

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Yell County Courthouse

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 209 Union St.

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Dardanelle

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Yell

code: AR 149

zip code: 72834

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public - local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> 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

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=====  
**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**  
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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.

Carlynn A. Byrd  
Signature of certifying official

7-16-92  
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

☒ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Helene Byrd 9/8/92

for Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
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Historic: Government

Sub: Courthouse

Current : Government

Sub: Courthouse

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7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt  
walls Brick other Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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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: 1914

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Gibb, Frank W.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

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**Summary**

The Yell County Courthouse is a two-story, brick-and-concrete masonry public institutional building designed in the Classical Revival style of architecture. It is supported by a continuous concrete foundation and is topped by a gabled roof which bisects a large central, segmented dome; the roof to either side of the central gabled section is flat and surrounded by a tall parapet.

**Elaboration**

Constructed in 1914, the Yell County Courthouse is a T-shaped, two story, brick and concrete masonry public institutional building designed in the Classical Revival style of architecture. The structure is supported by a continuous concrete foundation and topped with a gabled roof which bisects an octagonal, sectional dome. On top of the dome is a domed cupola which is supported by six small Doric columns with a central flag pole extending through the cupola dome.

The roof is surrounded by a tall parapet made of stucco-covered brick adorned with pilasters that rise along the full height of the elevations. The parapet rests atop a full entablature which consists of a narrow architrave, a wide frieze board and a narrow cornice. The overall appearance of the structure is a symmetrical facade which is framed by corner pilasters. The southern elevation has a double-leaf entry with the fenestration of the facade symmetrical on both the first and second story. Centered on the southern elevation is a central pedimented portico. The pediment features an oculus window and a wide frieze board. The entire pediment is supported by four large Doric columns. Another feature of the portico is a narrow, second story, cantilevered balcony above the double leaf front entrance. Pilasters are found on each corner of the structure as well as symmetrical placement of pilasters on the eastern, southern, and western elevations.

All the windows of the structure have white concrete lintels and sills. The lintels of the second story windows are incorporated into the entablature. The windows of the structure are double-hung with a two-over-one sash arrangement. Both the southern and western elevations have transom windows over a double-leaf entrance. The eastern elevation does not have a transom over the door but has a transom effect with the placement of two small windows over the large central windows which serve to illuminate an interior stairwell. Both the eastern and western elevations have modern gabled porches extending from double-leaf entrances.

The interior of the courthouse consists of offices on the first floor and offices and the courtroom on the second floor. The interior of the courthouse was

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Continuation Sheet**

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remodeled in 1973 under the authority of County Judge Robert F. Hodges. This remodeling consisted of replacing exterior doors with aluminum and glass doors, carpeting, paneling, etc. In 1976, an addition of a detention facility was placed on the northern elevation by directive of County Judge Robert F. Hodges. The new structure was designed by North Little Rock Architect Courtney M. Renshaw and built by Structural Systems Inc. of Fort Smith. The addition is sympathetic to the original structure in keeping with a series of pilasters and a wide parapet surrounding a flat tar roof. The detention facility is a single story with the exception of a second story stairwell connecting the jail to the second story courtroom of the original structure. The windows of the detention facility are a narrow style trimmed in white to match the original structure. The windows are fitted with plastic in the non-secure areas and metal in the secure areas due to the nature of the facility.

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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Summary

The Yell County Courthouse is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of Classical Revival architecture in a public building in Yell County.

### Elaboration

Yell County was established in December of 1840 from portions of Pope and Scott Counties. The county is named for Arkansas' first Congressman and second Governor, Archibald Yell. A temporary county seat was established for Yell county in the home of William Pevy until it was decided that the seat of power should be near the geographic center of the county. The Town of Danville was laid out and a courthouse was established. Due to the size of the county and the distribution of the population, an appeal was made for a second county seat to be established at Dardanelle in the northeast part of the county. The town of Dardanelle was laid out by Dr. Joseph Brearly in 1843 and was incorporated as a town on January 17th, 1855. Brearly was the son of Col. David Brearly, an Indian agent of the area and the grandson of David Brearly who signed the Constitution of the United States as a delegate from the state of New Jersey. The Dardanelle District of Yell County was established in 1875 and the building was leased by the constituents of the Dardanelle District to serve as a courthouse in 1878. This first courthouse was located in a commercial structure on South Front Street between Green and Oak Streets. A jail was built near the courthouse but it soon burned. Another jail was built later and further away from the courthouse. It was from this jail that a member of a well-known family from the nearby Cardon Bottoms community was taken and lynched. From that point until 1914, all prisoners were kept at the Danville jail facility. On April 12, 1912, the Dardanelle District courthouse burned. A plot of land was soon purchased seven blocks away from the original site for the construction of the new courthouse.

County Judge J.N. George along with Commissioners A.N. Falls and T.E. Wilson engaged Frank W. Gibb of Little Rock as the architect for the new courthouse and the L.R. Wight and Company of Dallas, Texas as the builders. Although trained as an engineer at the Missouri School of Mines at Rolla, Mo., Gibb returned to Little Rock in 1882 for a career as a Civil and Mining Engineer. It seems that not long after his return to Little Rock is when he began to do some work as an architect for his father Edward Gibb and his real estate interests. Gibb is not widely known as an architect but some of his works are more familiar. He is credited with designing the Arkansas Building at the St. Louis World's Fair, the Buckstaff Baths in Hot Springs, the First United Methodist Church at Eighth and Center in Little Rock, the old Little Rock High School, the Logan Roots Memorial Hospital, and buildings at the Arkansas State Lunatic



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National Park Service

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Asylum. He is also known for designing courthouses and jails around the state in Ashley, Bradley, Calhoun, Chicot, Cleburne, Conway, Crawford, Cross, Dallas, Franklin, Howard, Jefferson, Lafayette, Miller, Phillips, and Saline counties as well as Yell. In his obituary of November 5, 1932, Gibb is credited with work on 60 courthouses in Arkansas. One reason that most of his work is not well known is that the contents of his office on the second floor of the Gazette building -- including drawings, specifications, sketches, etc. -- were destroyed by his family soon after his death. None of his original drawings are known to exist.

Of the residential structures that are known to be designs of Gibb there is a "signature" on many of the dwellings: many of the Gibb houses feature a semi-circular window as part of their construction. Among his public works, Gibb employed a wide variety of styles. The nearest example of another Classical Revival style is the 1911 Dallas County Courthouse. Both are built in the Classical Revival style of architecture and are T-shaped. Both are framed by pilasters and have symmetrical fenestration with some form of white trim. Both structures feature octagonal roof ornaments, surmounted by domes. The Dallas County Courthouse also features an octagonal clock tower which is topped with a dome. The primary differences in the two of these structures is that the Dallas County Courthouse is elevated by one-half story and has elaborate side entrances, whereas the Yell County Courthouse is only slightly elevated and has modern entrances. Since these two structures were only built three years apart it is easy to see the many similarities that exist between them.

The Yell County Courthouse is being nominated to the National Register because it is the best example of Classical Revival architecture in Yell County of a public building. It is also being nominated because it is the only remaining historic courthouse remaining in the county. The Yell County Courthouse is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>485770</u>	<u>3897700</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

All of Lots 1-9, Block H, City of Dardanelle.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.



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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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Bibliography

*Arkansas Gazette*, Little Rock, Arkansas; Saturday November 5, 1932; pg. 14.

Banks, Wayne; *History of Yell County, Arkansas*; Arkansas Historical Series, Number 9; The Press-Argus, Van Buren, Arkansas; July, 1959.

*Dardanelle Post Dispatch*, May 1, 1913; August 13, 1914; January 15, 1948.

Deane, Ernie; *Arkansas Place Names from Apt to Zinc*, The Ozarks Mountaineer, Branson, Missouri, 1986.

*Little Rock City Directory 1897-98*, pg. 612.

Nichols, Cheri; "Survey Illuminates Gibb's Contribution Downtown"; *The Chronicle*; August-September 1987.

*Yell County Historical and Genealogical Association Bulletin*, Third Quarter, 1984, pg 53.

*Yell County Historical and Genealogical Association Bulletin*, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1985.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Todd Ferguson, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 07/28/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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 Yell County Courthouse  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Yell

DATE RECEIVED: 8/05/92 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/21/92  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/06/92 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/19/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92001176

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 9/8/92 DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA  
REVIEWER  
DISCIPLINE  
DATE

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

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_\_count      \_\_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_\_historic      \_\_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_\_acreage      \_\_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_\_UTMs      \_\_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_\_sketch maps      \_\_\_\_USGS maps      \_\_\_\_photographs      \_\_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed

Date





Yell County Courthouse

Yell County, Arkansas

Photographed by Todd Ferguson

December 1991

Negative on file at AH PP

View from the South





Yell Co. Courthouse

Yell Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Todd Ferguson

December 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the East





Yell Co. Courthouse

Yell Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Todd Ferguson

December 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the East





Yell Co. Courthouse

Yell Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Todd Ferguson

December 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the west





Yell County Courthouse

Yell County, Arkansas

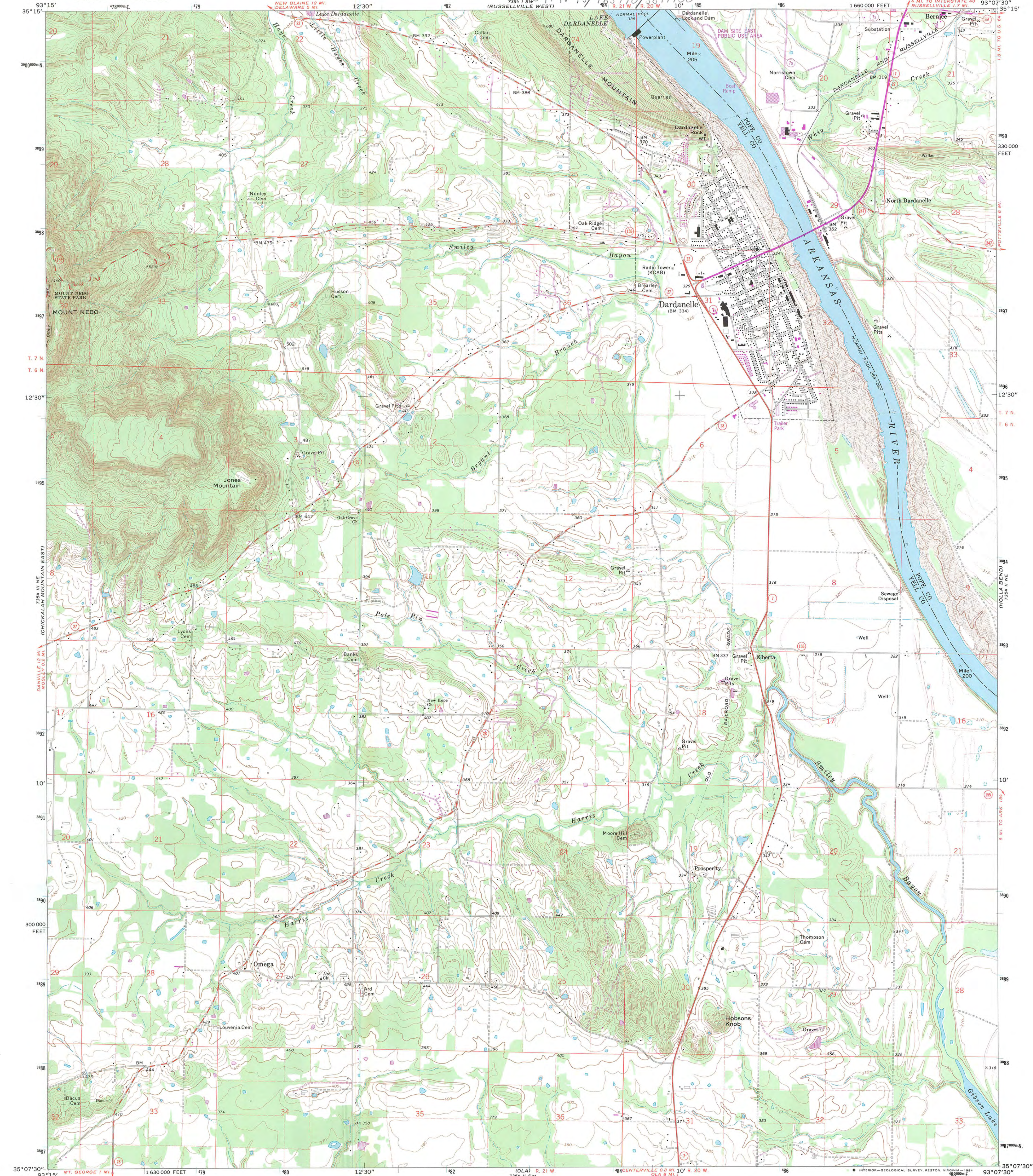
Photographed by Todd Ferguson

December 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the West





Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1971. Field checked 1972

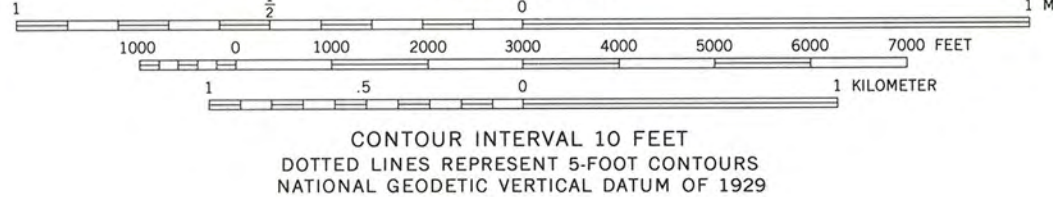
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic) 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1977. Map edited 1979. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 6 meters south and 16 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	
Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

DARDANELLE, ARK.  
35093-82-TF-024

1972  
PHOTOREVISED 1979  
DMA 7354 II NW-SERIES V884





ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED

AUG 5 1992

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

July 16, 1992

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Yell County Courthouse  
Yell County, AR

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination 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  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures

