

**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 Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge  
other names/site number AR0154

**2. Location**

street & number End of dirt road north of point at which Highway 153 turns South  not for publication  
city or town Crocketts Bluff  vicinity  
State Arkansas code AR county Arkansas Code 001 zip code 72038

**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

Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge  
Name of Property

Arkansas 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	
5	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
5	3	Total

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

N/A

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

Recreation and Culture: Hunting Lodge

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

Recreation and Culture: Hunting Lodge

**7. Description**

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

Modern Movement: Minimal Traditional/Ranch

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation Concrete  
walls Wood  
roof Composition Shingle  
other Brick

**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)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  
INDUSTRY  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1956-1958  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1956  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Bradley Lumber Company  
Sam Fullerton  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge  
Name of Property

Arkansas County, Arkansas  
County and State

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 4.5 acres

### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>663468</u> Easting	<u>3813073</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.)

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Sandra Taylor Smith, Consultant & Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date October 24, 2007  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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### Additional Documentation

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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.)

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### Property Owner

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

name Ken McRae, Graves Hearnberger, James Hearnberger, John Hearnberger, H. Elvin Shuffield, Greg Steinbeck, Greg Yeatman, Burt Newell  
street & number 100 Morgan Keegan Drive, Suite 420 telephone (501)661-1313  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72202

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**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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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Summary

The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge is located in the banks of the White River in southeastern Arkansas, approximately twenty-five miles east of Stuttgart and 78 miles east of Little Rock. The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge is situated on a bluff overlooking the White River. Constructed in 1956, the lodge is a mid-20th century one-story building with low pitch gable roof and is the centerpiece of the hunting complex. Eight wood cabins are scattered on the grounds to the north and west of the lodge.

### Elaboration

The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge is situated on a bluff on the banks of the White River in Arkansas County in the southeastern quadrangle of the state. The lodge is located twenty-five miles east of Stuttgart, a governmental and commercial center in Arkansas County. The county lies within an area of the state known as the Grand Prairie of Arkansas. The Grand Prairie is a vast level tract between the lower White and Arkansas Rivers. The land is adapted to rice growing because its level topsoil is underlaid by an impervious hardpan that holds water on the surface for days at a time. Duck, quail and other game birds feed in the rice fields in the Grand Prairie of Arkansas and it is widely known for its abundance of waterfowl and recreational hunting.

The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge complex contains a lodge building and eight cabins on a bluff known locally as High Bluff overlooking the White River. The centerpiece of the hunting complex is the lodge constructed in 1956 to replace the original 1938 lodge that was destroyed by fire. The owners of the hunting lodge owned a large lumber operation and the wood chosen for use in building the new lodge was intended to help promote their lumber company. The highest grade of woods available were used in construction of the lodge. These native woods include pecky cypress, cherry bark oak, white oak, loblolly pine and green ash.

The one story lodge building is of frame construction on a concrete foundation. Exterior walls are covered with dark stained vertical board and batten. A low pitched gable roof with wide eaves covers the lodge. Concrete panels laid on the ground at the foundation surround the house.

The front (east) elevation overlooks the river and features a projecting room with three sets of three double-hung windows spanning the east wall overlooking the river. A single "picture" window is located on the north end of this room projection providing panoramic views of the hunting camp. On the other end of this room the "front" door features three stairstep narrow glass panes, typical of fashionable 1950s design. A wide brick chimney is located next to the door on this elevation.

Interiors of the lodge are distinguished by the use of green ash paneling throughout. The great room with its walls of windows on two sides, features paneling on the walls and ceiling and has a wood floor. A brick fireplace with wood mantel is located on the west end of the room, adjacent to the entry door. Wood paneled

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window seats are located under the nine double-hung windows on the side (south) of the room overlooking the river.

The bedrooms in the lodge feature wood paneling and wood floors, as does the central hallway. In one of the bedrooms there are two sets of double-size bunk beds constructed of the same wood as the paneling with floor to ceiling posts. Wood paneling is also featured on kitchen and bathrooms walls.

Eight cabins are scattered on the property. All of the cabins are one-story and of wood construction with vertical board walls. Four of the cabins were constructed in the 1940s and 1950s. Three additional cabins and a "duck picking shack" were constructed in the 1970s.

#### **Integrity**

The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge maintains its original integrity of location, setting, feeling and association. Although the original lodge was destroyed by fire, the present lodge building, constructed in 1956 successfully conveys popular mid 20th century design in its low profile and elaborate use of fine woods indigenous to the area.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge is significant in its representation of a facility used for social and recreational hunting purposes. The centerpiece of the hunting complex is the lodge, constructed in 1956 after the original lodge building burned. The lodge is significant by virtue of its rustic mid century design using a variety of high grade native woods. The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its association with historic cultural sporting. It is also significant with the timber industry in southeast Arkansas.

**Elaboration**

Crocketts Bluffs Hunting Lodge is located atop a high ridge on the bank of the lower White River in an area of the Mississippi Delta known as the Grand Prairie. Unlike the typical prairie, the Grand Prairie of Arkansas receives ample rainfall but due to high clay content the soil retains little of the moisture. This condition is ideal for growing grasses and little else. As a result this area of Arkansas held little draw for early settlers. The *Arkansas Gazette* stated in May 27, 1820, "The Big Prairie, is probably, the greatest body of poor land in the Territory."

Early Arkansas settlers arriving from states to the east: Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky had traveled through thick, forested land and saw the timber-scarce prairie as unacceptable for homesteading. Most moved on to more fertile lands in Arkansas or further west. Those who stayed settled along the rivers and bayous.

The Civil War brought change to the Arkansas prairie land as the war moved along the Arkansas River and up the White River. The infamous naval battle of June 17, 1862, which disabled the *USS Mound City* was fought in the hamlet of St. Charles just miles downriver of Crocketts Bluff. On January 9, 1863, Union forces under the command of General John McClelland captured Fort Hindman at Arkansas Post. The influx of soldiers from both sides of the conflict exposed thousands to the unique elements of the Grand Prairie.

One of those veterans was Captain Robert H. Crockett, grandson of Davy Crockett. Named after him, the town of Crockett's Bluff was established and thrived for a time during the Civil War and after was important river port on the White River. With the arrival of the first railroad in 1883, commerce shifted away from river transportation and the nearby town of Stuttgart developed as a major center. Captain Robert H. Crockett was elected as the first mayor of Stuttgart in 1889.

During the period between 1820 and 1860 political unrest in Germany resulted in a wave of immigrants to America. The majority settled in Nebraska with a few homesteading in central Arkansas. After the Civil War settlements sprang up across the prairie aided by a land grant program that awarded forty acres of prairie land to war veterans. Germans who had grown weary of Nebraska winters took advantage of this offer. One German settler, Charles Payer of Illinois, made the most of the program by buying awarded land tracks from Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge

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veterans dismayed with the possibility of homesteading poor prairie land. Charles Payer had crossed the prairie during the Civil War and was impressed with the vast area's potential. During the 1880's he advertised widely, promoting fine land for sale. A large part the German community near Highland, Illinois, invested in Payer's prairie land dream.

They named their new settlement Payer in honor of Charles Payer, later changing it to Ulm in recognition of their hometown in Germany. As word spread more Germans from Nebraska and Illinois joined their countrymen in the Arkansas Delta's prairie. George Adam Buerkle, a Lutheran minister, brought 7,747 acres west of Ulm with the desire to establish a Lutheran community. Named for the city of his birth, Stuttgart became the support center for the ever expanding German population in the area. Printed articles and advertisements in the late 1880's encouraged Germans to immigrate to the Grand Prairie of Arkansas. The hardworking temperament of the hearty Germans settlers created a productive union with what many had consider poor land. They raised cattle, planted orchards and raised grain.

Also in the 1880's Swiss immigrants arrived in Arkansas County. Accustomed to raising crops on small, over-farmed plots they found the prairie soil challenging but well suited for their farming methods. They founded a town and named it Waldheim only to discover that Arkansas already had a town by that name. The name was changed to Hicksville and later shortened to Hicks.

Even with German determination and Swiss farming techniques, by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century most felt that the prairie soil was depleted. In 1897 another Nebraska transplant, William H. Fuller, planted the first crop of rice in the delta. That harvest was less than a triumph, which led Mr. Fuller to Louisiana to study their rice cultivation process. By 1907 he was able to produce 5,225 bushels of rice on seventy acres. His success changed the entire nature of the Grand Prairie of Arkansas. Within a generation, Stuttgart and the prairie lands around it became know as "the rice capital of the world."

The hard-won economic upturn offered the residents of the Arkansas Delta new time to enjoy what once had been a necessity – hunting. The bayous and river-bottoms offered a great abundance of varied wild game. According to local legend, eighty-pound catfish and over one-hundred pound gar were often pulled out of the White River. From prehistoric time water fowl have migrated along the lower White River basin. The introduction of new water reservoirs for rice cultivation and large harvests drying in the fields drew more birds every year. The Arkansas Grand Prairie attracted sportsmen from across the nation, and soon became know for its abundance of ducks and hunting opportunities.

In 1938, Sam Fullerton, owner of the Bradley Lumber Company in Warren, Arkansas, built a hunting lodge on the high ridge at Crocketts Bluff, overlooking the White River. The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge was built to entertain the customers of Bradley Lumber Company and the other companies owned by the Fullerton family including the Chicago Lumber and Coal Company in St. Louis, and several lumber mills in Louisiana, and the Midwest. The lodge was constructed of wood milled and laid out at the Bradley plant then



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shipped by rail and boat to Crocketts Bluff. The lodge was used only for duck hunting and remained closed the majority of the year.

The lodge burned in 1955 and when Sam Fullerton's grandson, Lt. Colonel S. Baker Fullerton, returned from duty in the U.S. Air Force, he took on the task of rebuilding the lodge in 1956. The Fullertons wanted to use the new lodge building for promotion of their lumber sales and high grade native woods such as pecky cypress, cherry bark oak, white oak, loblolly pine and green ash were used in construction of the lodge. As with construction of the 1938 lodge, the lumber was milled in Warren at the Bradley Lumber Company and transported to Crocketts Bluff.

The Potlatch Lumber Company acquired Bradley Lumber Company in 1958. Included in the purchase were 40,000 acres of White River bottomland hardwood and the Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge.

In 1970 the Frank Lyon Company of Little Rock purchased 4.5 acres containing the hunting lodge and cabins. Frank Lyon, a Little Rock businessman, owned a number of other companies and utilized the lodge for duck hunting and fishing expeditions for his companies.

The present owners purchased the Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge in 1995. The character of the 1956 lodge building is carefully maintained, showcasing the variety of native woods used in its construction.

### **Statement of Significance**

The Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge which was constructed in 1956, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A with local significance as an example of a recreational hunting and sporting facility. Its association with the duck hunting industry in the Grand Prairie area of Arkansas dates to 1938 and continues to be widely recognized as a social and hunting facility.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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### Verbal Boundary Description

A tract of land lying on the West bank of White River at Crockett's Bluff, Arkansas, described as beginning at the Southwest corner of Section 10, Township 3 South, Range 2 West, and run North along the section line 1896.32 feet to an iron stake which is the point of beginning of the land herein described; running thence South 7 ½ degrees East 261 feet, thence East along the North line of the Town of Crockett's Bluff, Arkansas, 593.3 feet to iron stake on the lower right bank of the White River, thence North 25 degrees West 274.4 feet to a point, thence North 45 degrees West 110 feet to iron stake on High Bluff Bank, thence South 81 degrees West 445 feet to the point of beginning.

ALSO:

A parcel of land lying on the West bank of White River described as beginning at a point 671.8 feet South of the quarter corner of Sections 9 and 10, Township 3 South, Range 2 West and running thence South 92.4 feet, thence North 91 degrees East 445, thence North 15 ¾ degrees East 104.6 feet, thence South 81 degrees West 478 feet to beginning point.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Crocketts Bluff Hunting Lodge is the parcel encompassing the historic and present hunting lodge.