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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cotter Water Tower

other names/site number Site BA0142

2. Location

street & number Northeast of the US Highway 62 B and State Street intersection

☐ not for publication

city or town Cotter

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Baxter code 005 zip code 72626

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Chubb
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/11/06
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

1-24-07

Cotter Water Tower
Name of Property

Baxter 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		structures
		objects
1	1	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/water tower

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks/
water tower

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

No style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation METAL

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 Cotter Water Tower is located on US Highway 62 B in Cotter, Arkansas. Rich in natural resources, Cotter, known as the "Trout Capitol, USA," is a popular recreational town for Baxter County and Northern Arkansas. The water tower was built by the Pittsburgh and Des Moines Steel Company with assistance from the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1935.

ELABORATION

The Cotter Water Tower is located 50 meters east of US Highway 62 B in Cotter, Arkansas. The highway runs north-south from Canada to Mexico. Cotter is situated in between the White and Norfork Rivers and is surrounded by the hills of the Ozarks. The structure was built by the Pittsburgh and Des Moines Steel Company with assistance from the PWA in 1935. Prior to the completion of this water tower, there were no water facilities. Today the water tower remains as the only water facility in Cotter, Arkansas.

The water tower is a metal frame structure supported by four steel piers that slant out towards the ground. Metal cross pieces are inserted between the piers to provide additional support. A large metal pipe stands in the center of these piers and rises to the bottom of the water tank, carrying water from the ground to the tank. A metal plaque on the tower reads "Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Co. Constructing Engineers Pittsburgh, PA Des Moines, IA."

The water tank has a bowl-shaped bottom and is covered in a conical roof. The walls of the tank are constructed in curved metal sheets. The large metal pipe connects to the tank at the center of its base. Above the base, a metal walkway circles the tank. There is a utility ladder which is connected to the walkway and descends down one of the piers. At the top of the tank, the walls bear the name "COTTER" painted in black letters. Above the painted letters, the conical roof projects past the tank's walls.

INTEGRITY

The structure, built by the PWA retains most of its original fabric. The water tower remains in use today.

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

1935-1957

Significant Dates

1935-1957

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

Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Co. Constructing Engineers, PWA

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 Cotter Water Tower is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the activities of the Public Works Administration (PWA) in Cotter, Arkansas, in the 1930s. The Cotter Water Tower is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** as it is the only example of a 1930s-era PWA water tower in Cotter. The Cotter Water Tower is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

ELABORATION

Bluff dwellers and Native American tribes originally inhabited the mountainous terrain that would become the setting for Cotter, Arkansas.¹ The following years brought forth white settlers, who were looking to benefit from the area's natural resources. In 1819, an ethnographer from New York, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft arrived at the location, interested in the geography and minerals of the Ozark region. Based on his exploration, in 1853, he published a book, *Scenes and Adventures in the Semi-Alpine Regions of the Ozark Mountains of Missouri and Arkansas*.² Forty years after Schoolcraft's visit, Herbert Hoover surveyed the area with a friend geologist. Then in the late 1800s, the discovery of Zinc, nearby in Marion County, resulted in a mining boom, bringing in more people from out of town. By 1902, more than twenty mining companies had formed in Baxter County, with most of the business occurring in the "tent city" that would later become Cotter.³

The success of the mines attracted the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company. In 1902, the company decided that the White River Line division would meet the Missouri Pacific Line at a town that was to be named after the company's manager, William Cotter. In 1904, Cotter was incorporated with a population of 600.⁴ Cotter's growth in the early twentieth century depended upon the railroad, as the majority of the town residents were railroad employees.

By the 1930s, an improved transportation system in Cotter was necessary to accommodate the growing town. Although the railroad permitted passenger trains, automobile access through the town was limited. Before white settlement, there were neither roads nor ferries. The first roads were built in the mid-nineteenth century. However, they were reported to be in terrible condition.⁵ In 1910, the automobile business was introduced to Cotter, but shortly afterwards the business was abandoned due to the rough terrain.⁶ And even

¹ *Baxter County Chronicles* 2005, Bill Dwayne Blevins ed. (Mountain Home Arkansas: Tumbling Shoals Publishing Company, 2005), 1.

² "Cotter Historical Briefs," www.cotterar.com (accessed August 7, 2006).

³ Information on Cotter in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

⁴ Lawry, B.J., *Cotter, Arkansas, The story of a small town*, (Cotter, AR: Ozark Newsletters, 1997), 8.

⁵ *Arkansas Reflections of Our Past Baxter and Marion County*, Newsletter (Kimberling City, MO: Heritage Keepsakes Inc, 1986), 19.

⁶ *Baxter County Chronicles*, 124.

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though the town had established several ferries by the 1930s, the height of the river surge often forced travelers to drive an extra 100 miles north to the bridge at Branson, Missouri, in order to cross the river.⁷

While automobile access was limited in Cotter, the town's central location made it a desirable transportation hub. Steamboats would travel up and down the White River, moving freight—ore and timber, landing at Cotter.⁸ Cotter was also an important stop as part of the Missouri Pacific Railroad line. In addition, Cotter offered outdoor leisure activities with its central location in the Ozarks and among the White and North Fork Rivers.

In June of 1930, the state authorized the construction of the Arkansas portion of the new federal highway, which connected Maysville, Kentucky, to El Paso, Texas, and passed through Cotter.⁹ US Highway 62 became an important road, especially for Arkansas, as it was the first corridor that permitted passage from the northwestern part of the state to the northeastern part of the state. The introduction of US Highway 62 opened a new access to the town and stirred growth in the community. It was believed that Cotter would become a major metropolis for northern Arkansas and a gateway between Batesville, Arkansas and Branson, Missouri.¹⁰ In the same year, the transportation advanced a step further, when the state approved the construction of a new bridge over the White River. This new bridge, named the Ruthven Bridge, remains the only example of a rainbow arch reinforced concrete bridge in the state.

A few years later, along US 62, the Public Works Administration began construction on the Cotter Water Tower. According to the Sanborn insurance maps there were no water facilities prior to the construction of the water tower in 1935.¹¹ There was a spring in Cotter that was the city's primary source of drinking water. Rex Bayless, the former mayor of Cotter, remembered buying a barrel of water from the spring at the cost of 25 cents per barrel.¹² The only other sources of drinking water were two wells, and often people would drink water off the roof of houses.¹³

Since the nineteenth century, research for the planning of water conservation and water use received nationwide attention. There had been an extensive study on water resources, which was accelerated by the Depression.¹⁴ In 1935, at the Arkansas State Planning Board meeting, the members addressed plans for conserving the state's natural resources. They delegated a large portion of this responsibility to the Public Works Administration (PWA). The newly formed PWA was created out of the New Deal to provide work for the unemployed during the Depression. The PWA conducted an intensive survey and listed an inventory of projects in the state that were necessary to improve the general public welfare. In this inventory they noted

⁷ Ibid., 143.

⁸ Ibid., 51.

⁹ Information on Cotter in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹⁰ B.J. Lawry, *Cotter, Arkansas, The Story of a Small Town*, 9.

¹¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Cotter, Arkansas: September 1913 and February 1930.

¹² Lawry, B.J., *Cotter Arkansas, The story of a small town*, 6.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ State of Arkansas Planning Board 1935 Report in the files of the Richard C Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

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199 waterworks projects, the total cost of which was an estimated 8 million dollars. They defined the waterworks projects as those that provided or improved water supply such as reservoirs, water mains, water infiltration plants, wells, dams, and primary water sources.¹⁵

By the time that the PWA conducted this survey, the construction of the Cotter Water Tower was completed. The contract for the construction of Cotter Water Tower was signed in 1933.¹⁶ An estimate of \$57,000 was the projected cost of the project. The town received over \$68,000 in funding from the PWA. By May 31, 1935, the project was finished.¹⁷

A description of Cotter in the mid 1930s in the *Baxter County Chronicles* gives Cotter credit for being the largest town in Baxter County “with a population of 1,200, it had surfaced streets, twenty-four hour electric service, and one of the best municipal water plants in North Arkansas.”¹⁸

Over half a century later, the water tower continues to serve the Cotter community known as the “Trout Capitol, USA.”

The Cotter Water Tower is not only a reminder of the PWA’s aid in the community, but also is symbolic of the community’s growth and prosperity in the 1930s, despite the hardships of the Depression.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cotter Water Tower is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the Public Work Administration (PWA) activities in Cotter, Arkansas during the 1930s. The Cotter Water Tower is also being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** as it is the only example of a 1930s water tower in Cotter built by the PWA. The Cotter Water Tower continues to serve the Cotter Community as the only water tower in the town. The Cotter Water Tower is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing “An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943.”

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Information on Arkansas PWA projects in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ *Baxter County Chronicles*, 160.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Arkansas Reflections of Our Past Baxter and Marion County. Newsletter. Kimberling City, MO: Heritage Keepsakes Inc, 1986.

Baxter County Chronicles 2005. Bill Dwayne Blevins ed. Mountain Home Arkansas: Tumbling Shoals Publishing Company, 2005.

"Cotter Historical Briefs." www.cotterar.com/ (accessed August 7, 2006).

Lawry, B.J. *Cotter, Arkansas, The story of a small town*. Cotter, AR: Ozark Newsletters, 1997.

State of Arkansas Planning Board 1935 Report in the files of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

Cotter Water Tower
Name of Property

Baxter County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>542269</u>	<u>4014477</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

☐ 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	<u>Joanna Hall, National Register Historian</u>		
organization	<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	date	<u>08/10/06</u>
street & number	<u>1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street</u>	telephone	<u>(501) 324-9789</u>
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	state	<u>AR</u>
		zip code	<u>72201</u>

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	<u>Town of Cotter</u>		
street & number	<u>115 McLean Ave</u>	telephone	<u> </u>
city or town	<u>Cotter</u>	state	<u>AR</u>
		zip code	<u>72626</u>

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Cotter Water Tower are defined by a 25-foot radius centered on the water tower itself.

Boundary Justification

This boundary contains the Cotter Water Tower, a small non-contributing shed, and all of the property historically associated with the Cotter Water Tower.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Cotter Water Tower
NAME:

MULTIPLE New Deal Recovery Efforts in Arkansas MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Baxter

DATE RECEIVED: 12/14/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 1/05/07
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 1/20/07 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/27/07
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06001280

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 1.24.07 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.



COTTER WATER TOWER
BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Sarah Lampole, (photosuper)

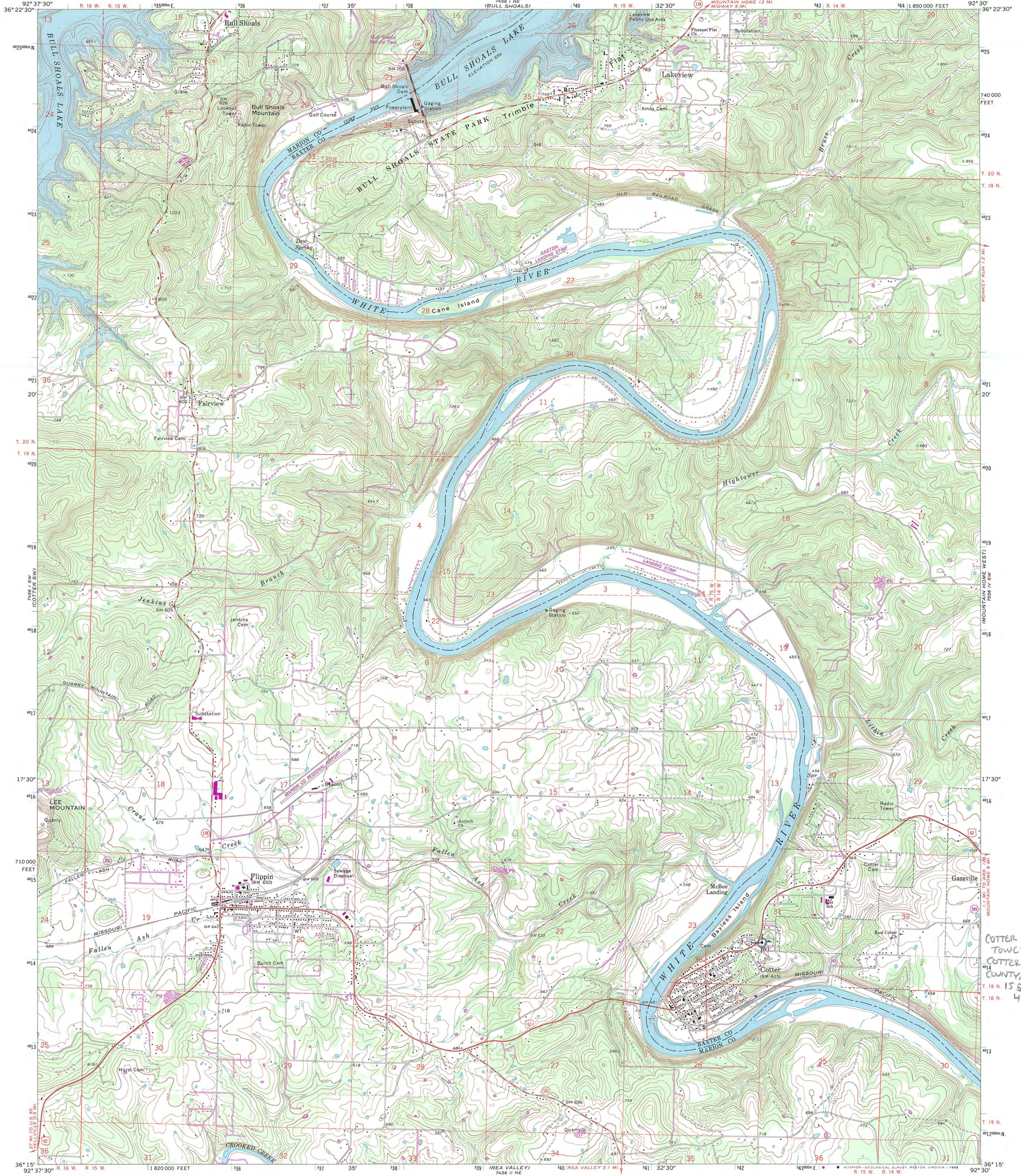
08/23/05

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Archives

Southeast view

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COTTER QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1972
Underwater contours in Bull Shoals Lake from
USCE maps dated 1941
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Areas covered by dashed light-blue pattern
are subject to controlled inundation
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 4 meters south and
15 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET
There may be private inholdings within
the boundaries of the National or
State reservations shown on this map

SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 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

QUADRANGLE LOCATION
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial
photographs taken 1980. Map edited 1981
This information not field checked

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

COTTER, ARK.
36092-C5-TF-024
1972
PHOTOREVISED 1981
DMA 7456 I SE-SERIES V884

COTTER WATER TOWER
COTTER, BAXTER COUNTY, ARKANSAS
T. 19 N. 15 542269E
T. 18 N. 4014477N



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, 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

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer



December 6, 2006

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: Cotter Water Tower – Cotter, Baxter 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 Joanna Hall of my staff at (501) 324-9789. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure