

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 5/29/07

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 Mineral Springs Waterworks

other names/site number HO0049

2. Location

street & number South of W. Runnels and S. Hall Intersection not for publication

city or town Mineral Springs vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Howard code 061 zip code 71851

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.)

Cochi Prosser 4/11/07
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

Mineral Springs Waterworks
Name of Property

Howard County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) | Category of Property (Check only one box) | Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local <input type="checkbox"/> public-State <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) <input type="checkbox"/> district <input type="checkbox"/> site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure <input type="checkbox"/> object | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| | | 1 | _____ |
| | | 1 | _____ |
| | | 2 | _____ |
| | | | buildings sites structures 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 and Architecture in Arkansas, 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)
Other: Plain/Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)
foundation CONCRETE
walls METAL

roof METAL
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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Engineering/ Politics and Government

Period of Significance

1936 -1957

Significant Dates

1936 -1957

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Pittsburgh Des Moines Steel Company/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):

- Documentation checkboxes: preliminary determination, previously listed, designated landmark, recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey, recorded by Historic American Engineering Record.

Primary location of additional data:

- Location checkboxes: State Historic Preservation Office, Other State Agency, Federal Agency, Local Government, University, Other.

Name of repository:

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

ELABORATION

The Mineral Springs Waterworks is located west of Mineral Springs, Howard County, Arkansas. The Mineral Springs Waterworks facility includes a steel-framed water tower that was built in 1936 by the Pittsburgh and Des Moines Steel Company with assistance from the Public Works Administration and an equipment shed built circa 1955.

SUMMARY

The steel-framed water tower of the Mineral Springs Waterworks stands high above the ground over the town of Mineral Springs. The water tower consists of a tank that rests upon four metal legs that rise upwards to the base of the tank. Metal cross pieces are inserted between the legs to provide additional support. Centered at the base of the tank, a metal pipe runs upwards from the ground, carrying water from the ground to the tank.

A circular metal plaque erected at the base of the southeast leg certifies that the tower was built in 1936 by the Pittsburgh and Des Moines Steel Company. The tank of the tower is bowl-shaped and is encompassed by a circular walk way a few feet above the base of the tank. The top of the water tank is covered in a conical metal roof.

The Mineral Springs water tower is painted in brilliant green. The town's name "MINERAL SPRINGS" is painted in yellow lettering above the town's mascot "HORNETS" which is also painted in yellow lettering on the east and west walls of the tank.

Located a few feet southwest from the tower, the equipment shed is also included with the waterworks. Constructed circa 1955, this rectangular shed is constructed out of concrete block and rests on a continuous foundation. There are two doors: one on the east facade and one on the north facade. The south facade features a small window. An asbestos roof covers the one-story building. The walls of the shed are painted green to match the color of the water tower. A chain link fence is built around the water tower and the equipment shed. Although the equipment shed was constructed after the water tower, it falls within the period of significance of the Mineral Springs Waterworks; thus, it is contributing.

INTEGRITY

The Mineral Springs Waterworks appears as it did in the 1930s. It stands northeast of the location that was once used as the old town public square. Although the equipment shed was constructed added circa 1955, the water tower is original to the Mineral Springs Waterworks.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Mineral Springs Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the Public Works Administration activities in Mineral Springs, Howard County, Arkansas. Also, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its unique 1930s waterworks construction. The Mineral Springs Waterworks is being submitted under the multiple property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

ELABORATION

The region that would later become Howard County was first inhabited by hunters, gatherers, and nomadic tribes. Located near the Red River, the area was also home to the Caddo Native Americans. European accounts from early explorers in the 16th and 17th centuries show the sophisticated organization of this tribe which occupied the Red River Valley region. The Caddo were recognized by their excellent skills in deer hunting in this forest area. One of the trees of the area, *bois d'arc*, was named by the Europeans in honor of the Caddo's bow making skills. When the French and Spanish entered the area, they were assisted by the Caddo. The Caddo became a liaison between the Europeans and Native American tribes. But the Caddo were forced to move further west with the other Native Americans and disappeared from the area by 1855.¹

During Arkansas's territorial years 1819-1836, the only public road, the Southwest Trail provided ground access across the territory, starting at the Mississippi River, across a corner of southeast, Missouri and 300 miles to the town of Fulton, Arkansas, on the Red River. After the Louisiana Purchase, Congress appropriated funds for the clearing of the road, which was re-named the Congress or National Road. The name changed once more to the Military Road, when President Jackson ordered Military troops to widen the road to sixty one feet. This passage gave rise to the steamboat landing in Fulton, and was used by people headed west to Texas. The area that later became Howard County was a distance from this road; thus, settlement in this portion of southwest Arkansas was slower than the rest of that region.²

It was not until 1873 that Howard County was founded and named after the Arkansas Senator from that area, James Howard. The County formed from parts of Hempstead, Pike, Polk, and Sevier counties.³ Prior to this time, the early settlement of Mineral Springs stood within Hempstead County. The earliest known settler in Mineral Springs was Cokely Williams. In 1840, he arrived at the springs, near the Hempstead and Sevier county line. In 1842, Williams established a post office that he called Saline, just east of that line. Samuel Moren was postmaster. In 1843 the post office was discontinued but was re-established by Williams in 1843.⁴

¹ Howard County Heritage Club, *Howard County Heritage* (Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1988), 5.

² *Ibid.*, 7

³ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*, (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890), 240.

⁴ Howard County Heritage Club, *Howard County Heritage*, 69.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Rev. Wesley opened the first store in this area in 1850, and he called the settlement Greenville. The town grew, and schools and churches were organized. Most early families were farmers; however, growth remained slow until after the Civil War. The town was revived when Joe Holcomb a prominent merchant, moved to town in 1867 and called it Mineral Springs. The town was incorporated in 1879. Between the years of 1868-1874 the town thrived because of its rich productive farmland. Farmers would travel to Fulton or Hope to sell their goods. However, the growth rapidly declined mainly because of the construction of the Arkansas Louisiana Railroad from Hope to Nashville, Arkansas, in 1884. A mass exodus of people moved to locate near the railroad in Nashville. By 1890, the town of Mineral Springs had a population of 250, and in 1892 the population was only 100 people.⁵

Despite the decline in population, the town of Mineral Springs continued to attract visitors because of the wealth of its natural resources and the springs. Citizens believed that the springs contained pure water that would heal the sick. The *Biographical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas* credits Mineral Springs' popularity to the "healthfulness" of the springs and the school, which was in "flourishing condition."⁶ The numerous schools in the town made Mineral Springs an education center for the area. Even before the county was established in 1874, the Jones Methodist School and the Hayes Academy boarding school were established. By 1890 the Mineral Springs School and South Arkansas College were founded.⁷

Yet, many people believed that a form of transportation was necessary to revive the town. In 1907, the Brown Henderson Improvement Company introduced a new rail line that ran from Nashville to Ashdown, Arkansas, where it linked with the Kansas City Southern Railroad. In addition to serving the lumber company this line promoted settlement in the communities adjacent to the line. This line made a stop in Mineral Springs. Cotton farming flourished due to this new line.⁸ The business location of the town shifted its center from what was referred to as old town to its present location. Prominent businesses included Sam Dillard's Cotton Gin, Wolff's Drug Store, Kents, T. J. Dillard's, Bank of Mineral Springs, Dickinson Brothers, and the Mineral Springs Hardware Co. Dr. Wolfe was given a franchise for electric lights for the town. Within the following five years, the town established a public watering place. An artesian well was drilled between the Hardware and Drug Store. The constant water flow often created a bog in the dirt street.

In the 1930s, the infrastructure of the town was improved, and a new water system was installed. By this time the cotton industry, similar to the population, was on a downward slope. Facing hardships of the Depression, the town sought aid from the Federal Government. Mineral Springs received a total of \$34,444.00 in funds from the Public Works Administration.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*, 243.

⁷ Howard County Heritage Club, *Howard County Heritage*, 73.

⁸ Howard County Heritage Club, *History of Howard County, Arkansas* (Nashville, AR: Howard County Heritage Club., 1973), 30.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

This amount exceeded the estimated cost of the project which was \$34,379.⁹ In 1936, the project was finished with a deep well drilled and water tower built on the northeast corner of the public square in old town. There were no chemicals added to the water except for the minimum required amounts of chlorine. In addition to the improved water system, the town benefited from several New Deal projects including the paving of roads, the construction of a new gymnasium for the elementary school, a new library, and two canning kitchens. Even though the town's population suffered from the Depression, the community worked together to improve the conditions of Mineral Springs.¹⁰

A new water well was drilled in 1985; however, the original water tower still stands. The Mineral Springs Waterworks remains in operation for the town of Mineral Springs. It is a reminder of the community's progress and the Public Works Administration's aid during the 1930s.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mineral Springs Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with the Public Works Administration activities in Mineral Springs, Howard County, Arkansas. Also, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its unique 1930s waterworks construction. The Mineral Springs Waterworks is being submitted under the multiple property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

⁹ Information on Public Works Administration (PWA) funding found in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

¹⁰ Howard County Heritage Club, *History of Howard County, Arkansas*, 31.

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 Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

Howard County Heritage Club. *History of Howard County, Arkansas*. Nashville, AR: Howard County Heritage Club, 1973.

Howard County Heritage Club. *Howard County Heritage*. Dallas, TX: Taylor Publishing Co., 1988.

Information on Public Works Administration (PWA) funding found in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Mineral Springs Waterworks

Name of Property

Howard County, Arkansas

County and State

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 road intersection of W. Runnels and S. Hall proceed twenty yards, south, west, north, and east arriving at the initial point.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

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



