

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Burnett Springs

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: Approximately one mile east of Corley at the end of  
County Road 704

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Corley

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Logan code: AR 083 zip code: 72855

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National  
Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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#### 5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall

9.22.95

Entered in the  
National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

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

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#### 6. Function or Use

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Historic: LANDSCAPE Sub: Natural feature

Current : LANDSCAPE Sub: Natural feature

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation N/A roof N/A  
walls Stone other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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## Summary

The site known as Burnett (alternatively spelled "Burnette") Springs is formed by several small springs that rise from the ground at this location. Only one of these springs is distinctly visible; it has been encased by a stone reservoir box and protected by several dry-laid fieldstone walls that prevent erosion of this gently-sloping site. The built record of the small community that formerly surrounded the springs has disappeared over time, leaving the springs as the only visible above-ground resource associated therewith.

## Elaboration

The Burnett Springs site is located off an unpaved county road approximately one mile to the west of the town of Corley. The site known as Burnett (alternatively spelled "Burnette") Springs is formed by several small springs that rise from the ground at this location. Only one of these springs is distinctly visible; it has been encased by a stone reservoir box and protected by several dry-laid fieldstone walls that prevent erosion of this gently-sloping site. It is a copperas spring, while the other two springs known to rise at this site are sulphur and clear water springs.

The built record of the small resort community that formerly surrounded the springs has disappeared over time, leaving the springs themselves as the only visible above-ground resource associated therewith.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Period(s) of Significance: 1878-1915 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: 1878-1915 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Burnette, Captain \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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**Summary**                      Criterion A, local significance

The Burnett Springs site is locally significant by virtue of its historical associations with the early Logan County resort community of Burnett Springs, later re-named Corley, and with Captain John Burnette, the Federal Civil War veteran who moved to this site in 1878 from Mint Hill, Missouri and first settled this part of Flat Top Mountain. The spring box and related fieldstone walls built by Captain Burnette are all the visible traces of this historic resort community that remain.

**Elaboration**

Captain John Burnette was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee on April 15, 1824. He was thirty-seven years of age at the onset of the Civil War in 1861, and his political sympathies led him to join the northern cause soon thereafter. He was stationed in St. Louis, Missouri for the course of the conflict; at its end, he and his wife, Lydia Bennett Burnett, made their home in Mint Hill, Missouri, where he became the leading tobacco grower of Osage County. In addition, he raised wheat, registered cattle, horses and "Missouri mules." Captain and Mrs. Burnette raised a total of eight children, several of whom married before the family left Missouri.

The extended Burnette family left Mint Hill in the winter of 1878 to find a warmer climate; naturally, this led them south. Leaving in four covered wagons, the family traveled sixteen days to get to Flat Top Mountain (located immediately northeast of Mount Magazine in rural Logan County, across the top of which is now located the community of Corley). The family immediately settled in the vicinity of several natural springs that Capt. Burnette reputedly found by following a deer trail. Capt. Burnette set about to immediately improve and stabilize the springs: with the help of his sons he dug out the springs and created more accessible spring boxes using large, flat rock rocks. There were several springs that rose at this site; the larger springs were all copperas, while the other springs were sulphur and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 3 Page 1

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**Burnett Springs - Corley vic., Logan County, Arkansas**

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

Cathryn A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official/Title

August 15, 1995  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau



clear water. Soon thereafter Capt. Burnette cleared adjacent land and built a new residence. He surrounded his claim with a substantial wooden fence constructed of lumber he had sawn at a nearby mill.

The Burnette family's settlement of this area by the late 1870s was indeed fortuitous, as they inadvertently anticipated the boom in the American resort industry and the popularity of rural, isolated "getaways" for people of sufficient means. The small village that grew around the springs gradually oriented itself toward the steady stream of visitors who visited the springs and who sought the medicinal qualities of the water. Their popularity was of such magnitude that by 1904 several local men who lived near the springs constructed a new wood frame hotel to the east of the springs which became known as the Burnette Springs Hotel. Painted white with green trim, the Burnette Springs Hotel was three stories tall, over thirty feet high, and contained forty rooms, all elaborately furnished. A Mr. England of Ola became the first manager. The first wave of lodgers to patronize the hotel hailed from such disparate points as Little Rock, Ft. Smith, Dardanelle, eastern Oklahoma and southern Missouri.

Flat Top Mountain was accessible via only one route at the time: a rough road from Paris up over the mountain. Yet, the popularity of the springs was such that one Bennett Walker operated a livery stable and took passengers to the mountain in a buggy.

At its peak Burnett Springs could boast of elaborate hotels, a church, two blacksmith shops, a one-room school, a canning plant, a drug store, a village physician, a saw mill, a barrel stave mill and two stores.

The hotel carried on a thriving business for the next several years, but by 1915 health resorts were both plentiful and gradually falling out of favor. The building remained on this site until 1930, when it burned. Other buildings remained for a longer period of time -- such as the school building and several homes -- but these have all now disappeared.

The Burnett Springs site remains significant for its associations with both the first community founded here by the Burnette family and the later resort community that grew around the springs. Since all the other historic buildings and structures have disappeared, the springs themselves remain the only surviving above-ground resource that retain these significant historic associations. For this reason, the Burnett Springs site is locally eligible under Criterion A.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information provided by Nina Lois Flannery, October, 1994.

Kinney, Vela, "Burnette Springs and the Burnette Family," *Wagon Wheels*, vol. 14, no. 2, pp. 15-19.

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- \_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- \_ previously listed in the National Register
- \_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- \_ designated a National Historic Landmark
- \_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office

\_ Other state agency

\_ Federal agency

\_ Local government

\_ University

\_ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>441510</u>	<u>3897010</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

The property is a square parcel measuring 50 feet on each side, the northwest corner of which is 33 feet directly northwest of the the northwest corner of the spring box and the southeast corner of which is 33 feet directly southeast of the southeast corner of the spring box.

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

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

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Ken Story, NR/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 8, 1995

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Burnett Springs  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Logan

DATE RECEIVED: 8/22/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/06/95  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/22/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/06/95  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95001126

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 9.22.95 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





BURNETT SPRINGS

CORLEY VIC., LOGAN CO., AR

PHOTOGRAPHED BY R. BALDWIN

4/95

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTH





BURNETT SPRINGS

CORLEY VIC., LOGAN CO., AR

PHOTO BY R. B. BLOWIN

4/95

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTH





BURNETT SPRINGS

CORLEY VIC., LOGAN CO., AR

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

4/95

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM WEST





BURNETT SPRINGS

CORLEY VIC., LOGAN Co., AR

PHOTO BY R. BLOWIN

4/95

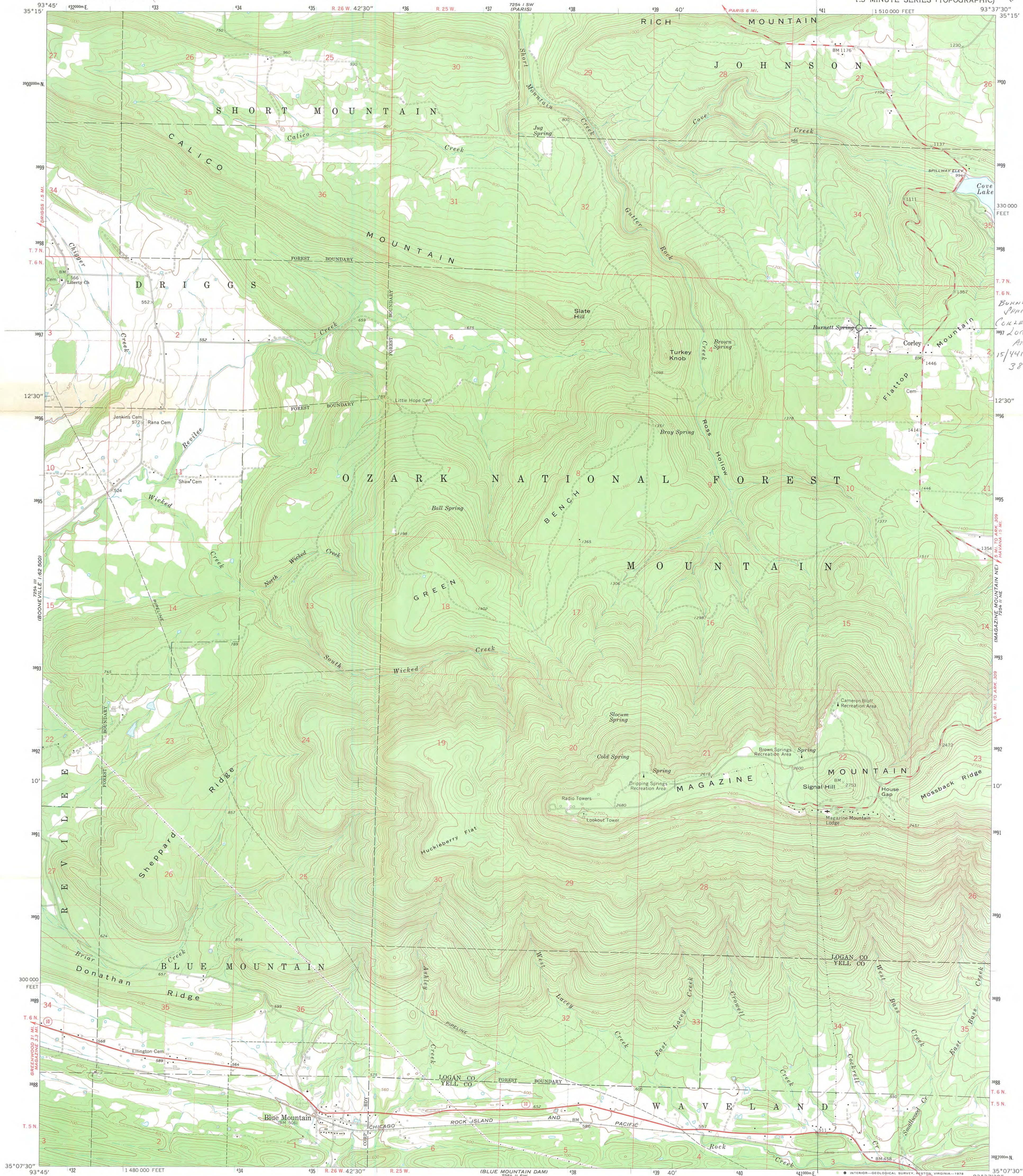
NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

SPRING RETAINING WALL DETAIL

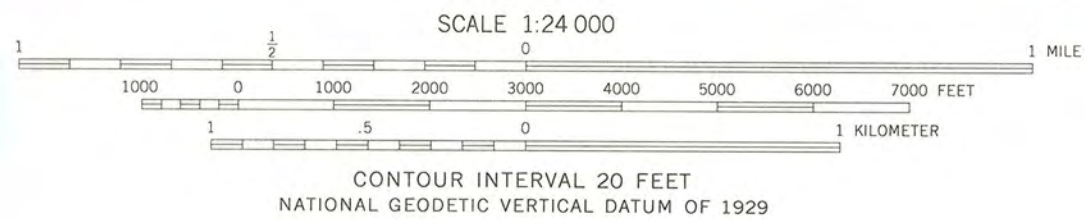
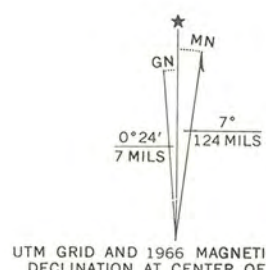


UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

BLUE MOUNTAIN 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 1962. Field checked 1966  
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  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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 ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
State Route ———

BLUE MOUNTAIN, ARK.  
N3507.5—W9337.5/7.5

1966

AMS 7254 II NW—SERIES V884