

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 10/5/06
NR

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 Bearden Waterworks

other names/site number Site #OU0185

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner of North 2nd and North Cedar

not for publication

city or town Bearden

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Ouachita code 103 zip code 71720

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.)

Cashe Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/31/06
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

- 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:)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Bearden Waterworks
Name of Property

Ouachita 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	
2	2	buildings
2		sites
		structures
	1	objects
4	3	Total

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

An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts
and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain-Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE, BRICK

walls METAL, BRICK

CONCRETE

roof METAL, ASPHALT

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)

Engineering

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1936-1956

Significant Dates

1936-1956

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Public Works Administration, Builder

McEachin & McEachin, Inc., 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:

Bearden Waterworks
Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>535495</u>	<u>3731819</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date May 10, 2006
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 City of Bearden
street & number PO Box 134 telephone
city or town Bearden state AR zip code 71720

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 Bearden Waterworks is located at the northwest corner of North 2nd and North Cedar in the small town of Bearden, Ouachita County, in southern Arkansas. The facility is located behind City Hall, and consists of the water tower, two well houses, and a cast-concrete holding tank with aerator on top that were built by the Public Works Administration (PWA) in 1936 and contribute to the nomination. In addition, two storage sheds and a chain-link fence that surrounds the facility were built later and are considered to be non-contributing resources.

ELABORATION

The Bearden Waterworks is located in Bearden, Ouachita County, Arkansas, a small town approximately 80 miles southwest of Little Rock. The facility is located behind City Hall in the heart of town northwest of the North 2nd and North Cedar Street intersection. The waterworks consists of a metal-framed, metal-sided water tower, two brick well houses, and a cast-concrete waster tank with an aerator on top that were built by the PWA in 1936. All of the PWA-built resources are considered to be contributing resources.

In addition to the contributing resources, the facility also includes two wood-frame storage sheds, one which is used to store chlorine, and a metal chain-link fence. The storage sheds and chain-link fence were all built fairly recently and do not contribute to the nomination.

Water Tower – Contributing

The most prominent feature of the Bearden Waterworks is the water tower, which was recently repainted white, making it stand out above the town. The tower is supported by four metal latticed legs that slope inwards towards the tower as they rise. Metal crosspieces and rods provide lateral rigidity and support between the legs. At the center of the tower a large metal pipe conveys the water to and from the tank.

The water tank has a bowl-shaped bottom that is pierced in the center by the large pipe. A metal walkway with metal pipe handrail around the base of the tank accesses a ladder that ascends the tower's southwestern leg. The walls of the tank are constructed of pieces of curved sheet metal and the west and east sides have the words "BEARDEN / EST. 1882" painted in large black letters and numbers. The top of the tower is crowned by a metal conical roof.

Well Houses – Contributing

The well houses are located to the northeast and southeast of the water tower. They rest on continuous brick foundations and have brick walls. The windows that survive in the buildings are six-over-six, wood-frame, double-hung windows. (Some of the windows are boarded up.) The door into the northeast well house is a wood door with three horizontal wood panels in the bottom half and three vertical panes of glass in the top half. The door into the southeast well house, on the other hand, has a single panel in the bottom half and two horizontal panes of glass in the top half.

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Both well houses are crowned with asphalt shingle gable roofs, which appear to have been added at a later date. The gable ends are sided with vertical board siding.

The northeast well house has a marble cornerstone in its northeast wall that reads:

P.W.A. 1012-R.

·1936·

J. W. SANDERS, MAYOR

J. L. HUBBARD, RECORDER

H. B. GATLING, TREAS.

-----ALDERMEN-----

J. W. GATLING

W. T. FIKE

LEE BURLESON

O. C. HARRIS

ED. SANDERS

McEACHIN & McEACHIN INC., CONTR'S.

W. F. MOODY & CO. ENGR'S.

Water Tank/Aerator – Contributing

Located to the northeast of the water tower and to the northwest of one of the well houses, the water tank is a rectangular-shaped structure with cast plain cast-concrete walls and roof. The aerator, which consists of five square tiers of inward-facing louvers, is located on top of the tank at its northeast corner. Water is pumped from the top of the tank to the top of the aerator and then trickles down over the louvers to mix air with the water.

On top of the western end of the tank is a one-story, concrete-block office with flat roof. It was added to the tank at a later date, likely c.1960.

Modern Storage Buildings – Non-Contributing

The two modern storage buildings are frame buildings with vertical board siding. The larger shed is located to the southeast of the water tower, and the smaller shed is located at the water tower's base. The small shed is used for chlorine storage. Both sheds have gable roofs covered in asphalt shingles with the larger shed's roof having a steeper pitch.

Fence – Non-Contributing

The waterworks complex is surrounded by a standard metal chain-link fence with barbed wire across the top.

Bearden Waterworks
Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Integrity

The resources that comprise the Bearden Waterworks that were built by the PWA retain good integrity. The water tower has not been altered and the alterations to the well houses and the water tank are relatively small in scale. Although two sheds and the fence at the complex that were constructed within the last fifty years, they are relatively small in scale and do not overwhelm the original PWA construction. In addition, the setting of Bearden remains a small town, much as it would have been when the waterworks was built.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Bearden Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a good example of a 1930s waterworks, and as the last PWA-built waterworks remaining in Ouachita County. The Bearden Waterworks is also being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** for its associations with the activities of the PWA in Ouachita County during the 1930s. The Bearden Waterworks is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

ELABORATION

The first white settlers in the area that would become Ouachita County were the French, who arrived in the area toward the end of the seventeenth century. Baron de Bastrop received the first land grant in 1799 which spurred permanent settlement. Hunters, traders, and trappers made their way along the Ouachita River and the first official settlement in present day Ouachita County was a community on Fabre's Bluff called Ecore a Fabre. This site developed as a trade stop along the river and grew as river traffic increased.¹

On November 2, 1829, the Sixth Territorial Legislature established Union County and Ecore a Fabre was chosen as the county seat. The county had a population of 640 at the time it was founded. In the following decade smaller counties began forming, and in 1842 the present day Ouachita County was formed and Ecore a Fabre was selected as county seat. Since Ecore a Fabre was hard to pronounce by the local population, the community was renamed Camden after Camden, South Carolina.²

Railroads arrived in Ouachita County after the Civil War with the St. Louis Arkansas and Texas Railway having forty-six miles of track in the county by 1882. Bearden, along with other communities that now exist along the line, was established as a direct result of the railroad influx.³

The town of Bearden was platted by the Southwestern Improvement Association (the Railway Land Company) in 1882. It was named after the attorney for the company, Judge John T. Bearden. The town's plan encompassed both sides of the railroad line with the community's main street being located on the north side of the tracks. The first railroad cars arrived in the town in July 1882.⁴

Bearden quickly grew as a result of the railroad and had a population of approximately 250-300 people by 1890. The first store in Bearden was established by E. W. Norman in 1882, and other stores operated by T.

¹ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, p. 641.

² *Ibid.*, p. 641-643.

³ *Ibid.*, 646

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 649.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

S. Wiginton and W. M. Gatling soon followed. Although most businesses were established north of the railroad tracks, Dr. T. J. Henry started a business movement on the south side of the tracks in 1889.⁵

In addition to the early small businesses established in the community during the 1880s, the community became the seat of the Cotton Belt Lumber Company, which employed approximately 100 men by 1890 and operated a four-mill tramway. A small school and a Masonic Lodge were also established by 1890 and a newspaper, the *Bearden Banner* was established by Jack Offerlee in 1889.⁶

By the first part of the twentieth century, it was determined that Bearden needed a waterworks. (According to the Sanborn maps for August 1913 and October 1925, the town did not have any water facilities.⁷) The creation of the PWA under Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal programs gave Bearden the perfect opportunity to get a waterworks. An application was made for PWA assistance in 1935, and the project (PWA Project #1012-R) was allotted a \$26,000 loan and a \$21,119 grant on September 25, 1935. (The estimated total cost for the project was \$47,394.) On November 6, 1935, a contract for \$42,701 was finalized and the firms of McEachin & McEachin, Inc., of Little Rock, and W. F. Moody & Co. were hired as contractors and engineers, respectively.⁸

Construction began on the waterworks on February 21, 1936, and proceeded quickly. The complex consisted of the main water tower, two brick well houses, and a cast concrete holding tank with aerator on top, and was finished on November 10, 1936. Since the waterworks was put into service, the community has continued to use the facility, and has built additional buildings to meet the community's needs. Circa 1960, a small concrete-block office was built on top of a portion of the holding tank. In addition, two storage buildings, one which is used to store chlorine, have been built, likely within the past 25 years. In addition, the water tower was repainted c.2005.

Today, the Bearden Waterworks is a living reminder of Arkansas's PWA and New Deal history. The Bearden Waterworks is a good example of a 1930s-era waterworks built by the PWA, and illustrates the activities of the PWA in the early twentieth century. The survival and continued preservation of the Bearden Waterworks is a monument to the dedication of the Bearden community.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Bearden, Arkansas: August 1913 and October 1925, in the files of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies.

⁸ Information on Arkansas PWA projects in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Bearden Waterworks

Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bearden Waterworks is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as a good example of a 1930s waterworks, and as the last PWA-built waterworks remaining in Ouachita County. The Bearden Waterworks is also being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion A** for its associations with the activities of the PWA in Ouachita County during the 1930s. The Bearden Waterworks is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to Be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943."

Bearden Waterworks
Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas
County and State

 United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

Information on Arkansas PWA projects in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for Bearden, Arkansas: August 1913 and October 1925, in the files of the Richard C. Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Bearden Waterworks
Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the northwest corner of the N. Cedar Street and N. 2nd Street intersection, proceed northwesterly along the west side of N. Cedar Street for 160 feet, thence proceed southwesterly perpendicular to N. Cedar Street for 145 feet, thence proceed southeasterly parallel to N. Cedar Street for 60 feet, thence proceed, northeasterly perpendicular to N. Cedar Street for 40 feet, thence proceed southeasterly parallel to N. Cedar Street for 60 feet to the northern edge of N. 2nd Street, thence proceed northeasterly along the northern edge of N. 2nd Street for 105 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the Bearden Waterworks.

P. W. A.

1012-R

1936

J. W. SANDERS, MAYOR
J. L. HUBBARD, RECORDER
H. B. CATLING, TREAS.

ALDERMEN
J. W. CATLING

W. J. ...
... B. ...
... H. ...
E. D. SANDERS

...
W. F. ...

BEAR
EST



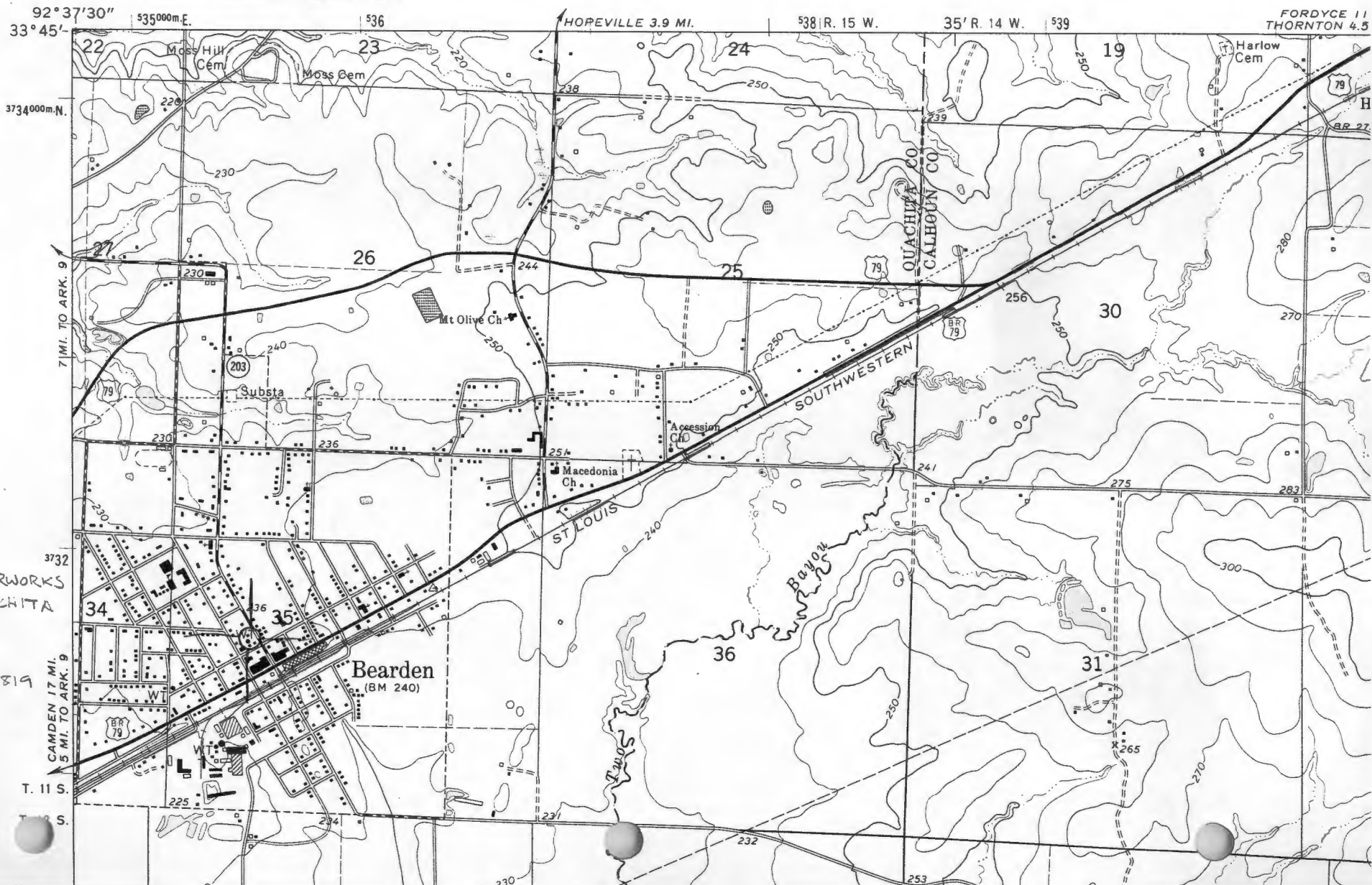






UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

745 (SW SPRINGS)



EARDEN WATERWORKS
EARDEN, OUACHITA
COUNTY, AR
TM:
1/535475/3731819