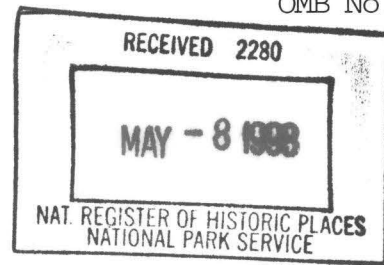


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



=====

**1. Name of Property**

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Historic Name: W. E. O'Bryant Bell Tower

Other Name/Site Number: University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Bell Tower  
(JE0555)

=====

**2. Location**

=====

Street & Number: University of Pine Bluff, 1200 North University Drive  
(Located in the center of the quadrangle)

City/Town: Pine Bluff

Not for Publication: N/A  
Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Jefferson Code: AR 069 Zip Code: 71601

=====

**3. Classification**

=====

Ownership of Property: public-State

Category of Property: STRUCTURE

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
_____	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
<u>1</u>	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas  
County and State

=====

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

4-15-98  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

**5. National Park Service Certification**

=====

I, hereby certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 6.3.98

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

for  
Signature of Keeper  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 6. Function or Use

Historic: LANDSCAPE

Sub: object

Current: LANDSCAPE

Sub: object

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification:  
OTHER/20th Century Collegiate Bell Tower

---

Materials: foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof CONCRETE

other CONCRETE

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

## Summary

The W. E. O'Bryant Bell Tower was built from 1943-1947 utilizing concrete and red brick. Located at 1200 North University Drive in the center of the quadrangle on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, the collegiate bell tower is essentially a buttressed square structure resting on a base of five poured concrete stairs. Besides containing the original bell, the structure also includes an electric clock with four faces. Although the bell tower is currently in need of minor mortar repointing and clock repair, the structure is in good condition, and the only alterations have been the removal of a water fountain and the addition of loudspeakers.

## Elaboration

Construction on the W. E. O'Bryant Bell Tower began in 1943 and was completed in 1947. The structure is located in the center of the quadrangle on the campus of the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. The structure rests upon a base of five poured concrete stairs which are painted green and on an additional base of concrete which has been painted white. The wire-cut red brick structure is three "stories" in height each level defined by a concrete band. The buttresses at the bell tower's flattened corners also follow this alternating pattern of red brick and concrete.

At ground level the bell tower contains an open archway on all four

W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas  
County and State

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elevations. The semi-circular arches are constructed with conventional brick with the benefit of voussoirs or keystones. A water fountain once stood in the center, but was removed in 1979. The ceiling of first level is concrete and contains an open access hatch to the bell. This level is crowned by a band of concrete pedimented parapets on all sides. The second level belfry contains the original bell along with its wooden frame inside the four segmental brick arches. Originally, wood louvers filled the arches, but now they contain loud speakers which amplify the chimes of the Hammond organ in the Caldwell Auditorium. Separating this level from the third level is a simple band of concrete. The third level is punctured by four clock faces on which some of the numbers are worn or faded away. The concrete cap at the top of the tower imparts a ziggurat effect.

Although the bell tower is currently in need of minor mortar repointing and clock repairs, the structure is in good condition, and the only alterations have been the removal of a water fountain and the addition of loudspeakers.

W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1943-1947  
Significant Dates: 1943-1947

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Mazique, A. A. (Builder)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

### Summary

Built from 1943 to 1947, the W. E. O'Bryant Bell Tower is one of the main focal points on the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff campus. The bell tower stands in the center of the quadrangle and was constructed by Mr. A. A. Mazique, an instructor in brick masonry, along with the help of students and the Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College Alumni Association. The W. E. O'Bryant Bell Tower is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion C with local significance** as an excellent example of a collegiate bell tower.

### Elaboration

Branch Normal College, now known as the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff was created in 1873 by an act of the Legislature as a branch of the Arkansas Industrial University, now the University of Arkansas. Branch Normal College opened on September 27, 1875, in a rented frame building on the corner of Sevier and Lindsey Streets in the city of Pine Bluff. In 1882 the school moved to a two-story brick structure, erected by state

W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas  
County and State

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funds on a fifty-acre plot in the suburbs of Pine Bluff. Between 1881 and 1894, the school conferred ten B.A. Degrees. From 1894 to 1929, the school operated as a junior college.

In 1927, Governor Thomas Jefferson Terrel appointed an independent board of trustees for the college, and the state legislature appropriated the needed funds. Construction soon began on a new university complex just outside the city limits. One of the buildings that forms the quadrangle is Caldwell Hall, an administration building that was placed on the National Register (12/22/82) as part of the "Structures in Arkansas Represented By The Charles Thompson Design Collection" thematic nomination.

In 1929, the school expanded, becoming a standard four-year degree-granting institution and in 1933 was certified as a standard four-year college. Two years later in 1935, a building program provided eight residences for instructors and a gymnasium, and in 1938 another building program afforded two more dormitories and a library.

Toward the end of the 1940's an extensive building program began that eventually doubled the college's facilities. Included in this building program was the bell tower that was dedicated up on its completion as the W. E. O'Bryant Bell Tower. The bell tower was built from 1943 to 1947 by Mr. A. A. Mazique under the administration of Lawrence A. Davis, Sr. who was president of the college from 1943-1972. The three-story, red brick, W. E. O'Bryant Bell Tower is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance as an excellent example of a collegiate bell tower and the only example of such a structure in the city of Pine Bluff.

W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information provided by Delois D. Johnson, Associate Library Director,  
UAPB, April, 1997.

Information provided on internet: <http://www.uapb.edu>.

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 -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

=====

## 10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>590340</u>	<u>3789340</u>	B	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>
C	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	D	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Center of the quadrangle at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff.

W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower  
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas  
County and State

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all remaining historically significant structures associated with this property.

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 4/05/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY O'Bryant, W.E., Bell Tower  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Jefferson

DATE RECEIVED: 5/08/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/18/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/03/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/22/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98000622

NOMINATOR: STATE

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: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 6-3-98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower

Jefferson Co, Arkansas

Photograph by Amy Bennett

April, 1997

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the Northeast



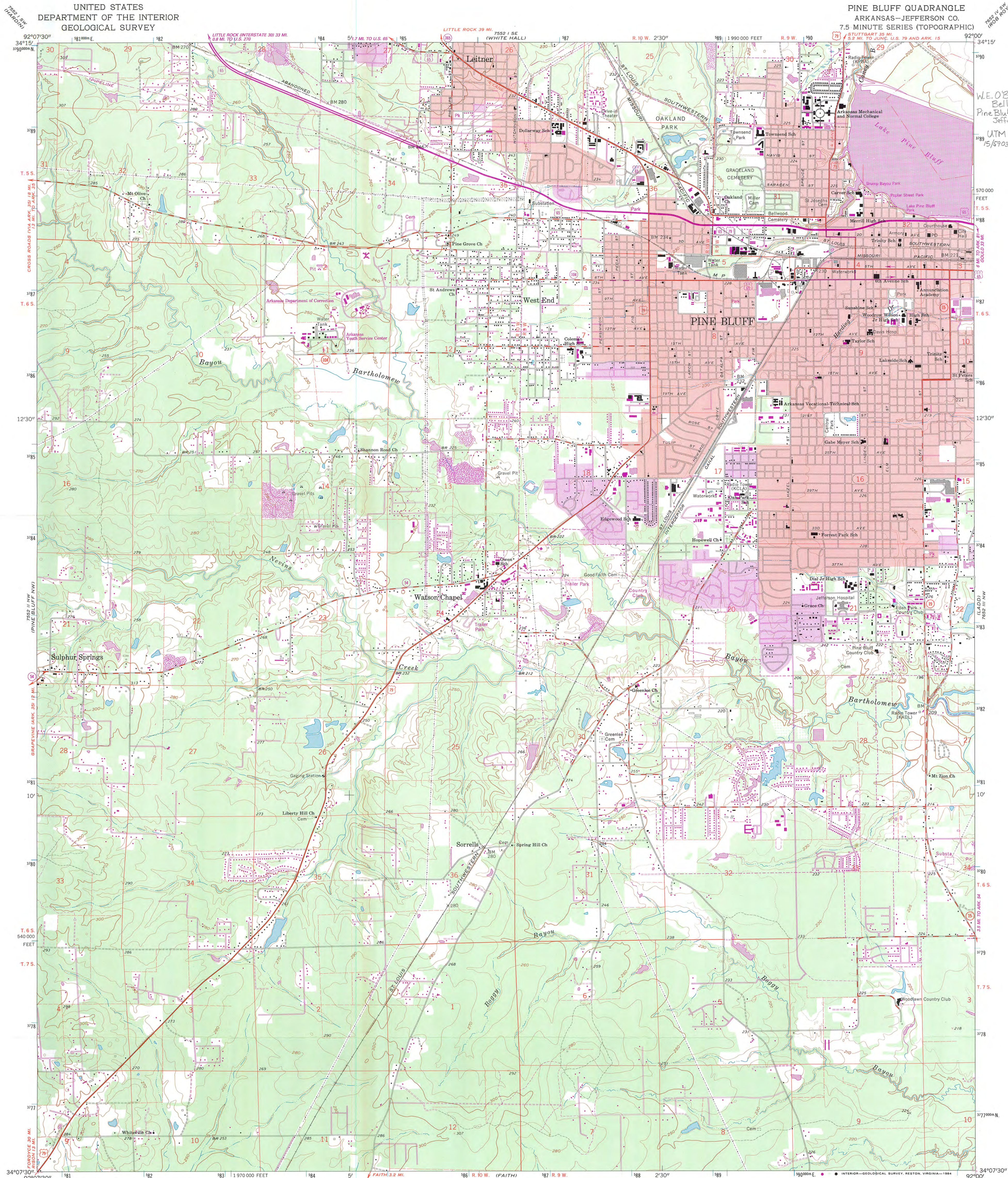


W. E. O'Bryant Bell Tower  
Jefferson Co, Arkansas  
Photograph by Amy Bennett  
April, 1997  
Negatives on file at AHPP  
View from the South West



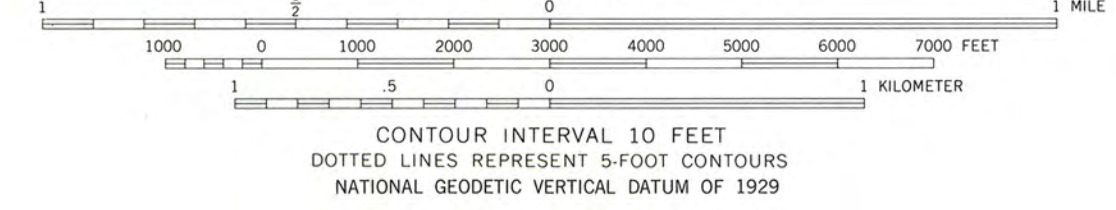
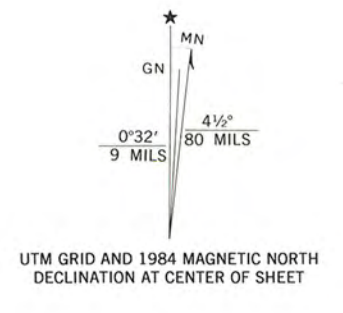
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

PINE BLUFF QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS-JEFFERSON CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



W.E. O'Bryant  
Bell Tower  
Pine Bluff,  
Jefferson Co.,  
AR  
UTM Reference:  
15/90340/3789340

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Planimetry by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1961. Topography by planimetric surveys 1961-62  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
move the projection lines 9 meters south and  
13 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



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  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U. S. Route	State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ARKANSAS

PINE BLUFF, ARK.  
34092-B1-TF-024

1962  
PHOTOREVISED 1984  
DMA 7552 11 NE-SERIES Y884

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled from  
aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources  
This information not field checked. Map edited 1984  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

April 15, 1998

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United State Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250  
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: *W.E. O'Bryant Bell Tower*-- Pine Bluff, Jefferson County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nominations of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford Slater  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CBS:br

Enclosures

