

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 Crossroads Fire Tower
other names/site number AS0104

2. Location

street & number 2262 SR 133 North N/A not for publication
city or town Hamburg vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Ashley code 003 zip code 71646

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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		structures
		objects
1		Total

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

“Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas, 1933-1942”

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other/Fire Tower

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Tin

roof Tin

other Steel Tower Framing

Narrative Description

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

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)

Architecture

Conservation

Social History

Period of Significance

1935-1956

Significant Dates

1936-1943

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

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:

Crossroads Fire Tower
Name of Property

Ashley 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	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>600223</u> Easting	<u>3677423</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

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 Elizabeth A. James
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date December 8, 2005
street & number 323 Center Street, 1500 Tower Building telephone 501-324-9789
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72205

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 Hamburg
street & number 305 East Adams telephone 870 853-5300
Hamburg state AR zip code 71646

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.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Crossroads Fire Tower is located on SR 133 North a short distance north of the Ashley County Road 12 and SR 133 intersection. This area is known as Crossroads. The fire tower is easily visible from SR 133. The Hamburg Rural Water tower was erected northeast of the fire tower after the city purchased the land in 2000.

ELABORATION

The fire tower was constructed by the Aermotor Company and erected by the Civilian Conservation Corps and stands 120 feet tall. It is the tallest tower of its type remaining in the state of Arkansas. The areas surrounding the fire tower are flat necessitating the height of this tower. The structure itself is typical construction during this period. It consists of a braced galvanized metal frame supporting the enclosed observation structure from which the operator could view the surrounding landscape in all directions. Each of the four walls consists of eighteen adjustable windowpanes for unobstructed viewing. The window units can open or close for ventilation or warmth. The tin cab is at least 7' x 7' with a hip roof. The steps are located in the center of the tower and are constructed of galvanized steel with wooden treads. The landings at the bottom of each set of stairs are wooden.

Between 1936 and 1943 an additional twenty feet was added to the tower to achieve a more clear view over surrounding trees. The additional twenty feet altered the original tower design because the addition kept it from tapering from bottom to top. The tower now tapers out before tapering inward again where the additional twenty feet was added.

INTEGRITY

Crossroads Fire Tower is still standing in stable condition. It is in need of repair to restore it to its original condition. Years of weathering and vandalism have contributed to its present state. The fire tower is enclosed with a security fence to deter vandalism. All of the original materials remain in place. The steel structure of the tower is in very good condition; however, the wooden steps and landings have begun to deteriorate and the cab will need to have new windows. Overall the tower remains a solid presence in the Hamburg skyline and is a landmark of its time.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Crossroads Fire Tower is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the emphasis upon conservation of the abundance of natural resources in this area. This was also the original mandate of the Civilian Conservation Corps. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a good example of a fire tower built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This nomination is also being submitted under the multiple property context of "Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas, 1933-1942."

ELABORATION

This property is considered a part of the Timberlands and is located in Ashley County, Arkansas. Ashley County is in the Southeast corner of Arkansas on the Arkansas-Louisiana border. Ashley County was organized November 30, 1848 and consists of 921 square miles. It was the fifty-third county to be formed in Arkansas and is the fifth largest county in the state with a population of 23,583 according to the as of 2003. Ashley County was formed from part of Drew County with final boundary adjustments made in 1861. It was named for U.S. Senator Chester Ashley. Wilderness provides an abundance of forestry, hunting, fishing, camping, boating and canoeing opportunities. Bayou Bartholomew, the longest bayou in the United States runs through the county. Felsenthal National Wildlife Refuge has the world's largest green-tree reservoir consisting of 15,000 acres and is more than doubled to 36,000 acres during the winter flooding. Established in 1970 and containing 65,000 acres, this refuge is located in Ashley, Bradley and Union Counties. Today, Ashley County's main communities are Crossett, Hamburg, Fountain Hill, Montrose, Parkdale, Portland and Wilmot.

As of 1930, Arkansas was one of the largest timber producing states in the nation. At this time it was the only state that did not have a forestry department, which resulted in forest fire protection problems. It was the responsibility of lumber company owners to protect the forests. The 1931 session of the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 234 creating the State Forestry Commission. One of the statutory responsibilities of this commission was to cooperate with timber owners in the prevention and suppression of forest fires. The commission was broken down into units. In the beginning, Curtis Coffman was in charge of Unit 1 with headquarters at Hamburg. By June 30, 1934, the Commission had about 2.5 million acres under intensive protection from fire, all of which was in Southern Arkansas. Fire protection was the first consideration for successful management of the forest. This could not have come sooner for the local saw mill known as Crossett Lumber Company which opened in 1902 and today is Georgia Pacific.

The State Forestry Commission chose a location known as Crossroads to erect a fire tower. The Aeromotor Company built the fire tower, which was brought from Enid, Oklahoma. After arriving in Hamburg the fire tower was erected by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The CCC was formed from Franklin D. Roosevelt's program designed to help the national economy and preserve natural resources. There were more than 500,000 men in this program nationally at its peak. About one half of

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those men were responsible for forest service projects. In total, they erected 3,100 fire towers. During this time in Ashley County, there was a 200-man camp initially established east of Crossett but later moved to Hamburg. This camp was responsible for erecting the Crossroads Fire Tower.

Forest fires were common during the spring fire season, which extended from mid-February until the grass and other vegetation turned green and the fall fire season lasting from about October 1st until the winter rains started in December.

Crossroads Fire Tower was opened in 1935. The concrete corner bases of the tower have the year 1926 etched on them. The concrete step base has the date September 23, 1926. We have been unable to connect the year etched on these bases with the year that we have that the tower opened in 1935. In the early days of operation, a house was built on the same property as the fire tower to house the fire tower operator. This house was located almost exactly where Hamburg Rural Water tower is now located. The Crossroads Fire Tower served as a lookout tower from 1935 until the time it was closed in 1985. Many towers including Crossroads were phased out in favor of aerial fire detection. Today there are only twenty remaining fire towers of the 105 that the state once had.

During the time of operation the operators were: Tucker, John D. 1935-1943, Kinnaird, Mack L. 1943-1943, McLemore, Richard 1944-1952, High, J.E. 1952-1953, Kinnaird, Mack 1953-1964, Anthony, Mr. 1964-1966, Jones, R. Faye 1966-1975, and Rauls, Glendine 1975-1985.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Crossroads Fire Tower is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the emphasis upon conservation of the abundance of natural resources in this area. This was also the original mandate of the Civilian Conservation Corps. It is also being nominated under **Criterion C** as a good example of a fire tower built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. This nomination is also being submitted under the multiple property context of "Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas, 1933-1942."

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Bibliography

Etheridge, Y.W. *History of Ashley County, Arkansas*. Van Buren, Arkansas: The Press Argus, 1959.

Reynolds, R.R. *The Crossett Story: The Beginning of Forestry in Southern Arkansas and Northern Louisiana*, New Orleans, LA: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1980.

Correspondence: Arkansas Forestry Commission, Ashley County District/Crossett, Arkansas/Stephanie Price.

Ashley County Ledger. Hamburg, Arkansas.

Special Warranty Deed. State of Arkansas County of Ashley.

The Aeromotor Company Website (History).

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LEGAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 30-foot circle centering at UTM coordinate 15/600223/3677423.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes all of the historic resources associated with the Crossroads Fire Tower and its surroundings.