

Williams House & Associated Farmstead  
Name of Property

Madison County, Arkansas  
County and State

NPS Form 10-900  
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 Williams House and Associated Farmstead  
other names/site number Williams Woods Nature Preserve

### 2. Location

street & number Route 1 (off of Hwy 23)  not for publication  
city or town St. Paul  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Madison code 087 zip code 72760

### 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.)

Charles Matthews 4/02/01  
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:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Williams House & Associated Farmstead  
Name of Property

Madison 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	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
6	1	Total

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

N/A

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

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

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

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

OTHER: Rustic Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE  
walls WOOD: log, shingle,  
roof METAL  
other BRICK

**Narrative Description**  
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.

Williams House & Associated Farmstead  
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### 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 a birthplace or grave.
- 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

#### Period of Significance

1935 (Log House)

1922 - 1935 (Associated Farmstead)

#### Significant Dates

1935

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

N/A

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

N/A

#### Architect/Builder

Earl & Mack Williams

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE 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.)

## Bibliography

Harris, Paul. Ozark Log Cabin Folks: The Way They Were. Little Rock, AR: Rose Publishing Company, 1983.

Heter, Dennis. Interview by Bob Robinson. 31 December 2000, 8 January 2001, and 27 January 2001.

Howard, Lillian. Interview with Bob Robinson. 19 January 2001.

Milligan, Felix. Interview By Bob Robinson. 29 January 2001.

Murray, Gail S. "Forty Years Ago: The Great Depression Comes to Arkansas. Arkansas Historical Quarterly Vol. XXIX. (Winter 1970): 291-312.

Robinson, Bob. Correspondence with Kara Oosterhous. 31 January 2001.

Robinson, Bob. Interview with Kara Oosterhous. 31 January 2001.

**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:

Williams family and friends

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property 20

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>15</u>	<u>432186</u>	<u>3967180</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>15</u>	<u>432572</u>	<u>3966977</u>

B	<u>15</u>	<u>432587</u>	<u>3967180</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>15</u>	<u>432176</u>	<u>3966987</u>

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Located on the St. Paul and Pettigrew Quadrangle Maps, the Williams House and associated farmstead are located in the south One-half (S 1/2) of the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of the Southwest Quarter (SW 1/4) and contains 20 acres more or less being located in Section 28, Township 14 North, Range 26 West.

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The selected boundaries encompass the original 20 acres of land associated with the Williams House and associated farmstead – all of which still retain their integrity location, setting, design, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association.

Williams House & Associated Farmstead

Name of Property

Madison County, Arkansas

County and State

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Bob Robinson, OHTA member

organization Ozark Highlands Trail Association

date 1/24/2001

street & number 2907 Pendell Lane

telephone 501-783-6319

city or town Fort Smith

state AR

zip code 72901

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### Additional Documentation

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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.)

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### Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Ozark Highlands Trail Association

street & number HC 33, Box 50-A

telephone 870-861-5536

city or town Pettigrew

state AR

zip code 72752

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Williams House and associated farmstead is located on a private road 3/4 of a mile off of scenic Highway 23, nestled on the side of "Mack Mountain," approximately one mile from St. Paul in Madison County. The Williams House is a hand-hewn log house with dovetail notching that sits atop a continuous stone foundation and is topped by a gable roof displaying north and south facing dormers. Also included in the nomination are a historic barn (building), smokehouse/cellar (building), chicken house (building), dehydrator foundation (site), and privy (building), all of which were constructed between 1922 and 1925 and are contributing to the twenty-acre farmstead. There is also one noncontributing resource located on the property and it is a trailer that is the home of the caretaker.

### ELABORATION

Constructed in 1935, the Williams House is built of timber harvested from the property. This house features square hand-hewn logs with dovetail notching and concrete chinking and it sits atop a continuous rock foundation and is crowned by a gable roof. This one and one-half story home features a front porch that is protected by a shed roof. This building possesses an attic that is lit by dormer windows on the south and north elevations. Unless noted otherwise, six-over-six double-hung windows adorn each elevation of the house. The rectangular house has a projection located on the west end of the building that is topped with a gable roof; and although this appears to be an addition, it is original and contains the well upon which the house plan was built around.

#### South Elevation/Façade

The façade features the central portion of the building flanked by a projection on the west end and a carport on the east end. The projection on the west end of the façade is crowned with a gable roof and is fenestrated with a door and a ribbon of three six-light windows. Continuing on to the main portion of the house there is a small wall on the west end of the south elevation that faces west and is fenestrated with two side-by-side windows. The porch spans the entire length of the main section of the house. Centered beneath the porch is a front door flanked by a set of double-hung windows and centered above the porch is a dormer that provides light to the attic through a ribbon of four six-light windows. The east end of the façade displays a large carport that is covered by a shed roof.

#### East Elevation/Side

Beneath the carport with the shed roof, the east side of the house displays two individual double-hung windows followed by two sets of double-hung windows, all which provide light to the interior of the house. The east end of the gable roof is also evident from this elevation as it is sheathed in wood shingles and presents two side-by-side double hung windows.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

### North Elevation/Rear

The east end of the north elevation displays the back wall of the carport which is hidden behind a storage cabinet. Fenestration on the main section of the house consists of two sets of double-hung windows bisected by one window all of which face north. Centered above these windows a dormer displaying four double-hung windows lights the attic. A pair of double-hung windows face west and light the main section of the house. Continuing on to the projection on the west end of the building there is an addition that was added in 1950 to serve as a washroom that harmonizes well with the building and falls beneath the gable roofline. A ribbon of three single pane windows lights this addition that is sheathed in wood shingles identical to those located on the gable ends.

### West Elevation/Side

From the west elevation the 1950 addition is evident but unobtrusive, as it is fenestrated with one single pane window. The remainder of the elevation displays two side-by-side six-light windows. From this elevation the two gable roofs are apparent. The area beneath each gable is sheathed in wood shingles. Two double-hung windows located on the main section of the building face west and light the attic. A red-brick chimney or flue pierces the gable roof.

### Interior

Overall the interior of the house is in fair shape. It is divided into a living room, study, bedroom, bathroom, washroom, and kitchen. The upstairs presents a large open attic that is relatively unfinished. Two unique items located inside of the house are an old wood burning stove and a well. The well was dug circa 1922 for an earlier home and it was incorporated in to the design of this home so that there would be a water source inside of the house. Some of the original wood floors remain, as does some of the original hardware.

### Historic Resources

The following resources were constructed between 1922 and 1935 and they are located on the property immediately behind the house. One of the largest structures on the property includes a large barn with a central aisle with livestock pens on each side and two loft areas that span each side of the barn. There is also a chicken coop constructed out of wood boards and mesh wire. A cellar constructed out of native stone is located beneath a structure that once served as a smokehouse and is located northwest of the house. A privy is located northeast of the house and it has fallen victim to decay and rot. There is also a rock foundation located to the rear of the property that was originally part of a dehydrator.

Only one noncontributing resource falls within the proposed boundary and it is the trailer where the caretaker lives which is located directly behind the house.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

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### **Integrity**

Overall the twenty-acre Williams farmstead possesses a strong sense of integrity. The location and setting of the farmstead are pristine, as they resemble what the property looked like in 1935. The design, workmanship, and materials of the log house also possess integrity as they have been altered little throughout the years. The small circa 1950 addition located on the west end at the rear of the house is very unobtrusive and blends well with the remainder of the log building. The presence of almost all of the original outbuildings contributes to the overall feeling and association of the farmstead. The house has weathered time and the elements well, although, repairs to the chinking are needed in some places and some of the trim needs replacing. The barn, still sturdily stands, although in need of repair. The chicken coop, cellar/smokehouse, and privy have not weathered the elements well and are in a state of disrepair. However, the farmstead as a whole and the log house exhibit a great amount of integrity.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY:

Constructed in 1935 the Williams House and associated farmstead, located near St. Paul in Madison County, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C** because it is a hand-hewn log building with dovetail notching, that although common in the Ozark Mountain Region, is a unique feature of this log house because of its late construction date. By 1935 most log houses or cabins being built were designed in the Rustic style or they were constructed out of saw milled lumber. Therefore, although constructed in 1935, this log house reflects pioneer log construction techniques and even though there have been some minor alterations to the building (addition of car shelter and wrought iron porch supports) it is unique because of the way that it was constructed.

Also included as contributing resources to the nomination are a barn, chicken coop, privy, smokehouse/cellar and dehydrator foundation - all constructed between 1922 and 1935 with local materials. A nonhistoric trailer, located within the boundaries, is considered a noncontributing resource.

### ELABORATION:

Nestled in the woods of Madison County one mile from St. Paul is the Williams House, which was constructed in 1935 by Earl and Mack Williams. It is a hand-hewn log structure, with dovetail notching; it exemplifies early log building construction techniques used by people in Arkansas's Ozark Region. The construction techniques themselves are not unique to this region, nor is a hand-hewn log house with dovetail notching; however, it is unique because it was constructed in 1935 during which period most log buildings were being built in the Rustic style and most lumber was planed at a lumber mill.

Madison County was established in 1836 and the town of "Old St. Paul" was founded in 1837. Located in close vicinity to "Old St. Paul," "St. Paul" was established in 1887 to serve as a stopping place for the railroad. During the year of 1887 St. Paul grew to accommodate grocery stores, mercantiles, dry good stores, liveries, hotels and a gristmill and lumber company to name a few businesses.

About twenty years after the establishment of St. Paul in 1887, Geraldine Keck Williams and her three children, Alphie, Mack, and Earl moved to St. Paul from War Eagle in neighboring Benton County. Geraldine and her children moved to St. Paul to be near family and to make a new start. Upon their arrival the Williams stayed with Geraldine's sister and her husband "Uncle Milligan." Geraldine and her family moved to St. Paul after discovering that her husband John had fathered a child outside of their marriage. Geraldine was no stranger to loss as she had survived five of her seven sons who had died at infancy. Geraldine, Mack, Earl and her daughter, Alphie, ended up "staying" at the Milligan's place for eleven years. Finally, in 1922 the Williams moved into a house that Mack and Earl had constructed on their 20 acres of land that Uncle Milligan had given them 1911.

The small house, referred to as "the shack", was constructed by Earl and Mack and it was located approximately one mile from St. Paul. Located near the small house, was a hand-dug well (later incorporated into the design of the Williams house) that Earl had built and it featured lined concrete cylinder walls from the surface to the water level. This house was to serve as a somewhat temporary dwelling until a larger home could be constructed. Other construction that occurred on the land between 1922 and 1935 included the building of a barn, smokehouse/cellar, tool shed, dehydrator, and a chicken coop.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The 1920s and 1930s were a hard time for southern farmers particularly. While other states in the United States experienced prosperity during the 1920s; Arkansas experienced a disproportionate number of state bank failures. The winter of 1926-27 was one of unprecedented cold weather in Arkansas and massive flooding in the spring of 1927 followed it. Conditions did not improve by 1929. The worst drought to ever hit the south and southwest occurred during the summer of 1929 and the full effect of this drought was felt during the winter of 1929-30 when produce, canned goods, and feed began to run out. The Williams, like so many other Arkansas, felt the full impact of the depression era.

The Williams were very industrious. In an effort to make money they raised broiler-size chickens and sold them commercially. Since Earl was an excellent craftsman he used his skills to not only build their home but also to earn money while doing work in the community. The brothers also bought and sold locally trapped furs and used the money to help fund the completion of the house. Also located on their land, further up "Mack Mountain" was a field that was used to grow tomatoes, corn, and other vegetables that were sold commercially. The Williams also had on their property a dehydrator that was used to dry meat and vegetables. It is ironic that during this economically depressed time, the Williams boys were able to build a sizeable log house. Just as remarkably, Alphonse was able to attend school at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville during the late 1920s and graduate school at the University of Chicago (1929-1930) when education for women was almost as scarce as money.

The Williams boys used timber harvested from their 20 acres of land to build the relatively large log house with a full attic. Tools such as a broad axe, metal wedges, wooden wedges, chopping axes, froe and maul, augers, and saws were used to construct this house. The house was built around the well that Mack had constructed circa 1922 for use when they lived in the shack. The construction of the log house, hand-hewn logs with dovetail notching, is typical of log cabin design in the Ozarks. However, it is unusual in that many of the log cabins built this way were built during the 1800s and early 1900s. By the 1930s cabin building was occurring less frequently in the Ozarks and when it did occur logs were often milled at a nearby lumber company. However, because of the economic hard times as well as the building skills possessed by both boys - the Williams boys constructed their log house using traditional methods.

Earl, who was considered a master craftsman by those in the area, attended the University of Arkansas for some period of time between 1922 and 1939. At some point he left Arkansas to fight in World War II (1939-1945) during which time he contracted spinal meningitis and died. His brother Mack lived in the house until his death in the 1960s. Alphonse returned to the Ozark Mountain Region in the 1930s after graduate school where she worked as a social worker for the Civil Service until the 1970s. When she was not working on location, she stayed at the house. Having never married she spent these later years alone on her mountain walking and exploring the forestland.

Members of the Williams family continuously occupied the log house from 1935 until 1993. Throughout the years the Williams siblings, with their combined incomes, purchased adjoining land as it became available. Located on some of the land acquired by the Williams were two homesteads, the Longby homestead and the Greenquist place, remains of both are still located on what is now the Williams Woods Nature Preserve. In 1993 Alphonse Williams was diagnosed with cancer, shortly after her diagnosis she deeded approximately 530 acres of prime mountain forest land to the Ozark Highlands Trail Association (OHTA). Under the ownership of OHTA, this land became known as the Williams Woods Nature Preserve. OHTA plans to preserve these structures in hopes of using them as teaching tools for school children. Since 1993 a caretaker has lived on the grounds to oversee the general maintenance of the property.

Williams House & Associated Farmstead  
Name of Property

Madison County, Arkansas  
County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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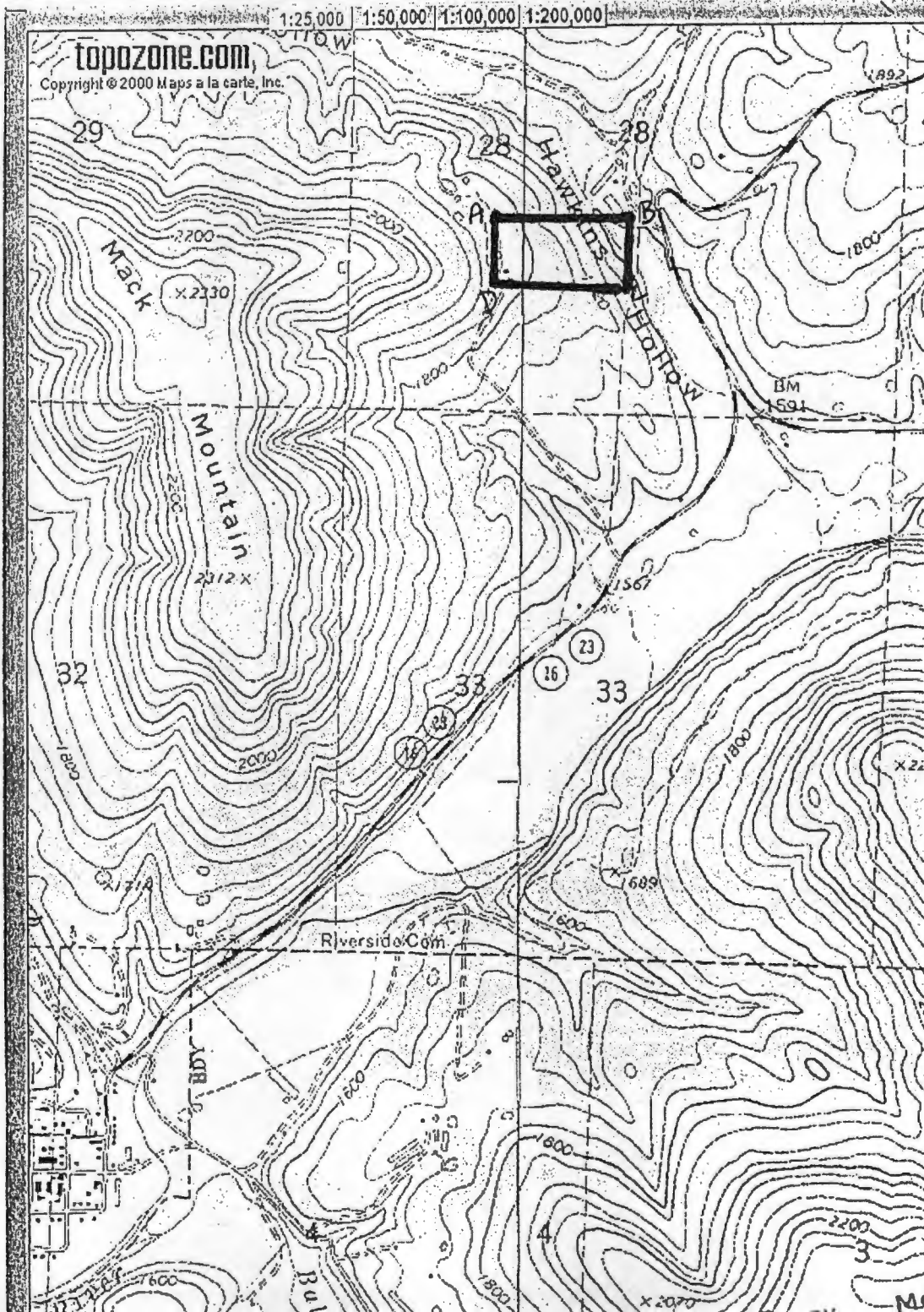
### Significance

Constructed in 1935, the Williams House and associated farmstead, located near St. Paul in Madison County, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion C**. The Williams House is a hand-hewn log building with dovetail notching, that although common in the Ozark Mountain Region, is a unique characteristic of this log house because of its late construction date. Also included as contributing structures to the farmstead are a barn, chicken coop, privy, cellar and dehydrator foundation - all constructed between 1922 and 1935 with local materials. A nonhistoric trailer, located within the boundaries, is considered a noncontributing resource.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

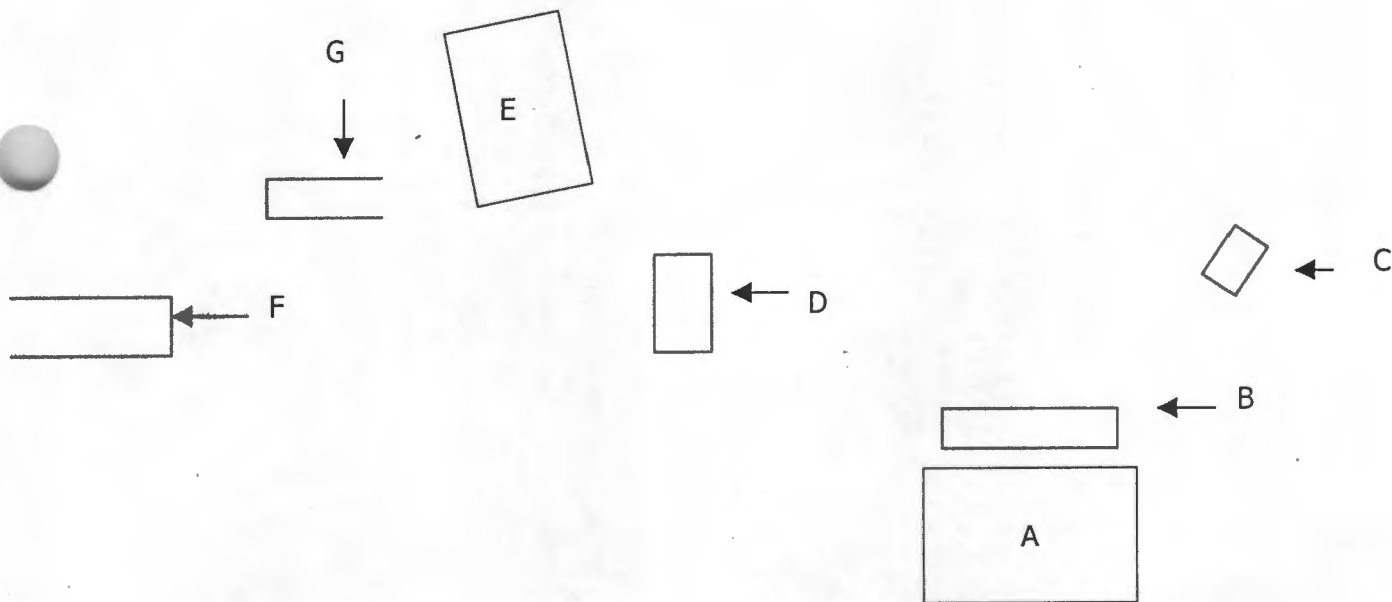
Section number 11 Page 1



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

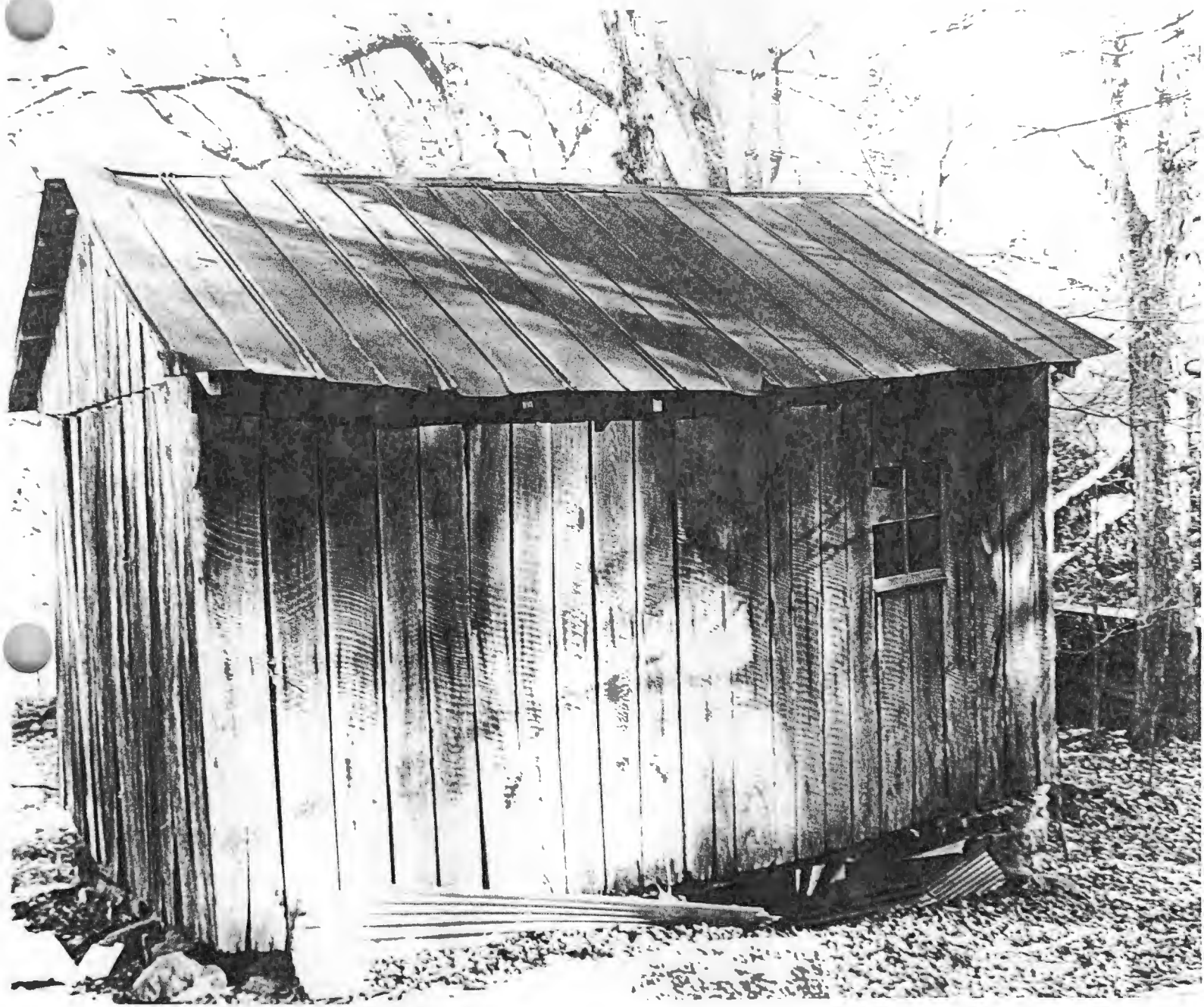
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 1



- |   |                       |                   |
|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| A | Williams House        | (contributing)    |
| B | Trailer               | (noncontributing) |
| C | Privy                 | (contributing)    |
| D | Smokehouse/Cellar     | (contributing)    |
| E | Barn                  | (contributing)    |
| F | Chicken Coop          | (contributing)    |
| G | Dehydrator Foundation | (contributing)    |









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Williams House and Associated Farmstead

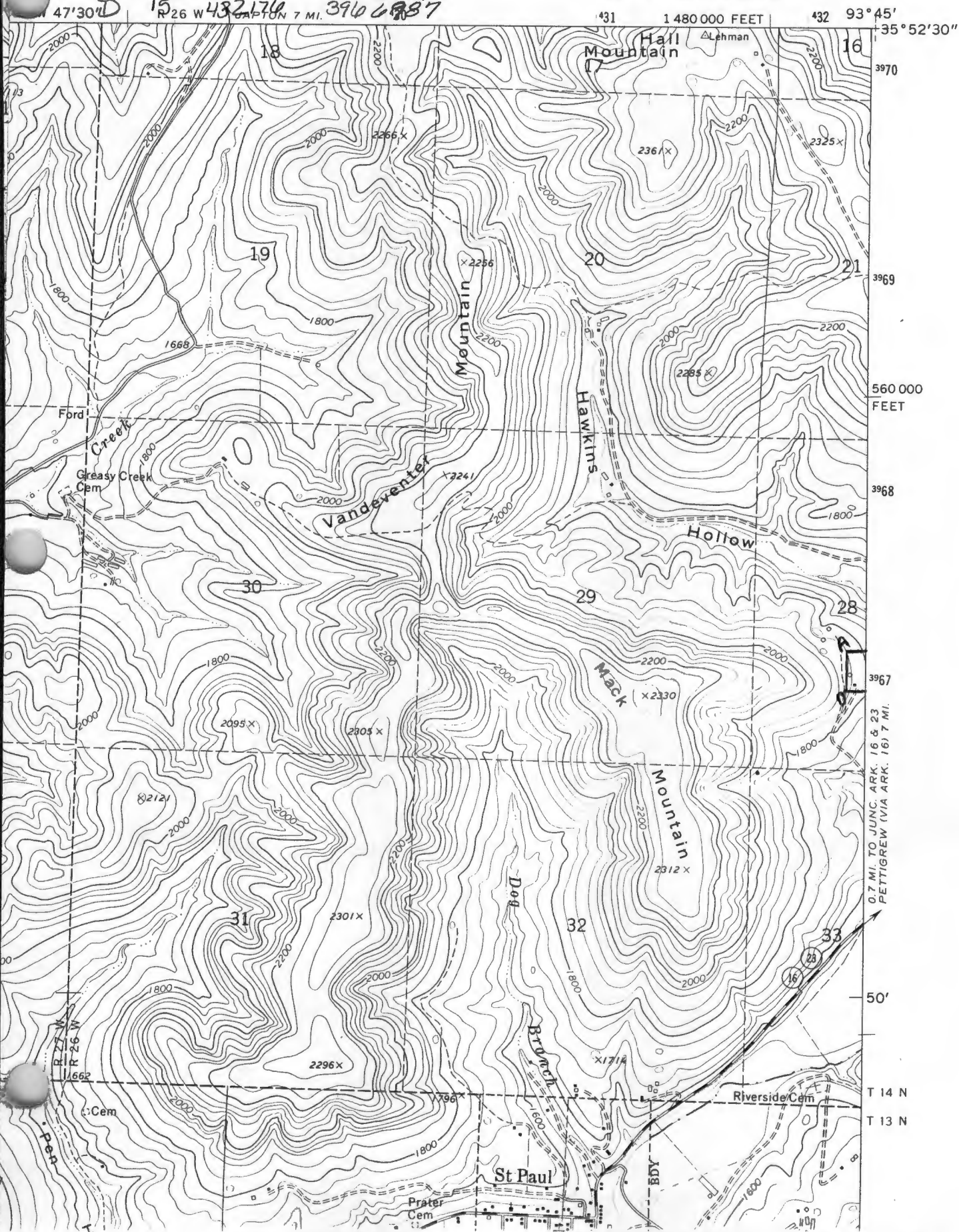
St. Paul, Madison County, AR ST. PAUL QUADRANGLE

A	15	432186	396 7180
B	15	432587	396 7180
C	15	432572	396 6977
D	15	432170	396 6987

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

SE/4 ST. PAUL 15' QUADRANGLE

7285 1 NW  
(WITTER)

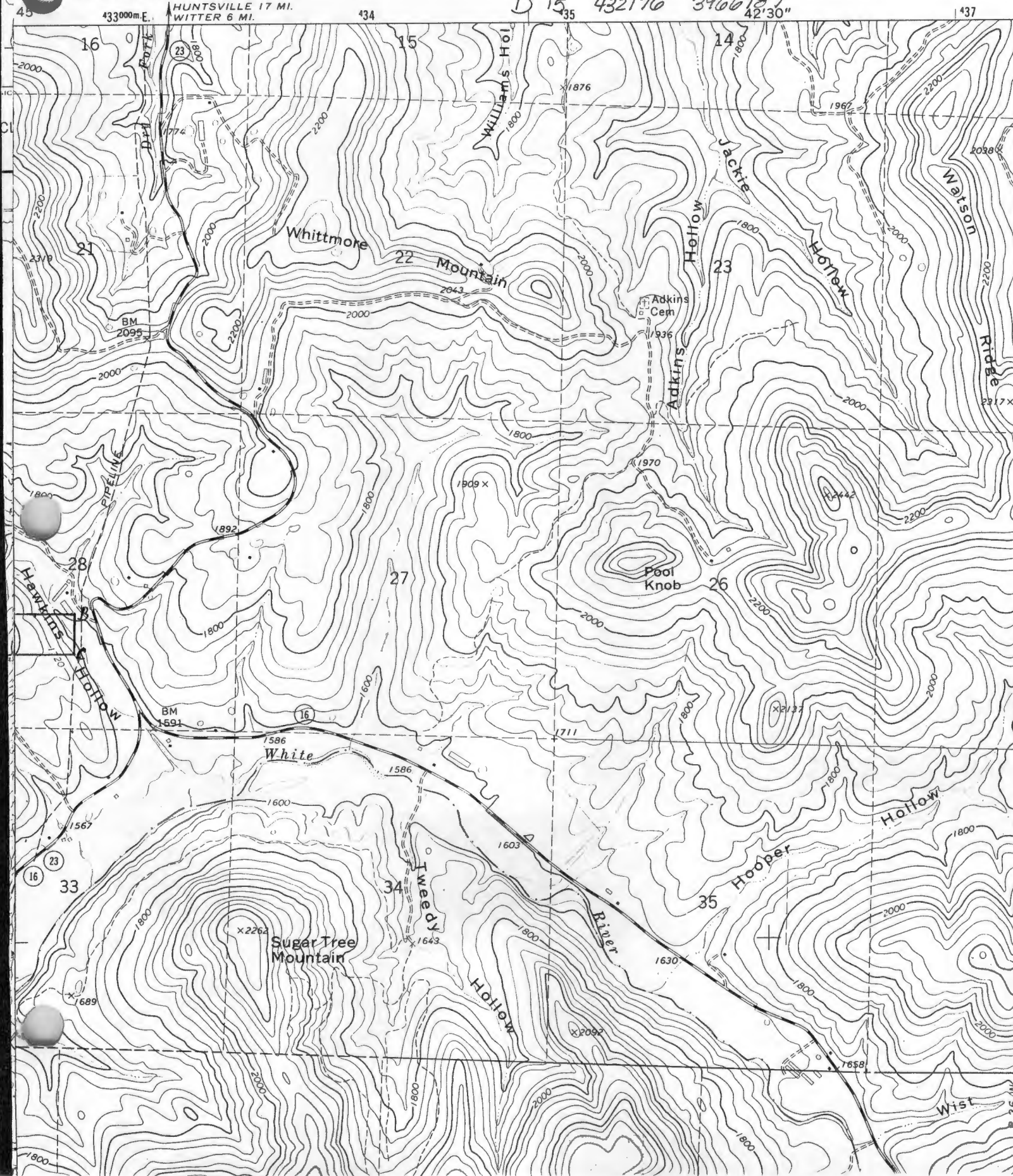




UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Williams, Madison and ...  
St. Paul, Madison County, AR

A	15	432186	3967180
B	15	432587	3967180
C	15	432572	3966977
D	15 <sup>35</sup>	432176	3966987



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HUNTSVILLE 17 MI.  
WITTER 6 MI.

433000m.E.

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42'30"