

01-73-A060-53

NR 7-3-75

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME			
COMMON: Lake Dick			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 mile west of Arkansas Highway 88, 4 miles south of Altheimer			
CITY OR TOWN: Lake Dick	CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fourth		
STATE Arkansas	CODE 05		
COUNTY: Jefferson	CODE 069		
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
☒ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☒ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify) Comments
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Mr. R. S. Barnett, Jr., President			
STREET AND NUMBER: Lake Dick Farming Company			
CITY OR TOWN: Altheimer	STATE: Arkansas	CODE 05	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Recorder's Office			
STREET AND NUMBER: Jefferson County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Pine Bluff	STATE: Arkansas	CODE 05	
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lake Dick is a small U-shaped body of water lying ten miles south of Altheimer in Jefferson County, Arkansas. In 1936 the United States Government purchased 3,669 acres of farm land surrounding Lake Dick. On this large tract was established a rural resettlement project administered by the Farm Security Administration.

Named for the lake it surrounded, the entire Lake Dick community was built within two years. It consisted of 80 houses of four to six rooms each, six community buildings, three mule barns, and several other small farm support structures. The houses and community buildings were of simple one-storey white frame construction with very plain lines and no decorative features.

The houses lay in an irregular circle, all fronting on Lake Dick. Each house was on a four acre lot. On the southeast of the circular drive surrounding Lake Dick the community buildings were clustered together. The three mule barns were scattered south, northeast and northwest of the residential area, thus convenient to both farmers and fields.

Most of the community buildings have been removed; however, the school-gymnasium still remains. It is used for storage, as a repair shop, and also houses farm offices of the Lake Dick Farming Company... Of the three large mule barns, only the south barn remains.

About three-fourths of the original houses have been moved away from Lake Dick. The remaining houses, about 30, are those closest to the community center complex. These have recently been covered with white aluminum siding and reroofed with red shingles. The houses and yards are very neat in appearance. Though now in private ownership, these houses symbolize the type of modest prosperity hoped for when the Lake Dick Cooperative Association was originally founded.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian; ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | ☐ Science | |
| ☒ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Sculpture | |
| ☐ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Music | | |
| ☐ Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

As a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's interest in assisting the rural poor during the 1930's Depression, the Resettlement Administration was established. This government agency marked a new trail for American agriculture. In trying to help sharecroppers become independent landowners, the Resettlement Administration began establishing federally financed farm projects in many areas of rural America. One of the most unconventional farms to be organized was at Lake Dick in Jefferson County, Arkansas.

In 1936 the Resettlement Administration, later the Farm Security Administration, bought 3,453 acres of land surrounding Lake Dick, a small U-shaped lake. During the next two years 80 houses, six community buildings, and several farm support structures were built around Lake Dick. These structures were to serve the participants in a cooperative farming enterprise. On September 13, 1938, a public inspection and celebration were held at Lake Dick to mark the completion of construction and the beginning of operation.

The Farm Security Administration selected 80 white farm families from 29 Arkansas counties to be among Lake Dick's first residents. Selection was based on recommendations by county officials of the Rural Rehabilitation Program. Each family, averaging 3.24 persons, had been sharecroppers or tenant farmers, and each was desirous of agricultural, educational, and economic advancement.

The Lake Dick Cooperative Association consisted of the heads of each resident household, with each member holding one share of stock. This Association controlled all commercial and agricultural activities at Lake Dick. As a benevolent cooperative, the Association leased the entire 3,453 acre farm from the Federal government.

The Lake Dick Cooperative Association was responsible for farming the land and for operating the community's cooperative services. These services included a general store,

SEE NOTATIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Jefferson	
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued - Page 2)

cotton gin, repair shop, feed and grist mill, sweet potato curing house, syrup mill, meat processing plant, and cooperative marketing facilities. Like other resettlement projects, the excess profits from community services were divided among the project residents.

Lake Dick was different from other resettlement projects in its organization and operation. Most projects were divided into family-size plots with each farmer responsible for his own 40 acres. The success or failure of each small farm was dependent on each family's initiative. However, Lake Dick was not operated this way. While each family had four acres for a home, yard, and small vegetable garden, the crop-producing land itself was jointly owned and jointly cultivated by all resident families. A cooperative work system was arranged whereby each farmer was assigned a job by the Association's elected officials. Whether a man worked in cultivation of the land, raising livestock, cutting timber, or operating one of the community services, he received cash wages bi-weekly from the Association.

The wage-earning farmer then paid cash for all goods or services purchased from the Cooperative Association. As a member of this Association, each resident family was eligible for yearly dividends from the excess profits of the Association. Because work was performed cooperatively, each resident of Lake Dick was dependent on other residents for his livelihood.

The Farm Security Administration planned Lake Dick as a profit sharing agricultural enterprise with two goals in mind:

1. Help a small number of capable and worthy farm families to achieve a better living standard by working cooperatively toward a single goal.
2. Enable farmers to share the profits, benefit financially and socially from the cooperative endeavor, and enjoy the advantages of large-scale farming.

According to Mr. E.B. Whittaker, Assistant Director of the Resettlement Administration's Region VIII (Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi), Lake Dick was much more experimental in nature than the other resettlement farms. Other farm projects involved a division and redistribution of the land, but Lake Dick was operated on the basis of joint ownership

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8. Significance (Continued - Page 3)

and joint operation. As a project sponsored by the United States Government, Lake Dick's socialistic organization was quite unique. Mr. Whittaker reported that with its community ownership and cooperative labor system, Lake Dick was the least successful of the sixteen resettlement projects in Arkansas.

Today about one-third of the original structures remain. These include 21 houses located south and southeast of the lake, a few of the community buildings, and the south mule barn. Most of the houses were sold and moved intact to surrounding communities.

The remaining houses now have white aluminum siding and red shingled roofs. Several have had additions which are in keeping with the simple bungalow style. The school building gymnasium is the most prominent structure remaining at Lake Dick. It is now used for storage space, contains the offices of the Lake Dick Farming Company and houses a repair shop for farm machinery.

The Lake Dick Cooperative Association was dissolved in 1946 and the land sold to Mr. Ben J. Alzheimer of Elm Farms, Inc. The land which once served a socialistic farming cooperative is now owned and operated by a single farming concern. Employees of the large landowner now occupy the houses built for members of a profit-sharing farming enterprise.

Because of its socialistic organization and operation, Lake Dick represents a unique experience in American agricultural history.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

added to nomination 6-5-75

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Jefferson	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued - Page 4)

Lake Dick has achieved historic significance within the past 50 years, and it is of exceptional importance. The farm represents a socialistic agricultural experiment sponsored by the federal government in the 1930's. Most of these farms were established to lead to eventual ownership by the farmers who lived on each farm; however, Lake Dick was intended to be a continual cooperative with the land and operations owned jointly.

Lake Dick represents a unique experience in American agricultural history because it is one of a small number of communal farms established and operated by the United States Government. Lake Dick represents the most socialistically oriented of the many cooperative farms established in the 1930's.

The organization and operation of Lake Dick was different from most other resettlement farms, and it was the only one of its kind set up in Arkansas. Unlike other resettlement projects, the Lake Dick project was never intended to make independent land-owners of the resident farmers. Rather, it was planned to be a continuing cooperative venture with the property, work and profits shared equally by all residents of Lake Dick.

A number of small frame houses are located in a semi-circle around the lake, with a large community building separating the two sections of these original houses. The remaining structures are a fair representation of the Lake Dick project's appearance in the 1930's.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series. Arkansas, A Guide to the State. New York: Hastings House, 1941.

Auerbach, Gerold S. "Southern Tenant Farmers: Socialist Critics of the New Deal." Arkansas Historical Quarterly, Vol. XXVII, #2, pp.113-131.

Baldwin, Sidney. Poverty & Politics: The Rise & Decline of the Farm Security Administration. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	34° 15' 23.1"	91° 50' 48.2"				
NE	34° 15' 23.1"	91° 50' 12"				
SE	34° 15' 2.6"	91° 50' 12"				
SW	34° 15' 2.6"	91° 50' 48.2"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 145 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Dianna Kirk, Historian</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	DATE <u>9-10-74</u>
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>300 West Markham</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Little Rock</u>	STATE <u>Arkansas</u> CODE <u>05</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☒ State ☐ Local ☐

Name

William E. Henderson

Title

State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

September 10, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
TY	
Jefferson	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued - Page 2)

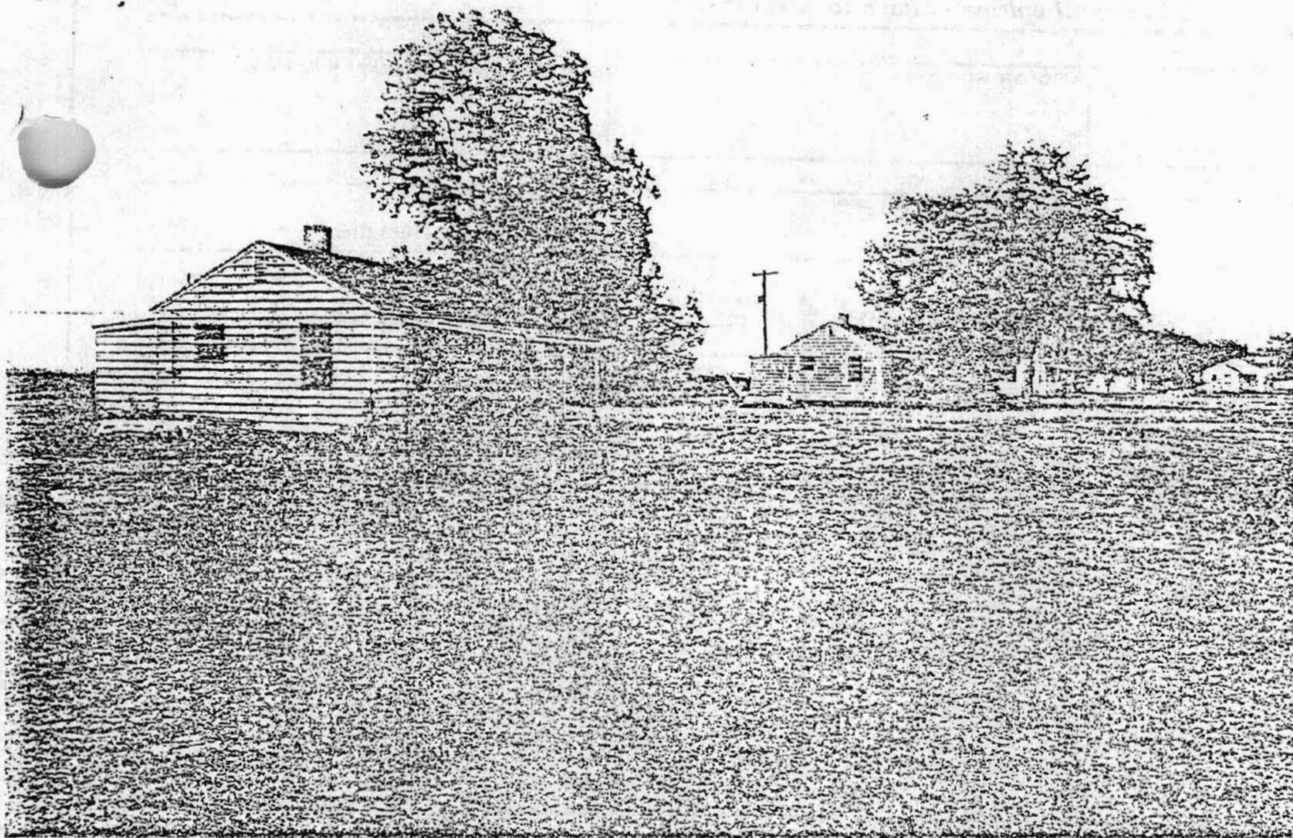
Farm Security Administration. Lake Dick: A New Venture in Plantation Farming. Federal Writer's Project File, Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

Johnson, Charles S.; Embree, Edwin R.; and Alexander, W.W. The Collapse of Cotton Tenancy. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1935.

Snow, Paul G. "Resettlement Administration Helps to Solve the Tenant Problem in Arkansas." Federal Writer's Project Manuscript. Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

Whittaker, E. B. (formerly Assistant Regional Director of Resettlement Administration). Personal interview, July 15, 1974.

_____. Personal correspondence, documents and manuscripts relating to the Resettlement Administration, 1935-1941.



Form No. 10-301a
Rev. 7-74)

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Lake Dick

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lake Dick VICINITY OF COUNTY Jefferson STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1974

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

Houses along east shore of lake, viewed from the north

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Lake Dick		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Jefferson	near Altheimer
STREET AND NUMBER		
1 mile west of Arkansas Highway 88, 4 miles south of Altheimer		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Altheimer Quadrangle	1964	1/24000

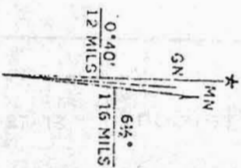
REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW;

U.S.
BY 1.5

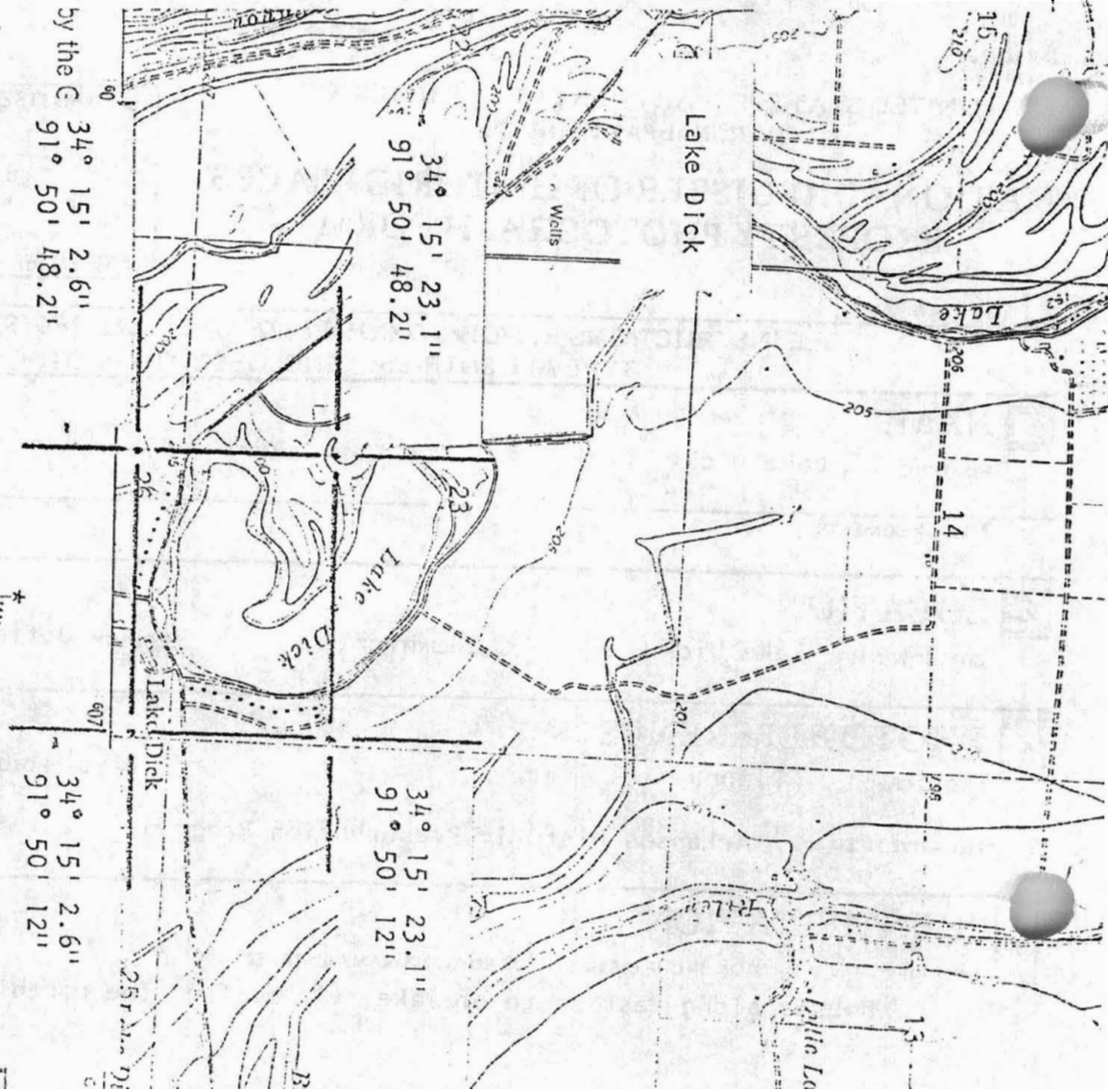
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rican datum
ordinate system, south zone
for grid ticks,
ance and field lines where
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DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



FOR SALE BY U.S.
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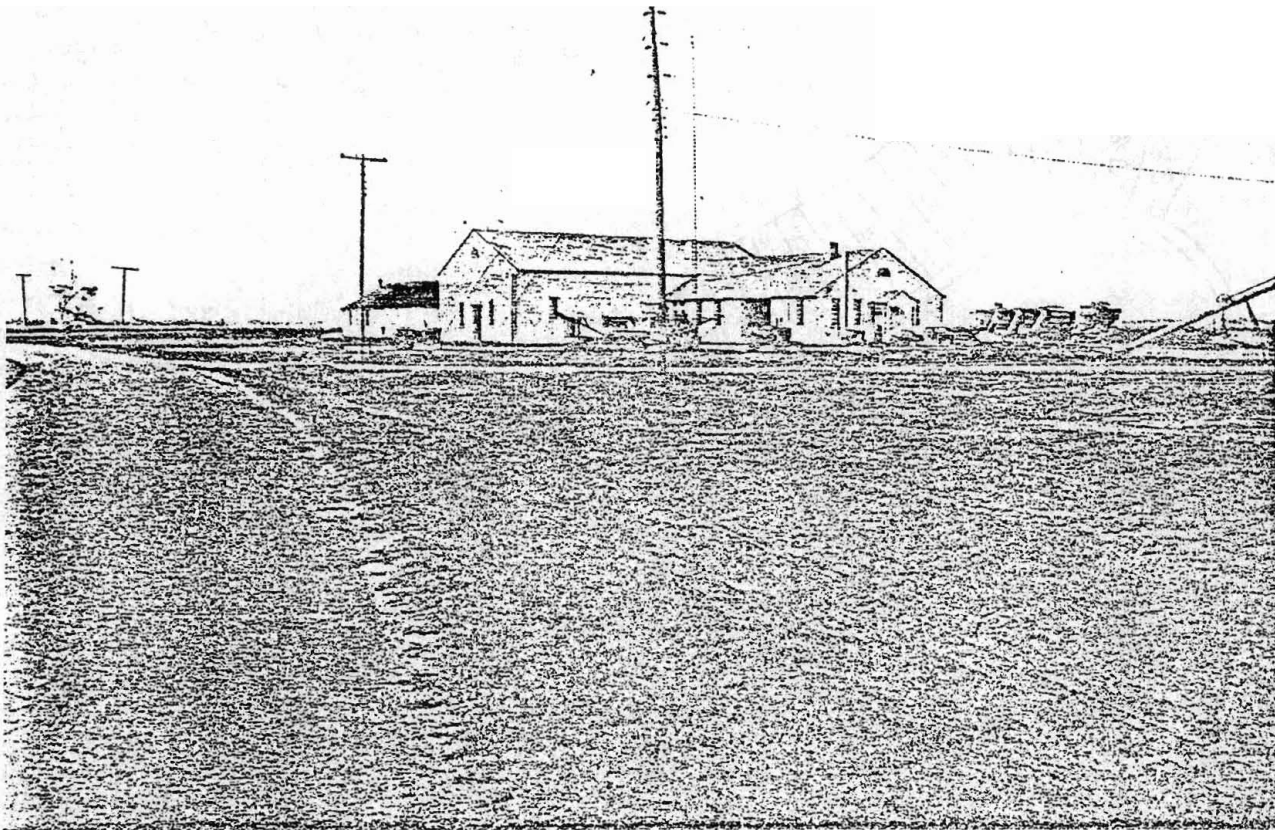
4



RR-AK-14

(3 OF 4

DISTRICT A



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HISTORIC

Lake Dick

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Lake Dick

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1974

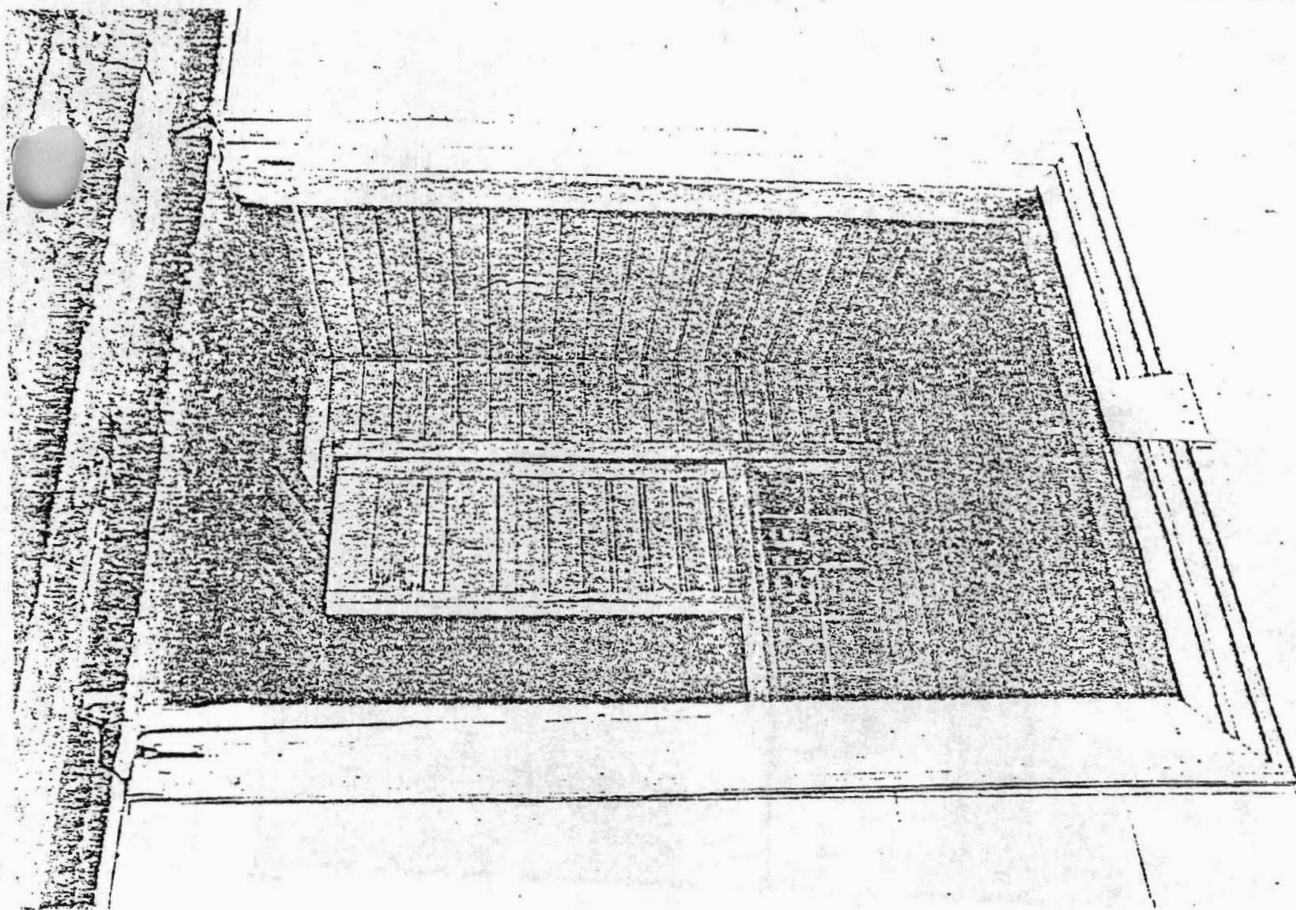
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO

Community school-gymnasium with classrooms and offices in wings, now used as a garage.
viewed from the northwest



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(10-74)

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AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Lake Dick

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

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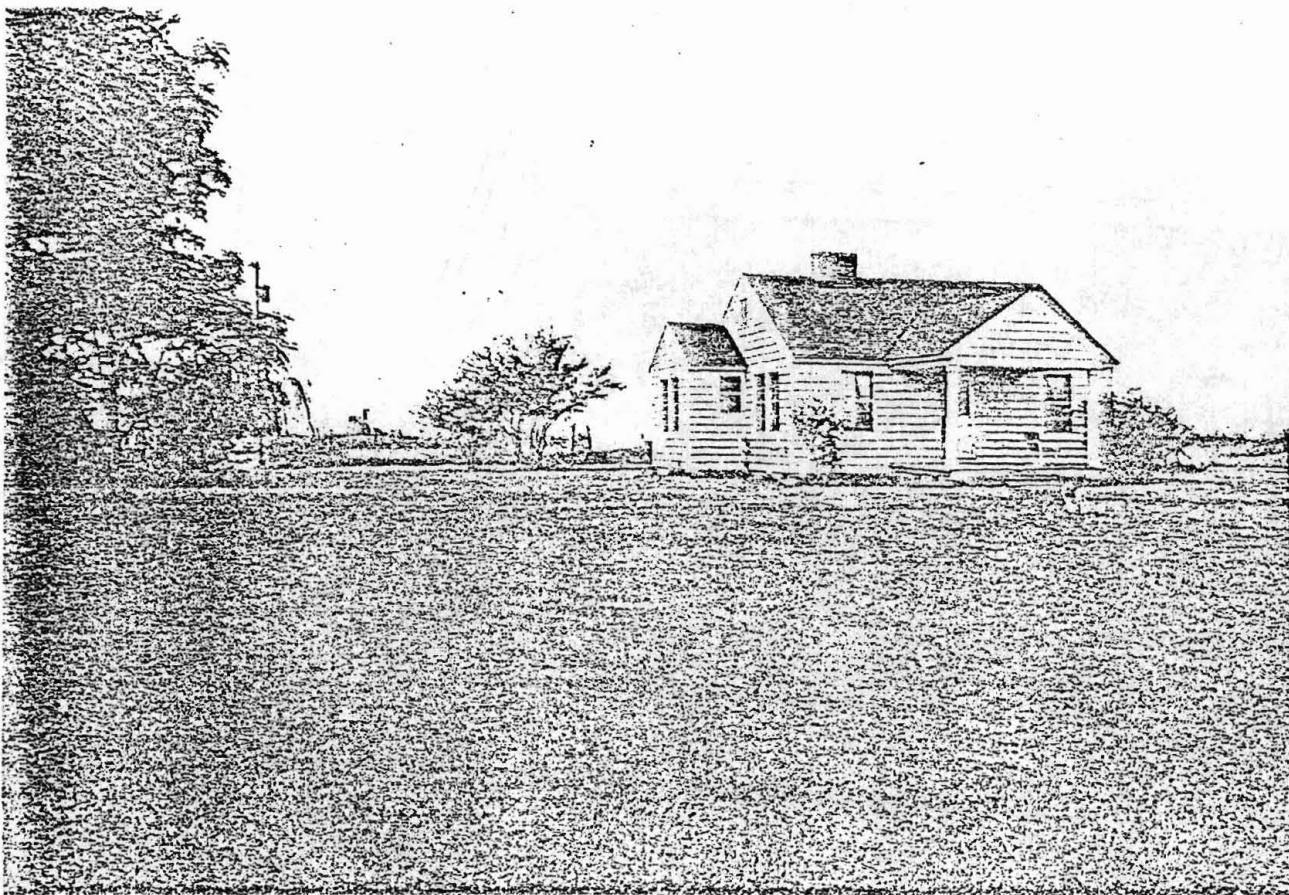
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Detail of entry to school, north facade

PHOTO NO.



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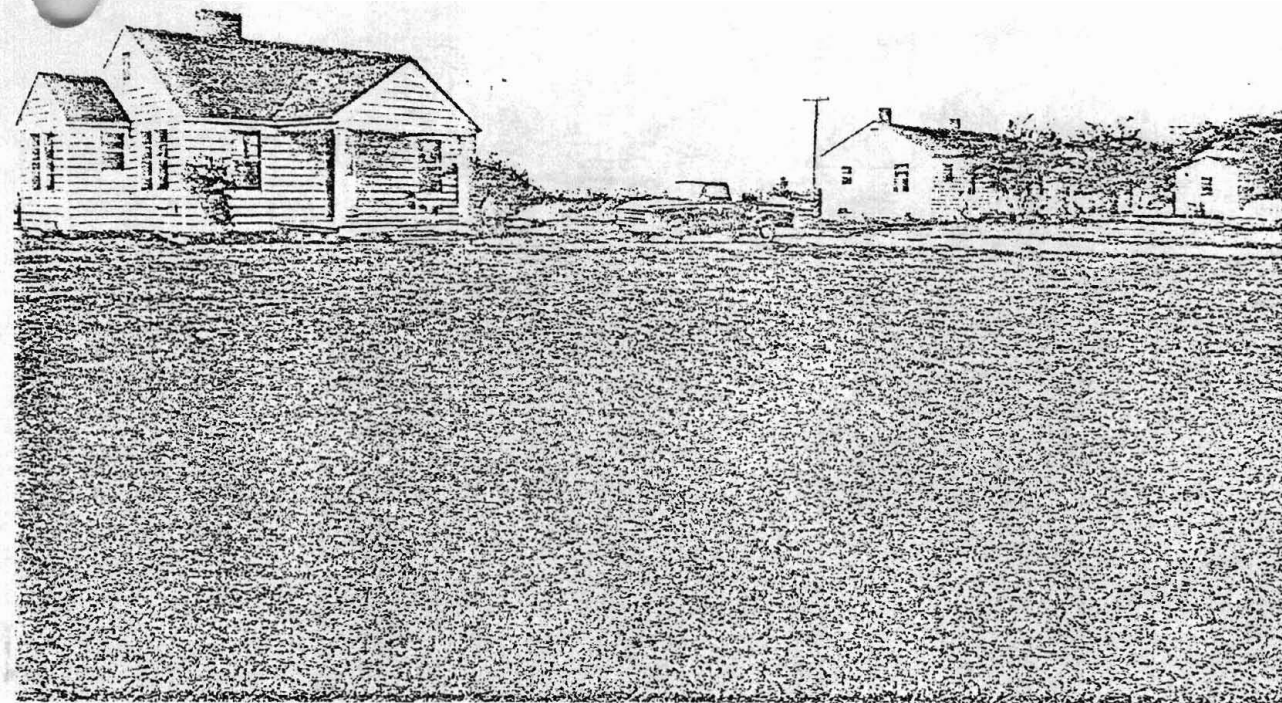
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House on south shore, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.



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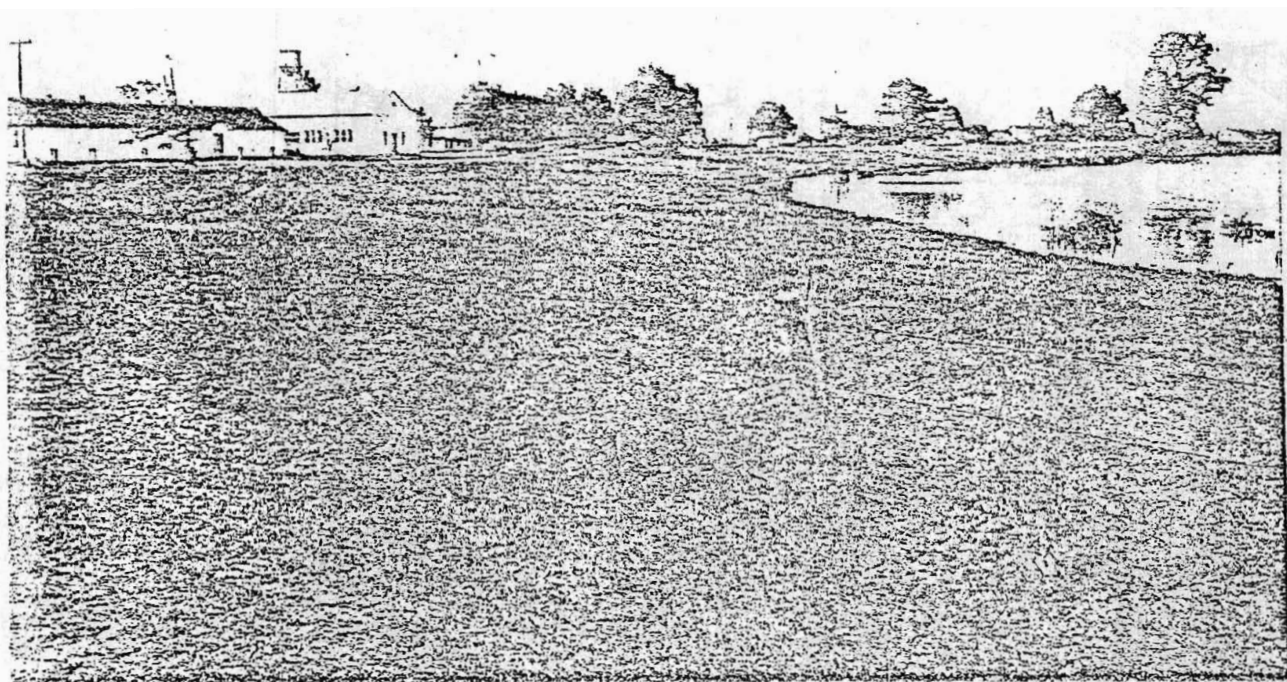
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PHOTO NO.

Houses along south shore of lake, viewed from the northeast



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Community school and houses along south shore of Lake Dick

PHOTO NO.