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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 Charles R. Craig Building

other names/site number BE0366

2. Location

street & number 113 South Main Street

not for publication

city or town Bentonville

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR County Benton code 007 zip code 72712

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.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official/Title

8/11/03
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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

[Signature]

SEP 27 2003

Craig, Charles R., Building
Name of Property

Benton 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	0	buildings
0	0	Sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Historic and Architectural Resources of Benton County,
Arkansas

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

20th Century Commercial Style

Italianate

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls METAL: Tin

STUCCO

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The C.R. Craig Building, located at 113 South Main Street in Bentonville, Benton County, is a two-story brick constructed building that was built in circa 1900. The stucco clad building features Italianate elements in the form of decorative pressed tin that covers the building's façade. The Craig Building is located just one and one-half block south of Bentonville Square and was part of the original platted lots developed in 1837 when Bentonville was founded. The flat with parapet roof and brick and stucco walls rests upon a continuous brick foundation.

ELABORATION

Constructed at the corner of S. Main Street and an unidentified alley, the Craig Building, is a two-story brick constructed building designed in the 20th Century Commercial style. The two-story stucco building is one of the anchor buildings in the downtown Bentonville development district. Noted for its Italianate influenced elements such as garlands, shells, Doric columns, and stylized floral, the building is rectangular in shape with a one-story addition on the rear.

Locally produced brick is likely to have been used to construct the building. From 1886 to 1896, John Haney and Zechariah Mitchell both had producing brickyards in Bentonville. Records indicate that Mitchell's brickyard produced 120,000 brick in 1887 and 260,000 in 1888. It is believed that local architect W.T. Ritter designed the building and Lon A. Pace, a local builder at the time is thought to have done the actual construction.

The Laughlin Hotel is rectangular in shape and fits neatly into the first block of South Main with the north end of the building next to a walk-through alleyway which leads to Southeast "A" Street and then connects to the historic Benton County Courthouse. The exterior of the building has been extensively renovated yet done so in keeping with the original design integrity.

West Elevation

The front façade of this stylistic Italianate two-story commercial building faces west. This may have been done to take advantage of the availability of natural sunlight. The afternoon sun would stream into the two large windows on the ground floor and the two narrow side-by-side windows of the second floor as well as through the manually opened skylight roof window that once was located mid-way on the second floor. The front façade has cast iron cornices and capitals attached to the front of the building that are tied together by a metal column that rests between the two second-story windows.

The main roof is of composition roll roofing. The roofline has end corbels and a metal paneled frieze featuring shell-patterned relief. The first floor retains a metal beltway covering the original brick. The metal has garland and wreath relief.

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Section number 7 Page 2

North Elevation

The north side of the structure is covered with stucco and lack the ornamentation found on the front of the building. An upper story stationary window is the only fenestration on the two-story front portion of the elevation. The middle portion of the elevation is covered in stucco and is only one story in height. A single metal door allows access to the side of the building. The rearmost portion of the north side is made up of a concrete block addition that features a single roll-up garage door.

East Elevation

The east side of the building is primarily made up of the concrete block addition. The only notable features of the elevation are two fixed position windows that are located on the two-story section of the building.

South Elevation

The south wall of the building shares a party wall with the neighboring business.

Interior

One key interior feature is the original metal ceiling that has been retained on the first floor. On the west end of the entry room is the large walk-in safe that was installed in the early 1930s. The safe is now used as filing storage. **This safe may have been used by Charles R. Craig and J. W. Blocker (owner of Bentonville Apple Evaporator) for their offices or by the Jewelry Store that once was located there.** Speculation also is that one of the local hotels may have used the safe as well. On the southwest corner of the interior is a beautiful wooden staircase that has been rebuilt to emulate original look and style.

The second floor is composed of a main office, a small hallway, a bathroom, and a conference room. Also noteworthy is a unique jalousie window that has been retained in the main office.

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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Circa 1910

Significant Dates

Circa 1910– Built

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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: _____

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Charles Craig Building located at 113 South Main Street in Bentonville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a two-story commercial building featuring a pressed-tin façade in downtown Bentonville. It is being nominated under the historic context, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Benton County, Arkansas*.

ELABORATION

Benton County is in the extreme northwest corner of Arkansas, bordered by Oklahoma on the west and Missouri on the north. According to Goodspeed's *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwestern Arkansas*, it is believed that the first white settlers in the area now known as Benton County arrived around 1830. On 15 June 1836, Arkansas became the 25th state of the Union. Benton County was organized on 30 September 1836. The county was named after Missouri Senator, Thomas Hart Benton, who helped the Arkansas Territory reach statehood.

Although the town of Bentonville was created in 1837, it was re-incorporated on January 7 1837, which is the date generally accepted as the "official" designation of the City of Bentonville. Three men, Robert Cowen, Robert Weaver and Thomas Swaggerty, selected the site for the town of Bentonville in 1837. These men wrote, "We the undersigned Commissioners elected under an act of the General Assembly of the State of Arkansas... beg leave to report that we have selected a site... for the county seat..." With the authority given to them, they proceeded to lay out a town, "leaving a square and making 136 lots and have named and called said town, Bentonville." Therefore, the town of Bentonville in Benton County became one of only two such county seats in the State with the same surname, the other being Perryville in Perry County, Arkansas.

By 1837 the town had at least 30 settlers including a Samuel Burks, the owner of the Elk Horn Tavern in Pea Ridge, which is the site of the Battle of Pea Ridge. Burks was listed as the first owner of the property at 113 South Main Street. By the year 1860 the town of Bentonville contained five general stores, the furniture store of Henry Baumeister, the Vestal Hotel, the saddle and harness shop of J.W. Clark, the Clark Hotel and three or four mechanics shops. Bentonville was growing considerably with some 500 residents.

In 1852 James T. Craig became a resident of Bentonville. He engaged in merchandising until the Civil War broke out. At the beginning of the war he left Bentonville and returned to Cane Hill and continued farming until 1871. At that time he returned to Bentonville to continue merchandising until 1882 when he turned his business over to sons. His home, the Craig-Bryan House (National Register 1/28/88) was the first two-story house constructed in Bentonville.

Charles R. Craig was born in 1854 and was in the real estate business in Bentonville. He was also engaged in the mercantile establishment of Craig & Sons. Charles and his brother, George, became involved with the growth of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf Railroad and were active in procurement of the rights-of-way

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Section number 8 Page 2

and the laying of the rail lines. He was very active in church and civic activities and in the business of buying and improving farms in Arkansas. He never owned an automobile and never learned to drive one. Family members took him wherever he needed to go. Besides this convenience, he had passes on two railroads but his favorite mode of traveling was walking. Many times he walked the seven miles from Bentonville to Rogers and would transact business before walking back home. He would walk from Bentonville to Gravette, which was nearly twice as far away as Rogers.

Little is known about the actual use of the Craig building. We do know from Sanborn Maps that the building was used as an office on the first floor and a photography studio on the second floor. One can assume that Mr. Craig used the first story office space for his real estate business, as the building's close proximity to the Benton County Courthouse would have been an idea location for such a business. However, at this time we have no concrete evidence of this.

Later the building was owned by Mr. J. W. Blocker. Blocker, owner of the Bentonville Apple Evaporator, located his office in the building. In the early 1900s Benton County was the top apple producing county in the entire United States.

Today the building continues its historic function as an office building and has recently been rehabilitated. Owner Randy Lawson now uses the building for his business, Lawco Exploration, Inc.

Statement of Significance

The Charles Craig Building located at 113 South Main Street in Bentonville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a two-story commercial building featuring a pressed-tin façade in downtown Bentonville. It is being nominated under the historic context, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Benton County, Arkansas*.

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Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Abstract of Title Certificate No 73144, Tucker Abstract Company, P.O. Box 88; Bentonville, Arkansas with last date of September 7, 1962 for Lot 82 in the Original Town of Bentonville, Arkansas

Black, J. Dickson, *History of Benton County, 1836-1936*,

Black, J. Dickson, *Bentonville and its Bank; "Growing Together for Fifty Years"*

Benton County Heritage Committee, *History of Benton County, Arkansas, Rogers, Arkansas 199*, Curtis Media Corporation.

Benton County Daily Record, *Bentonville: Looking Back 130 years, Sunday, January 6, 2003*

Benton County Historical Society, Benton County Pioneer, "*Benton County Timeline, 1541-1999; revised and re-compiled by Tom Duggan.*

Benton County Democrat, "Souvenir Illustrated Edition – Bentonville, Arkansas, June, 1896; Jo. S. Stevenson, Editor and Publisher

Craig, Charles R. Building
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>391601</u> Easting	<u>4025585</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Part of Lot 82 in the Original Town of Bentonville, Arkansas, described as beginning at the NW Corner of said Lot 82; thence East 80 feet; thence South 48 feet; thence West 80 feet; thence North 48 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains all resources historically associated with the Craig Building that retain integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy S. Perkins, National Register Historian
Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 11 June 2003
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 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 Randy and Valorie Lawson
street & number 208 Devon Green telephone 479-273-2670
city or town Bentonville state Arkansas zip code 72712

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Craig, Charles R., Building

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Benton

DATE RECEIVED: 8/13/03 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/15/03
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/01/03 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/27/03
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 03000957

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 SEP 27 2003 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



1. Charles R. Craig Building
2. Benton County, AR
3. Zoe Coltrane
4. June 2003
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. Front (west) elevation, Looking east.
7. #1



1. Charles R. Craig Building
2. Benton Co, AR
3. Zee Githen
4. June 2003
5. AHPP
6. Front elevation. Looking east.
7. #2



1. Charles R. Craig Building
2. Benton Co., AR
3. Zac Cothren
4. June 2003
5. AHPP
6. Front elevation. Pressed tin detailing.
7. # 3



1. Charles R. Craig Building

2. Benton Co, AR

3. Zoe Cotman

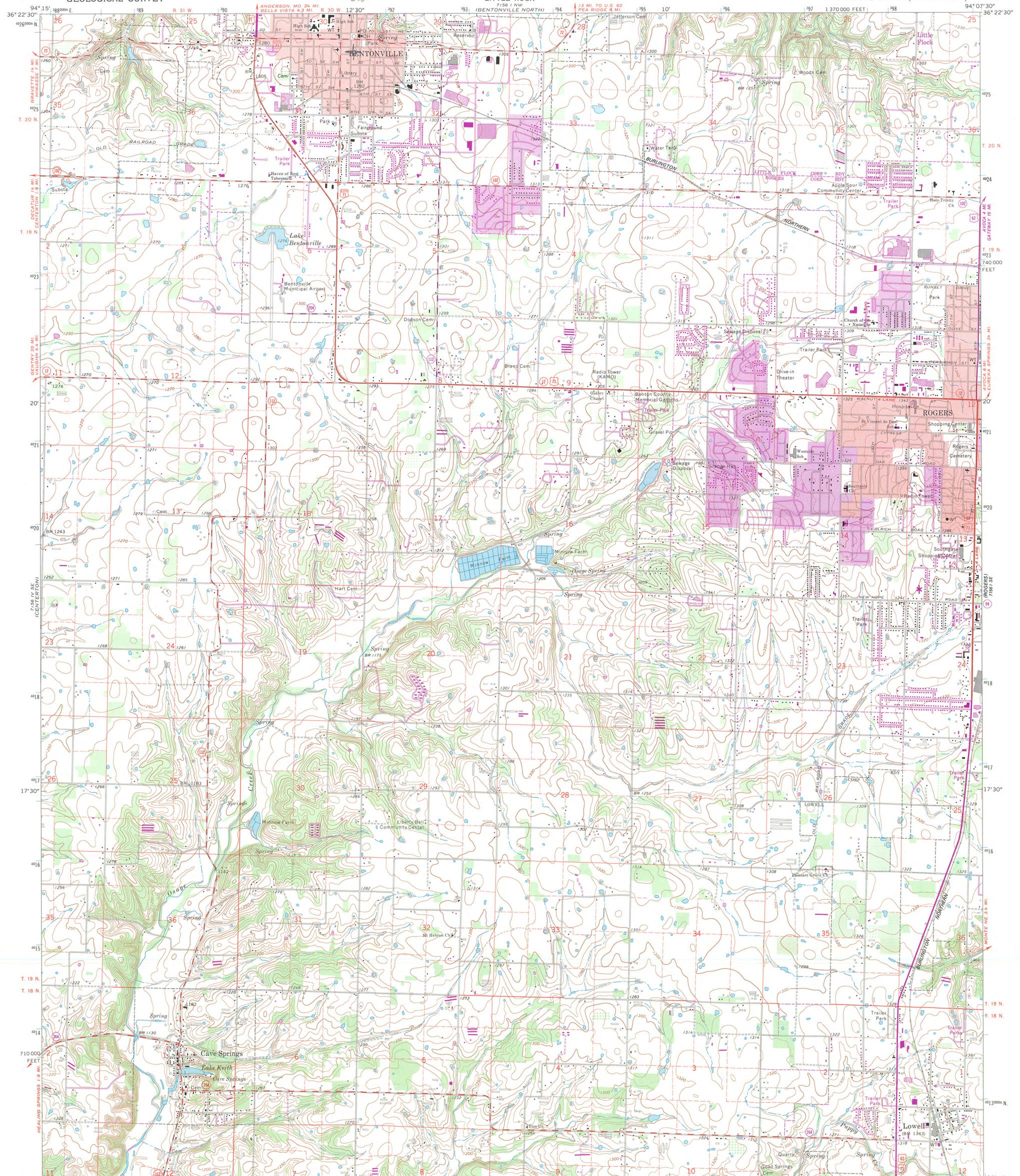
4. June 2005

5. AHPP

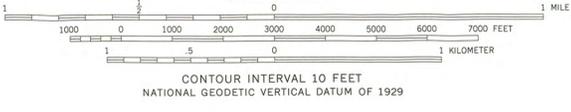
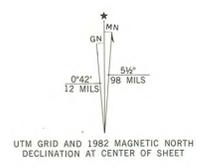
6. Rear elevation. Looking west.

7. #4

Charles R. Craig Building
Bentonville, Benton Co., AR
UTM: 15139160E/4025585N



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
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
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
move the projection lines 5 meters south and
17 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1990
and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1982
Purple tint indicates extension of urban area



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry hard surface
U.S. Route	State Route

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

BENTONVILLE SOUTH, ARK.
N3615-W9407.5/7.5
1970
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 7156 I SW—SERIES V884



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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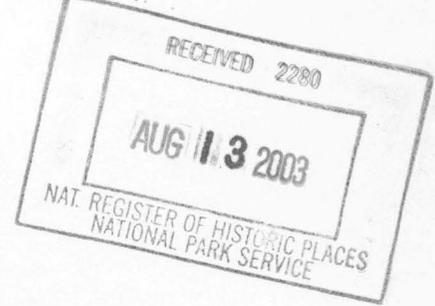
tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org



August 7, 2003

Carol D. Shull
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: Charles R. Craig Building- Bentonville, Benton County

Dear Carol:

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:zc

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer

