

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NB listed

1-20-2005

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 Byrd, Samuel D., Sr., Homestead

other names/site number GR0025

2. Location

street & number 15966 Highway 270 W

not for publication

city or town Poyen

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Grant

code 053

zip code 72128

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.)

Cadee Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/3/04
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

Byrd, Samuel D., Sr., Homestead

Grant County, Arkansas

Name of Property

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.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

	Contributing	Noncontributing	
	1	0	buildings
	0	0	sites
	3	0	structures
	1	0	objects
	5	0	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain/Traditional

foundation WOOD/ Log and CONCRETE

walls WOOD/ Log

roof METAL/ Tin

other Chimney/ BRICK

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)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1848- 1955

Significant Dates

1848

1850

1896

1930

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., Builder

Samuel D. Byrd, Jr., Builder

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:

Byrd, Samuel D., Sr., Homestead
Name of Property

Grant County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property Approximately one and a half acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>531084</u>	<u>3799911</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	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 William H. Byrd, Jr.; Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date September 28, 2004
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9874
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 Double B Farms of Grant County
street & number 15966 Highway 270 W telephone 501-332-8435
city or town Poyen state AR zip code 72128

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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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Constructed in four phases (dates: 1848, 1850, 1896, and 1930), the collection of wood-frame, Plain/Traditional style buildings and structures in Poyen, Grant County, Arkansas, comprises the Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., Homestead. Each building or structure in the collection is free of any distinctive and detailed ornamentation, as the use and functions of the homestead did not require such. Everything was built with the intention of fulfilling a specific role on the farmstead. As need dictated, or as the family prospered and grew in size, the house itself expanded accordingly. The house sits on wooden piers, with a half-front porch as well as a central sleeping porch/dogtrot. The western half of the (previously) full-front porch was enclosed in 1930 to accommodate the expanding family.

The south elevation of the house faces U.S. Highway 270 which replaced the wagon road that ran between Pine Bluff and Rockport at the time of the original construction. The land to the north and west drops in elevation as dictated by Big Creek which flows north to south. This area is prone to overflow during winter and spring inclement weather, but was used for summer truck crops. The structure was built in phases with the first construction being the log room followed by an additional room to the east separated by a breezeway or dogtrot. In 1896 two additional rooms were built onto the rear, or north, of the east room, as well as a shed room to the north of the original log room. In the early 1930s, the western portion of the front porch was enclosed. The house was occupied and maintained until the year 2000. The landscape around it is now wooded where it was once pastoral. In addition to the house three out buildings still exist giving us a representation of the rural farm of the era.

ELABORATION

Located one mile west of Poyen, Grant County, the Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., Homestead was constructed over a period of 82 years, beginning in 1848, by Samuel D. Byrd, Sr. The original building consisted of a single log room. With the exception of two doors, one to the south (or front) and the other to the north (or rear), there were no other openings in the house.

As is typical of dogtrots, the Byrd house consists of two rooms of similar size (17 feet by 17 feet) flanking either side of an eight foot wide breezeway. The original log room was constructed in 1848 by Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., shortly after his arrival to the Poyen area. This room had two doors, one opening to the east and the other to the south onto the full-front porch. The second room was constructed in 1850, and consisted of rough cut batten pine planks with two doors; one opening onto the south (front) porch and one onto the north (rear) porch. Two wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows were located on the south elevation of both rooms, one on either side of the each of the doors. Both rooms had chimneys, located on the exterior walls. There are indications that the log room had a porch on its west elevation prior to 1850.

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In 1896, two rooms and a shed room were added onto the north elevation of the structure. The rooms were added onto the 1850 construction, with each room measuring 10 feet by 16 feet. A portion of the north porch was removed to accommodate the new construction. The north door from the front room leads into the middle room, which served as a bedroom. A door exits west out of the middle room onto the dogtrot, and a second door in the room opens into the far north room which was utilized as a kitchen. The bedroom is fenestrated on the east elevation by a centrally-located single wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. The kitchen has a door that opens west onto the porch that was added onto the elevation, extending the original breezeway that links the 1848 construction with the 1850 construction. The east wall of the kitchen is pierced by two wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows.

In 1896, the shed room was added behind the original log construction. This was known as the "meal room," as this is where flour, corn meal, lard, etc., was stored. From this room, a door opens east onto the dogtrot, while a single wood-framed, double-hung, six-over-six window fenestrates the west wall.

In 1930, the western half of the front porch was enclosed to create yet another room for the family.

A cross-gabled roof covers the house. The rooms on the west are covered by a side-gabled roof, while the rooms to the east are covered by an end-gabled roof. The rafters over the log room consist of the original peeled poles without a ridge pole. The rafters of the log room were set directly onto the top log joists with no overhang. The north shed room rafters join onto the peeled pole rafters and are of rough cut lumber, forming a continuous dropped roof.

The roof that covers the 1850 construction was extended to cover the dogtrot and the new room. This was a continuation of the gable with the rafters being of rough cut pine minus a ridge pole. The roof over the 1896 eastern two rooms is gabled with an overhang on the east elevation, and continues with the same construction method of rough cut rafters minus a ridge pole. The 1930 enclosure, south porch and north porch are covered with a continuous dropped roof. The entire roof was covered with pine shake shingles until the 1950s when they were replaced with galvanized tin.

The entire structure, including the log room, was built on pine piers. The majority of these are still in place. There has been some addition of concrete blocks to further support the structure. Steps at the north and south elevations have been replaced frequently over the years and now have a hand rail that was added in the 1990s.

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South elevation

The south façade of the house faces U.S. Highway 270 West, and sits approximately 100 yards back from the road. The eastern bay of the elevation features a one-story, half-front porch that is covered by a shed roof. The porch is supported by six wooden posts, and the balustrade consists of horizontal wooden rails. The five wooden steps leading to the porch are made of wood, as well. The deep porch is open and the floor features rough cut pine planks.

The western bay of the elevation is fenestrated by two double-hung, wood-frame, four-over-four windows. This bay was originally open, forming a full-front porch; however, this portion of the porch was enclosed in 1930 to provide one of the Byrd sons with a private bedroom.

The middle bay is the dogtrot that connects the 1848 log room with the 1850 construction, and the flooring features rough cut pine planks. Five rough hewn pine plank steps lead to the dogtrot, with metal pipes serving as hand-rails. The hand rails were placed at the steps in the late 1990s.

The east bay is fenestrated by two double-hung, wood-frame, four-over-four windows that flank a centrally located wooden door. The exterior of the 1850 room is covered with batten rough cut pine planks.

West elevation

The west elevation is comprised of four bays. The bay on the far left is the side of the rear porch that was constructed in 1896. The porch is covered in a shed roof, and is supported by three pine posts.

The following bay is the board and batten-covered "meal room" that was constructed in 1896. This bay is fenestrated by a centrally located wood-framed, double-hung, six-over-six window.

The third bay is the 1848 log room. This bay is fenestrated by two side by side wood-framed, double-hung, six-over-six windows that are centered where one of the chimneys had previously been located. The side gabled end of the roof is centered on this bay, and is free of any decorative detail work. The bay is covered with board and batten pine planks.

The fourth, and final, bay on the west elevation is comprised of the 1930 enclosure. This bay is free of fenestration, and is covered with pine weatherboard.

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North elevation

The north, or rear, elevation of the house is comprised of three bays. The eastern bay is the rear of the 1896 kitchen. This elevation features the gabled-end of the front gabled roof section. The bay is pierced by a centrally-located wood-framed, double-hung, four-over-four window. There is neither decoration nor detail work at the peak of the gable end, and board and batten pine planks cover the exterior wall.

The middle bay of this elevation is the dogtrot that connects the 1848 log room with the 1850 construction, and the flooring features rough cut pine planks. Four rough hewn pine planks serve as steps, leading onto the dogtrot. A metal handrail was added to the right side of the steps in the late 1990s. A rather short balustrade, comprised of simple pine rails, flank either side of the entryway onto the dogtrot.

The bay to the far right is the rear of the "meal room." Board and batten pine planks cover the exterior, with this bay being free of fenestration.

East elevation

Four bays comprise the east elevation. The left, or southern-most, bay is the side of the half-front porch. The dropped roof porch is covered in a corrugated metal shed roof that is supported by six wooden posts, one of which is visible from this elevation.

The next bay is the side of the 1850 constructed room. The one remaining brick chimney is centered on this bay, extending a foot, or so, above the side gabled end of the roof. The bay is free of fenestration.

A single wood-framed, double-hung, four-over-four window pierces the third bay. This bay, as well as the previous and proceeding bays, is covered by board and batten pine planks.

The fourth, and last, bay is fenestrated by two wood-framed, double-hung, four-over-four windows that are centered on the bay.

Interior

The interior of the structure remains at least ninety percent as originally constructed. The walls of the south room adjoining the log room (the room that was formed by enclosing the eastern half of the front porch) are covered with planed tongue and groove pine lumber.

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The log room remained a log interior with batten boards over the cracks until sometime around 1920. At that time, with the removal of the mud chimney and the addition of the windows, the west and east walls were covered with planed tongue and groove lumber. In the late 1900s, the plank flooring was removed, and numbered for reinstallation, in order for the floor piers and joists to be replaced. The north and south log walls were covered with paneling to cover weather deterioration.

The north shed room abutting the log room was also refurbished in this same time frame. The exterior walls were reinstalled and closed in on the interior. In addition, the floor piers and joists were replaced.

The interior walls of the 1850 room are covered with tongue and groove planed pine, as is the ceiling. The floor was originally pine planked until the late 1940s, when it was replaced with tongue and groove pine flooring. Centered on the east wall is the hearth. There are two wood-framed, double-hung, four-over-four windows, one on either side of the door centered on the south wall that leads onto the porch. There is a second door to the room, and it is centered on the north wall, leading into the 1896 middle room, which is a bedroom.

The middle room walls and ceiling are covered with the same tongue and groove planed pine lumber. The floor consists of pine planking. There are two doors exiting this room: one is centered on the west wall, leading onto the dogtrot, and the other opens into the north room, or the kitchen. This was an open passageway until the late 1990s when the door was added. A window is centered on the east wall.

The north room, which served as the kitchen, has walls that are of tongue and groove planed pine lumber. The floor is pine planks. The ceiling is of rough cut pine planks placed on the ceiling joists. A door is centered on the west wall, giving access to the north porch. There are two windows: one centered on the north wall, and the other centered on the east wall.

Outbuildings

There are three outbuildings and a well associated with the house, all of which are contributing structures/objects to the nomination. The wood-framed fruit cellar, which sits a few hundred feet due west of the house, is rectangular in plan and the roof is covered in galvanized tin. Tar paper covers a majority of the original exterior weatherboard wall material, but a sufficient amount of the weatherboard is discernable. The Plain/Traditional style structure is simple in design and function, such as the main house and other outbuildings. All four elevations are free of fenestration; however, one crude door is present, centered on the south, or front elevation. There is a stove pipe protruding from the rear, or north, elevation. No distinctive detail work is present on any of the elevations, as the structure's function and use did not require such.

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A small equipment shed is located a few hundred feet to the north-northwest of the house. The roof of the wood-framed structure is more steeply-pitched than the other two outbuildings, and is covered in galvanized tin. There is no tar paper evident on the weatherboard exterior walls. A door is located on the eastern edge of the south, or front, elevation. The remaining elevations are free of doors, and all elevations are free of fenestration. The Plain/Traditional style structure is free of any distinctive design and detail work.

The third outbuilding, a wood-framed smokehouse, sits several hundred feet to the east-northeast of the house. It is rectangular in plan and is covered in galvanized tin roofing, with weatherboard covering the exterior walls. The simple end-gabled Plain/Traditional style structure is free of fenestration and distinctive detail work. A three-quarter height door is centered on the south, or front, façade, and a small vent door is located in the gable peak. Tar paper is present on the upper half of the east elevation, though its appearance is minimal. As with the fruit cellar the lack of detail work and fenestration is a reflection upon the structure's function and use.

The brick well, located just off the northeast corner of the rear porch, is roughly two and a half feet tall. There is no cover over the well, as it has not been in use since 2000. According to the property owner, this is the last of several wells that were built over a period of years on the farmstead.

All three of the outbuildings and the one well are arranged in close proximity to one another and the house. Because of the spatial arrangement of the house, associated outbuildings and the well, it is very easy to discern them from the relatively newly constructed buildings which are located quite a few hundred yards due east of this collection.

INTEGRITY

The Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., Homestead, built over a period of 82 years beginning in 1848, retains all seven elements of integrity. Although several additions have been constructed, all are historic in nature, with the last addition dating to 1930. The outbuildings and well, though no longer in use, appear today as they did when built. At the time of construction, the homestead was built on land that would be incorporated into Poyen, a town that grew around a sawmill and the Rock Island rail line. As the town prospered and grew, so did the Byrd Family. The evolution of one-room log cabin into a multi-room dogtrot with several outbuildings that supported the lives of the Byrd's and their land, the house itself is a wonderful example of a Plain/Traditional dogtrot that exemplifies the family's adaptation to their needs and surroundings.

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SUMMARY

Constructed in four distinctive phases: 1848, 1850, 1896, and 1930, the Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., Homestead is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a wonderful example of a Plain/Traditional dogtrot house in Poyen, Grant County, Arkansas. The house exemplifies the transformation from a one-room log cabin into an L-shaped dogtrot over a period of 82 years. In addition to the house, a nice collection of three contributing ancillary structures and one contributing object has helped create the Byrd Homestead as both the Byrd family and the Poyen area grew. The property evolved during the period directly prior to and after the Civil War, as both labor and land resources became available. These early settlers transformed rude structures into livable homes that served their families' needs, as well as the needs of travelers through the Poyen area. Because of the Byrd Homestead's association with Poyen's early settlement, the property is also eligible for nomination under **Criterion A**. The property has remained in the ownership of a single family for over 160 years.

ELABORATION

The Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., Homestead was constructed beginning in the late 1840's in the vicinity of Poyen, Arkansas, during the early settlement period of eastern Fenter Township in Hot Spring County. Grant County was not formed until January 4, 1869. The county was named after President U. S. Grant, and the county seat bears the name of one of Grant's Civil War colleagues, Lt. Gen. P. H. Sheridan. Grant County was formed from portions of Jefferson, Saline, and Hot Spring Counties located around Hurricane Creek, where the area was inhabited by roughly 4,000 people.

The house was crafted with both pioneer log construction methods, as well as early state of the art pioneer carpentry. Despite modifications over the years, the structure has maintained its original craftsmanship and appearance. It represents a typical functional home as constructed by immigrants from the south. It was constructed in phases as the growing family necessitated, and funds and materials became available.

Family history supports that the log room and adjoining east room was built by Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., with the help of one or more of his brothers in 1848 and 1850. This house is one of the oldest structures still standing in Grant County as well as being continually occupied as a principal residence until the year 2000. The area where the property is located was between warring factions of the Civil War, surviving the bands that raided, looted and pillaged settlers' homes in this area. It survived as a working family farm from its inception until the late 1980s. The home is an enduring legacy to the central Arkansas settlement process.

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In the 1846-1848 era, the area where the Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., home is located was known as Fenter Township, Hot Spring County, Arkansas. Specifically it was located in eastern Fenter Township in a place known as Crossroads about two miles west of Pratt's Ferry on the Saline River. The name Crossroads is attributed to the existence of four wagon roads intersecting at this location. The north road went through a plantation area intersecting with the military road leading from Rockport to Benton. The east road meandered to the Saline River at Pratt's Ferry continuing on through small settlement farms to Pine Bluff. The south road traveled through present day Leola intersecting the military road from Rockport to Camden by way of Tulip. The west road worked its way through the Big Creek settlement into Rockport. The area east of Crossroads was characterized by the Saline River bottom land consisting of large white oak timber resources. The lay of the land east of the Crossroads began to rise in elevation. It was in this area that Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., opted to settle.

Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., migrated west to Arkansas from the area of Pickwick Landing, Hardin County, Tennessee, around 1846-1848. He traveled to the area with other members of his family. Specifically, the other members of his family were brothers Lawrence Cherry Byrd; William Buck Byrd; a sister and brother-in-law, John Barnes and Emmaline Jane Byrd and their families. John and Emmaline settled in the Grapevine area in Grant County south of present day Sheridan. Samuel, Lawrence and William Buck settled in the Poyen and Big Creek areas. There is family lore that Lawrence and his wife, Hannah Delaney Batchelor, operated an inn for travelers, just south of Samuel's homestead, where they provided food, bedding, forage for the animals and libations. They had moved west into the Big Creek community prior to the Civil War; however, they were in residence at Poyen during the time Samuel built the log room in 1848. Samuel was noted on the poll tax rolls for 1848 in Fenter Township, Hot Spring County, Arkansas. It is highly probable that Lawrence and his family shared Samuel's residence at the same time.

In 1850 in Hot Spring County, Arkansas, Samuel was married to Tabitha Jane Reed by Eli Soffield, an ordained minister. There is substantial genealogy tracing Samuel's family, but as of present all is known of Tabitha Jane is that she was from Tennessee. Samuel and Tabitha are listed on the 1850 census in Fenter Township with his age as 36 and hers as 16. After their marriage, the east room was constructed with a dogtrot separating the two rooms. Samuel D. and Tabitha had seven children, including: Lovey A., William S., Mary M., Susan C., Matilda Roxie, James C., and Samuel D, Jr. On July 1, 1857, Samuel Byrd, Sr., was issued a Patent from the United States of America containing 80 acres and purchased same. The 1860 census records Samuel, Sr., as head of household with Jane and three children.

There is no record of Samuel, Sr., serving on either side during the Civil War. The war did have its presence in the vicinity of the homestead with the battle of Jenkins Ferry occurring approximately ten miles south-southeast of their home. Samuel D.'s brother, Lawrence, who resided about five miles west in the Big Creek community, was hung by Jayhawkers (or Scalawags) when he refused to give them

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money. Approximately two years after the Civil War ended, the family found a sword in Little Rhinehart Creek which probably belonged to one of Fagan's cavalymen who lost it as they traveled from Pratt's Ferry to Arkadelphia at the time of the Battle of Jenkins Ferry.

The 1870 census lists Samuel, Sr., as head of household and his occupation as farmer along with Jane and six children. His personal worth was \$200 and a real worth of \$240. Four of the children were listed as being in school. They undoubtedly attended the 1855 school located next to School House Ford on Francois Creek, the Batchelor School or the one built in Crossroads after the Civil War. Samuel, Jr., who could neither read nor write, did recall attending school when farming duties did not prevent attendance. He commented many times about the chore of getting to and from school through the woods and trails. When Samuel, Jr., was six years old (somewhere around 1873) his little dog died. His brother, William Smyth, helped him bury it and planted a pine tree at its head. The tree still exists today north of the house and is known today as the Grant County Centennial tree.

The family was utilized in operating the farm. They grew crops to feed the livestock, cotton for a cash crop, and vegetables for their consumption. In 1889, Samuel, Sr., was a charter member of the Poyen Missionary Baptist church. On September 15, 1890, Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., deeded to Tabitha Jane Byrd 40 acres of said property during her lifetime and upon her death to Samuel D. Byrd, Jr. Also on September 15, 1890, Samuel, Sr., and Tabitha Jane deeded the additional 40 acres to Samuel, Jr., and Miranda E. Byrd. On April 18, 1891, Thomas F. Sweeney and Miranda E. Byrd Sweeney by warranty deed sold to Samuel D. Byrd, Jr., her portion of the additional 40 acres. Samuel D., Sr., preceded his wife in death and Tabitha Jane died in 1897. They are both interred in Poyen's Lindsey Cemetery.

Upon the death of Tabitha Jane Byrd in 1897, the ownership of the homestead transferred to Samuel D. Byrd, Jr. Samuel, Jr., married Susan Amanda Ballard in January 1896. With his mother still living, and with a new bride, he added the three north rooms onto the existing structure. Samuel, Jr., and Susan had seven children, including: William Hobart, Samuel Daniel, III, John Wesley, David Hugh, Martin D., Madge Cleo and Arvin Elwood. Samuel pursued a career as a farmer in the same mode as his father. He also worked in the timber industry as it existed in and around Poyen. He was very active in the Woodmen of the World. There is also some documentation that he served as an agent for persons selling or procuring property in the area.

Poyen became a town in 1908 when J. W. Hamlen and Sons built a sawmill at Crossroads. They built a commissary store, plotted off a town site, and sold the lots. The Rock Island, Arkansas, and Louisiana Railroad Company had built a line previous to this in 1905, making the establishment of the town a possibility. Poyen also saw the emergence of a post office and the construction of a two story frame school in 1908. Shortly after Hamlen and Sons built the sawmill at Crossroads, several other sawmills were constructed in the area, as well as a cotton gin, and a brick plant. The area still maintained its small farm agriculture personality combined with the increasing timber industry. Susan Amanda was active in

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women's organizations of the period, notably the Poyen Home Demonstration Club. The family worked on their farm, and neighbors' farms, as was the custom at the time. The children attended the Poyen School and received their education to the level offered at the time.

With the advent of World War I, William Hobart enlisted in the army and served as a medic in the Fourth Division in France and later in the occupation of the Rhineland. Upon his return home, he farmed on the family land with his father and those brothers still at home. He attended college and became a school teacher in Poyen, Fenter, and Sheridan. He served two terms as Justice of Peace for Fenter Township. He married Nancy Bertha Sheppard, the daughter of William Sheppard, a former County Judge of Grant County. They resided in Poyen and Prattsville, teaching school and farming on the home place. The Depression forced them to seek employment elsewhere and they moved to Illinois and Texas where he was employed in the oil industry. They returned to Arkansas upon retirement in 1962. He was active with his two brothers and sister who resided on the home place until his death at the age of 83 in 1980.

John Wesley Byrd pursued a career in and around Poyen as a carpenter and a worker in the timber industry. He married Zelma Ashcraft from the Prattsville community. He died at the age of 81 in 1981.

David Hugh married Jamie Hamilton and pursued a career early in the oil field before settling in as a carpenter and general contractor in Malvern and Hot Springs area. David died at the age of 85 in 1986.

Martin Byrd never married and was engaged during his lifetime exclusively in the timber industry where he was a timber scout. He died at the age of 72 in 1977.

Madge Cleo remained unwed taking care of her mother and father. Upon their deaths, she stayed at the home place with her two brothers. She was a talented seamstress specializing in quilts. One of her quilts was accessioned into the Smithsonian Institution's collections. She continued in an active role living in the house until her death at the age of 90 in 2000. She was the last permanent resident of the Samuel Byrd home.

Arvin Elwood was the youngest sibling and in 1943, became the owner of the property when his mother and father deeded the property to him. Arvin served in WW II in the China-Burma theater. Upon being drafted he was stationed at Fort Brown, Texas, with the 124th Mounted Cavalry. They were sent to India and were instrumental in connecting the Burma and Ledo roads which were vital in providing supplies to the Nationalist Chinese Army. After the war he settled onto the farm continuing the activities of prior families. The farm harvested corn, hay, sorghum cane, and various truck crops specializing in sweet potatoes. He was further engaged in buying and selling timber lands. He died in 1993 at the age of 82.

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William Hobart, Jr., the current owner of the homestead, is the great-grandson of Samuel D. Byrd, Sr. He and his wife, Betty Sue Byrd, have lived at the site since 1993.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFIANCE

Constructed in four distinctive phases: 1848, 1850, 1896, and 1930, the Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., Homestead is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a wonderful example of a Plain/Traditional dogtrot house in Poyen, Grant County, Arkansas. The house exemplifies the transformation from a one-room log cabin into an L-shaped dogtrot over a period of 82 years. In addition to the house, a nice collection of three contributing ancillary structures and one contributing object has helped create the Byrd Homestead as both the Byrd family and the Poyen area grew. The property evolved during the period directly prior to and after the Civil War, as both labor and land resources became available. These early settlers transformed rude structures into livable homes that served their families' needs, as well as the needs of travelers through the Poyen area. Because of the Byrd Homestead's association with Poyen's early settlement, the property is also eligible for nomination under **Criterion A**. The property has remained in the ownership of a single family for over 160 years.

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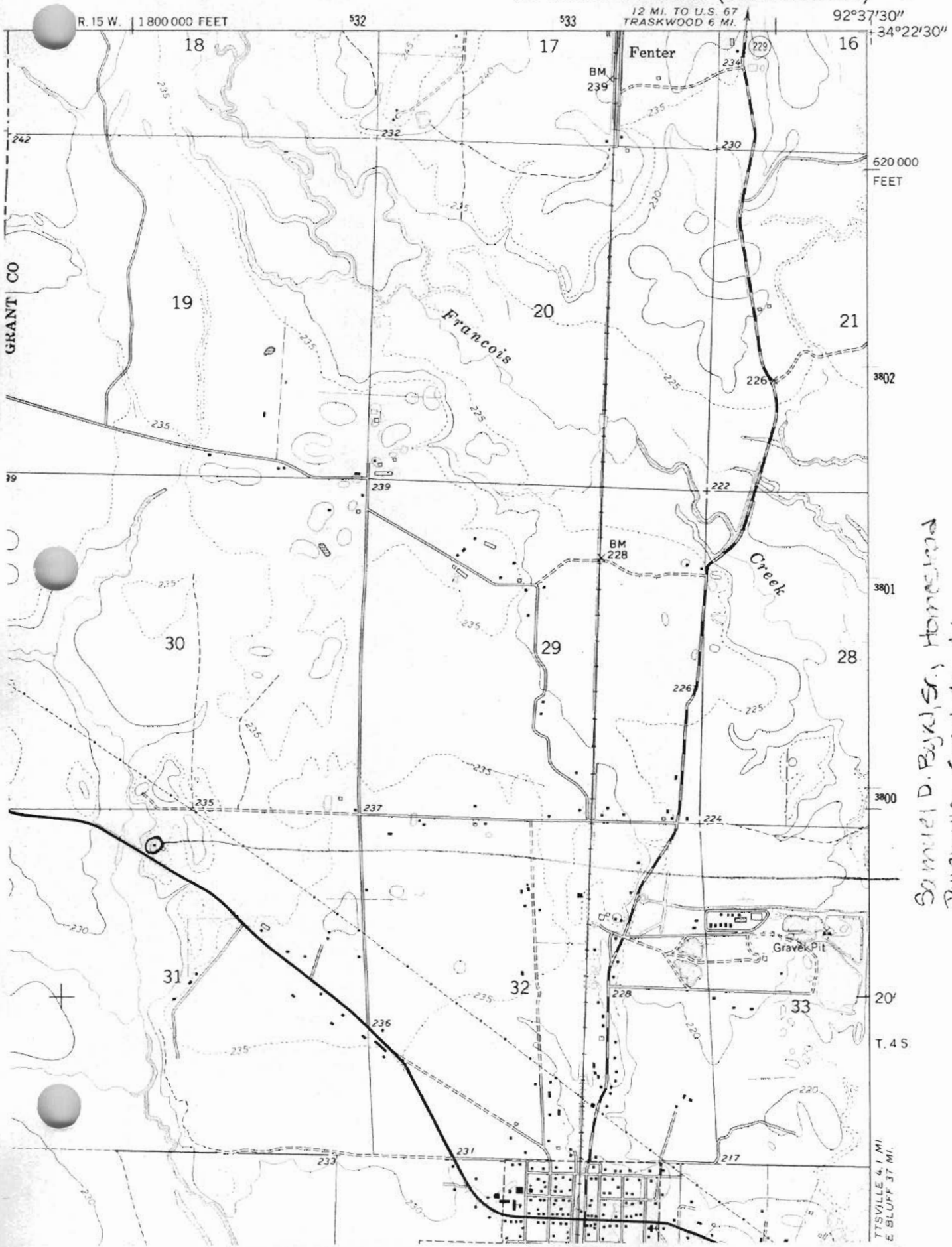
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POYEN QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

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Samuel D. Boyd, Sr., Home and
Poyen, Ark., Grant Co., Ark.
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Starting at Big Creek, proceed southeast on U.S. Highway 270 W 330 feet to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning, proceed southeasterly 310 feet, thence proceed northeasterly 290 feet, thence proceed northwesterly 310 feet, thence proceed southwesterly 290 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes all land that is historically associated with the Samuel D. Byrd, Sr., Homestead that retains integrity.

