

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED

DEC 6 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MARLSGATE

AND/OR COMMON

(WILLIAM P. DORTCH HOUSE)

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

SCOTT

STATE

ARKANSAS

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
SECOND

COUNTY

LONOKE

CODE

085

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

WILLIAM PINKNEY DORTCH, JR.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

ROUTE 1, BOX 164

CITY, TOWN

SCOTT

VICINITY OF

STATE

ARKANSAS

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

LONOKE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN

LONOKE

STATE

ARKANSAS

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Marlsgate is an immense brick residence of large proportions. Located near Scott, Arkansas, Marlsgate is the center of the large William P. Dortch plantation. Built in 1904, at a cost of \$33,000 Marlsgate was designed by architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock. The unusually thin bricks of which the house is constructed were made in St. Louis. An interesting feature of the bricks is that they extend around the corners. The twenty room house reflects the lifestyle of the Dortch family as a wealthy farming family in the early twentieth century.

Marlsgate is a two-and-one-half-storey structure with a full basement. Projecting from the east and west elevations of the high hipped roof are dormers with double windows. Two finials project from the ridge of the roof. The corners of the main wing of the house are marked by cut stone quoins. A dentiled cornice extends around the house.

A full-sized, two-storey portico with four Ionic capital square brick columns dominates the facade. Dentil work found on the cornice around the house is also utilized in the pediment of the portico. Located in the center of the pediment is an oeil-de-boeuf window. A second storey balcony projecting over the entry features urn-shaped balusters and is supported by heavy paired brackets. The single entry is set into a wide, arched opening surrounded by a brick arch with a keystone centered above the door. The keystone contains the intertwined initials of William and Nettie Dortch. Paired windows flanking the entry are unusual in their use of cut stone and brick in the window heads. Upper paired windows have simple trim. The railing on the portico is cast concrete, molded on the grounds. The facade is symmetrically balanced by two projecting one-storey wings on either elevation.

A well house at the southwest corner of the house features lattice work above a brick base and is capped with a conical roof topped with finial. A dentiled cornice similar to that on the main structure surrounds the octagonal well house. Projecting from the south rear elevation is a two-storey portion consisting of an enclosed porch. This original wing contains the kitchen.

Located in the wide central hall are the symmetrically divided flights of stairs. In the landing of the stairway is a massive window with six upper lites of stained glass. All of the woodwork is original and of virgin oak. There are fireplaces in every room and each oak mantel is of a different design. A number of the rooms are richly paneled with oak. There are operable transom lights over all the doorways.

The most distinctive features of Marlsgate's interior are the fourteen-foot ceilings, all of pressed tin, each in a different design. The ceilings are designed and made in St. Louis for the Dortch's.

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The only addition or alteration to Marlsgate was circa 1910 when the porch on the east elevation of the house was enclosed. In 1927, the attic caught fire but the workers on the farm formed a bucket brigade from Bearskin Lake and the fire was extinguished before the house sustained any damage.

Marlsgate has been continually occupied by the Dortch family since its construction in 1904 and remains in an excellent state of repair. Virtually unchanged since 1904, Marlsgate stands as a tangible reminder of a past era.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1904      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Charles L. Thompson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Marlsgate is the plantation home of the William P. Dortch family, located near Scott, Arkansas. Built in 1904, the house is set in a pecan-tree-shaded area facing Bearskin Lake. The perfect horseshoe-shaped lake derives its name from the abundance of bear found in the area at one time. Marlsgate is recognized as a working plantation of historical value. Architecturally, Marlsgate is one of Arkansas' most impressive structures. The Dortch family has played an important role in the social and economic development of the area.

In 1790, one of the Dortch ancestors arrived in North Carolina from where his descendents migrated west in 1838. Willis R. Dortch settled in Tennessee and married Elizabeth Wommack Stone. Dortch successfully engaged in farming in Williamson County, Tennessee, until his death in 1858. The youngest of Willis Dortch's three children, William Pinkney Dortch, was born at Thompson Station, May 15, 1846. Upon the death of Willis Dortch, twelve-year-old William P. Dortch and his mother moved to Arkansas and settled in Lonoke County. The Dortch's then purchased the land upon which Marlsgate is located and constructed the first of two frame houses located on the site before the present Marlsgate was built. In 1864, Dortch enlisted in the Confederate Army in Anderson's Battalion from Little Rock and accompanied Price on his raid through Missouri and Kansas. During the Civil War, Union troops camped in and around the Dortch's house because Bearskin Lake provided water for their livestock, and it was only a day's march to Little Rock. During the war, the Dortch family packed all of their china and silver in butter churns, sealed them with beeswax and submerged them in Bearskin Lake for safekeeping.

At the close of the war, Dortch attended Miami University in Ohio for two years. While in Ohio he was married to Alice Orr of Kentucky. She died in 1874, leaving one son, Frederick W. Dortch. On January 15, 1885, William P. Dortch married Miss Nettie Steele who was born in Pulaski County, Arkansas, in 1859. Her father, Thomas William Steele, was born in North Carolina and moved to Scott, Arkansas as a young man, where he became the largest holder of land in Pulaski County. As a wedding present to his daughter upon her marriage to William P. Dortch, Steele presented her with a plantation of 1800 acres in Lonoke County which adjoined the Dortch property. This land had been in the Steele family for five generations.

In 1900 the second frame house Dortch had built was removed to make room for the new house. Marlsgate was completed in 1904 at a cost of \$33,000. The



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, September 18, 1956.

Dortch, William P., Jr. Personal Interview at Marlsate, Scott, Arkansas, July 23, 1975.

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast, Central and Eastern Arkansas. Little Rock: Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1889-90.

Herndon, Dallas T. Annals of Arkansas. Little Rock: The Historical Record Association, 1947.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 5 5 8 6 6 7 0 3 8 4 1 6 8 0  
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                                
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                                
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D                                
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

SANDRA TAYLOR, HISTORIAN

ORGANIZATION

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

DATE

SEPTEMBER 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

300 WEST MARKHAM

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

LITTLE ROCK

STATE

ARKANSAS

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  

STATE  

LOCAL x

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

GENE RICHARDSON

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

SEPTEMBER 9, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE

12/6/95

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

11.28.75

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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keystone above the front door contains the intertwined initials of William P. and Nettie Dortch, Nettie Steele Dortch was a gifted artist and much of her work remains in the house. Five sons were born to William and Nettie Dortch: Thomas Steele Dortch, William P. Dortch, George Little Dortch, William Reeves Dortch and Robert Leake Dortch. Marlsgate contains twenty rooms and was built to accomodate the life-style of the large Dortch family. Upstairs there are five bedrooms for the five sons. Downstairs the rooms are large and spacious, ideal for frequent entertaining.

At William P. Dortch's death in 1913, his farm, which had grown to 7,000 acres, was divided among the five sons. Because he was the namesake, the second son, William P. Dortch, inherited Marlsgate. William P. Dortch was born in 1887. He married Alice Knowles of South Dakota and they had one son, William P. Dortch Jr., who was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, in October, 1928, and now lives in Marlsgate. On the plantation, Mr. Dortch raises beef cattle, soybeans and cotton.

The significance of Marlsgate lies in its architecture and in its representation of local history to the surrounding area. Marlsgate is a part of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century which has survived changing times. It typifies a large southern plantation. William P. Dortch and his sons made significant commercial contributions which helped stimulate the economic development of Scott, Arkansas. As the home of one of the leading early planters in Scott, Marlsgate is an important historic landmark to the community.

Property Marlsgate (William P. Dorch House) Lowndes CO.

State Arkansas Working Number 10.14.75.1799

75000397

**TECHNICAL**

Photos 5

Maps 1

2 cont. sheets (#7,8)

**CONTROL**

OK pl  
10.20.75

**HISTORIAN**

Accept  
E. Smith  
11-21-75

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

ACCEPT  
11/24/75 J. G. Gandy

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory       

Review       

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

Accept  
Cole  
11-25-75

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

Accept  
Herring  
for Wentz  
11.28.75

National Register Write-up       

Federal Register Entry 3-2-76

Send-back       

Re-submit       

Entered DEC 6 1975

INT:2106-74







5

1. MARLSGATE  
LONOKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
FACADE, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	OCT 14 1975
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC MARLSGATE

AND/OR COMMON

WILLIAM P. DORTCH HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN  
SCOTT

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
LONOKE

STATE  
ARKANSAS

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT SANDRA TAYLOR

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

FACADE, VIEWED FROM THE NORTH

ASA

PHOTO NO

145

145







2. MARLSGATE  
LONOKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
WELL HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MARLSGATE

AND/OR COMMON

WILLIAM P. DORTCH HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

SCOTT

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

LONOKE

STATE

ARKANSAS

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

SANDRA TAYLOR

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

WELL HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION

PHOTO NO

2

45

INT: 2983-75

245







3. MARLS GATE  
LONOKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
PRESSED TIN CEILING

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MARLSGATE

AND/OR COMMON

WILLIAM P. DORTCH HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

SCOTT

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

LONOKE

STATE

ARKANSAS

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

SANDRA TAYLOR

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
PRESSED TIN CEILING

PHOTO NO

3 of 5

INT: 2983-75

3 of 5





4. MARLSGATE  
LONOKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
STAIRWAY, VIEWED FROM CENTRAL HALL

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1975

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC MARLSGATE

AND/OR COMMON WILLIAM P. DORTCH HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN SCOTT

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY LONOKE

STATE ARKANSAS

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT SANDRA TAYLOR

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
STAIRWAY, VIEWED FROM CENTRAL HALL

PHOTO NO

4 of 5

INT: 2983-75

4 of 5







5. MARLSGATE  
LONOKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS  
STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN LANDING OF STAIRWAY

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MARLSGATE

AND/OR COMMON

WILLIAM P. DORTCH HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

SCOTT

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
LONOKE

STATE  
ARKANSAS

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

SANDRA TAYLOR

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN LANDING OF STAIRWAY

PHOTO NO

5 of 5

INT: 2983-75

5 of 5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 14 1975

DATE ENTERED DEC 6 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

MARLSGATE

AND/OR COMMON

WILLIAM P. DORTCH HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

SCOTT

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
LONOKE

STATE  
ARKANSAS

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SCALE 1:2400

DATE

1954. (photo revised 1970)

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

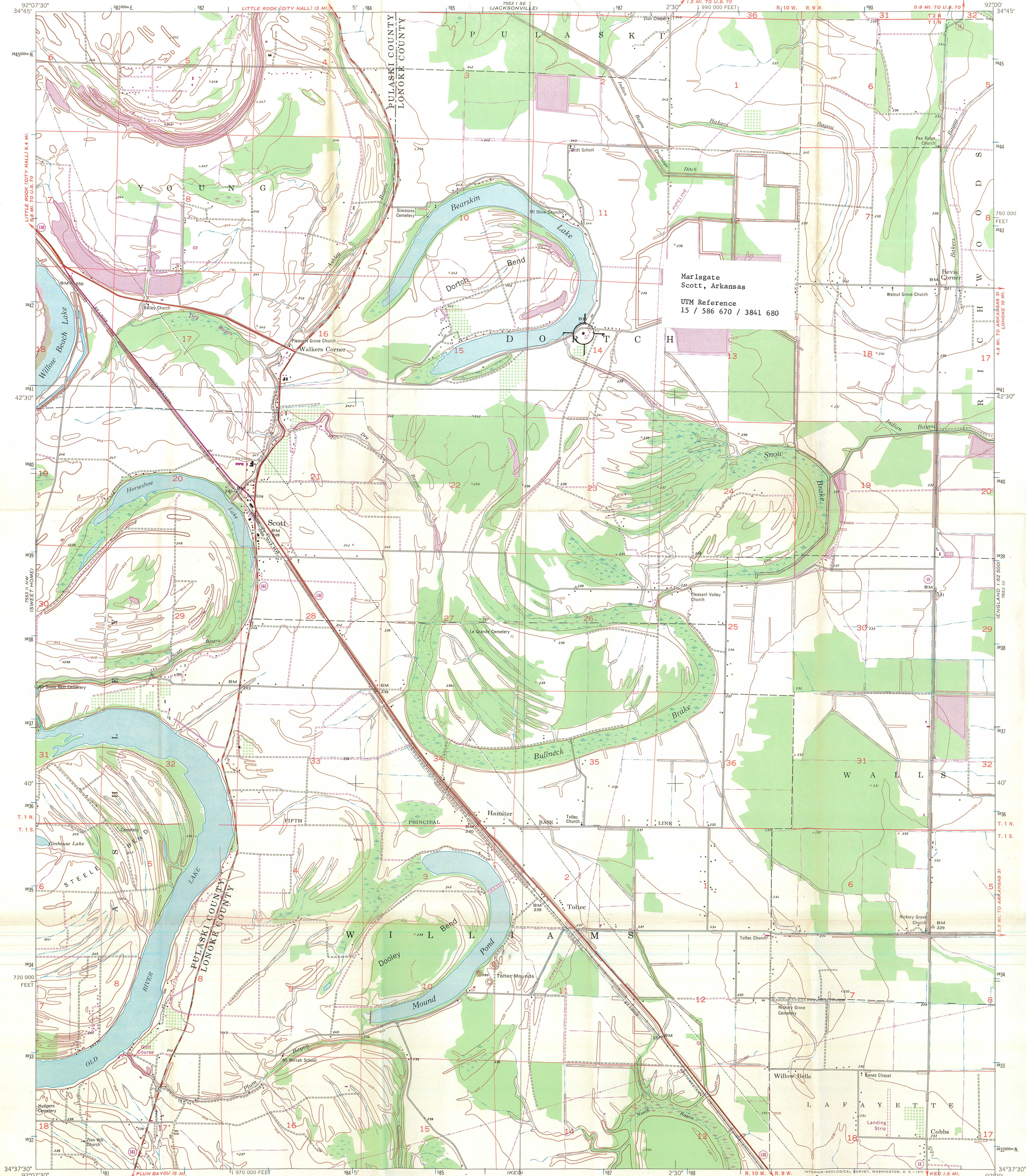
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



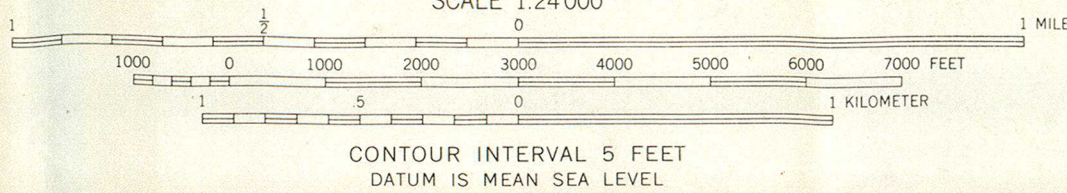
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SCOTT QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

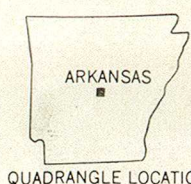


Mapped by the Geological Survey  
Revised by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Arkansas Geological Survey  
Topography by planimetric surveys 1939  
Planimetric detail revised from aerial photographs  
taken 1952. Field check 1954  
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  
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET  
0° 32' 9" M  
107 MILES  
107 MILES



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242  
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty  
Light-duty  
Unimproved dirt  
State Route

SCOTT, ARK.  
N3437.5-W9200/7.5

1954  
PHOTOREVISED 1970  
AMS 7553 II NE-SERIES V884



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered DEC 6 1975

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Main Hall, Central College	Conway Faulkner County
Marlsgate (William P. Dortch House)	Scott Lonoke County
Watson-Sawyer House	Hamburg Ashley County
Helena Library and Museum	Helena Phillips County
Ferguson House	Augusta Woodruff County

Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan  
Hon. Dale Bumpers  
Hon. Wilbur D. Mills  
Hon. Ray Thornton  
Hon. Bill Alexander  
Regional Director, Southwest  
Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Gene Richardson  
Acting Director, Department of Natural  
and Cultural Heritage  
The Old State House  
300 West Markham  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

PR

MMott/row

12/12/75

INT: 2950-75



# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

**1 NAME as it appears on federal register:** Marlsgate (William P. Dortch House)

**2 OTHER NAMES:**

**3 date of entry:** 12-6-75 **4 county code:** 085

**5 LOCATION street & number** NE of Scott off AR 130 at Bearskin Lake **city / town** Scott **vicinity of** Scott **state** AR **county** Lonoke **6 NPS REGION:** SW

**7 OWNER** ☒ PRIVATE ☐ STATE ☐ MUNICIPAL ☐ COUNTY ☐ MULTIPLE ☐ FEDERAL (agency name)

**8 ADMINISTRATOR:**

**9 EXISTING SURVEYS** ☐ NABS ☐ HAER ☐ NHL **10 FUNDED?** ☐ YES ☒ NO **11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT** 2nd **12 SOURCE of NOMINATION** ☒ STATE ☐ FEDERAL if state who prepared form?

**13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?** ☒ YES, NAME **14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?** ☒ YES, NAME **15 ACREAGE** 4.1 **16 LOCAL** ☐ PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

**16 CONDITION** ☐ deteriorated ☒ altered ☒ original site **17 features:** ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 ☒ SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  
☒ excellent ☐ ruins ☐ unaltered ☐ moved ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0 ☐ NOT INTACT-0  
☐ good ☐ unexposed ☐ reconstructed ☐ unknown ☐ UNKNOWN-4 ☐ UNKNOWN-5 ☐ UNKNOWN-6  
☐ fair ☐ unexcavated ☐ excavated ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-7 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-8 ☐ NOT APPLICABLE-9

**18 ACCESS** ☒ YES-Restricted ☐ YES-Unrestricted ☐ No Access ☐ Unknown **19 ADAPTIVE USE** ☐ YES ☒ NO **20 SAVED?** ☐ YES **21 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?** ☐ yes ☒ no

**21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:** ☐ ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 ☐ COMMERCE-6 ☐ ENGINEERING-11 ☐ LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 ☐ POLITICS/GOVT.-21 ☐ RECREATION-28  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 ☐ COMMUNICATIONS-7 ☐ ENTERTAINMENT-26 ☐ LAW-16 ☐ RELIGION-22 ☐ SETTLEMENT-29  
☒ AGRICULTURE-3 ☐ CONSERVATION-8 ☐ EXPLORATION-12 ☐ LITERATURE-17 ☐ SCIENCE-23 ☐ URBAN PLANNING-31  
☒ ARCHITECTURE-4 ☐ ECONOMICS-9 ☐ HEALTH-27 ☐ MILITARY-18 ☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24 ☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)  
☐ ART-5 ☐ EDUCATION-10 ☐ INDUSTRY-13 ☐ MUSIC-19 ☐ SOCIAL/CULTURAL-30 ☐ TRANSPORTATION-25

**22 CLAIMS: explain** 'first' ☐  
'oldest' ☐  
'only' ☐

**23 functions** WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: residence CURRENTLY: ditto **24 dates** of initial construction: 1904 major alterations: historic events: **25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION**

**26 architectural style(s):** Neo-Classical Revival **27 architect:** Chas. L. Thompson **28 master builder:** **29 engineer:**

**30 landscape architect/garden designer:** **31 interior decorator:** **32 artist:** **33 artisan:** **34 builder/contractor:**

**35 NAMES give role & date** PERSONAL: Wm. P. DORTCH - PROMINENT LOCAL FARMER  
EVENTS:  
INSTITUTIONAL:

**36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP** Brick, stone trim; 2½ stories, modified rectangle, hipped roof with gabled projections and dormers, interior chimneys, front center entrance in ~~round-arched~~ round-arched opening with transom and sidelights, surmounting balustraded balcony, full-height Ionic tetrastyle portico with pediment and roundel, flanking 1-story side wings, ~~avoining~~ denticulated cornice; lavish interior features oak woodwork, massive stained-glass landing window and elaborate pressed tin ceilings. Excellent example of Neo-Classical Revival; built for prominent local farmer William P. Dortch; still a working plantation.