

60-55-5275-62

Listed: 10-8-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Hanger Cotton Gin

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Harper Road and Gates Lane

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Sweet Home

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. W. A. Ratcliffe

STREET & NUMBER

Harper Road and Gates Lane

CITY, TOWN

Sweet Home

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in Sweet Home, the Old Hanger Gin still remains in excellent condition. According to family sources, the steam-powered gin was built ca. 1876. It operated commercially for at least the period 1884-1885, but it had ceased functioning as a commercial gin by 1892. During the periods before 1884 and from 1885 to 1892, the gin probably functioned, but the limited information available does not absolutely confirm this.

The exterior of the large, three-storey frame building consists of board-and-batten siding. The overall impression the building gives is that of mass and heaviness. The sparseness and small size of the windows, the stone foundation, the comparative uniformity of the exterior and the comparative low pitch of the roof are some of the building's characteristics which contribute to this impression.

Heavy timbers comprise the skeleton of the building-- the studs, ceiling and floor joists, etc.

The building rests upon an uncoursed rubble stone foundation, more of which is visible from the east and south elevations than from the west and north because of the unlevel plot. To the rear the stone foundation rises to a height of over twelve feet. The unlevel plot causes the building to appear to be only two-storey from the front view.

A medium gable roof with a cross-gabled, centrally-located elevator shaft has a corrugated tin covering, which is not original.

A hard-packed dirt surface serves as the floor of part of the ground storey. The remaining floors consist of heavy, rough timber. The ground floor contains a row of mule stalls, also made of heavy timbers. The ceilings are open with the beams and tin serving as the only covering.

All four elevations have small, widely-spaced window openings. None of the windows have glass left in them. Some are boarded up; some are covered with wooden shutters. Others have no covering at all. The west elevation has three entrances, while the rear elevation has only one doorway.

The condition of the building is excellent. Most of the actual deterioration has occurred on the interior, rather than the exterior. This deterioration, however, is minor and does not keep the building from serving a useful function. It has been converted into a grain storage facility. None of the ginning equipment remains. Rather, the interior has been largely cleared out to provide maximum storage capability. Chutes and storage bins have been added to facilitate the storage and handling of grain and hay.

To the south and north elevations have been added frame and tin "lean-to" sheds to shelter farm equipment.

Thus, alterations to the building itself have been minor indeed, and this very imposing structure still looks generally as it did at the time of its construction.

SIGNIFICANCE

110D

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built ca. 1876, probably by Peter Hanger, the Hanger Gin was operated commercially by Frederick Hanger until at least 1885 and probably until 1889. In 1888 Frederick Hanger built the Eagle Ginnery and Pickery in Little Rock, described at the time as one of the most successful businesses in Little Rock. By 1892 the old gin was no longer listed in the Business Directory of Arkansas. Whether the old gin at Sweet Home ceased functioning with the construction of the Eagle Ginnery is unknown. Indications are that shortly after the construction of the new gin, the old gin at Sweet Home ceased commercial operation, but did not necessarily cease all operations.

The Old Hanger gin is significant because of the association with a family very important in Little Rock history. Peter Hanger first came to Arkansas in 1834 and settled just east of Little Rock, where he established his plantation. He became prominent in local affairs and was instrumental in aiding the early growth of Little Rock. Hanger had contracted mail service through Arkansas with the United States Government and his name became synonymous with transportation in Arkansas because of his association with steamboat and stagecoach lines. His son, Frederick Hanger, continued the prominence of the family in Little Rock history, as did his wife Frances. Frederick built a home on Scott Street in 1889 (added to National Register of Historic Places, March 15, 1974) and moved to Scott Street. Peter Hanger's daughter, Margaret M. Hanger Ratcliffe, and her husband became managers of the land on which the Old Hanger Gin is located. Today Margaret Ratcliffe's grandson's widow, Mrs. W. A. Ratcliffe, Jr. manages the farm.

Although none of the original ginning equipment remains, the building remains in excellent condition. Now functioning as a storage facility, it has not been significantly altered. Stairs leading to the upper storeys have been repaired but not replaced. Original dirt and wooden floors still serve. The exterior, though weathered, reflects the high quality of the construction. Interior conditions don't equal those of the exterior, but the limited deterioration does not restrict the buildings usefulness nor detract seriously from its appearance.

Cotton has long been an important crop in Arkansas, and consequently the ginning industry has also been an important aspect of Arkansas history. At the time of the gin's operation, Arkansas was predominantly agricultural, and cotton contributed economically, socially and culturally to the state. The importance of cotton is indicated by the number of gins located in the state at that time.

Form No 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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That only a small percentage of the gins still function is reflective of the advancements in technology, decline in the relative importance of cotton in Arkansas' economy and increasing urbanization, since many of the old gins were rurally situated.

Thus, the Hanger Gin's significance is threefold. First, its significance lies in its association with the Hanger family. Second, the architectural quality of the gin is deserving, as evidenced by its excellent, virtually unaltered condition. Last, the gin is reflective of the dominance of agriculture in central Arkansas during the late nineteenth century and the importance of cotton to agriculture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Business Directory of Arkansas 1886-87, 1888-89, 1892. (Memphis: Historic and Descriptive Publishing Co.).
Goodspeed's History of Central Arkansas 1890. Chicago. 458-59.
Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock), April 8, 1873.
 Ibid. September 14-15, 1914.
 Personal Interview. Mrs. W. A. Ratcliffe, Jr. at Ratcliffe home. Sweet Home, Arkansas. November 12, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	5,6,9,9,2,0	3,8,3,8,3,4,5	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Donna DuVall, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

March 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

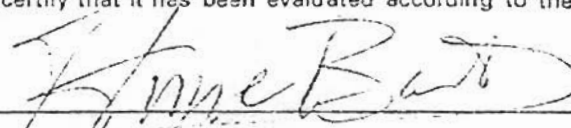
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER