

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Pottsville Dipping Vat

other names/site number Site #PP0384

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner of Rankin Park on East Ash Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Pottsville

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pope code 115 zip code 72858

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Maxey  
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/17/05  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

☒ entered in the National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined eligible for the  
National Register.  
☐ See continuation sheet

☐ determined not eligible for the  
National Register.

☐ removed from the National  
Register.

☐ other, (explain:)

for  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall

3/2/06

Pottsville Dipping Vat  
Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private  
☒ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☒ structure  
☐ object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

		buildings
		sites
1	1	structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

Dip That Tick: Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas,  
1907-1943

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls CONCRETE

roof N/A

other

## Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Pottsville Dipping Vat is a concrete structure with an associated dripping platform located at the northwest corner of Rankin Park on East Ash Street in Pottsville. The Pottsville Dipping Vat is in good condition.

### ELABORATION

The Pottsville Dipping Vat is a concrete structure with an associated dripping platform located at the northwest corner of Rankin Park on East Ash Street in Pottsville. The Pottsville Dipping Vat is in good condition.

The facility includes a concrete dipping vat terminating in a concrete dripping pad and drain for recovering cattle-dip solution. The overall length of the vat and pad is approximately 42 feet long. The vat is about two feet wide and approximately seven feet deep. The vat is surrounded by a wood fence to keep people out of it, which, because of its recent date of construction, is considered to be non-contributing to the nomination.

### Integrity

The Pottsville Dipping Vat is in good condition, with all of its walls intact with minimal signs of collapse, thus meeting the registration requirements of the multiple-property listing **Dip That Tick: Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas, 1907-1943**. The property has excellent integrity of location, remaining at its original site within the City of Pottsville in Pope County, Arkansas, a location that also provides it with integrity of setting, feeling and association. It has superb integrity of design, showing little if any sign of deterioration. Its continued high degree of structural integrity is proof of its workmanship, and none of its original materials have been compromised.

Pottsville Dipping Vat  
Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☐ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

### Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

### Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

### Period of Significance

c.1915-c.1940

### Significant Dates

c.1915-c.1940

### Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

### Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

### Architect/Builder

### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### Bibliography

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

### Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Pottsville Dipping Vat is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** by virtue of its status as an intact concrete structure erected as part of the government effort to eradicate Texas tick fever from Arkansas cattle.

### ELABORATION

When Pope County was created on November 2, 1829, many of the early settlers were involved in hunting and trapping. However, the settlers soon became aware of the good soil in the county and agriculture quickly became a mainstay of many of the county's residents. The *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas* stated that "The soil of this country possesses all the chemical ingredients necessary to the wants and growth of plants, but each particular character of soil excels in the growth of certain species."<sup>1</sup>

Even though agriculture was a way of life for the residents of Pope County, it was apparently the raising of crops that most of the settlers engaged in. By the 1890s, crops were still the main agricultural activity in the county, even though it was known that "Big Piney and the Illinois Bayou...afford plenty of water for stock..." and "Galla Creek...affords stock water in good supply."<sup>2</sup> Even so, the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas* noted that, "Though Pope County is naturally a fine stock country little thought is given to stock-raising."<sup>3</sup>

By the early twentieth century, however, things were changing in agriculture in Pope County. Livestock farming was being heavily promoted since the county had all the natural needs for it to be successful. For example, a c.1910 promotional brochure for Russellville stated:

Pope County offers unlimited opportunities for profitable live-stock farming, and this industry is destined to develop as rapidly and enhance the values of real estate as materially as will the fruit industry and other innovations. Our short and mild winters make expensive barns unnecessary, and green pasturage can be had almost the year around at little expense. Water is plentiful, and we have an abundance of wild grasses, including Japan and White Clover. Our soil and climate have proven well adapted to alfalfa, red and bur clover, also such grasses as timothy, red top and blue grass. Bermuda, the most bountiful pasture in the world, is easily propagated and is found in abundance mixed with white and Japan clover.

<sup>1</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p. 195.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 196.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

...Our shipping facilities are good, and with the Packing House Company organized in Little Rock, it is an assured fact Arkansas is to become one of the leading states in live-stock production, and Pope the banner county of the State.<sup>4</sup>

As livestock farming took off in Pope County, especially in the Pottsville area, farmers became concerned with the Texas tick fever just as the rest of the state did. To combat the fever, a dipping vat was built in Pottsville on the land where Will Rankin operated a large cotton gin. Although the exact date of the vat's construction is unknown, it was likely built c.1915 shortly after the program began across the state.<sup>5</sup>

The location of the dipping vat in downtown Pottsville was convenient for the town's residents and the surrounding area's farmers. People would bring their cattle to town to be dipped and their cotton to be ginned and while they waited they would run errands in the town's stores. The vat continued to be used likely until the end of the program in 1943.<sup>6</sup>

After the vat was actively used, it was filled in with dirt, which helped to preserve its integrity. The vat was rediscovered a few years ago, and then excavated and restored. A wood fence was also constructed around the vat to keep people away from it.

Today, the Pottsville Dipping Vat remains as an important reminder of the agricultural heritage of Pottsville and Pope County. The vat represented a way to protect the livestock of the area and, therefore, the farmers' livelihood. In addition, the recent clean up and restoration efforts of the City of Pottsville are a testament to the importance of the vat to the people of Pope County.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pottsville Dipping Vat is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** by virtue of its status as an intact concrete structure erected as part of the government effort to eradicate Texas tick fever from Arkansas cattle.

<sup>4</sup> J. B. Lemley. *Pope County Articles*. Privately printed, c.1984. Vol. 3, pp. 49-50.

<sup>5</sup> Information on the Pottsville Dipping Vat provided by Benita Duvall.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

Pottsville Dipping Vat  
Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

---

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

*Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891.

Information on the Pottsville Dipping Vat provided by Benita Duvall.

Lemley, J. B. *Pope County Articles*. Privately printed, c.1984. Vol. 3.

Pottsville Dipping Vat  
Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one.

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 495765 3900817  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

☐ See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

### Boundary Justification

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date August 16, 2005  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

### Continuation Sheets

### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

## Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Pottsville  
street & number 173 E. Ash Street telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Pottsville state AR zip code 72858

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.



Pottsville Dipping Vat

Name of Property

Pope County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

---

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 50-foot circle centering on UTM point 15/495765/3900817.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes all of the historic resources associated with the Pottsville Dipping Vat and its surroundings.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Pottsville Dipping Vat  
NAME:

MULTIPLE Dip That Tick: Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas MPS  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Pope

DATE RECEIVED: 1/17/06 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 2/03/06  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 2/18/06 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/02/06  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 06000086

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

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

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 3/2/06 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in the  
National Register

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



POTTSVILLE DIPPING UAT

POPE COUNTY, AR

BENITA DUVALL

SEPTEMBER 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW LOOKING EAST





POTTSVILLE DIPPING VAT

POPE COUNTY, AR

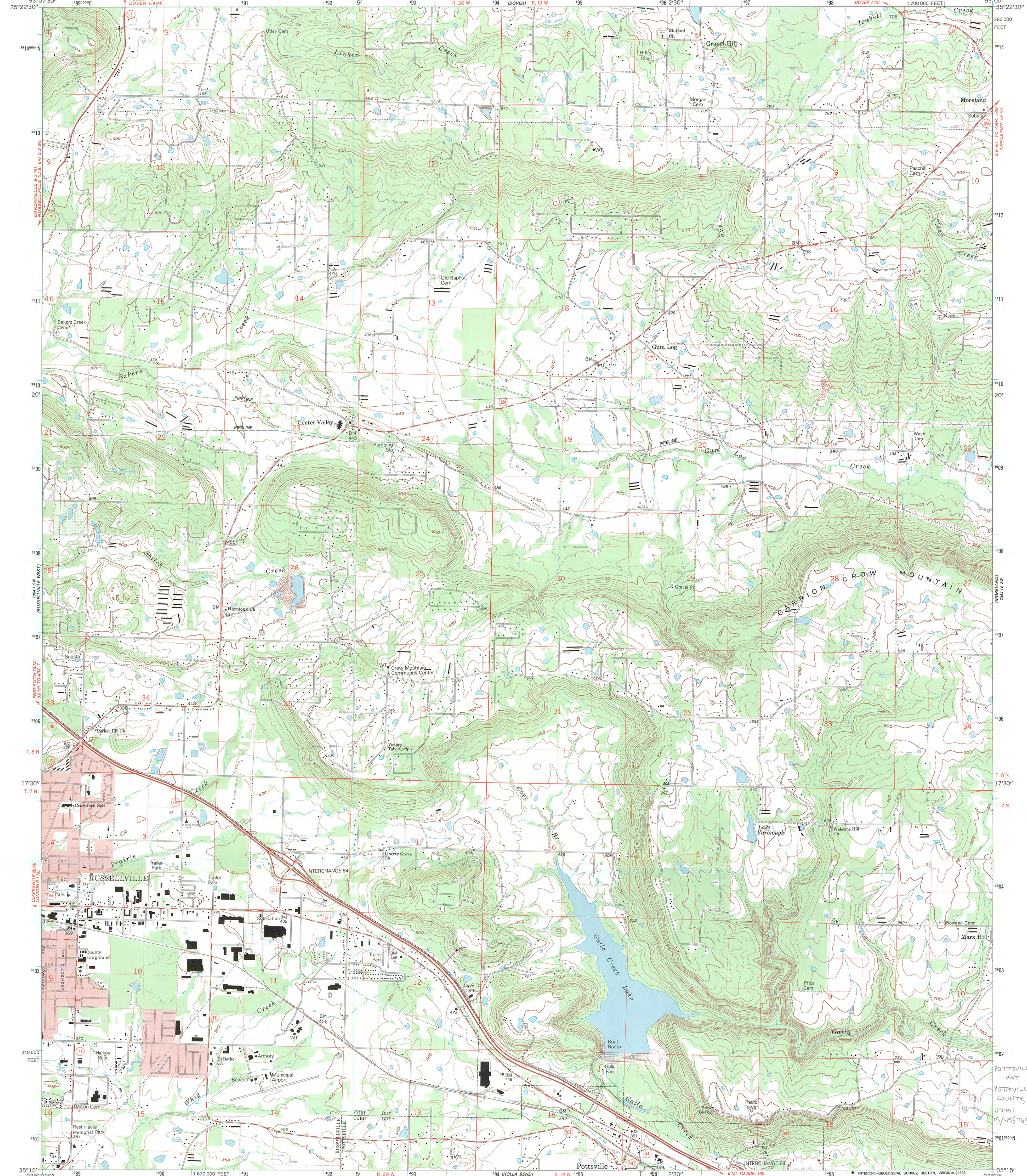
BENITA DUVALL

SEPTEMBER 2005

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM, LITTLE ROCK, AR

VIEW LOOKING WEST





Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1962. Revised from aerial photographs taken 1989-90. Field checked 1992. Map edited 1993  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue 1927 North American Datum (NAD 27)  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks  
The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are given in USGS Bulletin 1875  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Unlabeled wells are gas wells

SCALE 1:24 000  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway, hard surface  
Secondary highway, hard surface  
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface  
Unimproved road  
Interstate Route  
U.S. Route  
State Route

QUADRANGLE LOCATION  
AR KANSAS

RUSSELLVILLE EAST, ARK.  
35093-C1-TF-024  
1993  
DMA 7354 I SE-SERIES V884





## The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor  
Cathie Matthews, Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage  
Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars  
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



### Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 324-9880

fax: (501) 324-9184

tdd: (501) 324-9811

e-mail:

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

website:

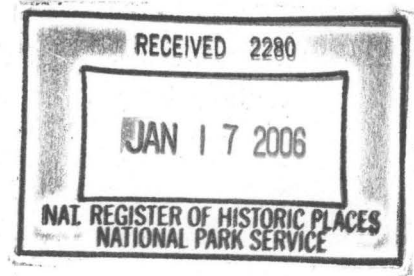
[www.arkansaspreservation.org](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org)

An Equal Opportunity Employer



December 7, 2005

Dr. Janet Matthews  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
8th Floor  
1201 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005



RE: Pottsville Dipping Vat – Pottsville, Pope County, Arkansas

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw

Enclosure