National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Name

historic Historic Resources of Benton County (Partial Inventory: Historic & Architectural)

and/or common N/A

Location 2.

street & number (See Individual Data Sheets)

city, town (See Individual Data Sheets) N/Avicinity of

state	Arkans	as	code 05	county	Benton	code 007	
3.	Classification)				
Categ X di X bi X si		Ownership public private _X_ both		ccupied k in progress	Present Use X_ agriculture X_ commercial X_ educational	_X_ museum _X_ park _X_ private residence	
Si O		Public Acquisition N/A in process		ible : restricted	entertainment government	<u> </u>	

Owner of Property

N/A being considered

name (See Individual Data Sheets)

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

Location of Legal Description 5.

Benton County Courthouse courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

N/A street & number

Bentonville city, town

Representation in Existing Surveys 6.

Historic Preservation Survey of

title	Benton County	has this property been determined eligible? yes	<u> </u>
date	1983-1987	federal state county	<u>X</u> local

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program depository for survey records

Little Rock city, town

OMB No. 1024-0018 Expires 10-31-87

For NPS use only received DEC 14 1987 date entered JAN 2.8 988

N/A not for publication

 X_y ves: restricted

_`no

__X_ yes: unrestricted

x_government industrial military

scientific

X_ transportation

other:

Arkansas state

7. Description

Condition	
<u>X</u> excellent	deteriorated
Xgood	ruins
<u>X</u> fair	unexposed

 Check one
 Check

 _X unaltered
 _X ori

 _X altered
 _X model

 Check one

 X original site

 X moved
 date (See Individual Sheets)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Benton County, located in the northwest corner of the state of Arkansas, is generally flat farmland with a climate that is ideal for a variety of agriculture. The towns that developed were basically located along the railroad as dispersal points for area produce. The majority of the built environment is reflective of the period in which agriculture was booming: the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth.

Although Benton County was well settled before the Civil War, little has survived from the antebellum period. Pea Ridge Battlefield (No. 1, NR 10/15/66) is maintained as a National Military Park and the structures there are representative of the war period. Other pre-Civil War structures were destroyed during the conflict or lost at a later date due to deterioration and neglect; there are few extant in the county today. Three of the oldest structures in Benton County which remain relatively unaltered are the Morris House (No. 3), the Daniels House (No. 4), and the Braithwaite House (No. 2). All three are central hall houses with simple Greek Revival details. Both the Morris House and Daniels House are frame while the Braithwaite House is of brick construction. All three houses are in Bentonville. Bentonville's position as a county seat had important influence on the introduction of fashionable architectural styles for its signi-ficant government, commercial, and residential structures.

There was a lull in building activity during and following the Civil War. However, during the 1870's the Italianate style was introduced to Bentonville and the rest of Benton County. Architecturally the Italianate style was to dominate structures, both commercial and residential, during the first half of the great economic boom which began in 1880 and lasted into the early twentieth century. Comercial districts were transformed during the late 1870's and 1880's from frame structures to fashionable Italianate forms of fire-resistant brick, with cast iron stantions and glass dividers at the street level and elaborate cornices of pressed metal or corbelled brick. James Haney, owner of a brick yard and builder of many of the commercial blocks, came to Bentonville in 1870 with skill in brick construction and had great influence on the structure and form of local architecture.

The finest example of the Italian Villa style, the Sam Peel House, was built in 1875 and is located in Bentonville; however, it has been so greatly altered that it is not being included in the Benton County Multiple Resource Area nomination. Its three-story tower, aristocratic arched windows, bracketed wooden cornices, and bold brick quoins established a standard that was repeated several times in Bentonville and outlying areas during the next decade. Several of the better surviving emulators are: the Craig-Bryan House (No. 6), circa 1880, which still has its Italian Villa tower; the Maxwell Hinman House (No. 9); the Henry-Thompson House (No. 13), circa 1890; the Colonel Young House (No. 5), circa 1873; the

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Kindley House (No. 42) in Gravette; the Rice-Williams House (No. 7), circa 1885; and the Elliot House (No. 8) which were previously listed in the National Register. All of these examples are of locally produced brick. Only the Craig-Bryan House has a villa tower; however, all have the requisite Italianate details, such as cornice brackets, segmental arch windows, and brick quoins. The Breedlove House (No. 12) was built in the Italianate style, which attests to the fact that the owners were involved in the apple industry and were enjoying the late 19th Century prosperity of northwest Arkansas; however, it was altered after the turn-of-the-century to be a Classical Revival style house, which reflects the continuing agricultural success of the area.

The primary Italianate commercial buildings were constructed in Bentonville and Rogers. The Terry-Block Building (No. 16, NR 5/13/82), a three-story structure built circa 1888, dominates the square in Bentonville. Two others on the square that have been well preserved above the street level are Roy's Office Supply Building, (No. 14), circa 1880, and Bogart Hardware Building (No. 15), circa 1888. The largest concentration of this type of structure is found in Rogers in the Walnut Street Historic District (No. 89-108).

Around the state of Arkansas the Queen Anne style generally coincided with and followed the Italianate style of architecture and was the most popular style during the Victorian Era. However, this did not hold true in Benton County. There is a surprising lack of Queen Anne houses in Bentonville and the remainder of the county. The few examples which might earn the unqualified label of American Queen Anne have been clad in artificial siding. Most of the houses which have survived from the period just before and after the turn-of-the-century can best be placed into two groups: Eastlake and "transitional" between the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Three of the best Eastlake residences are twostory frame structures with bevelled corners and ornamental woodwork, etc. They are the Jones House (No. 48) in Sulphur Springs, the Campbell House (No. 70) in Rogers, and the Rice House (No. 11) in Bentonville. Another fine example of the Eastlake style is the Vinson House (No. 71), a one-story brick cottage with unusual brick corbelling, located in Rogers.

There are several Benton County houses that fit into the "transitional" category at varying degrees between the two styles. The Bartell House (No. 115) in Siloam Springs comes the most near to being "pure" Queen Anne with its turret and wraparound porch; however, the use of classical columns-on-piers as porch supports places it clearly into the transitional category. The Alden House (No. 63) in Osage Mills is another house with several Queen Anne details such as the "sun burst" in the gable of the porch roof, imbricated shingles, and the irregular massing and plan. However, as in the Bartell House, details such as paired classical columns on piers reveal a definite Colonial Revival influence. Several other houses which are included in the transitional group are basically Colonial

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Revival in detail, (through the use of classical columns, ornament such as swags in the gable and frieze, palladian windows, etc.) however, the irregular massing and plan reveal a lingering Queen Anne element. Included in this group are the Parks-Reagan House (No. 73) and Blackburn House (No. 78) in Rogers, the Adar House (No. 43) in Gravette, the Jackson House (No. 18) in Bentonville, the Miller Homestead (No. 46) near Pea Ridge, 305 E. Ashley (No. 113) and the Bratt-Smiley House (No. 114) in Siloam Springs.

Like the Queen Anne style in residential structures, there are few remaining examples of the Romanesque Revival style in commercial buildings. The best example of this is the First National Bank (No. 118), built circa 1890 in Siloam Springs, which has rusticated stone arches and a heavy, massive appearance.

Throughout the Victorian Era and on into the early days of the twentieth century there were several vernacular forms of architecture that were popular, particularly in the rural areas. The best examples of the vernacular (those which follow the traditional form with the fewest alterations) are included in the Benton County MRA.

Although log structures were at one time prevalent in Benton County, there are few remaining with integrity. The Markey House (No. 40), near Garfield, was constructed in the 1880's on the land that is now Pea Ridge National Military Park. Although it has been moved, it remains a good example of unaltered log construction.

One common house type, particularly in rural areas, is the I-house, which was often the home of a successful farmer. Two structures that follow the traditional pattern of two-story frame houses, one room deep and two rooms wide, with cornerboards and two-story central front porch are the Wasson House (No. 56) in Springtown and the Sellers House (No. 54) in Maysville. Two other I-houses which vary slightly because they are brick structures are the one-and-one-half story Drane House (No. 69) in Rogers and the German Builders House (No. 111) in Siloam Springs, which also has a historic two-story rear-ell addition, and unusual gingerbread detail on the front porch.

Another vernacular house type that was very popular was the two-room or double pen house, that is known locally as the "duple." The trademark of the double pen house is the two front doors which are usually flanked by a pair of windows. The houses are usually one or one-and-one-half-stories, although on rare occassions they may be two full stories. The Banks House (No. 50) in Hiwasse is a good example of the one-and-one-half-story form with a rear-ell and full front porch. The Bob Blake House (No. 10) in Bentonville is a rare example of a two-story

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duple. Although often relatively plain, some double pens have more elaborate details, such as the Gailey Hollow Farmhouse (No. 67) in the Logan community, which has ornamental porch supports and elaborate doorways.

Another popular rural vernacular building was the one-room structure that went by several names, but is always recognizable in small town Arkansas. Benton County is no exception to this: these structures are numerous, (whether they are a school, a church, a church and school, or simply a "community hall.") They are most often frame and usually painted white, although there are exceptions. In form they are usually rectangular with a gable or hip roof. The door and window arrangement is generally symmetrical. Depending on the function of the building, the degree of ornament varies, with the ecclesiastical structures being more decorative, particularly in window treatment. This elaboration is seen at the Council Grove Methodist Church (No. 62) in Osage Mills. One of the more unique variations of the one-room schoolhouse in Benton County is Coats School (No. 55) near Maysville. Although traditional in form, the exterior wall material is cast concrete made to resemble ashlar cut stone with rusticated quoins, which gives the school a more formal/classical appearance. The Norwood School (No. 68) also varies from the more traditional form. Built in 1937, it is clad in fieldstone, one of the trademarks of the Works Progress Administration in Arkansas. Although similar structures are quite common across the state, the Logan School is the only such structure remaining in Benton County, according to the recent survey. Interestingly, it is also accompanied by a pair of matching fieldstone outhouses.

Because the economy of Benton County has traditionally been based on agriculture, the farmstead is a common feature of the landscape. Similar to vernacular structures, the following of traditional form is an important characteristic by which to judge significance of the farmstead. This is important not only for the main house, but perhaps more importantly for the ancillaries or outbuildings. Houses that were accompanied by a barn, smokehouse, corncrib, chicken coop, privy, etc. were at one time quite common, but few such complete collections remain today, which makes properties such as the Piercy Farmstead (No. 64) in Osage Mills (with ten supporting structures) so unusual. Some other farmsteads in Benton County which stand out do so not because of the collection or arrangement of ancillaries, but rather because of the unique design of outbuildings that generally follow a traditional form. The Bolin Barn and Smokehouse (No. 44) near Gravette is an excellent example of this: the barn has a unique ventilation system with lattice work around all of the eaves, and the smokehouse is actually a combination smokehouse and root cellar with an unusual door arrangement. However, these two examples are the extremes; there are several other examples of the traditional Arkansas farmstead which remain well enough intact to reflect the onetime independence of the farm family.

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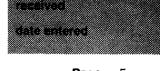
After the turn-of-the-century, particularly in non-rural areas, the Classical Revival style was very popular, especially for commercial and public structures. One of the leading proponents of this style was A. O. Clark, a St. Louis architect who came to Rogers in 1904 to design the Applegate Drugstore (NR 6/23/82) and the Bank of Rogers Building (NR 6/23/80). Soon after this he was invited to design the Benton County National Bank (NR 9/01/83) and the Massey Hotel (NR 12/01/78) in Bentonville. Clark designed at least two other Neo-Classical buildings in Bentonville: the Old Jail (No. 23) in 1911 and the Benton County Courthouse (No. 28) in 1928. Other local buildings of the same style, but not by Clark, are the Jackson House (No. 18) and the Macon Harrison House (No. 20).

Perhaps no style has produced more American houses, certainly in the twentieth century, than the Bungalow style (closely related to the Craftsman style.) As in other small or medium-sized American towns, the bungalow form dominated low-tomedium income housing during the 1920's and 30's in the towns of Benton County. This form had such a widespread influence that it appeared in rural areas as well. The bungalow had a wide variety of permutations, including the simple one-story white frame structure seen at the Beasley Homestead (No. 60) in Bethel Heights as well as the grandiose two-story Shiloh House (No. 49) with the "wraparound" twosided porch in Sulphur Springs. Folowing the Craftsman tradition of using a variety of materials for the exterior, numerous variations of the bungalow can be seen in Benton County. Although weatherboard structures are the most common, there are several houses clad in rubble or fieldstone, such as the Bertschy House (No. 25) in Bentonville and the Rife Farmstead (No. 65) in Osage Mills. They contain the traditional details such as overhanging eaves, low sloping roof, exposed rafters, large front porch, etc. Another house which should be classified as a bungalow, but shows as much influence of the Prairie style as the Craftsman, is the Carl House (No. 127) in Gentry. It is a red brick, one-story house that has a strong horizontal emphasis due to the sweeping roofline and the use of coping around the broad porch.

Although period revials were very popular across most of the state during the 'teens and 'twenties, this is not so evident in Benton County. The only good residential example of this is the Tudor Revival style Duckworth-Williams House (No. 121) in Siloam Springs. Perhaps the lack of this type of residence reflects the decline of the fruit industry.

One of the most prominent architects in Arkansas who designed in the period revival styles was John Parks Almand. Two of the only Spanish Colonial Revival buildings in the county are his designs, the Lane Hotel (No. 88) and Bentonville High School (No. 27), and they are two of the better structures in this style in the state. Both have the requisite tile roofs, decorative ceramic tile detailing, and arcades.

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From the turn-of-the-century up until the depression, several Benton County communities became popular resort spots due to their climate, natural springs, and scenic beauty. Although most of the resorts have disappeared, two that date from the 1920's remain with several original structures intact. Both are marked by their use of rustic architecture. They are the Gypsy Camp Historic District (No. 129) and several of the summer cabins in Bella Vista (Nos. 29-36). Gypsy Camp is a concentration of buildings made of board and batten and log slabs which once served as an exclusive girls' camp. The structures, which include several cabins, a crafts shed, and a dining hall, blend perfectly into their setting between a large bluff and the Illinois River. Although the cabins of Bella Vista are too spread out and have too many intrusions to create a district, the few that remain give a definite impression of how the rustic resort community once looked. Manv of the cabins are board and batten and several use strips of bark for window and door surrounds and for writing the names of current owners across the facade. Others use small trees or branches for porch posts and balustrades. Nearly all of the cabins have screened sleeping porches and fieldstone fireplaces. The overall appearance is definitely that of the "back to nature" movement.

During the period from the turn-of-the-century until the 1930's, cast concrete blocks were a popular building material across the United States. This trend did not bypass Benton County; there are numerous concrete block structures in the area. Because the blocks were individually cast, they could be made in different decorative molds and appear to be different materials, such as rough cut or ashlar cut stone. Columns and balustrades were also cast. Some of the better examples of concrete block architecture are the Shores Warehouse (No. 59) in Cave Springs, which has an entire facade of cast "rusticated stone"; Coats School (No. 55) near Maysville, (mentioned previously) which appears to be ashlar stone with rusticated quoins; the Rife House (No. 82) in Rogers, a one-story "rusticated stone" house with a full front porch that is supported by fluted concrete columns; and the Raney House (No. 79) also in Rogers, that is a traditional American Foursquare made of rusticated cast concrete blocks and is accompanied by cast concrete block ancillaries.

Representing one of the most popular early 20th century bridge designs, the Osage Creek Bridge is an outstanding example of a metal Pratt Through Truss bridge. It was constructed in 1911 and has a single 124' span with intact lattice guardrail. The Spavinaw Creek Bridge was constructed in 1915 and is the last remaining Truss Leg Bedstead Pony Truss bridge in Arkansas. Its single span measures 71 feet and is supported by poured concrete abutments. It remains a rare and excellent example of the unusual variety of small metal truss bridges once constructed over the entire state. The Illinois River Bridge is a Solid Filled Concrete Deck Arch bridge. Only 52 remain in the state with the oldest example built in 1914. The Luten Bridge Company of Knoxville, Tennessee, a company that specialized in the construction of concrete bridges, built this bridge in 1922. This bridge type was Continuation sheet

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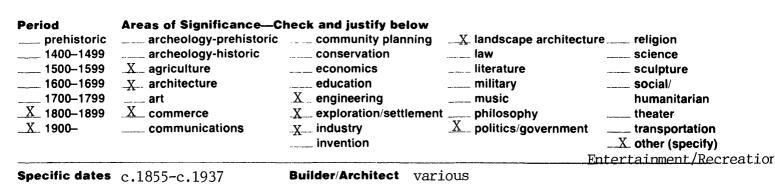
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popular in Arkansas and was used extensively after the formation of the AHTD as its flexability in design and the durability of reinforced concrete became more evident. The Illinois River Bridge is a significant example of this type of early 20th century bridge form in the state.

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8. Significance



Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Historic Preservation Survey of Benton County was begun in 1983 and completed in 1987 under the direction of, and with a subgrant awarded by, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. The survey was administered by the School of Architecture at the University of Arkansas. Partial funding was also provided by a generous grant from a private Benton County agency. The survey was conducted by a variety of people: salaried and unsalaried professionals, graduate and undergraduate students (sometimes for academic credit) and by a great number of volunteer fieldworkers from Benton County. Special mention should be made of Mrs. Julianne McKinney, without whose assistance this project could not have been completed.

SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Situated in Arkansas' northwesternmost corner, Benton County was originally used as hunting grounds for Indians living in Oklahoma, directly to the west, and was not officially open to white settlers until the 1830's. Senator Thomas Hart Benton of Missouri, an ardent advocate of Arkansas' statehood, gave his name to the county and to its county seat, Bentonville.

The area grew slowly until the Civil War, which of course saw a disruption of the lifestyles of people in all the Southern states. One of Arkansas' most significant battles in the conflict took place at Pea Ridge, in northeastern Benton County.

After the war Benton County began to grow both agriculturally and industrially with the establishment of railroad lines. Concurrent throughout the history of agricultural and industrial development is the formation of towns due to three basic influences: agriculture and industry, the existence of the railroad, and the tourist trade associated with the mineral springs and the scenic and recreational qualities of the landscape.

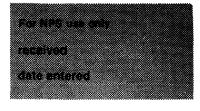
While Benton County remains predominatly a rural area, three of the original towns have developed into its largest cities: Bentonville (population 10,000), Rogers, (20,000), and Siloam Springs (8,000). Historically the architecture of the county is representative of its growth and development, and of the three themes mentioned above. With a few notable exceptions, there is little left of the antebellum period, and most existing resources date from the period 1870-1925.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographic	al Data		-,*	
Acreage of nominated property Quadrangle name UTM References (See Individu	lual Data Shee	ts)	Quadrangle s	cale (See Individual Data Sheets)
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		D [] F [] H []		
Verbal boundary description and (See Individual Data She	-			
List all states and counties for state $_{\rm N/A}$	properties overla	apping state or c	ounty boundaries	code
state N/A	code	county		code
11. Form Prepa	red By			
name/title Cyrus Sutherland,	edited by AHP	P staff		
organization University of Ar	kansas	d	ate July 1987	
street & number Architecture	Department	te	elephone 575-5019	
city or town Fayetteville		S	tate AR	
12. State Histo	ric Prese	ervation	Officer Ce	rtification
The evaluated significance of this pr		itate is: _ <u>X_</u> local		
As the designated State Historic Pre 665), i hereby nominate this property according to the criteria and proced	y for inclusion in th ures set forth by th	ne National Register	and certify that it has t	
State Historic Preservation Officer s	ignature WW	han M.	Hall	
title William M. Hall, Actin	g State Histon	cic Preservatio	on Officerdate	2.09.87
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this prope Mmy Ah		ne Nationai Register	date 1/	28/88
Keeper of the National Register	0		7	7
Attest:	<u></u>		date	
Chief of Registration				

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Elaboration

Bound on the north by McDonald and Barry Counties in Missouri, by Delaware County in Oklahoma to the west, and in Arkansas by Washington and Carroll counties to the south and east, Benton County, sited on the plateaus of the Ozark Mountains, consists of a series of limestone or sandstone ridges and fertile valleys interspersed with stretches of rolling hills and flatlands. This topology is typical of the character of the entire county, having a good mixture of limestone and flint gravel with good drainage, particularly suitable for fruit growing. These lands, with elevations averaging from 1000 to 1800 feet above sea level, are mixed with rolling prairies and timberlands, providing a rich variety of hardwoods scattered with cedar and pine.

Spavinaw, Flint, Beatie, Honey and Butler Creeks drain the northwestern part of the county. They are fed by numerous pure soft water, crystal clear springs, some of which in earlier days provided streams large enough to produce good water power. The drinking water supply has never provided a problem for the citizenry of the area and some water sources were said to have medicinal qualities, good examples of which are found in communities bearing such names as Sulphur Springs, Springtown, Siloam Springs, and Cave Springs.

The earliest highways through the area were the Line Road or "Old Military Road" which at different intervals runs down the western line of the Arkansas state border, connecting Fort Smith and Fort Scott, Kansas; and the State Road, running a northeastern route east of Bentonville, which was used by cattle herders driving livestock from Texas to St. Louis. A system of highways and roads has since developed, at one time incorporating the common usage of ferries crossing major streams such as Jenning's Ferry at the Blackburn Mill Road crossing on the White River. The Trail of Tears crossed Benton County in the late 1830's along an unclearly defined route, marking the forced passage of the Cherokee Indian tribe from their old home in Georgia to their new home in Indian Territory, now known as Oklahoma.

Up until 1824, the army denied the white man access to the county lands due to their use as Indian hunting grounds. With the removal of all but a few roving bands of Indians in the 1830's, early settlers arrived from Tennessee, Kentucky, the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, attracted by fertile, versatile soils, excellent water supplies, and homsteading opportunities. Thomas Hart Benton, a Missouri Senator and strong advocate of homsteading, was the namesake for the county and its seat, Bentonville.

Bentonville had grown from the initial forming of an agrarian and mercantile town in 1837, with log homesteads along the creeks, to a more active settlement of about 600 inhabitants when the following statement was written in the <u>Fayetteville Arkansan</u>: "Bentonville is looking up. We noticed while at court last week several large and nice buildings, which have been erected quite Continuation sheet

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recently." The date was May 7, 1859. The growth of Bentonville was to be deferred by the Civil War. Building was halted and many existing buildings were burned in the conflict.

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Other than the initial settlement of Bentonville as the county seat, earliest settlement occured in western Benton County. Adam Beatie is said to be the earliest settler in that area, and he occupied and gave his name to a prairie in 1828, not long after the establishment of Little Rock. Beatie Prairie was soon populated by prosperous Cherokee families, farmers and ranchers with horses and plenty of cattle. John Martin Mays emigrated to the area in 1831 and settled on the present town site of Maysville, which is among the oldest towns in the county. Principal prosperity of the town centered around the business of selling whiskey to the Indians, conducted at the first store opened in Maysville by an Englishman named Tigret. These early settlements were by individual families and usually were marked by only small log residential structures beside creek beds with the possibility of a few outbuildings built near the houses. More prosperous settlements might include a small general store, always meeting the demand for untaxed, uncontrolled liquor.

Paralleling the development of the early settlements into small towns was the area's agriculture, which has seen many changes in the variety of cash crops throughout its history. With beginnings based in Adam Beatie's settlement with its large garden providing food for his immediate family, Benton County's agricultural development continued at a good pace, beginning with tobacco, cotton and hemp as cash crops, then giving way to small grains, herds of sheep, cattle, and large apple orchards. Peaches then tried to outrun apples and other fruits came to prominence in the county. In the 1920's and 30's, beef and dairy cattle, broiler chickens, tobacco, and apples were the most successful economically and had the greatest impact on the agricultural and industrial history of the county.

Arriving from Kentucky with early settlers in the 1830's, tobacco reigned as the king cash crop from the 1840's into the later 1880's. Benton County at one time was the leading tobacco-producing county in the U. S. with tobacco shipments reaching 400,000 pounds. Industrial side effects of tobacco's success appeared throughout the county in the form of tobacco drying barns, warehouses, and tobacco factories. After peaking in 1887, farmers began to neglect their valuable tobacco crops, and, as interest in tobacco diminshed, it was directed towards the big red apple.

In 1840, the apple industry, like that of tobacco, had its humble beginnings near Maysville in a large private orchard that belonged to a well-to-do Cherokee woman and was tended with slave labor up until the Civil War. Although the orchard eventually declined, the Cherokee woman's horticultural

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influence was felt	and by the 1880's there were hundreds of acres	of well-	
tended apple trees	throughout the county. In a matter of ten year	s the	

hundreds of acres grew to thousands and there sprung up throughout the county numerous satellite industries such as apple evaporator and drying operations, apple brandy distillers, and apple vinegar factories, providing a strong economic base for Benton County. With its success peaking in 1919, the apple was king until the 1930's. Its decline was due to disease and insect problems, compounded by unfortunate successive seasons of bad weather and the Great Depression.

A physical result of these successful agricultural-based industries was a rich variety in the architectural vernacular texture of the county, realized in the various forms such as tobacco barns and factories, grain and fruit storage warehouses, apple drying and evaporating facilities. Few, if any, of these specimens remain.

Additional industrial developments in Benton County, not as sensational in success as the tobacco and apple cash crops but equally important in influence, are the lime and brick industries, which had a great bearing on the structure and form of the local residential and commercial architecture. The brick industry was centered around a small number of brick mills, many of which were located near Bentonville. A sizable amount of brick was used in early construction, and much of it was actually made on the individual building sites.

The mining industry was a short-lived and unsuccessful venture to exploit the few minerals and ores present in Benton County and seems to have had no great influence on any subsequent development of the county.

The dark periods of the Civil War, marked in Benton County by the famous Battle of Pea Ridge, called a halt to most agricultural and industrial development. Men joined the army or left the country with their families, returning after the war to clean up farms, rebuild structures burned during the conflict, and to resume or replace any previous economic ventures fortunate enough to have survived. The location of the battle at Pea Ridge is now preserved as Pea Ridge National Military Park (NR 10/15/66), with such structures as the Elkhorn Tavern, which are contemporary to the battle, included on the site.

Closely intertwined in the rebirth, development, and success of agriculture and industry following the Civil War is the development of the railroad. A quick, economical means of transportation was badly needed due to increasing prosperity in the area. Due to successful harvests throughout the county farmers were presented with bountiful surpluses of benefits from increased rail services connecting their goods with larger nationally competitive markets.

In 1881, the St. Louis-San Francisco, now know as the Frisco, was the first line to pass through the county. Towns which had had meager beginnings as simple frontier settlements developed as points of departure for fruits,

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vegetables, grains, and livestock. Several towns flourished, such as Avoca, Gravette, Lowell, and Gentry, each being an important station whose existence depended greatly upon the railroad. Nebo, originally a small settlement in Chalk Valley, gravitated to the top of the hill closer to the railroad to become the present town of Gravette, at the crossroads of the Frisco spur and the Kansas City Southern line.

Rogers, which was to become the largest community in Benton County, traces its beginnings to the construction of the Frisco line, which was completed May 10, 1881. The town was named for Captain C. W. Rogers, general manager of the railroad company. The land occupied by the city was originally owned by Robert Sikes, who came to Benton County from Tennessee in 1853. His son, B. F. Sikes, inherited the land and made a right-of-way grant to the railroad in the late 1870's. Rogers was incorporated May 28, 1881, a few days after the first train arrived.

The early growth of Rogers depended primarily on agriculture, stimulated first by the coming of the railroad and later by the proximity of the University of Arkansas and its county extension program. Good soil, climate, and rainfall was a natural combination conducive to a wide spectrum of agriculture. Fruit orchards, particularly apples, were for two or three decades the most important industry. In 1919 seven million bushels were shipped from the region, but two years later drought and parasites damaged the orchards and the 1919 peak has never been regained. Some remnants of the apple industry remain, however. In 1905, O. L. Gregory had come to Rogers and invested \$20,000 in organizing a cider vinegar plant. It was for two decades the world's largest operation of its kind, and now survives as the Speas Company, also makers of apple cider and juice.

Vineyards in Benton County made an important contribution to the economy, inspired by the grape growing success of Italian settlers in Tontitown, Washington County, to the south. From 1900 strawberries were also of commercial significance and nursery stock was shipped nationwide, as many as 37 carloads a month. Dairy and beef cattle, registered swine, and feeder calves for distant feedlots all have been important parts of the agricultural economy of the Rogers area.

Particular mention should be made here of one of the smallest communities which has properties included in the multiple resource area. Osage Mills is a pastoral village located in west central Benton County, and can only be reached by unpaved county roads. The community originated at the site of a grist mill on Osage Creek in the late 1800's, but never grew to any appreciable size, being bypassed by the rail lines which were being laid during this period. Today Osage Mills remains a quiet hamlet undisturbed by the "progress" which is evident in much of the rest of Benton County. Properties in the community which are part of the MRA include the dam which was once the site of the grist mill, a country church, a residence, and two farmsteads.

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Tourism began a history of some success in Benton County just after the Civil War and was based mainly on the medicinal springs that abounded and on the scenic qualities of the surrounding landscape. Bella Vista has been the most enduring resort community, reaching its heyday in the 1920's but continuing on as a successful retirement village.

In November of 1918 the Linebarger brothers of Dallas, Texas invested \$3,100 in six hundred acres of land on Sugar Creek, seven miles north of Bentonville, which included bluff-rimmed East Mountain and the spectacular Big Spring. By 1926 the resort development had produced 600 occupied cottages and 4,700 registered guests. It was enormously popular during the 1920's, attracting families from oil centers such as Dallas, Fort Worth, Tulsa, and Bartlesville, Oklahoma. A popular attraction was an underground nightclub called Wonderland Cave from which evening entertainment was broadcast on Tulsa's KV00 Radio. Appealing rustic cottages on the hillsides had stone fireplaces, hardwood floors, indoor plumbing, and many were planned with servant's rooms. Less than thirty of these cabins remain, and only a handful retain any degree of their original integrity.

Bella Vista suffered economically from the Depression but the promotional skills of the Linebarger Brothers continued to attract visitors throughout the 1930's and 40's and well into the post-World War II era. In 1963 the community was purchased by John A. Cooper, along with nearly 16,000 acres to the north of the resort. Cooper Communities has developed the area into a successful residential retirement community with elaborate recreational facilities.

Resort cities also developed in Benton County in conjunction with the railroad. Sulphur Springs was such a town, experiencing its heyday in the late 1890's just before the turn of the century. Siloam Springs is also a community whose origins can be traced to both the railroad and the presence of medicinal waters.

The first settlements in what is now Siloam Springs were at Hico in the 1830's, along Sager Creek to the west of the present center of town. Among the prominent early families were the Sagers, whose cabin still stands on the campus of John Brown University (No. 110, NR 1/30/76), and the Gunters, who farmed extensive tracts of land on the prairies north of town. Trade with the Indians was important to the economic development of the area during the first decades. Compared to other sections of Benton County, this southwestern portion was left relatively unscathed by the fighting during the Civil War. But the turmoil that accompanied the war caused social and economic dislocation. Among the most severly affected were the large land holders like the Gunters, whose acreage was reduced from 1000 to less than 500 by 1865.

By the early 1880's, Siloam Springs had attracted a population of about 5,000, some living in tents, in anticipation of the completion of the Port Arthur and

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Gulf (later the Kansas City Southern) Railroad. When it became clear that the rail line would not come through for some time, the bubble burst and the population diminished. When the railroad did come in 1892, the growth of Siloam Springs resumed. Towns like Cherokee City and Bloomfield which were bypassed by the rail line declined or disappeared, and others like Decatur and Gentry developed along the railroad as shipping points for fruit.

Even before the coming of the railroad, Siloam Springs had developed an impressive commercial district with blacksmiths, general mercantile stores, lumber yards, hotels, and several churches. Residential development accelerated late in the 1870's, when the first large homes, some of brick, were built. With the railroad came "summer people" from Louisiana and Texas, the women of the family usually spending six to eight weeks in the city. Siloam Springs appealed to potential tourists through brochures promising no "mosquitos, malaria, or Negroes," and the tourists came in goodly numbers, staying in hotels or boarding houses. During the winter smaller numbers came from the Northern states, and some of these who came seeking temporary comfort liked it so well that they moved to the area.

Automobiles and better highways led to campgrounds and resort developments away from town. Gypsy Camp (No. 129) was one such out-of-town resort, a camp for teenage girls located south of Siloam Springs which attracted young ladies from all over the country. The flourishing tourist trade and the relative prosperity of local agriculture from 1890 to 1929 caused an expansion in the commercial and residential area of Siloam Springs. With the founding of Arkansas Conference College and John Brown University and the popularity of the Chautauqua movement, the city became a center of both education and evangelical religion.

But the Crash of 1929 and the Great Depression changed it all. People no longer travelled. Baskets cost more than apples or peaches would sell for, and there was still the cost of spraying, cultivating and picking to be paid. As the apple economy declined in the 20' and 30's, different lines of the established railroad system fell into disuse, resulting in the demise of several towns which were dependent on successful agriculture and the railroad as the basis for their economy and growth. Towns such as Avoca, Centerton, Hiwasse and Cave Springs met with such a fate, calling an end to a highly successful era of a system of interlocking prosperous towns and communities.

From 1929 until World War II, Benton County simply "dug in and hung on." The 30's saw an exodus from the towns and farms to the West Coast. Then the war took many to the services and industrial areas. Benton County lay dormant, alive but not moving, until the development of the modern poultry industry fueled a new period of growth that far exceeded any earlier booms.

The phenomenal growth since the 1960's of Benton County and Northwest Arkansas as a whole has not always been advantageous for the preservation of historic resources. Many of the most significant buildings have been severly altered

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by the way of obtrusive additions and applications of artificial siding. Many of the county's earliest log structures were purchased by a prominent philanthropist in the early 1970's and moved to Oklahoma as part of a "pioneer village." The resources which do remain, and are included in the multiple resource area, are an architectural representative of the history of the county. A detailed description of the county's architecture is included in Section 7.

The importance of the railroad to the growth of the area is represented by the inclusion in the MRA of depots in Bentonville (No. 26) and Siloam Springs (No. 125). (The Frisco Depot in Rogers, listed in the NR 8/15/77, was demolished in 1979, and has been removed from the Register.) Benton County's agricultural heritage is evidenced by the nomination of a number of farmsteads and individual agricultural structures significant as a representative of their type. Only one specific tie to the apple industry remains as an historic agricultural structure: the Breedlove Water Tower (No. 12A). The significant place held by the resort industry in the history of Benton County is represented by the 1920's cabins at Bella Vista and the Gypsy Camp Historic District.

The historic bridges submitted in this Benton County MRA nomination were first identified during the Arkansas Historic Bridge Survey Project conducted in 1986. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) and the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department (AHTD) evaluated over 2,600 bridges built prior to 1941 in Arkansas. This project resulted in the identification of 39 significant bridges, representing 21 different bridge types. The Osage Creek Bridge, Spavinaw Creek Bridge, and the Illinois River Bridge are outstanding examples of three of these bridge types. Coupled with the previously listed War Eagle Bridge (not included in this MRA), this group of Benton County bridges reflect a significant period in the history of bridge construction in Arkansas. This period, from 1907 through 1922, preceeds the formation of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department in 1923 and contains the most unique and interesting bridge designs in the state. Arkansas county officials relied heavily on independent bridge manufacturing companies to supply them with the most economical and reliable bridges. Numerous companies were awarded contracts that resulted in the construction of a variety of bridge types utilizing several different building techniques and in some cases patented design elements. The subsequent AHTD influence on bridge construction in the state resulted in greater standardization and uniformity in bridge design.

While most of the architecture in Benton County should be termed vernacular, the influence of "high-style" is evident, and most of this influence had its basis in Bentonville. Being the county seat was important for the introduction of fashionable architecture, as is seen in its significant governmental, commercial, and residential buildings. These high-style models filtered their way out into the architecture of the smaller towns and settlements which, during the pre-Civil War years, consisted of simple log, frame and brick structures. The typical commercial building was characterized by the vernacular western commercial false front. The Italianate style then replaced Continuation sheet

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the false front and proliferated during the 1880's and early 1890's on main streets throughout Benton County, realized through the use of brick, limestone, stucco, cast iron, and pressed tin. The best collection of commercial buildings of this period can now be found in the proposed Walnut Street Historic District in downtown Rogers. The Victorian-era Queen Anne and Italianate styles again originated in Bentonville residential districts and found their influence felt in small-town and rural homes. Usually, the Italianate style seems to have been more prevalent, and the Queen Anne is found primarily as detail on Transitional-style residences. The Classical Revival, launched at the Columbia Exposition in 1893, dominated architectural trends during the latter end of the economic boom at the turn of the century. A leader in this important architectural style in Benton County was A. O. Clark, who came to Rogers from St. Louis in 1905 to design Applegate's Drug Store (No. 83, NR 6/23/87) and the Bank of Rogers (No. 84, NR 6/23/80). Mainly centered in Bentonville, the Classical Revival wasn't as prevalent in the commercial buildings of other areas of Benton County, in part due to their economic decline prior to Arkansas' delayed proliferation of this style.

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Beginning with the World War I era, the Craftsman style predictably prevailed, with various interpretations of the bungalow being found throughout the county in residences constructed up into the 1930's.

With the Depression of the 1930's, Benton County experienced the end of its King Apple era, with its interlocking network of railroads and supportive towns, and began a new period based on new methods of transportation, new agriculture, new attitudes towards industry, and a new lifestyle altered in a major way by the effects of World War II. Since that time the area has become one of the fastest growing in the United States. Major concerns associated with the poultry industry are located in Benton County, as well as one of the country's most successful independent trucking firms and a number of other successful corporations. The phenomenal growth of Walton stores (Wal-Mart), has had a marked effect on the economy of Benton County, particularly in Bentonville, where the company's headquarters are located. Cooper Communities has developed Bella Vista Village into a premier retirement community, and the population of the area is heavily sprinkled with those who have migrated to Northwest Arkansas from other parts of the United States.

From such a perspective, little remains of the period reflected by the structures in this multiple resource area nomination. However, scattered architectural specimens stand as physical reminders of the by-gone eras, intermixed with various modern developments which seem less stable somehow than those of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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97.	Walnut Street Historic District		Attest	
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99.	Wonderland Cave	Mibloari <b>Brgister</b>	Keeper AutomByun 1/25/0 Attest	
100.	Young, Col., House	Fillonal Register	Keeper Kelvergyer 1/28/88 Attest	

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Benton County MRA ARKANSAS

- 101. Bella Vista Water Tank
- 102. Sunset Hotel
- 103. Bentonville West Central Avenue Historic District
- 104. Bentonville Third Street Historic District

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