

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 Marianna Waterworks

other names/site number Marianna Water Department, Site LE0196

2. Location

street & number 252 US Highway 79

☐ not for publication

city or town Marianna

☐ vicinity

state Little Rock code AR county Lee code 077 zip code 72360

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.)

Caleb J. Harts  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/11/06  
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

Marianna Waterworks

Name of Property

Lee 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

2

1

buildings

3

1

sites

structures

5

2

objects

Total

### Name of related multiple property listing

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

An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts  
1933-1943

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

## 6. Function or Use

### Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks

### Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks

## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/ Classical  
Revival

### Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CAST CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof METAL

other

### Narrative Description

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

Marianna Waterworks

Lee County, Arkansas

Name of Property

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)

Engineering/Politics/Government

### Period of Significance 1937-1956

### Significant Dates 1937-1956

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

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

### Architect/Builder

Unknown, assistance from the PWA

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Marianna Waterworks  
Name of Property

Lee County, Arkansas  
County and State

## 10. Geographical Data

### Acreage of Property

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1    15    704477    3850371  
    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    Joanna Hall, National Register Historian  
organization    Arkansas Historic Preservation Program    date    08/11/06  
street & number    1500 Tower Building    telephone    (501) 324-9789  
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 \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### Summary

The Marianna Waterworks is located north of Highway US 79 in Marianna, Arkansas, located east of the Mississippi River. Marianna is the seat of justice for Lee County in Eastern Arkansas. Once coined the "Gem of the St. Francis River Valley" by the Arkansas Press Association (APA), Marianna is known for its agricultural productivity and farmland. The Marianna Waterworks facility was built in 1937 with assistance from the Public Works Administration (PWA) as part of President Roosevelt's New Deal.

### Elaboration

The Marianna Waterworks is located in Marianna Arkansas, east of the Mississippi River. The town's convenient location by the confluence of the St. Francis and L'Anguille Rivers, tributaries of the Mississippi River, led to Marianna's growth as an important trade center for the county. Representative of the city's progress, the Waterworks holds a prominent place in town nearby US Highway 79 and east of the Iron Mountain Railroad. The facility includes the Waterworks Department Office, aeration chamber, two clear wells, a water wheel, and a well house, which are all contributing. The Marianna Waterworks also consists of a new water tower and an out building, which are non-contributing. The office is a brick building built in the Spanish Revival style, while the other structures of the property are representative of the PWA 1930's waterworks construction.

### Waterworks Department Office--Contributing

#### South/ Front Façade

The Marianna Waterworks Department Office is T-shaped and consists of three adjoining buildings. It has a stair-step roof line, as these buildings increase in height. Because the short side of the building is oriented to the south, at the south façade it is possible to see only the tops of these taller buildings that are not obscured by the shorter buildings. The shortest building stands one story tall and rests upon a continuous concrete foundation. It serves as the main entrance to the Department. It features two double-hung, four-over-four windows that are centered on the entrance door. At the foundation level, the brick wall is interrupted by wood framed double doors. Rising from the bottom of the door to half way up the doors' height there is a wood square panel. The wood panels are broken by a glass panel on each door which matches the windows' height. A transom covers the door. To the left, or east of the door there is a bronze plaque dedicated to the president of the Water Works Association, "William Silon "Soak" Sanderson (1900-1962)." Above the door's transom, the wall bears the inscription "MARIANNA WATER DEPT." This section is covered in a flat with a parapet metal roof; however, the parapet is not visible from this elevation.

Visible from the south façade, the top of the middle building includes a brick wall with two double-hung, four-over-four windows, similar to the windows on the shorter building. This building stands two stories tall and is covered in a metal flat roof.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

All that is visible at the south elevation of the tallest building, which stands two and a half stories high, is the common bond brick wall which is covered in a gable metal roof.

### West/ Side Façade

The west façade, or the long side of the Office, is separated once again by the three buildings that increase in height. Moving from left to right or from the southwest to northwest corner, the first building stands one-story high and consists of a brick wall that rests upon a continuous concrete foundation. It is covered in a flat with a parapet, metal roof. At the southwest corner of this building, the most prominent features are three, four-over-four, double-hung windows, evenly spaced. The northwest corner of this building distinguishes itself as the west entrance to the Department. The common bond brick wall is interrupted at the foundation level by wood framed doubled doors that match the main entrance doors on the south facade. There is a glass panel on both doors that matches the height of the windows, and a transom. Above the transom there is a stone frieze which bears the inscription of the waterworks name "MARIANNA WATER WORKS." The brick parapet rises above this frieze, indicative of the Spanish Revival style.

The middle building stands two stories high and is constructed of a brick wall, and a metal gable roof. It is characterized by four double-hung, four over four windows; two at the first story and two at the second story.

While the other two buildings are oriented north to south, the tallest building is oriented sideways from east to west, making this façade of the tall building, a short side. It bears no architectural features except for its structural features which include a brick wall which rests upon a concrete continuous foundation and a metal gable roof.

### North/Rear Façade,

All that's visible from the north façade is the tallest building of the Office. This façade features a rear concrete addition that extends several feet past the brick wall. Above the addition, on the northwest corner of the façade there is one double-hung, four-over-four window. The metal roof of this façade is gable.

### East/ Side Facade

The east façade of the building, or long side, features the three buildings which decline in height moving left to right, or from the northeast corner to the southeast corner of the office. The tallest building of the façade rests on a concrete foundation which extends half way up the building's height in length. Above the foundation, there is a double-hung, four-over-four window. A cornice runs continuously underneath the gabled end roof.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

The middle building of this façade rests upon the same concrete foundation as the tallest building. Above the concrete foundation, there are two double-hung, four-over-four windows that are centered on the elevation and evenly spaced. This elevation is covered in flat metal roof.

The short building of this façade rests upon a smaller concrete continuous foundation. The brick wall at the north, or left, corner of this building is interrupted by two standard, double-hung four-over-four windows. At the south, or right corner of this building, there are an additional two standard windows that are similar to the windows at the north corner, except for these additional windows are covered in two awnings. This building is underneath a flat with a parapet, metal roof; however, the parapet is not visible from this façade.

### Clear Wells - Contributing

There are two clear wells located behind the rear, north addition of the Office. These wells are centered on a concrete foundation and constructed circa 1930.

### Water Wheel - Contributing

There is a steel framed water wheel located southwest of the Office. It was built circa 1930.

### Aeration Chamber - Contributing

Located southeast from the Department's main entrance, the aeration chamber is a circular shape and is a box or vertical board construction. The wall material is Asphalt roll. At the roof of the chamber there is a fenced in circular walkway that encompasses the area of the structure. The aerator, which consists of three louvers, is located at the top of the roof at the southwest corner. The chamber was constructed circa 1930.

### Well House - Contributing

The well house is located east of the Department's main entrance, and it is composed of brick walls that rest upon a continuous concrete foundation. Its roof is tar-built up and flat. There is a door opening on the south elevation. The well house was constructed circa 1930.

### Water Tower - Non-Contributing

This water tower is located to the northwest of the Department Office's main entrance, and it was constructed circa 1980. A steel, white, circular tank rests upon four, white, metal piers. Metal crosspieces are integrated between the piers for extra support. There is a metal pipe centered at the bottom of the tank that runs to the ground, carrying water back and fourth. On the north wall, the black letters "MARIANNA" are painted. The tank is covered in a circular metal roof.

Marianna Waterworks  
Name of Property

Lee County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

### Outbuilding - Non-Contributing

Located South West of the Department Office's main entrance, the outbuilding was constructed circa 1980. It is a square plan constructed of brick walls and rests upon a continuous concrete foundation. It is covered in a flat tar/built up roof.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### Summary

The Marianna Waterworks is being nominated with **local significance** to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** for its associations with the PWA activities in Marianna, Arkansas. The Marianna Waterworks is also being nominated under **Criterion C** for its unique 1930s PWA construction and Spanish Revival style. The Marianna Waterworks is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under "An Ambition To Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts And Architecture In Arkansas 1933-1943."

### Elaboration

While evidence of de Soto and Marquette and Jolliet's expeditions is prominent in Marianna, Arkansas, the first permanent European settlement in the area began with the Louisiana Purchase. After the War of 1812, the United States government directed its attention towards moving west. In 1815, President James Madison issued a survey of the land purchased from France. Surveyors established an initial point at the area that would later become Marianna.

As more people took interest in this area, the settlement, which would later become Marianna, progressed. By 1870, the town of Marianna was founded on the property owned by John Harland. After many disputes, his daughter, Mary Ann Harland, agreed to sell the property to the local government for the establishment of the town on the terms that the town would be named for her.<sup>1</sup> Three years later, the location of the city was moved three miles down the road closer to the confluence of the St. Francis and L'Anguille Rivers.<sup>2</sup>

The town's new location near these tributaries, allowed for communication with and access to major ports along the Mississippi River. In the latter half of the nineteenth century Marianna grew into a regional trade center for cotton and lumber. Cotton and lumber were shipped to New Orleans by steamboat for trade with Europe. In the *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, the average yield per acre was between 350 to 700Lbs of cotton.<sup>3</sup> Another thriving industry was the timber. In the late 1800s, three large saw mills were constructed on the L'Anguille riverfront, each with a capacity of 35,000 feet. The average shipment from the L'Anguille Lumber Company was three sales for lumber from the mills which almost equaled the value of cotton.<sup>4</sup>

In 1873, a new county was formed at the junction of Phillips, Monroe, St. Francis, and Crittenden Counties. Although this new county was not a battle site for the Civil War, the citizens in sympathy for their friends and family named the county after the Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Following its growth as the principle trade center for the Lee County, Marianna was then made county seat.

<sup>1</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* ( Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890) 569.

<sup>2</sup> *History of Lee County, Arkansas*, Nancy Apple and Suzy Keasler eds, (Dallas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1987)3.

<sup>3</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*, 571.

<sup>4</sup> *History of Lee County, Arkansas*, 83.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Another thriving industry was the timber. In the late 1800s, three large saw mills were constructed on the L'Anguille riverfront, each with a capacity of 35,000 feet. The average shipment from the L'Anguille Lumber Company was three sales for lumber from the mills which almost equaled the value of cotton.<sup>5</sup>

In 1873, a new county was formed at the junction of Phillips, Monroe, St. Francis, and Crittenden Counties. Although this new county was not a battle site for the Civil War, the citizens in sympathy for their friends and family named the county after the Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Following its growth as the principle trade center for the Lee County, Marianna was then made county seat.

With lumber and cotton industries advancing, Marianna was one of the few towns in Arkansas whose growth did not exclusively depend on the progress of the railroad.<sup>6</sup> However, some of its growth can be attributed to the railroad. The first railroads, the Iron Mountain Railroad and the Helena Railroad were established in 1879 running from Marianna to Helena. Three years later these were converted into standardized rails and run by the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company. By 1914, the Company announced plans to build a direct line between Marianna and Memphis.<sup>7</sup> At the same time, the population increased dramatically. In 1900 the population was 1,707 by 1910 the population was 4,810.<sup>8</sup>

Marianna's growth was also reflected in its civic success. By 1890 groups such the City Council and Masons Chapter met to work on plans for building a new county courthouse. Commenting on the construction of the courthouse, Sherriff Harrington claimed that the "public's improvement efforts have kept pace and often outstripped the growth of the town."<sup>9</sup>

Plagued with two separate accounts of Yellow Fever at the turn of the century, the community worked to clean up the ditches and the wells of the town and in doing so established a waterworks "sufficient for a great fire and sprinkling of the streets and lawns."<sup>10</sup> The infrastructure was strengthened once more in 1907 when an ordinance for a sewer connection passed and the commissioner of the waterworks was authorized to have a well dug. According to the fire insurance maps of 1908, this six foot artesian well was dug 604 feet deep with the capacity of 66,000 gallons to serve the city. An Iron water tank, elevated above ground, was used as a reservoir which could hold 100,000 gallons.<sup>11</sup>

From the time of its commencement to the present day, the waterworks is owned and operated by the city. In 1937, the Department Office for the Marianna Waterworks was built with assistance from the Public

<sup>5</sup> *History of Lee County, Arkansas*, 83.

<sup>6</sup> Information on Marianna in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

<sup>7</sup> *History of Lee County, Arkansas*, 88.

<sup>8</sup> Information on Marianna in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

<sup>9</sup> *History of Lee County, Arkansas*, 83.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 86.

<sup>11</sup> Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Marianna, Arkansas: December 1903 and April 1908 in the files of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Works Administration (PWA). At the Arkansas State Planning Board Meeting of 1935, water resources and public waterworks was a high priority issue.<sup>12</sup> Plans to improve the existing waterworks in Marianna went in effect as the contract for an improved Marianna Waterworks was issued in 1936. Marianna was granted \$5,106 dollars from the PWA. The projected total cost for the project was \$11,697. The project was completed in 1937.<sup>13</sup>

The Marianna Waterworks is an exceptional example of the Spanish Revival style. In character with the early progress of the community, this office building boasts its popular modern style. Constructed out of brick, similar to the Lee County Courthouse, this building maintains the city fabric used in the early twentieth century. The waterworks also includes a contributing aeration chamber, water wheel, well house, and outbuilding, which are all representative of the PWA 1930s waterworks construction.

### Statement of Significance

The Marianna Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the PWA and the PWA activities in Marianna. It also is being submitted under **Criterion C** for its unique PWA 1930s and Spanish Revival design. The property is also being submitted under the historic context, "An ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts 1933-1943."

<sup>12</sup> State of Arkansas Planning Board Report 1935 found in the files of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.

<sup>13</sup> Information on Arkansas PWA projects in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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 Eastern Arkansas*. Chicago:  
Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.

*History of Lee County, Arkansas*. Nancy Apple and Suzy Keasler, eds. Dallas:  
Curtis Media Cooperation, 1987.

Information on Arkansas PWA projects in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Marianna, Arkansas: December 1903 and April 1908, in  
the files of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

---

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the northeast corner of the US Highway 1 and W. Chestnut Street intersection, proceed northeasterly from the east side the Iron Mountain Railroad and Chestnut Street intersection for fifty meters thence proceed north perpendicular to W. Chestnut Street, one hundred meters, thence proceed west parallel to Grace Street for fifty meters thence proceed south parallel to S. Florida Street for one hundred meters.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all of the land historically associated with the Marianna Waterworks.