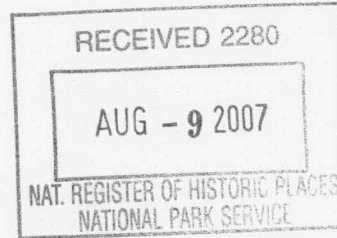


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



969

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 De Valls Bluff Waterworks

other names/site number PR0111

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of Hazel and Rumbaugh Streets

☐ not for publication

city or town De Valls Bluff

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Prairie code 117 zip code 72041

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.)

*Darrell Matthews*  
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:)

*for*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

9-20-07

De Valls Bluff Waterworks  
Name of Property

Prairie 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	
	1	buildings
		sites
1	2	structures
		objects
1	3	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, 1933-1943"

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

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/  
waterworks

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/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.)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The De Valls Bluff Waterworks is located west of town in De Valls Bluff, Prairie County, Arkansas. The waterworks was built in 1936 by the Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company with federal assistance from the Public Works Administration. The facility includes a water tower, aeration chamber, tank, and water shed; however, the water tower is the only structure built in 1936.

### ELABORATION

The water tower of the De Valls Bluff waterworks stands several feet above the community of De Valls Bluff in Prairie County, Arkansas. The tower is comprised of four steel legs that rest upon concrete piers, and rise up to the water tank. Metal crosspieces are inserted between the legs to provide additional support. A metal pipe extends from the base of the tank to transfer water back and forth from the ground to the tank.

The base of the water tank is bowl-shaped and is pierced in the center by the metal pipe. A few feet above the base, a walkway encircles the tank. Similar to the rest of the tower is painted white. The walls of the tank are painted with black letters that read the tow's name "DE VALLS BLUFF."

The top of the tank is covered in a conical hat-shaped roof that extends a few feet past the tank.

Other structures of the facility include a cinder block shed building, a water tank, and an aeration chamber. These structures were built sometime after the waterworks' period of significance; thus, they are non-contributing.

### INTEGRITY

Despite the improvements of the facility, the water tower maintains its historic integrity. The rural setting of the water tower appears as it would have in the 1930s.

**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

**Significant Dates**

1936

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

Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company

**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: \_\_\_\_\_



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

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

### ELABORATION

The earliest settlement in the area that would become Prairie County occurred around the present town of Des Arc sometime before 1810. Growth in the area became more widespread in the mid-nineteenth century, reaching to locations such as Brownsville and Hickory Plains. The earliest pioneers to Hickory Plains included A.B. Taylor and his son-in-law, Ben T. Embry (later Civil War Confederate Col. and State Senator) in 1846. In that same year, Prairie County was founded by an act of legislature. Brownsville was the site of the first county seat until 1868 when the seat was moved to De Valls Bluff.<sup>1</sup>

De Valls Bluff was a center of political activity even before its designation as the seat of justice for the County. In 1863, the town was taken into possession by Federal Troops. Its convenient location on the White River, nearby the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad permitted easy access to the town. Once the Federal troops took possession of the town, they made it their base of supplies. Supplies were shipped to De Valls Bluff by boat and then transported to Little Rock by the railroad. At this time the town housed several refugees, who sought protection from the war. During the Civil War, the town boasted a large population, comprised mainly of refugees, and several houses. But after the Civil War, these refugees returned to their former homes, and the county seat was moved to Des Arc, where it remains.<sup>2</sup> But with the remaining buildings and houses, De Valls Bluff had room for business and growth.

By the late nineteenth century, the town had a post office, general and drug store, a millinery store, two hotels, a saw mill, and a few churches. Several men were employed by the Wells and Maxwell saw mill which brought in a large sum of income, with the capacity of producing 20,000 feet of lumber per day. But the most successful and perhaps most unique business for the town of De Valls Bluff was its boat oar factory. This industry produced about 3,000 feet in oars daily that sold to major cities such as San Francisco and Liverpool, England. These oars, in addition to cotton and lumber, were principal exports for the town.<sup>3</sup> The shipping industry was a strong economic asset for De Valls Bluff.

<sup>1</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890) 673.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 679.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 680.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

In 1906, the De Valls Bluff Navigation Company formed with the purpose of purchasing steamboats and barges to be used in the carrying of freight and passengers on any river, lake, bayou, or other navigable stream within the state of Arkansas.<sup>4</sup>

Despite the town's fall from county seat in 1875, De Valls Bluff continued to see political activity well into the twentieth century as it was selected for the southern district county seat, when Prairie County was split into two political districts. Furthermore, the town maintained its civil morale. Most of the town residents belonged to civic groups such as the Knights of Honor, Iron Hall and Knights of Pythias. The Knights of Honor had at least fifty members, averaging \$2,000 incomes, bringing in \$100,000, contributing to the wealth of the town. One report from *The Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* claimed that the town "represents a wonderful amount of life insurance for so small of a place."<sup>5</sup>

At the turn of the century, the town census was 500.<sup>6</sup> The town prospered into the mid- twentieth century despite the difficulties of the Depression. In 1934, the De Valls Bluff Waterworks was built on the south side of town by the Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company. The Public Works Administration assisted in the construction of the facility, with a grant of \$17, 024 and a loan of \$21,000.<sup>7</sup> Construction of the water tower began in 1935 and was completed in 1936. The waterworks which still includes the water tower from the 1930s remains a primary water source for the town today.

A shed building, aeration chamber, water tank are also included in the facility. But because these are newer additions that fall outside of the period of significance for the waterworks, they are non-contributing.

The De Valls Bluff Waterworks is representative of the town's prosperity. It is a reminder of the Public Works Administration activities in the town.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The De Valls Bluff Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the Public Works Administration activities in De Valls Bluff, Prairie County, Arkansas. It is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its excellent 1930s waterworks construction. The De Valls Bluff Waterworks is being

<sup>4</sup> Kay Waters Sukuris, *Grand Prairie Potpourri Arkansas; A Collection of Miscellaneous Prairie and Lonoke Counties Arkansas Records Vol. 1.* (Pasadena, TX: Southern Pioneer Press, 1992), 64.

<sup>5</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 680.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Information found in the PWA files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

De Valls Bluff Waterworks  
Name of Property

Prairie County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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nominated under the multiple context listing “An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943.”

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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

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

Waters Sukuris, Kay. *Grand Prairie Potpourri Arkansas; A Collection of Miscellaneous Prairie and Lonoke Counties/ Arkansas Records Vol. 1*. Pasadena, TX: Southern Pioneer Press, 1992.



De Valls Bluff Waterworks  
Name of Property

Prairie 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 640625 3849837  
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 Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 03/20/07  
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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeast corner of Rumbaugh and Hazel proceed twenty meters north, east, south and west back to the initial point.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the De Valls Bluff Waterworks.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY De Valls Bluff Waterworks  
NAME:

MULTIPLE New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Prairie

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: 07000969

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. DEVALLS BLUFF WATER WORKS
2. DE VALLS BLUFF, PRAIRIE COUNTY, AR
3. SARAH JAMPOL
4. JANUARY 2007
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. SOUTHEAST ELEVATION LOOKING NORTHWEST
7. # 1



1. DE VALLS BLUFF WATERWORKS
2. DE VALLS BLUFF, PRAIRIE COUNTY, AR
3. SARAH JAMPOLE
4. JANUARY 2007
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. EAST ELEVATION LOOKING WEST
7. # 2







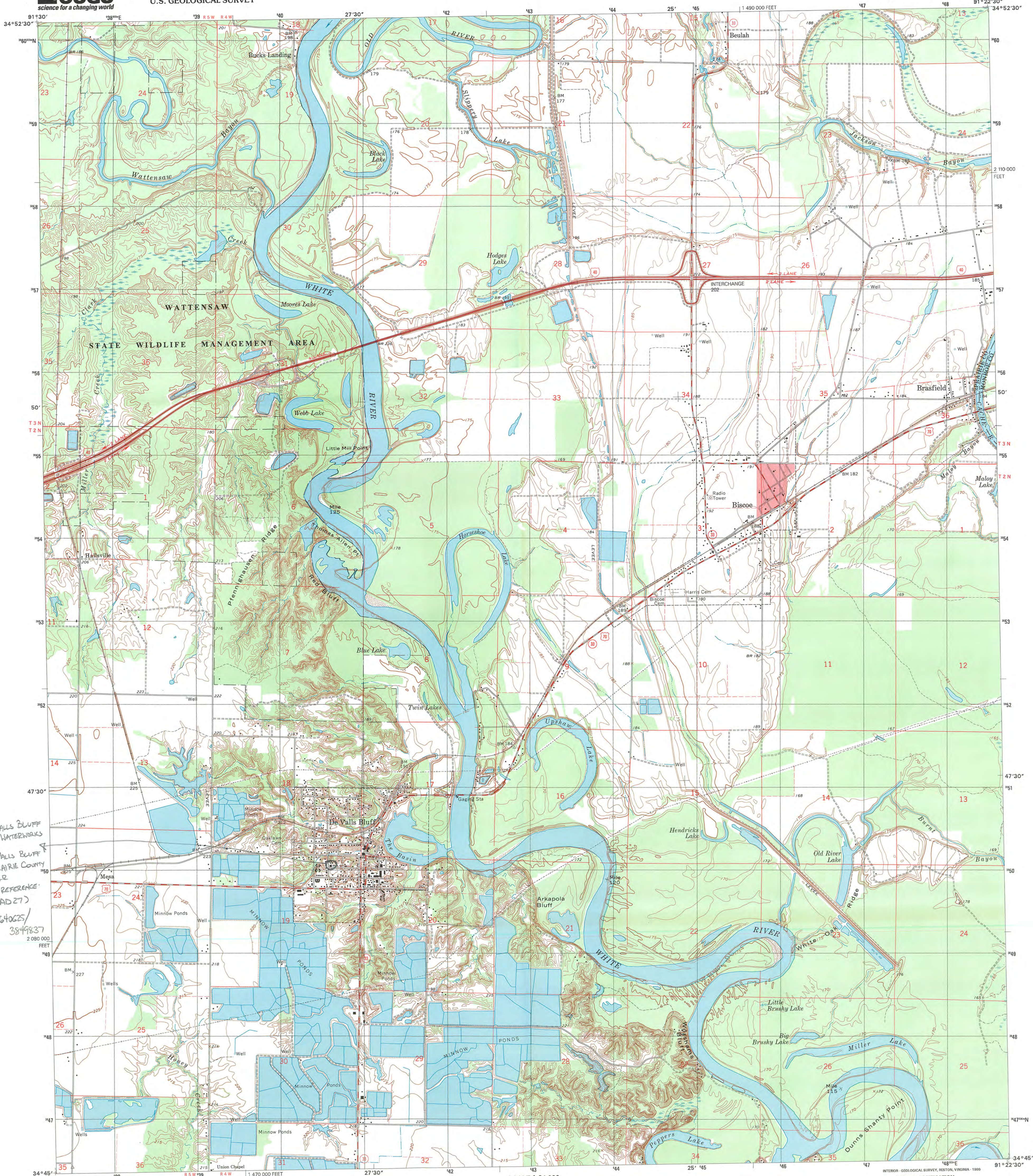
1. DE VALLS BLUFF WATERWORKS
2. DE VALLS BLUFF, PRAIRIE COUNTY, AR
3. SARAH JAMPOLG
4. JANUARY 2007
5. ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
6. WEST ELEVATION Looking EAST
7. # 3





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

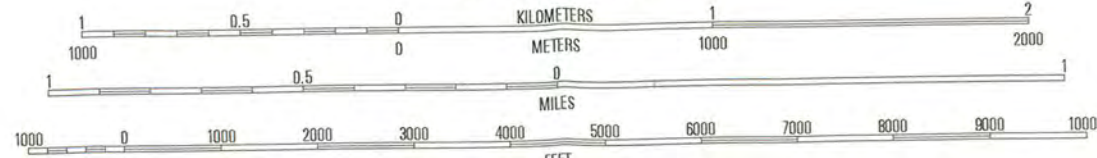
DE VALLS BLUFF QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



DE VALLS BLUFF  
WATERWORKS  
DE VALLS BLUFF  
PRAIRIE COUNTY  
AR  
UTM REFERENCE:  
(NAD 27)  
K/640625/  
3849837

Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1966. Planimetry derived from imagery  
taken 1996 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and  
survey control current as of 1968.  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and  
10,000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 15  
10,000-foot ticks: Arkansas Coordinate System of 1983 (south zone)  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed  
corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and  
NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from  
National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the  
National or State reservations shown on this map.  
Landmark buildings verified 1968.

UTM GRID AND 1999 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway  
hard surface .....  
Secondary highway  
hard surface .....  
Unimproved road .....  
Light-duty road, hard or  
improved surface .....  
Interstate Route  
U.S. Route  
State Route

1	2	3
4	5	6
7	8	9

1 Des Arc West  
2 Des Arc East  
3 De Valls Bluff NE  
4 Hazen  
5 De Valls Bluff SE  
6 Sluick  
7 Roe  
8 Clarendon

DE VALLS BLUFF, AR  
1996

NIMA 7753 IV SW-SERIES V884

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST







**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

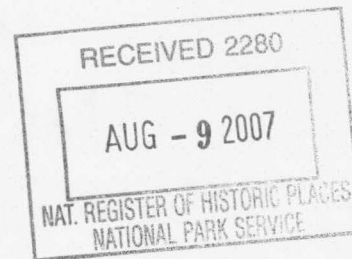
e-mail:

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



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: De Valls Bluff Waterworks – De Valls Bluff, Prairie 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