

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Grace, Dr. John, House and Hospital

Other names/site number: Site #YE0233

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 100 North Road

City or town: Belleville State: Arkansas County: Yell

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

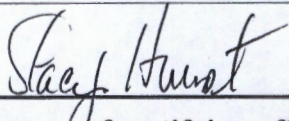
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

	<u>3-19-15</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date

Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
HEALTHCARE/hospital

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Plain-Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, WOOD, ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dr. Grace House and Hospital is located at 100 North Road, about 0.75 miles north of the center of Belleville, Yell County, Arkansas. The area around the building is rural in nature and has scattered homes and farms. The two-story ell-shaped frame building, which was built in 1912, rests on a continuous stone foundation, and is sided in wood novelty siding. The front of the building is spanned by a two-story full-width porch supported by round, unfluted columns. The second floor of the porch has a wood balustrade with decorative spindles. A side-gable roof, which is covered with asphalt shingles, tops the building. In addition to the main building, a small shed is located at the southeast corner of the building.

Narrative Description

The Dr. Grace House and Hospital is located at 100 North Road, about 0.75 miles north of the center of Belleville, Yell County, Arkansas. The building's site slopes to the south towards the road. The area around the building is rural in nature and has scattered homes and farms. The two-story ell-shaped frame building, which was built in 1912, rests on a continuous stone foundation, and is sided in wood novelty siding. The building's windows consist of wood-frame, one-over-one, double-hung windows. The front of the building is spanned by a two-story full-width porch supported by round, unfluted columns. The front façade is also recessed in the

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center. The second floor of the porch has a wood balustrade with decorative spindles. A side-gable roof, which is covered with asphalt shingles, tops the building. The roof has two large, front-facing dormers, one at each end of the façade. In addition to the main building, a small shed is located at the southeast corner of the building.

Front/South Façade

The south façade of the house is symmetrical in nature with a recessed center section. On the first floor, the recessed section of the façade has a central entry with a wood door with large plate-glass window. A single-pane, wood-framed transom window is located above the entrance. The entrance is flanked on each side by a single wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. The second floor of the façade's recessed section matches the first floor with the exception that the central entrance does not have a transom window.

The recessed section of the façade is flanked on each side by a diagonal wall. On the first floor, the diagonal walls both have central entries with wood doors with large plate-glass windows. On the second floor the diagonal sections are fenestrated by single wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows.

On the first floor, the outer sections of the façade are fenestrated by a pair of wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows. On the second floor, however, the façade is fenestrated by a wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. Above the outer sections of the façade, at the attic level, are front-facing gables with small centrally-located boarded up windows.

The front façade is spanned by a full-width, two-story porch with concrete floor. Each level of the porch is supported by six unfluted round Doric columns. The bases of the first-floor columns have been replaced with brick bases. In between the first and second floors, the porch has a decorative band with recessed rectangular panels. The second floor of the porch has a balustrade comprised of decorative spindles. A hipped roof tops the porch.

Side/East Façade

Like the west façade, the east façade consists of three sections: the front porch, the main portion of the building, and the rear ell. The east side of the front porch continues the decorative band with recessed rectangular panels between the first and second floors. The second floor of the porch also has the balustrade comprised of decorative spindles.

The main portion of the property has two bays and both bays are fenestrated on each level by a wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window.

The west side of the rear ell of the property is fenestrated on the second floor by a wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. The first floor of the rear ell is covered by the enclosed rear porch, which has no fenestration on the east side.

Rear/North Façade

The north façade of the property consists of the façade of the property's rear ell as well as the north façade of the main portion of the property. The north façade of the rear ell is fenestrated

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on each floor by a wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. The windows are located near the east end of the façade.

The second floor of the main section of the property is fenestrated by two wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows, one near each end of the façade. The first floor of the main portion of the building consists of a hipped-roof porch that has been enclosed. An open entrance to the porch is present near the west end of the porch.

Side/West Façade

The west façade consists of three sections: the front porch, the main portion of the building, and the rear ell. The west side of the front porch continues the decorative band with recessed rectangular panels between the first and second floors. The second floor of the porch also has the balustrade comprised of decorative spindles.

The main portion of the property has two bays and the southern bay is fenestrated on each level by a wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. The northern bay, on the second floor, is also fenestrated by a wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window. The first floor is currently fenestrated by a small pair of wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one windows that replaced a single wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window.

The west side of the rear ell of the property is also fenestrated on each floor by a wood-framed, double-hung, one-over-one window.

Shed

Immediately adjacent to the southeast corner of the property is a small wood-framed shed sided with wood clapboard siding. The shed has a full-width open front platform and rests on a concrete block and wood block foundation. The shed has a front-facing gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. A line of wood-framed windows lines the west façade.

Integrity

Overall, the Dr. Grace House and Hospital has good integrity. The largest changes to the property are the replacement of some of the windows on the west façade as well as the enclosing of the rear porch. However, the property retains most of its original windows and its original wood novelty siding. The property also retains its elaborate full-width front porch. The setting around the property is rural, but on the outskirts of the small town of Belleville. The setting around the property reflects the historic setting of the property. If Dr. Grace were to return to the property, it would be very easy for him to recognize the property.

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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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)
HEALTH/MEDICINE

Period of Significance
1912-1937

Significant Dates
1912

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Dr. John Grace House and Hospital is being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with healthcare in Belleville. From its construction in 1912 until Dr. Grace's death in 1937, the Dr. John Grace House and Hospital was the only source of healthcare in Belleville. Dr. Grace not only used the property as his family's home, but also used it as his office and hospital providing a space for the treatment and care of the community's sick and injured.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Settlement in the area that became Yell County began in the 1820s with the arrival of Pearson Brearly in 1827. He was followed by Joseph H. Brearly in 1831 and then by other families including the Stinnets, Hensleys, Wickers, and Beattys. Enough people were in the area to necessitate the creation of Yell County on December 5, 1840, from parts of Pope and Scott counties. The county was named for the state's first Congressman and second governor, Archibald Yell. A temporary county seat was established for Yell County in the home of William Pevy until it was decided that the seat of power should be near the geographic center of the county. The Town of Danville was laid out and a courthouse was established. Due to the size of the county and the distribution of the population, an appeal was made for a second county seat to be established at Dardanelle in the northeast part of the county. The town of Dardanelle was laid out by Dr. Joseph Brearly in 1843 and was incorporated as a town on January 17, 1855. The Dardanelle District of Yell County was established in 1875.¹

The 1870s also brought about the formation of some of the county's communities, specifically Belleville. William H. Ferguson established a saw mill in the area in 1872, and as others settled in the vicinity, it became known as Ferguson's Mills. Ferguson was also the first postmaster for the community. In 1886 the name was changed to Belleville, and after the railroad came through the county in 1889, the town had relocated to its present location to be on the railroad line.² By the early 1890s, the community had grown. Goodspeed notes:

In twelve years its scenery, mineral waters, healthfulness and other natural advantages have gathered within its limits about 300 thrifty inhabitants and founded a center of trade and industry. Daily mails and telephone bring the place in quick communication with other parts of the county. Surrounding the town, fine agricultural lands spread their fertility to the husbandman. ... [Ferguson] is a large

¹ *A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region*. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, Publishers, 1894, p. 40, and Ferguson, Todd. "Yell County Courthouse, Yell County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1992.

² Yell County Historical and Genealogical Association. *Yell County Heritage: History of Yell County, Arkansas*. Bedford, TX: Curtis Media, Inc., 1997, p. 71. The town's previous location was in the vicinity of Lower Spring Creek Road, approximately three miles to the northeast of the current town.

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land-owner, and still owns the ginning, saw and grist mill industry of the place, and is foremost in the upbuilding of the town he established eighteen years ago. The first merchant was Mr. John F. Choate, who came to Bellville in 1878. He is still in business, and at the head of one of the leading firms of the place. The business interests of Bellville at this time may be mentioned as follows: General stores – Choate, Fowler & Martin, Heck & Briggs, F. C. Jones & Co., O. S. Ferguson, Bruton & Lynch; drug stores – Dr. J. H. Harkness, Pledger & Briggs, Dr. G. C. Parker; blacksmiths – Nolan & May, Bunch & Welch; steam planing-mill – Nolan & May; steam, saw and grist mill and cotton gin – W. H. Ferguson; Bellville Hotel – Thomas McCleskey; Bellville Academy – J. G. Smyth, president.³

Although there were apparently no doctors in Belleville in the nineteenth century, physicians were present in Yell County area by the 1850s. However, they appeared to be concentrated in Dardanelle and Danville in the early days. Dr. B. F. Chandler was the first physician in Dardanelle, and he came to the area in 1850 and died in 1858. By the early 1890s, Dardanelle had a number of physicians, including L. E. Love, C. R. Wilson, A. J. Harris, J. H. Wiley, J. D. Hart, H. H. Cook, and E. Leming. In Danville, on the other hand, Dr. Floyd was a pioneer physician, and M. T. J. Capshaw and W. J. Stafford were physicians in the community by the 1890s.⁴

However, by the early twentieth century, Belleville had its own physician – Dr. John Grace. Dr. Grace was born in 1868 near New Hope in Yell County to John and Elizabeth Grace, who were pioneer residents of the area. In 1893, Dr. Grace graduated from the Vanderbilt Medical College in Nashville, Tennessee, and he also did post-graduate work at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. The following year Dr. Grace married Lula Beard of Dardanelle. In 1903 Dr. Grace became licensed to practice medicine in Arkansas.⁵

By 1906, Dr. Grace was practicing in Belleville, for in that year Dr. W. A. Jaquith, who worked for Prudential Insurance Company, traveled around Arkansas interviewing and examining the doctors that the company used to complete the physical exams on their life insurance patients. With respect to Belleville and Dr. Grace, Dr. Jaquith wrote: “Belleville: Is a small new town, having a small planeing [sic.] mill. I found Dr. Grace, our examiner, is at present in New Orleans. There is a reunion of Confederate veterans at the latter mentioned place. Made inquiry regarding the Doctor at Belleville and of physicians in adjoining towns and am assured he is a competent man.”

³ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p.127. It is not known if “Bellville” was a misspelling of the name at the time or if the name of the community was spelled both “Bellville” and “Belleville” interchangeably.

⁴ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p.126.

⁵ “Dr. John Grace Victim of Fatal Heart Attack.” *Dardanelle Post Dispatch*, 27 May 1937.

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According to local residents, in 1912 Dr. Grace built his home and hospital north of town. The large home allowed for his family's living quarters – he and his wife would have at least nine children – and also allowed for a place for his medical practice. Locals have indicated that if people needed overnight care, that his home served that purpose as well. Considering the fact that the nearest hospital was over twenty miles away, Dr. Grace's house would have served a vital purpose in Belleville during the first part of the twentieth century.⁶

Dr. Grace continued to practice medicine in Belleville up until his death in May of 1937. In fact, his obituary noted that he was in the process of treating a patient when he himself became sick. It reported:

Dr. Grace had for several days been attending at the bedside of a sister, Mrs. J. E. Roberts, in the Gum Springs community six miles southwest of Dardanelle, when he was taken ill about noon Monday. Though not alarmed by his illness, he was making arrangements to return home, when his condition suddenly became worse and he was rushed to the hospital.⁷

Dr. Grace, at the time of his death, was a member of the Yell-Pope Medical Society and the Arkansas State Medical Society, along with several non-medical organizations. In addition to being a physician, Dr. Grace and his son, Oliver, operated a large general mercantile store in Belleville, and he was also interested in farming and stock raising. His obituary called him one of the "most useful and influential citizens of Yell County..."⁸

Dr. Grace was a well-liked gentleman, which was proven by the fact that more than 1,000 people attended his funeral at the Belleville Baptist Church. As his obituary noted:

As a man, as a physicin [sic.], and as a business man, Dr. Grace enjoyed the respect, the confidence and the admiration of the citizenship of the entire County, in every corner of which he was well known. He was a man of wide knowledge and vast experience. He loved his fellows and was deeply concerned in their welfare and happiness. He was generous, kindly and progressive, and a record of his good deeds, unassumingly and quietly performed, would fill volumes. His death is a distinct and heavy loss to his community, his County and his State, yet there is solace in the knowledge that he lived a useful goodly life, the record of which is fit pattern for emulation.⁹

After his death, his wife lived in the house until her death in January 1940. (Interestingly, her obituary noted that "She was an active member of the Grace Memorial Baptist church at

⁶ Taylor, Linda. Conversation with the author. 1 July 2014.

⁷ "Dr. John Grace Victim of Fatal Heart Attack." *Dardanelle Post Dispatch*, 27 May 1937.

⁸ "Dr. John Grace Victim of Fatal Heart Attack." *Dardanelle Post Dispatch*, 27 May 1937.

⁹ "Dr. John Grace Victim of Fatal Heart Attack." *Dardanelle Post Dispatch*, 27 May 1937.

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Belleville, which was named in honor of her husband.”) Since then, the property has passed through various owners, and is now owned by Linda Taylor, who lives in the house. Although the property no longer serves the medical needs of the community, it is an important reminder of early medicine in the Belleville area.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

In the small rural communities of Arkansas, health care was always an issue, especially if the community did not have its own hospital. In those communities, the local doctor was an important member of the community, since he could provide at least the minimum in healthcare to the local residents. As a result, Dr. Grace would have been an important member of the local Belleville community. Since the closest hospital to Belleville would have likely been located in Dardanelle or Russellville, approximately 25 miles away, Dr. Grace’s Hospital would have been a valuable and significant resource in Belleville.

From its construction in 1912 until Dr. Grace’s death in 1937, the Dr. John Grace House and Hospital was the only source of healthcare in Belleville. Dr. Grace not only used the property as his family’s home, but also used it as his office and hospital providing a space for the treatment and care of the community’s sick and injured. As a result of its importance in the healthcare history of Belleville, the Dr. John Grace House and Hospital is being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with healthcare in Belleville.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)
A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, Publishers, 1894.
Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891.
"Dr. John Grace Victim of Fatal Heart Attack." *Dardanelle Post Dispatch*, 27 May 1937.
Ferguson, Todd. "Yell County Courthouse, Yell County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1992.
Taylor, Linda. Conversation with the author. 1 July 2014.
Yell County Historical and Genealogical Association. *Yell County Heritage: History of Yell County, Arkansas.* Bedford, TX: Curtis Media, Inc., 1997.

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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): YE0233

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail: ralph@arkansasheritage.org
telephone: (501) 324-9787
date: December 19, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Dr. Grace House and Hospital

City or Vicinity: Belleville

County: Yell County State: Arkansas

Photographer: Ralph S. Wilcox

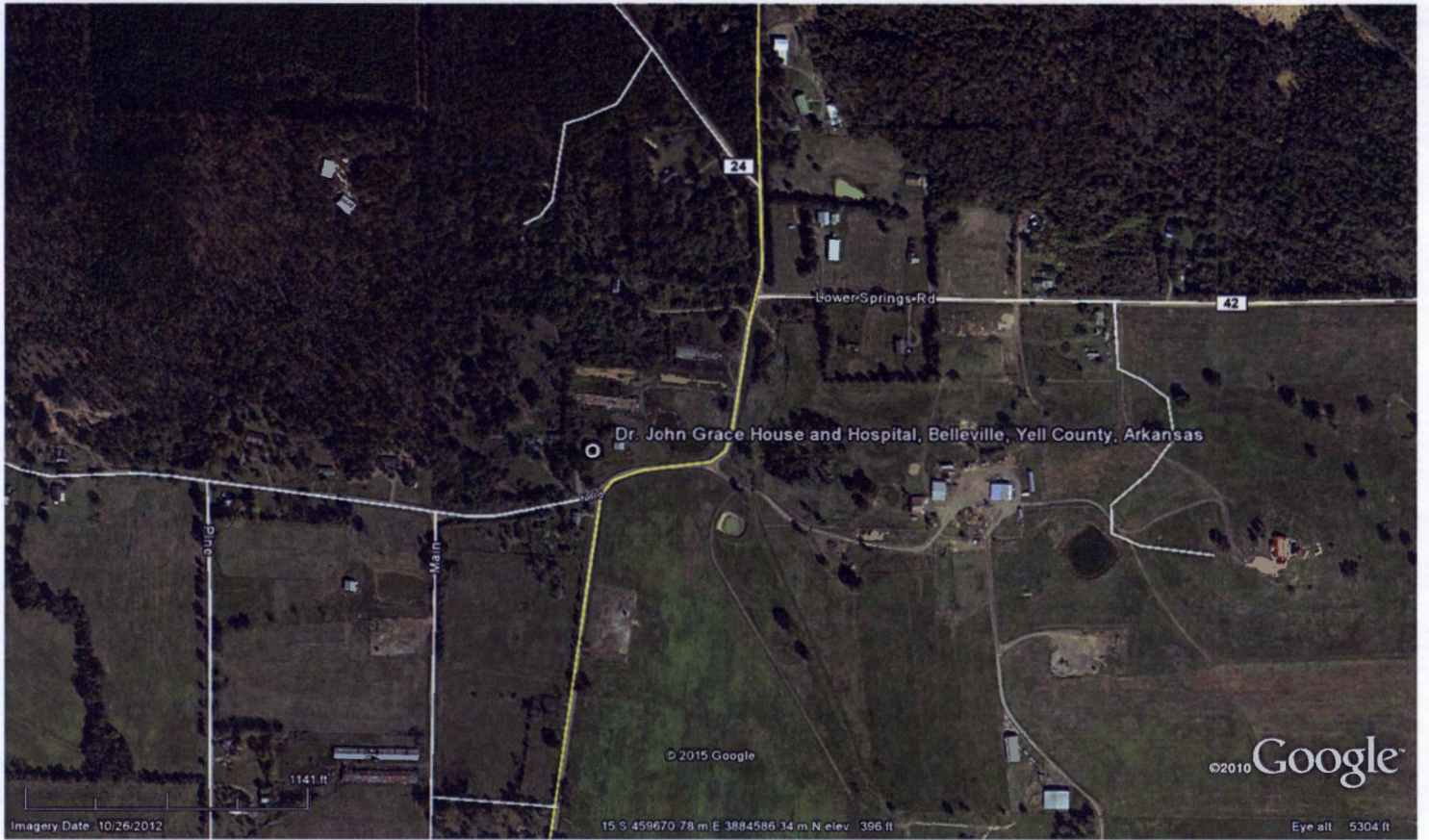
Date Photographed: July 1, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 8 . South façade, looking north.
- 2 of 8 . West façade, looking northeast.
- 3 of 8 . North façade, looking south.
- 4 of 8 . North and east façades, looking southwest.
- 5 of 8 . East façade, looking southwest.
- 6 of 8 . East and south façades, looking northwest.
- 7 of 8 . Shed, looking northeast.
- 8 of 8 . Front porch column detail, looking north.

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



|-----1141 feet-----|

Dr. John Grace House and Hospital
Belleville, Yell County, Arkansas

15 459527E 3884551N



North



|-----324 feet-----|

Dr. John Grace House and Hospital
Belleville, Yell County, Arkansas

15 459527E 3884551N



North















