

NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational 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 Bear Creek Motelother names/site number (BO0094)

2. Location

street & number U.S. Hwy 65☐ not for publicationcity or town Bear Creek Springs☐ vicinitystate Arkansas code AR county Boone code 009 zip code 72601

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.)

Edith Maclean
Signature of certifying official/Title1/20/01
DateArkansas 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:

Signature of the Keeper

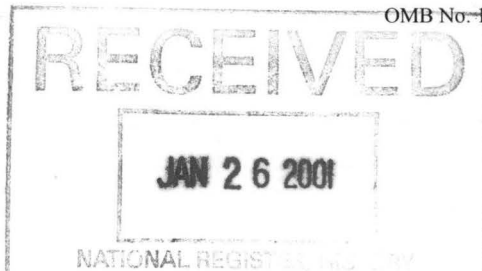
Date of Action

☐ 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:)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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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.

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Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

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☒ 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

Sarah D. Bope

3/13/01

Bear Creek Motel
Name of Property

Boone 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
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture,
1910-1965

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Ozark Fieldstone

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE

roof CONCRETE

other

Narrative Description

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

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Bear Creek Motel is comprised of a T-shaped one-story concrete and stone building. In 1936, J. R. Crawford had the motel constructed to replace the wood framed tourist courts (located on the east side of Hwy. 65) that had burned in 1935. Located north of the Dry Fork of Bear Creek and just west of United States Highway 65, the Bear Creek Motel features distinctive vernacular "grape-vine" mortar joints. Its most unique feature is the wave-like concrete roof that is made of a series of five barrel vaults, each corresponding to the five guest rooms. The vast majority of the original fenestration is still in place. Inside, two mantelpieces furnish rooms number 1 and number 5, and the rounded ceilings and tiny rustic bathrooms remain intact. Located on the southwest side of the office is a 1950s large rectangular concrete swimming pool with metal bar railing that has filled with debris over time, but still lends a sense of place to the motel.

ELABORATION

The Bear Creek Motel (Yellow Rose Flea Market) is comprised of five guest rooms and an office all located in a single story, concrete and masonry, "T-shaped" building. The building is of reinforced concrete construction and faced with a variety of local fieldstone. The distinctive wave-like concrete roof covers the five guest rooms and bears no stylistic resemblance to any known architectural movement. Instead this whimsical roofline was probably used as a gimmick to lure motorists off the highway. The concrete roof was cast so that it has an eave projection.

All windows and doors have concrete lintels and sills. The windows in the motel are one-over-one, double-hung, wood framed, unless otherwise noted, with the exception of the office that contains three-over-one double-hung wood framed windows. Three chimneys pierce the roofline. One is an exterior chimney and so has a veneer of fieldstone, the others are interior chimneys and are sheathed in brick. The foundation is cast concrete and there is a partial basement on the rear elevation of the building beneath the office section. Landscape features include concrete sidewalks and staircases, a concrete retaining wall with metal guard rails situated behind the guest rooms, and a concrete swimming pool also with guard rails. The concrete swimming pool was most likely added in the early 1950s so does not contribute to the nomination.

Guest Rooms

Northwest/Front Elevation

Counting from left to right on the northwest or front façade, the guest rooms are numbered 1 to 5. Originally the front elevation contained five single-leaf entries with one-light-over-three-panels, and a one-over-one window for each room. Over time however, a few of the doors and windows were replaced. Number 2 now contains a stationary window composed of three salvaged two-pane wood-sashed windows. Room number 4 exhibits the most changes on this side of the exterior. It contains a pair of one-over-one windows that do not appear to be original. These windows are shorter than the other windows, and below them there is a stucco section instead of a concrete sill. The door for number 4 contains four wood panels and no glass lights. All other doors are original, although number 1 has had its light replaced by a plywood panel and number 2 has a panel of Plexiglas instead of the original glass light.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Northeast/Side Elevation

A pair of two-over-two wood framed windows flanks the exterior chimney found on this elevation. The windows light the interior of guest room number 1.

Southeast/Rear Elevation

The southeast elevation contains the windows and rear entrances to the guest rooms. The one-light-over-two-panels, single doors are very narrow and the stairs leading up to them have been removed. The doors are in fairly good condition, aside from the deterioration of their screen doors and having reinforcing pieces of wood nailed into them to prevent someone from exiting with merchandise from the flea market. Guest rooms 3 and 4, do not have rear entries, but each contain a pair of two-paned wood-sashed hopper windows.

Interior

The walls and floors are all reinforced concrete, some walls have a veneer of fieldstone on them and the shower stalls all have a veneer of fieldstone. The ceilings all exhibit the barrel vault of the concrete roofline. Guest rooms 1 and 5 each contain a fieldstone mantelpiece with concrete cornice.

Office

The office portion of the motel is located in the crossed portion of the building's "T-shaped" plan. This flat roofed portion of the building rests on a concrete foundation with a partial basement and features the same type of fieldstone and "grape-vine" mortar joints as the rest of the building. In keeping with the undulating roofline the inset porch features segmental concrete arches springing from short fieldstone columns, which in turn rest on a fieldstone balustrade. From the crenellations found in the concrete of the northeast elevation concrete arch it is apparent that a section of corrugated metal was formed into an arch and used as its mold. Sheltered by the porch are two single-leaf doors each with three lights and three panels. Beside the northwest elevation of the porch is a window with a segmental concrete arch lintel. The fenestration for the other elevations is original, except for a replacement metal door located on the southwest elevation and to the left of the "T" projection. A pair of staircases gains access to the basement. The basement features a full-sized door on the southeast elevation and a half-sized door on the northeast elevation. A small, three-over-one window lights the basement on the southeast side.

Bear Creek Motel

Name of Property

Boone County, Arkansas

County and State

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** moved from its original location.

☐ **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

1936-1950

Significant Dates

1936

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.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Constructed in 1936, the Bear Creek Motel is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C, because it features a unique wave-like concrete roof that is made of a series of five barrel vaults each corresponding to the guest rooms. This distinctive feature made this whimsical building a landmark to tired tourists, and it is still eye-catching to flea market enthusiasts. Despite deterioration the concrete and fieldstone building possesses a strong sense of integrity because it has been altered very little since its construction in 1936. It maintains its integrity of location and setting, as it is located on the very edge of Dry Fork and just west of U.S. Hwy 65 in the small town of Bear Springs. The motel creatively displays the workmanship, design features, and materials used at the time of construction. The local fieldstone veneer with 'grape-vine' mortar joints further contributes to the character and integrity of the Bear Creek Motel.

It is also being nominated under Criterion A for its association with the development of the Arkansas Highway Culture, which documented extensively in the multiple property listing. The motel is significant for the role it played in the transportation culture and is being submitted under the multiple property listing "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965."

ELABORATION

According to the building's present owner, the original owner J. R. Crawford had the Bear Creek Motel constructed in 1936 after the wood frame tourist cabins located on the east side of U.S. Hwy 65 burned. After the fire, Crawford decided to move the location of his rental business away from the gas station and as a further fire retardant construct the motel entirely out of reinforced concrete and stone. It could be surmised that besides being of scenic interest, the building's location on the very edge of the creek is also because of the previous fire.

The eye-catching motel with its wave-like roof, and rustic veneer of fieldstone provided reasonable rates for lodging and a large concrete swimming pool for recreation from 1936 until the 1960s—although by then, many of its rooms were rented out weekly or monthly. In 1967 the present owner Ralph Bowers bought the property from Rex and Bobbie Kathleen Villines. Mr. Bowers reopened the motel (it had been vacant for a few years) as a flea-market and rented out the individual rooms as booths. The Bear Creek Motel has been in constant use as a flea market since that time.

Significance

Built in 1936, the Bear Creek Motel is being nominated with local significance to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C. It is also significant for the role it played in the transportation culture and is being submitted under the multiple property listing "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965." Therefore, the motel is also being nominated under Criterion A.

Bear Creek Motel

Name of Property

Boone, Arkansas

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property Less than one acre.**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>483660</u>	<u>4016100</u>
	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.)

A part of the Southeast quarter of the Northwest quarter of Section 23, Township 19 North, Range 21 West, described as follows: Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the Northern boundary of the Bear Creek Motel property with Hwy 65; then proceed South parallel Hwy 65 approximately 150 feet to a point formed by the channel of the Dry Branch of Bear Creek Springs; then proceed Southwest approximately 325 feet following the creek to a point formed by an imaginary line that forms the western boundary of the property; then proceed North approximately 300 feet to a point formed by the intersection of this line with an imaginary line that forms the northern boundary of the property; then proceed East approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundary contains all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title Amy Bennettorganization Arkansas Historic Preservation Programdate 12/14/00street & number 323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Buildingtelephone (501) 324-9880city or town Little Rockstate Arkansaszip code 72201

Bear Creek Springs

Name of Property

Boone County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bowers, Ralph. Interview by Amy Bennett, 28 October 2000.

Abstract of Title. Harrison, Arkansas, Boone County Title Company.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 01000175

Date Listed: 03/13/01

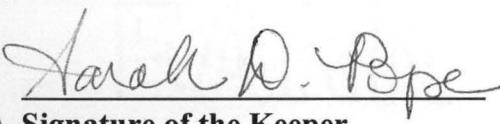
Property Name: Bear Creek Motel

County: Boone

State: AR

Multiple Name: Arkansas Highway History and Architecture MPS

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

(for) 
Signature of the Keeper

03/13/01
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

An amendment is made to add Criterion A as an applicable criterion and to also add "Transportation" as an area of significance under Section 8 of the nomination. The registration requirements outlined in the thematic cover, Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910--1965, states that all motels and motor courts listed under this MPS are eligible under Criterion C for Architecture and Criterion A for Transportation.

This information was confirmed with Kara Mills of the Arkansas SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Bear Creek Motel
NAME:

MULTIPLE Arkansas Highway History and Architecture MPS
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Boone

DATE RECEIVED: 1/26/01 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 3/02/01 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/13/01
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 01000175

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: Y NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/13/01 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Bear Creek Motel is significant under Criterion C for its distinctive fieldstone construction and concrete roof. It is also eligible under Criterion A for Transportation as a representative of Arkansas' Highway Culture, outlined in "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture MPS."

RECOM./CRITERIA A, C

REVIEWER Sarah Pope DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE 202/343-9534 DATE 3/13/01

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y ☒ N ☐ see attached SLR ☒ Y ☐ N



Bear Creek Motel
Boone County, AR
Photo by Amy Bennett

Oct 2000

AHPP

View of northeast (exterior chimney) and
southeast elevations looking east



Bear Creek Motel
Boone County, AR
Photo by Zac Colgren
July 2000

AHPP

View of southwest elevation looking
West.



Bear Creek Motel

Boone County, AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

Oct 2000

AHPP

View of porch showing crenelated arch
looking west



Bear Creek Motel
Boone County, AR
Photo by Zac Cothren
July 2000
AHPP

View of northwest (front) elevation
looking southeast (Note that KFC sign
is located on the other side of the
Hwy.)



Bear Creek Motel
Boone County, AR
Photo by Amy Bennett
Oct 2000
AHPP

Interior view of #2 room
detail of ceiling, looking southeast



Bear Creek Motel
Boone County, AR
Photo by AMY BENNETT
Oct 2000
AHPP

Interior view of mantle in #1,
looking east.



Bear Creek Motel
Boone County, AR
Photo by Zac Cothren
July 2000
AHPP

View of Southeast elevation
looking west (part of NE elevation)



Bear Creek Motel

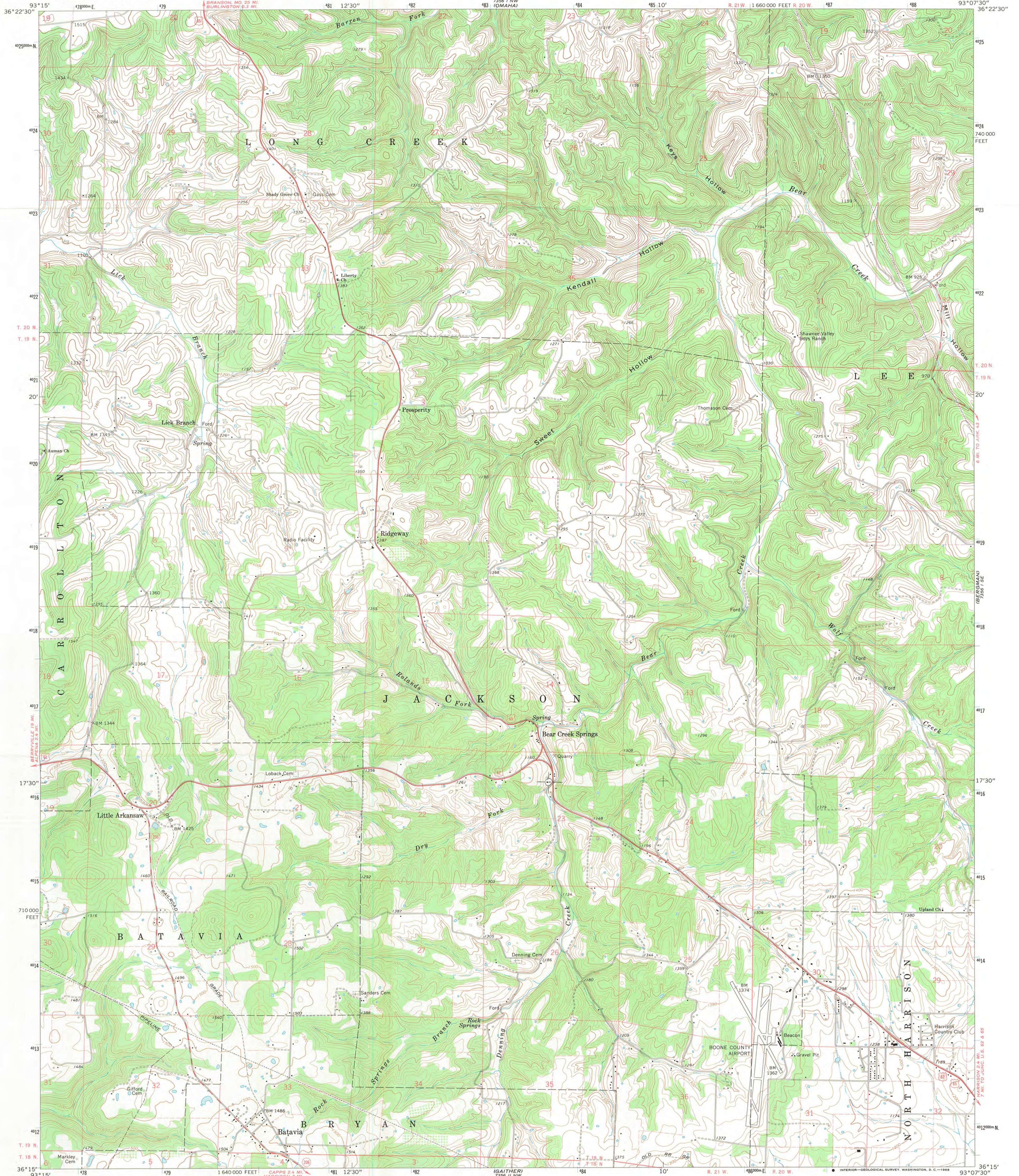
Boone County, AR

Photo by Zac Colgren

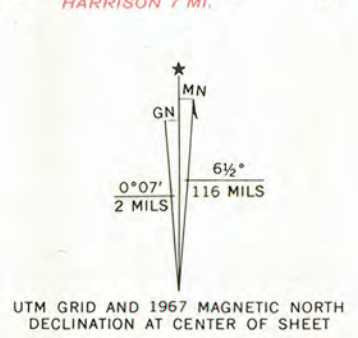
July 2000

AHPP

View of southeast elevation looking
northwest



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1967
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



SCALE 1:24,000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
Bear Creek Motel
Boone County, AR
UTM Reference: 16/483660/406100
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———
BATAVIA, ARK.
N3615—W9307.5/7.5
1967
AMS 7356 I SW—SERIES V884



The Department of Arkansas Heritage

**WE LOVE TO TELL
THE STORY.**

Mike Huckabee, Governor
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

■

Arkansas Natural Heritage
Commission

■

Arkansas Territorial Restoration

■

Delta Cultural Center

■

Old State House Museum



Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

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website:

www.arkansaspreservation.org

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January 16, 2001

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United State Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
800 North Capitol Street, Suite 250
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: Bear Creek Motel, Bear Creek Springs—Boone County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above-referenced property. 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,

Cathie Matthews
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:ab

Enclosures

Edson -
AR. SHPO forgot to get
Cathie Matthews to sign,
but we have her signed
cover letter which is OK
for listing. AR is sending me
a new 1st page w/ signature.
- Sarah