

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



1339

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 Southwestern Proving Ground Building #4

other names/site number Gun Shelter (stockade), Site #HE0755

2. Location

street & number 259 Hempstead County Road 279

☐ not for publication

city or town Hope

☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Hempstead code 057 zip code 71801

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.)

Carmel Thatchers
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/18/08
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

Edson H. Beall

1.22.09

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

| | |
|---|------------|
| | buildings |
| | sites |
| 1 | structures |
| | objects |
| 1 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing

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

We've Gotta Get Tough: History of WWII Home front
Efforts in Arkansas, 1941-1946

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register****6. Function or Use****Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Defense/Fortification

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture/Subsistence/animal facility

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/Plain Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls Concrete, wood

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

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

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SUMMARY

Building #4 of the Southwestern Proving Ground consists of seven stalls that were built in 1941 and utilized as a gun shelter and stockade. These stalls are all of single-story height, although they have no roofs, and are constructed of reinforced concrete with continuous cast concrete foundations. There are three ancillary structures which served as electrical and fire control buildings. The buildings are all one-story tall with weatherboard walls and cast concrete foundations. Each has a single door and one six-pane window. The gabled roofs are constructed of wood and metal.

ELABORATION

Building #4 of the Southwestern Proving Ground is located in the community of Oakhaven, approximately five miles northwest of Hope, Hempstead County, Arkansas. It consists of three stalls with two foot thick reinforced concrete walls, resting also on a continuous cast concrete foundation. The stalls have no roofs and are of single-story height. Each stall is further divided by concrete walls, creating seven separate sections in all. The structure is entirely functional in nature, and therefore is lacking in any form of ornamentation.

Front/Southeast Façade

At the front of each stall is a single entrance. Through each entrance there is a T-shaped wall which divides the stalls into separate bays.

To the right of each stall entrance are three small buildings which were used originally as fire control and electrical equipment storage buildings.

Side/Northeast Façade

The Northeast façade of Building #4 consists of a simple concrete wall. There are no windows or entrances, nor is there any form of ornamentation.

Rear/Northwest Façade

The rear of Building #4 is characterized by seven openings formed by the four main walls of the bays and the four walls which divide them. As one enters these areas, they may turn left or right once they reach the back wall and exit through the Southeast entrance.

Fire Control/Electrical buildings

On the Southeast façade of the stalls to the right of each entrance are three small buildings which served as fire control and electrical equipment storage buildings. These buildings are plain in form, consisting of a single, rectangular room atop a continuous concrete foundation. They are each one story tall and the gabled roof of each of them is constructed of asbestos. All three buildings are of frame construction and the walls are of weatherboard material. Present on the southwest side of each building is one door and one window.

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Integrity

Overall, Building #4 is in fair condition. The reinforced concrete walls are entirely intact and in excellent shape. On the northwest side, gates have been added to the seventh and eighth walls to create a hog pen. The fire control and electrical equipment buildings have deteriorated somewhat, with several planks of the weatherboard siding loose or missing. What was once white paint on their exterior is worn and in some places completely gone. The walls also have become slightly overgrown with vines. The windows have been boarded up and the doors now have chicken wire in the panes where glass would have originally been. The combination metal and wood roofs are still intact.

This structure is privately owned and is currently being used for agricultural purposes, specifically storage. Various items such as tires, scrap metal and fertilizer are being stored in most of the stalls, with the last stall functioning as a hog pen. Most likely the only threat to this structure is further private development.

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.

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 # _____

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Military

Engineering

Period of Significance

1941-1945

Significant Dates

1941

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

Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendorff, Architect

W.E. Callahan Construction Company, Builder

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

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SUMMARY

Building #4 of the Southwestern Proving Ground is important for its association with World War II-era military activity in southwestern Arkansas. The Southwestern Proving Ground was an important World War II military facility used as an airfield for bombers and a testing ground for artillery shells and air bombs. (The Southwestern Proving Ground Airport Historic District was NR-listed on June 10, 1999.) Building #4 of the Southwestern Proving Ground is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with World War II-era military activity in Hempstead County. The Southwestern Proving Ground Building #4 is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "We've Gotta Get Tough: History of WWII Home front Efforts in Arkansas, 1941-1946."

ELABORATION

European settlement in what became Hempstead County began in the early 1810s with the arrival of John Campbell from Tennessee, Benjamin Clark from Kentucky, and William Yates and his son, George, from Missouri, in 1812. The number of settlers in the area continued to grow during the 1810s and Hempstead County was officially organized in 1819 under the provisions of an act of the Missouri Territory legislature approved on December 15, 1818. The county was named after Edward Hempstead, the first Congressional delegate from the Missouri Territory. Originally, it encompassed the land southwest of the Little Missouri River extending south to the Louisiana state line and west to the line of the Indian Territory.¹

Initially, Hempstead County's county seat was located in Washington, but once the Cairo & Fulton Railroad's line was constructed through the county, the center of the county's commerce and business moved to the rail corridor. The community grew out of a workmen's camp for the railroad and was named Hope after the daughter of James Loughborough, the railroad's land commissioner. The first passenger train came to the community on February 1, 1872, and the railroad drew the town's plat and began selling lots on August 28, 1873. Hope was officially incorporated on April 8, 1875, and by 1880 Hope's population was 1,233. Throughout the first part of the twentieth century, the community kept growing, reaching a population of 6,008 by 1930. Eventually, after several controversial elections, in 1939 the Arkansas Supreme Court declared Hope Hempstead County's new county seat.²

The onset of World War II brought big changes to the Hope area, especially when the June 7, 1941, edition of the *Hope Star* announced on the front page that "Hope Obtains Big War Plant." The magnitude of what it

¹ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890, p. 379.

² Turner, Mary Nell. Information on Hope, Arkansas, found at: <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=895>.

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meant for Hope was apparent in the telegram that Senator George Lloyd Spencer sent the *Star* from St. Louis on June 5, 1941, which said:

I have communicated with the War Department several times yesterday and today. They now authorize me to announce that a site north of Hope has definitely been selected for the proving ground.

The area will be five miles wide and 15 miles long and will cover approximately 37,000 acres.

The contract will be let as quickly as possible with the hope that work may be started by July 15.

The project will represent an expenditure of approximately 15 million dollars and construction will employ 4,000 or 5,000 persons. It will permanently employ 500 or more.

I am gratified that Arkansas has received this additional plant and am particularly pleased that my home county was selected. Governor [Homer] Adkins should be given full credit for his help in this matter.³

The Southwestern Proving Ground (and its sister facility the Jefferson Proving Ground in Indiana) were important components of America's World War II efforts on the home front. As tensions escalated in Europe in the late 1930s, it became more and more of a reality that the United States would likely enter the conflict. During the escalation of tensions, even though the United States was not actually at war, it was still involved in the war effort by providing war materials to its Allies. In preparation for such an event the U.S. Government instituted the National Defense Program, which provided factories for the manufacture of munitions, airplanes and tanks. The National Defense Program is what directly led to the construction of the Southwestern Proving Ground in Hope as it was used to test those products for the war effort.⁴

After the news of the construction of the proving ground was released in June 1941, a map of the proposed facility was published showing that it would cover 37,650 acres of land encompassing private landholdings of 244 individuals and firms and 937 acres of state-held property. The reservation was bounded on the south by a line four and a half miles north of Hope, which ran about three and a half miles east and west. The area

³ Turner, Mary Nell. "Southwestern Proving Ground 1941-1945. *Journal of the Hempstead County Historical Society*. Volume X, Spring 1986, p. 3. The Southwestern Proving Ground supplemented the Jefferson Proving Ground located about 5 miles north of Madison, Indiana.

⁴ Hope, Holly. "Southwestern Proving Ground Airport Historic District, Hope, Hempstead County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1998, pp. 8-9.

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widened at its northern extension by about 15 miles, brushing the towns of Washington and Ozan. The northern boundary line from east to west was about five and a half miles wide, leaving Belton a half mile north of the northern boundary line, McCaskill one and a half miles east from the line and DeAnn two and a half miles east of the line. (After the initial evacuation order the War Department decided that there was not a proper site for an airport so they surveyed 4,000 more acres southwest of the reservation. After the addition of the airport complex several more acres were seized bringing the total to 50,780.27 acres.)⁵

The land needed for the development of the Southwestern Proving Ground would be acquired by the Real Estate Department of the War Department through condemnation proceedings for those sections that were needed to do immediate work. Each person's land was appraised and then negotiations were undertaken with the land owner to determine the amount of compensation that they would receive for the land, any improvements, and for the crops that were growing. Evacuation of the residents began in July 1941, and a total of 404 families were eventually relocated by the July 24th deadline.⁶

The tight time schedule did cause a few problems. The National Guard had to provide 45 tents and running water on 20 acres of land in Washington for some families who could not find other places to live, and that there was not enough time to build temporary housing for. In August 1941 there were half a dozen families living in the 1874 courthouse in Washington.⁷

However, relocating the families was not the only problem that the government had to deal with. There were seven cemeteries in the area that the government had to relocate. Licensed undertakers bid on the job of removing and reintering the bodies at new cemetery sites approved by the Constructing Quartermaster and the State Board of Health. The original tombstones were required to be reinstalled in concrete as they were on the old grave on a site that was to be equal or better than the former, and graves would be placed in their original alignment. All of the relocations had to be completed by June 1, 1942, since firing in the area was supposed to begin then.⁸

The development of the Southwestern Proving Ground was initially greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the local community due to the economic impact that it would bring to the area. However, criticism did arise from the area's residents, especially during the confusion associated with the relocations. In addition, it was also rumored that Senator Spencer had encouraged the placement of the facility to encompass his farm in the area. The editor of the *Hope Star* at the time, Alex Washburn, understood the need for the facility in terms of United States defense, but also understood the plight of the people who were displaced by the construction.

⁵ Hope, p. 9.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ *Ibid.*

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He wrote that, "... anybody can see things about the Proving Ground to break your heart - but it is admittedly the biggest thing in South Arkansas since the El Dorado oil boom in 1921 ..."⁹

The construction of the Proving Ground was awarded to the W. E. Callahan Construction Company, which began hiring 4,000 construction workers on July 15, 1941. The architects and engineers for the project were Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendorff of Indianapolis, and among their employees were Herb Blemker, chief engineer in building the Jefferson Proving Ground, and one of his assistants, Harry Fritchie. The project director was W. K. Mellyor, and he worked out an agreement with Senator Spencer to guarantee preferential treatment of local citizens in consideration for jobs.¹⁰

The number and variety of buildings necessary to operate the facility was mind-boggling. Hundreds of buildings ranging from powder magazines and turret houses to shop buildings and a hospital were constructed to carry out the various missions and operations at the installation. In addition, residential buildings were needed, which included at least one barracks building (Building #208) and officer's quarters (Buildings #300-319), which comprise the Southwestern Proving Ground Officers Quarters Historic District.¹¹

Due to the December 7, 1941, bombing of Pearl Harbor, the opening festivities at the Proving Ground were delayed, and it was not until April 5, 1942, that Hempstead County residents were able to pass through the gates. In a two-hour period, 1,250 cars carrying 6,250 people passed through the gates, although nobody was allowed to leave their cars. Washburn wrote in the Hope Star wrote that "Sunday's visitors who, celebrating Army Day, were permitted to go through the completed SPG saw there a graphic example of American efficiency and speed - for what was rolling prairie and timberland only last August is today a functioning war plant. ...But the record will show that the SPG location here was announced May 1941; executive officers began arriving in July; workers were hired in August and the first gun fired January 1, 1942. ...Like our Anglo brothers over in England, we Americans languish slow in the arms of peace - rise slowly to the act of war. But brother when we get going!"¹²

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ Hope, p. 10, and Turner, Mary Nell. "Southwestern Proving Ground 1941-1945. *Journal of the Hempstead County Historical Society*. Volume X, Spring 1986, p. 10.

¹¹ Turner, Mary Nell. "Southwestern Proving Ground 1941-1945. *Journal of the Hempstead County Historical Society*. Volume X, Spring 1986, pp. 16-17.

¹² Turner, Mary Nell. "Southwestern Proving Ground 1941-1945. *Journal of the Hempstead County Historical Society*. Volume X, Spring 1986, p. 14.

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Artillery Stockades have been used as a form of defense for nearly as long as there has been a need for military fortification. Their purpose is to provide a form of shield from fire while also allowing those behind it to return fire safely. Stockades are ideal for temporary fortification because they provide relatively good protection despite the short time and little effort needed for their construction.

The earliest stockades were created by taking timbers and burying them in rows so that several feet of them were below ground and six or more feet were above ground. Sometimes two of the walls were built about two feet apart and the space between them was filled with earth or stones for even greater strength of protection. To prevent assailants from scaling stockades, the tops of the timbers were often sharpened to points or barbed wire was added. To further hinder the enemy, ditches could be dug in front of the stockade, giving those behind the stockade the higher ground and thus the advantage.¹³

Stockades provided excellent temporary protection from attack and consequently they were used for many centuries, but they were not perfect. Because they were made of wood, they could easily be burned or torn down should the enemy come close enough to it, and of course, they were only temporary.¹⁴ Furthermore, as weapons technology advanced, so did the need for improved stockades. Stronger materials, like concrete, had to be used to ensure that stockades could effectively shield from attack.

Building #4, as part of the Southwestern Proving Ground, would not have been used in an actual combat situation, but it was necessary for it to be built to the same standards as authentic stockades to ensure that any tests of its ability to withstand fire and also to test fire would be accurate. It was constructed of concrete which made it rather resilient to many World War II weapons, and like its wooden predecessors, it needed to be able to shield its occupants while allowing them to fire at their assailants. The multiple bays would have served the purpose of separating both troops and weapons; therefore, if some of the artillery was to catch fire or explode in one bay, the others would be protected. Its walls were also tall enough to prevent scaling, although they lacked further defenses such as spikes or barbed wire.

Building #4 would have been an integral part of the facilities needed at the proving ground and an essential building needed for the testing of weapons and artillery. The stockade would have provided the necessary facility to carry out the testing while also providing protection to the military personnel. The use of the stockade and the testing of the weapons and artillery would have provided valuable insights and development of weapons necessary for our troops during World War II.

On May 7, 1945, Germany surrendered and on August 14, Japan surrendered, bringing an end to World War II and also bringing an end to operations at the Southwestern Proving Ground. By August 20 the proving

¹³ Leach, Smith Stallard, *Engineer Field Manual*. Government Printing Office, 1912, p. 380.

¹⁴ Leach, Smith Stallard, *Engineer Field Manual*. Government Printing Office, 1912, p. 380.

ground was ordered closed within 30 days and by September the only staff present would be a skeleton crew

Southwestern Proving Ground Building #4
Name of Property

Hempstead County, Arkansas
County and State

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National Park Service

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to write up final reports. The Army declared the proving ground surplus but in December 1945 the sale was stopped as the city of Hope was told it would receive the SPG airport. The remaining acreage would fall under the policies of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation and the Surplus Property Corporation.¹⁵

After the Southwestern Proving Ground was closed and declared to be surplus, the War Assets Administration came in to clear the property of military supplies and equipment as well as any remaining explosives. The land and all the buildings on it were then sold to the Hope Development Corporation, which in turn, sold the property to industrial companies and citizens.

Southwestern Proving Ground Building #4 was an important component of the Southwest Proving Ground. As such, it remains as an important reminder of the work done in Arkansas to support America's effort during World War II. Building #4 illustrates the variety of support buildings that were needed in addition to the factory buildings at Southwestern Proving Ground, and is a good example of a World War II military stockade.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Building #4 of the Southwestern Proving Ground is important for its association with World War II-era military activity in southwestern Arkansas. The Southwestern Proving Ground was an important World War II military facility used as an airfield for bombers and a testing ground for artillery shells and air bombs. (The Southwestern Proving Ground Airport Historic District was NR-listed on June 10, 1999.) Building #4 of the Southwestern Proving Ground is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with World War II-era military activity in Hempstead County. The Southwestern Proving Ground Building #4 is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "We've Gotta Get Tough: History of WWII Home front Efforts in Arkansas, 1941-1946."

¹⁵ Hope, p. 10.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.

“History of Military Housing Construction” found at: <https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/ES-Programs/Conservation/Quarters/three.html>.

Information on Oakhaven provided by the Honorable Summer Bright, Mayor of Oakhaven. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Leach, Smith Stallard, United States War Department. *Engineer Field Manual*. Government Printing Office, 1912.

Turner, Mary Nell. Information on Hope, Arkansas, found at:
<http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=895>.

Turner, Mary Nell. “Southwestern Proving Ground 1941-1945”. *Journal of the Hempstead County Historical Society*. Volume X, Spring 1986.

Southwestern Proving Ground Building #4

Name of Property

Hempstead County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 443747 3734216
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 Katie Worrell, Intern, and Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 16, 2008
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9787
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 Rene England
street & number 360 Hempstead 23 telephone 870-722-5421
city or town Hope state AR zip code 71801

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the southwest corner of the stockade located at UTM 15/443733E/3734205N, proceed northwesterly to the northwest corner of the stockade located at UTM 15/443719E/3734235N, thence proceed northeasterly to the northeast corner of the stockade located at UTM 15/443759E/3734250N, thence proceed southeasterly to the southeast corner of the stockade located at UTM 15/443772E/3734222N, thence proceed southwesterly to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes all of the land historically associated with Southwestern Proving Ground Building #4.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Southwestern Proving Ground Building No. 4
NAME:

MULTIPLE World War II Home Front Efforts in Arkansas, MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Hempstead

DATE RECEIVED: 12/09/08 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 12/31/08
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/15/09 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/22/09
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 08001339

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 1.22.09 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

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.



SOUTHWESTERN PROVING GROUND BUILDING #4

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2008

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF THE STOCKADE, LOOKING EAST





SOUTHWESTERN PROVING GROUND BUILDING #4

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2008

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF THE STOCKADE, LOOKING SOUTH



SOUTHWESTERN PROVING GROUND BUILDING #4

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2008

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF THE STOCKADE AND FIRE CONTROL BUILDINGS, LOOKING SOUTHWEST



SOUTHWESTERN PROVING GROUND BUILDING #4

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2008

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR
VIEW OF THE STOCKADE, LOOKING NORTHWEST



SOUTHWESTERN PROVING GROUND BUILDING #4

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

MARCH 2008

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF A FIRE CONTROL BUILDING, LOOKING NORTHEAST



SOUTHWESTERN PROVING GROUND BUILDING #4

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY, AR

RALPH S. WILCOX

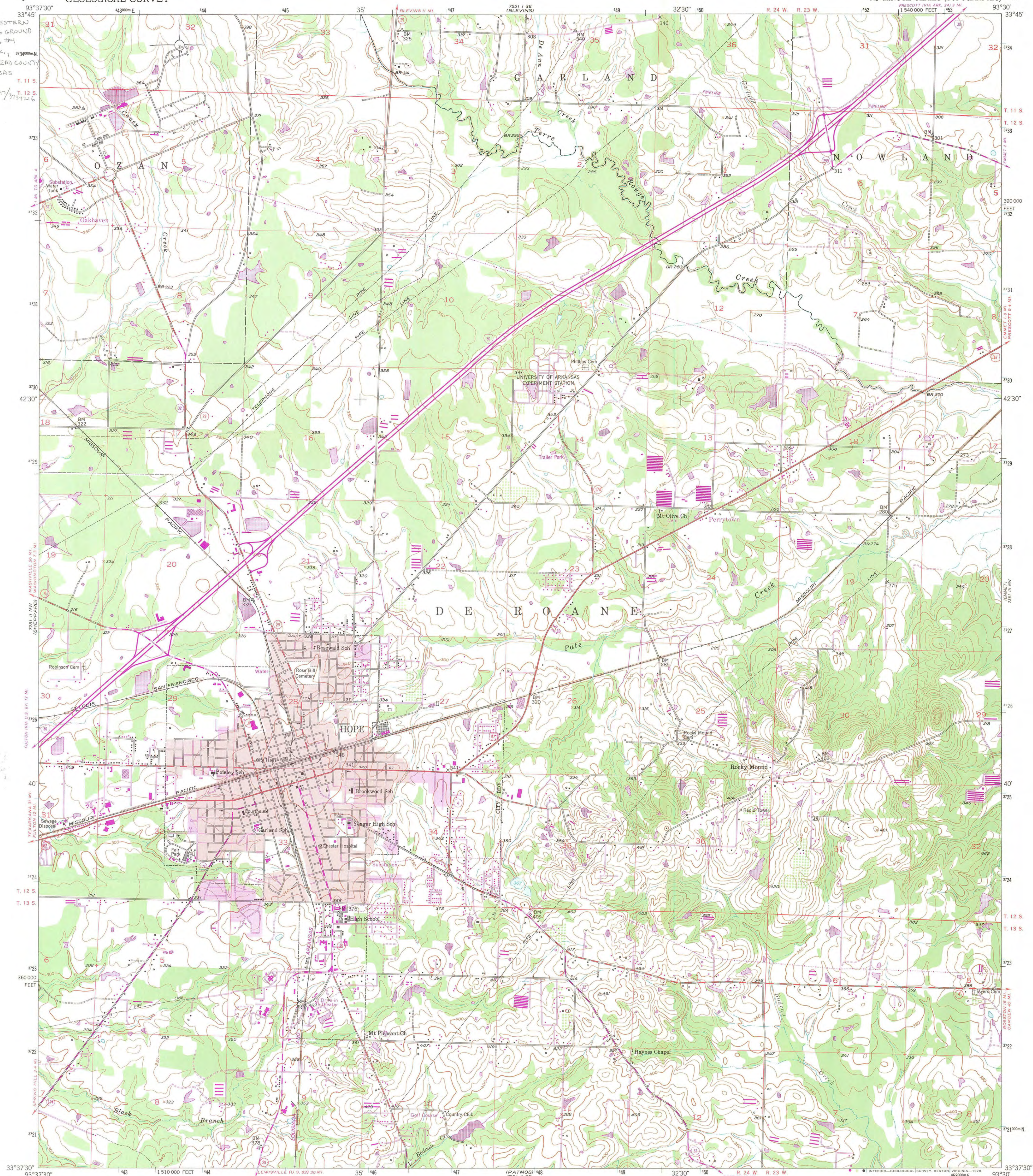
MARCH 2008

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW OF THE STOCKADE, LOOKING NORTHEAST

HOPE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-HEMPSTEAD CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SOUTHWESTERN
PROVING GROUND
BUILDING #4
HOPE VIC., 3734000
NEMPSTEAD COUN
ARKANSAS
UTM; T. 11
15/443747/37342 T. 12



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE.

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs taken 1948. Topography by plane-table methods 1951

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system,
south zone

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1978

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty _____ 4 LANE | 6 LANE Light-duty _____

Medium-duty Unimproved dirt

 U. S. Route  State Route

HOPE, ARK.
N3337.5—W9330/7.5

1951
PHOTOREVISED 1978
AMS 7251 II NE—SERIES V884



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

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info@arkansaspreservation.org

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November 18, 2008

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: Southwestern Proving Ground Building #4 – Hope vic.,
Hempstead 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