

NR listed 8/14/92

OMB No. 1024-0018

Book Copy

NPS Form 10-900  
(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Bella Vista Water Tank

other name/site number: BE 1718

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2. Location

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street & number: Intersection of Suits Us Drive and Pumpkin Hollow Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Bella Vista

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Benton code: AR 007 zip code: 72712

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Structure

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing      Noncontributing

<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u>	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Benton County



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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification:

No Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Plain Traditional; Rustic

Materials: foundation Stone roof Concrete  
walls Stone other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Community Planning and Development  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1927 - 1942

Significant Dates: c. 1927

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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X See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository:

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A 15 388260 4032010 B
C D

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point approximately 50 feet southwest of the water tank at the junction of Suits Us Drive and Pumpkin Hollow Road, proceed northerly along the eastern curblin...

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By  
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Name/Title: Ken Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 6/25/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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 Bella Vista Water Tower is a low, circular stone and concrete water tank faced with uncoursed fieldstone masonry. It is covered with a flat, concrete lid that allows the rainwater to drain into the storage tank while preventing other detritus from contaminating the contents. It is located atop the ridge to the west of the principal valley through the original Bella Vista development, one of the highest points in the vicinity.

### Elaboration

The Bella Vista Water Tower is a low, circular stone and concrete water tank faced with uncoursed fieldstone masonry. Though it is constructed in a rough-hewn, stone masonry tradition found throughout the Ozark Mountain region, it partakes of the organic, Rustic style that was popularized first by the Boston architect H.H. Richardson and later disseminated throughout the United States by the work of Greene and Greene and by the National Park Service's construction in many of its national parks. It is covered with a flat, concrete lid that allows the rainwater to drain into the storage tank while preventing other detritus from contaminating the contents. It is located atop the ridge to the west of the principal valley through the original Bella Vista development, one of the highest points in the vicinity.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   1  

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**Summary**

The Bella Vista Water Tank, constructed c. 1927, is significant locally under both Criteria A and C. It is significant under Criterion A through its associations with the development of the original Bella Vista community as a residential recreational resort, and under Criterion C through its status as the only such example of a fieldstone water tower structure from any era that survives in Benton County.

**Elaboration**

The Linebarger brothers began their development of the rural section of northern Benton County in 1918, centered around the natural water source known as Big Spring; and thus the subdivision of the land on the eastern side of the valley closest to the spring formed the first phase of what was to become the resort community of Bella Vista. The subdivision of West Mountain (on the western side of the valley through which runs U.S. Highway 71, the principal access to Bella Vista) did not begin until 1927, at which time the installation of such utilities as water, sewage disposal, and electricity became essential to promoting the attractiveness of the house lots.

The Bella Vista Water Tank was constructed as part of this effort: water was pumped by three large rams from Big Spring to this tank, the water from which then ran to the various cottages on the slope below via gravity-feed. Until 1965, when the entire community was tied into a larger water system from the newly-created Beaver Lake, cabin owners paid \$2.50 per summer for water supplied from this tank. However, it was also important to the Linebarger brothers that the overall rustic appearance of the development -- which mandated the removal of as few trees as possible and encouraged the construction of picturesque, unfinished cottages -- be consistently maintained for all construction, and especially for any building done by the Linebarger brothers on behalf of the community. Though the core of the reservoir itself is constructed of reinforced concrete, as is the lid, the exterior walls are faced with uncoursed fieldstone, resulting in an organic, rustic appearance. Another, virtually identical fieldstone-faced water tank existed on the opposite side of the valley until 1951, when it was removed and replaced with a concrete tank. Thus, this is the only such water tank remaining in Bella Vista, and in all of Benton County.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page   1  

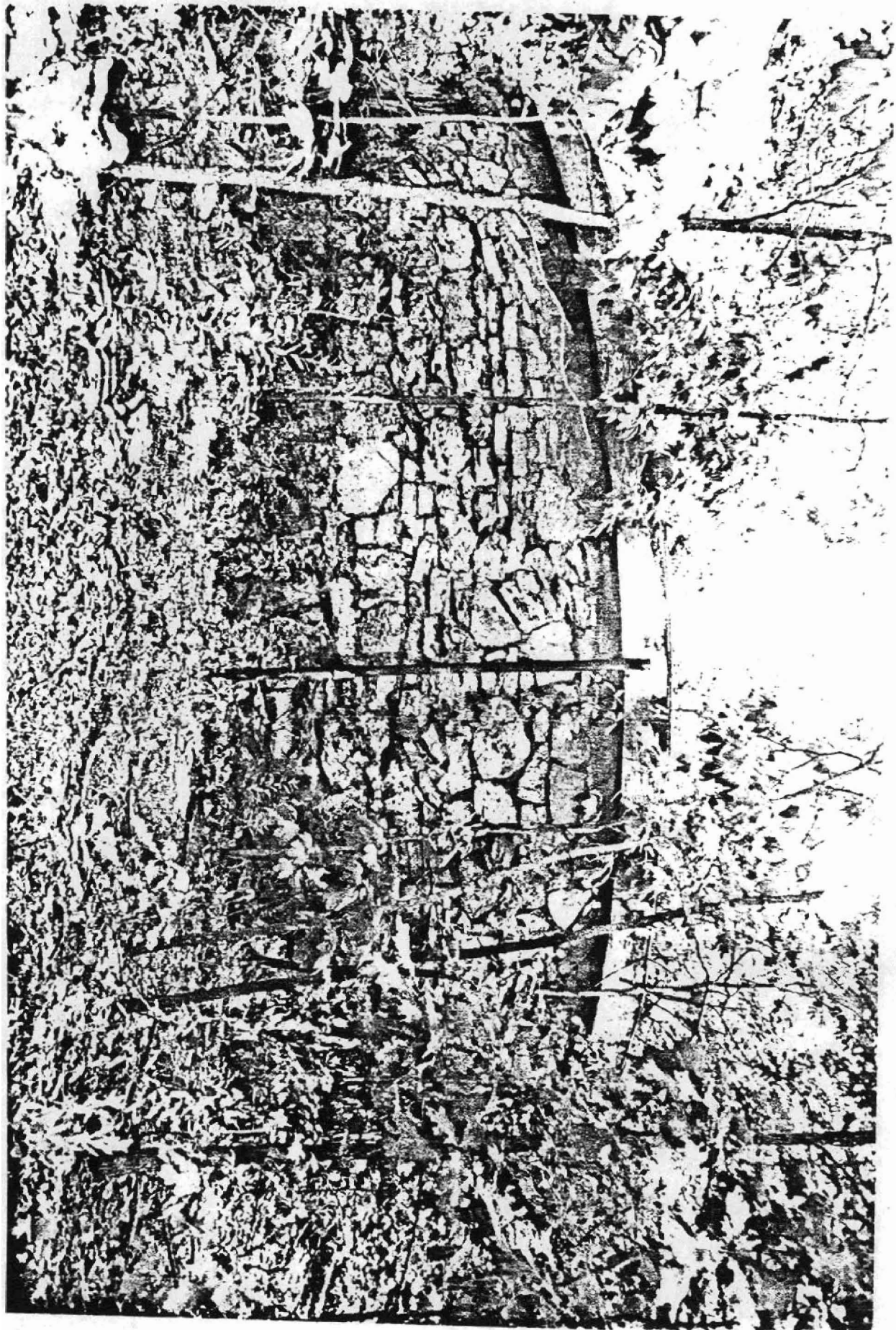
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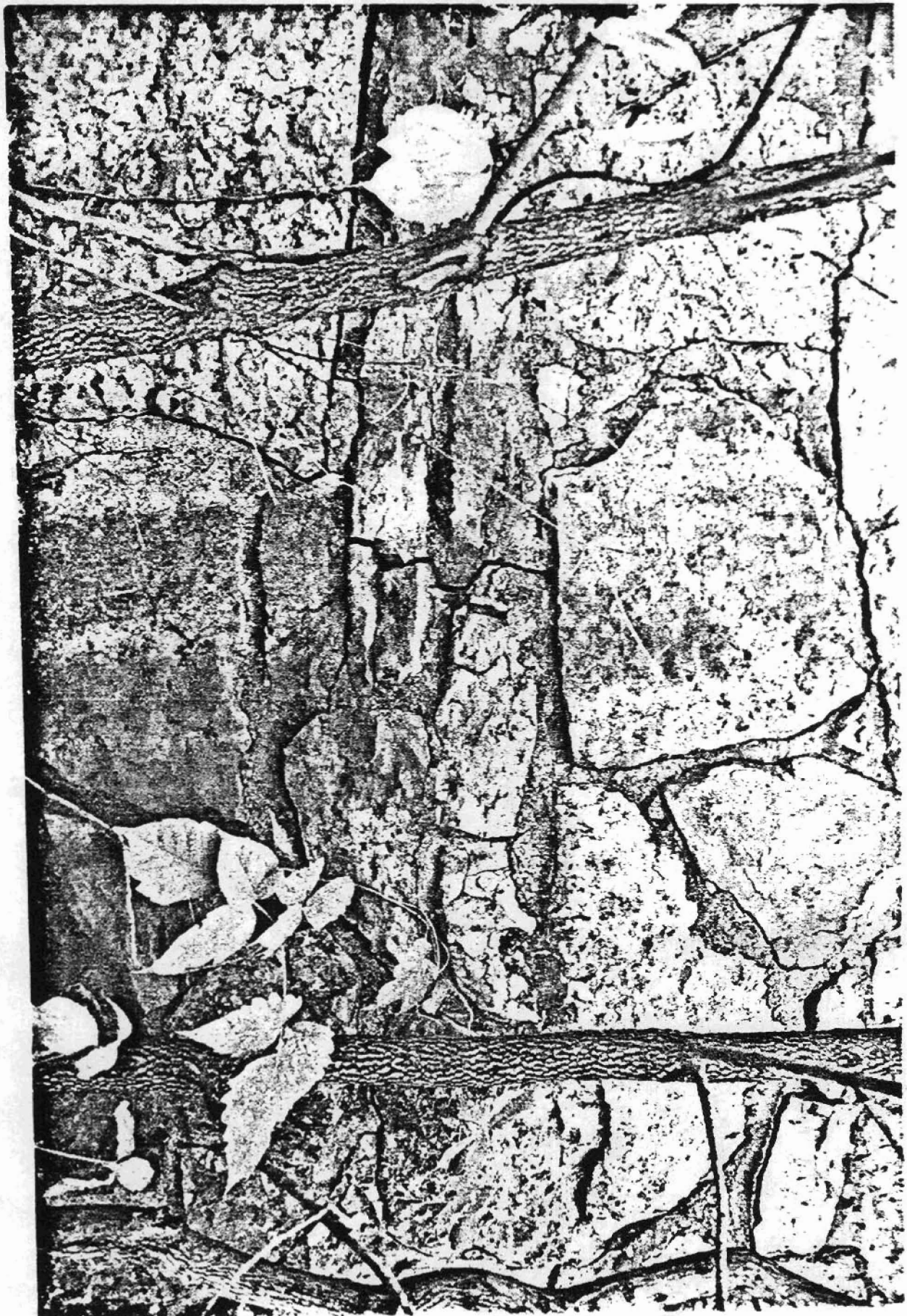
Bibliography

Bella Vista Historical Society, *The Bella Vista Story*, (1980).

Shipley, Ellen C., "The Pleasures of Prosperity, Bella Vista, Arkansas, 1917-1929,"  
*Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, vol. 37, No. 2, Summer, 1978.

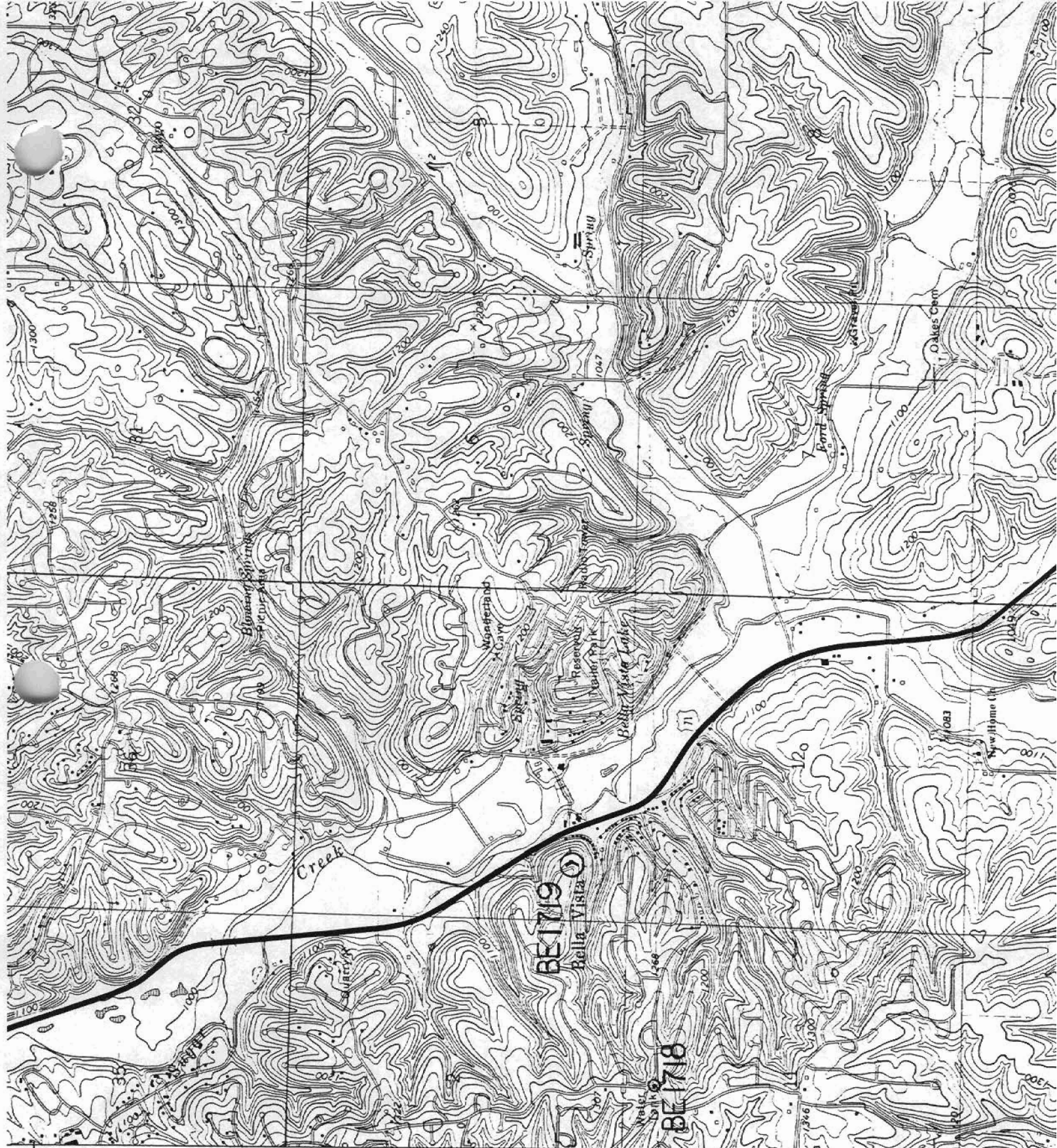








4035  
4034  
T. 21 N  
T. 20 N  
7156 V NE  
(HIMASSE)  
4032



Amendment to  
Historic Resources  
of Benton County

BE 1718  
Bella Vista Water  
Tank

Bella Vista, Arkansas  
UTM:  
15/388260/  
4032700