United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



OMB No. 10024-0018

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.

Bearden Waterworks Name of Property		ita County, Arkansas	
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources (Do not include previously lis	within Property sted resources in count.)	
☐ private ☐ building(s) ☑ public-local ☐ district	Contributing	Noncontributing	
public-State site	2	2	buildings
public-Federal structure			sites
object	2		structures
		1	_ objects
	4	3	_ Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributi in the National Registor	ng resources previously er	y listed
An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943		_	
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instruc	ctions)	
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks	INDUSTRY/PROCESS	SING/EXTRACTION/w	aterworks
7. Description			
Architectural Classification	Materials		
(Enter categories from instructions) OTHER/Plain-Traditional	(Enter categories from instruction CONCR	ctions) ETE, BRICK	
	walls METAL, BRIG		
	CONCRETE		
	roof METAL, ASPH	HALT	

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} Narrative \ Description \\ (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) \end{tabular}$

Bearden Waterworks	Ouachita County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State

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SUMMARY

The Bearden Waterworks is located at the northwest corner of North 2nd and North Cedar in the small town of Bearden, Ouachita County, in southern Arkansas. The facility is located behind City Hall, and consists of the water tower, two well houses, and a cast-concrete holding tank with aerator on top that were built by the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1936 and contribute to the nomination. In addition, two storage sheds and a chain-link fence that surrounds the facility were built later and are considered to be non-contributing resources.

ELABORATION

The Bearden Waterworks is located in Bearden, Ouachita County, Arkansas, a small town approximately 80 miles southwest of Little Rock. The facility is located behind City Hall in the heart of town northwest of the North 2nd and North Cedar Street intersection. The waterworks consists of a metal-framed, metal-sided water tower, two brick well houses, and a cast-concrete waster tank with an aerator on top that were built by the PWA in 1936. All of the PWA-built resources are considered to be contributing resources.

In addition to the contributing resources, the facility also includes two wood-frame storage sheds, one which is used to store chlorine, and a metal chain-link fence. The storage sheds and chain-link fence were all built fairly recently and do not contribute to the nomination.

Water Tower - Contributing

The most prominent feature of the Bearden Waterworks is the water tower, which was recently repainted white, making it stand out above the town. The tower is supported by four metal latticed legs that slope inwards towards the tower as they rise. Metal crosspieces and rods provide lateral rigidity and support between the legs. At the center of the tower a large metal pipe conveys the water to and from the tank.

The water tank has a bowl-shaped bottom that is pierced in the center by the large pipe. A metal walkway with metal pipe handrail around the base of the tank accesses a ladder that ascends the tower's southwestern leg. The walls of the tank are constructed of pieces of curved sheet metal and the west and east sides have the words "BEARDEN / EST. 1882" painted in large black letters and numbers. The top of the tower is crowned by a metal conical roof.

Well Houses - Contributing

The well houses are located to the northeast and southeast of the water tower. They rest on continuous brick foundations and have brick walls. The windows that survive in the buildings are six-over-six, wood-frame, double-hung windows. (Some of the windows are boarded up.) The door into the northeast well house is a wood door with three horizontal wood panels in the bottom half and three vertical panes of glass in the top half. The door into the southeast well house, on the other hand, has a single panel in the bottom half and two horizontal panes of glass in the top half.

Ouachita County, Arkansas

County and State

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Both well houses are crowned with asphalt shingle gable roofs, which appear to have been added at a later date. The gable ends are sided with vertical board siding.

The northeast well house has a marble cornerstone in its northeast wall that reads:

Water Tank/Aerator - Contributing

Located to the northeast of the water tower and to the northwest of one of the well houses, the water tank is a rectangular-shaped structure with cast plain cast-concrete walls and roof. The aerator, which consists of five square tiers of inward-facing louvers, is located on top of the tank at its northeast corner. Water is pumped from the top of the tank to the top of the aerator and then trickles down over the louvers to mix air with the water.

On top of the western end of the tank is a one-story, concrete-block office with flat roof. It was added to the tank at a later date, likely c.1960.

Modern Storage Buildings - Non-Contributing

The two modern storage buildings are frame buildings with vertical board siding. The larger shed is located to the southeast of the water tower, and the smaller shed is located at the water tower's base. The small shed is used for chlorine storage. Both sheds have gable roofs covered in asphalt shingles with the larger shed's roof having a steeper pitch.

<u>Fence</u> – Non-Contributing

The waterworks complex is surrounded by a standard metal chain-link fence with barbed wire across the top.

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Integrity

The resources that comprise the Bearden Waterworks that were built by the PWA retain good integrity. The water tower has not been altered and the alterations to the well houses and the water tank are relatively small in scale. Although two sheds and the fence at the complex that were constructed within the last fifty years, they are relatively small in scale and do not overwhelm the original PWA construction. In addition, the setting of Bearden remains a small town, much as it would have been when the waterworks was built.

Bearden Waterworks	Ouachita County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
6. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national) Local
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Engineering Politics/Government
☐ 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.	Period of Significance 1936-1956
□ 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.)	Significant Dates 1936-1956
Property is: A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
■ B . removed from its original location.	
 C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance. D a cemetery. 	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder Public Works Administration, Builder
within the past 50 years.	McEachin & McEachin, Inc., 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 of	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:

Bearden Waterworks	
Name of Bronarty	

Ouachita County, Arkansas County and State

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SUMMARY

The Bearden Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C as a good example of a 1930s waterworks, and as the last PWA-built waterworks remaining in Ouachita County. The Bearden Waterworks is also being nominated to the National Register under Criterion A for its associations with the activities of the PWA in Ouachita County during the 1930s. The Bearden Waterworks is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

ELABORATION

The first white settlers in the area that would become Ouachita County were the French, who arrived in the area toward the end of the seventeenth century. Baron de Bastrop received the first land grant in 1799 which spurred permanent settlement. Hunters, traders, and trappers made their way along the Ouachita River and the first official settlement in present day Ouachita County was a community on Fabre's Bluff called Ecore a Fabre. This site developed as a trade stop along the river and grew as river traffic increased.

On November 2, 1829, the Sixth Territorial Legislature established Union County and Ecore a Fabre was chosen as the county seat. The county had a population of 640 at the time it was founded. In the following decade smaller counties began forming, and in 1842 the present day Ouachita County was formed and Ecore a Fabre was selected as county seat. Since Ecore a Fabre was hard to pronounce by the local population, the community was renamed Camden after Camden, South Carolina.²

Railroads arrived in Ouachita County after the Civil War with the St. Louis Arkansas and Texas Railway having forty-six miles of track in the county by 1882. Bearden, along with other communities that now exist along the line, was established as a direct result of the railroad influx.³

The town of Bearden was platted by the Southwestern Improvement Association (the Railway Land Company) in 1882. It was named after the attorney for the company, Judge John T. Bearden. The town's plan encompassed both sides of the railroad line with the community's main street being located on the north side of the tracks. The first railroad cars arrived in the town in July 1882.4

Bearden quickly grew as a result of the railroad and had a population of approximately 250-300 people by 1890. The first store in Bearden was established by E. W. Norman in 1882, and other stores operated by T.

¹ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, p. 641.

² Ibid, p. 641-643.

³ *Ibid.*, 646

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 649.

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S. Wiginton and W. M. Gatling soon followed. Although most businesses were established north of the railroad tracks, Dr. T. J. Henry started a business movement on the south side of the tracks in 1889.⁵

In addition to the early small businesses established in the community during the 1880s, the community became the seat of the Cotton Belt Lumber Company, which employed approximately 100 men by 1890 and operated a four-mill tramway. A small school and a Masonic Lodge were also established by 1890 and a newspaper, the *Bearden Banner* was established by Jack Ofterlee in 1889.⁶

By the first part of the twentieth century, it was determined that Bearden needed a waterworks. (According to the Sanborn maps for August 1913 and October 1925, the town did not have any water facilities.⁷) The creation of the PWA under Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal programs gave Bearden the perfect opportunity to get a waterworks. An application was made for PWA assistance in 1935, and the project (PWA Project #1012-R) was allotted a \$26,000 loan and a \$21,119 grant on September 25, 1935. (The estimated total cost for the project was \$47,394.) On November 6, 1935, a contract for \$42,701 was finalized and the firms of McEachin & McEachin, Inc., of Little Rock, and W. F Moody & Co. were hired as contractors and engineers, respectively.⁸

Construction began on the waterworks on February 21, 1936, and proceeded quickly. The complex consisted of the main water tower, two brick well houses, and a cast concrete holding tank with aerator on top, and was finished on November 10, 1936. Since the waterworks was put into service, the community has continued to use the facility, and has built additional buildings to meet the community's needs. Circa 1960, a small concrete-block office was built on top of a portion of the holding tank. In addition, two storage buildings, one which is used to store chlorine, have been built, likely within the past 25 years. In addition, the water tower was repainted c.2005.

Today, the Bearden Waterworks is a living reminder of Arkansas's PWA and New Deal history. The Bearden Waterworks is a good example of a 1930s-era waterworks built by the PWA, and illustrates the activities of the PWA in the early twentieth century. The survival and continued preservation of the Bearden Waterworks is a monument to the dedication of the Bearden community.

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⁵ Ibid.

⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Bearden, Arkansas: August 1913 and October 1925, in the files of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

⁸ Information on Arkansas PWA projects in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bearden Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a good example of a 1930s waterworks, and as the last PWA-built waterworks remaining in Ouachita County. The Bearden Waterworks is also being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** for its associations with the activities of the PWA in Ouachita County during the 1930s. The Bearden Waterworks is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

Information on Arkansas PWA projects in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Bearden, Arkansas: August 1913 and October 1925, in the files of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Name of Property		C	ounty and	a State	
10. Geographical Data					
Acreage of Property Less than one.					
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)					
1 15 535495 3731819 Zone Easting Northing 2 Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)		3	Zone	Easting See continuation shee	Northing
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)					
11. Form Prepared By					
name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program			date	May 10, 2006	 -T
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street		telep	hone	(501) 324-978	37
city or town Little Rock	state	AI		zip code	72201
Additional Documentation	40.11		NOT T		
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	n			
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large a	creage	or nun	nerous	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 City of Bearden					
street & number PO Box 134				telephone	
city or town Bearden	_ state	A	R	zip code	71720
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for application	110,000				

Ouachita County, Arkansas

Bearden Waterworks

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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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the northwest corner of the N. Cedar Street and N. 2nd Street intersection, proceed northwesterly along the west side of N. Cedar Street for 160 feet, thence proceed southwesterly perpendicular to N. Cedar Street for 145 feet, thence proceed southeasterly parallel to N. Cedar Street for 60 feet, thence proceed, northeasterly perpendicular to N. Cedar Street for 40 feet, thence proceed southeasterly parallel to N. Cedar Street for 60 feet to the northern edge of N. 2nd Street, thence proceed northeasterly along the northern edge of N. 2nd Street for 105 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

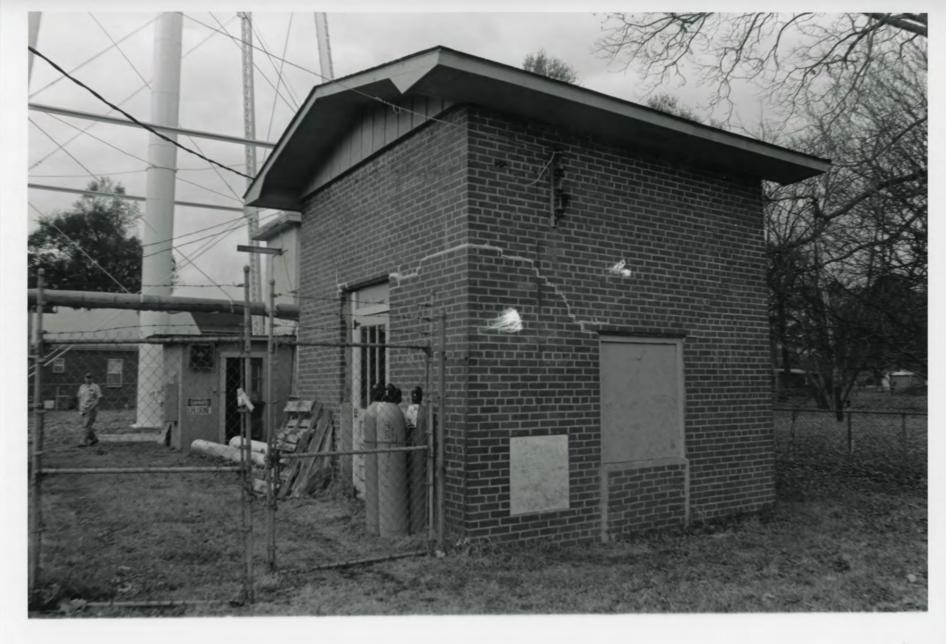
The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the Bearden Waterworks.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME:	Bearden Waterworks			
MULTIPLE NAME:	New Deal Recovery Ef	forts in Ar	kansas MPS	
STATE & COU	JNTY: ARKANSAS, Ouac	hita		
DATE RECEIV DATE OF 167 DATE OF WEE	TH DAY: 9/20/06		PENDING LIST: 9/ 45TH DAY: 10	05/06 /05/06
REFERENCE N	NUMBER: 06000908			
REASONS FOR	R REVIEW:			
OTHER: N	DATA PROBLEM: N LA PDIL: N PE SAMPLE: N SL	RIOD: N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVE	
COMMENT WAS	IVER: N			
ACCEPT	RETURNRE	JECT	DATE	
ABSTRACT/SU	UMMARY COMMENTS:	in the		
RECOM./CRIS	TERIA			
			E	
	ION see attached comm			
	ation is returned to is no longer under o			



BEARDEN WATERWORKS

OUACHITA COUNTY, AR

ELIZABETH JAMES

DECEMBER ZOOS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF A WELL HOUSE LOOKING-WEST



BEARDEN WATERWORKS

OUACHITA COUNTY, AR

ELIZABETH JAMES

DECEMBER 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIL PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF WATER TANK AND AERATOR LOOKING SOUTHWEST



BEARDEN WATERWORKS

OUACHITA COUNTY, AR

ELIZABETH JAMES

DECEMBER ZOOS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF WELL HOUSE LOOKING WEST:

1012-R PWA 1936 J. W. SANDERS, MAYOR J. L. HUBBARD, RECORDER H. B. GATLING TREAS ALDERMEN J. W. GATLING WIFIKE LEE BURLESON O. C. HARRIS ED. SANDERS MSEACHIN & MSEACHIN INC. CONTRS W. F. MOODY & CO. ENGRS.

BEARDEN WATERWORKS

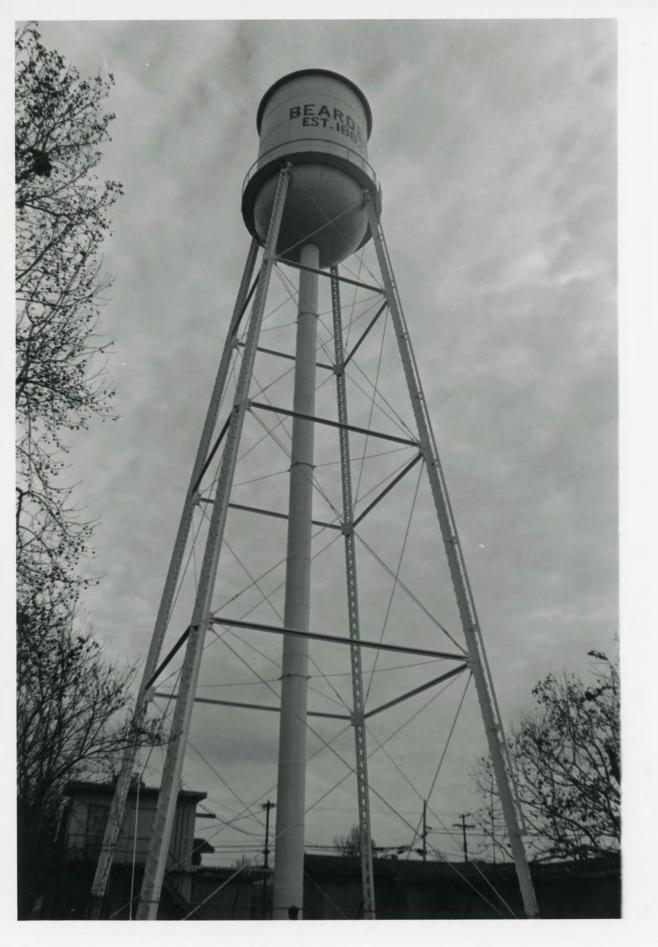
OUACHITA COUNTY, AR

ELIZABETH JAMES

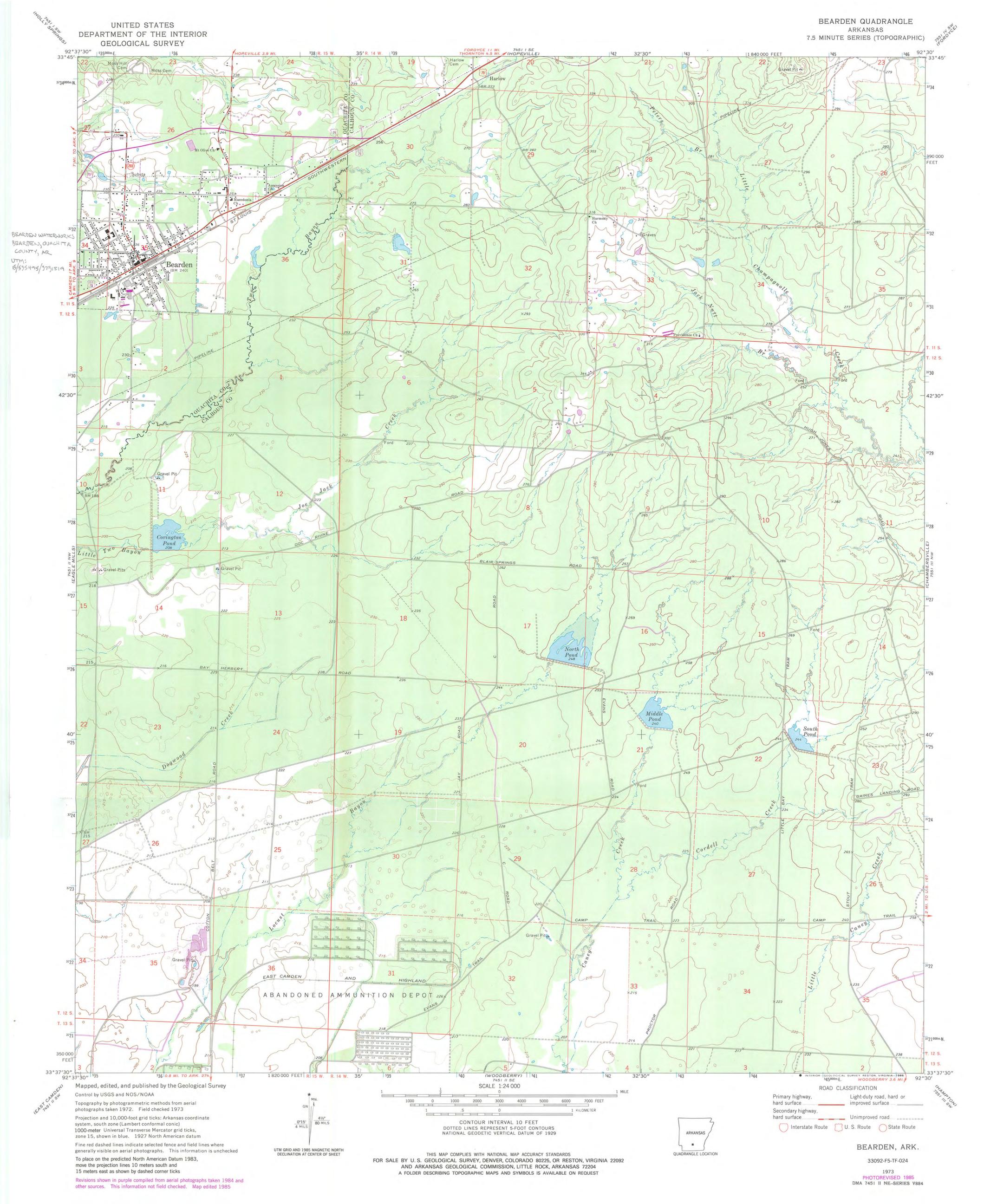
DECEMBER ZOOG

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

CORNERSTONE DETAIL



BEARDEN WATERWORKS
OUACHITA COUNTY, AR
ELIZABETH JAMES
DECEMBER ZOOS
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
VIEW OF THE WATER TOWER LOOKING WEST





The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor Cathie Matthews, Director August 2, 2006

Dr. Janet Matthews Chief of Registration United States Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places

National Park Service

8th Floor

1201 Eye Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

Arkansas

RE:

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Arkansas Arts Council

• Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Bearden Waterworks - Bearden, Ouachita County,

RECEIVED

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

> 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501) 324-9880

fax: (501) 324-9184 tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews

State Historic Preservation Officer

delas)

CM:rsw

Enclosure

