

**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 Arnold Springs Farmstead
other names/site number Site #IZ0031

2. Location

street & number North end of Jennings Lane not for publication
city or town Melbourne vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Izard code 065 zip code 72556

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 _____

Arnold Springs Farmstead

Name of Property

Izard, 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	
5	2	buildings
2		sites
2		structures
2		objects
11	2	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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- AGRICULTURE/storage
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/animal facility
- AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- VACANT/NOT IN USE
- LANDSCAPE/natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- OTHER/Plain-Traditional
- MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE
- walls WOOD
- roof METAL
- other

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)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

c.1857-1960

Significant Dates

c.1857

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/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:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>600063</u> Easting	<u>3991561</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 Joan Gould, Consultant, and edited by Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date March 3, 2010
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787
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 _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Nestled in a rural setting north of State Highway 69 at the northeastern edge of the city of Melbourne, Izard County, and protected from the surrounding modern development by extensive acreage sits the Arnold Springs Farmstead. The house is an important example of the state's mid-nineteenth-century rural architecture with its adaptation over time. The Arnold Springs dwelling house, with vernacular Greek Revival influences that were used to transform the original 1850s log dogtrot style house into a central-hall I-house style, reflects common architectural transitions in rural Arkansas. The farmstead includes a log mule barn, smokehouse, stone springhouse, barns and miscellaneous outbuildings of varying dates of construction that reflect changing agricultural functions. With a history of Arnold family ownership for the past 132 years – and continuously occupied until 1991 - the house has been respectfully maintained with minimal contemporary adaptations. The architectural heritage of the Arnold Springs Farmstead alone is significant. When coupled with the role the farmstead and its occupants played in the settlement of the community of Melbourne and the farming history of North Arkansas its impact is significantly expanded.

ELABORATION

The Arnold Springs Farmstead has been owned by only three families over the span of its existence. Alterations to the dwelling house, while not attributed to a particular craftsman, can be attributed primarily to two specific time periods – late-1850s for initial construction with late-nineteenth century alterations. The latter date corresponds with when the property came under the ownership of the Arnold family from which it derives its historic name and when the antebellum open central breezeway or dogtrot folk house is considered to have been transformed into an I-house with stylistic detailing.

The present owner descends from the multiple generations of the Arnold family who continued to occupy the log house until 1991 attributing to its preservation. Since 1991 the house and surrounding farm outbuildings have been unoccupied. The property is maintained by the present owner, Ina Jennings Ramsey, who lives on adjacent land.

The farmstead site is one of gently rolling hills, pasture, and timber. The long axis of the log house is oriented generally east/west with outbuildings positioned to the north, south, and west. Mill Creek fronts the house to the south and the double springs from which this historic property garners its name are located to the southwest.

The framework for the full two-story dwelling house is native yellow pine logs harvested from nearby pineries. Dendrochronology studies conducted for the Early Arkansas Settlement Study, Part II (funded in part by a grant from the Arkansas Humanities Council and the Department of Arkansas Heritage) by Dr. David Stahle, Director of the University of Arkansas Tree-ring Laboratory, revealed that the trees used for the logs were cut in 1855 and 1856. Providing for the pre-requisite period of seasoning, a construction date of 1857 is attributed to the structure. The logs are generally uniform in width and carefully hewn and dressed

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(smoothed with a draw knife) so as to be considered 'planking.' The corners are joined with half-dovetail notching.

From existing evidence, it appears that the log framework was weather-boarded with beveled pine siding applied to vertical wood stripping immediately following initial construction. The interstices between the logs reveal no sign of chinking or daubing having been applied. The spaces are covered with the siding on exterior and a combination of chamfered battens and vertical sheathing on the interior.

The structure rests on a locally quarried continuous stone foundation. Opening onto the south (front) elevation of the west pen is a cellar lined with the same quarried stone accessible by a south-facing bulkhead entry with stone steps. A wooden door had covered the cellar entry. Presently, it is covered by tin.

The south (front) elevation is composed of two 18 feet 10 inches full two story log pens separated by a 10 foot enclosed hallway. For the initial 1857 configuration of the structure this hallway is considered to have been open forming a breezeway or, in vernacular terms, a dogtrot style house. Two, six-over-six, double-hung window sashes are centered on the upper level of this elevation and appear to be remnants of the initial construction period.

On the lower-level of the south elevation there are four, four-over-four, double-hung windows – two symmetrically aligned on each of the log pens. These are considered to have been associated with late-nineteenth century revisions. All windows are encased with unadorned trim. The three windows of the west pen of this elevation feature modern storm windows. The two lower-level windows of the east pen are covered with plastic on the exterior.

The existing side-gabled roof is corrugated tin installed on rough circular sawn lathing or stripping. The spacing indicates that wood shingles approximately 24 – 28 inches in length covered the structure following the late-nineteenth-century alterations. The approximate ten-inch roof overhang is considered to have been created in association with late-nineteenth century vernacular Greek Revival influences including a simple cornice and wide unadorned frieze trimming the roof-wall junction on all elevations. On the south (front) elevation the trim is punctuated with finely crafted brackets. Additional classical influences that exist at each end of the elevation feature quarter-round trim applied with two-story undecorated corner boards joined to half-round trim, creating rounded corners topped with Tuscan-influenced capitals.

The classical detailing is continued on the single bay two story gabled porch enclosing the central breezeway. The porch gable features wood brackets with cornice and frieze matching the trim of the roof-wall junction. The porch columns are square with the same Tuscan-inspired capitals on the upper porch as applied as end trim of this elevation. The upper porch is supported by the house and square columns and

features hand-crafted lattice trim below a railing. Both levels have board ceilings. The first-level of the porch featured side

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railings with built-in benches on either side. Only remnants of these railings and benches remain. Stone steps serve the porch entry.

The original breezeway or dogtrot features late-nineteenth-century enclosures on both levels of the south elevation creating a central-hall I-house floor plan. The south entrance features two hand-crafted four-panel stile-and-rail wood doors with sidelights (presently missing) with panels below. The sidelights and doors are encased with plain wood trim. Matching four-panel stile-and-rail wood doors with no sidelights adorn the second level door opening. All doors of the house appear to have original hardware. All house trim appears to have been painted with a color contrasting with the siding.

The north (rear) elevation of the central hallway features two, full-height clinch-nailed, board-and-batten doors, each over four feet in width, that swing outward exposing the entire hall to the outside and, thereby, retaining some of the advantages of the open breezeway or 'dogtrot' of the original house plan. The exterior of the upper-level of the hall is sheathed with siding with a centered window opening that is boarded-over.

The east pen of the north (rear) elevation was originally sided with the same beveled weatherboards as the remainder of the structure. This siding is now missing and the log framework is exposed. This pen features one centered window opening on each level. The upper level opening contains two four-light sashes placed side-by-side. The lower level window opening features two, four-over-four, double-hung sashes. Both window openings feature plain trim.

A shed extension considered to be associated with the late-nineteenth-century period alterations covers the entire length of the west pen of the north (rear) elevation and is covered with weatherboarding. A detached kitchen located behind the west log pen is noted to have been associated with the antebellum period.

A narrow contemporary shed extension is applied to the earlier shed and is covered with synthetic siding. This siding incorporates the east wall of both sheds.

The east and west end elevations each feature a centered exterior stone chimney that punctuates the roof line at the top of the gable. Both are constructed of the same locally quarried stone as found in the structure's foundation and cellar. The west chimney mass is larger than the east chimney; the west has five ledges at the shoulders; the east has three ledges. Above the shoulders the west chimney is slightly narrower than the east. The foundation for the west chimney is larger due to necessary adjustments for the land grade.

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Interior Features

A variety of architectural details and decorative treatments are found on the interior of the house.

Lower-level west pen: Multiple layers of wallpaper cover vertical pine sheathing. The exposed joists of the upper-level are painted. The joists are sawn lumber and lack decorative beading or trim. An enclosed corner staircase with original door, considered to be from the original period of construction, is located in the northwest corner of the room. The untreated pine fireplace mantel reveals side columns with Tuscan-inspired capitals matching exterior trim and is considered to be part of the decorative upgrades from the late nineteenth century. The firebox opening has been in-filled with stone and mortar with a flue opening for a wood-burning stove. The door to the central hallway features a hand-crafted, six-panel, stile-and-rail door matching the design of the entry doors on the south (front) elevation.

Lower-level central hallway (original breezeway or dogtrot): The walls of this ten-foot wide hallway feature chamfered battens covering the interstices between the log framework of the east wall of the west pen and the west wall of the east pen. An enclosed staircase in the southeast corner rises to the upper-level.

Lower-level east pen: The random-width vertical board walls and exposed flooring joists of the upper-level are painted. A stone firebox centered on the east wall of the east pen is surrounded by a mantel matching the mantel of the lower-level west pen. This mantel is painted. This firebox opening has also been in-filled with stone and mortar with a flue opening for a wood-burning stove.

Lower-level shed extensions: The earlier shed extension along the north wall of the west pen is considered to have been added in the late-nineteenth-century alterations. Prior to that period a detached kitchen was located in close proximity to this north wall of the west pen. A kitchen was located in this shed. In the late twentieth century a bathroom and pantry were added in a small shed attached to the rear of the earlier shed and is enclosed with synthetic siding on the exterior and features acoustic ceiling tiles on the interior.

Upper-level west pen: The walls are vertical boards with board ceiling covering the underside of attic-level joists.

Upper-level central hallway: The walls feature the same chamfered batten treatment covering log interstices as is seen on the lower-level and appear to be from the period of original construction. The ceiling is unfinished boards laid loose over attic joists with this being the attic access. The doors from the east and west pens opening onto the hallway are clinch-nailed board-and-batten.

Upper-level east pen: The walls are vertical boards with ceiling boards laid loose over attic-level joists.

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Number, Type, and Function of Outbuildings

The Arnold Springs Farmstead sits on the first terraces on the north and south sides of Mill Creek, one of the geographical features fostering initial settlement. Mill Creek, fed by an ever-flowing spring, rises approximately one mile east of the farmstead. Two springs rise within this distance. Within the farmstead boundaries two additional ever-flowing springs flow into the water of the creek. A 1923 map of the Melbourne vicinity shows a road called the 'Old Wagon Road' following Mill Creek across the farmstead and adjacent to what is marked as 'Arnold Spring' with the 'Hosea Arnold' house also indicated. To the west this roadway led to the Izard County Courthouse in Melbourne.

In addition to the two story dwelling house the site includes several nineteenth- and twentieth-century outbuildings that have been constructed by the Arnold family and served them in their agricultural enterprises. Remnants of a stone springhouse at the site of the double springs and a log mule barn date to the nineteenth century. Twentieth-century structures include a smokehouse, dairy barn, milk house, apple house, and chicken house.

Springhouse (Contributing): The remnants of the nineteenth-century dry-stacked sandstone springhouse measuring approximately 7 feet east to west by 10 feet north to south with a 6 foot trough for storing food products along the east wall. The entry was at the north end of this wall. No evidence of the roof remains.

Mule Barn (Contributing) #7 on site map: The 'mule barn' was constructed and so named by the Arnold family who used mules for farming activities. It is located on the south bank of the creek. It consists of one yellow pine log pen approximately 22 feet square with half-dovetail notching and a gable roof running north and south. Remnants of flooring in the main pen indicate it was used for grain storage. Large wooden pegs aligned in the logs along the north and south gable ends were used for hanging the harnesses for the mules. Remnants of an enclosed pen exist on the south gable end and a ten-foot shed extension along the east elevation. A well with hand-pump is located off the northwest corner of the structure.

Smokehouse (Contributing) #5 on site map: The early-twentieth-century, box-frame, gable-roofed board-and-batten smokehouse is located to the north of the rear shed extensions of the dwelling house. It rests on sandstone block piers at the corners. While called a 'smokehouse' it was never used to smoke meats but to preserve them with salt and store them. A shelf had been attached to the exterior of the front (south) elevation that also initially featured an overhang covering the board-and-batten door off-set to the west. The roof is tin and the interior has board flooring.

Dairy Barn (Contributing) #3 on site map: The balloon-framed 24 feet (north/south) by 24.5 feet (east/west) structure located on the north boundary of the farmstead was named the 'dairy barn' by the

Arnold family as it housed the dairy cattle. It takes the form of a gable end central hall barn with enclosed stalls for dairy cows along the north side. The south side consists of two grain bins in the west end with the

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east end open as a runway. The floor is dirt and the roof is tin.

Milk House (Contributing) #1 on site map: The balloon-framed structure to the west of the dwelling served as a place to milk the dairy cows. Dimensions of the building are 11.5 feet (east/west gable end) by 23.5 feet (north/south). The interior features two animal chutes sitting on raised concrete floors. Two doors and two, four-light, single-sash, fixed windows are located on the east and west elevations. A late-twentieth-century long shed extension open to the east is attached to the south gable end and was used for vehicle parking.

Chicken House (Contributing) #2 on site map: A small 11 feet x 10.5 feet, twentieth-century, balloon-frame structure with dirt floor sheathed with widely spaced horizontal boards with a gable roof is located between the dwelling and the Milk House. This structure served as a Chicken House and contains remnants of equipment for this purpose.

Stone Wall (Contributing): A low stone wall is located in front of the house and runs the length of the house. It was built as a low retaining wall on the north side of an old road that ran through the property.

Bridge (Contributing): The bridge is a single-span, concrete-deck bridge that carries the driveway across Mill Creek and connects the farmstead with Jennings Lane. The bridge is approximately fifteen feet long and ten feet wide.

Apple Barn Foundation (Contributing): The apple barn foundation is rectangular and constructed out of large cut-stone blocks. The foundation is approximately five feet tall. It is located to the west of the Milk House.

City Well (Contributing): The city well consists of a square cast-concrete box with a square metal cap on top. It measures approximately four feet square and approximately three feet tall.

Shed (Non-Contributing) #4 on site map: The shed, which is located to the northwest of the house and west of the smokehouse, is approximately six feet tall, eight feet long, and six feet wide. The bottom part of the shed is sided with corrugated metal sheeting while the top part of the shed consists of a pickup truck bed cap. The east end of the shed is open except for the upward-opening flap on the truck cap. It was likely built in the 1970s or 1980s.

Garden Shed (Non-Contributing) #6 on site map: The garden shed is located to the east of the main house and is a square building sided in corrugated metal sheeting. The shed is approximately six feet square and

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has a north-facing shed roof. A small open porch is located on the south side, which shelters the shed's entrance. There was no visible fenestration. The date of construction is unknown, but likely after 1960.

Integrity

The Arnold Springs Farmstead has excellent integrity. The main house, with the exception of the addition on the rear still very much exhibits its nineteenth-century construction and design. In addition, the number of outbuildings and site features are easily able to convey the design and evolution of a nineteenth- and twentieth-century rural family farm in Izard County. Although the property is located only approximately one-mile from downtown the setting around the Farmstead is still very rural and isolated, which reflects the setting of the area in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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SUMMARY

For more than one hundred years the Arnold Springs Farmstead has had significant association with the historical and architectural development of the county seat of Melbourne, Izard County, Arkansas. Situated along a historic roadway and incorporating two ever-flowing springs, the site has influenced the farming and commercial history of North Arkansas as well as its early settlement history. The dwelling house served as a family residence and a tavern (stand) for the region and in the early 1860s local companies of Confederate soldiers who served in the 7th Arkansas Infantry and 14th Arkansas Infantry were formed at the site of the springs. After the Civil War the farmstead served as a commercial nursery and was home to a local justice of the peace. Due to its importance to the commercial, agricultural, and settlement history of the Melbourne area, the Arnold Springs Farmstead is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A with local significance**.

Architecturally, the dwelling house reflects the rural vernacular folk building traditions of the mid-nineteenth century as well as the continuing popularity of classically-inspired influences into the late-nineteenth century in rural Arkansas. The Arnold Springs Farmstead represents a significant example of a mid-nineteenth-century log dogtrot residence, and as a result is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

ELABORATION

The existence of good natural resources was often the magnet that attracted the earliest settlers. Just who were the very first Anglo American settlers to make claims at the cluster of the four biggest springs on Mill Creek in what was to become Izard County is presently undetermined. It is known that the earliest mill that gave Mill Creek its name was located further downstream from where the present town of Melbourne is now located. The first post office bearing the name of Mill Creek was established January 14, 1854, with William Sublett as the postmaster. It was discontinued July 9, 1866, and re-established July 29, 1867, with John B. Dixon as the postmaster (Davis, pp. 2 – 5).

By the 1850s the land surrounding the largest spring located approximately one-half mile east of what became the town of Melbourne was owned by John Woods. Woods sold the land to Samuel S. Bigham (Bingham) and his wife, Mary, in 1855 (Abstract of land in possession of present owner, Ina Jennings Ramsey). Samuel is credited with constructing the two-story log house on this land prior to the Civil War and dendrochronology studies conducted by Dr. David Stahle of the University of Arkansas Tree-ring Laboratory support a construction date of 1857. According to an advertisement appearing in the *Arkansas Gazette*, Bigham operated an inn/tavern and possibly also a store in this structure. Terminology of the time made reference to such an enterprise as a 'stand.'

Bigham's ownership fell just prior to the on-set of the American Civil War and much of Arkansas was directly affected by the conflict including Izard County. Most Izard County residents opposed secession.

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Alexander Adams, the county's representative in the state legislature, voted against secession until the final vote in May of 1861. He was one of the last four holdouts on a vote that was finally decided in favor of secession. At that same time, May of 1861, the Mill Creek Peace Organization Society was formed with the aim of keeping peace in the county and maintaining neutrality in the coming war. That November, the Arkansas Governor ordered the county's state militia and the Third Arkansas Cavalry to arrest members of the group. Society members who resisted were shot. The ninety-seven who were arrested either joined the Confederate Eighth Arkansas Infantry or were sent to prison in Little Rock.

Neutrality was not the choice for other men in Izard or surrounding counties. Mill Creek became the primary site for mustering troops into the newly forming Confederate army. When the state left the Union, Izard County organized two companies; one for the Seventh Arkansas Infantry and one for the Fourteenth Arkansas Infantry. In an article written for the *Melbourne Times* on June 24, 1922, by A. C. Dixon and published on June 30, 1922, Dixon related the history associated with the formation of the Seventh Arkansas Infantry under the command of Robert G. Shaver. Dixon's kinsman, eighteen-year-old Jim Dixon was among the enlistees. In the flowery, patriotic language of the time, Dixon stated:

At the first call for troops in 1861, where was organized and mustered into service on the head of Mill Creek, one mile east of where the Izard County court house now stands, a regiment whose history was destined to be written in blood on the fields of many hard battles. The 7th Arkansas was composed of ten full companies of 100 men each, with the usual quota of officers (ARIZARD@rootsweb.com).

Two companies of infantry, approximately 200 men, were raised in Izard County in the summer of 1861 and both rendezvoused at the springs of Mill Creek. In addition to Shaver's infantry, McCarver's 14th Arkansas Infantry formed there as well swelling the troops camped temporarily in the area. McCarver's troops then consolidated with the 7th and 8th Arkansas Infantry at Smithville in June 1861 (Cooper, pp. 6 – 7). Bigham's stand and the fresh water of the springs made Mill Creek an attractive location in which to congregate this large number of men.

Of the more than 1,000 men in Shaver's regiment only about 70 survived the war. The heavy losses sustained led to the men to be known as "The Bloody Seventh." The events related to this troop are highly significant in Arkansas Civil War history.

Samuel S. Bigham himself joined the Confederate forces. Bigham never returned from the war and his fate was unknown. His estate could not be resolved for a number of years and his wife Mary continued to live at the home. In subsequent years, 'W. Jo' Arnold was appointed as one of three administrators to deal with legalities of the Bigham estate and lay off the dower land for Mary. It was later learned that Samuel had been killed during the war in southern Missouri. Unfortunately, there seems to have been no one who chronicled

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their history. The county records that may have helped shed light on this couple, as well as other early Izard County history, were destroyed in a courthouse fire in 1889.

Many of the men who enlisted at the springs on Mill Creek were from Izard County. Thomas Arnold enlisted with Company H of the 7th Arkansas Infantry (Hinson, p. 40). Thomas' brother, William Joseph Arnold [who later purchased the land surrounding the largest of the springs on Mill Creek] also served in the Confederate Army but enlisted at Jacksonport rather than at Mill Creek. He was captured by the Union army and his patrol papers provide a description of William Joseph, who was referred to by family and friends as 'W. Jo:'

Wm. J. Arnold, Pvt., Co. F, Freeman's Regt. A paroled prisoner of the Army of the Northern Sub District of Arkansas has permission to go to his home, and there remain undisturbed at Jacksonport, AR, June 5, 1865. Description age 30, hazel eyes, dark hair and complexion, height 5'10" (Ramsey, Arnold Family Papers).

After the Civil War, 'W. Jo' moved to Lunenburg, located about five miles south of Mill Creek, where his father, Elisha, had a general store and 880 acres of land. When Elisha passed away in 1874 'W. Jo' was appointed an administrator of his father's estate. A year following this Mill Creek was established as Izard County's fourth seat of justice in 1875. The name of the post office was changed from Mill Creek to Melbourne on February 16, 1876 (Davis, p. 4). Melbourne means *mill stream*.

The story of the selection of the site of Izard County's fourth seat of justice tells something of the settlement around this cluster of springs – or rather the lack of settlement. Izard County had already seen bitter controversy over the designation of governmental seats by the 1870s. Liberty was the site of the first permanent seat of justice in 1829. The removal of the seat of justice to Athens (near the mouth of Piney Creek) in 1836 occurred under the demands of the state legislature as Jacob Wolf and his supporters, who had established the town of Liberty, ignored an 1830 ruling by the legislature to relocate the county seat. After several years at Athens the site was again relocated to Mt. Olive on the White River. Each of these moves was the result of divisions of the county creating reductions in its size. The creation of Stone County, with the White River as the dividing boundary, resulted in the need, once again, to relocate the seat of justice for Izard County in the 1870s.

It was not unusual for the selection of the early county seat sites to be embroiled in controversy. The designation brought with it new roads and commerce. In the early 1870s the competition for relocation of Izard County's more centrally located seat of justice boiled down to Lacrosse and Mill Creek. The Lacrosse supporters argued that Mill Creek was not fit as there was no town. It had no churches, schools, and few professional men. Lacrosse already had an academy that was recognized state-wide. It had churches, several doctors and lawyers, good stores and other services.

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Mill Creek leaders argued that it had an abundance of pure water. That made it an ideal location for a town and the schools, churches, stores, doctors, lawyers, and mechanics would follow in good time. People who would attend court there, or come for other reasons, would not have to ride their horses two to three miles for good water. Mill Creek won the designation by a majority vote of the people and became the fourth county seat on May 1, 1875. The first house in the town was said to have been built in 1875.

Obviously, 'W. Jo' and his family were among the citizens who did help to build the new seat of justice on Mill Creek. In March of 1877 he served as one of the three commissioners appointed by the probate court to deal with legalities of the Bigham estate (Ramsey, Arnold Family Papers and property abstracts). With recent resolution of his own father's estate and the dissolution of the family mercantile business in Lunenburg, 'W. Jo' purchased the Bigham property on Mill Creek and by April 21, 1877, he ran an advertisement in the *Arkansas Gazette* stating he was open for business at *the Bingham (sic) old stand*. The advertisement declared that his *stables have every needed convenience*. The location of those stables is presently undetermined. It is possible that the extant log Mule Barn on the Arnold Springs Farmstead could be this same facility as the structure has not been evaluated by a dendrochronology study.

The 1875 sale bill for items of Elisha Arnold's estate reveal Elisha owned numerous carpentry tools, many of which 'W. Jo' purchased. This, plus the numerous hand-crafted items passed down through generations in the Arnold family, suggests that possibly some of the alterations to the Arnold Springs House over the past century may be the result of the family's own craftsmanship (Ramsey, Arnold Family Papers and property abstracts).

On December 11, 1891, 'W. Jo' and his wife, Rebecca Jane Landers, purchased additional acres of the Bigham estate (Ramsey, Arnold Family Papers and property abstracts). Their son, Richard Hosea Arnold, born in 1871 in Lunenburg, married Emma Mae Spurgin, daughter of Samuel Evans Spurgin, on September 9, 1906. Samuel Spurgin had been shot in the left eye during the Civil War but, according to family tradition, was returned to the firing line because he still had use of his right eye to aim and shoot. Ina Jennings Ramsey relates the story handed down saying that one day, years after the war, her great-grandfather Spurgin was sitting on the front porch of the Arnold Springs House when the bullet that had lodged in his left eye came out of his mouth.

The front two-story porch with built-in benches on each side of the lower-level was a wonderful place to sit and watch the traffic that passed by on the old wagon road located between the house and Mill Creek as noted in the 1923 map of the Melbourne area. The road crossed Mill Creek to the west and continued to the court house. The four big springs that provided the pure water for the residents and the visitors are noted on the map.

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Richard Hosea Arnold served as a justice of the peace for Mill Creek Township for several years and performed many marriages on the front porch of the house. His library of books was kept in a corner of the east upper-level bedroom. Twice he ran for County Judge in the 1920s but was not elected. Four children were born and raised in the house including Ina's mother, Mary Ethyl, in 1910. The Arnold's had an orchard business in the early 1900s and sold seedlings, pecan trees, and yucca plants. The blades of the yucca plants were used to tie bundles together. Some of these plants survive today. A 1923 map of the Melbourne vicinity shows a road called the 'Old Wagon Road' following Mill Creek across the farmstead and adjacent to what is marked as 'Arnold Spring' with the 'Hosea Arnold' house also indicated. To the west this roadway led to the Izard County Courthouse in Melbourne.

Ina's mother, Mary, married Talmage Jennings on February 7, 1926. They had two children who died in infancy. Many items were hand-crafted by the family and then passed on from generation to generation. Ina can relate where the honeysuckle vines grew that were used by her grandmother when she made the basket that sits in the upper-level central hall. A hand-crafted apple barrel, one of many made by the family for the apples they grew and sold, also speaks to the rural heritage of the farmstead. A rear shed-extension encloses the modernized kitchen Mary and Talmage added but the rest of the house remains remarkably intact. Talmage, Ina's father, lived in the house until his death on June 16, 1991. The small section of a tree stump used every year to crack walnuts on is tethered against the enclosed corner staircase in the west pen of the house where Talmage last secured it.

Ina, born in 1932, was raised in the house but left after she married William A. Ramsey in 1955. After several careers, primarily in education, and many years living in Perryville and Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, Ina and William returned to live in Melbourne in a home on the opposite bank of Mill Creek. William is now deceased but Ina continues to supervise the care of the Arnold Springs Farmstead that embraces over 130 years of family memories and cherished possessions (Ramsey, Arnold Family Papers).

In addition to the extant dwelling house, the farmstead includes two barns; one is made of logs and called the Mule Barn. The small frame barn is called the Dairy Barn. There are remains of a chicken house, smokehouse, and stone springhouse. These outbuildings continued in use throughout the 100 years the family occupied the farmstead. Ina has memories of taking the milk and butter to the springhouse to be kept cold next to the waters of the big springs.

The two springs that came to be called Arnold Springs supplied water for the city of Melbourne from 1947 to 1997. The water supply has never diminished but city use was discontinued due to changing federal regulations.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

In the Melbourne area, the Arnold Springs Farmstead is truly a unique property. Architecturally, the house is an important and rare example of an antebellum log dogtrot house. Although log homes would have been

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relatively common in the Melbourne area during the nineteenth century, examples the size of the Arnold Springs Farmstead would have been rare, even then. The significance of the property is enhanced by the alterations in the late nineteenth century that transformed the house into a rural adaptation of the popular Greek Revival style. The architectural adaptations of the mid-nineteenth century two-story log dogtrot style dwelling house with late-nineteenth century classically-inspired stylistic detailing and formative central-hall I-House floor plan provides a significant chronology for changing stylistic influences in rural Arkansas folk architecture.

The Arnold Springs Farmstead is also significant for its associations with the early settlement of the Melbourne area and for its associations with the agricultural and early commercial history of the area. The community of Mill Creek, which became Melbourne in 1876, received a post office in 1854, so the Arnold Springs Farmstead would have been one of the earliest buildings in the area, and likely one of the most impressive. By 1889, there were few commercial establishments in the area. According to the 1889 *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*, Melbourne had “four general stores, three groceries, [and] a drug store” (p. 923). The fact that the Bigham family was running a stand was running a stand at the property at least by 1877 illustrates that the property would have been one of the earliest commercial establishments in the area.

The Arnold Springs Farmstead is also important for its associations with the agricultural history of Izard County. The Arnold Springs Farmstead is a good example of the small family farms that would have been so important to the agricultural economy of Izard County. The *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas* also illustrates the importance of agriculture in the Izard County area:

The agricultural products for 1879, as given by the census of 1880, were as follows: Indian corn, 451,904 bushels; oats, 40,593 bushels; wheat, 25,902 bushels; hay, 214 tons; cotton, 4,800 bales; Irish potatoes, 4,500 bushels; sweet potatoes, 11, 349 bushels; tobacco, 13,212 pounds (p. 923).

However, it was not just crops that were important to the local agricultural economy. The *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas* further reports, with respect to livestock:

The number [of livestock] listed for taxation, as shown by the abstract of taxable properties for 1888, are as follows: Horses, 2,169; mules and asses, 1,258; cattle, 9,492; sheep, 8,492; hogs, 18,966 (p. 923).

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The Arnold Springs Farmstead, which would have had a combination of crops and livestock, illustrates the type of farm that would have been the backbone of the Izard County farm economy throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

Due to the importance of the Arnold Springs Farmstead in the nineteenth-century commercial history of the Melbourne area, and for its associations with the nineteenth- and twentieth-century agricultural history of Izard County, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. In addition, due to its importance as a rare nineteenth-century, two-story, log dogtrot residence with Greek Revival influences, the Arnold Springs Farmstead is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at UTM point 15/599961E/3991629N, proceed easterly for 400 feet to UTM point 15/600092E/3991630N, thence proceed southerly for 450 feet to the north bank of Mill Creek, thence proceed along the north bank of Mill Creek for 150 feet to the northeast corner of the Jennings Lane bridge, thence proceed southeasterly along the east side of Jennings Lane for 135 feet to UTM point 15/600061E/3991458N, thence proceed westerly for 300 feet to UTM point 15/599959E/3991450N, thence proceed northerly for 600 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated boundary encompasses the core area of the Arnold Springs Farmstead, containing the house and its associated outbuildings and its immediate setting.