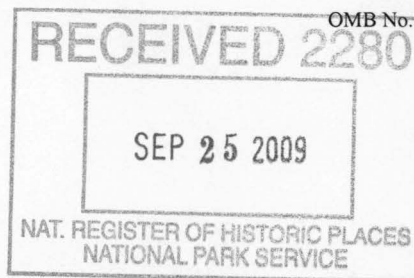


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

867



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Piggott Commercial Historic District

other names/site number Site #CY0211

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded on the north by W. Cherry, on the south by W. Court, on the east by S. Throgmorton and on the west by W. Clay, W. Court, S. 3rd and N. 3rd ☐ not for publication

city or town Piggott ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Clay code 021 zip code 72454

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cordie Mathes
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/21/09
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain:) _____

Janis Mathes
Signature of the Keeper

11/04/2009
Date of Action

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

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

Contributing

Noncontributing

41

27

buildings

5 (vacant lots)

Sites

structures

objects

41

32

Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

1

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE- Specialty Store; Financial
Institution; Department Store; Professional; Restaurant

GOVERNMENT- City Hall; Courthouse; Post Office

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION-
Manufacturing FacilityRELIGION- Religious Facility; Church-Related
Residence

TRANSPORTATION- Train Depot

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE-Storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE- Specialty Store; Financial Institution;
Professional; Restaurant

GOVERNMENT- City Hall; Courthouse; Post Office

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION- Manufacturing
Facility

RELIGION- Religious Facility; Church-Related Residence

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE-Storage

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS-

Classical Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS-Commercial Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick; Concrete

walls Brick; Stucco; Cast Concrete; Metal; Synthetics

roof Asphalt; Metal

other

Narrative Description

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

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SUMMARY

Piggott, Arkansas, is located in Clay County, in the northeastern corner of the state. The Piggott Commercial Historic District contains the original plat of the town's commercial and governmental center as laid out in 1887 near the St. Louis Southwestern Railroad line. Piggott is the eastern district county seat for Clay County. A courthouse square with a one-story county courthouse constructed in 1966 is located in the center of the Piggott Commercial Historic District. The district contains buildings facing the courthouse square on all four sides and buildings on adjacent streets that are part of the original commercial center of Piggott. Within the district boundaries, there are 69 resources. Of the resources within the district, 42 (60.9 %) maintain a high level of integrity and contribute to the historic character of the district. One of these buildings, the Federal Post Office at 119 N. 3rd Street, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 08-14-98. The other 27 resources account for 39.1% of the district and are non-contributing elements. Of the 27 non-contributing buildings, 22 are historic, but have been considerably altered from their original appearance, while only five were constructed after the period of significance spanning the years between 1897 and 1959. There are two churches, a U.S. Post Office, a county courthouse, a city hall, a railroad depot, a lumberyard, a cotton gin, and a grain storage facility located within the boundaries of the district. The majority of the resources in the Piggott Commercial Historic District reflect vernacular versions of popular American commercial building design from the early 20th century through the mid 20th century. This collection of resources substantiates the history and development of Piggott as a center of county government and a commercial center along the St. Louis Southwestern (now Cotton Belt) Railroad line in Northeast Arkansas.

ELABORATION

Clay County, Arkansas, is located in the northeast corner of Arkansas, within the Mississippi River Alluvial Plain. The county is unequally divided by Crowley's Ridge, an anomaly that exhibits terrain, soil, and vegetation completely different from what is found in the lowlands on either side. Soils range from sandy to clay and gravel with lignite deposits on Crowley's Ridge. Four rivers, the St. Francis, Cache, Black, and Current rivers run through Clay County. Approximately 80% of the land in Clay County is bottomland, a factor that greatly contributed to the settlement and development patterns in the county. It is a predominantly rural county with small cities and towns. Light industry supplements an agrarian-based economy. Hunting, fishing and boating are the main recreational activities in the area.

Arkansas's first National Scenic Byway, the Crowley's Ridge Parkway, was established in 1991 and it was designated a state scenic byway in 1997. Situated at 302 feet above sea level, Piggott is located on the eastern slope of Crowley's Ridge. The Missouri state line is seven miles to the east of Piggott and eight miles to the north. The area was once covered by virgin timber, providing a source of building materials and abundant wildlife for early settlers. It was sparsely settled until construction of a rail line in 1882 spurred development of towns along the line. When railroad tracks were being laid in the area to haul out the

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plentiful timber, a town grew up around these tracks and was named Piggott in honor of a local doctor. The town of Piggott was incorporated in 1891. An area south of the current commercial district was platted in 1882 and was laid out in an east/west orientation. The area contained in the Piggott Commercial Historic District was platted in 1887 in reference to the railroad. Although laid out in a grid, Piggott's downtown runs perpendicular to the railroad bearing, northeast to southwest.

The Piggott Commercial Historic District is located on the railroad line that runs through the town. The core of the district is to the west of the railroad and contains the historic courthouse square with buildings facing it on all sides and extends one block to the north and two blocks to the east. Main Street is also U.S. Highway 62 and has always provided a steady source of traffic through the downtown. The district also includes industrial buildings on the east side of the railroad track. The district contains 69 resources including a county courthouse, a city hall, a post office, two churches, and a manse, in addition to its various early to mid 20th century commercial buildings.

Of the 69 resources in the district, 38 (55%) were constructed before 1930. The 1910s is the era most represented in the district as it contains 20 (29%) buildings constructed in that decade. A theater (127 S. 3rd) was built on the courthouse square during this period as well as the town's second two-story bank building (193 W. Main). Buildings in the district constructed in the 1920s continued to be simple brick commercial structures decorated by variations of brick patterns and cast concrete details. Construction of the Piggott Post Office at 119 N. 3rd in 1937 was a significant event in the town. The Piggott City Hall at 194 W. Front and buildings constructed during the time "A Face In The Crowd" was filmed in 1956 represent the buildings in the district constructed in the 1950s. The majority of the buildings in the district are of brick construction and represent typical early to mid 20th century commercial building design. Some have modest Italianate or Classical Revival characteristics. In 1966 a new courthouse was constructed to replace the 1899 courthouse. Piggott's downtown remains a viable business center and in addition to the local and county government offices, contains a mix of retail businesses.

1890s

The oldest extant building in the Piggott Commercial Historic District is the Clay County Bank Building at 188 W. Main Street. Constructed in 1897, this two-story brick building is located on the southeast corner of W. Main (U.S. Highway 62) and S. 2nd Street. Local records indicate it was the first brick commercial building constructed in Piggott's downtown. The Clay County Bank Building is a narrow two-story brick structure with a beveled corner entrance. A cast-concrete beltcourse runs across the building on the north and west sides above the second story windows. Another cast-concrete beltcourse runs at the top of first floor windows on the north elevation. Arched cast concrete lintels top second story windows, first floor door openings, and the window on first floor of the west elevation.

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The First Presbyterian Church building, located a block north of the courthouse square at the northwest corner of W. Cherry and N. 2nd was constructed in 1898. The building features characteristics of the Carpenter Gothic style in its steeply pitched roof with cross gables, lancet-arch windows, and ornamental bargeboard detail in the front gable end. A corner steeple topped by a wood cross contains the main entry to the building. Although the building has been covered in artificial siding, it maintains much of its original character and appearance. Local architect E. E. Porterfield designed the building shortly after he moved to Piggott, according to his son, H. R. Porterfield.

1900-1919

There are 22 buildings in the district constructed in the first two decades of the 20th century. These buildings are of brick and can be described as traditional commercial architecture typical of that seen in small towns throughout the mid-south. There are some two-story buildings, but most are one story. The earliest of these buildings was constructed c. 1905 in the 100 block of S. 2nd, facing the courthouse square. The one story, brick Potter Drugstore Building at 136 S. 2nd was constructed c. 1905 and retains its original storefront configuration with double glass, wood-paneled entry doors flanked by plate glass windows. The upper wall of the building features inset brick panels and a band of brick dentiling.

Of the 22 buildings constructed in Piggott's commercial downtown during the first two decades of the 20th century, 20 were built between 1910 and 1919. The buildings in the district that were constructed in this period comprise 30% of the total number of buildings in the district.

Four buildings located in the first block of W. Main, 111, 117, 121, and 127 W. Main were constructed c. 1910 and feature rounded transom windows over plate-glass storefront windows. The buildings have variations of early 20th century commercial detail in brick upper walls, utilizing brick pattern and corbelling to form decorative cornices. Brick pattern forming scallops below a band of brick dentiling is found on the building at 239 W. Main. Constructed c. 1910 the two-story, brick Royall Building at 285 W. Main features Italianate style arched-top second floor windows. Behind the existing aluminum frame plate-glass windows on the front ground level, round cast-iron columns are visible. A mural depicting the city's history is painted on the west side of the building.

A group of three buildings at the intersection of W. Court, W. Clay, and S. 3rd on the southwest corner of the courthouse square constructed c. 1910 retain much of their historic appearance. The Racket Store Building at 260 W. Court features a recessed center entry flanked by plate-glass windows. The upper wall of the front of the building is denoted by a simple brick band at the cornice and a recessed brick panel in the center of the wall. The adjacent buildings to the west, at 270 and 280 W. Court, have bands of inverted triangles formed by brick pattern at the cornice and cast iron storefronts.

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The Franklin Theater at 127 S. 3rd was constructed c. 1910. A centered pediment rises above the brick parapet, highlighting this one story brick building with stucco front. The adjacent building on the south at 137 S. 3rd has a simple brick upper front wall with three small, round, cast-concrete finials on the ends and in the center of the parapet. The south elevation of the building features Italianate-style arched windows.

Originally a grocery store, the two-story brick building at 147 S. 3rd was also constructed c. 1910. The second story of the front (east) of the building features a center vertical recessed brick panel in the upper front wall. A raised brick panel runs across the top of the building at the cornice line and extends down the edges of the front ending with cast-concrete bases adjacent to second-story windows. Second story windows have cast-concrete lintels and sills. A single door on the side of the front leads to second story space. The rear of the building features Italianate-style arched windows on the upper level and a c. 1919 one-story addition of ornamental concrete block.

The railroad depot building at 100 W. Main, is a wood frame building covered with a gable roof with broad overhanging eaves supported by triangular knee braces. The south end of the building contains the main entry and is denoted by the deep clipped-gable roof end. Other buildings in the district that were constructed in the 1910s are simple one-story early 20th century commercial buildings that are scattered along the blocks directly facing the courthouse square.

1920s

The 14 buildings constructed during the 1920s comprise 20% of the district. Buildings at 209 and 221 W. Main Street were constructed c. 1921 and are one-story of brick construction. A simple brick band forms a cornice on the buildings while the corners of the upper front and rear feature molded concrete quoins.

Originally a filling station, the building at 160 W. Main features a projecting shed at the cornice line and square brick columns on the north and west elevations that rise above the parapet and are decorated by cast-concrete insets. Across the street at 159 W. Main, a one-story buff brick building is denoted by recessed cast-concrete panels and vertically laid brick outlining recessed cast-concrete panels in the upper front (south) wall.

A beveled corner characterizes the one-story brick building constructed c. 1929 at 118 W. Court. Simple recessed brick panels in upper walls on the front and east provide the building's only ornamentation. The Tucker Building at 144 N. 2nd is a brick building with an overhead door on its front south side. Brick-arched door and window openings are visible on the sides and rear elevation of the building. Constructed in 1920, the building has been remodeled at storefront level. The large one-story brick building at 181-185 S. Front Street, constructed c. 1928, was originally an auto dealership and has been converted to retail and restaurant spaces. The original upper brick wall remains behind a modern hip roof wood-shingle awning.

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Buildings at 155, 161 and 165 S. 3rd Street are one-story brick buildings with simple brick cornice patterns. Similar in design, these buildings were constructed c. 1926 and feature square brick columns rising above the front roof parapet. Although the building at 173 S. 3rd was constructed c. 1928, its storefront with aluminum-framed plate-glass windows and doors represents a post World War II remodeling.

The Bank of Piggott Building constructed in 1925 at 193 W. Main Street is an imposing two-story building located on the busy corner of 2nd and W. Main streets. The building is composed of two sections facing W. Main Street. The west side of the building at the corner of the block was the Bank of Piggott. A two-story, cast-concrete arch denotes the west section of the building with pediment on its front, or south elevation. Pilasters and plate-glass windows flank a centered entry. The front of the eastern section of the building maintains the same projecting cast-concrete cornice with dentils and window arrangement on the upper level, but does not feature the front cast-concrete arch seen on the western portion of the building.

The only building in the Piggott Commercial Historic District that was constructed for residential purposes is the First Presbyterian Church Manse at 210 W. Cherry. The Manse has characteristics of the Dutch Colonial Revival style in its gambrel roof and gambrel roof dormers. Constructed c. 1921, the Manse has been covered in artificial siding and the original front porch columns have been replaced with wrought iron posts. However, the house retains its integrity of historic association with the adjacent 1898 church building.

The largest building in the Piggott Commercial Historic District is the First United Methodist Church at 188 N. 3rd Street, constructed in 1928. It was designed by Piggott architect Eldridge Ellis (E. E.) Porterfield. The brick building is two stories with a full basement and features cast-concrete detailing on red brick walls. It has elements of the Classical Revival and Craftsman styles. A projecting two-story gable roof bay on the front (east) contains the main entry to the church. This bay is denoted by a fanlight window in the upper gable end and is surrounded by cast-concrete with a keystone. Two-story brick pilasters with cast-concrete caps are located on the outer walls of the bay. A set of wide concrete stairs with brick side walls lead to a set of wood-paneled doors surrounded by sidelights and transom windows with Craftsman-style pane arrangement. The entry is flanked by round, cast-concrete Doric-capped columns. A projecting cast-concrete cornice spans the upper level of the front of the building. Pairs of stationary stained-glass windows are located on the sanctuary walls on the north and south elevations of the building. Second story stained-glass windows on the sanctuary feature stained-glass transom windows. The rear of the building features Craftsman-style double-hung windows with five vertical panes over a single pane.

1930s

There are eight buildings in Piggott's historic commercial downtown constructed in the 1930s. The Barber Shop Building at 161 W. Main is an example of the general simplicity seen in commercial building construction in this period. The two brick buildings in the 100 block of N. 3rd facing the post office were constructed in the early 1930s. The 120 N. 3rd building exhibits original design in its simple brick front wall

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with aluminum-frame plate-glass windows and door. The adjacent building, at 122 N. 3rd is divided into three storefronts, separated by square brick pilasters that rise to the roof parapet. Original frame plate-glass windows and doors with transoms remain. However, the upper brick wall of the front (west) of the building has been covered in vertical composite board.

The buildings at 146, 160, and 162 S. 2nd Street were constructed in the early 1930s. The building at 146 S. 2nd has been covered with metal and retains little of its original appearance. Buildings at 160 and 162 S. 2nd feature decorative brick crenellation and recessed brick panels. The building at 162 S. 2nd retains its original storefront with double wood and glass doors flanked by plate-glass windows.

The Russell Mortuary at 142 N. 3rd was constructed c. 1934. Multiple additions to the original building have been made, but the front (east) façade of the building with its lancet-arched windows in a projecting front bay maintains the historic character of the building.

The U.S. Post Office at 119 N. 3rd Street was constructed in 1937. Louis A. Simon was the supervising architect with Neal A. Melick, Supervising Engineer. The builder was Charles H. Barnes. The one-story buff brick building features a Classical entry with round arch and fanlight. Large eight-over-twelve double-hung windows and minimal decorative detail characterize the building. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 8-14-98, the Piggott U. S. Post Office contains a mural entitled "Air Mail" that was financed by the U.S. Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts and painted by artist Dan Rhodes.

1940s

There are seven buildings in the Piggott Historic District constructed in the 1940s. All of these were built after the end of World War II. The buildings of this period are characterized by their utilitarian design with lack of ornamentation. The Watson Furniture Building at 332 W. Clay is a two-story concrete-block building with a recessed center entry flanked by two sets of aluminum-framed plate-glass windows. The Apex Glass Building at 157 S. Front is a one-story brick building with a concrete block addition to the rear north side. Plain brick walls punctuated by a center entry and flanked by single plate-glass windows characterize the building. Buildings of this era in Piggott feature tile along parapet ridges.

The small, freestanding building at 141 N. 2nd remains basically unaltered from its original appearance with wood and glass entry doors on the ends of the front (west) and a center set of three plate-glass windows in wood frame. Other buildings in the district constructed in the 1940s are similar plain brick or concrete block buildings with varying storefront adaptations in wood frame and aluminum frame.

1950s

The eleven buildings in this decade represent 16% of the buildings in the district. The Piggott City Hall Building at 194 W. Court was constructed in 1954. It is a large one-story buff colored brick building with

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tile along the parapet ridge. An entrance on the west side of the building accesses the Piggott Police Department. Three overhead doors punctuate the southern end of the west elevation. Sets of double aluminum-frame doors on the north elevation provide access to city offices. Constructed in the mid 1950s, the Haywood Motors Building at 376 W. Clay is a large concrete block building that features a front wall of stationary windows looking into the showroom floor. The building design is a variation of noted industrial designer Raymond Loewy's International Harvester "Servicenter."

1960s

The Eastern Clay County Courthouse was constructed in 1966. The first courthouse in Piggott burned in 1893 and in 1899 identical two-story brick courthouses were built in Piggott and Corning. By the early 1960s, both of the courthouses had been condemned. The Western District Clay County Courthouse in Corning burned in 1962. The identical Eastern County Courthouse in Piggott was demolished in 1966 for construction of the current building. Designed by H. R. Porterfield, son of long-time Piggott architect E. E. Porterfield, and constructed in 1966, the courthouses in Piggott and Corning are identical. The H-shaped building is constructed of brick and features mid-20th century elements in its low sprawling profile. A center section rises above the roofline and is ornamented by cast concrete scalloping at the cornice. Tall, narrow windows fenestrate the building. Although non-contributing to the historic district due to age, the Eastern District Clay County Courthouse is an important component of downtown Piggott.

Industrial Buildings

On the east side of the railroad tracks the Cox Lumber Company, a cotton gin and grain elevators occupy the lots nearest the tracks. These structures and buildings are a part of long-time established businesses at their locations and represent the agrarian based economy of the region.

1966 –Present

Only 4 buildings have been constructed in Piggott's downtown commercial district since 1966. These buildings are scattered on the edges of the district.

Integrity

With 60.9% of resources contributing to the historic significance of the Piggott Commercial Historic District, the integrity of the district reflects the town's major period of commercial development in the early 20th century with a secondary building period in the 1950s. The area contained in the boundaries of the Piggott Commercial Historic District continues to be a local and county governmental center. Most of the buildings in the district demonstrate the one or two-part commercial block form. The buildings have standard storefronts and flat roofs with parapets. Most of the buildings are of brick construction and have a mix of original storefronts with replacement elements. Stylistic elements are largely traditional and restrained, and include parapets, brick corbelling, soldier courses, decorative brickwork, and arched fenestration. Only a few of the buildings have cast iron storefronts. The banks and grocery stores have relocated to the edges of

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Piggott and specialty retail and local and county offices now occupy the buildings around the courthouse square. Piggott's commercial downtown has continued to survive, largely due to the activity created by the presence of the Eastern Clay County Courthouse. The Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Educational Center, located in the historic residential area of Piggott has created a strong tourism base for the town. However, the local economy continues to be agrarian based and downtown Piggott continues to be a busy center of regional government.

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PROPERTY LIST PIGGOTT COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

AR Resource #	Property Address	Construction Date	Contributing/Non-Contributing
CY0023	151 S. 2 nd Avenue	D. 1966	Non-Contributing
CY0033	119 S. 3 rd Avenue	D. 1937	NR Listed 08-14-98
CY0036	188 N.3 rd Avenue	D. 1928	Contributing
CY0145	100 Block E. Main St.	C. 1949	Contributing
CY0146	100 W. Main St.	C. 1914	Contributing
CY0147	111 W. Main St.	C. 1910	Non-Contributing
CY0148	117 W. Main St.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0149	121 W. Main St.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0150	127 W. Main St.	C. 1910	Non-Contributing
CY0151	159 W. Main St.	C. 1927	Contributing
CY0152	171 W. Main St.	C. 1931	Non-Contributing
CY0153	160 W. Main St.	C. 1927	Non-Contributing
CY0154	177 W. Main St.	C. 1948	Contributing
CY0155	193 W. Main St.	D. 1925	Contributing
CY0156	209 W. Main St.	C. 1921	Contributing
CY0157	221 W. Main St.	C. 1921	Contributing
CY0158	231 W. Main St.	C. 1910	Non-Contributing
CY0159	239 W. Main St.	C. 1912	Non-Contributing
CY0160	255 W. Main St.	C. 1935	Non-Contributing
CY0161	281 W. Main St.	C. 1952	Contributing
CY0162	285 W. Main St.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0163	210 W. Cherry St.	C. 1928	Contributing
CY0164	212 W. Cherry St.	C. 1980	Non-Contributing
CY0165	E. Court/Throgmorton	C. 1950	Contributing
CY0166	E, Court Street	C. 1950	Contributing
CY0167	118 W. Court St.	C. 1928	Contributing
CY0168	160 W. Court St.	C. 1955	Contributing
CY0169	161 W. Court St.	C. 1956	Non-Contributing
CY0170	194 W. Court St.	D. 1954	Contributing
CY0171	226 W. Court St.	C. 1912	Non-Contributing
CY0172	260 W. Court St.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0173	270 W. Court St.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0174	280 W. Court St.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0175	320 W. Court St.	C. 1917	Non-Contributing

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PROPERTY LIST PIGGOTT COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

AR Resource #	Property Address	Construction Date	Contributing/Non-Contributing
CY0176	332 W. Clay St.	C. 1946	Contributing
CY0177	376 W. Clay St.	C. 1955	Contributing
CY0178	137 S. Front Ave.	C. 1999	Non-Contributing
CY0179	157 S. Front Ave.	C. 1948	Contributing
CY0180	181-185 S. Front Ave.	C. 1928	Non-Contributing
CY0181	200 Blk.S. Front Ave.	C. 1956	Non-Contributing
CY0182	226 S. Front St.	D. 2003	Non-Contributing
CY0183	141 N. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1946	Contributing
CY0184	144 N. 2 nd Ave.	D. 1920	Non-Contributing
CY0185	187 N. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1957	Non-Contributing
CY0186	N. 2 nd & W. Cherry	D. 1898	Contributing
CY0187	188 W. Main	C. 1897	Contributing
CY0188	123 S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1906	Non-Contributing
CY0189	126 S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1919	Contributing
CY0190	138 S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1905	Contributing
CY0191	146 S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1931	Non-Contributing
CY0192	100 blk S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0193	160 S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1931	Contributing
CY0194	162 S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1931	Contributing
CY0195	178-186 S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1910	Non-Contributing
CY0196	198 S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1910	Non-Contributing
CY0197	200 Blk. S. 2 nd Ave.	C. 1946	Contributing
CY0198	100 Blk. N. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1950	Contributing
CY0199	100 Blk. N. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1930	Non-Contributing
CY0200	142 N. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1934	Non-Contributing
CY0201	165 N. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1989	Non-Contributing
CY0202	127 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0203	137 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0204	147 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1910	Contributing
CY0205	155 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1926	Contributing
CY0206	161 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1926	Contributing
CY0207	165 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1926	Contributing

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PROPERTY LIST PIGGOTT COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

<u>AR Resource #</u>	<u>Property Address</u>	<u>Construction Date</u>	<u>Contributing/Non-Contributing</u>
CY0208	173 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1928	Non-Contributing
CY0209	195 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1946	Contributing
CY0210	205 S. 3 rd Ave.	C. 1917	Non-Contributing

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☒ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning & Development

Commerce

Period of Significance

1897-1959

Significant Dates

1937- Date of construction of Federal Post Office

1956- Date of filming of "A Face In The Crowd"

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

E. E. Porterfield, Architect

H. R. Porterfield, Architect

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ Previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

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National Park Service

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SUMMARY

The Piggott Commercial Historic District in Clay County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with local commerce, government, and community development in northeast Arkansas. The district is also being nominated under **Criterion C** for the representation of early to mid 20th century commercial building design.

ELABORATION

Piggott, Arkansas, lies in the center of the eastern half of Clay County, which is situated in the northeast corner of the State of Arkansas. The Arkansas/Missouri border is seven miles from Piggott to the east and eight miles to the north. Clay County is divided northeast to southwest by the shallow but wide and swampy Black River and then again further east by a line of rolling hills called Crowley's Ridge. Both the Black River and Crowley's Ridge run roughly parallel to the St. Francis River on the county's eastern boundary also part of the Arkansas state line.

The county was originally established by the Arkansas General Assembly as Clayton County on March 24, 1873, named in honor of state senator John M. Clayton. Clayton had promoted the creation of a new county by taking land from the extreme eastern part of Randolph County and the northern part of Greene County. The town of Corning in the western part of the county was established as the county seat with the first court held on May 16, 1873. Within the newly established county deep resentment existed against the Clayton name because of its connection with the then Republican and "Northern" Governor Powell Clayton. The General Assembly voted in 1875 to shorten the name to Clay County, in honor of U.S. Secretary of State, Henry Clay.

Untold numbers of Native American artifacts: arrowheads, spear points, awls, celts and pottery that have been and are still being unearthed all across the county attest to existence of wide spread pre-Columbian settlements. The Osage Tribe claimed northeast Arkansas as their traditional hunting grounds, but lost their land in an 1808 treaty. Shortly after, French trappers and hunters drawn by the same abundance of fish, fowl, and game that the Osage had prized, began to settle in the region. Pierre LeMieux, one of the earliest pioneers called his settlement on the Black River, *Petit Baril*, known as Peach Orchard today (28 miles south of Piggott). Around 1810, the small settlement of Chalk Bluff (which later became St. Francis) grew up around the intersection of the St. Francis River and a crude wilderness trail running north to St. Louis. By 1816, this frontier town was receiving weekly mail deliveries from Helena, Arkansas, over a newly commissioned 120-mile post road. Interest in settling in the area declined after December 16, 1811, when a long series of earthquakes began to shake northeast Arkansas, along the New Madrid fault line. Over 200 quakes were recorded during the next three months, altering the landscape, uprooting trees, creating new low lands and swamps, and changing the course of the Mississippi River.

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Other than the Helena-St. Francis Road there were no roads in the extreme northeast region of the state. Until the mid 1830s keelboats and flatboats traveled the shallow Black and St. Francis rivers bringing goods to the hunters and trappers. Steamboats offered more comfortable and a faster means of transporting not only supplies but new settlers. In 1836 the steamboat, *Gladiator*, docked in St. Francis after completing a six day trip from New Orleans.

Among the first in the new wave of pioneers to northeast Arkansas was John J. Griffin who settled on the Black River in the western part of the county in 1832. Settling to the east along Crowley's Ridge near present-day Piggott in 1835 was William and Elihu Davis. Elihu Billie Ezekiel Davis and her mother cleared out a farm just northwest of what is now downtown Piggott. Mrs. Lucy Lorance and her husband settled a large farm that encompassed the southern part of present day Piggott in 1858. Mr. Lorance died in the Battle of Helena three years later, but Mrs. Lorance stayed on the farm to raise her daughter Susan.

Dr. James A. Piggott, his family, a few neighbors, and 13 wagons of supplies and necessities traveled from Dow, Illinois, down wilderness trails and crossed into Arkansas over the St. Francis River at Chalk Bluff in 1873. They headed southwest down the highlands of Crowley's Ridge and turned west toward the center of the state but found no land to their liking. Retracing their trail back north on Crowley's Ridge, Dr. Piggott came to settle on the rolling hills two miles northwest of what would become downtown Piggott. Dr. Piggott quickly established a medical practice but reaching his patients and receiving supplies was greatly hampered by the lack of roads in the region. The closest post office was at Chalk Bluff, six miles northeast through dense forest over a wilderness trail. Dr. Piggott petitioned the U.S. Postal Department to establish a new post office at the home of one of his neighbors, Richard Throgmorton. Mr. Throgmorton's wife, who did most of the work in the new post office, suggested the post office be named in honor of Dr. Piggott. The Piggott Post Office officially opened on February 21, 1881.

In the 1840s and 1850s the number of new settlers steadily grew, with most arriving from Tennessee and Kentucky. In 1850 the federal government enacted the Swamp Land Act. Under this provision sixty-four million acres of wetlands were given to the states involved to encourage local development of drainage districts and increased use. Each state handled the land grant differently; Arkansas chose to sell the land, for the most part in large chunks, to businessmen and speculators.

After the Civil War, speculators who had purchased large tracts of dense timberland under the Swamp Act, began to harvest the thick stands of trees. The rich forest included walnut, cypress, ash, maple, poplar, beech, and several varieties of red, white, and black oak, hickory and gum trees. There were no reliable roads in the county and timber was hauled one log at a time to a nearby creek or river, then floated to one of the many sawmills that were opening all over the region. When possible large, heavy-duty wagons were used, but because the average size of the trees harvested from the old growth forests was five to six feet in diameter, the wagons could only transport part of one tree at a time.

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The population of the fast growing eastern half of Clay County found it difficult to get to the county seat in Corning because of the Black and Cache rivers which ran just a few miles apart. In the rainy season the two rivers would merge to form a water barrier eight to ten miles wide. The rest of the time the land was so boggy and swampy that it could only be traveled a few months of the year. On June 30, 1874, the citizens of Clay County voted to move the county seat to Boydsville, a small community on Crowley's Ridge near the center of the county but on the eastern side of the Black River. Due to strong resentment from the citizens in and around Corning the county records were not moved to Boydsville until the result of two more elections forced the transfer. The large safe containing the Clay County records was hauled to Boydsville in 1877 by a team of oxen. That same year Boydsville was platted, with a central square set aside for the county courthouse.

The citizens living in the western half of Clay County struggled as the citizens of eastern Clay County had with crossing the Black River to get to the county seat. Residents on both sides of the Black River then understood the almost insurmountable problem that the watery barrier posed to the operation of a cohesive county. The idea of dividing the county was rapidly gaining momentum. The Arkansas General State Assembly stepped in and on February 23, 1881, passed a bill to keep Clay County whole by dividing it into two separate districts, each with their own courthouse and separate funds.

Corning was named the county seat of the western district of Clay County while Boydsville kept the county safe and remained the county seat serving the population east of the Black River. The railroad came to the eastern side of Clay County in 1882. The St. Louis, Arkansas, and Texas Railroad extended a narrow gauge rail line from St. Louis down into Arkansas, ending at the railroad company town of Rector. Three new towns popped up along the new rail-line, St. Francis at the Arkansas border, Greenway, and Piggott.

Early in 1882 before the tracks were laid, long time area resident Mrs. Lucy Lorange had a section of her land platted with the help of Dr. Sam Huston. Huston, a new physician in the area, married Mrs. Lorange's daughter, Susan. The intent was to name the town Huston after the doctor. Dr. Piggott died on November 4, 1882, shortly before the post office named in his honor was moved from D. D. Throgmorton's home to Piggott's first mercantile store. In 1883 the small town had a store, a post office, and a new name. The St. Louis, Arkansas, and Texas Railroad built a depot between the tracks and Front Street in 1888 on the same site as the present depot.

D. D. Throgmorton platted some of the land he owned, north of the Lorange section, to be the business district for the new town. He also donated land for the courthouse square and for several church buildings. The Lorange section was platted with streets running east/west and north/south but the business district was laid out parallel to the railroad tracks that ran from the northeast to southwest. The resulting street plan combining the two plats caused several unique intersections at the edges of the downtown district.

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All three railroad towns in eastern Clay County, Rector, Greenway, and Piggott, grew quickly. The railroad brought in new settlers, businessmen and all the goods needed to build a town. It also provided an effective means of moving one of Clay County's greatest natural resources, timber. The growth and business boom of the railroad towns drew citizens and businessmen from the older communities in the eastern part of the county such as Scatterville and Boydsville. Soon it became apparent that the county seat needed to be moved to a town on the railroad line. Three district-wide elections to decide which town, Rector, Greenway, or Piggott would become the next western district county seat were held over a span of nine years. In the last election in March 1891, Piggott won a majority by 31 votes. Piggott was incorporated August 15, 1891. The old county safe was moved from Boydsville in a wagon pulled by ten yokes of oxen to a temporary frame courthouse in Piggott. Two years later, on January 16, 1893, the courthouse burned. Before the flames died down it was evident that the massive door of the county safe had been left open and the entire collection of records from the beginning of Clay County was lost.

A two-story frame courthouse was built in Piggott in 1894 and served until 1899. In 1899 two identical two-story brick courthouses were constructed in Clay County, one in Piggott for the Eastern District, and one in Corning for the Western District for a cost of \$19,289.00 each. The 1894 Piggott courthouse was moved to a lot facing the square on Court Street, where it was used as a store until it burned in 1914. With the title of county seat secured Piggott was set for a steady growth.

A sawmill was erected in 1888 by Franz Kopp in Piggott's industrial park just east of the railroad tracks downtown. Soon other companies built in the industrial area like Hammond's Stave Company, Niebauer and Cox Lumber Company, and Wilson Bros. Stave Company. In 1891 Will Spence bought a "George Washington" hand-operated press and with George Evans as his editor, he opened the first newspaper in Piggott called the *Clay County Argus*. The paper was sold to Noah House and Lon Royall and the name was changed to the *Banner*. The *Banner* served the Piggott area until January 31, 1969, under several different owners including a future Governor of Arkansas, Orval E. Faubus. The *Piggott Times*, with its office on the southeast side of the town square at 270 W. Court Street now serves eastern Clay County.

J.P. Potter and Judge E. N. Royall established the Clay County Bank in 1897 and built the first brick building in Piggott on the corner of Main Street and 2nd Avenue at 188 W. Main Street to house the bank and Potter's Drug Store. The Bank of Piggott was chartered on February 28, 1905, and built a building at 193 W. Main, across Main Street from the Clay County Bank. At the beginning of the 20th century, Piggott had five established churches, the First Baptist Church, the General Baptist Church, the Christian Church, the United Methodist Church, and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The United Methodist Church moved from their frame building to a two-story brick church at the corner of North Third Avenue and West Cherry Street in 1928. The Cumberland Presbyterian Church (now First Presbyterian) continues to use the original wood frame building constructed in 1898 at the corner of North Second Avenue and West Cherry Street.

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The first two decades of the 20th century was a time of intense growth for Piggott. The town had a population of 2,000 citizens by 1908. In addition to the businesses already noted, the growing town had three general stores, three restaurants, a two-story barber shop, two hotels, two doctors offices, a print shop, a drug store, a carpenter and tin shop, a jewelry and furniture store, a clothing and grocery store, and a dry goods and furniture shop.

In the early years of the 20th century three brothers running the successful Pfeiffer Pharmaceuticals of St. Louis were looking to make some changes in the family business. One of the brothers, Paul M. Pfeiffer, was looking for a new career. He was interested in farming and while traveling through Arkansas he saw great opportunity. On a business trip passing through Clay County, the train was forced to stop due to floodwaters over the tracks, and Mr. Pfeiffer took the time to visit the land and its people. He saw good investment potential and a great place to live. He began purchasing land in the area in 1902. By 1908 his two brothers had moved the pharmaceutical business to the east coast and Pfeiffer had acquired 13,000 acres in Clay County, Arkansas.

Paul Pfeiffer stood out as a notable exception in the cruel tenant/sharecropper system that plagued the rest of the Arkansas Delta. Pfeiffer, like other large land holders, let tenants pay their rent by farming the forty or eighty-acre plot they lived on. Unlike most of the large landowners, Pfeiffer provided fashionable houses and the initial seed, tools, fertilizer, and livestock needed to make a success of farming. A bad crop year or two brought on by floods, drought, or falling prices trapped many families in the rest of the Delta into the downward spiral from tenant farmers to sharecroppers, an arrangement where a family rents a company house and farms company land for only 25% of the harvest. Most of Paul Pfeiffer's tenant farmers made a profit by the second year and eventually would be able to purchase their land.

The output of lumber and raw timber in Eastern Arkansas peaked around 1910, due to the shrinking supply of good trees to harvest. Cotton soon claimed the position of not only the number one farm crop produced in Clay County, but the leading export from the county. Other farm exports included wheat, oats, corn, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and tobacco. The timber companies, who had no interest in farming, sold vast plots of land cleared of the most marketable timber in forty-acre lots or large tracts. The railroad companies were also selling unused plots of land along their tracks by advertising Arkansas farmland at bargain prices in Midwestern states like Illinois and Missouri. The flood of available land suitable for farming fueled a boom in Clay County. The population of Piggott tripled from 1900 to 1910.

Piggott's greatest growth occurred in the first two decades of the 20th century. Frame buildings around the courthouse square were replaced with brick structures. On Jan. 7, 1908, a franchise was granted to erect, maintain, and operate a water system in Piggott. Piggott hosted the first Clay County Fair in October 1910. Two more railroad lines came to town; the St. Louis, Kennett, and Southeastern Railroad from Kennett, Missouri, to Piggott in 1911; and the Butler County Railroad from Poplar Bluff, Missouri, to Piggott in 1914.

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In 1910, W. D. Templeton, a local contractor built a house a few blocks west of the town square using left over material from downtown buildings including pressed tin ceilings. Paul Pfeiffer purchased the house in 1913 and added oak floors and a fireplace. Later that year with all new furniture, Pfeiffer, his wife, Mary and their children moved from St. Louis to Piggott, Arkansas. The Pfeiffer House and Carriage House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 10, 1982.

In 1913, a disastrous flood affected Piggott and most of the Arkansas Delta. The Mississippi River crested at forty-three feet above flood stage, flooding lands to the west for over one-hundred miles and resulting in an almost total loss of crops that year. By the year's end, due to the shortage of cotton, prices increased significantly. Though the continuing decline of crops planted for food had caused some to go hungry during the aftermath of the flood, the steadily raising prices of cotton caused even more farmers to switch from food crops to cotton. In 1917 cotton prices reach the highest point in over fifty years. The summer of 1921 brought the first of many boll weevil infestations.

The Pfeiffer farm system faired better than most throughout the Delta during the trying times of the early twentieth century. Paul Pfeiffer never foreclosed on any of his tenants after a crop failure. He gave work to anyone in need. The Pfeiffer home was found to have forty-two coats of paint put on during the depression era. Mary Pfeiffer was known to buy any handmade quilt and then give them away in the cold weather. As a businessman, Mr. Pfeiffer constructed modern farm buildings, plotted and built straight roads, and led the effort to develop modern drainage systems in the region. The Pfeiffer's were local philanthropists who contributed a great deal to the community.

A municipal water and sewer district was created in 1921 and a power and light district in 1923. W. H. Knight, a justice of the peace in 1923, kept a room at the Palace Hotel across the street from the railroad depot. He advertised "Knight's Matrimonial Parlor-You can get married any day in the week or any hour of the night." By 1927 he had married 1,200 couples and had begun a tradition that would earn Piggott the title of "Marrying Mecca." Most of the surrounding states had a three-day waiting period for marriage licenses. Arkansas law allowed the waiting period to be waived in special cases. The Clay County judge claimed all marriages were special cases and allowed the waiting period to be waived on all marriage licenses. Couples flocked to Clay County from surrounding states through the 1940s, peaking in 1950 with 5,960 marriages performed in one year.

In 1926 the Pfeiffer's daughters, Virginia and Pauline, were living in Paris, France. Pauline was working as an assistant editor for the fashion magazine *Vogue*. In Paris, Pauline met the noted writer Ernest Hemingway and his wife, Hadley. Within two years Ernest Hemingway had divorced Hadley and married Pauline. Pauline and Ernest were married for thirteen years and visited Piggott many times. Hemingway was very fond of the Pfeiffers. Mary Pfeiffer treated him like a son. Gustavus Pfeiffer, Paul's brother paid for many of Hemingway's trips, including the African safari. During a visit to Piggott in the 1930s, Hemingway wrote

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portions of his novel *A Farewell to Arms* at the Pfeiffer home. The 1932 silent film premier of *A Farewell To Arms*, was held in Piggott's Franklin Theater at 127 South 3rd Street. Hemingway did not attend the premier because he did not approve of the happy ending that the film's director added, contrary to the ending he had written.

Cotton prices dropped to a record low in 1926. That winter heavy rains fell throughout the mid section of the country. Extensive flooding followed in the spring of 1927 washing away homes and crops. With hardly time to recover from the floods of 1927 the region was pulled into a national crisis when the New York Stock exchange crashed on October 29, 1929. A drought in 1930 was so severe that very little cotton was produced that year. The Bank of Piggott at Main and 2nd Streets failed during the early months of the Great Depression. Paul Pfeiffer stepped in and helped organize the Piggott State Bank. It operated in the Bank of Piggott building and opened on March 18, 1930, with Paul Pfeiffer as president. Pfeiffer put up his own money so the bank's customers would not lose theirs. Another business failure that caught Pfeiffer's attention was a large land company that was letting its holdings go back to the state for unpaid taxes. He purchased the 50,000 acres in the Cache and Black river bottoms in 1929, giving him a total of 63,000 acres and the title of the largest landholder in Clay County.

Piggott benefited from government programs to get people back to work like the Works Projects Administration (WPA) which paved streets and sidewalks in town. The only paved street in Piggott prior to 1930 was Main Street. Paul Pfeiffer helped pay the required local assessed share. The Piggott Post Office, completed in 1937, received a mural titled "Air Mail" painted by Daniel Rhodes as part of the Treasury Department's Section Art Program from 1938 to 1942. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 14, 1998, the mural is in good condition and remains in the Piggott Post Office.

In the late 1950s, Piggott gained national attention when Hollywood movie director, Elia Kazan and screenplay writer Budd Schulberg, chose Piggott to be the shooting location and the backdrop for the movie *A Face In The Crowd*. The director and writer, who had worked together on the film, *On The Waterfront*, visited the town in 1956 at the suggestion of Toby Bruce, a Piggott native who was an assistant to Earnest Hemingway at his Key West, Florida, home. Kazan liked what he saw and shooting for the movie began in August 1956. The movie storyline follows a down-and-out folk singer and backwoods philosopher, Lonesome Rhodes, in his rise to national fame and his downfall. Lonesome was played by Andy Griffith, in his first movie role. The film also starred Lee Remick, in her debut performance, Patricia Neal, Walter Matthau, and Anthony Franciosa. Piggott not only provided the cinematic backdrop for the much of the movie, but provided many of the movie extras. The production company issued a casting call for 3,000 extras in August of 1956 for a scene where Lonesome Rhodes returns to Arkansas to judge the "Miss Arkansas Drum Majorette of 1957" contest. In return, the production company agreed to pay \$6,000.00 for the purchase of a filtration system so the town swimming pool could be reopened. The movie had its Piggott premiere on May 31, 1957.

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Piggott's photogenic 1899 two-story brick courthouse, featured in the opening sequence of *A Face In The Crowd*, was condemned as unsafe by the Clay County Grand Jury in November 1962, along with its twin courthouse in the western district at Corning. The Corning courthouse burned a month later and it was decided by vote to build two new identical courthouses. Both courthouse buildings were dedicated on the same day, October 20, 1967. H.R. Porterfield, born and raised in Piggott, was chosen the project architect. His father Eldridge Ellis Porterfield, also an architect, came to Piggott in the late 1890s. The elder Porterfield is credited with building many of Piggott's early buildings including the Presbyterian Church at N. 2nd and Cherry, and the First Methodist Church at 188 N. 3rd, both of which are still in use and within the boundaries of the Piggott Commercial Historic District.

Arkansas State University bought the Pfeiffer family home in Piggott in 1997. After months of repair and refurbishing, the home opened as the Hemingway-Pfeiffer Museum and Education Center in 1999. The facility is an anchor tourist destination on the north end of the Crowley's Ridge Parkway. Piggott celebrated the 50th anniversary of the release of *A Face In The Crowd* in 2007. With a population of around 3,900, Piggott embraces its unique history

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Piggott Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and Criterion C with local significance. The growth and development of the town is represented in the resources in the district which are examples of typical commercial building designs popular during the period of significance of the district spanning the years from 1897 to 1859.

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Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Piggott, Arkansas: December 1908, March 1915, May 1928, and May 1928 updated in 1932.

Piggott Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas
County and State

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Nixon, Jennifer. “Pfeiffers Befriended Piggott, Hemingway Gave It Fame.” *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*. 8 April 2007. 3H

Tuohey, Matilda. “Kazan Captures Arkansas, TV in Ruthless Realism.” *Arkansas Gazette*, 30 May 1957.

Piggott Commercial Historic District
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 20 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing	3	Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sandra Taylor Smith, Historic Preservation Consultant, Edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, NR & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date August 31, 2009
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street Telephone (501) 324-9787
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

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

name Multiple Property Owners- Public and Private
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

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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UTM References

1)	15	751934	4030202
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2)	15	751980	4030177
	Zone	Easting	Northing
3)	15	751966	4030150
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4)	15	751014	4030125
	Zone	Easting	Northing
5)	15	751979	4030054
	Zone	Easting	Northing
6)	15	752027	4030031
	Zone	Easting	Northing
7)	15	752019	4029996
	Zone	Easting	Northing
8)	15	752075	4029809
	Zone	Easting	Northing
9)	15	752070	4029809
	Zone	Easting	Northing
10)	15	751953	4029829
	Zone	Easting	Northing
11)	15	751946	402855
	Zone	Easting	Northing
12)	15	751786	4029926
	Zone	Easting	Northing
13)	15	751696	4029910
	Zone	Easting	Northing
14)	15	751698	4029973
	Zone	Easting	Northing
15)	15	751820	4030211
	Zone	Easting	Northing
16)	15	751918	4030171
	Zone	Easting	Northing

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Section number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Piggott Commercial Historic District begins at a point at the intersection of N. Front Street and the alley north of the 100 block of W. Main Street. The boundary runs southwest from this point to its intersection with W. Main Street where it turns follows Main Street across the railroad tracks to E. Main Street then runs along the center line of E. Main Street to its intersection with the east property line of the E. Main Street Grain Storage facility. The boundary runs south from E. Main Street to its intersection with S. Throgmorton and E. Courts Streets. The boundary runs south along S. Throgmorton to a point south of the cotton gin and Cox Lumber Co. property where it turns to run northwest across the railroad tracks to an intersection with S. Front Street. The boundary continues to run northwest along the rear property lines of buildings on W. Court Street to its intersection with S. 3rd Avenue. At S. 3rd Avenue the boundary continues to run west along the rear property lines of buildings at 332 and 376 W. Clay Street then turns north to its intersection with W. Clay Street. The boundary turns to run northeast along the alley behind the buildings in the 100 block of S. 3rd Avenue. At the intersection of S. 3rd Avenue and W. Main Street, the boundary continues to run northeast along the alley to the rear of buildings in the 100 block of N. 3rd Avenue to its intersection with W. Cherry Street. At this intersection the boundary turns to run southeast along the center line of W. Cherry Street to its intersection with the western property line of the Presbyterian Manse at 210 W. Cherry. The boundary then runs northeast to the rear property line of the Presbyterian Manse and turns to run south east along the north property line of the Presbyterian Manse and Church to its intersection with N. 2nd Avenue. At this point the boundary runs south along N. 2nd Avenue to its intersection with W. Cherry Street where it turns to run southeast along the center line of W. Cherry Street to the alley behind the buildings in the 100 block of N. 2nd Avenue. The boundary then turns and runs southwest along the alley to the intersection with the rear property line of the building at 127 W. Main Street. At this point the boundary turns to run southeast along the rear property lines of the buildings in the east ½ of the 100 block of W. Main to the point of origin.

The Piggott Commercial Historic District is located in the Throgmorton Addition to the City of Piggott.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the Piggott Commercial Historic District contains the area historically developed as the commercial center of the town. The buildings in the district are among the oldest commercial structures remaining in the town. The nominated district includes 42 contributing properties and 27 non-contributing properties in the historic commercial center of Piggott. The district surrounds a courthouse square and is also adjacent to the railroad line. The 69 properties in the district include late nineteenth century and early twentieth century commercial architecture as well as a number of commercial and public buildings constructed in the 1950s. The industrial buildings in the district are agricultural related and located east of the railroad tracks in the city's original "Industrial Park" in the eastern area of the nominated historic district.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Piggott Commercial Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: ~~Post Offices with Section Art in Arkansas MPS~~

*Remove
From
Database*

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Clay

NO

DATE RECEIVED: 9/25/09 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/09/09
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/24/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/08/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 09000867

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11/04/2009 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Another of Arkansas' "split Counties" - Piggott is one of 2 county seats
For Clay County. It was planned & developed around a Rail stop and
grew to serve as transportation & commercial hub for vast, low-lying
area. Centered on lumber until all was cut, became dry (cotton) center
Not Part of MPS!*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J. Gubbart DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/☒ see attached SLR Y/☒

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



1. 119, 142 & 188 N. 3rd Avenue
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, AR
3. photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. View Looking Northwest
7. photo #1



1. 200 Block W. MAIN STREET
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPO
6. View looking NORTHEAST
7. photo # 2



1. 200 Block W. MAIN

Piggott Commercial Historic District

2. Clay County, AR

3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith

4. 03-29-09

5. negative at AHPP

6. View Looking North East

7. photo # 3.



1. 100 Block S. 2nd Avenue
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. VIEW looking SOUTH EAST
7. PHOTO # 4



1. 100 Block W. Main
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay Cty., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. View looking north east
7. photo #5



1. Clay County Courthouse - Eastern District
151 S. 2nd Avenue
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. negative at AHP
6. View Looking Northwest
7. Photo # 6



1. 111, 117, 121, 127 W. MAIN STREET
Pisgott Commercial Historic District
2. CLAY County, AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. VIEW LOOKING SOUTHEAST
7. Photo # 7



1. 100 S. Front St.
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, AR
3. photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. View looking southwest
7. photo # 8



1. 157 & 181-185 S. Front

Diggott Commercial Historic District

2. Clay County, AR

3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith

4. 03-29-09

5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP

6. View Looking Southwest

7. Photo # 9



1. Piggott City Hall, 194 W. Court Street
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, AR
3. photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. VIEW Looking Southeast
7. photo # 10



1. 226, 260, 270, & 280 W. COURT STREET
2. Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, Arkansas
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. VIEW looking southeast
7. photo # 11



1. 205 S. 2nd Ave., 332, 376 W. Clay St.
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, AR
3. photo by Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. negative at AHP
6. view looking southwest
7. photo # 12



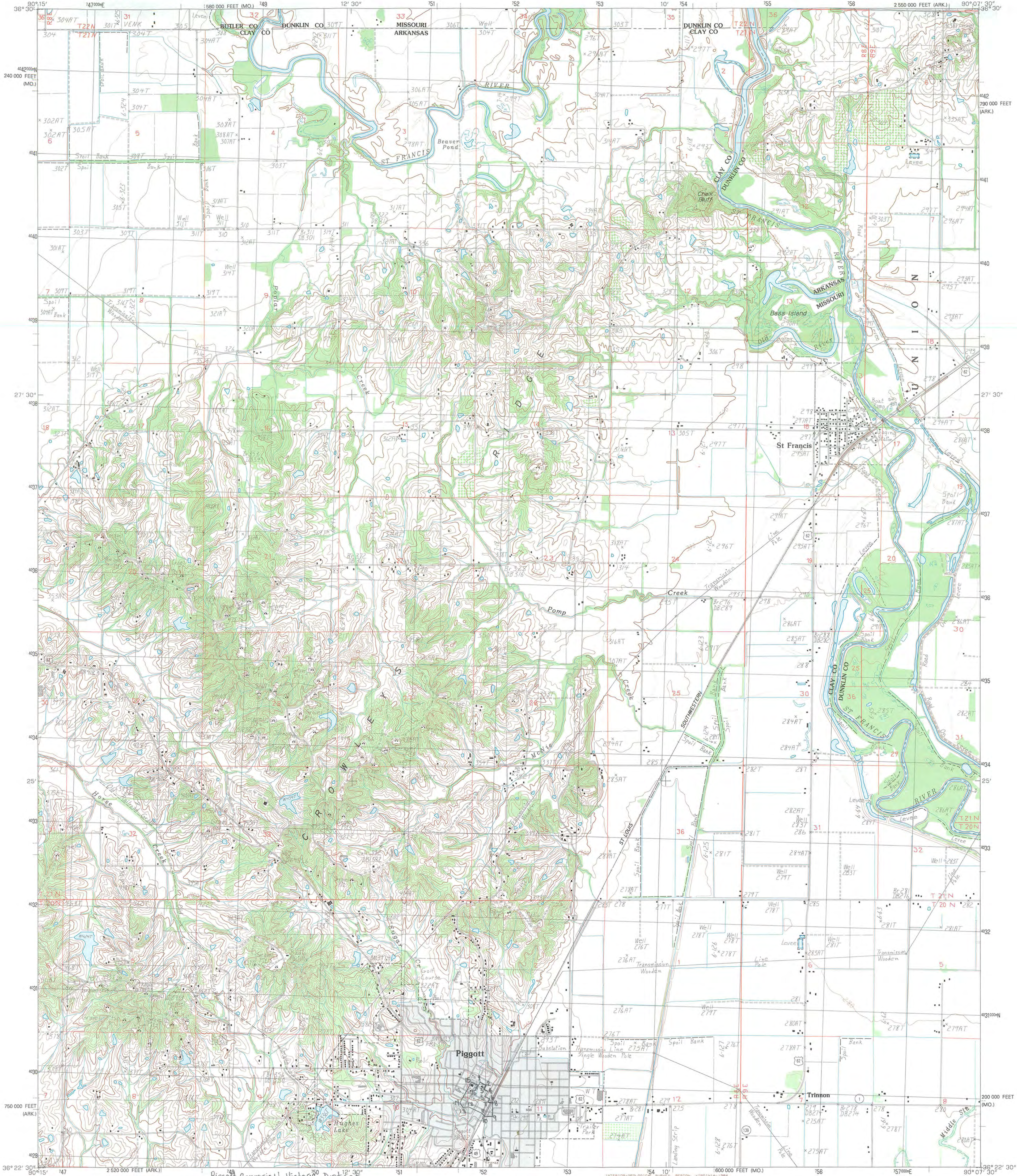
1. South side of the Clay County Courthouse Square
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay Co., AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. NEGATIVE AT AHPP
6. View looking Southeast.
7. Photo # 13



1. 100 Block S. 3rd Ave.
Piggott Commercial Historic District
2. Clay County, AR
3. Photo By Sandra Taylor Smith
4. 03-29-09
5. Negative At AHPP
6. View looking north
7. Photo # 14

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PIGGOTT QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
CONTROL BY: USGS AND NOS/NOAA
COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN: 1984
FIELD CHECKED: 1982. MAP EDITED:
PROJECTION: LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
GRID: 100-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR ZONE 15
1000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS: ARKANSAS NORTH ZONE
AND MISSOURI EAST ZONE
UTM GRID DECLINATION: 14° EAST
1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION: 7°30' EAST
VERTICAL DATUM: NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
HORIZONTAL DATUM: 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,
move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks
(5 meters south and 9 meters east)
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
Federal and State Reservations shown on this map
No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings
Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

PROVISIONAL MAP
Produced from original
manuscript drawings. Infor-
mation shown as of date of
photography.

1

PIGGOTT COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
PIGGOTT, CLAY COUNTY, ARKANSAS

1	15/151934/4030212	9	15/152070/4029809
2	15/151940/4030177	10	15/151953/4029829
3	15/151946/4020150	11	15/151966/4029765
4	15/151954/4030125	12	15/151988/4029726
5	15/151978/4030059	13	15/151994/4029690
6	15/151987/4030031	14	15/151999/4029673
7	15/152019/4029916	15	15/152020/4030211
8	15/152015/4029977	16	15/151998/4030177

SCALE 1:24 000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
SUPPLEMENTAL CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET
CONTROL ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST 0.1 FOOT
OTHER ELEVATIONS SHOWN TO THE NEAREST FOOT
To convert feet to meters multiply by 3048
To convert meters to feet multiply by 3.2808

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
AND DIVISION OF GEOLOGY AND LAND SURVEY
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401

ROAD LEGEND

Improved Road
Unimproved Road
Trail
Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1	Ogleville
4	5	6	2	Cliftonville
7	8	9	3	Valley Ridge
			4	Pallard
			5	Campbell
			6	Becker
			7	Greenway
			8	Kennett North

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES

PIGGOTT, ARK.-MO.
PROVISIONAL EDITION 1984
36090-D2-TT-024



The Department of
**Arkansas
Heritage**

Mike Beebe
Governor

Cathie Matthews
Director

Arkansas Arts Council

*

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

*

Delta Cultural Center

*

Historic Arkansas Museum

*

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

*

Old State House Museum



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.com

An Equal Opportunity Employer



August 5, 2009

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



RE: Piggott Commercial Historic District – Piggott, Clay County,
Arkansas

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.

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.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure



The Department of
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Arkansas Arts Council

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Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



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

An Equal Opportunity Employer



September 23, 2009

Mr. Dallan C. Wordekemper
Federal Preservation Officer
CPM, Real Estate Specialist
Facilities
United States Postal Service
4301 Wilson Boulevard
Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203-1861

Dear Mr. Wordekemper:

I am enclosing a copy for your files of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Piggott Commercial Historic District in Piggott, Clay County, Arkansas. The historic district includes the Piggott Post Office.

If you have any questions or need any other information, feel free to give me a call at (501) 324-9787 or E-mail me at Ralph@arkansasheritage.org.

Sincerely,

Ralph S. Wilcox
National Register and Survey Coordinator
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

RSW:rsw

Enclosure

cc: Dr. Janet Matthews, Chief of Registration, National Park Service