

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 30 1986  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Walter B. Sorrells Cottage

and/or common Sorrells Hall

**2. Location**

street & number Pine Bluff Youth Services Center  
Route 8, Box 970

N/A not for publication

city, town Pine Bluff N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Jefferson code 069

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Pine Bluff Youth Services Center c/o Mr. Webb Farrell

street & number Route 8, Box 970

city, town Pine Bluff N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Barraque Street

city, town Pine Bluff state Arkansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

---

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**SUMMARY

Designed and constructed in 1920 as the first permanent building for the Boys Industrial School, the Walter B. Sorrells Cottage is the only remaining structure dating from this institution's initial phase of development. Eclectically combining elements of the Craftsman and English Revival styles, the building was designed by Mitchell Seligman, a successful Pine Bluff architect.

ELABORATION

Sorrells Cottage occupies an ample corner lot of the Youth Services Center campus. Of frame construction, the building is brown brick on the first floor and stucco with half-timbering on the second floor. An asphalt-shingled clipped gable roof has overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends and is supported on the ends by decorative kneebraces. A shed dormer projects from the front and rear roof slopes. Two interior brick chimneys project from each end of the roof ridge. Windows on the first floor of the building are detailed with jack arches of vertically-laid brick. An eclectic combination of double-hung and casement windows with a variety of pane configurations are found on each elevation.

The facade of the building features a one-story three bay brick porch that projects from the corner and shelters two entrances. Brick columns support the parapeted flat roof which is accentuated by merlons with smooth stone caps. A stone shield is inset in the parapet above the porch entrance. Separate entrances with transoms and sidelights provide distinct access to the superintendent's living quarters and the administrative offices. An off-center casement window is positioned between the two entrances. A pair of single-light fixed windows is located on the first floor to the right of the porch. These as well as several other windows are replacements. The stuccoed second floor of this elevation has two pair of double-hung windows. A shed dormer with four square nine-light casement windows is centered in the roof slope. A one-story flat-roofed projection extends from the southeast corner and is treated similarly to the front porch.

The southeast side elevation reveals a small one-story brick addition to the rear of the southeast one-story office projection. This alteration, as well as several interior changes, were designed by Reed and Willis, the successor firm to Mitchell Seligman's office. The half-timbered second floor of this elevation has two pair of narrow casement windows. Two pair of centered casement windows illuminate the attic. The northwest end elevation has two double-hung and a pair of casements on the first two floors and a pair of attic casement windows.

The rear elevation reveals that a door that accesses the offices was added at the location of an original window. This side of brick addition is flush with the rear wall of the original structure. As is the case with the other three elevations, the rear possesses a mixture of window types. The fenestration pattern is irregular, with three six-over-one double-hung and two pair of narrow casements on the first floor and three pair of narrow casements and a square sixteen-light casement on the second floor.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The interior plan of Sorrells Cottage reveals its intended dual function. The left front entrance accesses the superintendent's quarters, which consist of a living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor and three large bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. The straight-run stair between the two floors is located inside the front door. A winding stair leads from the second floor to the unfinished attic. Wood floors and plaster walls are found throughout this simply-detailed, minimally-altered residential portion of the structure. The right entrance leads to a reception area and offices, separate from the residence and confined to the first floor. This administrative area has been substantially remodeled.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Juvenile Justice
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 1920 **Builder/Architect** Mitchell Seligman - Architect  
E. C. Royce - Builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

SUMMARY

The Pine Bluff Youth Services Center had its beginnings in 1917 when a combination of donated and purchased land was designated for what was then called the Boys Industrial School, an alternative to the state penitentiary for teenaged boys convicted of crimes. The Walter B. Sorrells Cottage, designed and constructed in 1920, was the first permanent structure and remains today as the only testimony to the initial efforts to provide institutional care for delinquent/dependent youth in Arkansas. In addition, the building is significant as an eclectic combination of two popular early twentieth century styles, the Craftsman and English Revival, and was designed by the successful and prolific Pine Bluff architect, Mitchell Seligman.

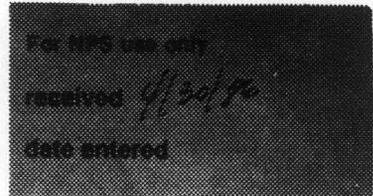
ELABORATION

On April 25, 1905, Governor Davis approved an act providing for the establishment of a "State Reform School, for the discipline, education, employment and reformation of convicts under the age of eighteen years." Act 199 provided for white and black students, both male and female, housed in separate quarters. This first reform school was located approximately ten miles west of what were then the Little Rock city limits. Because the location was difficult for farming and sited in dense timber growth, this initial location proved unsatisfactory. In 1915 Julia Houston, the first probation officer from Pine Bluff, presented a bill to have the students moved. At first the proposal was vetoed, but later it was approved by Governor Brough. In 1917, Act 67 of the legislature changed the name of the institution to "Boys Industrial School of the State of Arkansas." The governor appointed a board whose first responsibility was to acquire new site.

Captain Geisreiter of Pine Bluff donated 160 acres of land and the citizens of Pine Bluff raised \$5,466, some of which was used to purchase 80 adjoining acres. The Act of 1917 provided \$5,000 for the purchase of land. The surplus of this amount was used for a building fund. Simple cottages were erected and a detachment of boys was sent to the site to begin clearing the land and cultivating. According to an article in the Graphic, a former Pine Bluff newspaper, on October 26, 1917, the first buildings at the school were temporary frame board and batten structures. Forty additional acres of land were purchased on April 13, 1918, for \$1,400. This provided the high ground on which to build the new buildings. In 1919, the legislature appropriated \$98,000 for a vast building program and a plan was made for a complex of permanent structures, which included three cottages for boys, a building for the superintendent, a dining hall and a gymnasium. The administration building was also to serve as the superintendent's residence.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Item number 8

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Sorrells Cottage was designed in 1920 by Mitchell Seligman, an architect with a successful practice in Pine Bluff. Seligman first came to Arkansas as project architect for the Citizens Bank Building (now the National Building), which was designed by Desairdin and Sheblessy of Cincinnati, Ohio. Seligman chose to remain in Pine Bluff and started his own practice in August of 1909. Born in 1883, Seligman was raised and educated in Louisville, Kentucky, where he graduated from the Louisville Manual Training School in 1901. Seligman designed numerous buildings in Pine Bluff, among them Central High School (Junius Jordon School), 1917-1918; the Woodrow Wilson School, 1924; the Merrill High School; the Elks Club; the Shrine Temple, 1927-1928, and Parkview Apartments.

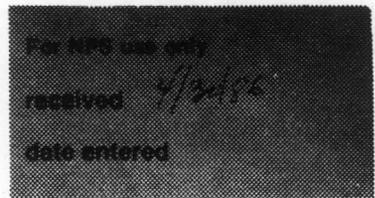
Sorrells Cottage was named for Walter Sorrells, editor of the Pine Bluff newspaper The Commercial, and was designed to function as both an administration building and superintendent's residence. The design combines Craftsman features with those typically associated with English architecture, such as halftimbering. It is significant that this building, as well as those that immediately followed, has a domestic scale and appearance, rather than an institutional character. E. C. Royse, as successful bidder, was the contractor for the building. He and Seligman were frequently involved in the same projects.

The Legislative Acts of Arkansas, Act 723 of 1923, allocated \$125,000. for building expenditures. The Julia Houston Cottage, Tom C. McRae Cottage, a trades building, hospital and additional small cottages were erected. None of these structures remain.

By 1935 the Boys Industrial School consisted of a total of 360 acres, the present size of what is now called the Pine Bluff Youth Services Center. No major building programs took place until the 1950's. The Youth Services Center is now a facility for the care and treatment of delinquent youth, males ages 13-18.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

Historical Development of Arkansas Youth Services

1905 - Act 199 - Established a reform school for boys near Little Rock. The school was under the administration of the state prison system.

1917 - Act 67 - Changed the names of the boys and girls reform schools to industrial schools. The schools were now under the administration of independent boards appointed by the governor. The Boys Industrial School was relocated in Pine Bluff, and the Girls Industrial School remained at Alexander.

1921 - Act 526 - Established separate Boys Industrial Schools for White and Negro under the management and control of the Board of Managers of the Boy's Industrial School.

1937 - Act 60 - Boys Industrial School established at Wrightsville at about this time.

1949 - Girls Training School at Fargo was established.

1953 - Act 52 - Established a separate Board of Managers for the White and Negro Boys' Industrial School.

1955 - Act 398 - Removed the Boys' Industrial School from the Penal System of the state, deeming it to be a Training and Educational institution entitled to all the rights and privileges of any other accredited educational institution of the State of Arkansas.

1961 - Act 72 - Changed the name of the institution to Arkansas Boys' Training School.

1963 - Act 515 - Name was again changed to Arkansas Training School for Boys at Pine Bluff.

1968 - The separate and independent boards of the Training Schools were condensed into one board appointed by and responsible to the governor for supervisor of the schools.

- a. A reception and diagnostic service was established and provided by the Rehabilitation Department at the Benton Hospital Center.
- b. A parole service was established to provide aftercare services to the youth released from the schools.
- c. Central Office Administration was established and referred to as the Training School Department.

1969 - The Training Schools were integrated in November, 1969 - Blacks were admitted to previously White Training Schools.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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1971 - State government reorganization. Development of a department of Social and Rehabilitative Services (now referred to as the Department of Human Services).

- a. Juvenile Services Division was now responsible to the Director of the Department of Human Services as well as a governor-appointed board.
- b. Arkansas Commission on Crime and Law was established about this time - LEAA Fund available for delinquency prevention and control. Some of the first community projects were developed.

1974 - Need for comprehensive state plan for youth service was documented. The Department of Human Services received an LEAA grant to produce a state master plan for the delivery of needed youth services.

1976 - State master plan was completed.

- a. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offender Project implemented.
- b. Emphasis - community-based projects.

1977 - Establishment of the Division of Youth Services as an integral part of the State Department of Human Services.

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Commercial, November 4, 1919, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

The Graphic, a former newspaper of Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Herndon, Dallas T., editor, Centennial History of Arkansas, 1922, S.S. Clark  
Publishing Company.

Legislative Acts of Arkansas, 1905 to present.

Leslie, James W., Pine Bluff and Jefferson County; A Pictorial History, Norfolk,  
VA: Donning Co., Publishers.

Specifications for Alterations and Additions to the Superintendent's Cottage,  
Reed and Willis, Architects.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Pine Bluff

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	5	5	8	4	0	4	10	3	7	8	16	4	16	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 of Section 11, Township 6 South, Range 10 West.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karmen P. Williams (Edited by AHPP staff)

organization Pine Bluff Youth Services Center

date December 1984

street & number Route 8, Box 970

telephone

city or town Pine Bluff

state Arkansas

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Arkansas SHPO

date 4-22-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sorrells, Walter B., Cottage  
Jefferson County  
ARKANSAS

Working No. APR 30 1986

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 5/30/86 - 6/14/86

Action:  ACCEPT

RETURN 5/29/86

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

X 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_  
 Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_  
 UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

X Verbal boundary description and justification *Please provide VBD of nominated property as opposed to location.*

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_ national \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed *A. Byers* Date *5/22/82* Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sorrells, Walter B., Cottage  
Jefferson County  
ARKANSAS

Working No. APR 30 1986  
Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Due: 5/30/86 - 6/14/86  
Action: RETURN 5/29/86  
\_\_\_\_\_ ACCEPT  
\_\_\_\_\_ REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

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Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipline \_\_\_\_\_  
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Public Acquisition Accessible

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Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  ruins  unexposed  
Check one  unaltered  altered  
Check one  original site  moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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KARMEN WILLIAMS  
PINE BLUFF YOUTH SERVICES CENTER -  
879-0661

**8. Significance**

Period Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

*MR. WOOD FARRER*

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
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State Historic Preservation Officer signature

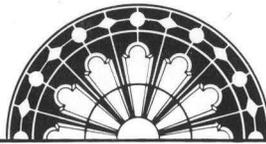
title date

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed *[Signature]* Date *5/24/82* Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

April 21, 1986

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Walter B. Sorrells Cottage  
Pine Bluff - Jefferson County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Walter B. Sorrells Cottage. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/JW/do

Enclosure/s



APR 30 1986

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Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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and or common Sorrells Hall

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N/A not for publication

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<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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city, town JUL 31 1986 state

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 moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

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ELABORATION

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Page 2

The interior plan of Sorrells Cottage reveals its intended dual function. The left front entrance accesses the superintendent's quarters, which consist of a living room, dining room and kitchen on the first floor and three large bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. The straight-run stair between the two floors is located inside the front door. A winding stair leads from the second floor to the unfinished attic. Wood floors and plaster walls are found throughout this simply-detailed, minimally-altered residential portion of the structure. The right entrance leads to a reception area and offices, separate from the residence and confined to the first floor. This administrative area has been substantially remodeled.

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<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Juvenile Justice
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

**Specific dates** 1920

**Builder/Architect** Mitchell Seligman - Architect  
E. C. Royce - Builder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

The Pine Bluff Youth Services Center had its beginnings in 1917 when a combination of donated and purchased land was designated for what was then called the Boys Industrial School, an alternative to the state penitentiary for teenaged boys convicted of crimes. The Walter B. Sorrells Cottage, designed and constructed in 1920, was the first permanent structure and remains today as the only testimony to the initial efforts to provide institutional care for delinquent/dependent youth in Arkansas. In addition, the building is significant as an eclectic combination of two popular early twentieth century styles, the Craftsman and English Revival, and was designed by the successful and prolific Pine Bluff architect, Mitchell Seligman.

#### ELABORATION

On April 25, 1905, Governor Davis approved an act providing for the establishment of a "State Reform School, for the discipline, education, employment and reformation of convicts under the age of eighteen years." Act 199 provided for white and black students, both male and female, housed in separate quarters. This first reform school was located approximately ten miles west of what were then the Little Rock city limits. Because the location was difficult for farming and sited in dense timber growth, this initial location proved unsatisfactory. In 1915 Julia Houston, the first probation officer from Pine Bluff, presented a bill to have the students moved. At first the proposal was vetoed, but later it was approved by Governor Brough. In 1917, Act 67 of the legislature changed the name of the institution to "Boys Industrial School of the State of Arkansas." The governor appointed a board whose first responsibility was to acquire new site.

Captain Geisreiter of Pine Bluff donated 160 acres of land and the citizens of Pine Bluff raised \$5,466, some of which was used to purchase 80 adjoining acres. The Act of 1917 provided \$5,000 for the purchase of land. The surplus of this amount was used for a building fund. Simple cottages were erected and a detachment of boys was sent to the site to begin clearing the land and cultivating. According to an article in the Graphic, a former Pine Bluff newspaper, on October 26, 1917, the first buildings at the school were temporary frame board and batten structures. Forty additional acres of land were purchased on April 13, 1918, for \$1,400. This provided the high ground on which to build the new buildings. In 1919, the legislature appropriated \$98,000 for a vast building program and a plan was made for a complex of permanent structures, which included three cottages for boys, a building for the superintendent, a dining hall and a gymnasium. The administration building was also to serve as the superintendent's residence.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Pine Bluff

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	<u>115</u>	<u>581401410</u>	<u>31781641610</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C			
---	--	--	--

D			
---	--	--	--

E			
---	--	--	--

F			
---	--	--	--

G			
---	--	--	--

H			
---	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Karmen P. Williams (Edited by AHPP staff)

organization Pine Bluff Youth Services Center date December 1984

street & number Route 8, Box 970 telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Pine Bluff state Arkansas

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *William J. [Signature]*

title Arkansas SHPO date 4-22-86

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*[Signature]* Entered in the National Register date 8-4-86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received 4/30/90

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Sorrells Cottage was designed in 1920 by Mitchell Seligman, an architect with a successful practice in Pine Bluff. Seligman first came to Arkansas as project architect for the Citizens Bank Building (now the National Building), which was designed by Desairdin and Sheblessy of Cincinnati, Ohio. Seligman chose to remain in Pine Bluff and started his own practice in August of 1909. Born in 1883, Seligman was raised and educated in Louisville, Kentucky, where he graduated from the Louisville Manual Training School in 1901. Seligman designed numerous buildings in Pine Bluff, among them Central High School (Junius Jordon School), 1917-1918; the Woodrow Wilson School, 1924; the Merrill High School; the Elks Club; the Shrine Temple, 1927-1928, and Parkview Apartments.

Sorrells Cottage was named for Walter Sorrells, editor of the Pine Bluff newspaper The Commercial, and was designed to function as both an administration building and superintendent's residence. The design combines Craftsman features with those typically associated with English architecture, such as halftimbering. It is significant that this building, as well as those that immediately followed, has a domestic scale and appearance, rather than an institutional character. E. C. Royse, as successful bidder, was the contractor for the building. He and Seligman were frequently involved in the same projects.

The Legislative Acts of Arkansas, Act 723 of 1923, allocated \$125,000. for building expenditures. The Julia Houston Cottage, Tom C. McRae Cottage, a trades building, hospital and additional small cottages were erected. None of these structures remain.

By 1935 the Boys Industrial School consisted of a total of 360 acres, the present size of what is now called the Pine Bluff Youth Services Center. No major building programs took place until the 1950's. The Youth Services Center is now a facility for the care and treatment of delinquent youth, males ages 13-18.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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4/30/86

date entered

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Page 3

Historical Development of Arkansas Youth Services

1905 - Act 199 - Established a reform school for boys near Little Rock. The school was under the administration of the state prison system.

1917 - Act 67 - Changed the names of the boys and girls reform schools to industrial schools. The schools were now under the administration of independent boards appointed by the governor. The Boys Industrial School was relocated in Pine Bluff, and the Girls Industrial School remained at Alexander.

1921 - Act 526 - Established separate Boys Industrial Schools for White and Negro under the management and control of the Board of Managers of the Boy's Industrial School.

1937 - Act 60 - Boys Industrial School established at Wrightsville at about this time.

1949 - Girls Training School at Fargo was established.

1953 - Act 52 - Established a separate Board of Managers for the White and Negro Boys' Industrial School.

1955 - Act 398 - Removed the Boys' Industrial School from the Penal System of the state, deeming it to be a Training and Educational institution entitled to all the rights and privileges of any other accredited educational institution of the State of Arkansas.

1961 - Act 72 - Changed the name of the institution to Arkansas Boys' Training School.

1963 - Act 515 - Name was again changed to Arkansas Training School for Boys at Pine Bluff.

1968 - The separate and independent boards of the Training Schools were condensed into one board appointed by and responsible to the governor for supervisor of the schools.

- a. A reception and diagnostic service was established and provided by the Rehabilitation Department at the Benton Hospital Center.
- b. A parole service was established to provide aftercare services to the youth released from the schools.
- c. Central Office Administration was established and referred to as the Training School Department.

1969 - The Training Schools were integrated in November, 1969 - Blacks were admitted to previously White Training Schools.

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Continuation sheet

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1971 - State government reorganization. Development of a department of Social and Rehabilitative Services (now referred to as the Department of Human Services).

- a. Juvenile Services Division was now responsible to the Director of the Department of Human Services as well as a governor-appointed board.
- b. Arkansas Commission on Crime and Law was established about this time - LEAA Fund available for delinquency prevention and control. Some of the first community projects were developed.

1974 - Need for comprehensive state plan for youth service was documented. The Department of Human Services received an LEAA grant to produce a state master plan for the delivery of needed youth services.

1976 - State master plan was completed.

- a. Deinstitutionalization of Status Offender Project implemented.
- b. Emphasis - community-based projects.

1977 - Establishment of the Division of Youth Services as an integral part of the State Department of Human Services.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
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date entered

Continuation sheet

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Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
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received

7/31/86

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

SE $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, Township 6 south, Range 10 west, or more specifically, beginning at a point 42 feet north and 36 feet east of the northeast corner of South and Median Streets, this property extends 29.5 feet north, then 65 feet east, the 29.5 feet south, then 33 feet west, then 8 feet south, then 30 feet west, then 8 feet north then 2 feet west to the beginning point.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Sorrells, Walter B., Cottage  
Jefferson County  
ARKANSAS

Working No. 04/30/86

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87

Date Due: 9/14/86

Action:  ACCEPT 8-4-86

RETURN

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Entered in the  
**National Register**

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: \_\_\_\_\_ technical corrections cited below  
\_\_\_\_\_ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Julie

Walter B. Sorrells Cottage

Pine Bluff, Jefferson Co.

View from north

Taken by Julie Vosmik, AHPP

November 1984



Julie

Walter B. Sorrells Cottage  
Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

View from southwest

Photographed by Julie Vosmik, AHPP

November 1984



Julie

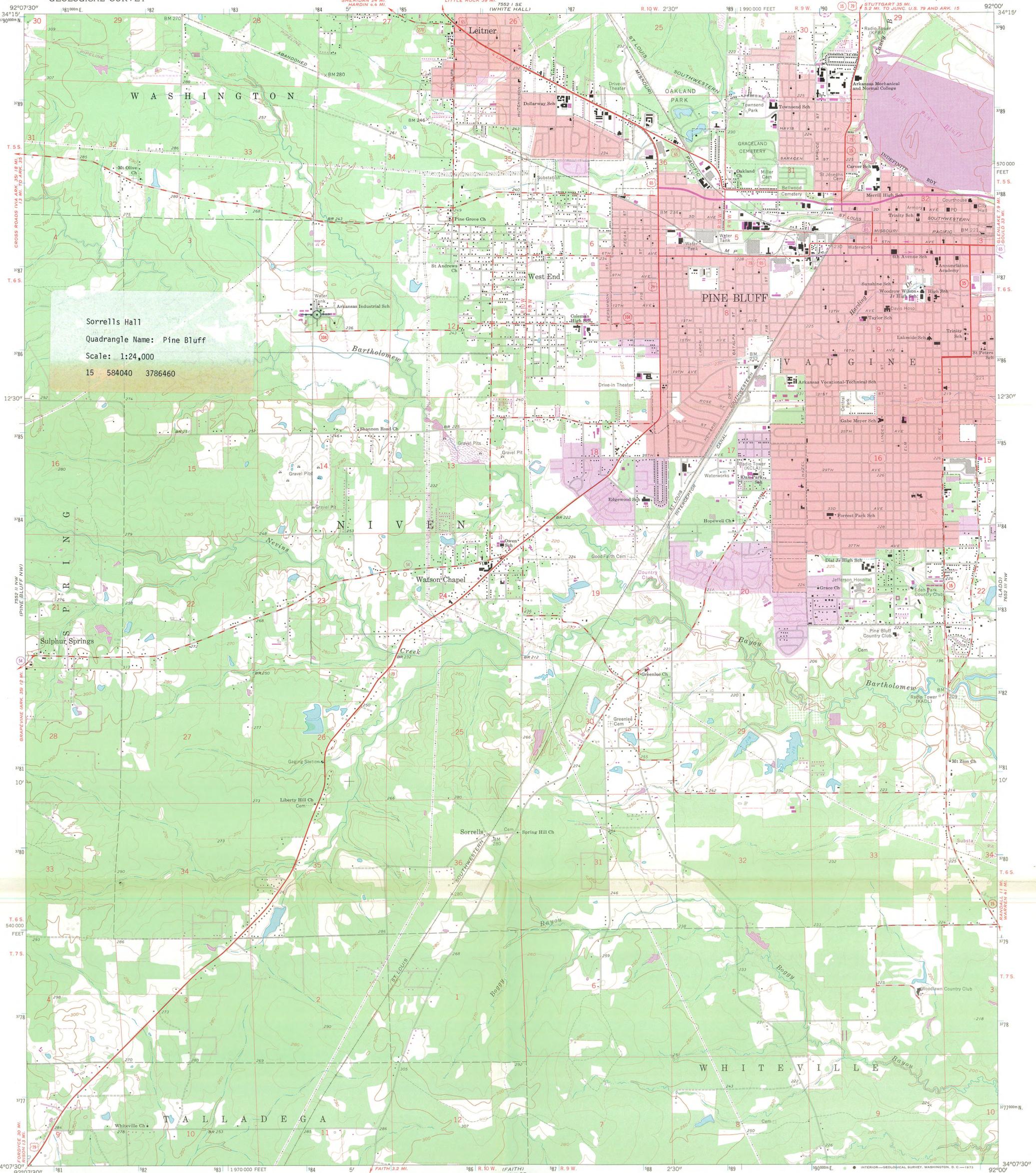
Walter B. Sorrells Cottage

Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

View from southeast

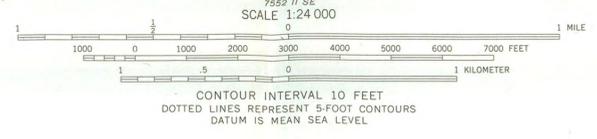
Taken by Julie Vosmik

November 1984



Sorrells Hall  
Quadrangle Name: Pine Bluff  
Scale: 1:24,000  
15 584040 3786460

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1961. Topography by planimetric surveys 1961-62  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1971. This information not field checked  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



PINE BLUFF, ARK.  
N3407.5—W9200/7.5  
1962  
PHOTOREVISED 1971  
AMS 7552 11 NE—SERIES Y884



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

July 16, 1986

Ms. Delores Byers  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20240

RE: Sorrells Cottage  
Pine Bluff, Jefferson Co.

Dear Ms. Byers:

Enclosed please find the nomination for the above-referenced property.  
Technical corrections have been made as requested.

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Julie Vosmik  
National Register and Survey Programs Manager

JV/kc  
Enclosure

JUL 31 1986

Suite 200 • Heritage Center • 225 East Markham • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 • Phone (501) 371-2763

A Department of Arkansas Heritage

