

NR LISTED

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 08 1996

AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Munger House

Other Name/Site Number: JO 0094

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2. Location

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Street & Number: W. of Co. Rd. 416

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Lutherville

Vicinity: X

State: AR

County: Johnson

Code: AR 071

Zip Code: 72846

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>2</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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Johnson Co., Arkansas
County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet

Catherine Slater
Signature of certifying official

8-30-96
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper

Date of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic:	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
	<u>Agriculture</u>		<u>Outbuilding</u>
	<u>Recreation and Culture</u>		<u>Swimming Lake</u>
Current :	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
	_____		_____
	_____		_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other: Dutch Colonial Revival

Materials: foundation: fieldstone roof: asphalt
walls: fieldstone other wood, vinyl, concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located west of County Road 416 in the Lutherville community of Johnson County, the Munger House is a Dutch Colonial Revival-style, one-and-a-half story stone structure that was constructed in 1934. The uncoursed, solid fieldstone walls rest upon a similar foundation and support a composition-shingled, side gambrel roof. The interior of the house is largely original and features oak flooring, an oak staircase, and original Art Nouveau light fixtures. Exterior alterations are confined to the application of vinyl siding on the roof dormers, front and rear porches, and the roof fascia, soffits, and cornice trim. A gambrel-roof smokehouse, a concrete dam, and a concrete cistern are also included in the nomination.

Elaboration

Located west of County Road 416 in the Lutherville community of Johnson County, the Munger House is a Dutch Colonial Revival-style, one-and-a-half story stone structure that was constructed in 1934. The uncoursed, solid fieldstone walls rest upon a similar foundation and support a composition-shingled, side gambrel roof. There is one exterior stone chimney on the eastern elevation.

The front, or southern, elevation consists of a full-length, shed-roof porch supported by six square columns. The raised, poured-concrete porch floor is accessed by a substantial seven-step stone-and-concrete stoop. The first-story wall underneath the porch roof is symmetrically arranged with two large six-over-one, double-hung, wood-frame windows and a central entrance. The single-leaf, fully-glazed, fifteen-pane door is flanked by ten-pane sidelights. Above the porch, the gambrel roofline is broken by a long shed dormer fenestrated by three pairs of six-over-one, double-hung, wood-frame windows. The two center windows provide light for the bathroom and are shorter in height than the end pairs. The dormer is currently clad with narrow-width vinyl siding.

The eastern elevation contains the central exterior stone chimney which is flanked by four six-over-one windows (two per floor). The rear, or northern, elevation consists of a central shed-roof porch that was originally a screened-in porch. It is now enclosed and covered with vinyl siding. A modern single-leaf door is positioned west of center. Otherwise, the first story is fenestrated by a large six-over-one window to the east of the porch while a much smaller window of the same sash configuration is placed to the west of the porch. Above, a shed-roof dormer deviates from its front elevation counterpart only by having full-length windows for the center pair.

The first story of the western elevation is asymmetrical in composition with three six-over-one windows. The two dining room windows near the front of the house are of identical, regular size while the rear kitchen window is much smaller and positioned higher on the wall. Upstairs, two regular six-over-one windows illuminate the bedrooms.

Exterior alterations are limited to the aforementioned use of vinyl siding on the roof dormers, front and rear porches, and the roof fascia, soffits, and cornice trim.

The interior of the house features the original oak floors and an oak stairway with a stick balustrade that is entered from the central entrance hall through an arched opening. A brick fireplace surround with a simple wood mantel is located in the living room. Unusual original Art Nouveau light fixtures are found in the entrance hall, dining room, bathrooms, hallway, and one bedroom. The original tub, sinks, and medicine cabinets are still found in the bathrooms. Perhaps the most interesting interior feature, however, is a secret compartment behind an oak panel at the mid-level stairway landing. Alterations to the interior consist primarily of lowering the ceilings in the entrance hall, living room and dining room to allow for central heating and air conditioning. Sheetrock walls were also added in the entrance hall, living room, and dining room when insulation was installed, although the original plaster walls are still intact behind the sheetrock. The kitchen was completely remodeled with new appliances and cabinets.

Also included in the nomination is a small stone smokehouse that features a matching gambrel roof and a single-leaf entrance to the east. More impressive is a large reinforced-concrete dam in front of the house that forms a sizable pool in the northern fork of Slover Creek. The dam now has

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wooden walkway across the top.

Associated with the dam is a concrete cistern positioned on the slight hill to the north of the Munger House. Water was pumped from the lake via underground pipe to the cistern, which provided water pressure for the indoor plumbing, the first in the Lutherville community.

The property is now owned by Mr. R. Douglas Knoernschild.

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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: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1934

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Kraus, Homer - Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Munger House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a Dutch Colonial Revival-style residence in the Lutherville community of Johnson County.

laboration

Lutherville was settled by German Lutheran immigrants in the late 1800's. As Lutherville never became a true town with a nucleus of commercial buildings surrounded by residential housing, community life centered around St. Paul's Church and School (a separate building that stands virtually unaltered today), which provided schooling for the scattered farm families until 1950.

A air of excitement struck the small community in 1934 when construction was begun on a new house for Hubert L. and Vera H. Munger from Kansas City, Missouri. The Mungers had purchased eighty acres the year before for \$1,000, which they had borrowed from the Farmers National Bank of Clarksville at eight percent interest. On May 31, 1940, the Mungers paid off the loan against the property.

Homer Kraus is believed to have been the contractor for the house and smokehouse/cellar and that several of his relatives worked on the house. It is a little unclear as to who built the dam, but most leads indicate that the Kraus's were most likely involved. The fact that the Mungers were constructing an unusual house for the area with a concrete dam and swimming lake was not the only cause for gossip in the quiet community. Instead, most of the conversation centered around the Mungers themselves for Hubert Munger was rumored to be Kansas City gangster.

In 1972, then-owner Helen Anthony interviewed several Lutherville citizens who either knew or had contact with the Mungers. Cecil Bradley of Clarksville stated that Munger wore overalls, was a known gambler, was connected to the Pendergast machine in Kansas City, and paid the construction workers daily with silver dollars. An interview with Harlow Kraus, who operated a cleaning business in Lutherville during the 1930's, revealed that Vera Munger brought in all different sizes of men's clothing and always had plenty of money. Apparently, the Mungers did little socializing with the residents of Lutherville, but often several strange men were seen lounging about the yard and swimming in the lake.

Mrs. Oscar Kraus echoed Harlow's statements and further elaborated that the Mungers had lived in an old house on the property while their new house was being constructed, and that Hubert Munger began farming the land and would often buy hay and cattle in Oklahoma. Mrs. Kraus also stated that her husband helped work on the house and dam and was always paid in cash. Oscar installed the new stairway, which was shipped from Fort Worth, and knew about Munger's secret compartment. She recalled that the people in the Lutherville community believed Munger to be involved with a Kansas City gambling ring and that the house was the gang's hideout.

All three of these interviews concluded with Munger being arrested by F.B.I agents at his mailbox in 1937 or 1938 for a bank robbery in Sedalia, Missouri (an event that is not otherwise documented). Munger reportedly was sentenced to the penitentiary, and it is known that the property was sold to Charles Shifflet on August 22, 1941.

Even without the sensationalism associated with the Mungers' residency in Lutherville, the house they constructed has become a local landmark for its architectural merits. Most of the houses in the scattered community are of Plain Traditional construction though some houses reflect Craftsman style influences. With its prominent side gambrel roof, the Munger House is easily distinguished from the other structures in Lutherville and is an excellent example of a simple, stone-constructed, Dutch Colonial Revival style residence. For this reason, the Munger House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information submitted by R. Douglas Knoernschild, February, 1996 including oral interviews conducted by Helen Anthony in 1972.

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:

- X 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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Acreage of Property: Approximately three

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>477280</u>	<u>3925720</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the northwest corner of the junction of the driveway and Co. Rd 416, proceed north along the western edge of Co. Rd. 416 to its intersection with an east-west line formed by the northern edge of the cistern; then proceed due west along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet twenty-five feet from, the western elevation of the smokehouse; then proceed due south along said line to its junction with an east-west line formed by the southern end of the concrete dam; then proceed due east to the western edge of Co. Rd. 416; then proceed north along the edge of the road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes the house, smokehouse, cistern, dam and swimming lake and 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: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

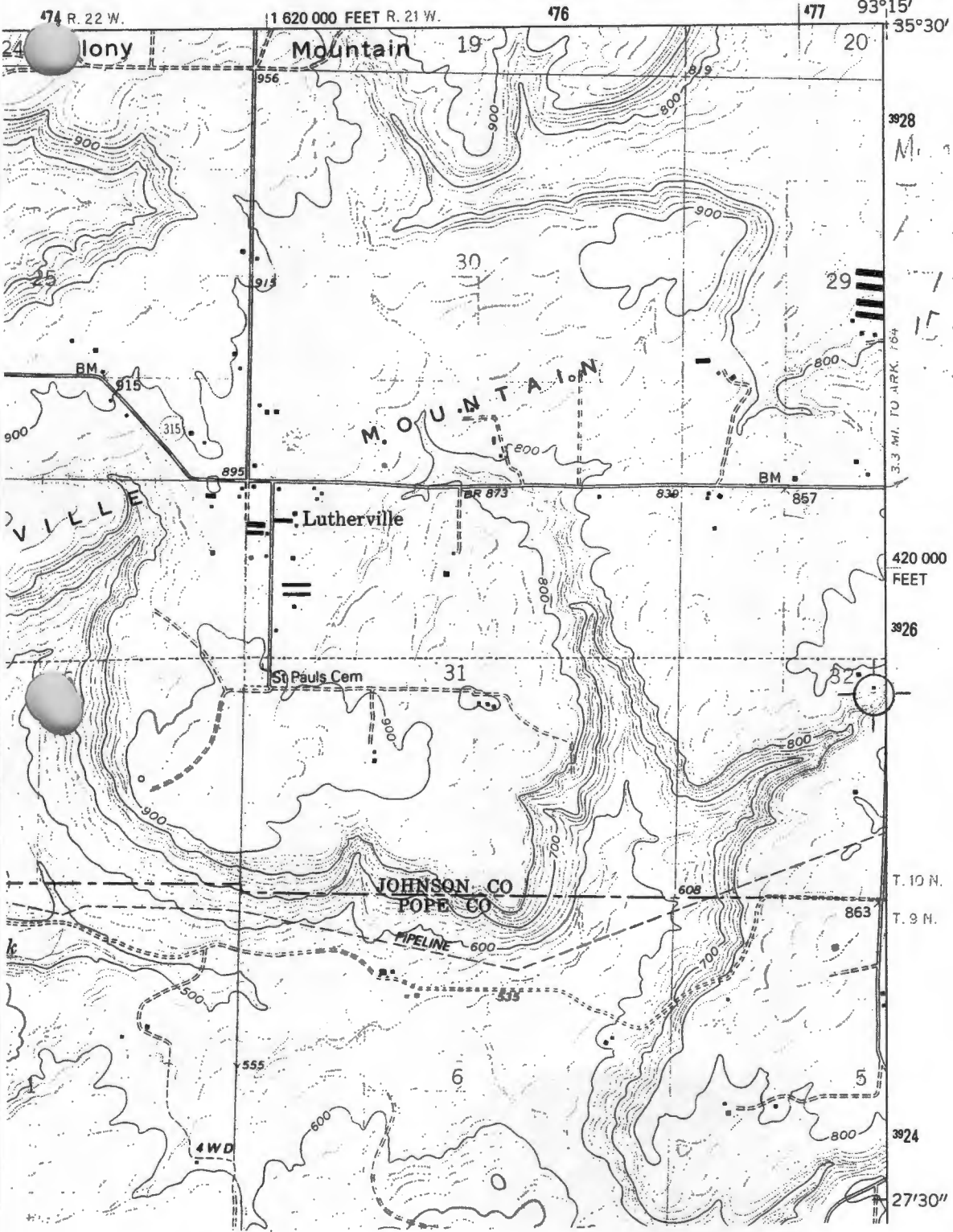
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 6, 1996

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

KNOXVILLE QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7256 II SW
(TREAT)



3928
M. ...
15/4

3.3 MI. TO ARK. 764

420 000
FEET

3926

T. 10 N.

T. 9 N.

3924

27'30"

