

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 21 1975

DATE ENTERED

JAN 1 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dyess Colony Center

AND/OR COMMON

Dyess

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Arkansas Highway 297

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Dyess

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Mississippi

CODE

093

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Mississippi County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Osceola

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Dyess Colony was established in May, 1934, on Mississippi Delta land in northeast Arkansas. The federal government purchased over 16,000 acres of "sunken lands" in Mississippi County. After swamps and marshy areas were drained and most of the trees cleared, the land was suitable for farming.

Dyess Colony was a planned agricultural community with Dyess Center as the focal point of this experimental rural rehabilitation project. The Dyess farmlands were divided into tracts of twenty to forty acres, with each tract having a house of three to five rooms. Each tract also contained a barn and chicken house.

As the name indicates, Dyess Center was located at the center of the Dyess Colony. The community center area contained numerous facilities including the administration building, commissary, church, school, community building, park, swimming pool and residences. Several small industrial-type operations were also present: grist mill, gin, slaughter house, lumber yard, and garage. The entire colony was planned by architect Howard Eichenbaum of Little Rock.

The houses in Dyess Center were like those on each farm in the colony: one storey white frame with a gable roof and small open porch and containing three to five rooms (see attached floor plans). Except for woodwork trim on the porches, the cottage-like houses at Dyess were quite simple. Many of these original colony houses are still standing at Dyess and though some have been altered, many remain unchanged.

The community center, a one storey frame T-shape building, still stands at the north edge of Dyess Center. It is in fairly good condition and is now used as a church.

The administration building of Dyess Colony still stands in the center of the community. The building is of two storey brick construction with one storey wings extending at the north and south elevations. This Greek Revival style building features a classic two storey portico supported by four square wood columns. The Palladian-style entry is flanked by windows with heads of radiating voussoirs with keystones. The building, now used for apartments, has been painted white and is in fair condition.

Though most of the original commercial structures have been destroyed, both the community and administration buildings remain. Modern

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

intrusions are typical of buildings found in any small rural community. About half of the private residences at Dyess date from the colony days, and are easily recognizable. In many ways Dyess is a typical small town in the Mississippi Delta; however, its origin as a planned rural community is readily apparent.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES May, 1934 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Howard Eichenbaum

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

During the early 1930's the United States experienced the worst economic depression in the Nation's history. Though all Americans were affected by the "Great Depression", some socio-economic groups suffered more than others. One such group were the small farmers and tenant farmers of the rural South.

The Roosevelt Administration recognized the overwhelming conditions of Southern farmers and made several efforts to aid them. One of the earliest farmer assistance programs of the New Deal was Dyess Colony.

Established in May, 1934, Dyess Colony was the brainchild of William Reynolds Dyess. Mr. Dyess, a farmer and contractor, was Arkansas' director of both the Federal Emergency Relief Administration and the Works Progress Administration. Dyess was convinced that the swampy delta land in the southwest part of Mississippi County, Arkansas, could be transformed into productive farm land. He conceived the idea of building an agricultural community on this land, and early in 1934, submitted his plan to Harry L. Hopkins, Administrator of the F.E.R.A. Dyess' plan was strongly endorsed by Colonel Lawrence Westbrook, assistant to Mr. Hopkins, and the colony was approved and funded.

Originally known as "Colonization Project Number 1," Dyess Colony was first controlled by the Arkansas Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. This corporation was set up by the Rural Rehabilitation Program of the Emergency Relief Administration in Arkansas. In 1936 the Resettlement Administration took over management of the Arkansas Rural Rehabilitation Corporation. The legal structure of the colony was revised, and Dyess Colony Corporation was organized. When the Farm Security Administration was established in 1937, it became the third agency to administer Dyess.

Dyess Colony was an experiment in permanent reestablishment of the independent farmer. Intended as a pioneer effort, the colony was, in 1934, the only purely agricultural rehabilitation colony project in the country. The government's attempt to resettle destitute but deserving families at Dyess Colony was a success.

Dyess Colony was established on an almost inaccessible expanse of tree covered marsh land located in north Arkansas about fifteen miles from

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sharp, Floyd. Traveling Recovery Road. Archives, Arkansas History Commission.
 Pittman, Dan. "The Founding of Dyess Colony." Arkansas Historical Quarterly,
 Vol 29 (Winter, 1970), pp. 313-327.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 168 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	35° 35' 44"	90° 13' 7.4"
NE	35° 35' 44"	90° 12' 25.3"
SE	35° 35' 14.7"	90° 12' 25.3"
SW	35° 35' 14.7"	90° 13' 7.4"

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

3-11-75

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE William E. Henderson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-11-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Active

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

1/1/96

ATTEST:

Ronald M. Heisberg
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/30/75

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PAGE one

the Mississippi River. The land cost an average of \$2.50 per acre, and totaled approximately 16,500 acres. About 1,300 persons were employed in construction of the colony, using lumber cleared from the land.

The first buildings at Dyess were for the workers and consisted of barracks, a kitchen and dining hall. By mid-June, 1934, a temporary administration building had been completed, and a month later construction began on 500 houses at the colony. Howard Eichenbaum, a Little Rock architect, designed the three-, four-, and five-room houses constructed at Dyess. Each house was constructed on an individual twenty-to forty-acre farm. Though of simple design, each house met the demands of farm living. Some twenty variations of the basic floor plans helped eliminate the monotony. Each of the Dyess houses had a well and was wired for electricity. In addition to other outbuildings, each farm had a barn and chicken house. All the barns were of similar design, being about sixteen by twenty-four feet with ten foot shed on either side.

The formal dedication of Dyess Colony came on May 22, 1936, the second anniversary of the colony. In that year 482 families lived at Dyess, and 4,875 acres had been planted. By January, 1938, the Colony was on a sound basis. Sixty miles of gravel roads and ninety miles of drainage canals had been constructed, and a spur from the Frisco Railroad extended twelve miles to the colony. Dyess Center, the actual heart of the farm colony, contained a number of buildings, including a commissary, canning center, community building, school, hospital, cotton gin, feed mill, post office and even a motion picture theatre. The most prominent structure, then and now, was the two storey Greek Revival style administration building.

The only colonists accepted at Dyess were experienced farmers who had lost their farms in the economic depression. In addition, each farmer had to be under fifty years old, in good health, a resident of Arkansas, and Caucasian. The first year at the colony was a trial period for each family, after which they were evaluated by the farm agent and home economist. By 1938 some 115 families had earned deeds to their farms and 300 others had completed the one year trial and been recommended for retention as colonists.

Although Dyess was not a communal settlement, the colonists did work together on several activities, including the Dyess Theatre, twenty-acre school farm, and joint marketing of truck products. The cotton gin, run by cooperative methods, also provided employment for settlers.

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PAGE two

January, 1939, marked the completion of Dyess Colony. After that date recruitment of new colonists to fill vacant farms stopped. Those farms not filled were left vacant to allow for the natural expansion of the community. As federal loans were repaid and the colonists became owners of their farms, government control of the colony dwindled. Federal holdings were eventually liquidated, setting Dyess free of any extra control by the government.

Though Dyess Colony helped no great per cent of the people in Arkansas or even in Mississippi County, it did help some deserving farmers. This experimental project provided many impoverished farm families with the opportunity to build a better life. Even more importantly the success of Dyess Colony established a precedent after which future farm projects were modeled.

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Dyess Colony was a national sociological experiment in rural rehabilitation. The role Dyess played as a model for later resettlement farms made it an important historic site. Though established less than 50 years ago, Dyess Colony Center should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its significance to modern American social and agricultural history.

Property Dyess Colony Center

State Arkansas

Working Number 4.21.75.740

76000435

TECHNICAL

Photos 6

Maps 1 + sketch map

CONTROL

cm

OK 4/23/75

HISTORIAN

Acceptable except for the lack of a sketch map.

Sketch map received -- OK. 6-11-75.

Accept/hold

E. Smith

4-30-75

called Dianna Kirk 6/17/75 - Will send
just information on 50 yr limit

Accept E. Smith 6-11-75

called again 10/29/75 -
P. Luce

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Need a sketch of what their
nominating.

ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept with map
Return

M. Barnes
29 Apr 75

OTHER

Accept
W. R. Luce
11/4/75

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Cole
11-4-75

BRANCH CHIEF

Makes case for exception to 50 year
limit in criteria.

accept
Hunt
11-4-75

KEEPER

Accept
Greenberg
12/30/75

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered JAN 1 1976

Federal Register Entry 3-2-76

Re-submit _____



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TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Dyess Colony Center

AND/OR COMMON

Dyess

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Dyess

—VICINITY OF

COUNTY Mississippi STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

W. R. Dyess Memorial Marker, with Administration Building
in background, viewed from the east

PHOTO NO.

1 of 6



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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

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4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Administration building, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

2 of 6



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___VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Mississippi

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1974

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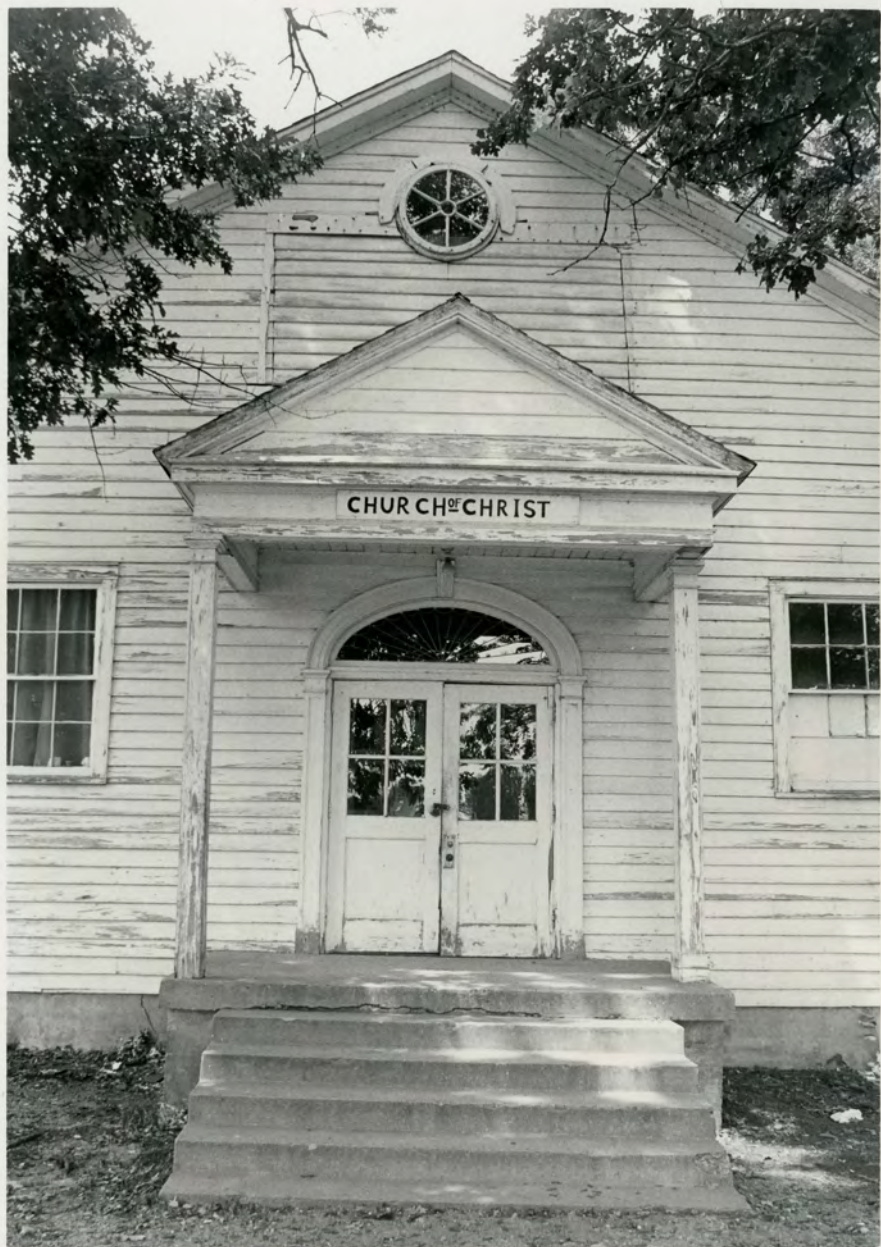
4 IDENTIFICATION

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

Community center building, viewed from the southeast

PHOTO NO.

3 76



CHUR CH OF CHRIST

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Mississippi

STATE

Arkansas

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PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

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Community center building, entry detail

PHOTO NO.

4 of 6



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2 LOCATION

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Dyess

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Mississippi

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO

1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

typical four-room house

PHOTO NO.

5 1/6



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AND/OR COMMON
Dyess

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Dyess _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY Mississippi STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk DATE OF PHOTO 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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

typical five room house

PHOTO NO.

676

SCALE 1"=200'

TYRONZA RIVER

12 = BLOCK NUMBERS
24 = LOT NUMBERS

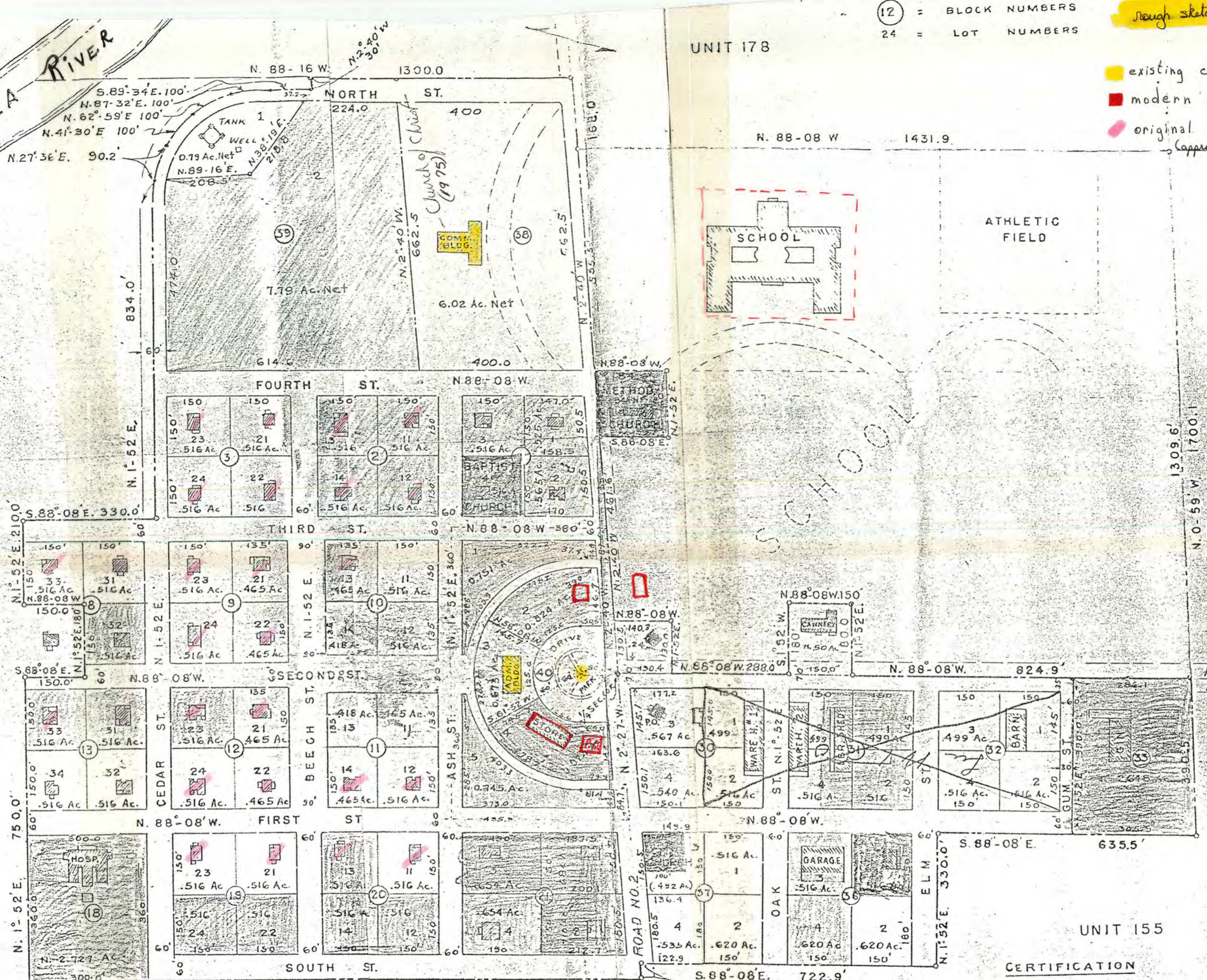
rough sketch - not exact

- existing community buildings
- modern buildings
- original colony houses (approximate, not exact)

UNIT 178

UNIT 180

UNIT 177-A



UNIT 155

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the Regional Engineer of Region VI of the Farm Security Administration, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, caused to be surveyed this tract of land designated as "Town of Dyess", F.S.A. project S-AK-80, Mississippi County, Arkansas, and caused to be prepared this map, made from notes, findings and calculations of such survey, and that said map is a true and accurate representation of the boundaries and subdivisions of said tract.

T. C. Downadue

SEC. 10
SEC. 11

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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Dyess

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Dyess

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Mississippi STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army

SCALE 1:62500

DATE 1956

4 REQUIREMENTS

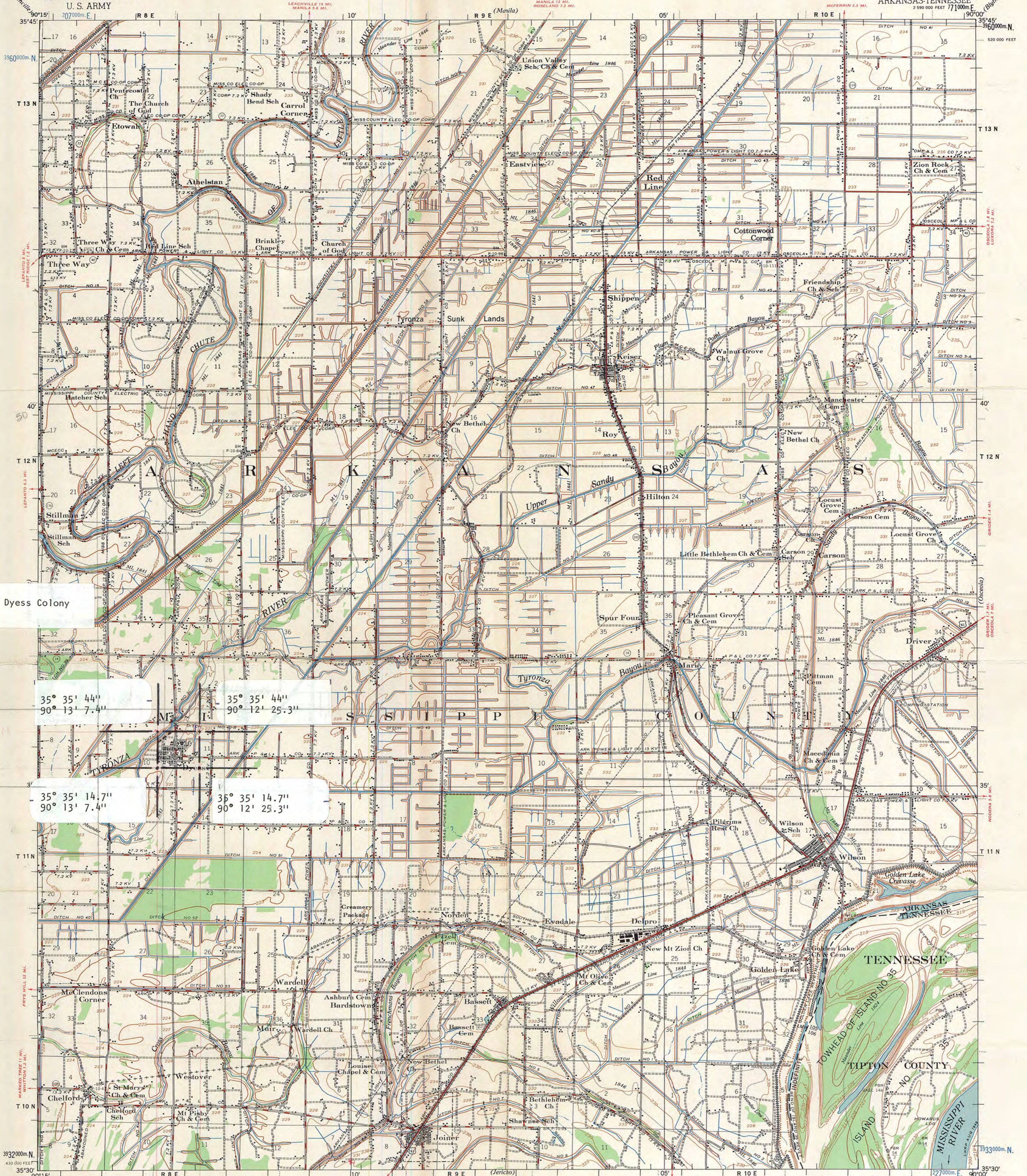
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

Dyess Colony

EVADALE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-TENNESSEE
2 590 000 FEET 771 000m E

CORPS OF ENGINEERS
U. S. ARMY



Dyess Colony

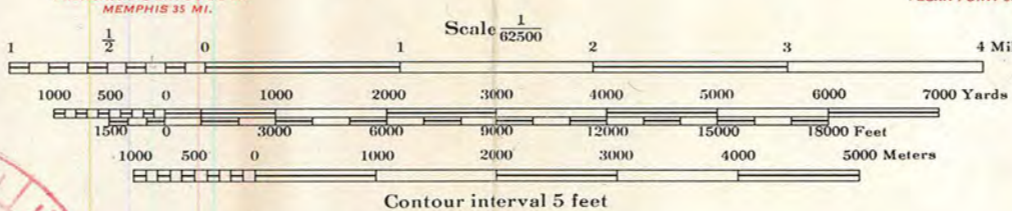
35° 35' 44"
90° 13' 7.4"

35° 35' 44"
90° 12' 25.3"

35° 35' 14.7"
90° 13' 7.4"

35° 35' 14.7"
90° 12' 25.3"

Prepared under the direction of the President, Mississippi River Commission by the Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Memphis, Tennessee. Horizontal Control by Mississippi River Commission and Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, and U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Vertical Control by Mississippi River Commission and Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army.
Polyconic Projection, 1927 North American Datum.
This map and descriptions, elevations and geodetic positions of permanent survey marks may be obtained from Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Memphis, Tennessee.
Topography by Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, 1930-1950. Planimetry remapped from aerial photographs flown in 1949-1950. Political boundaries are shown according to best available information. Work under Flood Control Act shown as of May 1951. This map complies with national map accuracy standards.



DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
ONE THOUSAND METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID ZONE 15 IS INDICATED BY TICKS OUTSIDE OF THE NEATLINE
BLUE NUMBERED TICKS INSIDE THE NEATLINE INDICATE THE 1,000 METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID ZONE 16
ARKANSAS STATE GRID ZONE NORTH IS INDICATED BY DOTTED TICKS OUTSIDE THE NEATLINE AT 10,000 FOOT INTERVALS
Additional copies may be procured from
The President, Mississippi River Commission,
Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Vicksburg, Miss.
20 cents per copy

GRID DECLINATION FOR CENTER OF SHEET FOR THE UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR GRID ZONE 16, 1°49'08" 32 MILS WEST
APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION 1955 FOR CENTER OF SHEET ANNUAL MAGNETIC CHANGE 1° WESTERLY

PRINTED BY ARMY MAP SERVICE, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 6-56 100908
101018
LEGEND
Secondary Levee
Retards and Dikes
Revetment
Levee mile post
Levee station
River Gage
Distances on Mississippi River above Head of Passes are shown at 5 mile intervals.
ROAD DATA 1951
In developed areas, only through roads are classified
Hard surface, heavy duty
Hard surface, medium duty
Loose surface, graded and drained or narrow hard surface road
Improved dirt road or street
Unimproved dirt road or trail
Route markers: Federal, State

EVADALE, ARK.-TENN.
EDITION OF 1956
N3530-W9000/15

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

1029 WEST THIRD STREET LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201 501 371-0875



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
TELEPHONE - 501 371-1639

June 4, 1975

Mr. Ed Smith
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
18th and "C" Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Ed:

Enclosed is the site map you requested on the Dyess Colony Center. This map was drawn up in the late 1930's, and my designation of present structures is approximate. The map is an approximate sketch and is not drawn to scale.

Please contact me if there are any further questions concerning this nomination.

Sincerely,

Dianna Kirk

Dianna Kirk, Historian
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DK:cm

Enclosure

From DIANNA KIRK
Department of Arkansas Natural and Cultural Heritage
300 West Markham, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

29 Oct., 1975

Ray -

Here is a copy of our letter of
June 24th, along with the information
you requested. I hope this will
facilitate quick approval of the
Dyess nomination. Thanks -

Dianne Kirk

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

~~1023 WEST THIRD STREET LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201 501 374-0375~~



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE" 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
TELEPHONE - 501 371-1639

June 24, 1975

Mr. Ray Luce
Office of Nomination and Review
National Park Service - National Register
Department of the Interior
18th and "C" Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240



Dear Mr. Luce:

Enclosed is the information you requested on why we feel the 50 year limit should be waived in nominating Dyess Colony Center to the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, please check paragraph five and the final paragraph in Section 8 of the original nomination.

Please contact me if there are any further questions.

Sincerely,

Dianna Kirk, Historian
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DK:cm

Enclosure

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	
DATE REC'D	NOV 4 1975
_____	INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)
_____	INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT
_____	TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)
DATE ACTION TAKEN	_____
INITIALS	_____

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE **ARKANSAS**

Date Entered **JAN 1 1976**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Dyess Colony Center	Dyess Mississippi County
Ready, E. S., House	Helena Phillips County

Hon. John L. McClellan
~~Hon. Dale Bumpers~~
Hon. Bill Alexander

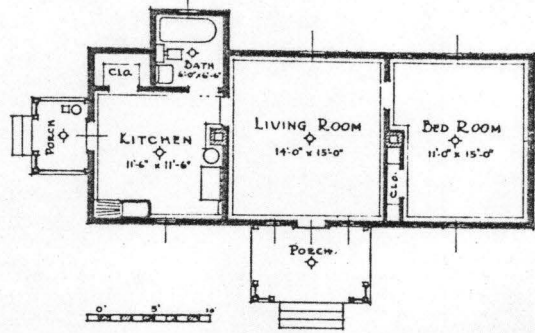
Regional Director, Southwest Region

Also Notified

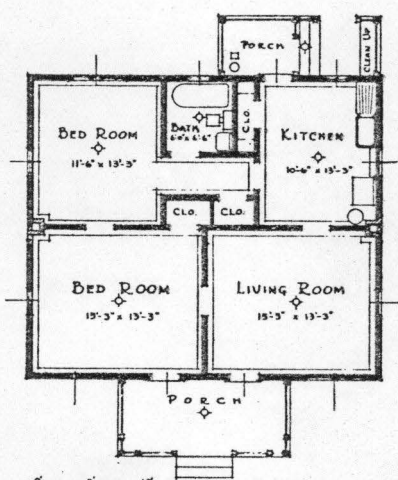
State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director, Department of Natural
and Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR MMOTT: p1 1.14.75

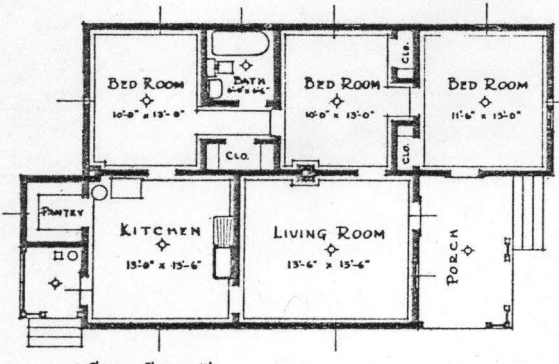
RECEIVED
 APR 21 1945
 NATIONAL REGISTER



3-ROOM-TYPE



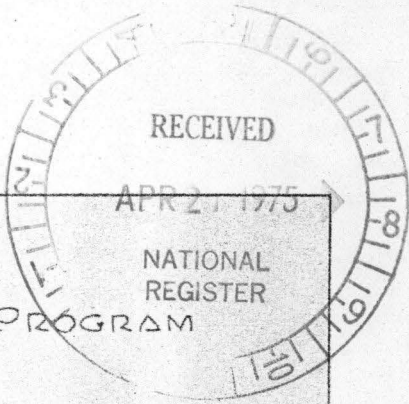
4-ROOM-TYPE



5-ROOM-TYPE

•MISSISSIPPI • COUNTY • COLONIZATION-
 TYPICAL • HOUSE • TYPES •
 STATE • EMERGENCY • RELIEF • ADMINISTRATION •
 LITTLE • ROCK •, ARK.

ARKANSAS E.R.A.
 DIVISION OF RESEARCH & STATISTICS

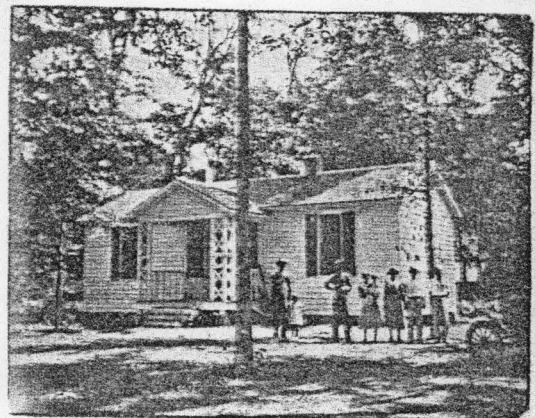


COLONIZATION PROJECT No 1
CONSTRUCTED UNDER THE WORKS PROGRAM
IN ARKANSAS

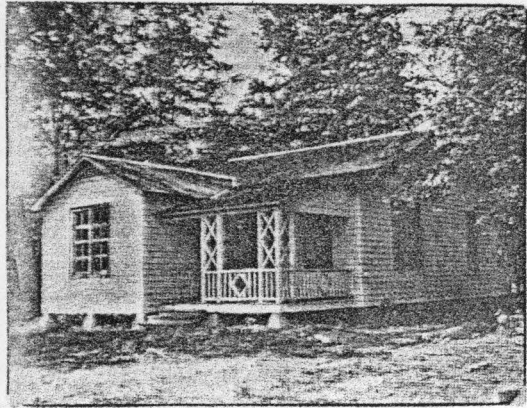
DYESS COLONY, MISSISSIPPI COUNTY



4 ROOM HOUSE



3 ROOM HOUSE



5 ROOM HOUSE

ARKANSAS ERA
DIVISION OF RESEARCH & STATISTICS

Use this

✓ Planned agricultural community, 1-story frame community center, numerous frame cottages, and Classical Revival 2-story Administration Building; *Successful* cooperative cotton gin and other outbuildings destroyed. Program of Federal Emergency Relief Administration to ~~relieve~~^{aid} farmers affected by the Depression by establishing colony of small farms of 20-40 acres with ~~a~~ house, barn, and chicken house. *each*

Planned agricultural community, one-story frame community center, numerous
frame cottages, and Classical Revival two-story Administration Building;
grist mill, cooperative cotton gin, slaughter house, lumber yard and
garage destroyed. ^{Successful} Attempt by ^{the Depression's} Federal Emergency Relief Administration
~~affected~~ ~~by the Depression~~ to aid small farmers ~~hit by the Depression~~ through resettlement
in colony of ^{of individual farms, each consisting of} and loans ~~to each colony~~ ^{for} 20-40 acres, ^a house, barn, and
chicken house.

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: **DYESS COLONY CENTER** 2 OTHER NAMES: **DYESS** *Colonization Project #1* 3 date of entry: **1.1.76** 4 county code: **093**

5 LOCATION street & number: **AR 297** city / town: **DYESS** vicinity of: _____ state: **AR** county: **MISSISSIPPI** 6 NPS REGION: **SW**

7 OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) *private* 8 ADMINISTRATOR: _____
 9 EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL 10 FUNDED? YES NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: **1st** 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: _____ NO 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: _____ NO 15 ACREAGE: **168**
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION deteriorated altered original site
 excellent ruins unaltered moved
 good unexposed reconstructed unknown
 fair unexcavated excavated
 17 features: INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5 UNKNOWN-6
 NOT APPLICABLE-7 NOT APPLICABLE-8 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 20 SAVED? YES 21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO

22 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS / GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25
 23 CLAIMS: explain 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only' *only purely agricultural Federal Emergency Relief Administration Resettlement/rehabilitation colony*

24 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: **AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY** 25 dates of initial construction: **1934**
 CURRENTLY: **COMMUNITY** major alterations: _____ historic events: **1939** 26 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: _____

27 architectural style(s): _____ 28 architect: **HOWARD EICHENBAUM** 29 master builder: _____ 30 engineer: _____

31 landscape architect / garden designer: _____ 32 interior decorator: _____ 33 artist: _____ 34 artisan: _____ 35 builder/contractor: _____

36 NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL: *Great Depression 1930s* William Reynolds Dyess - thought of establishing the colony 1934, AR lin. of FERA, WPA
 EVENTS: Harry L. Hopkins - Administrator of FERA, approved plan 1934
 prompted project by: Col. Lawrence Westbrook - Hopkins' assistant who used approval of project 1939
 Dyess INSTITUTIONAL: Federal Emergency Relief Administration - approved ^{if funded} Dyess project; eventually administered it, 1934-1937

37 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP: **1930s** Planned agricultural community; includes Classical Revival 2-story brick Administration Building, 1-story frame Community Center, and numerous 3-5 room small frame typical farmers' cottages. Project of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration to resettle farmers affected by the Depression.

reviewers initials: **KB** date: **4/9/78**