

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, Stuart Springs, in St. Francis County, Arkansas, reference number 77001502, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 08/03/1977, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of Tuesday, February 7, 1978, Part II, Vol. 43, No. 26, page 5172. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

Date

HITEDSTATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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. DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stuart Spring Historic Park is the site of Stuart Springs, a system of three springs consisting of Stuart, Izard, and Alum Springs. Stuart Springs, the largest of the three, lent its name to the area, and all three collectively are referred to as "Stuart Springs." The 16-acre park is located in a gentley sloping valley of picturesque Crowley's Ridge hills. The surrounding woodland, which once was a dense thicket of beech trees, has been thinned and the underbrush cleared to accommodate its present use as a park.

Just before 1900, a private improvement company was formed to improve Stuart Springs. A brick springhouse was constructed over Stuart Springs, a large frame pavillion was erected, and recreational facilities were constructed. The only physical remains of the turn-of-the-century improvements are the brick foundation walls of the springhouse.

Stuart Springs Park now appears similar to its turn-of-the-century appearance. Stuart Springs Site is marked by the remains of the springhouse, wooden footbridges span the creek which flows from the springs, and wooden pavillions and swingsets serve as picnic and recreational facilities. The pavillions and bridges are recent constructions by the city. Other than the above improvements, the reduction in size from forty acres to its present sixteen acres, Stuart Springs looks much the same to present residents as it did to earlier residents of the area. However, with its decrease in importance as a health spa and one of the major social centers of Forrest City, Stuart Springs is not developed as fully as in the previous period. The natural beauty and serenity of the small park are more apparent.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
HISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-PREHIS	TORICCOMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION
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_1600-1699ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
1800-1839COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	РҢІ LOSOРНҮ	TRANSPORTATION
COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stuart Springs, a 16-acre park in Forrest City, is significant as one of the most historic spots in St. Francis County. Stuart Springs, the largest and best known of the three springs within the area, furnished Forrest City and the surrounding area with a fresh water supply. Not until the 20th century did it cease being the main water source. Additionally, Stuart Springs once was acclaimed for its healing medicinal qualities. Near the turn of the century, it became a small spa of regional importance.

Stuart Springs was discovered before the Civil War by Professor James Stuart. Soldiers during the Civil War camped near the springs, and many soldiers were reported to be treated with the medicinal waters. After the Civil War many reunions, Fourth of July celebrations, and political rallies were held there.

While Stuart Springs functioned as the main source of water, a springhouse was constructed over it for cool storage. Near the turn of the century a stock company erected a pavillion for social activities, and Stuart springs received new "handsome" rock basins and walls. Mr. E. L. Vadakin in 1905 erected several recreational facilities such as a shooting gallery, croquet grounds and swing sets. People from the surrounding area flocked to Stuart Springs to shoot, picnic, dance, enjoy the natural beauty, and take advantage of its mineral waters.

Though the park has dwindled in size from its original 40-acre tract to its present size of approximately 16 acres, Stuart Springs continues to be a favorite picnic location for local residents. Swing sets and picnic facilities are present, but the other recreational facilities have been destroyed. Stuart Springs, as well as Izard and Alum Springs, have been reduced to a trickle, and are no longer frequented for water or medicinal purposes. However, the long and significant part Stuart Springs has played in the local history is reflected by its present use as a city park. The changes which time and history have imposed upon the park have not destroyed the natural beauty of the area.

*** 1	05. On file at Arkansas
Historic Preservation Program.	
Chowning, Robert. History of St. Francis County, 1954 Forrest City Times, April 12, 1976.	NOTES BARRA
Publications by Historic St. Francis, Inc. On file at	Arkansas Historic Preservation
Program. St. Francis County Chronicle . April 8, 1976.	
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EMMAJOR BIBLIUGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

☐ dates

boundary selection

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

		Working No.
		Fed. Reg. Date:
		Date Due:ACCEPT 8/3/77
resubmission		RETURN
nomination by person or local government		REJECT
owner objection		Federal Agency:
appeal		
Substantive Review: sample requi	est appeal	NR decision
Reviewer's comments:		
		Recom./Criteria
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		Discipline
		Date
		see continuation sheet
Nomination returned for:technical corrections ci		ynonorial balance of normalist of property
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2. Location St Francis Co. Missi	ssipi	
3. Classification		
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Has this property been determined eligible? \qed	es 🗆 no	
7. Description		
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical ap	pearance	
summary paragraph		
completeness		
clarity		
alterations/integrity		

8. Signif	icance				(A887 saut 197
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MAJOR EIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Art Souvenir Supplement to the Forrest City Times. 1905. On file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Chowning, Robert. History of St. Francis County, 1954. Forrest City Times, April 12, 1976. Publications by Historic St. Francis, Inc. On file at kansas Historic Preservation St. Francis County Chronicle . April 8, 1976. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 16 acres UTM REFERENCES Bh 5 7 0 2 8 0 0 3 8 7 7 0 4 0 NORTHING A 115 7 0 2 81 0 0 3 8 7 7 2 4 0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
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Donna DuVall, Historia	n	
ORGANIZATION		DATE
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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stuart Spring Historic Park is the site of Stuart Springs, a system of three springs consisting of Stuart, Izard, and Alum Springs. Stuart Springs, the largest of the three, lent its name to the area, and all three collectively are referred to as "Stuart Springs." The 16-acre park is located in a gentley sloping valley of picturesque Crowley's Ridge hills. The surrounding woodland, which once was a dense thicket of beech trees, has been thinned and the underbrush cleared to accommodate its present use as a park.

Just before 1900, a private improvement company was formed to improve Stuart Springs. A brick springhouse was constructed over Stuart Springs, a large frame pavillion was erected, and recreational facilities were constructed. The only physical remains of the turn-of-the-century improvements are the brick foundation walls of the springhouse.

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SIGNIFICANCE

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SPECIFIC DATES

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Stuart Springs, a 16-acre park in Forrest City, is significant as one of the most historic spots in St. Francis County. Stuart Springs, the largest and best known of the three springs within the area, furnished Forrest City and the surrounding area with a fresh water supply. Not until the 20th century did it cease being the main water source. Additionally, Stuart Springs once was acclaimed for its healing medicinal qualities. Near the turn of the century, it because a small spa of regional importance.

Stuart Springs was discovered before the Civil War by Professor James Stuart. Soldiers during the Civil War camped near the springs, and many soldiers were reported to be treated with the medicinal waters. After the Civil War many reunions, Fourth of July celebrations, and political rallies were held there.

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Missing Core Documentation

Property Name	County, State	Reference Number
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Photographs		
11000 14		
USGS Map		



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 4 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 3 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Stuart Springs

AND/OR COMMON

Stuart Springs Park

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

__VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Forrest City

St. Francis

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Jack Doss

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

South entrance

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
FEB 4 1977
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PHOTO NO.

Park improvements



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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AUG 3 1977

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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Remains of brick walk and springhouse

PHOTO NO.



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PHOTO NO.

Interior view of remains of brick foundation of springhouse

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

RECEIVED FEB 4 1977

DATE ENTERED AUG 3 1977

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

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Stuart Springs

AND/OR COMMON

Stuart Spring Park

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

St. Francis

STATE

Arkansas

Forrest City

MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1958

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

