen and Jane Emde.

Earngey, Bill. *Arkansas Roadsides: a Guidebook for the State*. Little Rock: East Mountain Press, 1987.

Johnson, Lincoln and Elizabeth Short. *In and around the Big Rock: A History of Bald Knob, Arkansas*. Columbus, Georgia: Quill Publications, ca. 1988.

Collison, William, Jr. Interview. Bald Knob, Arkansas. July, 2007.

Mullin, Franchelle Collison. Interview. Bald Knob, Arkansas. October, 2006.

Collison House

Name of Property

White 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 of Description

#### House

N ½ of lot 6, all of lots 7, 8, 9, and 10, Block 5, Brown Addition, Bald Knob, Arkansas

### Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the Collison House.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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June Collison came to Bald Knob in 1896 as a young man of 26. Known as Jim, his first job was working for the railroad. He then worked in B. F. Brown's store as a bookkeeper though he had no more than an eighth-grade education. Brown served as his mentor and tutor for a number of years. With this close connection, and his business acumen, Collison was able to acquire the money to buy shares of the business, eventually becoming sole owner of the store. After becoming sole owner, Brown continued to serve as Collison's mentor and, later, lived with the Collisons after the Browns divorced. Jim Collison renamed his store J. Collison and gradually added other diverse businesses that included a cotton gin, lumber yard, funeral home, and interest in a local bank. Eventually, he bought and sold thousands of acres of land in the surrounding area for profit, not farming.

As listed in his obituary, "Mr. Collison was active and influential member of the community for many years, serving as a member of the Bald Knob School Board and the Bald Knob City Council. He was a past president of the Young Businessmen's Club, the Bald Knob Chamber of Commerce and the Bald Knob Industrial Development Corporation. He served on the board of directors of the Citizen State Bank, World Wide Life Insurance Company, and was a past member of the City of Bald Knob Planning and Zoning Committee, the White County Development Council and was active on the committee for building the municipal sewer and water system (Bald Knob Lake) for the City of Bald Knob. He was a past deacon and an elder of the First Christian Church of Bald Knob where he served as treasurer for many years."

After living in their home for nearly 16 years, the Collisons decided to build a new home on the same lots, necessitating the removal of the old house to another location. The additional lots necessary for the more substantial home were acquired in six transactions beginning with a 50-foot lot. A 25-foot strip of his brother Joe's lot was added, then a 50-foot lot from a neighbor, Mrs. Saxe. Next the Saxes sold an additional 30 feet to the Collisons, then a 40-by-70-foot strip. As Mrs. Collison noted in her notebook, the "house was planned on 155' across front and 40' from side street or Park Avenue, 40' from alley x 70'" or a lot of approximately 155 feet by 150 feet. This gradual acquisition of land is the reason the house is sited on the south half of the current lot. After Mrs. Saxe's death, the Collisons acquired the final 70 feet from the Saxe heirs that was between the Collison's property and Park Avenue for a final lot size of 225-by-150 feet.

Mrs. Collison did intensive research to find just the right architect for her new home. After visiting a house in Forrest City designed by Estes Mann, she hired him to design her new home.<sup>1</sup> Estes Wilson Mann was born in Forrest City, Arkansas, 19 September 1894. He completed his architecture education at the Art Institute of Chicago in 1915. After working for a time in the Midwest and serving a year's duty in the U. S. Army, Mann moved to Memphis, TN.

<sup>1</sup> Editor's note: this is most likely the Campbell Home (SF0067, National Register, 21 December 2006) designed by Estes W. Mann and built in 1917.

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In Memphis Mann began the firm, Mann & Gatling in 1918. After only four years the firm dissolved and Mann began a new firm named simply Estes W. Mann, Architect. Mann was a very successful architect designing primarily residential structures in Arkansas, western Tennessee, and northern Mississippi. At various times Mann maintained branch offices in West Memphis, Arkansas, and Greenville, Mississippi. In Arkansas he was assigned number 63 by the Arkansas State Board of Architects.

When designed by Mann, the Collison home was both a conservative and bold statement. Though the home retains many elements common to Colonial Revival architecture, placing it in a historical tradition and giving a sense of grandeur, it is a modern home. The rooms are large and spacious with modern appointments. Even considering later ranch style homes, this early form of the linear ranch is large. Like many of Mann's earlier works, specifically the Campbell House in Forrest City, Arkansas, and the Bateman-Griffith House in Clarendon, Arkansas, Mann provided his clients with a home that was very modern but retained traditional elements. As with Mann's choice of Tudor Revival for the Bateman-Griffith House, Mann's selection of the ranch style of architecture was a choice of style not yet represented in Bald Knob.

When this home was constructed, neighboring homes along Main Street in Bald Knob were Folk Victorian, Craftsman, Plain Traditional, and Colonial Revival styles. Mann's choice of a linear ranch style home on such a large lot was the introduction of a new style of architecture, a breath of fresh air, into a very traditional neighborhood. Loss of housing stock to fire or abandonment brought later in-fill into the neighborhood adjacent to the Collison House. Most of these in-fill homes were post World War II moderns and several massed ranch homes. Mann's ranch design is the earliest and finest of the ranch designs in the neighborhood. The later ranch homes feature carports, massed designs with minimal ornamentation, or modifications that prevent individual listing on the National Register.

The house remained in the Collison family until the death of Mrs. Willie May Collison in the front bedroom of the home on July 3, 2006, at age 97. Mr. Collison died in 1999 at the age 92. The house was sold in November 2006, to the present owners, Gillen and Jane Emde, who maintain it as a family home.

### Summary

The Collison House being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a good example of an early ranch style home with Colonial Revival influences in Bald Knob, Arkansas, and as the only example of an Estes W. Mann designed home in Bald Knob.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Garage

The garage is a detached, two-car garage. It sits approximately 30 feet east of the home. A covered walkway connects the garage and the house. The hipped roof garage is of frame construction with weatherboard exterior. The multi-paneled door to the garage faces north. The west façade of the garage has only one opening, that of the door. The southern façade of the garage also has only a single door providing access to a storage area. The east elevation of the garage has no fenestrations or other openings.

Garages are common features of the ranch style of home. However, two-car garages are typically more common with ranch style homes of a later period.

Two noncontributing resources associated with the home bare mentioning. The first is a playhouse and the second is a fish pond.

### Playhouse

The playhouse was constructed circa 1947 for the Collison children. When the first Collison residence was removed from the site the playhouse remained. The building is only about six feet tall and is of frame construction. Oriented toward the west, like the home, it has white weatherboard siding and a front porch with benches on either side of a French door.

The playhouse is fenestrated with two, double-hung six-over-six windows on the southern and northern elevations. The playhouse is wired for electricity but has no environmental controls. It features pine floors and kitchen cabinets with a dry sink.

### Fish Pond

In the southeastern corner of the property is a fish pond. Once the anchor of a floral garden; the concrete pond is faced in field stone with a large stone wall behind to the east and south. Three spouts from this back wall create a waterfall effect. Like the playhouse, this fish pond was built prior to the construction of the current Collison House and remained when the older home was removed.

### Integrity

The house is much as it was when built. One window, not visible from the street, was removed during renovation of the kitchen. There have been no additions, nor any other extensive modifications to the exterior of the home. Additionally, though Bald Knob has seen an increase in population and home construction since this home was built, the home retains good integrity in workmanship, materials, feeling, association, design, and location.

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Section number 8 Page 1

### Summary

The Collison House being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a good example of an early ranch style home with Colonial Revival influences in Bald Knob, Arkansas, and as the only example of an Estes W. Mann designed home in Bald Knob.

### Elaboration

Bald Knob was established as a town near the tracks of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad and was incorporated in 1881. A large number of the original citizens came from the nearby settlement of Stevens Creek although there was a closer settlement named Shady Grove northwest of the present town. A large limestone outcropping gave the city its name, but is no longer existent, having been quarried to make bridge abutments for trestles on the railroad.

Sunday, February 10, 1873, marked the day the first train came to the Bald Knob area, and thus a town began to evolve. It is at Bald Knob that the Memphis branch of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain & Southern (successor to the Cairo and Fulton Railroad) connects with the main north-south line. With this connecting route the city became an important shipping point and up to fifty trains a day passed through the town in the late nineteenth century.

While retaining its status as an important shipping point with the railroads, Bald Knob became known as the Strawberry Capital of the World during the 1940s with berries being shipped around the nation. The town economy was centered on this important cash crop. As early as the 1920s Bald Knob was shipping hundreds of cars of strawberries to locations around the United States. At one time, the longest berry shed in the world was in Bald Knob, stretching one-half mile along the railroad tracks. The small town of 1,800 souls would swell to 10,000 during the harvest time with the accompanying carnivals, temporary businesses, and problems.

Though strawberries were the largest and most common agricultural product for many years, cotton, soybeans, and garden produce were raised and sold. In the late nineteenth century timber was a significant means of earning a living. By 1890, Bald Knob had three general stores, one hardware and grocery store, and one combination drug, millinery, and grocery. The town also had a steam-powered grist-mill and a steam-powered sawmill.

8. Statement of Significance

Eligible National Register Criteria  
("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 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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1951

Significant Dates

1951

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Architect: Estes W. Mann

Builder: Ben Cranford

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:

Collison House  
Name of Property

White County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 630241 3908666  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
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 Jane Emde; Edited by Van Zbinden, National Register Historian, AHPP  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 28 January 2008  
street & number 323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Building telephone (501) 324-9880  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72205

**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**

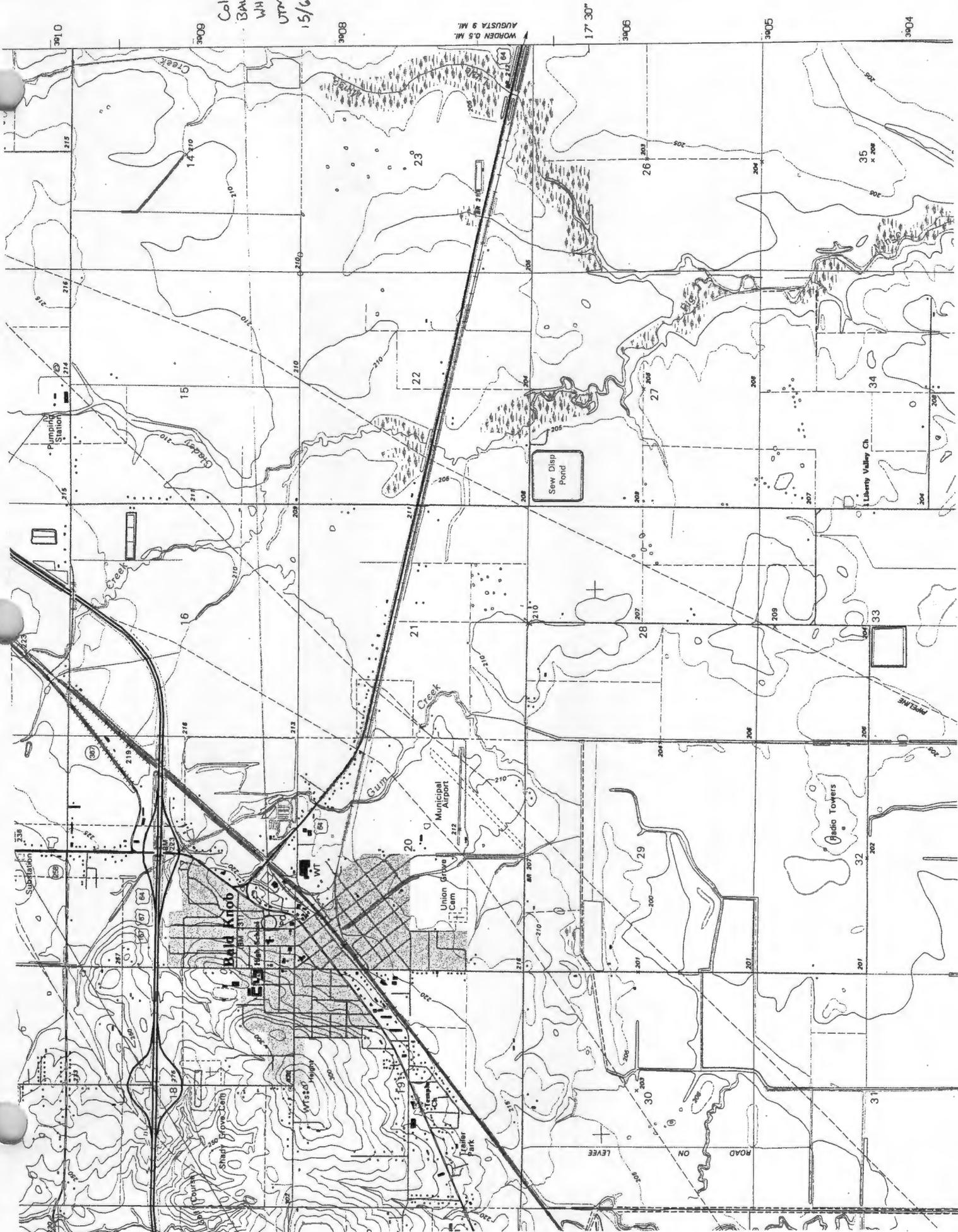
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Gillen and Jane Emde  
street & number 206 North Main Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Bald Knob state AR zip code 72010

**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.

Callison Home  
BALD KNOB  
WHITE COUNTY  
UTM:  
15/630241/3408



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