

**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 Sumner-White Dipping Vat  
other names/site number AS0103

**2. Location**

street & number 4 miles east of the intersection of AR 82 and CR 69; 1/2 mile south in the woods at the Hunt Camp  not for publication  
city or town Hamburg  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Ashley code 003 zip code 71646

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Sumner-White Dipping Vat  
Name of Property

Ashley 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	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

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

"Dip That Tick: Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas, 1907-1943."

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE: animal facility

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

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

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

NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE: cast concrete

walls CONCRETE: cast concrete

roof N/A

other N/A

**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)

AGRICULTURE

**Period of Significance**

c. 1915-c. 1943

**Significant Dates**

c. 1915-c. 1943

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

N/A

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

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**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:

Ashley County Ledger Archives

Sumner-White Dipping Vat  
Name of Property

Ashley County, Arkansas  
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> Zone	<u>625260</u> Easting	<u>3690845</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.)

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date October 24, 2005  
street & number 1600 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874  
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 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 John William Spivey  
street & number 109 Highway 8 West telephone 870-853-9252  
city or town Hamburg state Arkansas zip code 71646

**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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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### SUMMARY

The Sumner-White Dipping Vat is a concrete structure located about four miles northeast of the intersection of Arkansas Highway 82 and Ashley County Road 69, half a mile in the woods northeast of the Sumner-White Hunt Club, in the Hamburg vicinity, Ashley County, Arkansas. An associated concrete structure, U-shaped and appearing to be constructed at the same time as the vat, is extant and lies a foot or two southwest of the vat. The vat and its associated structure are both in good condition.

### ELABORATION

The Sumner-White Dipping Vat is a concrete structure located about four miles northeast of the intersection of Arkansas Highway 82 and Ashley County Road 69, half a mile in the woods northeast of the Sumner-White Hunt Club, in the Hamburg vicinity, Ashley County, Arkansas. An associated concrete structure, U-shaped and appearing to be constructed at the same time as the vat, is extant, and lies a foot or two southwest of the vat. The vat and its associated structure are both in good condition.

The facility includes the concrete dipping vat, as well as the remnants of a U-shaped concrete structure, of unknown use but similar period of construction. This associated structure is located a mere foot or two southwest of the vat, in the crook of the main structure, close to where the cattle would have existed the vat and moved onto the drip pad. The vat measures approximately 27 feet in length, four feet in width, and seven feet in depth. The vat is in the middle of a heavily wooded area, and is accessible by foot or all-terrain vehicle. Although it is located deep in the lands comprising the Sumner-White Hunt Camp, the vat and the U-shaped structure are easily discernable from the immediate environment.

### INTEGRITY

The Sumner-White Dipping Vat is in good condition, with all of its walls intact with no signs of collapse or wear and tear due to either weathering or chemicals, thus meeting the registration requirements of the multiple-property listing "Dip That Tick: Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas, 1907-1943." The property exhibits excellent integrity of location, remaining at its original site northeast of the Sumner-White Hunt Club, which is northeast of Hamburg, Ashley County, Arkansas. The dipping vat's location also provides the property integrity of setting, feeling and association. Showing no signs of deterioration, the vat displays outstanding integrity of design. Its continued high degree of structural integrity is proof of its workmanship, and none of its original materials have been compromised.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Sumner-White Dipping Vat is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** as it is a good example of an intact concrete structure erected as part of the government's efforts to eradicate the Texas Tick Fever from Arkansas cattle between the years 1907-1943. The Sumner-White Dipping Vat is being nominated under the multiple-property listing, "Dip That Tick: Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas, 1907-1943."

### ELABORATION

Organized on November 30, 1848, by an act of the Legislature, Ashley County is the state's 53<sup>rd</sup> county. Prior to being carved out of parts of Drew, Bradley, Union, Hempstead and Arkansas counties, the area was known as "The Great Wilderness." Many of the early settlers were involved in hunting, trapping, and trade, and in effort to become even more self-sustaining, agriculture soon became a mainstay of the county's residents.<sup>1</sup> The county was heavily forested with white oak, red oak, elm and hickory, and the land criss-crossed by numerous creeks and bayous. Redbud, dogwood, sumac, and wild peach and plum trees bloomed county-wide during the springtime. Animals, such as deer, squirrels, coons, and bears overran the land, feasting on spoils provided by nature. Early farmers raised crops of cotton, corn, potatoes, and wheat, as well as herds of cattle and swine.<sup>2</sup>

The Town of Hamburg was selected as the county seat in 1848, and the town was surveyed and laid out, quickly becoming incorporated and a post office established. Businesses were established on short order, and by 1854, the courthouse and jail were built. Roads were immediately built, connecting the many townships and communities in Ashley County with the newly established county seat which experienced a significant period of growth in the 1850s, due largely in part to the immigration of people from eastern southern states. The Civil War took its toll on Hamburg, as it did with so many southern cities and towns, but after Reconstruction the town resumed a growth in population, though this period of growth was slower than when the town was first settled. Through the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Hamburg continued to be an important regional civic center.<sup>3</sup>

As was the case with many small Arkansas county seats, especially those not located on a navigable waterway, the arrival of the railroad infused the community with great ambitions that fueled a dramatic growth spurt. Though the Mississippi River Hamburg & Western Railroad would not complete its line

<sup>1</sup> *Arkansas Historical Series, Number 8: History of Ashley County, Arkansas.* Van Buren, Arkansas: The Press-Argus, 1959, pp. 9-18.

<sup>2</sup> *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas.* Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890, pp 874-926.

<sup>3</sup> Story, Kenneth B. "W. R. Bunckley House, Hamburg, Ashley County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR, 1999.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

between Luna Landing on the Mississippi River and Crossett to the west until 1902, the beginning of construction in 1900 was enough to allow local citizens and business owners the opportunity to see Hamburg grow. The booming growth in the timber industry in other parts of the state lent weight to the assertions of great things that it would do for Ashley County, and Hamburg, with its abundant stands of pine. Many began to envision Hamburg as a regional transportation and business hub for the impending flourish and success of the timber industry. Between 1900 and 1902, Hamburg would boast of no fewer than 150 new residences, five new brick buildings and, most significantly of all, the impending construction of a massive new sawmill at the railroad's western terminus in Crossett. Other local improvements included the construction of the town's first paved sidewalk, which happened to run along the northern edge of East Parker Street) and an ice house. By 1903, Little Rock architect Frank W. Gibb was commissioned to design the new county courthouse (the former 1872 courthouse had outgrown its use). Cadwell and Drake, contractors who built the state capitol, were awarded the contract to build the Ashley County Courthouse. Completed and occupied by 1907, much controversy and many lawsuits surrounded the new building.<sup>4</sup>

Nestled in the alluvial plain of the Bayou Bartholomew, Ashley County's relationship to agriculture, according to *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of South Arkansas*, was seen in its yield of slightly less than a bale of cotton per acre, and the corn yield of 40 bushels to the acre. Goodspeed further remarks, ". . . all the soils of the county responds quickly to cultivation and attention, a quality which at the same time it is inherent as also seen to be derived from the climate."<sup>5</sup>

As the reliance on agriculture grew stronger, so did the dependence on livestock farming not only in Ashley County, but in the Hamburg area, as well. Area farmers soon became concerned with the Texas Tick Fever just as were farmers from across the state. To combat the fever, a vat was constructed east of the now-defunct settlement of Berea. Located 10 miles northeast of Hamburg at the crossroads of the Hamburg-Collins and Monticello-Gaines Landing roads, the Berea post office was established on July 8, 1880. Berea lived a short existence of 20 years, having seen the post office move to Mist in 1900.<sup>6</sup> The relocation of a majority of the families was attributed mainly to the necessity to become part of the nearby railroad boomtowns, Hamburg being the main boomtown in the area.

Life, however, continued for many in the Berea area, and cattle farming soon became a major source of subsistence and income for the local people. As the fear of the Texas Tick Fever spread, the dipping vat was constructed in the Berea woods, near a local water source. Although the exact date of construction is unknown, it was likely built c. 1915 shortly after the tick eradication program began across the state.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago, Nashville, and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890, p. 880.

<sup>6</sup> *Arkansas Historical Series Number 8: History of Ashley County, Arkansas*. Van Buren, Arkansas: The Press-Argus, 1959, p. 138.

<sup>7</sup> Wilcox, Ralph. "Pottsville Dipping Vat, Pottsville, Pope County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR, 2005.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

The location of the dipping vat in the Berea area was convenient for the rural and country farmers and residents. People in rural settlements would bring their cattle through Berea to be dipped as they continued on their way to Hamburg to conduct their business of the day. The vat continued to be used likely until the end of the program in 1943.<sup>8</sup>

After the vat was actively used, it remained open, as the population of Berea further declined into nonexistence and the need to cover or fill in the vat was not necessary. The vat's location on the Sumner-White Hunt Club lease, which is heavily covered in woodlands, has helped protect the integrity and character of the vat.<sup>9</sup>

Today, the Sumner-White Dipping Vat remains an important reminder of the agricultural heritage of Berea, Hamburg, and Ashley County. The vat represented an effective government program that was devised to protect the livestock in the area from a devastating epidemic that effected not only cattle, but also farmers' livelihood.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance**, the Sumner-White Dipping Vat is located in the Hamburg vicinity, about four miles northeast of the intersection of Arkansas Highway 82 and Ashley County Road 69, half a mile in the woods northeast of the Sumner-White Hunt Club, in the Hamburg vicinity, Ashley County, Arkansas. The vat and its associated U-shaped structure are intact reminders of the government's efforts of the Texas Tick Fever eradication that took place from the early 1900s until the mid-1940s. As such, the property is being nominated under the multiple-property listing, "Dip That Tick: Texas Tick Fever Eradication in Arkansas, 1907-1943."

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<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> Information on the Sumner-White Dipping Vat provided by Ricky Hawkins.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Etheridge, Y. W. *Arkansas Historical Series Number 8: History of Ashley County, Arkansas*. Van Buren, Arkansas: The Press-Argus, 1959.

*Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago, Nashville, and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890, pp. 874-926.

Hawkins, Rickey. Interview with the author, September 17, 2004.

Story, Kenneth B. "W. R. Bunckley House, Hamburg, Ashley County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR, 1999.

Wilcox, Ralph. "Pottsville Dipping Vat, Pottsville, Pope County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR, 2005.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A 50-foot circle centering on the UTM coordinate 15/625260/3690845.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all land historically associated with the Sumner-White Dipping Vat.