

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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received **OCT 5** 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Historic Resources of Canehill Multiple Resource Area

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The Canehill Community N/A not for publication

city, town Canehill N/A vicinity of congressional district Third

state Arkansas code 05 county Washington code 143

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number See continuation sheets (individual survey forms)

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number Highway 71

city, town Fayetteville, state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock, state Arkansas

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

A. GENERAL PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

An 1862 account describes Canehill as "... a ridge of perhaps eight miles length five miles width in the southwest part of Washington County, Arkansas just beyond the north of the Boston Mountains ...". Remarkably, this description accurately captures the imagery of today's Canehill -- a sparsely developed valley bounded by forest, orchards and pasturelands and dotted with farmhouses nestled in the surrounding foothills. Located in Northwest Arkansas, one of the state's most picturesque regions as a result of its Ozark Mountain location, Canehill sits approximately twenty miles southeast of Fayetteville, a relatively urban university center. However, bypassed by railroads in the late-nineteenth century and tucked away along State Highway 45, a little traveled two-land road, Canehill remains unchanged by the economic growth and physical development that have, historically and currently, so dramatically impacted the nearby Fayetteville area. Canehill is characterized by its comfortable human scale and its almost nineteenth-century ambience.

The boundaries of the unincorporated town of Canehill are nearly indistinguishable, but the hills that ring the historic settlement virtually squeeze the town into its narrow valley. Contiguous landscape, topography and the consistent absence of dense development physically reinforce the close historical relationship of the various components of the area's built environment. Canehill's "Main Street", Highway 45 -- running NE/SE -- visually bisects the townscape. Highway 45 is noteworthy as Canehill's only paved road. A few meandering gravel and dirt roads lead off the throughfare and traverse the hillside. Much of the historic fabric is located just off, or immediately adjacent to, the highway. Other resources are randomly located on the steep hill that slopes to the west of the highway and dominates the landscape. The abundant plant material in the natural landscape, especially trees and untamed high grass, shield other structures from view in the townscape. Though less significant in the contemporary townscape, the presence of abundant springs and the Jordan Creek, added to the area's attractiveness at the time of its settlement.

Late-nineteenth-century maps of Canehill suggest that the irregular town plan was much as it appears today, reflecting the caprices of land ownership (plats bear the names of early Canehill residents) and the dictates of the undulating landscape. Similarly, the siting of individual structures is closely tied to the characteristics of the land. Buildings are irregularly placed on their generally large sites, some occupying the center of their lots, others located on the road. No contiguous streetscapes or building lines are evident. A good deal of open space separate the predominantly residential and agricultural structures, even along Highway 45 where a few commercial structures remain freestanding beside the road and development is slightly denser. Most of Canehill's built environment dates to the nineteenth century, but the townscape has evolved with additions and alterations to these buildings, the deterioration of others, and an occasional instance of contemporary infill. The scale and land use of development however has stayed constant and the spatial sensation created by Canehill's characteristic decidedly nineteenth-century flavor.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

1. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program State Survey, 1971, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas
2. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Survey of Canehill, 1978-79, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas
3. Survey of Canehill, Volunteer Survey, May 1980, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Arkansas.

See also Section 7 -- Survey Methodology.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

In this rural environmental context Canehill emerged, from the time of its 1828 founding until the Civil War and again after the war through the 1880's, as a significant center for education and religion and to a lesser extent, agriculture and industry. The town's architectural and archeological resources reflect the various components and periods of its development. Of greatest significance for their representation of the interests, beliefs and aspirations of Canehill's Cumberland Presbyterian founders are the Cane Hill College Building (CH-5), the last of a series of structures that housed this institution, and the Presbyterian Church (CH-8), presently the only house of worship in a community where religion and development have had a strong historical relationship. Clearly the most visible of Canehill's resources, the church faces Highway 45 and the College Building is sited on the hillside just west of the church. Both structures communicate the very principles upon which the Canehill community was established although they date to the area's post Civil War resurgence.

While it is difficult to picture this sleepy town as a center of industrial activity, the water wheel of the Pyeatte Mill (CH-15) occupies a prominent site alongside the highway recalling Canehill's active nineteenth-century mills. Further archeological investigation is necessary to identify the precise location of the Wilbur Pottery, another Canehill industry of regional importance. Unfortunately, little of the architectural fabric that composed Main Street when it was the site of active commerce is evident today. The few commercial structures that remain freestanding along the highway have been greatly altered, but are noteworthy for the historic associations they evoke.

A progression of architectural history is evidenced in Canehill's residential building stock. While much of the town's early and mid-nineteenth-century fabric did not survive the Civil War when fires set by Union troops devastated the community, construction that followed the Civil War was greatly influenced by the region's antebellum architecture. Therefore, while structures dating to the late 1850's and the 1870's are among the community's oldest extant resources, they reflect the Greek-Revival influenced vernacular pervasively associated with Arkansas' early architectural history. As the Victorian period progressed and the Queen Anne Style took hold in nearby Fayetteville, so too was Canehill's building influenced and late-nineteenth-century residences depict this development.

The potential of Canehill's historical archeological fabric has yet to be fully realized and warrants recognition.

EXP. 12/31/84

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

B. HISTORIC RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

Early Settlement

The rural landscape, land use and quiet small town ambience that characterize Canehill today very much reflect the setting that typified the town during its formative years. Soon after their 1828 migration from the Crystal Hill community in Central Arkansas, the devout Presbyterians who founded Canehill directed their attention to constructing suitable shelters and clearing land for farming. To their delight Canehill offered rich soil, fine springs, good timber and sandstone for buildings.

The first structures built by the settlers were one- and two-room hand-hewn log houses. Native sandstone provided good fabric for fireplaces and chimneys and split rails served as fences. By the 1830's frame houses began to replace the first utilitarian log structures. The much altered remains of the John Rankin Pyeatte House (c. 1834) and the Bean House (c. 1840), also substantially altered, suggest that Canehill's early frame houses were the vernacular one- or two-story weatherboard-faced "I" houses, occasionally with lean-to's or ells to the rear and often having one-bay gable-roofed porticos or shed-roofed porches running full facade width, common to Northwest Arkansas. In this agrarian community outbuildings of wood frame or stone construction, especially barns and spring houses must have been an important component of the landscape. The topography dictated the irregular placement of these buildings on the farmsteads. Today, these land use patterns are still evident.

Religion and education were not ignored during Canehill's first years of settlement. Minutes of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church dated to 1830 bring to light the existence of a two-room hand-hewn log structure on the site that is now occupied by the Canehill Cemetery. Known as "the meeting house", this structure functioned as the early home of the church and of the community's first school, a Sunday school with a strong academic influence.

By the beginning of the 1830's, the community began to develop those enterprises that would serve to support its growth. The first of Canehill's mills, the Pyeatte Mill, was opened in 1832 followed by the establishment of another mill by Thomas Garvin, a post office and a general store. Canehill's first store was a log structure built in 1832 by Maurice Wright, who in 1834 erected another store, a thirty feet by sixty feet frame building. The general store was a two-story frame structure. The birth of Canehill's apply industry also dates to the 1830's. In 1836 Canehill gained not as the western terminus of a federal road that connected Memphis with Northwest Arkansas and, with a population of almost 1,000, it rivaled Fayetteville as the center of Washington County.

EXP. 12/31/84

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 3

While the pattern of commercial enterprises on Main Street with wood frame farmhouses appearing to the north and south of the small business center and dotting the hillside seems to have continued without a substantial increase in the density of the townscape, the physical development of Canehill from the 1840's until the onset of the Civil War focuses on its religious and educational institutions. The histories of the Canehill College and the Canehill Cumberland Presbyterian Church provide a rich architectural backdrop for describing the growth and the significance of the community.

Founded in 1834-35 as a male academy, the Canehill Collegiate Institute was chartered in 1850; it became a four-year college -- Canehill College -- in 1852. Until 1852 the school was housed in the community's original log "meeting house". In 1854 a two-story brick building measuring seventy-three feet by seventy-five feet was erected in 1858. Documentation indicates that this building, constructed at a cost of \$6,000, was a simple, classically detailed structure. Completing the Canehill College campus was a two-story woodframe I-house with two-story front porch and rear ell that served as a dormitory. The only of the college buildings to survive the Civil War, the dormitory served as a hospital during the war and remained extant until 1937. It is difficult to ascertain the precise siting of this ensemble of college buildings, but descriptions suggest that the 1850's structures developed around the hilltop site of the original log "meeting hall." The dormitory building was situated a short distance south of the campus. The evolution of the Canehill Female Seminary, founded in 1852, is contemporary with that of the college. Sited further to the south of the Canehill community than the College, the Female Seminary (CH-16) was originally housed in a two-room frame house which was replaced in 1856 by a two-story frame building. The latter structure was destroyed during the war.

The Canehill Congregation of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was founded at the time of the town's 1828 settlement. After having held services in the "meeting hall" for almost five years, the congregation began to meet in a larger log structure. In 1858 a frame building, which came to be known as the "White Church" because of its whitewashed elevations, was erected. Several divisions of the original congregation occurred throughout the antebellum period and the new congregations worshipped in rooms of the college. Of particular architectural note is the Methodist Church (CH-9) constructed in 1834, a rare example of brick technology in Canehill at this early date. After the construction of a frame church, the brick structure was converted to a residence (Manse). Like most of the town's antebellum frame structures, the Methodist Church building burned during the Civil War.

Post Civil War Resurgence

The Civil War had a devastating effect on Canehill. Almost all of its built environment was destroyed as federal troops torched the town. Only those buildings utilized as Union headquarters or hospitals such as the Methodist Manse and the Canehill College dormitory survived. Even though Canehill rebuilt and once again became a substantial community in the 1870's and 1880's, it never totally regained its eminence as a religious and educational center. At this time a migration began to Fayetteville by Canehill's younger citizens continued through the turn-of-the-

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 4

century, forewarning Canehill's later decline in the shadow of a thriving Fayetteville.

It is not surprising that the rebuilding of the Canehill College building was utmost around the town's post-Civil War activities. By 1868 a new woodframe building was housing the institution. This structure was destroyed by fire in 1885 was a two-story gable-roofed building with tall slender rectangular windows dominating its side elevations and a distinctive entrance featuring trefoil-arched tracery in its transom enriching its principal gable-end elevation. The massive brick Canehill College building (CH-5) still dominates in the townscape, was completed in 1887.

Late-nineteenth-century redevelopment of the residential fabric of Canehill is reflected in the townscape as it appears today with its fine survival of 1870's-1890's houses sited on their farmland plots. The preservation of this rural landscape is largely responsible for the retention and communication of the residential components of the town is addressed below in the description of the town's present architectural appearance and development.

The evolution of Main Street (now Highway 45) as a commercial center is significant in Canehill's late-nineteenth-century history. Since much of this fabric, unfortunately has not survived it warrants description. Depicting a more than two-block area of Main Street lined by an array of freestanding and attached one- and two-story commercial buildings, circa 1900 photographs of Canehill suggest a greater sense of a developed "downtown" or town center than is apparent today. Prominent in this streetscape was a fountain placed squarely in the center of the street and fed from a pipeline from the old college spring. The fountain was composed of a basin from which houses were watered and a pipe from which people could drink or catch water. This was the only source of water from many of the town's homes. Also in the late-nineteenth century, a spring branch ran right across Main Street bridged by a wooden structure. One side of Main Street contained a blacksmith shop, a doctor's office, a drug store and two mercantile stores on one block with the bank, the Mann Hotel and two structures that served as office buildings across the intersection. On the opposite side of the street, structures were occupied by the post office, a number of stores and another blacksmith shop.

Architecturally, Canehill's business streetscape was typical of the development seen in the commercial centers of many of the state's small towns'. Main Street was lined with one-story gable-roofed woodframe structures, some two-story frame structures with high front parapets, and two-story structures with native stone load-bearing walls and pressed tin embellished facades. Of note were the A.R. Carroll Drugstore (CH-10) built in 1900 and the Canehill Bank building constructed in 1907 still extant but altered beyond recognition from its original condition which featured an impressive cornice. The second-story of the Carroll Drugstore was occupied by Canehill's Masonic Lodge. Canehill also was accommodated with the 20-room Mann Hotel built in 1870. Originally located on the west side of Main Street, the hotel building was moved further west to make way for the construction of the bank building on its prime site.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

As Canehill's residences were rebuilt and its commercial area once again thrived, so did its industries. Numerous mills emerged again along Canehill's springs. By 1866 the Pyeatte family's large roller mill was back in operation just north of the town center and in 1902 the facility was moved south to a site of Jordan Creek. With its wheel still extant, this is the best documented of the mill sites. The wheel is steel and a mill race with a dam to impound water was included in the system. Photographs reveal that the mill site was occupied by a tall rectangular frame building with saw-tooth roof rising on a high stone foundation wall behind the wheel and smaller frame outbuildings. Another important industry associated with Canehill during this era was the Wilbur Pottery. Originally located one-half mile south of town, the pottery flourished for about twenty years after the war, using local clay to produce high-fired stoneware. The pottery complex consisted of a pottery building, a kiln--a twenty-foot-wide, four-foot-high circular structure, and a waste dump. Also significant was Canehill's apple industry which thrived until 1910.

C. Architectural Component

The architecture of Canehill graphically captures the progression of Arkansas' nineteenth-century architectural history. Although the structures included in the multiple resource area are not "high style" examples, they portray Northwest Arkansas' vernacular heritage interpreted in wood, native stone and locally-produced brick. Equally important they reflect well the skill with which regional craftsman interpreted the popular forms and details of the nineteenth century.

Though little antebellum fabric survives in Canehill, the two examples of this era that survive relatively unaltered are noteworthy: the Methodist Manse (CH-9) for its use of local brick creating a nearly Federal style appearance, and the Major Earle House (CH-13), a Greek Revival style building, for its accurate classically proportioned facade. Other pre-Civil War structures, the William Welch House (CH-12) and the Colter-Spencer-Moore House (CH-3) though still reflective of the Greek Revival influence of the Greek Revival on the simple Northwest Arkansas I-house remained strong even after the Civil War and Canehill's houses of the late 1860's and early 1870's indicate the tenacity with which the clean lines and rigid proportions of the classical-influenced buildings of antebellum days stayed prominent in the rural landscape. Particularly significant in this connection are the one-story Zeb Edmiston House (1872), CH-11), the impressive two-story Henry Pyeatte House (c. 1866, CH-1) and the two-story McClellan House (c. 1866, CH-14) all exhibiting the qualities of the simple vernacular I-house with projecting classically-derived porticos. Though clearly rural in their siting and craftsmanship the Pyeatte House and the McClellan House display grander proportions than most of the structures of this period and the earlier settlement phase and, as a result, evoke the imagery of the farmhouses that appear on Arkansas' small antebellum plantations.

By the end of the 1880's the impact of the Victorian era was reflected in Canehill's residential architecture. The D. N. Edmiston House (1886, CH-6), although restrained in its simple L-shaped massing and cross-gabled roof, evidences the decorative spirit

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 6

of the era in its bracketed cornice and columns. The John Edmiston House (1896, CH-2) and the Blackburn House (1898, CH-7) are both outstanding examples of architecture of the Queen Anne phase. The active asymmetrical massing, rambling plans and decorative details that enhance the J. Edmiston House and the Blackburn house also render them distinctive in the townscape. Reflecting a stylistic interest analagous to that seen in Canehill's late-nineteenth-century residential design is the A. R. Carroll Building (1900, CH-10). Although altered, this structure captures the essence of the Victorian commercial mode.

Canehill's public buildings provide a glimpse at still another facet of the architecture of the nineteenth century. Designed in the Gothic Revival style deemed suitable for rural churches throughout the nineteenth century, the Presbyterian Church (1891, CH-8) is noteworthy for its finely crafted native stone exterior and the human scale of its proportions. In contrast to the pleasant, rural scale of the church, the massive brick Canehill College building (1887, CH-5) looms almost ominously over the town of its hillside site. Exhibiting some influence of the Italianate mode, this building is the only structure in Canehill that is remotely monumental and slightly out of scale with the surrounding built and natural environments. The college building is also noteworthy for its connection with Northwest Arkansas' brick tradition. No twentieth-century architecture of note is found in the multiple resource area.

The preservation of Canehill's townscape is impressive and the relationship of the architectural components of the multiple resource area today is very much as it existed during the late-nineteenth-century, affording an unusual opportunity to view the architectural character of a town in the very environmental context that fostered its development. In addition to the properties included in the multiple resource nomination, only an additional eleven houses and two commercial buildings are found within the Canehill community. Open spaces, created by the interrelationship of farmland, hillside, springs and forest enhance the comfortable rural scale of the structures. Outbuildings are a very important component of the agrarian landscape. In keeping with the rural scale of development there is no clearcut concentration of residential structures in the irregularly platted community. Development is densest along Highway 45 with residences, commercial buildings and the church sited along the road in a random pattern.

It is remarkable that Canehill remains a relatively isolated community in rapidly developing Washington County. Although some significant structures have been lost, and other resources suffer deterioration, Canehill is well documented by its architectural reflection of the development of the town's history.

The fifteen eligible properties included in the multiple resource nomination include ten houses, one commercial structure (currently serving as a post office), one church, one school building, and two historic archeological sites. Each property reflects the history and contributes to the nineteenth-century character of Canehill. In response to the significance of open spaces in communicating this historic individual property.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 7

D. ARCHEOLOGICAL COMPONENT

Although a comprehensive archeological survey of the Canehill area has not been completed, the multiple resource area has great potential for further study. Because of its early settlement date and rich pre-Civil War history combined with a minimum of ground-disturbing activities since the devastation of the town during the Civil War, Canehill has potential for revealing information about antebellum life in Northwest Arkansas. Studies to ascertain more specific information about the locations and characters of the succession of buildings that comprised the Canehill College campus, early churches, farmsteads, mills and residences could prove extremely valuable.

Specific sites included in the multiple resource nomination are the Pyeatte Mill Site, and the Canehill Cemetery. As the location of Canehill's first log "meeting house", the cemetery site is of considerable import in yielding information about the town's late 1820's and 1830's formative years. The occupation of the mill site, now maintained as a roadside park, dates to 1907. An historic marker designates the site. The marker is visible, located south of the town center on Highway 45, but unobstrusive in the landscape. Presently the mill site is not threatened by development or ground disturbing activities. The cemetery site is located atop a hill west of the town center, off one of Canehill's curving dirt roads. It enjoys considerable protection by an association devoted to its maintenance. The Wilbur Pottery has not been included in the multiple resource nomination at this time for lack of archeological verification of location and boundary descriptions. Nonetheless it warrants recognition as one of Canehill's significant archeological resources with potential for producing numerous artifacts and information pertaining to the kiln operation.

In view of the traditionally rural character of the Canehill community, each house plot should be regarded as a potential archeological site. A record of principal structures, outbuildings and artifacts may be recovered which will aid in the interpretation of Arkansas' rural environment throughout the nineteenth century.

Nothing is on record of the potential of prehistoric occupation of the area.

F. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

An initial survey of Canehill was conducted by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program staff in 1971 identifying those sites of major architectural significance. In 1978 and 1979 the staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program conducted comprehensive surveys, then identifying all historic structures and some archeological sites within the Canehill area. An equally comprehensive survey was conducted independent of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program by three University of Arkansas at Fayetteville students in partial fulfillment of the requirements of a course in historic preservation conducted in the College of Architecture. This documentation was later made available to the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program and proved extremely valuable in updating previously recorded survey data.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 8

In July 1981, a follow-up survey of the Canehill and Clyde communities (including sections 4, 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17 of Canehill township T-14N, R32W) was conducted by Arkansas Historic Preservation Program staff members Donald Brown, historian and Ethel Goodstein, architectural historian to verify recorded date with the intention of preparing a multiple resource nomination to the National Register. At this time, in-depth historical research was pursued, including utilizing state and local depositories, consulting local historians and interviewing property owners. Hester Davis, State Archeologist (Arkansas Archeological Survey) was consulted regarding archeological resources. After establishing a broad identification and documentation of Canehill's historic resources, on-site evaluations of the individual properties were made and the decision to employ the multiple resources format was finalized.

The multiple resource nomination format was determined to be the most appropriate and manageable means for recording Canehill's historic resources. The town's meandering rural topography, the lack of physically contiguous concentrations of resources, the absence of strong visual boundaries and the presence of a number of sadly deteriorated structures rendered the historic approach problematic. Properties in the town were evaluated according to the eligibility criteria set forth by the National Register (National Park Service), assessing the individual properties' historic significance to the nineteenth-century development of the Northwest Arkansas Vernacular and contribution to the history of Canehill. In the absence of compelling and unique historic data, structures that have been altered to such an extent that their qualities reflective of Canehill's nineteenth-century periods of significance are obscured were not considered eligible for inclusion in the nomination. Similarly, properties that have deteriorated to the extent that their distinguishing characteristics have been lost were not considered eligible. However, recognition of the archeological potential of such sites is open to further investigation. All structures determined eligible for listing in the National Register have been included. We hope further archeological investigation will permit future inclusion of additional significance archeological sites in the nomination.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1830's-1890's **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

From the time of its settlement in the late 1820's until the first years of the twentieth century, Canehill, although a town bypassed by the railroads and overshadowed by the nearby county seat Fayetteville, figured significantly in the history and development of Northwest Arkansas. Its 1827 date of settlement establishes Canehill as one of the oldest communities in Washington County. Members of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church were prominent among Canehill's pioneers and their fervent interest in education had a remarkable impact on the small town's emergence as an educational center of statewide import. The Canehill School, the first formal educational institution in Northwest Arkansas, opened in 1834 and less than twenty years later (1852) it was established as a four-year college, the Canehill College, the second such degree-granting institution chartered in the state. While education created one great focal point for Canehill's early history, agriculture, commerce and light industry provided the community with a sound economic base. In this connection, the town's thriving apple industry and prominent milling activity are the significance. Like many Arkansas towns, Canehill's mid-nineteenth-century prosperity was dramatically terminated by the onset of the Civil War. The college closed its doors in 1861 as a majority of students and faculty joined the Confederate army. More significantly, as the site of the Battle of Canehill, in addition to human losses Canehill suffered destruction of much of its built environment, livestock and crops as Union troops torched the town. By the late 1860's, however, commerce in Canehill once again appeared promising with mills reopening and expanding and the 1870's bringing a renaissance of the apple industry. Unfortunately, the Canehill College never regained its pre-Civil War prestige. In the face of competition from the nearby landgrant school in Fayetteville, the Arkansas Industrial University (now the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville), and without financial support from outside the community, the school closed in 1901. Agricultural and commercial endeavors continued to maintain the community as a regional business center, but as the twentieth century began, sheltered in its valley location and without benefit of railroad access, Canehill's development assumed a slower pace. Although some of its architectural components have been lost, altered or deteriorated, Canehill's townscape offers an unusual depiction of the development of nineteenth-century vernacular building nearly in its original environmental context. Similarly, the potential for uncovering historical archeological date in this area is great.

ELABORATION

Canehill is located approximately thirty miles southwest of Fayetteville, the Washington County seat. Nestled in a five-mile-wide, eight-mile-long valley in the shadow of the Canehill Mountains, the town typifies the ambience of the Ozark Mountain region of Northwest Arkansas. Settled in 1827, it is one of the oldest communities in the county.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

Predominant among the pioneers of the Canehill settlement were a group of Cumberland Presbyterians from the Gasper River Community in Logan County, Tennessee. Coming by way of Huntsville, Alabama under the leadership of Jacob Pyeatte, this group founded one of Arkansas' earliest settlements, Crystal Hill, in 1812. Frustrated by Crystal Hill's vulnerability to the flooding of the Arkansas River and tempted by enticing reports of the land in Northwest Arkansas, most of the Cumberland Presbyterians who had settled at Crystal Hill set out for the Canehill region in the early spring of 1827. John Rankin Pyeatte led this group to the northwest. Although these Cumberland Presbyterians were not the first to reach Canehill, they were responsible for organizing the settlement into a functioning community. In 1828 Washington County was created and the Canehill Township was established the following year.

The early establishment of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church was a prime force in the development of the Canehill area. Soon after the first families settled, they began to organize religious and educational activities, founding a church and a Sunday School as early as the spring of 1828. Their first church was built on a hill west of the town where the Canehill Cemetery (CH-4) is located today. As part of the first church site, the cemetery has tombstones dating to the early 1830's. Here the church remained until 1858 when a new structure was built north of Canehill. Meanwhile, an anti-masonic movement split the Cumberland Presbyterian congregation into two factions in 1844 resulting in the creation of the Salem branch of the Presbyterian Church in Canehill. A third branch, the Mount Bethel Presbyterian Church, was formed in 1889. This congregation was responsible for the construction in 1891 of the stone church that stands in Canehill today. The Mount Bethel Presbyterian congregation dissolved thirty-one years later, but before the end of the nineteenth century Canehill supported four Presbyterian congregations. The Cumberland Presbyterian congregations reunited in 1905 and began to meet in the Mount Bethel group's stone church where the congregations's descendants worship today as the United Presbyterian Church. A Methodist congregation also formed soon after the Canehill settlement was established, building their first church (CH-9) in 1834, but this congregation did not play a significant role in the town's emergence as a religious and educational center.

The strong relationship between the Cumberland Presbyterian sect and education and their mutual importance to the development of Canehill is important. As a young branch of the Presbyterian denomination trying to establish themselves, the Cumberland Presbyterians recognized the necessity of producing a literate ministry to spread and preach their doctrines. This desire was manifested in the formal organization of the Canehill School in 1834, the first institution of its kind in Northwest Arkansas. In 1850 the Canehill School began to award a two-year degree and was renamed the Canehill Collegiate Institution. Two years later (1852) the school received a charter from the Arkansas State Legislature to grant four-year degrees. In that year the school changed its name to Canehill College. The college is of great significance as the second four-year college established in the state; Arkansas College in Fayetteville (a small institution that failed to reorganize after the Civil War) received its charter only one day earlier. The prestige of the Canehill College was felt throughout the community.

The citizenry of Canehill did not neglect the education of its female population. Under the leadership of Reverend Samuel Newton, the Elm Grove School for Girls was organized

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

c. 1840. In 1851 the state legislature issued the institution a charter to grant four-year degrees. Called the Canehill Female Academy, the school became the first women's college in the state to grant such a degree.

The Civil War brought much destruction to Canehill and its educational facilities suffered grave losses. As Union troops torched Canehill, only one academic building was spared -- a dormitory belonging to the Canehill College which served as a hospital during the war. After the war both schools reorganized and their charters were restored. The second female academy was chartered in 1860 under the direction of Professor Harrison M. Welch. The academy held its classes in the old Methodist Church building which has since been destroyed. In 1865, under the presidency of Dr. Fountain R. Earle, the Canehill College reopened. Dr. Earle is significant figure in Canehill's history of religions and education. He arrived at Canehill in 1858 to serve as president of the college and remained in this capacity for the remainder of the school's existence, stepping down only for a few years in the 1880's. Both schools failed to achieve sufficient financial support from outside the local vicinity and attempted a merger in 1875 to little avail. This failure was primarily due to a lack of fiscal support from the Arkansas Cumberland Presbyterian Synod and the keen competition created by the state-supported Arkansas Industrial University (now the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville) which opened in 1871 in Fayetteville. In 1885 a fire destroyed the Canehill College campus and a brick structure (CH-5) was constructed to replace the two-building campus. This structure remains on the former college grounds. The college officials closed the doors of Canehill College in 1891. The building continued to serve the community as a public school until 1952.

A healthy economy deeply rooted in agriculture and commerce provided a supportive backdrop for Canehill's religious and educational activities. As the town became truly settled, local businesses and industries developed around agriculture with the cultivation of apples proving of special significance. Orchards were planted as early as 1833 and three varieties of apple were grown in the area -- the Shannon, the Howard Sweet and the June Wilson. During the years from 1870 until 1910, large orchards flourished and the fine houses built during this period by large growers such as Henry Pyeatte (CH-1) and John Edmiston (CH-2) reflect the success of the apple business. An industry involving the evaporation of apples for preservative purposes also prospered for many years, particularly for the John Edmiston and Son Canning Company. The apple evaporating industry reached its peak in 1907. Soon after, the apple industry in Canehill began to decline as the introduction of refrigerated railroad cars, which allowed fresh apples to be shipped across the country without spoiling, diminished the demand for the local industry.

Mills also played a leading role in Canehill's commercial growth. Milling was the first industry established after the initial settlement of the town and several mills existed in the area until the early twentieth century. Most were located on the Jordan Creek, south of the town center. Thomas Garvin operated the first mill on the Jordan Creek during the early 1830's and in 1834 John Truesdale opened a steam-powered mill near the Garvin Mill. At least two other mills functioned in the area before the Civil War, including John Rankin Pyeatte's mill on the north side

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EXP. 12/31/84

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 3

of town on Bush Creek. Pyeatte, one of the founders of Canehill, had already established a wagon and blacksmith shop before building his mill. In 1861 Pyeatte took his son-in-law, William S. Moore, as a partner in the milling operation. Moore expanded the mill's production in 1868 by installing steam machinery which permitted the mill not only to produce flour and cornmeal but also to saw logs and to card wood. This mill became the most significant operation in the Canehill area and continued to thrive as a family operation after John Rankin Pyeatte's death in 1895. That same year Moore brought his son-in-law, Walter Buchanan, into the operation as a partner. In 1902 the Moore-Buchanan Mill was moved from its original Bush Creek site to a location on the Jordan Creek, south of the town center where the mill continued to function until the 1920's. Today, the mill wheel and part of the mill foundation survived on the site (CH-15).

Pottery was another important industry that prospered around Canehill. Local tradition claims that J. D. Wilbur, a native of Ohio, built a kiln on a site south of the town center near a spring that flowed into the Jordan Creek as early as the 1850's. The kiln continued to operate for approximately twenty years after the Civil War and supplied the area with much of its earthenware and stoneware. The kiln site is of great historical archeological significance with potential for further study.

Canehill was a commercial center from the time of its post-Civil War resurgence until its early-twentieth-century decline. A variety of businesses flourished in the town during this period, including a blacksmith shop, wagon making shop, a tailor, drugstores, a millinery shop and general mercantile stores. Prominent and early families were involved in the mercantile businesses, including the McClellans and the Edmistons. White McClellan opened Canehill's second store in the 1830's. The success of the McClellan enterprise is reflected in his late 1860's house located southwest of the town center (CH-14). Both the Zeb Edmiston House (CH-11) and the D. N. Edmiston House (CH-6) represent the success of that family's mercantile business as the town continued to prosper from the growth of the apply industry. Very little fabric remains of the business area with the exception of the A. R. Carroll Building (CH-10) which originally housed a drugstore and served as a meeting place for the local Masons.

Canehill's architectural significance is vested in the progression of nineteenth-century vernacular architectural forms and treatments displayed in the townscape. The surviving structures, particularly the town's residential fabric, reflect clearly the peaks and valleys of Canehill's development evidencing the heydays of the 1850's, to late 1860's through the 1890's. The earliest period is characterized by the Greek Revival influence on the traditional central hall "I" house (CH-3, CH-12, CH-13), the mid-century evidences the tenacity with which these early building types influenced post-Civil War architecture (CH-1, CH-14), and the prosperity of the last decade of the century is expressed in the active elements of Victorian era architecture (CH-2, CH-7). The Presbyterian Church (CH-8) and the Canehill College Building (CH-5) represent the driving forces behind the town's development. As meaningful as the architectural resources is the potential of their sites for historical archeological investigation to reveal more about the use of the land and the domestic order of the nineteenth-century community.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 4

The closing of the Canehill College in 1891 foreshadows the town's decline. Without convenient access to a railroad line, milling and pottery industries could not survive and their importance to the county diminished, therefore, the community's turn of the century prosperity dissipated. As nearby Fayetteville thrived Canehill's development virtually came to a standstill. Today the town is an example of a nineteenth-century regional center preserved in an environment that closely reflects the appearance of the townscape during its period of greatest significance. The only threat to the preservation of this environment is deterioration by neglect. However, the small group of individuals that presently comprises Canehill's population is thoroughly aware of its heritage and devoted to protecting what remains of the historic town. There is evidence of some restoration activity in the residential sector; CH-2, CH-6 and CH-7 all evidence ongoing projects. What a rich history, a concerned community and little threat of contemporary development, Canehill is a valuable resource for studying and recording the early settlement and development of Northwest Arkansas' nineteenth-century towns.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

See individual survey forms

Acreeage of nominated property 2560 acres

Quadrangle name Lincoln, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	1 5	3 7 2 5 8 0	3 9 7 6 8 5 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 5	5 7 5 7 8 0	3 9 7 6 7 4 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 5	3 7 2 4 0 0	3 9 7 2 0 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	1 5	3 7 5 6 1 5	3 9 7 1 9 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See individual description sheets

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian/Don Brown, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 24 August 1981

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock, 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 *William Shea*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 9-23-82

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

See continuation sheet for details date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: *Patrick W. Andrews* date 11/16/82

Chief of Registration

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

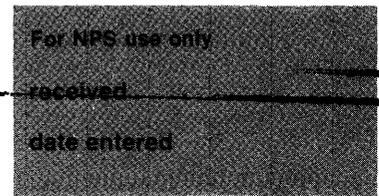
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ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Canehill Multiple Resource Area
State Arkansas

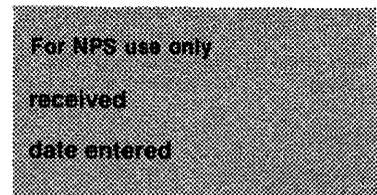
Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | Moore House | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Anna Lee Boyd</u> |
| | | | Attest | <u>11/16/82</u> <u>Patrick Andrus</u> |
| 2. | Methodist Manse | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Delora Byers</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | Edmiston, D. N., House | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Delora Byers</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Canehill Cemetery | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Anna Lee Boyd</u> |
| | | | Attest | <u>11/16/82</u> <u>Patrick Andrus</u> |
| 5. | Canehill College Building | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Delora Byers</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | Edmiston, John, House | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Delora Byers</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | Welch, William, House | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Anna Lee Boyd</u> |
| | | | Attest | <u>11/16/82</u> <u>Patrick Andrus</u> |
| 8. | Edmiston, Zeb, House | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Delora Byers</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | Blackburn House | Entered in the
National Register | <u>for</u> Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Delora Byers</u> |
| | | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | McClellan, E. W., House | Substantive Review | Keeper | <u>11/17/82</u> <u>Anna Lee Boyd</u> |
| | | | Attest | <u>11/16/82</u> <u>Patrick Andrus</u> |

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page 2 of 2

Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

Name Canehill Multiple Resource Area
State Arkansas

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 11. Earle House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | 11/17/82 <i>Silvan Byers</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 12. Carroll, A. R., Building | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | 11/17/82 <i>Silvan Byers</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 13. Pyeatte Mill Site | Substantive Review | Keeper | 11/17/82 <i>Anna M. Moyal</i> |
| | | Attest | 11/16/82 <i>Patrick Andrews</i> |
| 14. Pyeatte, Henry, House | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | 11/17/82 <i>Silvan Byers</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 15. United Presbyterian Church
of Canehill | Entered in the
National Register | <i>for</i> Keeper | 11/17/82 <i>Silvan Byers</i> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 16. | | Keeper | _____ |
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| 20. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |