

NR listed 6/24/94
OMB No. 1024-0018

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Devil's Den State Park Historic District

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: State Highway 74

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Winslow

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Washington code: AR 143 zip code: 72959

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>18</u>	<u>16</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>21</u>	<u>16</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942

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.

Cathryn A. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

1-16-92
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Outdoor Recreation

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Outdoor Recreation

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

N/A

Other Description: Rustic _____

Materials: foundation Stone _____ roof Asphalt _____
walls Stone _____ other Log posts and exposed rafters
Wood weatherboarding

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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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: Locally _____.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C _____

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A _____

Areas of Significance: ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION _____
SOCIAL HISTORY _____
ARCHITECTURE _____

Period(s) of Significance: 1936-1941 _____

Significant Dates: N/A _____

Significant Person(s): N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps _____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

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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Acreage of Property: Approximately 1,500

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>388280</u>	<u>3962730</u>	B	<u>15</u>	<u>388170</u>	<u>3959160</u>
C	<u>15</u>	<u>385720</u>	<u>3959240</u>	D	<u>15</u>	<u>385690</u>	<u>3958840</u>
E	<u>15</u>	<u>384900</u>	<u>3958880</u>	F	<u>15</u>	<u>384940</u>	<u>3959690</u>
G	<u>15</u>	<u>385730</u>	<u>3959660</u>	H	<u>15</u>	<u>385770</u>	<u>3960440</u>
I	<u>15</u>	<u>386570</u>	<u>3960420</u>	J	<u>15</u>	<u>386600</u>	<u>3961150</u>
K	<u>15</u>	<u>387400</u>	<u>3961140</u>	L	<u>15</u>	<u>387440</u>	<u>3962760</u>

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

The boundary for this district follows the current legal boundaries of Devil's Den State Park (see accompanying sketch map).

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes both all of the surveyed historic resources for which the district has been considered significant and a large number of unsurveyed (and thus uncounted) historic resources that abound throughout the park, all of which were also appear to have been constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: January 15, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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

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National Park Service

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Summary

Located in the northwestern section of the state's Ozark Mountain region, Devil's Den State Park is situated on the sloping hillsides to either side of the winding Lee Creek valley, through which the creek runs from northeast to southwest. Like most such Ozark Mountain streams, Lee Creek's actual channel is narrow and clearly defined for the most part, and without any significant natural pools or ponds where water collects; the man-made lake in the center of the park was created by the CCC for recreational purposes. The park is accessed via State Highway 74, the current road bed of which substantially follows the original CCC-constructed road through the main section of the park (State Highway 74 follows a modern roadbed as it exits the park just to the north of the overlook, #17). The park contains approximately 1,500 acres.

The contributing resources within the Devil's Den State Park Historic District were all constructed c. 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC); the state park as such was established in 1933. All of the principal structures were designed in the Rustic style that was popular with public works projects during the Great Depression, featuring massive fieldstone construction and a low, organic emphasis overall. The contributing resources within the district include fifteen cabins, a dam and associated retaining wall, an observation station, a pavilion, two bridges and a visitors' center. Surrounding and linking these standing structures are a number of culverts, stone retaining walls, steps and trails constructed by the CCC. Also included are sixteen non-contributing resources. The boundaries of the district follow the legal boundaries of the park itself.

Elaboration

The contributing resources within the Devil's Den State Park Historic District were all constructed c. 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). All of the principal structures were designed in the Rustic style that was popular with public works projects during the Great Depression, featuring massive fieldstone construction and a low, organic emphasis overall. The standing structures, and the cabins in particular, are surrounded by, if not built with, an abundance of remarkable stone work. Stone patios, retaining walls and steps are a common feature of their site plans. This stone masonry craftsmanship is continued in the construction of the infrastructure of the camp. Roads feature stone culverts ranging from the purely functional to the elaborate, massive stone bridges and stone retaining walls. This theme of stone masonry construction runs throughout most of the construction in Devil's Den State Park and is the design feature that distinguishes it from the other CCC-constructed state parks in Arkansas.

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The contributing resources within the district include fifteen cabins, a dam and associated retaining wall, an observation station, a pavilion, two bridges and a visitors' center. Surrounding and linking these standing structures are a number of culverts, stone retaining walls, steps and trails constructed by the CCC. The boundaries of the district would follow the legal boundaries of the park itself.

The contributing resources break down into four principal building types: cabins, structures, administrative buildings and landscape features.

Cabins (#1-15)

The fifteen cabins in the park are all one story in height, constructed of stone, log or wood sheathing, or some combination thereof, and break down into four fundamental floor plans: rectangular, ell-shaped, T-shaped and square. Some feature shed roof porches or shed roof rear sections as well. Their stone chimneys are placed on the interior and the exterior. While two are sheathed with irregular wood shingles, most are covered with the irregular-cut weatherboard typical of other CCC-construction in other state parks (such as Lake Catherine). Some are built with a tall stone water table surmounted by a low, weatherboarded wall and a spreading gable roof; others are ornamented with more fancy stone work, such as triangular buttresses at each of the four corners of the building.

The feature common to all of the cabins in the park is the development of the surrounding site through the use of heavy, fieldstone masonry landscaping. Long flights of steps between the road and the cabin access built-in stone benches flanking the entry, or a stone patio with retaining wall extends from the side of the cabin. This theme is carried through to every cabin, mainly toward the end of providing a comfortable place in which to relax and enjoy the outdoors.

Structures

The structures at the park include a stone dam and associated retaining wall (#16), and two bridges: one stone masonry bridge with an arched culvert faced with rough-cut stone voussoirs (#18) and a pedestrian footbridge with a wood deck and railings supported upon massive stone masonry piers (#19).

Administration Buildings

The Visitors' Center (#20) and the Pavilion (#21; now the Store and Restaurant) constitute the two contributing administration buildings. The Visitors' Center is a single story, gable roof

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building designed in a symmetrical, three-sided plan, with two flanking sections turned back from the central section. It is constructed of weatherboard and a stone foundation and corner piers and covered with a composition shingle roof. Some of its windows have been covered, while others have been replaced with two-over-two aluminum windows.

The Pavilion is a single story, stone masonry construction public and commercial building designed in an irregular plan. A central gable roof section with a hipped roof at one end is entered via a gable roof extension to the north. Offset to the east on the opposite elevation is another gable roof section leading to an open, square porch supported on massive stone piers and covered with a composition shingle hipped roof.

Also included is an open, hipped roof overlook structure constructed from log posts and a stone foundation (#17).

Landscape Features

Away from the cabins, the principal landscape features are box culverts that drain water away from the roads that run through the park. Most are simple, dry-laid fieldstone masonry box culverts. Some are taller than others and display large areas of coursed stone around a box culvert while others are larger and feature arched culverts faced with rough-cut stone voussoirs. Some are further outfitted with stone duck nests to facilitate drainage.

Other landscape features include coursed and random-laid stone retaining walls, random-laid stone check walls (to prevent erosion), stone steps, original CCC-designed trails and various curbs, ditches and other construction to facilitate drainage and the original quarries at the southern end of the park from which the CCC obtained their stone for this construction.

Non-Contributing Buildings

There are sixteen new though stylistically-compatible utility and residential buildings near the Visitors' Center and some later stone steps and stone landscaping; however, virtually all of these are concentrated in one location and were added to the site due to increased pressures placed on the facilities in the park by tourists and visitors. They are of the same general aesthetic as the CCC construction, however, and are not obtrusive.

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Significance

The land that would comprise Devil's Den State Park was acquired by the Arkansas State Parks Commission c. 1933 as part of its on-going efforts to add new recreational areas to the Arkansas State Parks system (this effort began in 1923 with the acquisition of the land that would form Petit Jean State Park near Morrilton). This property on the steep, forested hills of southern Washington County contained the rugged terrain and dramatic scenic vistas that State Park officials sought for prospective recreational parks. However, the existence of Lee Creek and its relatively gradual decline in elevation at this particular location provided a particularly good site for a man-made recreational lake for boating, swimming, etc. All of these features recommended it for development as a state park devoted to recreation and leisure.

Though Devil's Den State Park was authorized by the Arkansas State Park Commission (the predecessor of the current Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, the state agency in charge of the development and maintenance of such recreational facilities) as of 1933, no work was done on site until after July of 1935, when the 3795th Company of the Arkansas District of the Civilian Conservation Corps (Seventh Corps Area) established Devil's Den Camp No. 1 near the current site of West Fork, Arkansas. However, the camp site was moved closer to the site of the state park on April 1, 1936, after which time the site preparation was largely complete and the actual construction began. The construction was largely completed that year, as the Boy Scout encampment of Northwest Arkansas was held on the site during the summer of 1937.

The Devil's Den State Historic District is significant by virtue of its associations with both the men that built it, the enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps from Devil's Den Camp No. 1. Its contributing resources are also significant by virtue of their being outstanding and largely intact examples of the Rustic architectural style that was common to CCC construction projects throughout the United States. As such, this district relates to the historic context "Recreational Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942" (Section E, I.) under Criteria A and C, respectively.

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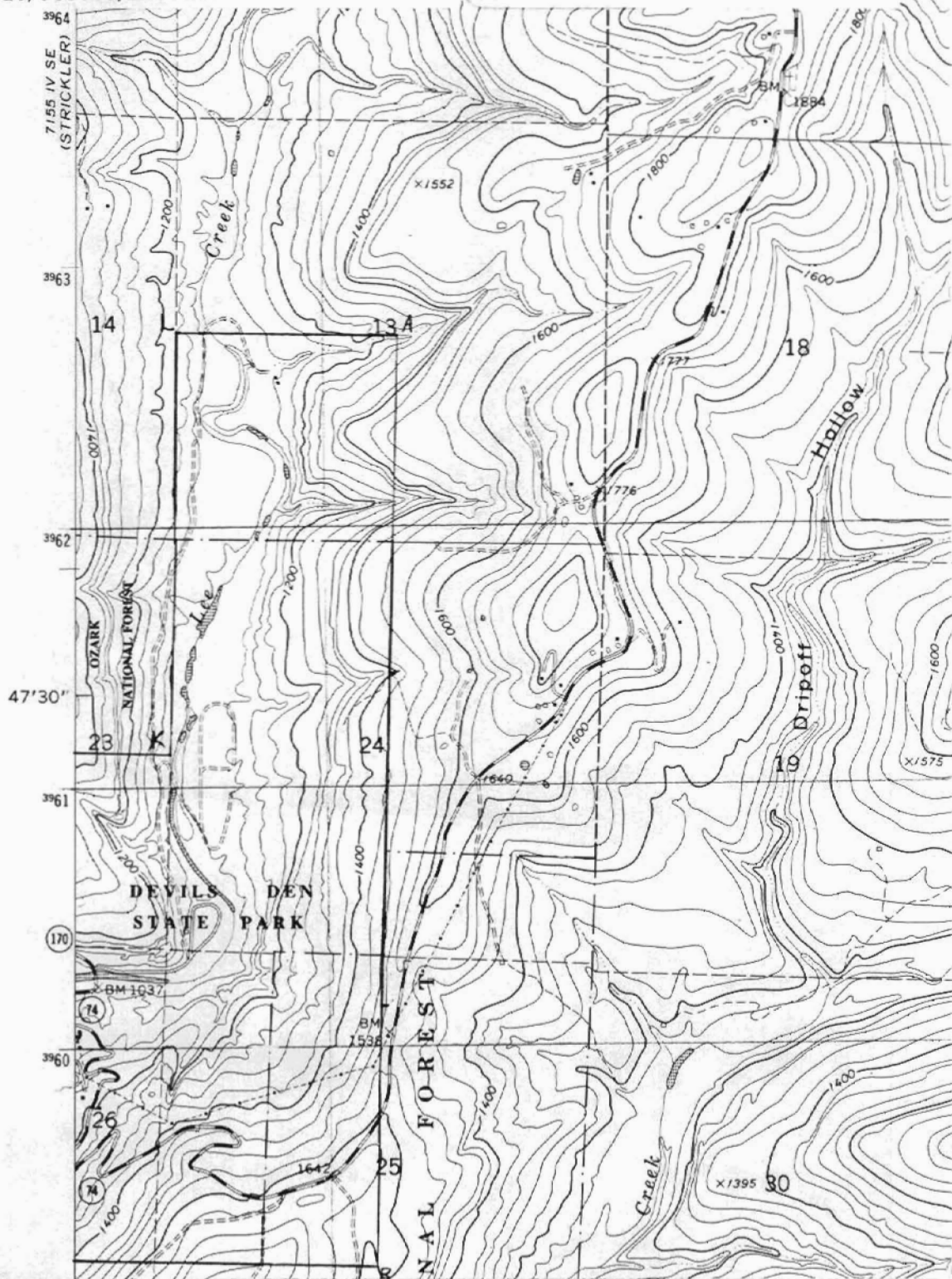
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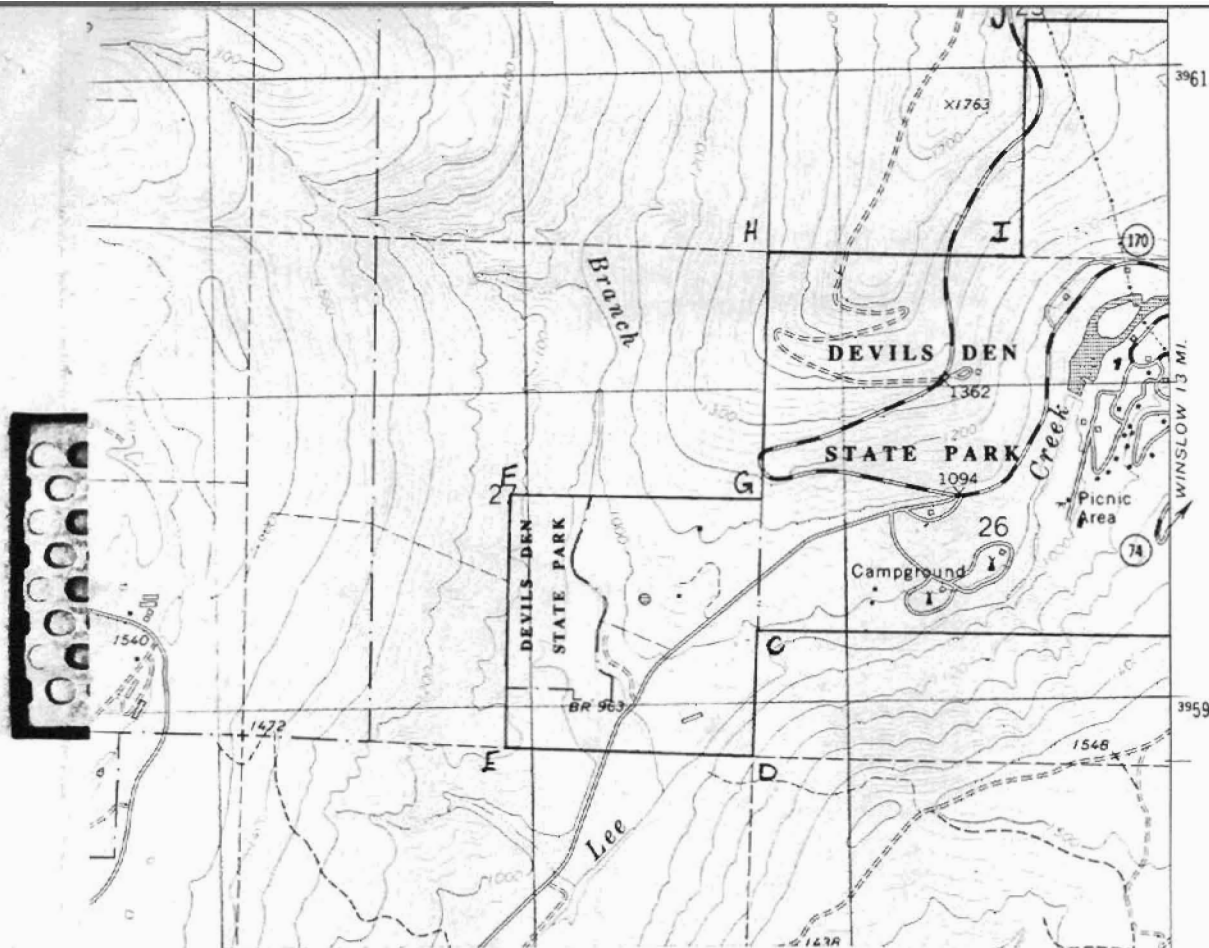
Devil's Den State Park Historic District
Winslow vic., Arkansas
Washington, County

UTM: A: 15/388280/3962730
B: 15/388170/3959160
C: 15/385720/3959240
D: 15/385690/3958840
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F: 15/384940/3959690
G: 15/385730/3959660
H: 15/385770/3960440

I: 15/386570/3960420
J: 15/386600/3961150
K: 15/387400/3961140
L: 15/387440/3962760

Winslow Quadrangle
1:24000





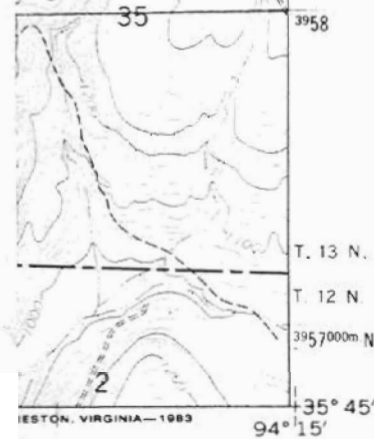
Devil's Den State Park Historic District
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- I: 15/386570/3960420
 J: 15/386600/3961150
 K: 15/387400/3961140
 L: 15/387440/3962760

Strickler Quadrangle
 1:24000

QUADRANGLE LOCATION



LEGEND

- duty road, all weather.
- paved surface
- dirt or dry
-

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STRICKLER, ARK.
 N3545—W9415/7.5

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