

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Dr. Stephen N. Chism House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Located East of State Highway 23 in Chismville Community

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Booneville

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Logan

code: AR 083

zip code: 72927

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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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.

Cathryn A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

July 5, 1994  
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

=====  
**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: Domestic

Sub: single dwelling

Current: Vacant/not in use

Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Other

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Dog-trot

Materials: foundation stone roof tin  
walls log other \_\_\_\_\_

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: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1844-45

Significant Dates: 1844-45

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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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Acres of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>414480</u>	<u>3897360</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the East side of State Highway 23 (approximately 7 miles North of Booneville in the Chismville community) formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation and located approximately 25 feet south thereof thence proceed 150 feet East; thence 100 feet North; thence 150 feet West; thence 100 South back to the beginning point.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

These dimensions include all the area associated with the existing structure.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Todd L. Ferguson, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: June 22, 1994

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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National Park Service

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### Summary

On the east side of Arkansas Highway 23 in the community of Chismville is the Dr. Stephen H. Chism Log House. The Dr. Chism House is a two-story enclosed dog-trot structure of hardwood log construction which rests on a stone pier foundation and is topped with a gabled metal roof. The enclosed dog-trot retains the log exterior walls with much of the stone chinking and other fill items intact.

### Elaboration

The Dr. Stephen H. Chism Log House is a two story dog-trot structure of hardwood log (probably oak) construction consisting of two large rooms on each side of the dog-trot. The structure rests on a set of stone piers varying in heights from ground level to roughly six inches off the ground. The structure is weak and leans to the south side. The logs appear to be in good condition and vary in size from six inches to around a foot in width and are joined with square notching. The structure does retain some six-over-six and four-over-four windows, although not original.

The primary entrance to the structure is on the western facade. This entrance is placed in the center of the enclosed dog-trot and is flanked on each side by small windows, one of which has been boarded over. The fenestration of the western facade is symmetrical on both the first and second stories with the windows on the second story flanking the single light on the first story. The eastern facade is fenestrated with only one central window on the first story of the southern end of the dog-trot. Two separate entrances have been covered that entered the enclosed dog-trot. The one remaining entrance on the eastern facade is centrally located in the northern end of the dog-trot.

The southern elevation has a single entrance on the eastern side. A central window on the upper story of the southern elevation has been covered. The northern facade of the structure features only a dry laid chimney of cut stone. The chimney is in very good condition with only a few spots showing where mortar has been added. The roof is simple gable which extends the length of the structure.

The interior reveals its original log walls throughout. The second story floor is composed of sawn planks and supported upon sawn wood joists, both of which may be later replacements. Of note is the flagstone floor in the northern pen, while the floor of the trot and the southern

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pen is of wood planks supported upon wood joists.

The Dr. Stephen H. Chism Log House is currently vacant, though it has been used as an antique showroom in the recent past. It is in deteriorated condition.

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### Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Dr. Stephen H. Chism Log House is being nominated under Criteria C with local significance as the oldest known log residence in Logan county.

### Elaboration

Stephen Howard Chism was born in either Tennessee or Kentucky on December 14, 1815. At the age of three his family brought him to Missouri; by the early 1840's a young Dr. Stephen H. Chism moved to Arkansas and settled in the area of present day Chismville. On April 6, 1842, Dr. Stephen Chism married Miss Jeannette Logan, daughter of Col. James Logan (of the southern section of the county) for whom the county would later be named.

In roughly 1844-45, Stephen Chism built the log home for his bride which now stands in Chismville. Though local oral tradition maintains that the house was constructed with the labor of two slaves which Dr. Chism owned, it is far more likely that there were many more laborers involved in erecting such a structure. The slaves are said to be buried on a hill east of the log house (although the portion where they were buried has been bulldozed, some local residents say they know where the burials are located).

In 1850, the area received a post office for the town of Crossroads. By 1857, the name of the community was changed to Chismville in honor of the doctor and his family. It was during this time -- 1848-1853 -- that Dr. Chism served as a state senator. Although not much else is known of the area at the time, it is known that the Chism home sheltered the doctor's practice and residence as well as a post office and store.

The Dr. Stephen H. Chism Log House is the oldest known log residence in Logan County. In spite of the obvious deterioration and the filled dog-trot, the square-notched log construction remains substantially intact and the oldest known example of this historic traditional construction type in Logan County. Furthermore, this antebellum residence remains one of the few surviving two-story, log dog-trots in the entire state. For these reasons -- in spite of the alterations and its deteriorated condition -- it is eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

It should also be noted that the existence of the above-mentioned burials adjacent to this property strongly suggest the potential of this property to reveal further information about the antebellum European settlement of this area and to answer important research questions about this and other



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human occupations. Though significant testing and archeological research will be required to ascertain the quality and extent of any deposits, the rich archeological potential of the site should be noted.

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## Bibliography

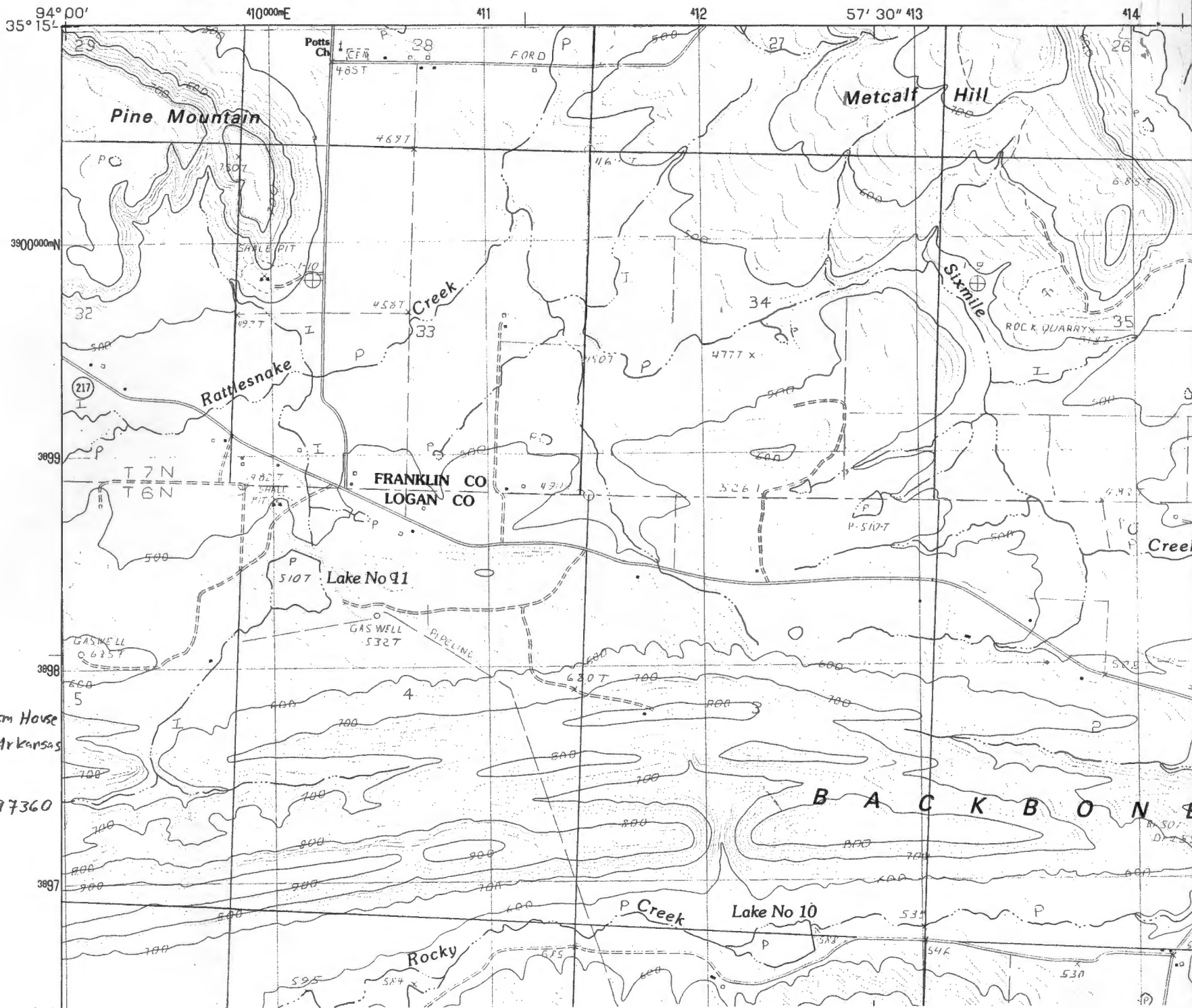
Powell, Shirley; "Crossroads: Chismville."; Logan County Historical Society Publication:  
Wagon Wheels, Vol. 1, No. 3, March 1981, pgs. 11-20.

Place file: Chismville/Crossroads; Arkansas History Commission, State Library Complex, Little  
Rock, Arkansas.

Biography material in card catalog at Arkansas History Commission, State Library Complex,  
Little Rock, Arkansas; No reference material listed as source of information on card.

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GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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Dr. Stephen N. Chism House  
Chismville, Logan, Arkansas  
UTM Reference  
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