

Hughes Water Tower
Name of Property

St. Francis County, Arkansas
County and State

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

NR 10-5-06

NR

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Hughes Water Tower

Other Name/Site Number: SF0064

2. Location

Street & Number: Church Street

Not for Publication:

City/Town: Hughes

Vicinity:

State: AR County: St. Francis Code: AR123 Zip Code: 72348

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Structure

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Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing Noncontributing

___	___	buildings
___	___	sites
<u>1</u>	___	structures
___	___	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: "An Ambition to be Preferred": New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas, 1933-1943

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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.

Cecilia Matthews 8/1/06

Signature of certifying official 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

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5. National Park Service Certification

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

6. Function or Use

Historic: INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION Sub: waterworks
Current : INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION Sub: waterworks

7. Description

Architectural Classification: OTHER/Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Metal
walls Metal other NA

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY:

The Hughes Water Tower is located on Church Street in Hughes, a small town in St. Francis County in northeast Arkansas. The metal water tower was built by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works for the Public Works Administration in 1936.

ELABORATION:

The Hughes Water Tower is located on Church Street in Hughes, a small town in St. Francis County in northeast Arkansas. The metal water tower was built by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works for the Public Works Administration in 1936.

The water tower is supported by four metal latticed legs that slope inwards toward 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 a large metal pipe. A metal walkway with metal pipe handrail around the base of the tank accesses a ladder that ascends one leg of the tower. The walls of the tank are constructed of pieces of curved sheet metal and the word "HUGHES" adorns one side in large, black letters. The tank is crowned by a conical metal roof.

A plaque affixed to one leg of the tower says: HORTON TANK/CONTRACT NUMBER 6563 YEAR 1936/BUILT BY CHICAGO BRIDGE AND IRON WORKS/CHICAGO, ILL./GREENVILLE, PA, BIRMINGHAM, AL.

The Hughes Water Tower was built with the assistance of the Public Works Administration and retains good integrity, having suffered few if any alterations. In addition, the setting of Hughes remains a small town, much as it would have been when the water tower was constructed.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Areas of Significance: ENGINEERING; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period(s) of Significance: 1936-1956

Significant Dates: 1936-1956

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Public Works Administration; Chicago Bridge and Iron Works

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

SUMMARY:

The Hughes Water Tower is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance under Criterion A** for its association with the activities of the Public Works Administration in Hughes and St. Francis County and under **Criterion C** by virtue of its status as a good example of a 1930s water tower and the only surviving example of a PWA-built water tower in the county. The Hughes Water Tower is being nominated to the National Register under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas: 1933-1943."

ELABORATION:

St. Francis County was established on October 13, 1827, though it has been reduced in size through the formation of other counties. Its first courthouse was at the home of William Strong on the Memphis to Little Rock Road at St. Francis. Around 1841 the county seat was moved to Madison, then to Mount Vernon, briefly, around 1855, before returning to Madison. In 1874 it was moved permanently to the important railroad center of Forrest City.

Hughes was founded in 1913 as the Iron Mountain Railroad built its expensive "mud line" from West Memphis to Marianna through the swamps and scrub prairies of the Arkansas Delta. It was named for Robert Hughes, who donated land to the railroad. By the time the Great Depression struck, the small town of Hughes served the vast agricultural enterprises that farmed cotton in the region.

The town of Hughes took advantage of the offerings of the Public Works Administration and applied to have a \$40,529 waterworks installed. On September 22, 1935, the PWA awarded a \$22,000 loan and a \$17,700 grant for the project. A contract for \$36,661 was awarded on October 19, 1935, and the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works began construction on March 12, 1936. The water tower is a Horton-style tank, named for either Chicago Bridge and Iron Works founder Horace E. Horton or his son, chief engineer George T. Horton. Construction was

complete by December 2, 1936, and the Hughes Water Tower continues to serve the people of the community to this day.

The Hughes Water Tower remains today as a testament to the work of the Public Works Administration, a New Deal agency that put unemployed Americans to work during the Great Depression while bringing badly needed infrastructure to communities of all sizes throughout Arkansas.

CONCLUSION

The Hughes Water Tower is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance under Criterion A** for its association with the activities of the Public Works Administration in Hughes and St. Francis County and under **Criterion C** by virtue of its status as a good example of a 1930s water tower and the only surviving example of a PWA-built water tower in the county. The Hughes Water Tower is being nominated to the National Register under the multiple-property listing "An Ambition to be Preferred: New Deal Recovery Efforts and Architecture in Arkansas: 1933-1943."

9. Major Bibliographical References

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890)

Information on Public Works Administration projects from the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Information from <http://www.epodunk.com/cgi-bin/genInfo.php?locIndex=11549>, downloaded May 22, 2006.

Information from <http://www.rpi.edu/about/hof/horton.html>, downloaded July 27, 2006.

The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas (University Press of Kansas, 1987), p. 341.

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 -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 730801 3870322 B

Verbal Boundary Description:

An area around the water tower defined by a 25-foot radius centered on the water tower itself.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains the Hughes Water Tower and the property with which it is historically associated.

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: May 22, 2006

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

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



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Hughes, St. Francis Co, AR
15/730801/3870322





