

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 Doe Branch Post Office

other names/site number PU3216

2. Location

street & number 32100 Kanis Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Ferndale

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72122

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)

Barbie Maestas
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/25/08
Date

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

Doe Branch Post Office

Name of Property

Pulaski 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

3

buildings

sites

structures

objects

2

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)

Domestic/ single dwelling

Government/ post office

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Plain-Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone piers

walls Board and batten

clapboard

roof metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Doe Branch Post Office
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

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 moved from its original location.

☐ 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

Exploration, settlement

Period of Significance

Ca. 1890 - 1950

Significant Dates

Ca. 1890

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Noah Richards

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:

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>537160</u>	<u>3849390</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3
Zone Easting Northing

4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Holly Hope/Special Projects Historian				
organization	Ar Historic Preservation Program			date	09/11/00
street & number	1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street			telephone	501 324-9148
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 _____ telephone _____
street & number _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Summary

The Doe Branch Post Office is located in Ferndale west of Little Rock on Kanis Road. The circa 1890 postal facility also served as a residence for its builder, Noah Richards, and two generations of the Miles family until 1992. Originally constructed as a board-and-batten single pen structure, the house was enlarged by a clapboard addition to the side, an enclosed porch to the rear, and the attachment of a separate kitchen house also to the rear, resulting in an L-shaped plan. Three clapboard and metal outbuildings to the southeast of the post office were moved to the property in the 1940s from Ferncliff Camp in Ferndale. A smokehouse stands approximately fifteen feet to the rear of the post office. The smokehouse and the post office have foundations of piers of stacked stone and gabled corrugated metal roofs. The post office was occupied as a residence until 1992 and has been vacant since that time. Family members live across the road and have secured the building against vandalism but the post office is in an area that is fast becoming a bedroom community for Little Rock so it is threatened by development and deterioration.

Elaboration

Doe Branch Post Office

The front, or southern façade of the Doe Branch Post Office displays two types of sheathing. The west half of the building is covered in horizontal clapboard and the east in vertical board-and-batten. The clapboard section, which was in place by the 1930s, is fenestrated by a six-over-four double-hung window adjacent to a single-leaf door of vertical planks. The original board-and-batten section of the building contains a paneled single-leaf door next to a four-over-six window at the southeast corner. A small slit in the wall to the right of the window served as a mail slot for the post office. Corrugated metal sheets conceal a foundation of stacked stone piers. There is currently no porch since the full front porch was removed in the 1950s due to deterioration.

The eastern elevation of the post office features a large chimney of stacked stone. The stone has the appearance of thin sheets of shale or slate. The original mortar of clay remains and the chimney is in remarkably good condition. Adjacent to the chimney is a four-over-four window. A small one-light fixed window lights a hyphen that connects the original separate kitchen to the rear of the post office. The kitchen is in its original location; it has merely been attached by the extension from the rear wall of the house. A board-and-batten door and a six-over-six window fenestrate the northeast corner of the kitchen. A small door permits access to the attic space of the post office from the exterior wall of the gable south of the chimney flue.

The rear, northern wall of the kitchen is blank. A porch to the west of the kitchen wing is fenestrated by a ribbon of four six-light windows that were removable until the 1990s when they were affixed in their frames for security. Mrs. Margaret Lester, the mother of the current owner and the daughter of previous owner Jessie Miles Jr., recalls

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that the porch had been enclosed by the 1930s as the CCC workers laying water lines from Lake Winona in the Paron vicinity to Little Rock slept on the back porch. The western elevation of the kitchen wing contains two six-light windows that slide horizontally on wooden runners, much like modern sliding glass doors. The porch is lit by a pair of six-light windows and is accessed from the exterior by a wooden screen door. The interior of the post office is accessed by a single-leaf paneled door in the western wall. The southwest elevation of the house is fenestrated by a single six-over-six window.

Smokehouse

The smokehouse is located approximately fifteen feet to the north of the post office. The metal gable-roofed building is sheathed in planks and rests on a foundation of large stone piers. A door of vertical planks provides access at the southwest corner. The smokehouse is considered contributing to this nomination as oral history places its construction in the historic period.

Outbuildings

Three outbuildings relocated in the 1940s from Ferncliff Camp in Ferndale, are situated northwest of the post office and are arranged in a line from south to north. The first, a small clapboard structure with a metal gable roof faces east. The front, eastern façade contains a small blank opening adjacent to a louvered screen door. The northern, eastern and southern elevations are each fenestrated by a single small fixed window. The north and west windows consist of six lights and the southern is composed of three horizontal lights.

The second building is a small metal shed-roofed structure open on the eastern end. The third outbuilding is clapboard with a metal gable roof. A single wooden door opens into the southeast corner of the building and two wooden doors are placed on the north and south corners of the rear, western elevation. Though they are historic these buildings are considered noncontributing to this nomination as they have been altered in the years since their move from Ferncliff Camp and are basically architecturally undistinguished storage sheds.

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SUMMARY

The Doe Branch Post Office is located on Kanis Road 2.3 miles west of Ferndale Cutoff. The rural community of Ferndale is currently sparsely developed and is predominately residential, but westward sprawl resulting from Little Rock's Chenal Valley construction is having its effect on the area. Signs advertising lots for sale are dotted along the length of Kanis and the entry to a new subdivision has been carved out just a few hundred feet to the east of the post office. The Doe Branch Post Office is not currently occupied but is used for storage by the owners who reside across the road. The building suffers from deterioration and has been broken into, but it is still a substantial structure; the chimney in particular is in remarkable condition.

ELABORATION

The Doe Branch Post Office is considered part of the community of Ferndale today but at the turn of the century the building was one of a few homes in Doe Branch, or Doe Run, as it was also known. The area is bounded by Fletcher's Hollow, just east of Walnut Grove Road, on the south by Colonel Glenn Road, the north by Arkansas Highway 10 and on the west by the Pulaski-Saline County line, or Paron.

Prior to 1914 there were many small settlements such as Doe Branch, White Oak and Spring Valley scattered throughout the area. With the establishment of the Ferndale Post Office in that year the name came to encompass the aforementioned area but the separate communities were still known by their original names. Ferndale was never incorporated as a town even though the mailing address for the Doe Branch Post Office and neighboring buildings is listed as Ferndale today. The community was reached from Little Rock by the Mt. Ida Road, later known as Twelfth Street Pike and in recent years Kanis Road. The western stretch of the road into Paron is still known as Twelfth Street.

Ferndale was populated mostly by farming families but the area also provided opportunities for milling, mining and timber industries. A water-powered mill on Maumelle Creek was in operation in the 1860s and in the 1870s a gristmill and gin were built on Fletcher Creek. Various water mills and steam mills also operated in the area until 1926. Ore and lead were mined from the land and in 1933 a small gold mine was established north of Twelfth Street Pike. As late as 1963 a trace of gold was panned from Hog Branch Creek two miles west of Ferndale Cutoff. Several sawmills took advantage of the large stands of timber in the countryside. In 1907 Maumelle Junction, a logging camp for Niemeyer's Mill out of Little Rock, was located near the railroad in Ferndale. By 1916 the logging industry had exhausted their resources and moved to Saline County.

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In the early twentieth century Ferndale had become a popular destination for people from Little Rock. Its scenic beauty attracted many to camps and retreats such as Ferncliff Camp established in the 1920s by a Dr. Shipp for those wishing to get away from the city. Camp Okatoma was established by a Dr. Lamb and Oscar Gray on Walnut Grove Road near Fletcher Creek. Arkansas Power and Light employees constructed a camp on Little Maumelle Creek west of Denny Road and Ferndale Cutoff, and Camp Joseph Pfeifer was built in 1929. Fred Heiskell, Managing Editor of the Arkansas Gazette from 1902 to 1931, had a summer house called Whisperwood constructed in 1925 on several acres in the shadow of Bullard Mountain. This influx of city folk was not without its drawbacks for residents. The Pulaskian of July 1915 stated that Little Rock people had discovered the area and had taken possession. The reporter admonished city people for acting rude & vulgar in the country. In the face of this invasion some establishments were considered the territory of locals. Prothro's Campground and the boarding house known as Wooten Villa (Now the Sam Jones House, just west of the intersection of Ferndale Cutoff and Kanis) were the scenes of numerous "tacky parties", picnics and religious revivals for the residents and railroad workers. Prothro's Campground was located on the Little Maumelle Creek, less than one mile south of Highway 10 on Ferndale Cutoff. The campground hosted summer camp meetings of one to three weeks in duration. The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, moved to the site in 1880, and the Mary Williams Lodge, moved to the lot in 1905, served as shelter during rainy days but most families slept in the open or in small wooden cottages. By 1928 the campground fell out of use and the lodge was moved again to Denny Road and Ferndale Cutoff. By the 1930s nothing remained of the church.

The Doe Branch Post Office was an early year-round residential structure in the Ferndale area. The Pulaski County Tax Assessor's Office places the construction date of the building at circa 1890. Margaret Lester states that Noah Richards sold the land to her grandfather, Jessie Brown Miles and family history names Mr. Richards as the builder. Thomas Fletcher, one of the largest landholders in the area was farming a large tract in the eastern section of Ferndale by 1840. The Fletchers moved to Little Rock in 1869 and it is probable that sometime after that year Jessie Brown Miles purchased part of the property on Walnut Grove Road from Fletcher. No information has been found on the date that the Miles family moved to the Doe Branch Post Office but they were still living on Walnut Grove Road around 1890 when their son Jessie Jr. was born. There is also no available record at this date regarding their move to the Doe Branch Post Office but they were living in the building when Jessie Jr. was married as he and his bride Roberta came to live with their parents. The couple had a young child by 1914 and Jessie Sr. was assisting with postal operations by 1913 so the family would have been in the house by at least 1913.

The Geographic Site Location Reports for Post Offices in Arkansas lists a Doe Branch Post Office as early as 1878. The location of the building is described as being in Section 20 of the USGS quad map, which would place the post office northwest of its current location, toward the Spring Valley area. After 1882 the post office moved 2 miles east which places it in Section 28. By 1913 it is located in Section 27 which is the current location of the Doe Branch Post Office. Mrs. Frankie McHughes is listed in 1913 as the postmistress and family members report that

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Jessie Miles Sr. assisted by taking a wagon to Martindale to pick up the mail. Grandson Roy Miles usually accompanied his grandfather on the trip but the boy died of pneumonia in 1914 so the postal services at that location were discontinued. By that year the name of the facility was changed to Ferndale Post Office and the building was located 100 yards east of Little Maumelle Creek and Ferndale Cutoff.

The extended family continued to live in the building until circa 1926. The addition on the west side of the building was rented to schoolteachers from the Spring Valley School and the family occupied the rest of the house. Mrs. Lester recalls that her mother never had to get up in the middle of the night and check on her because the teachers would take care of the job for her. In 1926 Jessie Miles Sr. and his wife moved to the Confederate Home in Sweet Home and the rest of the family moved to State Highway 10 by Joe T. Robinson School where they operated a grocery store. The brother of Roberta Miles, Henry Koon then moved into the house. In the late 1930s the family moved back to the Doe Branch Post Office. Jessie Jr. was well rounded and worked various jobs. He farmed cotton, worked the timber business and was employed at the state highway department and the county farm. Jessie was also employed as a jailer at the county jail formerly located behind the Old State House and he served on the school board of Joe T. Robinson School. Jessie and Roberta lived in the post office until their deaths - Jessie died in 1954 and Roberta in 1992. Their son Carl lived in the house with his mother until his death also in 1992. Since that year Jessie Jr.'s grandson, Verndale Lester has owned the building and makes his home directly across Kanis Road from the Doe Branch Post Office.

Significance

Changes in the landscape of Ferndale are being wrought by the growth out of west Little Rock. The area had a brief respite from the offending influx chronicled by a 1915 reporter, but that invasion is being launched again in the form of bulldozers gouging out the hillsides for "estates"; new roads pushing aside shade trees and creeks being cleared of natural underbrush so as to appear more neat and tidy. From the earliest years of settlement in Ferndale the families who made their lives in the area had their own schools, churches, cemeteries and medical services. The Doe Branch Post Office was part of that independent culture that had no need for the city and its amenities. However it seemed the city had a need for the scenic views of Ferndale and history is repeating itself. The Doe Branch Post Office maintains its integrity and stands as a diamond in the rough among the newer, larger homes crowding into the area. The Post Office and the smokehouse are being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion C for its Plain-Traditional architecture and under Criterion A as a symbol of the early years of Ferndale.

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Bibliography

Baker, Russell, *From Memdaq to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices 1832-1971*. Arkansas History Commission.

Geographic Site Location Reports, Arkansas, 1852-1945. Arkansas History Commission, microfilm.

Grimmett, William O. Interview by Holly Hope, June, July 2000.

Grimmett, William T. Interview by Holly Hope, June, July 2000.

Henker, Fred O., "Ferndale - Western Pulaski County." Pulaski County Historical Review, Vol. XXI, No. 1, (March 1973).

Lester, Margaret. Interview by Holly Hope, June, July 2000.

Pulaski County Tax Assessor. Jimmy Powell. (July 2000).

Secretary of State, Elections. Tina Arnold. (July 2000).

White, Ruth Tucker. Interview by Holly Hope, June, July 2000.

Worthen, Mary F., "Thomas Fletcher, A Reminiscence." Pulaski County Historical Review, Vol. XXI, No. 1, (March 1973).

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the northern edge of Kanis Road with a perpendicular line running parallel to the western elevation of the three associated outbuildings and located 50 feet to the west thereof, proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 100 feet to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the northern elevation of the clapboard outbuilding; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 50 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the eastern elevation of the post office; thence proceed southerly for a distance of approximately 100 feet along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge of Kanis Road; thence proceed westerly for a distance of approximately 50 feet along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

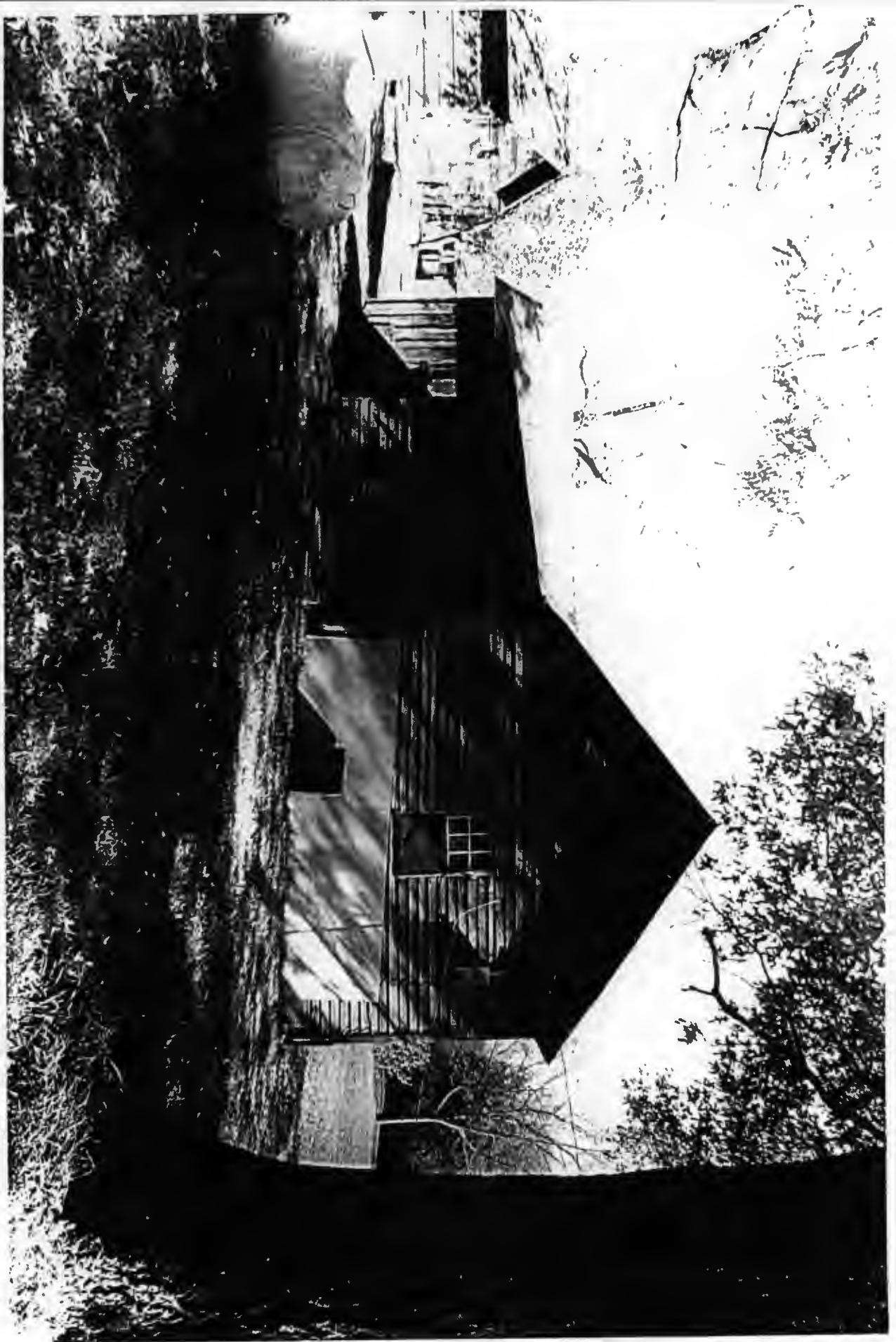
This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource.



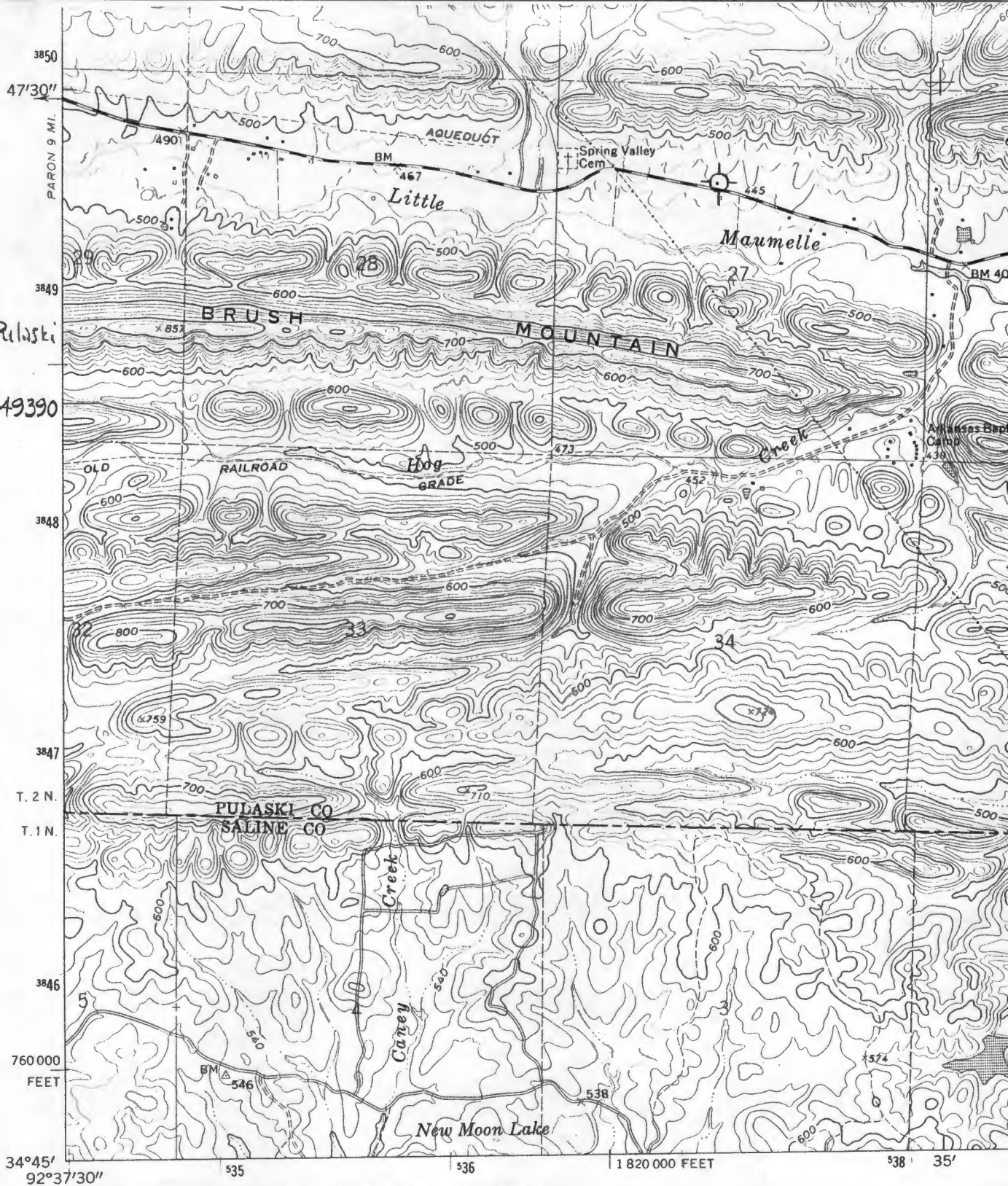








Doe Branch
Post office
Little Rock, Pulaski
County
15/537160/3849390



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1963

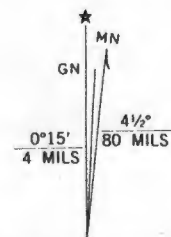
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,
move the projection lines 7 meters south and
15 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1982 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1984

(LAKE NORRELL)
7453 11 NW



UTM GRID AND 1984 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET