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AHPP

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office

Other Name/Site Number: YE0094

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 103 N. Front Street

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: Dardanelle

Vicinity: NA

State: AR County: Yell Code: 149

Zip Code: 72834

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Public-Federal

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u> 1 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art

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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.

Signature of certifying official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: GOVERNMENT Sub: Post Office

Current : GOVERNMENT Sub: Post Office

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Colonial Revival

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Brick other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY:

The Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office is a one-story, brick-masonry structure designed in a restrained interpretation of the Colonial Revival style of architecture, and features a full basement. The structure is built on an essentially square plan with a small projecting loading dock in the rear. The building is surrounded with a slightly projecting cornice at the roofline, and the bulk of the Colonial Revival ornamentation is confined to the front door arrangement. The front part of the roof is hipped, while the rear is flat. Though the building has sustained some alterations in recent years, it retains sufficient historic integrity for National Register recognition within the context **Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art.**

ELABORATION:

The Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office is a one-story, brick-masonry structure designed in a restrained interpretation of the Colonial Revival style of architecture, and features a full basement. The structure is built on an essentially square plan with a small projecting loading dock in the rear. The building is surrounded with a slightly projecting cornice at the roofline, and the bulk of the Colonial Revival ornamentation is confined to the front door arrangement. The front portion of the roof is hipped, while the rear is flat. Though the building has sustained some alterations in recent years, it retains sufficient historic integrity for National Register recognition within the context **Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art.**

The east, or front, facade centers around a single-leaf, aluminum-frame door with a single-pane sidelight and flanked by wooden half-columns supporting an entablature accented with a dentil course and with the metal numbers 72834 attached. A two-panel wooden arrangement separates the top of the door from and the seven-pane fixed transom. A pair of simple lantern lights are affixed on either side of the door. They in turn are flanked by a pair of thirty-two pane fixed windows behind fixed storm windows with two horizontal panes emulating a double-hung appearance; the entire window assembly features a concrete sill and a stone lintel. (All other window arrangements on this building follow this basic design unless otherwise specified.) These windows are flanked by a vertical brick band and another thirty-two pane window arrangement. A set of steps lead to the door and a switchback handicap-access ramp meets the porch on its western side. The cornerstone is on the southern edge of this facade; it reads: HENRY MORGENTHAU JR/SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY/JAMES A FARLEY/POSTMASTER GENERAL/LOUIS A SIMON/SUPERVISING ARCHITECT/NEAL A MELICK/SUPERVISING ENGINEER/1937. A recessed area below the northernmost windows provides fenestration and access to the basement area; this recessed area is surrounded at ground level by a simple metal fence that continues along the northern edge of the stoop. Between the cornice and the door assembly are fixed metal letters reading: UNITED STATES POST OFFICE/DARDANELLE ARKANSAS.

The northern facade, from east to west, features a thirty-two pane arrangement followed by a small, two-over-two window with storm window cover, a recessed brick panel with a stone lintel, followed by another two-over-two window, a thirty-two pane window, another two-over-two window, and a final thirty-two pane arrangement. Steps from both north and south provide access to basement doors.

The western, or rear, facade, from north to south, has two thirty-two pane window arrangements above a switchback ramp leading to the loading dock. The two-story brick chimney is located at the junction of the dock and the original rear of the building. A single-leaf door is located facing north at the top of the ramp. A double-leaf set of swinging doors faces west and provides access to the dock, which is covered by a flat shed roof. Another single-leaf door enters the dock facing north. The dock's west end has a short brick wall with an opening suitable for a mail truck to back up to. The rear of the dock and the south side of the building were bricked in in 1992 to provide additional working space; a final thirty-two pane window arrangement fenestrates the southwestern end of this space.

The south facade, from west to east, features two thirty-two pane arrangements fenestrating the new wall enclosing the added work space, then four similar arrangements leading to the eastern edge of the facade. A recessed area below the easternmost three windows provides access to basement window fenestrations.

Noteworthy interior details include the original wooden vestibule and much original tile and wood work. The most noteworthy detail is a 1939 mural by artist Ludwig Mactarian titled "Cotton Growing, Manufacture and Export."

Though the original windows were changed and the rear of the loading dock enclosed in 1992, the Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office still retains a remarkable degree of historic integrity and remains eligible for the National Register within the context **Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art**. The alterations, incidentally, were made as part of an agreement to keep the historic downtown post office in operation in Dardanelle instead of moving it to a suburban location.

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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: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): NA

Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

Areas of Significance: Politics/Government

Period(s) of Significance: 1938-1940

Significant Dates: 1938-1940

Significant Person(s): NA

Cultural Affiliation: NA

Architect/Builder: Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect
Linebarger and Fraser, Builder

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

SUMMARY:

The Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office is associated with the historic context **Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art** as a U.S. Postal Service structure containing a mural financed through the U.S. Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the Section's efforts to employ Depression-era artists and place art in federal buildings around the country.

ELABORATION:

"Dardanelle Is To Have New Federal Building," the Dardanelle *Post Dispatch* reported on June 25, 1936, saying that Congressman D.D. Terry notified the postmaster for the county seat for northern Yell County that \$60,000 in federal money was set aside for land acquisition and construction of a new facility.

A few months later, on August 13, the paper reported that the U.S. Treasury Department was purchasing five lots on the northeast corner of the intersection of Front and Locust streets for \$5,000. Just under one year later, on August 12, 1937, the *Post-Dispatch* reported that demolition of the 1913 Armour Gray Grocery and Market Building was practically complete, clearing the way for construction of the new facility.

It was more than a month later, on September 23, that the newspaper announced that the Linebarger and Fraser firm, which already had completed new post office buildings at Springdale and Monticello, was the low bidder for the Dardanelle project with a contract price of \$43,323. The new building would be a one-story structure with a basement that "will contain six large rooms for use of federal agencies." And on June 2, 1938, the *Post-Dispatch* reported that the building, constructed for a grand total of \$44,923, opened for business the previous day. "The new building is of buff brick, with a rustic green baked tile roof. The interior is plastered. The floor is of selected hard maple laid on concrete except for the spacious lobby, which is tile," the article said. A formal dedication, featuring an address by Congressman Terry, was set for July 27.

Included in the construction costs was \$660 to finance a mural for the new Agriculture and Post Office Building at Dardanelle. On August 20, 1938, Edward B. Rowan, superintendent of the U.S. Treasury Department's Section of Painting and Sculpture, invited New York artist Ludwig Mactarian to submit designs for the mural. "It is suggested that you use subject matter which embodies some idea appropriate to the building or to the particular locale of Dardanelle," Rowan wrote. "What we want most is a simple and vital design."

Mactarian accepted the commission in a September 10 letter in which he promised to submit several drawings for consideration. "From what I gather, Dardanelle is a shipping and trading center with the following (sic) industries: Cotton, Cotton Seed Oil, Hardwood Mills, Box & Handle factories," he wrote. "I will do some research on Dardanelle and submit my black and white ideas within two or three weeks." A month later, however, the artist again wrote Rowan complaining of a paucity of information about Dardanelle. "I should like to go out there to do some study, but unfortunately, I haven't the money for the train fare," the October 12 letter says. "I wonder if you can arrange for an advance to cover the cost of transportation." Rowan replied on October 18 that "there is no way that we can" provide an advance, but urged Mactarian to contact the Dardanelle postmaster, public library, and others for images of the Yell County town.

The artist apparently proceeded without local photographs, and on October 20 mailed Rowan a rough sketch for the Dardanelle mural, "the theme of which, is the three phases of the cotton industry--cotton growing, manufacture and export." The Section approved the sketch on October 22 and gave Mactarian permission to proceed and two months later acknowledged receipt of his two-inch scale color sketch of the mural. For some reason, Mactarian's contract was not completed until December 15, prompting a terse January 9, 1939, letter to Rowan, saying: "I wonder what's holding up my contract for the Dardanelle, Arkansas Post Office mural job - also the money due me at this time. ... Due to considerable expense I have at this time buying materials and paying for models, I need some money to go on with the work. Please let me hear from you real soon." A first payment of \$200 was approved on February 3, 1939.

On May 27, Mactarian wrote Rowan that the Dardanelle mural would be completed by the end of June, and he submitted a photo of the full-sized cartoon. "I am confident that painting the mural will go smoothly and that I shall endeavor making it the best piece of painting I have ever done." However, Section personnel found Mactarian's proposed canvas to be of inferior quality. In a June 10 letter, Mactarian explained to Rowan that the canvas "was supplied by N. Rabinowitz and he was so reassuring about the quality of the material and how it had already been approved by the section on numerous occasions that I didn't hesitate in buying it. ... Being pressed for time, I had gone ahead with the painting without waiting to hear from you and I have finished underpainting the entire design. ... Will you please let me know as soon as possible wheather (sic) I ought to go ahead painting on this canvas or start out again on a different one." No further correspondence regarding this imbroglio exists in the National Archives materials regarding the Dardanelle post office, but Mactarian's second payment of \$200 was approved on June 12 and nine days later the artist received approval to install the completed mural, so it can be assumed that the canvas passed muster.

On July 5, Mactarian notified Rowan that he and John Robertson, who painted a mural for the new Nashville, Arkansas, post office were heading south to install their works. He next wrote Rowan from Dardanelle on July 29: "Everything went well on the installation of my mural at Dardanelle. The townspeople seem pleased and interested in the decoration and think the subject most appropriate as they live and die by cotton here. I would appreciate it if you would manage to get my voucher and check through as quickly as possible as I will reach New York broke." Dardanelle Postmaster Joe D. Gault followed up with an August 5 letter confirming installation. "We

greatly appreciate this splendid addition to our new building, and would like to extend our compliments to Mr. Mactarian and your Department," he wrote. "We have received many favorable comments from our patrons here concerning the mural"

Mactarian again contacted Rowan in an August 16 letter pleading for his final payment: "I would greatly appreciate your help in speeding up this matter for me as I am dead broke." His final payment of \$260 was approved two days later.

Mactarian's mural remains an integral part of the Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office, a building that in the early 1990s was threatened with closing in favor of a new facility outside of its historic downtown location. Happily, the post office remained in this building. The alterations it underwent to remain in service are relatively minor, and certainly do not affect its National Register eligibility or its historic associations with the U.S. Treasury Department's Section Art program.

The Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office is associated with the historic context **Arkansas Post Offices with Section Art** as a U.S. Postal Service structure containing a mural financed through the U.S. Treasury Department's Section on Fine Arts. As such, it is eligible under Criterion A with statewide significance for its associations with the Section's efforts to employ Depression-era artists and place art in federal buildings around the country.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Dardanelle Post-Dispatch, June 25, August 13, 1936; May 27, July 15, July 22, August 12, September 23, 1937; June 2, June 23, 1938.

U.S. Treasury Department Section on Fine Arts materials, National Archives.

Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 486600 3897320 B _____
C _____ D _____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the western edge of North Front Street and a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the north thereof, proceed westerly for a distance of approximately 200 feet; thence proceed southerly along a perpendicular line for a distance of approximately 200 feet; thence proceed easterly along a perpendicular line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the western edge of North Front Street; thence proceed northerly along said edge to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all 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: Mark Christ/Community Outreach Director

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 1-29-98

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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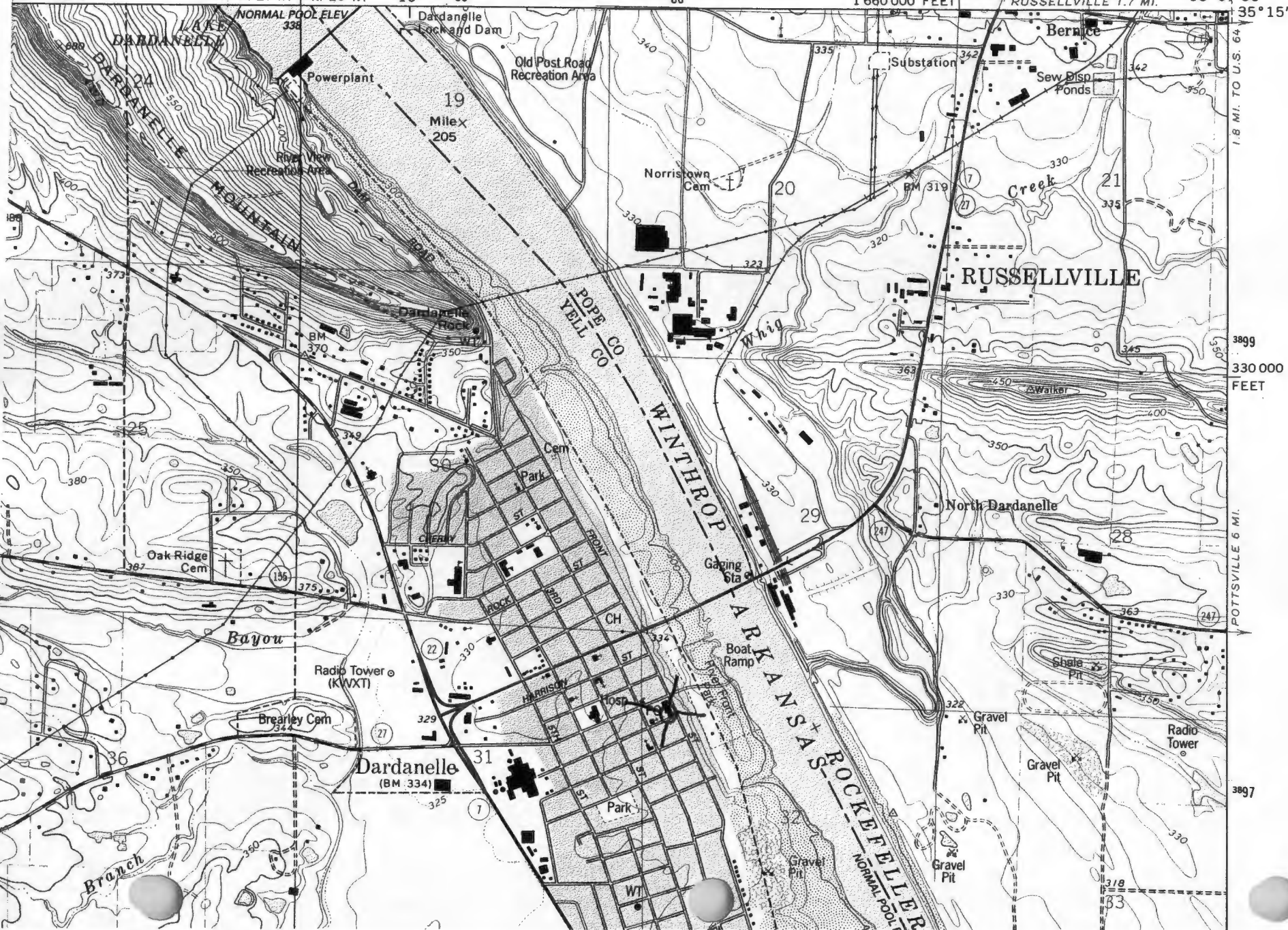
DARDANELLE QUADRANGLE

ARKANSAS

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7354 1 SE
(RUSSELLVILLE EAST)

SW (E WEST) 484 R. 21 W. R. 20 W. 10' 485 486 1 660 000 FEET 4 MI. TO INTERSTATE 40 RUSSELLVILLE 1.7 MI. 93°07'30" 35°15'



Dardanelle Agriculture and Post Office B
Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas
15/486600/3897320