

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR Listed 2-11-04

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 Hester-Lenz House

other names/site number Oscar F. Lenz House, Lenggenhager House, Site #SA0046

2. Location

street & number 905 Highway 5 North

not for publication

city or town Benton

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Saline

code 125

zip code 72015

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.)

Catherine Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/20/03
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

Hester-Lenz House
Name of Property

Saline 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		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WEATHERBOARD

roof ASPHALT

other _____

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

Period of Significance
1836-1837
1891

Significant Dates
1836-1837
1891

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder
James Hester, Builder (1836-1837)
Joseph and Salome Lenggenhager, Builders (1891)

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: _____

Hester-Lenz House
Name of Property

Saline County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>541731</u> Easting	<u>3829126</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 Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date October 6, 2003
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 William G. Lenz
street & number PO Box 1264 telephone
city or town Benton state AR zip code 72015

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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SUMMARY

The Hester-Lenz House is located on Highway 5 in Benton, Arkansas, on what was the Southwest Trail or Military Road in Saline County. The home is a notable example of a two-story dog-trot log cabin, and an interesting example of German-influenced vernacular construction applied over the existing log home. The house rests on a continuous brick foundation although stone piers are also present. The building is clad in weatherboards, and the hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingles.

ELABORATION

The Hester-Lenz House is located on Highway 5 just to the northeast of Benton in Saline County, Arkansas. Highway 5 has always been a major transportation corridor in the area, having started out as the Southwest Trail of Military Road in the area. The house began as a two-story dog-trot log cabin, but was modified in the late 1800s to its current appearance by some recent German immigrants.

The house is currently covered with weatherboard that was placed over the original logs in the nineteenth-century. A continuous brick foundation supports the building, although stone piers are also present. There is a hand dug basement. The large hipped roof is covered with asphalt shingles currently, but was originally covered with cedar shingles.

Although the Benton area was very rural when the house was built, suburban sprawl has enveloped the property recently. Development in the area now includes commercial and residential development as well as a golf course to the southwest. As a result, it is a rare surviving early nineteenth-century home in the Benton area.

Front/Southeast Façade

The front façade of the main house contains a central entrance with a wood door with fifteen rectangular panes of glass. The entrance also includes an aluminum screen door. The entrance is immediately flanked on each side by a wood, double-hung, four-over-four window. Two other evenly-spaced, wood, double-hung, six-over-six windows exist on either side of the entrance on the first floor.

The second floor of the front façade contains three hipped-roof dormers, with the center dormer being larger than the other two. Each dormer contains two wood, double-hung, four-over-four windows. Above the second floor, the roof ridge is crowned by a centrally-placed, hipped-roof cupola. The front façade of the cupola contains two wood, four-paned windows.

The main portion of the house is spanned by a shed-roofed front porch with a central front-facing gable. The porch is currently supported by four, evenly-spaced columns. Originally six columns would have supported the porch, but the ones at each corner of the porch are missing.

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An addition on the northeast side of the main house, which was built c.1891, has one wood, double-hung, four-over-four window on the front façade.

Side/Northeast Façade

The northeast façade of the original dog-trot contains one wood, double-hung, six-over-six window near the junction of the façade with the c.1891 addition. The northeast side of the c.1891 addition has one wood, double-hung, four-over-four window. To the right of the c.1891 addition is an open porch. Three wood steps lead up to the doorway, and open window to its left, which lead into the open porch. A door on the porch leads into the house. A large carport on a concrete pad is to the right of the doorway. Three wood, double-hung, four-over-four windows open onto the porch and carport from the northern rear addition.

On the second floor of the house, at the left edge of the carport, is a small dormer with a wood, four-paned window. The northeastern end of the cupola features a tiny triangular window.

Rear/Northwest Façade

The northwest façade of the open porch at the northern end of the property has three contiguous wood, double-hung, four-over-four windows. To the right of the windows is an open porch leading into the rear of the northern ell. A door with an aluminum screen door leading into the house is on the left side. The porch has a shed roof supported by four rough cedar posts. The well, with a hand pump, extends off of the porch. The second floor of this ell has a single wood, double-hung, four-over-four window, although the bottom sash is missing.

The southwest façade of the northern ell contains two, wood, double-hung, two-over-two windows. In between the northern and southern ells, a single wood, double-hung-four-over-four window faces northwest. The northwest façade of the southern ell has a wood door at the left corner and no fenestration.

As on the front façade of the cupola, the rear façade contains two wood, four-paned windows.

Side/Southwest Façade

The southwest façade of the house is fenestrated by five wood, double-hung, four-over-four windows, two on the main house, and three on the rear ell. The southwestern end of the cupola features a tiny triangular window.

BARN

Front/Southeast Façade

The main barn on the property is located just to the north of the house. The front of the barn, which faces southeast, has a central hipped-roof section with two doors located high on the façade. A shed-roofed section

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with an entrance door and smaller door above is located to the left of the center section, and an open shed-roofed addition is located to the right. The roof of the barn is covered in corrugated metal, and the façade is covered in vertical boards.

Side/Northeast Façade

The northwest façade of the barn is greatly obscured by overgrown brush. However, it is known that a set of double wood doors provide access to the interior of the barn from the shed-roofed addition. The lower half of the façade is covered in board and batten siding, while the upper portion is covered with wood shingles.

Rear/Northwest Façade

The rear of the hipped-roof portion of the barn has a wood door to the left and a rectangular opening to the right on the lower level. The upper level has two boarded-up window openings. The bottom half of the façade is covered in board-and-batten siding while the upper portion is covered with wood shingles.

To the right of the hipped-roof section of the barn is a one-story gable-roofed ell. Much of the northwest façade of this portion of the barn is comprised of exposed framework.

Side/Southwest Façade

The southwest façade provides the main entrance into the barn. Two large wood doors are located at the center of the façade, and are crowned by a row of five transom windows. A small opening is located to the left of the doors. Again, the upper portion of the façade is covered in shingles and the lower portion is covered in vertical boards.

To the left of the opening is the gable-roofed ell. Wood doors provide access into the southwestern end of the building, and an opening is also present in the center of the southeast side. The ell has a corrugated metal roof.

To the right of the opening is the shed-roofed addition visible from the front. It has a wood door on the northwest side, and no fenestration on the southwest side.

INTEGRITY

The Hester-Lenz House retains good integrity with respect to its late nineteenth-century form. Although the house began as a two-story dog-trot in 1836-1837, and has been heavily modified from that original form, the majority of the changes to the property occurred more than 50 years ago. As a result, they are significant in their own right. Additionally, the barn on the property included in the nomination retains good integrity, and is a good example of a late nineteenth-century barn found on small Arkansas farmsteads such as this.

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SUMMARY

The Hester-Lenz House is located on Highway 5 in Benton, Arkansas, on what was the Southwest Trail or Military Road in Saline County. Based on local tradition, the home may be the oldest on its original site still standing in Saline County, and may have been the site of a meeting to determine if Saline County would vote in favor of statehood. The home is a notable example of a two-story dog-trot log cabin, and an interesting example of German-influenced vernacular construction applied over the existing log home. As a result, the Hester-Lenz House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

ELABORATION

Based on an abstract of the property, it was purchased from the U.S. Government on June 30, 1836, by James Hester, and it is believed that he constructed the two-story, dog-trot style log home currently standing on the property in 1836-7. Based on local tradition, the home was constructed utilizing slave labor and virgin pine cut from the site. It is also believed that the bricks used in the construction were also made with slave labor, utilizing the abundant deposits of red clay in the area. The log construction utilized by Hester is interesting in that the logs interlock without protruding past the ends of adjacent logs, allowing siding to be directly attached over the logs.

It is believed, based on the lack of wear on the logs, that the structure was faced with siding very early on. The original log poles used to support the original gable roof are still visible upstairs. At an unknown point in time, double-hung, wood-frame, six-over-six windows were added to the structure by boring holes and then sawing through the logs for the windows. In addition, the open dog-trot portion of the cabin was enclosed, and the original fireplaces in both the east and west pens were removed and the openings boarded up.

In 1850, the property was acquired by John Nelson, who lived on the property from July 2, 1850, until his death in 1873. A cemetery associated with the home, which lies nearby, contains descendents of the Nelson family, and slaves are believed to be buried close by.

Jabez Smith, a former colonel of the 11th Arkansas Infantry, C.S.A., and a former Saline County circuit judge, acquired the property from the Nelson Estate in 1873. The property then passed to Joseph and Salome Lenggenhager, recent immigrants from German-influenced Northern Switzerland, upon the death of Smith in 1891. After their acquisition of the property in 1891, Joseph and Salome Lenggenhager are believed to have added the room to the east side of the east pen, and are believed to have added the dormers to the front and side of the structure, changing the gable roof to a hip style. Family tradition has it that the roof line was changed to make the home more reminiscent of German architecture, as Joseph and Salome both immigrated from German-speaking Northern Switzerland as adults and were said to be homesick. What are believed to be the original cedar shake shingles from the hip roof still exist under the asphalt shingles. In addition to the

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work on the main house, Joseph also constructed the main barn on the property, beginning construction almost immediately after acquiring the property in 1891.

Joseph and Salome's only surviving daughter, Alwena (Lenggenhager) Lenz, and her husband, Wilhelm Lenz, inherited the property in 1922. Wilhelm Lenz had immigrated to this country from Germany in 1902. Wilhelm is believed to have dug the basement under the house, and added a bedroom with access to the basement on the north side of the west pen and added a two-story addition on the north side of the east pen, which served as a kitchen downstairs and a bedroom for his numerous children upstairs. Small German-influenced shelves and cabinets exist inside the structure from this period or before. It is believed that an enclosed porch on the east side of the east room addition was added at this time, along with a porch on the north side of the kitchen addition, which housed a well with a hand-pump.

The property was inhabited by Oscar F. Lenz, son of Alwena and Wilhelm Lenz, from 1922 until his death in 1992. His occupancy of the home saw the installation of indoor plumbing in 1977, with the addition of a bathroom on the west side of the kitchen addition. An electric well pump was added about the same time to provide running water to the bathroom and kitchen. Electricity had been added at some previous unknown date, and was updated during Oscar's occupancy of the structure. Additionally, in 1984, Oscar Lenz had a concrete porch added on the east of the structure, and a carport constructed which extends on the east side of the kitchen.

Oscar F. Lenz was limited physically due to an injury he sustained in his employment. His limitations and advancing age led to the decline of the property later in his lifetime, and the property has significantly deteriorated since his death. The roof over the bathroom addition is almost gone, and the kitchen roof leaks badly. There is significant termite damage to the floor plates, and the roof over the front porch is being held up with props. Even so, the property remains in the Lenz family, having been acquired in October, 2000, by William G. Lenz, great-great grandson of Joseph and Salome Lenggenhager.

Both the Lenggenhager and Lenz families substantially modified the original structure, and together created the home so many people in this area are familiar with today. Many of the details of the additions and alterations to the home by the Lenggenhagers and Lenzes are very unique in that they exhibit strong German influence, and are also a testament to the family's long association with the property since 1891. Although the property has deteriorated in recent years, William G. Lenz, the current owner is dedicated to the preservation of his family's home.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hester-Lenz House is located on Highway 5 in Benton, Arkansas, on what was the Southwest Trail or Military Road in Saline County. Based on local tradition, the home may be the oldest on its original site still standing in Saline County, and may have been the site of a meeting to determine if Saline County would vote

Hester-Lenz House
Name of Property

Saline County, Arkansas
County and State

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in favor of statehood. The home is a notable example of a two story dog-trot log cabin, and an interesting example of German-influenced vernacular construction applied over the existing log home. As a result, the Hester-Lenz House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

Hester-Lenz House
Name of Property

Saline County, Arkansas
County and State

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abstract of the property.

Information provided by Anthony Rushing of the Saline County Historical Society.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 30, Township 1 South, Range 14 West, Saline County, Arkansas, described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of the Said Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter and run thence South 89 deg., 57 min., 02 sec., East along the North line thereof 154.2 feet to the North right-of-way of Arkansas State Highway No. 5; thence Easterly along the North line of said Highway 948.10 feet to a 2-inch pipe, said point being the point of beginning of tract of land described herein: thence North 33 deg., 22 min., 48 sec., West 180.00 feet; thence Westerly parallel to the North line of said Highway for 242.00 feet; thence South 33 deg., 22 min., 48 sec., East 180.00 feet to the North right-of-way of said Highway; thence Easterly along the North line of said Highway 242.00 feet to the point of beginning, containing 1.0 acre, more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the main house and barn on the Hester-Lenz property.

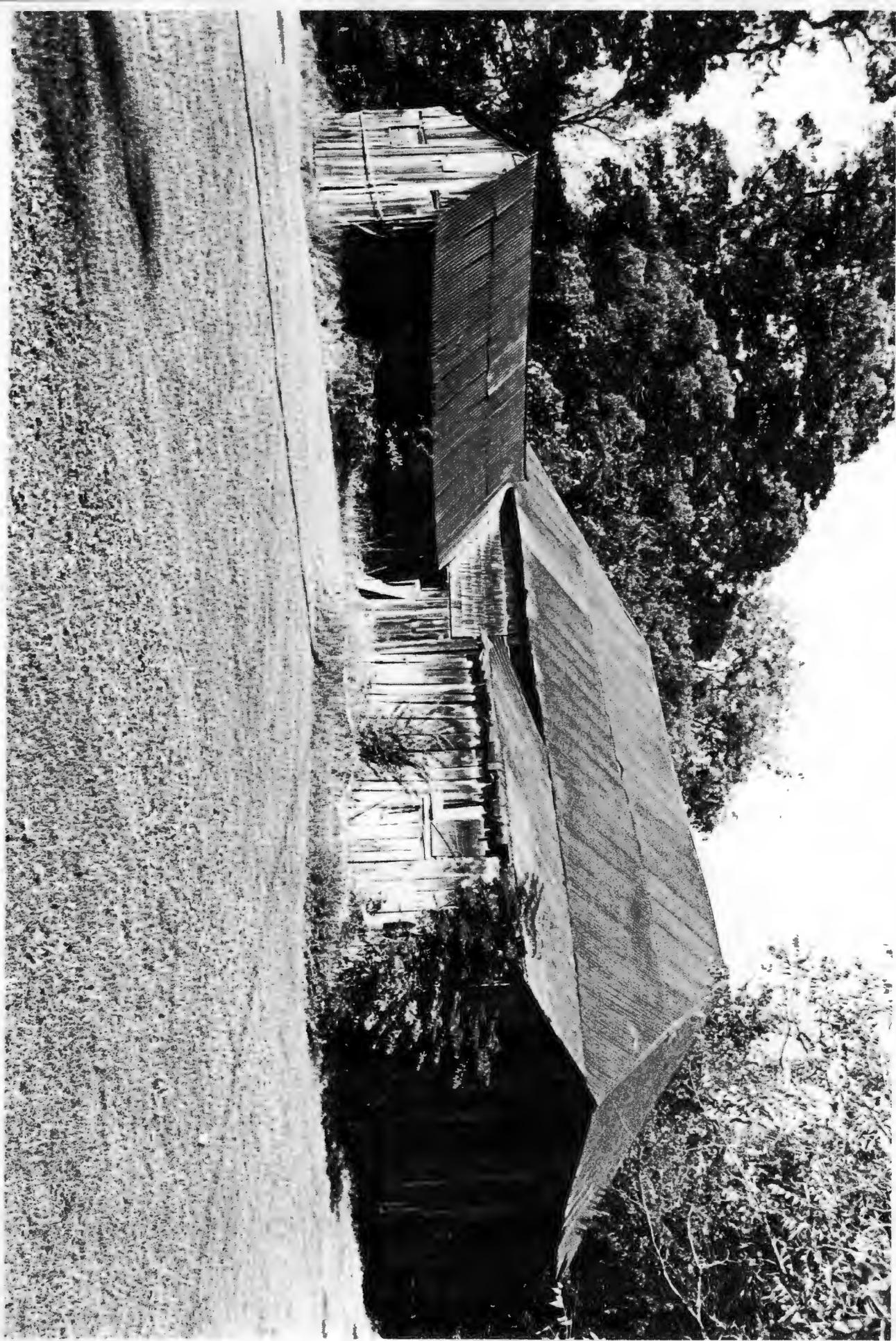






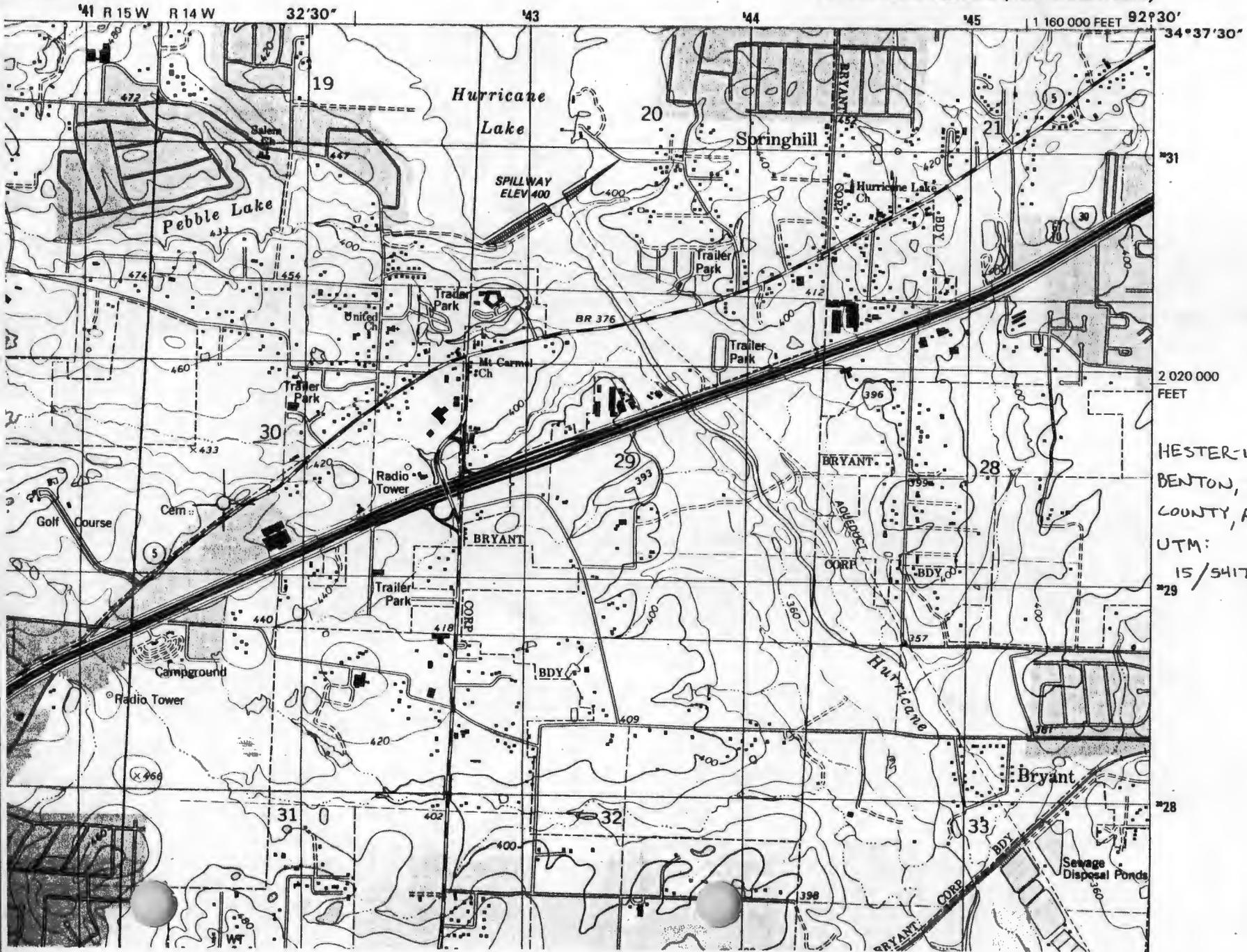




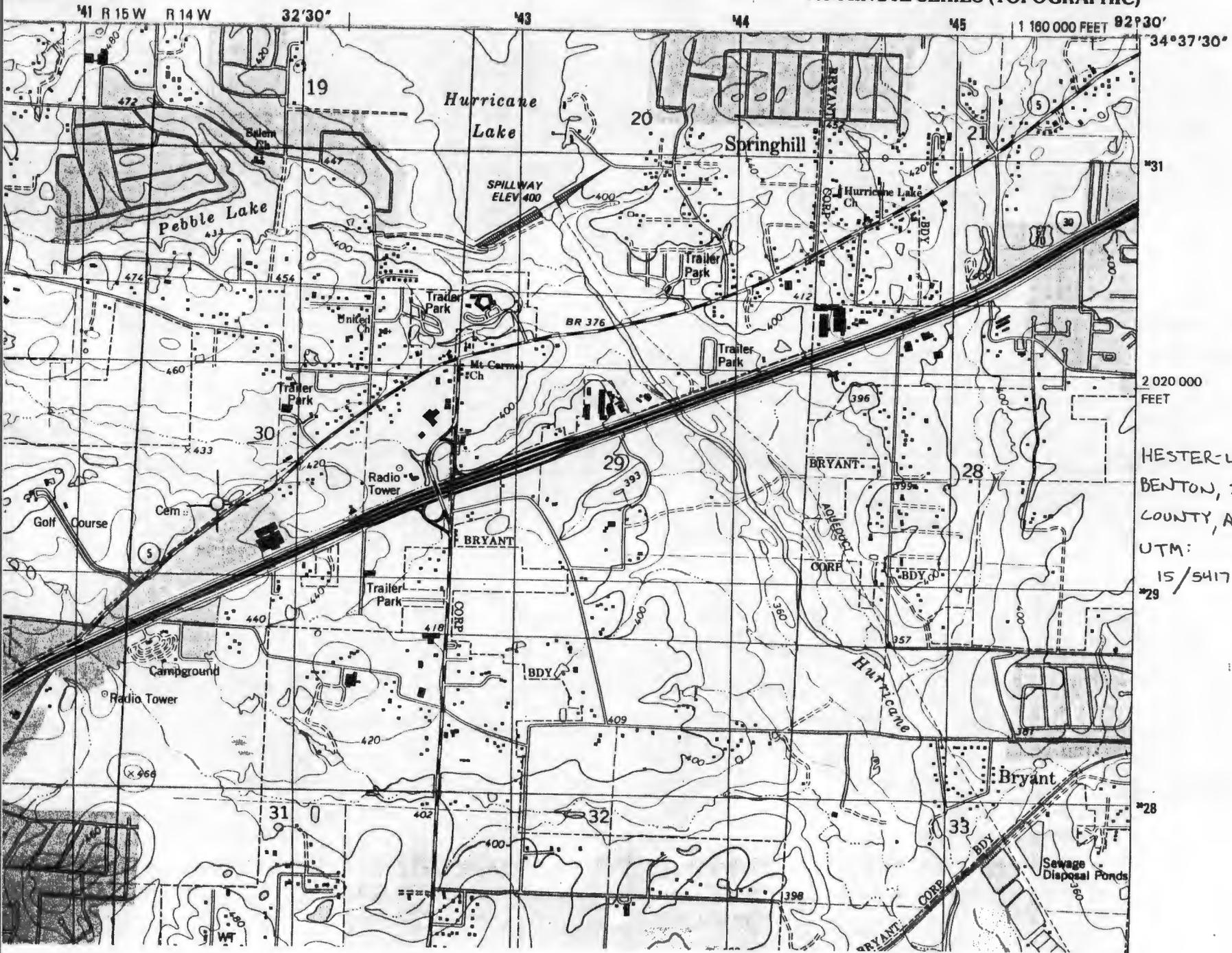


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