

4-17-2120-52

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NR 2-17-78  
BE ~~3516~~ 3541

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM  
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**NAME**

HISTORIC  
Monte Ne  
AND/OR COMMON

Book copy

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Monte Ne

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

COUNTY

Benton

CODE

007

**CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Under water

**AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Corps of Engineers, Little Rock District, Southwest Division

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 867

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Benton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rogers

STATE

Arkansas

**REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

U.S. Geological Survey

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

# DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structure is not much changed from the original except that it has been covered by Beaver Lake since 1966. In times of low water, the upper part of the structure is visible and accessible.

W. H. "Coin" Harvey had intended to build a structure which would contain the history and artifacts of his historical period, and he determined that a pyramid would be the most logical type of structure for that purpose. To that end he began constructing a structure which resembled a pyramid in its concept, but in fact was only a facade on the side of a small hill. The facade included various vaults which were to contain the history and times of his Era, thus chronicling the end of the American experiment.

The structure was built of concrete, overlaid with natural stone, and included steps ascending between the rows of vaults. It was so constructed that the repositories could be utilized as benches, thus the whole thing could be used as an amphitheater. The structure is built on a northwest-southeast axis with the open side to the northeast.

The structure was never completed, for the project came to an end with the death of Harvey in 1936. Still, work had progressed to the point that this unique structure could be and was used as an amphitheater. A nearby girls school, now defunct, used the theater for production of plays, skits, and entertainment programs. The lower portion of the theater had a flat, paved surface built around a natural spring, and the whole project enjoyed much attention and use until the impoundment of the White River created Beaver Lake, and inundated the site.

Associated with the site was a resort with two of the largest log hotels in the world, built in 1904. Other development included an indoor swimming pool, a golf course, a casino, dance pavilion, a bowling alley, and park areas.

# SIGNIFICANCE

OD

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 100-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1890-1936

BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. H. "Coin" Harvey

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of Monte Ne is tethered to the significance of its originator, W. H. "Coin" Harvey. As such, Monte Ne is significant as an example of the despair of the depression and the crushed dreams of one of America's foremost reformers. "Coin" Harvey was an idealist, a man who believed not only in the United States but in the perfectability of our society. He was born in West Virginia in 1851 and became a schoolmaster at the age of 16; later he practiced law, established a real estate business, and owned a silver mine. In 1894, he became a newspaper writer and the same year, wrote a book, "Coin's Financial School," which sold two million copies its first year in print. The book advocated free coinage of silver and was the basis for William Jennings Bryan's presidential campaign in 1896.

In the early 1900's, Harvey discovered a small valley in northwest Arkansas, bought 320 acres, and renamed the small community that was there Monte Ne, meaning "mountain waters." He developed a resort complex with a six-mile private railroad into the valley. Guests were then transferred to gondolas to make the half-mile trip down a lagoon to the resort hotels. Despite the impressiveness of the resort, the resort failed, primarily to inaccessibility.

After this failure, Harvey again turned his interest to political/economic interests and prophesied the end of our civilization due to political corruption and inevitable wars. Then, in 1920, he had an idea to build a pyramid to house information that would tell future generations the story of the fall of this civilization. The pyramid was to be 130 feet high so it would be visible when erosion completely filled the valley. The top of the structure would have a plate with this message written in many languages, "When this can be read, go below and find the cause of the death of a former civilization."

In 1930, Harvey wrote another book, "The Book," which told of how the United States could achieve prosperity in 90 days. About the same time, he organized the "Liberty Party," and held a national convention at Monte Ne, and at 80 years of age, became a presidential nominee. The platform of the party was to control the citizen's wealth and insure against depression. After his defeat, he was short on finances and at

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

the time of his death in 1936, the project still was not complete. Other books written by "Coin" include "Common Sense," "Coin on Money, Trusts, and Imperialism," "A Tale of Two Nations," "Paul's School of Statesmanship," and "The Remedy."

The remains of Harvey's dream are limited to the partial pyramid in the shape of an amphitheater 15 feet long and 50 feet wide. The 20-foot high structure is a silent reminder of a unique man and his contribution to history.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- O. E. McKnight and Boyd W. Johnson, The Arkansas Story.  
Oklahoma City: Harlow Publishing Corporation, 1955
- O. E. McKnight, History of the Development of Arkansas.  
Dallas T. Herndon, Arkansas Handbook.  
Ozark Digest, June 1975 Edition

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .06 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	4 03 6 6 0	4,0 1,5 6 75	8			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Only the structure and the area within the structure is included in the nomination.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Arkansas	05	Benton	007
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. Mark Hubbert, Outdoor Recreation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Corps of Engineers

DATE

18 April 1977

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 867

TELEPHONE

501-378-5836

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

## CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_ National \_\_\_ State \_\_\_ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

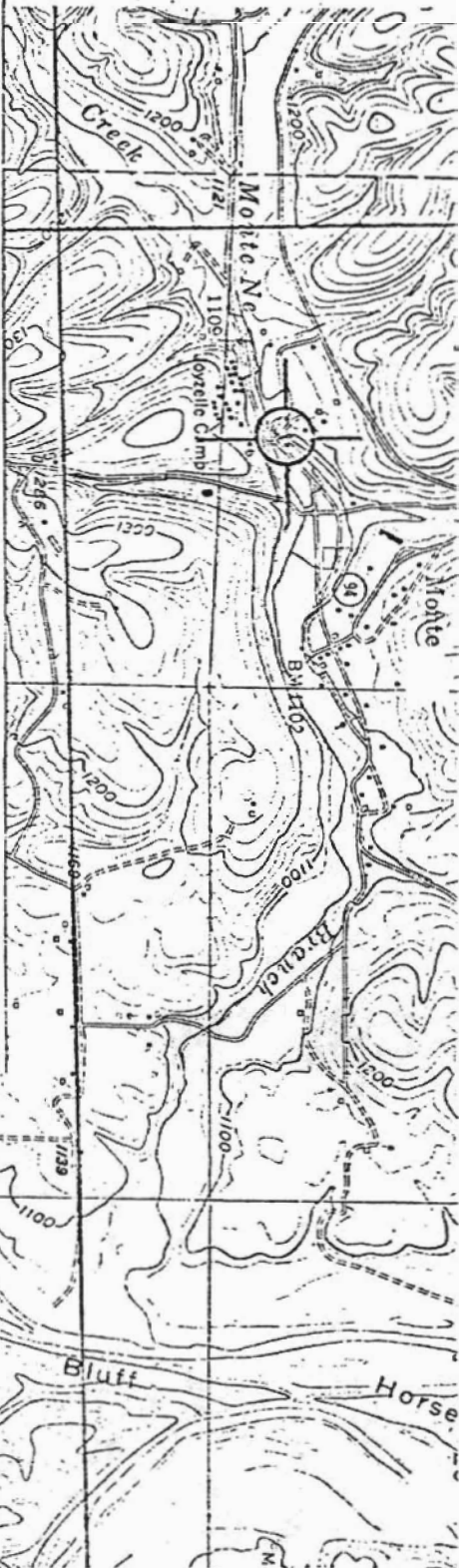
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED



## NAME

HISTORIC  
Monte Ne Amphitheater  
AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

CITY, TOWN  
Monte Ne  
VICINITY OF  
COUNTY  
Benton  
STATE  
Arkansas

## MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S. Geological Survey, 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Series, Rogers  
SCALE 1:24000  
DATE 1958

## REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

MONTE NE AMPHITHEATER  
MONTE NE, ARKANSAS  
UTM REFERENCES:  
15/403660/4015675





NOTICE  
COPYING PROHIBITED  
IN THIS AREA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Monte Ne Amphitheater

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Monte Ne

—VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Benton

STATE

Arkansas

**3** PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

DATE OF PHOTO 1973

NEGATIVE FILED AT Little Rock District Army Corps of Engineers

**4** IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

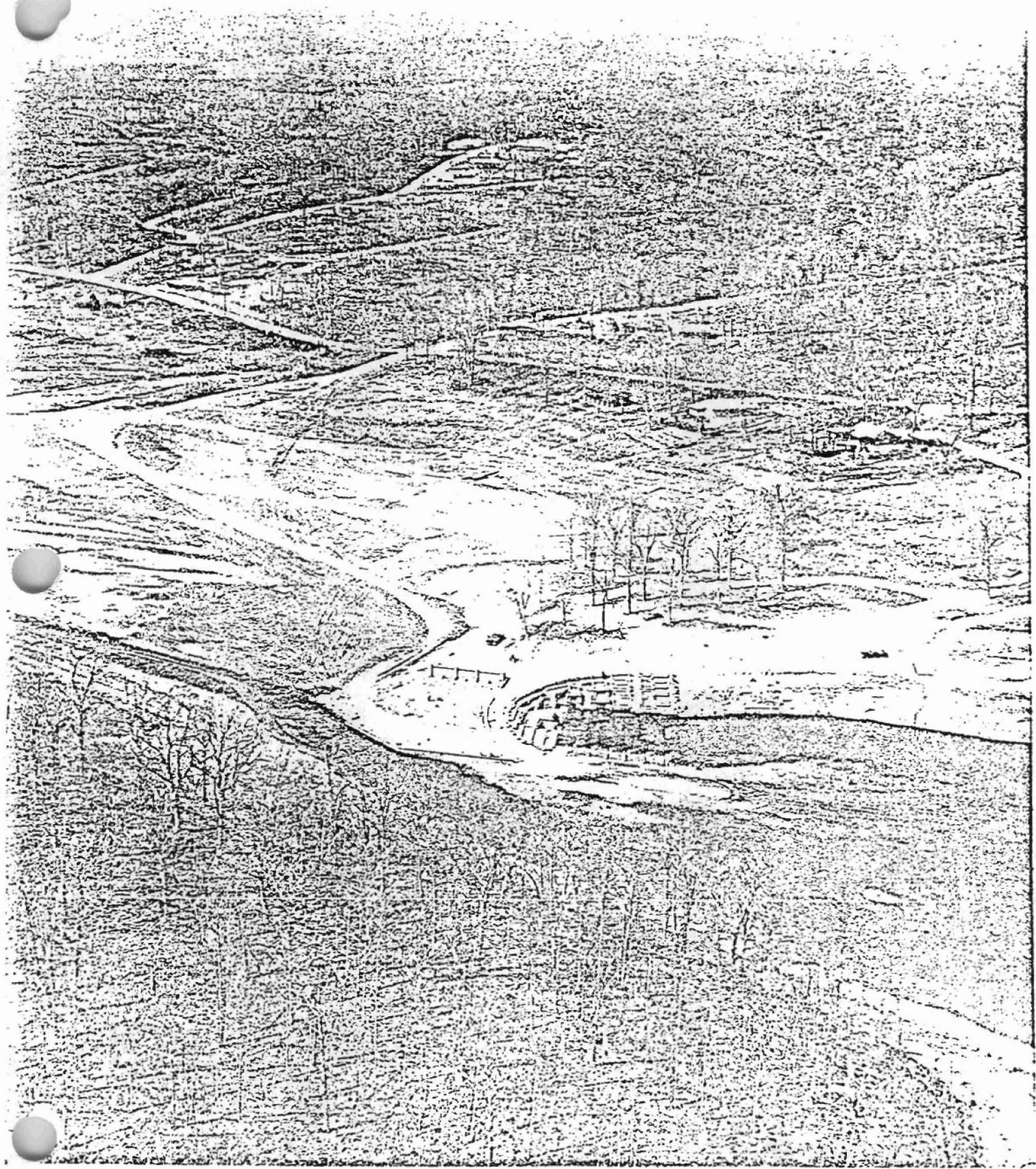
PHOTO NO 4

Normal water level; taken from north

DISTRICT ENGINEER  
LITTLE ROCK DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENG  
P. O. BOX 867  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72203

MONTE NE





1910#2

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-7-71)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

#### NAME

HISTORIC  
Monte Ne Amphitheater  
AND/OR COMMON

#### LOCATION

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY Benton STATE Arkansas  
Monte Ne

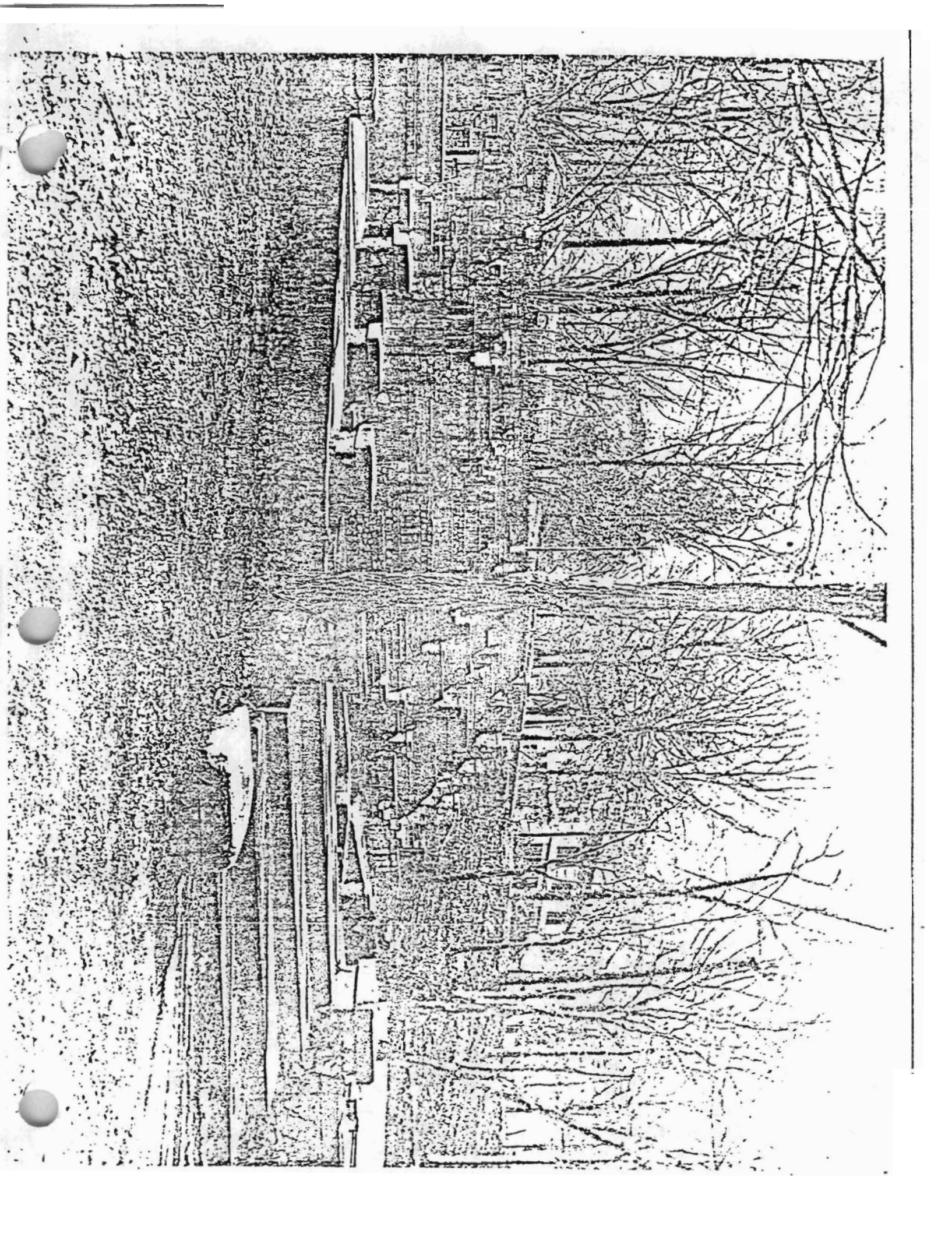
#### PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF PHOTO 1977  
NEGATIVE FILED AT Little Rock District Army Corps of Engineers

#### IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
Amphitheater exposed by unusually low water; taken from southeast  
PHOTO NO 2





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Monte Ne Amphitheater  
AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY Benton STATE Arkansas  
Monte Ne

## 3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE OF PHOTO 1963

NEGATIVE FILED AT Little Rock District Army Corps of Engineers

## 4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
Picture before inundation; taken from the south  
PHOTO NO 3





Photo # 1

Form No. 10-301a  
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

## NAME

HISTORIC  
Monte Ne Amphitheater  
AND/OR COMMON

## LOCATION

CITY, TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY Benton STATE Arkansas  
Monte Ne

## PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT  
NEGATIVE FILED AT Little Rock District Army Corps of Engineers  
DATE OF PHOTO 1977

## IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO 1  
Amphitheater exposed by unusually low water; taken from the northeast