

968

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 McCrory Waterworks

other names/site number WO0031

2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of the intersection of N. Fakes and W. Third ☐ not for publication

city or town McCrory ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Woodruff code 147 zip code 72101

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.)

Cathie Marches

Signature of certifying official/Title

7/5/07

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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Edson H. Beall

Date of Action

7.20.07

McCrary Waterworks
Name of Property

Woodruff County, Arkansas
County and State

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

2	buildings
	sites
2	structures
	objects
4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

"An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts
and Architecture in Arkansas."

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTYR/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
waterworks

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTYR/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/
waterworks

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Plain/Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls METAL

roof METAL

other

Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The McCrory Waterworks is located west of McCrory in Woodruff County, Arkansas. Construction on the waterworks began in 1935 by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works and was completed in 1936. The Public Works administration provided funds. The waterworks is comprised of a water tower, a shed, and a water tank that were constructed circa 1936. An office building sits adjacent to the waterworks and was built circa 1955.

ELABORATION

Water Tower

The McCrory Water Tower rises several feet above the west side of McCrory. The frame of the tower is comprised of four white metal legs which support a steel water tank. A metal pipe runs between the legs of the tower to the center of the tank's base carrying water back and forth from the ground to the tank. Metal pieces are inserted horizontally between the legs of the tank at two levels in addition to the metal crosspieces which are inserted between the legs to provide additional support.

The base of the water tank is bowl-shaped and pierced in the center by the metal pipe. A utility walkway encircles around the tank a few feet above the base. The tank is painted white to match the rest of the tower except for the black letters painted on the east and west wall, which read the name of the town, "MCRORY" at the top and the name of the county "WOODRUFF CO." at the bottom. In between the town and county names a red painted heart decorates the town's logo.

The top of the tank is covered in a circular flat metal roof.

Water Shed

This building was completed around the same time that the water tower was built. The shed sits on a continuous brick foundation, with brick walls that rise upwards towards the flat roof. It remains in use today as a storage unit for the waterworks and is in good condition.

Water Tank and adjacent office

The circular concrete water tank stands upright on a concrete block foundation. This tank was built circa 1936. Adjacent to the east side of the tank, a concrete block building is constructed in an L-shaped plan that wraps around the northeast corner of the waterworks complex. The building is covered in a tar/built-up roof that increases in height from the south section of the building to the north section of the building. The southern section features one door on the south elevation and two on the east elevation; while, the north section of the building features casement windows on all sides. This building was constructed circa 1955.

McCrory Waterworks
Name of Property

Woodruff County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Although it is twenty years younger than the rest of the facility, the office building maintains the integrity of the waterworks and it is an excellent example of the facility's progress during the time of its significance.

INTEGRITY

The McCrory Waterworks maintains its original appearance with the exception of the improvement of the office building circa 1955. It is in good condition and remains as a primary source of water for the city.

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)

Engineering

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1936-1957

Significant Dates

1935, 1936

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Chicago Bridge and Iron Works

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The McCrory Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its association to the Public Work Administration activities during the 1930s. It is also being nominated under Criterion C for its excellent 1930s waterworks construction. The McCrory Waterworks is being nominated under the multiple property listing, "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

ELABORATION

Mr. Hamilton was the first known white settler to arrive at the area that would later become Woodruff County. In 1820, he landed at a point on the river, which was a meeting place for the Chickasaw and Quapaw tribes originally known as Chickasaw Crossing.¹ Following Mr. Hamilton's arrival this point became the center of white settlement. From the years 1822-1826 Mr. Rolla Gray and his family came, expanding the settlement. In 1848, the site of Chickasaw Crossing was surveyed and laid out for Mr. Thomas Hough, the founder of the town, which he named Augusta for his cousin. There was some mention that Augusta was the seat of justice for Jackson County, in 1852, before it became the seat of justice for Woodruff County. In 1861 Woodruff County was created and named in honor of William E. Woodruff, first editor of the *Arkansas Gazette*.²

While the settlement of Woodruff County occurred early in the nineteenth century, the town of McCrory was not founded until the end of that century. Before the founding of McCrory, there was an earlier settlement in that area two miles south of the present site of McCrory. This town, named De View, began in 1850 along a stagecoach line. For a short period of time this town was very prosperous because of its location along the stagecoach line which was the best form of transportation to the nearest railroad. But in 1886-1887 the Bald Knob and Memphis Railroad line was built, running two miles north of the town of De View; thus, people began to relocate closer to the railroad line at the present town of McCrory.³

By 1890, the town of McCrory was organized and named for its founder and owner Wade McCrory. Mr. McCrory inherited the land from his father, who purchased it after the Civil War. Mr. McCrory deeded 15 acres at the south end of his property for the new railroad depot.⁴ The town boomed almost unexpectedly overnight, and the post office was established while Mr. McCrory was busy with business affairs in Texas. He requested that a friend Dr. Fakes, manage the town while he was away. By the time that Mr. McCrory returned, the new town had several residents, a stave factory, and five stores. The Oxley stave factory brought in over 100 workers. Families moved from all parts of the county seeking fortune. In addition, the

¹ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* (Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890), 274

² *Ibid.*, 275.

³ Woodruff County Historical Society, *Rivers and Roads and Points Between*.vol I. (Fall 1972), 18.

⁴ Woodruff County Historical Society, *Rivers and Roads and Points Between*, vol. XXVII (2001-2002), 26.

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Section number 8 Page 2

town had a large population of Italian immigrants who labored in the railroad construction, camping out in tents along the railroad. Ms. Lou McFall owner of the inn at De View was forced to relocate her business to McCrory in order to accommodate the new growth and business occurring in McCrory. In addition to the depot site, Mr. McCrory also donated land for the Methodist Church and the school at McCrory, which was the educational center of the area for several years.⁵

In the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, published in 1890 one author credits the town for its early success:

McCrory...is only two years old and contains seven general stores, two grocery stores, a hardware and furniture store, a compliment of mechanics shops, one of the largest stave factories in the State, a hotel, livery stable, two restaurants, two frame church edifices (one for the white and one for the colored people), a public school house, two physicians and from 250-300 people.⁶

The author continues to boast about the desired town:

It has a beautiful location and being near the railroad crossing is the most accessible town from all parts of the county, and is, therefore, a prospective candidate for the subsequent location of the county seat, which in due time it will make an effort to secure.⁷

Mr. McCrory attempted to persuade the county to move the seat of justice to McCrory and offered the county a large sum of money. But his offer did not stand. In 1918 Mr. McCrory died.⁸ Despite Mr. McCrory's failed attempt to move the county seat to McCrory, the town continued to prosper after his death.

The town's prosperity was in large part due to the rich natural resources of the area in addition to the town's convenient location nearby the railroad. There was an abundant supply of well water, which varied in depth between twenty to forty feet.⁹ In many cases it could be obtained without digging through rock or boring. The land was fertile and excellent for farming. The soil produced such good cotton and corn that farmers could continue to raise these crops without having to return anything to the land to fertilize it.¹⁰ Agriculture remained a strong industry for the county well into the twentieth century.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 283.

⁷ Ibid., 284.

⁸ Woodruff County Historical Society, *Rivers and Roads and Points Between* vol. XXVII, 26.

⁹ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 279.

¹⁰ Ibid., 280.

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At the turn of the century, the School Improvement Association formed with the mission of advancing the McCrary high school. Plans were made for improvements to the school but were not carried out until 1926. The Association re-organized and changed its name to the PTA. The DetCo light plant aided the organization by donating money for new school auditorium and playground equipment.¹¹

The new school improvement was not the only improvement in the town during that time. In 1936, the Public Works Administration provided \$39,497 in aid for the construction of the waterworks, which included the water tower, tank, and water shed.

In 1955, an office building was built adjacent to the water tank. Although it was a later addition it falls within the waterworks period of significance; thus, it is a contributing building to the facility.

The McCrary Waterworks continues to serve the town as a primary source of water and a reminder of the town's progress.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCrary Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its association to the Public Work Administration activities during the 1930s. It is also being nominated under Criterion C for its excellent 1930s waterworks construction. The McCrary Waterworks is being nominated under the multiple property listing, "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

¹¹Paula Herman Barrett, "Street Scene in McCrary" *Rivers and Roads and Points Between* vol. XXII, Woodruff County Historical Society (2001-2002) 10.

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Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Barrett, Paula Herman. "Street Scene in McCrory." *Rivers and Roads and Points Between* vol. XXII, Woodruff County Historical Society (2001-2002).

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

Information on the construction of the waterworks found in the PWA files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Woodruff County Historical Society, *Rivers and Roads and Points Between*. vol I. (Fall 1972).

Woodruff County Historical Society, *Rivers and Roads and Points Between*, vol. XXVII (2001-2002).

McCrory Waterworks
Name of Property

Woodruff County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 663691 3902929
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
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 Joanna Hall, National Register Historian
organization AHPP date
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center St. telephone (501) 324-9789
city or town Little Rock state AR 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
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.

McCrory Waterworks
Name of Property

Woodruff County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting from the southeast corner of the N. Fakes and Third St. intersection proceed twenty meters south, east, north, and west back to the initial point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the McCrory Waterworks.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY McCrory Waterworks
NAME:

MULTIPLE New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Woodruff

DATE RECEIVED: 8/09/07 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/27/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/11/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/22/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 07000968

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 9.20.07 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the
National Register

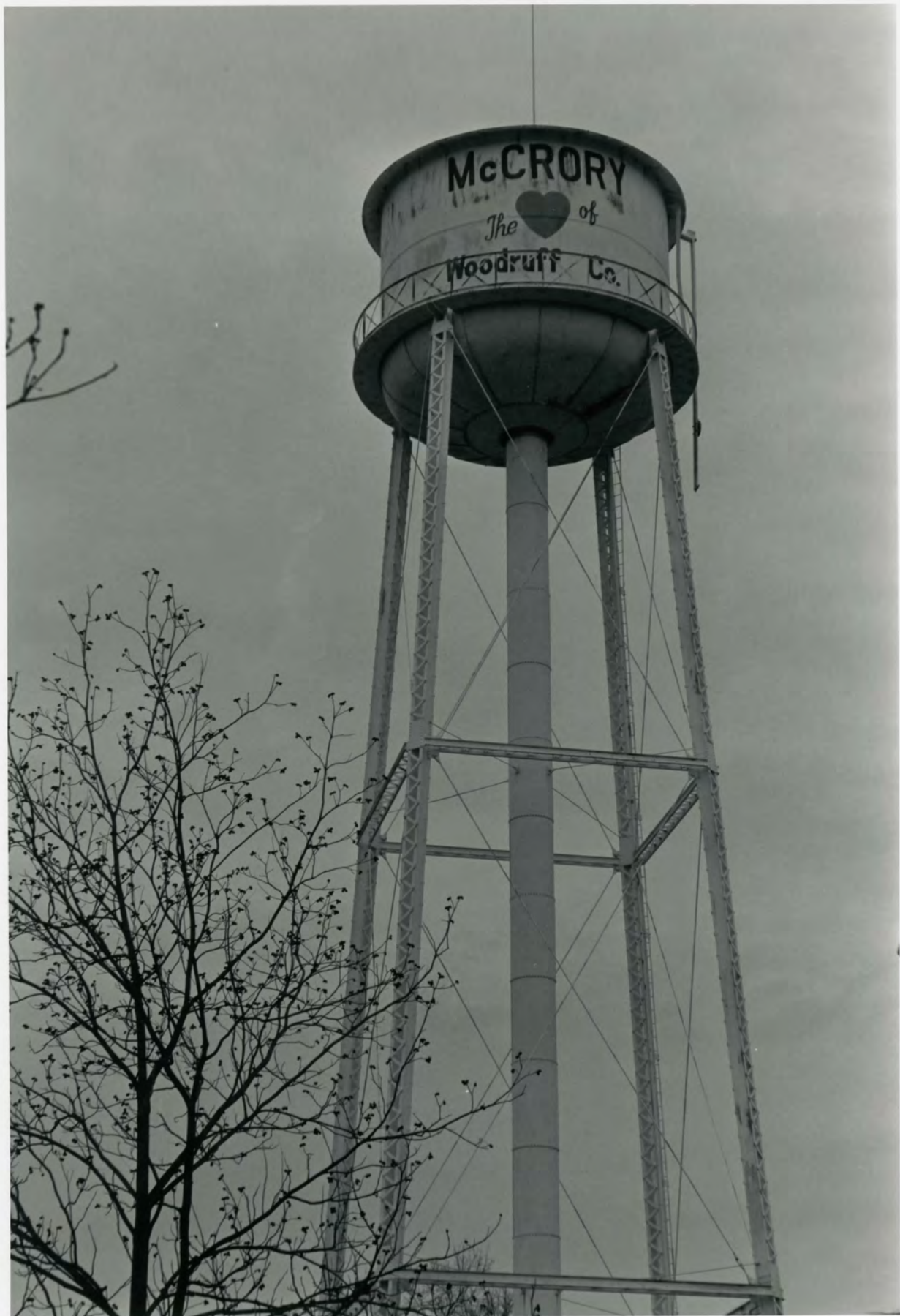
RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

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

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



1. McCrory Waterworks
2. Woodruff County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. December, 2006
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. West Side Tower, Looking East
7. # 1



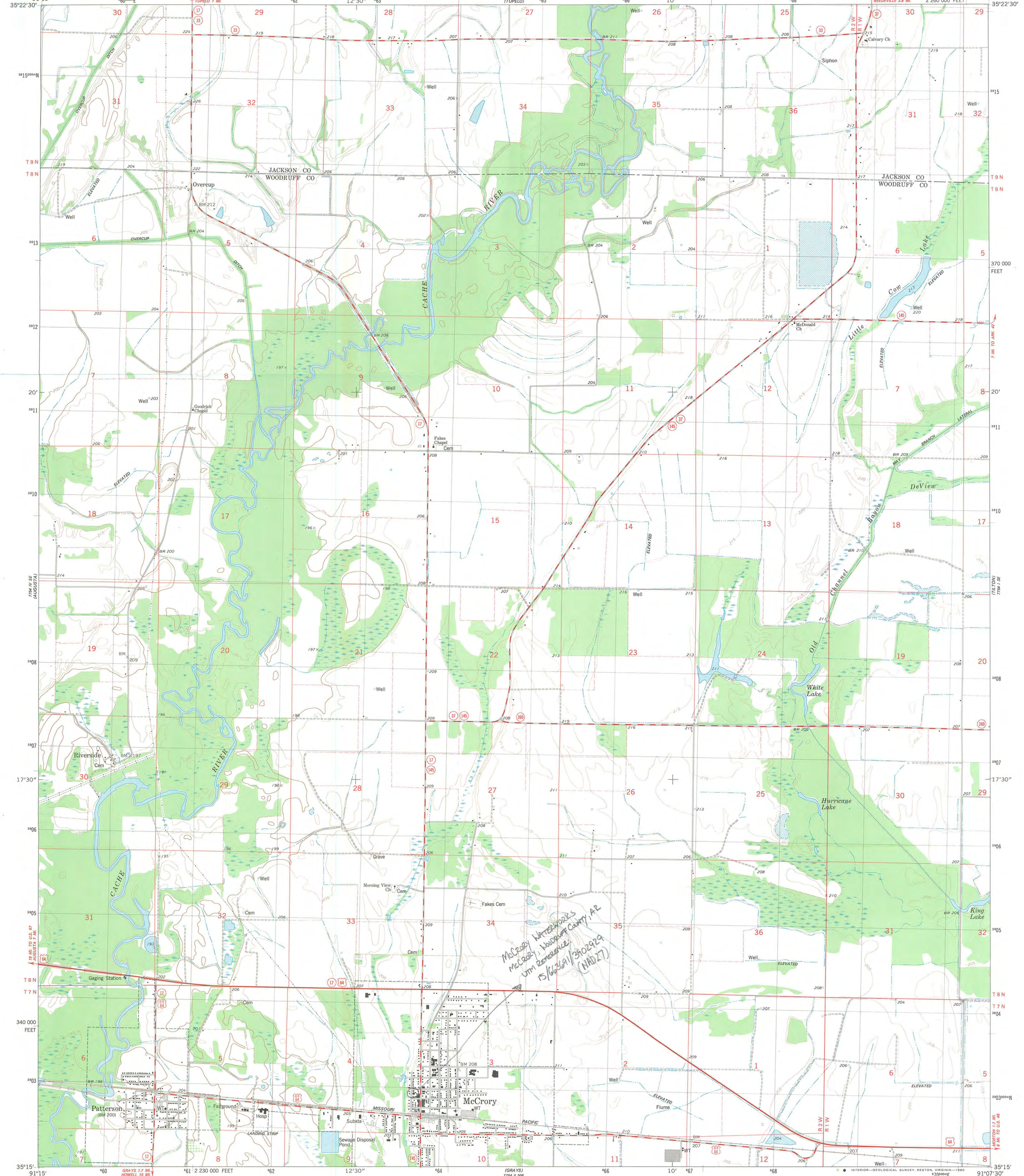
1. MCCORY WATERWORKS
2. WOODRUFF County, AR
3. SARAH JAMPOL
4. DECEMBER, 2006
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM
6. ~~WEST~~ ELEVATION TOWER and NORTH ELEVATION looking South WEST
EAST
7. # 2



1. McCrory Waterworks
2. Woodruff County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. December, 2006
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. West Elevation looking East
7. # 3



1. McCrory Waterworks
2. Woodruff County, AR
3. Sarah Jampole
4. December, 2006
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. South Elevation, Looking North
7. # 4





**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
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August 1, 2007

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: McCrory Waterworks – McCrory, Woodruff 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:rsu

Enclosure