

STATE:

Arkansas

COUNTY:

Ouachita

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

69-12-03-0001

12/3/69

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

Poison Spring State Park

AND/OR HISTORIC:

Battle of the Poison Spring

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1, Township 13 South, Range 19 West

CITY OR TOWN:

Near Chidester vicinity

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

03

COUNTY:

Ouachita

CODE

103

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

(Check One)

- ☐ District ☐ Building
☒ Site ☐ Structure
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☒ Public
☐ Private
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☐ Occupied
☒ Unoccupied
☐ Preservation work
in progress

ACCESSIBLE
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:
☐ Restricted
☒ Unrestricted
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☒ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify)
☒ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

State of Arkansas - Arkansas State Forestry Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:

3821 West Roosevelt Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Little Rock

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

03

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Ouachita County Courthouse, Book 287, Page 219

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Camden

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

03

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

- ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1, Township 13 South, Range 19 West, Comprising 84.54 acres more or less.

This Civil War battlefield is located on State route 76, approximately 12 miles north and west of Camden, Arkansas. Route 76 follows the course of the road used by the Union forage train in 1864. The land is high, with a good growth of pine trees shading the park area. The site consists of 84.54 acres, but only those portions of the site which lie north of Route 76 have been improved for recreational use. The improvements consist of a comfort station, picnic tables and benches, barbecue pits and drinking water facilities.

The terrain has not changed much in appearance since 1864. In 1864, however, there was more land under cultivation. This cultivated land has since been allowed to grow up into pine forests. The underbrush has, of course, been cleared from the park area, but the land to the south of Route 76 has not been cleared in many years. Much of the area to the south of the road consisted of cleared fields and orchards, enclosed with split rail fences, at the time of the Poison Spring battle in 1864. The greater portion of the military action occurred at, or near, the present park site; although it is known that during the engagement the conflict ranged to both the east and west of the park area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) April 18, 1864

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Civil War battles in south-central Arkansas were directly related to a Union plan to split the Trans-Mississippi area of the Confederacy. The Union Red River Campaign called for a converging attack on the Confederate forces defending the Trans-Mississippi. An amphibious force (the army under Major General Nathaniel P. Banks, and the navy under Rear Admiral David D. Porter) would move up the Red River toward Shreveport, Louisiana. A second Federal force led by Major General Frederick Steele, would move on Shreveport from Little Rock, Arkansas. Steele marched out of the Little Rock perimeter on March 23, 1864, at the head of an army of about 13,000 men, 800 wagons, 30 pieces of artillery and 12,000 horses and mules.

General Kirby Smith, commanding the Trans-Mississippi Department for the Confederacy, instructed General Richard Taylor, who was in Louisiana with Texas troops, to hold Banks in check until he (Smith) was able to join him with Arkansas and Missouri troops. On April 8, 1864, Smith and Taylor joined forces at Mansfield, Louisiana and defeated Banks' force. The Confederates followed this initial victory with another at Pleasant Hill, Louisiana on April 9th. Banks' forces began to withdraw down the Red River valley.

Steele's march, meanwhile, was being opposed by a Confederate mounted force led by Major General Sterling Price. Price was unable to stop Steele's advance, but he did manage to slow it down to the point where Steele's rations and forage supplies would be insufficient to carry the troops to Shreveport. Reports of Banks' defeat were also beginning to reach Steele. Consequently Steele abandoned his march toward Shreveport and turned his army toward Camden, Arkansas which he occupied on April 15. By this time Banks' defeat and withdrawal had been confirmed and Steele began to fear that General Kirby Smith would move north into Arkansas in order to reinforce the mounted force of General Sterling Price. Steele wished to withdraw to Little Rock, but he did not have the rations and forage necessary to make the move.

(See Continuation Sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (Washington: 1880-1901), Series I, Vol. XXXIV, pt. I, pp 653-849.

Bearss, Edwin C., Steele's Retreat From Camden, Little Rock: Pioneer Press, 1967.

Ferguson, John L. (ed.) Arkansas and the Civil War, Little Rock: Pioneer Press, 1964.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	33°	38'	36"	93°	00'	18"		
NE	33°	38'	36"	93°	00'	00"		
SE	33°	38'	06"	93°	00'	00"		
SW	33°	38'	06"	93°	00'	18"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 84.54

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jack E. Porter, Administrator, Historic Preservation Program	
ORGANIZATION Arkansas Planning Commission	DATE 9/11/69
STREET AND NUMBER: Game and Fish Building	
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE Arkansas CODE 03

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name John M. Peterson
John M. Peterson
Title Executive Director
Arkansas Planning Commission
Date 10/27/69

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

Ernest Allen Cunnally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date DEC 3 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Mumford
Keeper of The National Register

Date NOV 26 1969

HB
2007m

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Ouachita	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-12-03-0001	DATE 12/3/69

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, CONT'D

On the 17th of April, General Steele dispatched a foraging train of approximately 225 wagons guarded by 1300 men and four cannon. The purpose of this expedition was to secure forage and rations for Steele's men who were occupying Camden. The foraging party traveled about 16 miles from Camden, on the road to Washington, Arkansas, to a point where 5,000 bushels of corn were reported to be in storage. Upon arrival the Union foragers discovered that the Confederates had managed to burn about 2,500 bushels of the corn. The Federals were, however, able to load 141 wagons with corn and other supplies.

The Confederates had observed the train leave Camden and plans were made to follow and overtake it. On April 18, 1864, the Confederate troops under Brigadier General John S. Marmaduke intercepted the Union column on its return route to Camden. The ensuing battle was a complete victory for the Confederates. The Union force was shattered; the entire wagon train captured, as well as the accompanying artillery and a large number of prisoners. The victory served a two-fold purpose for the Confederacy in that it denied the Federals their much needed forage and rations, and effectively reduced the number of troops, animals and transport available to Steele.



12/15/69

CONTROL SHEET
National Register
Inventory-Nomination Forms

69000036
OUachita CO.

Poussin Spg St. Park

ARK.
NPS Number
69-12-03-0001

RECEIPT

SIGN OFF

Date of Receipt	Yes	No	Number
<u>11/17/69</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Data Page	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Photo(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>3</u>
Photo Description(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Map(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>1</u>
Map Description(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Logged	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acknowledged <u>11/17/69</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

RG 11/19/69

REVIEW

map needs lat. & longitude

Historian Comments

Architect Comments

OK

Chambers
11/19/69

If checked
ret. to
Clerk

☒ Chief Architect ☒ Chief Archeologist ☒ Chief Historian

Keeper Comments

OK

Wm 11/19/69

ENTRY

Chief, OAHF Comments

OK

EOC
12-2-69

Date of Entry

Registry Clerk	Yes	No	Date
Assign NPS No.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Acknowledgement Sent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

EDITORIAL PROCESSING

Editor
Federal Register Entry
Annual Edition Entry

Date
1/6/70

Is acreage
large enough?
Battle covered
more area
than park

FILE

FILE

FILE

WORKING NO.
11-17-69-1



ENGAGEMENT AT POISON SPRINGS

Here on April 18, 1864 a Union forage train of 200 wagons escorted by 1170 men was attacked and captured by Confederate troops commanded by Generals John S. Marmaduke and Samuel B. Maxey. The wagons were loaded with corn for the Union army of General Frederick Steele encamped at Camden. Loss of these supplies helped to hasten Steele's retreat to his base in Little Rock. The Union loss at Poison Springs was 301 men killed, wounded and missing. Confederate casualties totaled 114 men.

ERECTED BY ARKANSAS CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION - 1984

NPS Number 69.12.03.0001

Title: Poison Spring St. Park

Loc. Near Chidester, Arkansas

Ark. Civil War Centennial

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Ouachita	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69.12.03.0001	12/3/69

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Poison Spring State Park
AND/OR HISTORIC: Battle of the Poison Spring

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1, Township 13 South, Range 19 West

CITY OR TOWN:

Near Chidester

STATE:

Arkansas

CODE

03

COUNTY:

Ouachita

CODE

103

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: J.E. Porter, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE OF PHOTO: 9/10/69

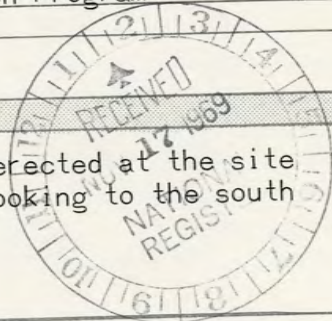
NEGATIVE FILED AT:

Arkansas History Commission

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Arkansas Civil War Centennial Commission marker erected at the site of the Battle of the Poison Spring. This view is looking to the south across State route 76.



POISON SPRINGS BATTLEFIELD



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

69-12-03-0001

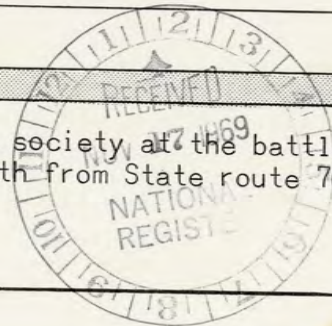
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Ouachita	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-12-03-0001	DATE 12/3/69

1. NAME			
COMMON: Poison Spring State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Battle of the Poison Spring			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1, Township 13 South, Range 19 West			
CITY OR TOWN: Near Chidester			
STATE: Arkansas	CODE 03	COUNTY: Ouachita	CODE 103
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: J.E. Porter, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program			
DATE OF PHOTO: 9/11/69			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arkansas History Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Interpretive map, erected by a local historical society at the battle site. This picture is taken looking to the north from State route 76.			



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NT

T

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NT Number 69-12-03-0001 OT & PK

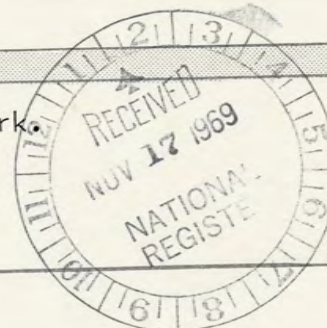
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Ouachita	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-12-03-0001	DATE 12/3/69

1. NAME			
COMMON: Poison Spring State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Battle of the Poison Spring			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1, Township 13 South, Range 19 West			
CITY OR TOWN: Near Chidester			
STATE: Arkansas	CODE 03	COUNTY: Ouachita	CODE 103
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: J.E. Porter, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program			
DATE OF PHOTO: 9/10/69			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arkansas History Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Looking to the north through the area of the park.			



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Ouachita	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-12-03-0201	DATE 12/3/69

1. NAME			
COMMON: Poison Spring State Park			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Battle of the Poison Spring			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: E $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 1, Township 13 South, Range 19 West			
CITY OR TOWN: Near Chidester			
STATE: Arkansas	CODE 03	COUNTY: Ouachita	CODE 103
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Arkansas Highway Department			
SCALE: 1:125,000			
DATE: 1959			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

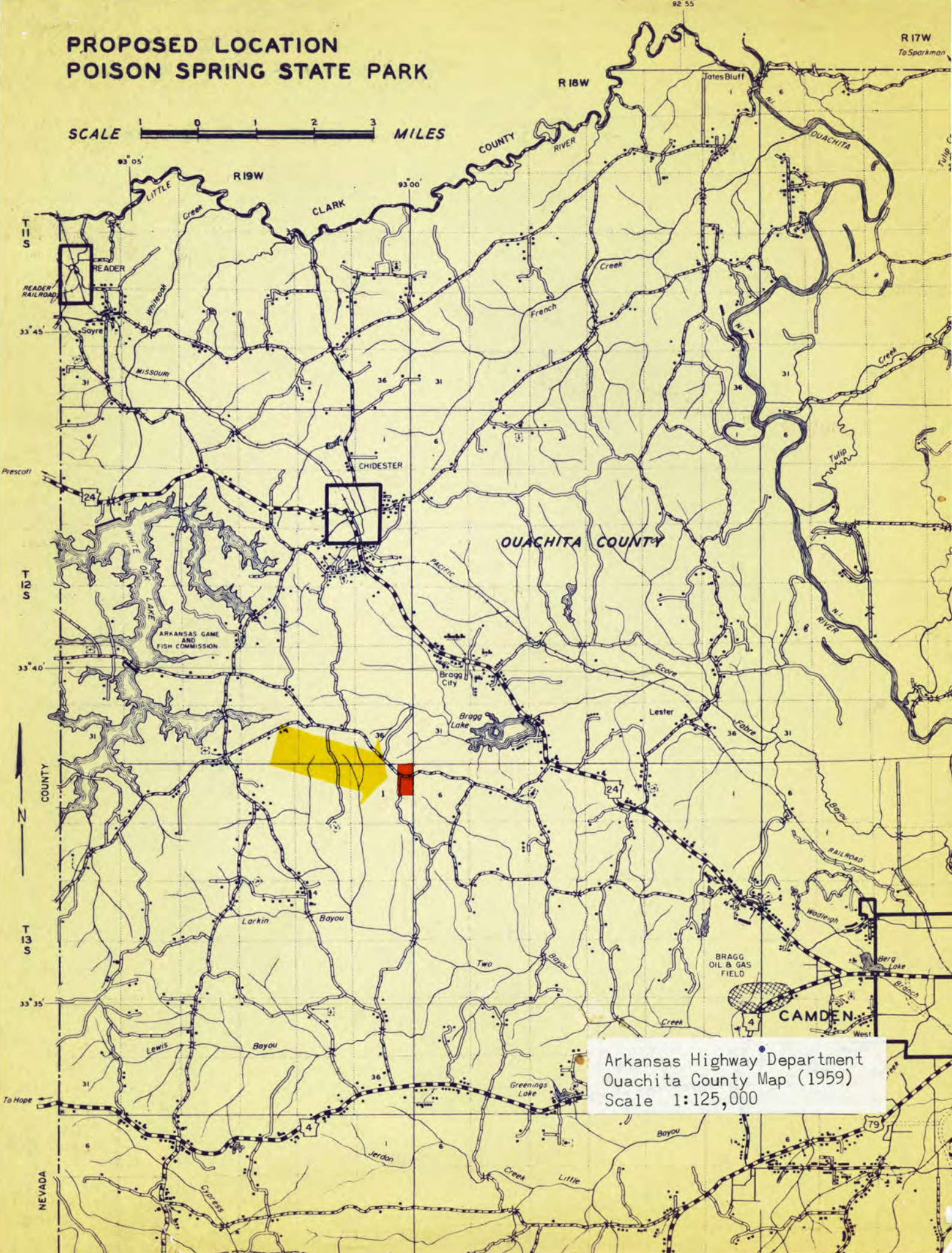


SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PROPOSED LOCATION POISON SPRING STATE PARK

R17W
To Sparkman

SCALE 1 0 1 2 3 MILES



Arkansas Highway Department
Ouachita County Map (1959)
Scale 1:125,000

H34-HR

DEC 2 1969

Hon. John L. McClellan
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator McClellan:

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN HR
12/2/69

We are pleased to inform you that the Poison Spring State Park in Ouachita County, Arkansas, has been nominated by the officer appointed by the Governor for the implementation of the National Historic Preservation Program in Arkansas and has been entered into the "National Register of Historic Places." Senator J. W. Fulbright and Representative David Pryor have also been provided with this information. A leaflet explaining the National Register is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed)

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archaeology
and Historic Preservation

Enclosure

Entered in National Register DEC 2 1969

cc:
Regional Director, Southeast Region
T-Mr. Butterfield
DAL-Mr. Melvin
✓HR
RGamble:ram
cc:
Dr. John M. Peterson, Executive Director, Arkansas Planning Commission,
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Duplicate letters sent to:
Hon. J. W. Fulbright
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Hon. David Pryor
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.