

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Formreceived **AUG 2 1983**
date enteredSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections**1. Name**

historic Mays General Store

and/or common Gilbert General Store

2. Location

street & number Front Street, P. O. Box 45 N/A not for publication

city, town Gilbert N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Searcy code 129

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A <input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Vernon N. and Elizabeth A. Grove

street & number P. O. Box 53

city, town Gilbert N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Searcy County Courthouse

street & number Marshall Square

city, town Marshall state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle N/A has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no N/Adate ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Mays General Store, a one story red brick structure, actually consists of two buildings identical in plan and elevations, that were joined in 1906. The south building was constructed in 1901 and the north building was added in 1906, at which time the north wall of the 1901 store was removed. Though their symmetrical front facades are identical in their configuration, the brickwork of each store-front is detailed differently. Thus, while the store has been one large building since 1906, its front elevation reads as two individual storefronts.

ELABORATION

Erected for Billy Mays, the first half of Mays General Store in Gilbert was constructed in 1901. Because of his thriving business, Mays attached a second building in 1906, and by removing the north wall of the first building, achieved a large, undivided interior space for his store. The building has a flat roof that is gently sloped from the front to the rear. Each of the storefronts have slightly recessed central entrances with double wood and glass doors with three-light transoms. A fixed two-light window is positioned above each door transom. The angled walls of the recessed entrances have narrow one-over-one fixed windows with two-light transoms. Large four-light fixed windows rest on limestone sills on either side of the entrances. A continuous parapet joins the two storefronts, beneath which four buff brick designs embellish the 1901 storefront and a row of headers details the 1906 facade. The side elevations are continuous, uninterrupted brick walls without fenestrations. The rear of each storefront has a door with a two-light transom, flanked on either side by a four-over-four double-hung window.

The interior of the store was constructed with a wood ceiling and wood plank floor, the latter of which was replaced with concrete during the 1930's. The north and south walls are lined with hardwood shelves which are original, as are the tables, bins, display cases, glass show cases, cash register and safe, all of which are in use today.

Alterations to Mays General Store include the removal of the original porch and its replacement with a cement porch during the 1930's. Additions to the later porch include a tin roof in 1979 and oak steps and cedar handrails in 1981. Two partitions at the southeast corner of the store interior have been added to create a small office.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1901/1906

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Mays General Store is the only commercial building remaining in the small community of Gilbert in north central Arkansas. Constructed in two phases, 1901 and 1906, by Billy Mays, the store originally served as an anchor around which other commercial buildings were constructed. A small building boom occurred in Gilbert in the early 1900's following a decision to make the town a stop on the Missouri and North Arkansas railroad line. The town's close proximity to the scenic Buffalo River had much to do with this decision, as well as the area zinc mines. The railroad caused such an increase in Gilbert's population that the town numbered 300 citizens by 1906. Mays' business prospered during the early decades of the 20th Century. Serving both the railroad and the farmers in the area, the store stocked feed, grain, tack, drygoods, groceries, and other assorted merchandise. Fuel such as kerosene, oil and gas for heating homes and powering machinery was a standard item as well. In the early 1920's the store was sold to Buck Mays and Tom Mite who continued to operate it as Mays General Store. However, by 1926 it was known as Baker's General Store following its purchase by W. Riley Baker. The Missouri and North Arkansas railroad ran its last train through Gilbert in 1945, and what had once been an active little trade center began to rapidly decline. The small shops and factories closed, leaving the general store as the only retail establishment by 1949. In 1950, the local post office moved into the store with Loucille Baker as the post-mistress. The 1890's mail boxes were moved from their original site into the store as well. W. R. Baker retained ownership until 1979 when Mike Mills bought the store and changed its name to Gilbert General Store. The store is a lone reminder of the impact the coming of the railroad had on the rural landscape.

9. Major Bibliographical References

National Geographic, March, 1977

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Gilbert, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	2	5	6	1	0	3	9	8	2	5	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 of Block 9 of the original town of Gilbert, Arkansas

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Vernon N. Grove (ed. by AHPP staff)

organization N/A

date July 28, 1983

street & number P. O. Box 53

telephone 501-349-2648

city or town Gilbert

state Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

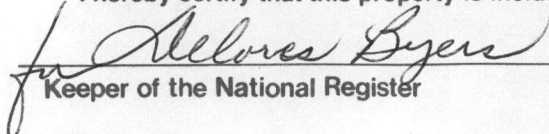


title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7-29-83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/1/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Mays General Store
Searcy County
ARKANSAS

Working No. AUG 2 1983
Fed. Reg. Date: 2-7-84
Date Due: 9/1/83 9/16/83
Action: ☒ ACCEPT 9/1/83
☐ RETURN
Entered in the National Register ☐ REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

- ☐ resubmission
☐ nomination by person or local government
☐ owner objection
☐ appeal

Substantive Review: ☐ sample ☐ request ☐ appeal ☐ NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____
Reviewer _____
Discipline _____
Date _____
_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

7. Description

Condition

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed |

Check one

- ☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

- ☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- ☐ summary paragraph
☐ completeness
☐ clarity
☐ alterations/integrity
☐ dates
☐ boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____

Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance *(in one paragraph)*

- ☐ summary paragraph
- ☐ completeness
- ☐ clarity
- ☐ applicable criteria
- ☐ justification of areas checked
- ☐ relating significance to the resource
- ☐ context
- ☐ relationship of integrity to significance
- ☐ justification of exception
- ☐ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification _____

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature _____

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- ☐ Maps
- ☐ Photographs
- ☐ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Mays General Store
Gilbert, Arkansas
Alice Jones, photographer
November, 1982
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the Northeast



Mays General Store
Gilbert, Arkansas
Alice Jones, photographer
November, 1982
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the East



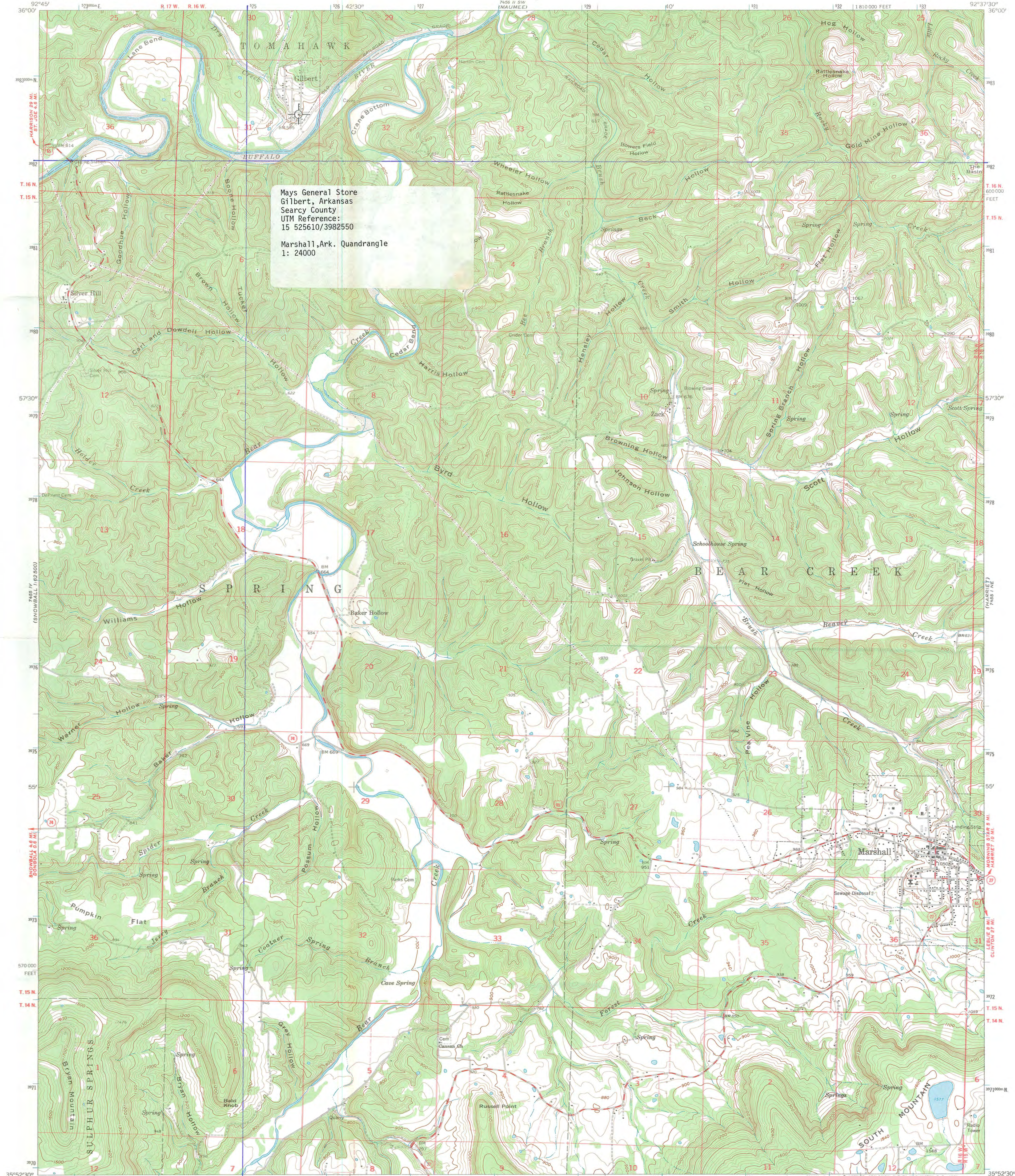
Mays General Store
Gilbert, Arkansas
Alice Jones, photographer
November, 1981
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the Northwest



Mays General Store
Gilbert, Arkansas
Alice Jones, photographer
November, 1982
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the East



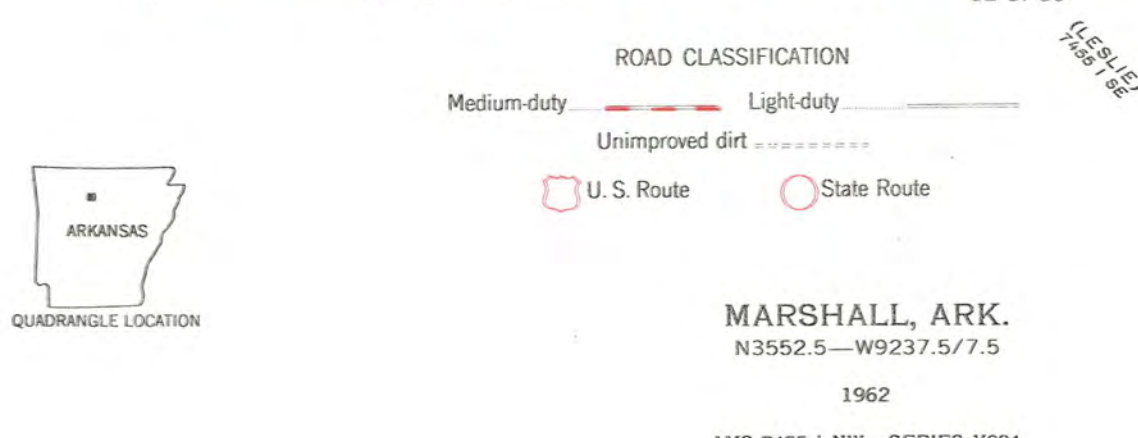
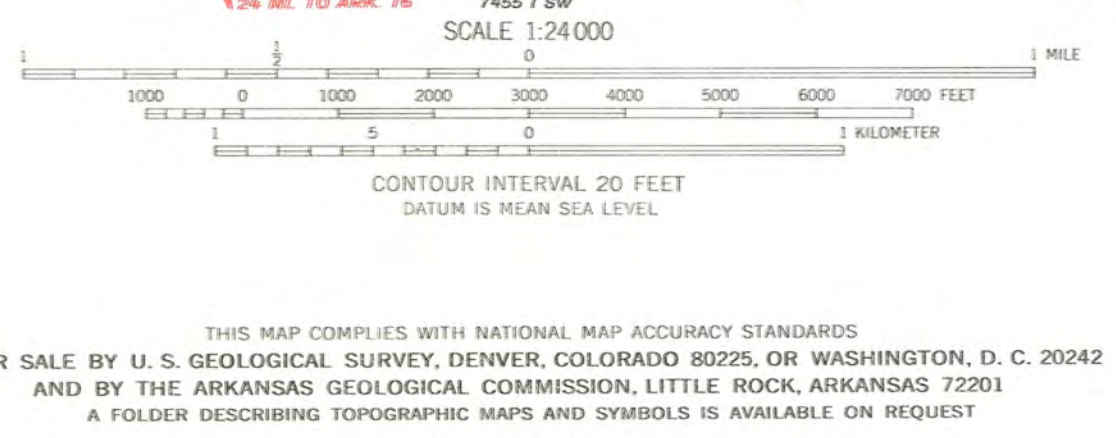
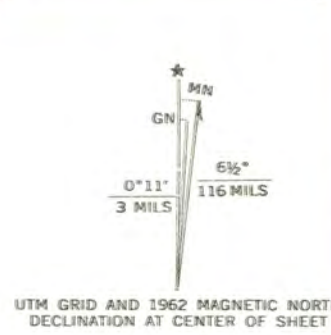
Mays General Store
Gilbert, Arkansas
Alice Jones, photographer
November, 1982
Negative on file at AHPP
View of the interior



Mays General Store
Gilbert, Arkansas
Searcy County
UTM Reference:
15 525610/3982550

Marshall, Ark. Quadrangle
1: 24000

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1959. Field checked 1962
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





ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
PRESERVATION
PROGRAM

July 29, 1983

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Mays General Store
Gilbert
Searcy County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Mays General Store in Searcy County. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

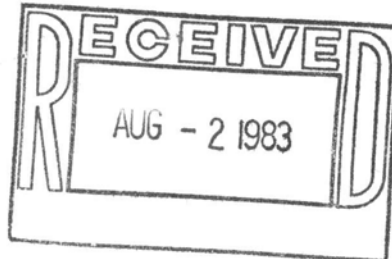
Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/AJ/sg

Enclosure/s



Arkansas
Searcy

Collins
7/02/84

H32 (413)

JUL 2 1984

Mr. Vernon Grove
P.O. Box 45
Gilbert, Arkansas 72636

Dear Mr. Grove:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a copy of the listing of the Mays General Store in the National Register of Historic Places. We apologize for the delay in responding to your letter.

The Mays General Store was officially listed in the National Register as of September 1, 1983. Notice of its listing was published in the Federal Register, dated February 7, 1984. Enclosed is a copy of the Federal Register for that date.

Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance. We appreciate your interest in the historic preservation programs of the National Park Service.

Sincerely,

Carol D. Shull (Sgd.)

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
National Register of Historic Places
Interagency Resources Division

Enclosure

bcc:413-RF
Record Center

FNP:JCollins:06/29/84:343-9536

Sys. 8 (NOM) Grove

Basic File Retained in 413

Noti Paul



GILBERT GENERAL STORE

RECEIVED
APR 5 8 26 AM '84
P.O. Box 45
Gilbert, Arkansas 72636
Telephone (501) 439-2386
MAIL PROCESSING
BRANCH

LISTED IN
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES

413

4/27

400

March 28, 1984

Dear Sir:

We would like to receive a copy of the National Register after our store has been entered in it. It will be listed as "Mayer General Store". How do we get a copy of the Register?

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Vernon G. Goff
Owner