

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NRListed: 12-27-02

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hollis Country Store

other names/site number Crains Store / PE0074

2. Location

street & number 2125 Highway 7 South

not for publication

city or town Hollis (Plainview)

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Perry code 105 zip code 72857

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Matthews  
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/20/02  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hollis Country Store  
Name of Property

Perry County, Arkansas  
County and State

**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

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2            |                 | buildings  |
|              |                 | sites      |
| 1            | 1               | structures |
| 1            |                 | objects    |
| 4            | 1               | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
GOVERNMENT/post office  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/outdoor recreation  
(tourist cabins, picnic shelter)  
DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store  
LANDSCAPE/street furniture/object  
VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Plain/Traditional  
Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation CONCRETE  
walls SANDSTONE  
roof METAL  
other WOOD

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1931-1952

Significant Dates

1931-2

c.1950

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mike Gross, builder (store building)

William (Bill) Furr, builder (store building)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Hollis Country Store  
Name of Property

Perry County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of Property Approximately 1.22 acres.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

|   |                   |                   |                   |   |                   |                   |                   |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | <u>15</u>         | <u>489885</u>     | <u>3858941</u>    | 3 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |
|   | Zone              | Easting           | Northing          |   | Zone              | Easting           | Northing          |
| 2 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | 4 | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> | <u>          </u> |

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The selected boundary encompasses the store, tourist cabins, well house, and stone wall, all of which are associated with the automobile-related history of the Hollis Country Store, and retain integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, workmanship, association, and materials.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register/Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date November 1, 2002

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street (501) 324-9787

city or town Little Rock State AR zip code 72201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Connie Hawks

street & number 2117 Highway 7 South telephone 501-440-2273

city or town Hollis (Plainview) AR zip code 72857

**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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUMMARY

The Hollis Country Store is comprised of the store building, a picnic shelter with wellhead, two connected tourist cabins and a low stone wall at the edge of the gravel parking area. The store and low wall are constructed of local stone set in a random pattern, while the picnic shelter is constructed of stone and brick, and the tourist cabins are of wood frame construction. Although the store itself does show some influences of the Craftsman style, the buildings are mainly vernacular in style with little in the way of architectural ornamentation. Since the time that the original portion of the store was built in 1931-2, the Hollis Country Store has been an anchor of the tiny village of Hollis providing goods and services for the residents in the surrounding area as well as travelers passing through on Arkansas Highway 7.

### ELABORATION

The Hollis Country Store is located in the Ouachita National Forest in West-Central Arkansas, along Arkansas Highway 7, a state scenic byway and the main highway between Hot Springs and Russellville. The original portion of the store building was constructed in 1931-2 with a stone addition constructed in the early 1950s, and two wood frame additions also built in the 1950s. The brick and stone picnic shelter and the two tourist cabins were also constructed in the early 1950s. Although two additional cabins, now connected and under different ownership, stand on the east side of Highway 7, they are not part of this nomination due to their extensive alterations. In addition, a shed that contained an electrical generator stands directly behind the store building. However, since it is not connected to the automobile-related uses of the property, it is considered to be a non-contributing resource to the property.

### Store: East/Front Elevation

The original part of the store is the southern portion of the stone building. The front elevation of the original part consists of a central entrance currently containing one entry door with a single pane of glass in the top half. Next to the door in the outline of the original doorway is a wood panel, and it is likely that the original entrance contained two doors. The entrance is flanked on each side by a one-over-one double hung window, although the window to the right of the entrance has had the top pane replaced by an air conditioner. The window to the left has a metal grill over it. Two stone columns stand in front of the original portion of the building, and support the eastern end of the hipped roof that crowns that part of the building, forming a porte-cochere. One modern gas pump exists between the columns and a wood bench stands just to the left of the entrance. A sign also wraps around the roof of the porte-cochere, and reads "GROCERIES & GAS" on the south side, "HOLLIS COUNTRY STORE" on the east side, and "ICE" on the north side.

The early 1950s stone addition to the store compromises the northern portion of the store building. The stonework of the addition matches the random stonework of the original portion of the building. The front façade of the addition has a central entrance with a screen door consisting of one panel over six narrow vertical panels. The central entrance is flanked on each side by a large window covered with metal bars. The addition also has a front porch supported by a stone column at the northern end and a wood post in the center.

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An ice machine and Coca-Cola vending machine are on the porch. The addition is surmounted by a metal side gable roof with a metal shed roof over the porch.

The southern part of the front elevation is the 1950s wood frame addition. It is covered with board and batten siding, and has a metal south-sloping shed roof. The east façade of the addition has a wood entrance door with a large window to the left.

### Store: North/Side Elevation

The northern elevation of the store building is the end of the early 1950s addition. On the left side of the elevation is a three over one double-hung window. To the right of the window are two doorways, which enter the restrooms. Each doorway has a wood two-panel door with a single-pane transom window above. The gable end has vertical wood siding with a scalloped bottom edge. A louvered vent is also present in the gable peak. Modern horizontal synthetic siding is present on the end of the shed roof of the front porch.

The northern elevation of the original portion of the store, which juts out behind the addition, has two boarded up windows.

### Store: West/Rear Elevation

The west elevation of the 1950s addition has a wood frame window to the left. Two wide and short one over one windows exist in the center of the façade. All three windows are placed high on the wall.

The west elevation of the original portion of the store has a one over one window covered by a metal grill to the left of an entrance with a modern hollow-core wood door. The rest of the original façade has been obscured by a wood frame shed addition with board and batten siding. The wood frame addition has an entrance on the north side and no fenestration on the west elevation. A small, metal shed porch roof supported by a metal pole extends from the original hipped roof.

The west elevation of the 1950s wood addition on the south side of the building also has board and batten siding and no windows.

### Store: South/Side Elevation

The original stone façade of the store building has been obscured by the 1950s wood frame addition. The south side of the addition has board-and-batten siding and no windows. The south façade of the rear wood frame addition has a small four-pane window.

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### Tourist Cabins

The two tourist cabins stand to the south of the store building, and were built in the early 1950s. Each cabin is of wood frame construction on a continuous cast concrete foundation with horizontal simple drop siding. The cabins each have a front gable asphalt shingle roof.

The front façades, which face east, each have an entrance to the right and a one over one double hung window to the left. Both cabins have a porch on the front with a concrete floor and front gable roof supported by a wood post on a stone and concrete pier at each corner. Each gable front has a louvered vent and small decorative truss in the peak.

The side façades of the cabins each have two double-hung one over one windows, and the rear façades each have a central entrance. Although the cabins were originally two separate buildings a central, flat-roofed area now connects them. This was the location of the bathrooms added in the 1960s. The west wall of the bathroom area is enclosed with siding that matches the cabins, and has a small wood framed window at each end.

### Picnic Shelter

The picnic shelter stands in between the store and tourist cabins and slightly to the west on the site of the original icehouse. It was used by the occupants of the cabins as well as by patrons of the store. It was built sometime in the early 1950s. The shelter has a concrete floor and a front gable metal roof supported by six brick columns. The gable ends of the shelter have vertical wood siding with a scalloped bottom edge that matches the siding on the north side of the store.

The wellhead is located in the center of the western half of the well house, and is constructed of stone that matches the random stonework of the store building.

### Stone Wall

The stone wall is located just to the north of the store building at the western edge of the parking area. Although it is not known when the wall was constructed, it was likely built at the same time as the store or the addition. It is constructed of stone, which matches the stonework of the store building, and is capped by low concrete blocks. Both ends of the wall have suffered some damage.

### Integrity

The Hollis Country Store still retains a strong sense of integrity of a small country store that provides goods and services to the residents and travelers in this rural area of Perry County. Although additions have been completed since the construction of the original store in 1931-2, they are over 50 years old and add to the historic character of the store. The tourist cabins, picnic shelter, and stone wall are also over 50 years old, and add to the significance of the property. The store still retains its integrity of location and setting, since it

Hollis Country Store  
Name of Property

Perry County, Arkansas  
County and State

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is located on Arkansas Highway 7 in the small settlement of Hollis. Additionally, the buildings still show the workmanship, design features, and native materials, such as sandstone, that further add to the integrity and historic character of the property.

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### SUMMARY

The Hollis Country Store is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** for its vernacular architecture. The Hollis Country Store is the only example of a country store in Hollis, and exhibits the native stone construction found in that part of Arkansas. Additionally, the associated tourist cabins are the best example of their type in Hollis. The store has continuously provided goods and services to the residents of the Hollis area as well as travelers passing through on Arkansas Highway 7 since it was constructed in 1931-2, and is therefore eligible for nomination under **Criterion A** for its association with the development of Arkansas highway culture. The Hollis Country Store is being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under the multiple property listing "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965."

### LABORATION

Perry County, Arkansas, was created on December 18, 1840, from the southern part of Conway County.<sup>1</sup> The County was named after Commodore Oliver H. Perry, and the county seat was established at Perryville.<sup>2</sup> Historically, Perry County has been rural, and because much of the County is covered by the Ouachita National Forest, it remains rural today. As a result, the area is a mecca for hunting and fishing. The Hollis Country Store is located on Arkansas Highway 7, which is the main north-south highway in the western part of Perry County, connecting Hollis with Hot Springs to the south and Russellville to the north. Arkansas Highway 7 is also a state scenic byway. The property is also located just north of the South Forche National Recreation Area.

The history of Hollis is vague, but it is known that the community was named after Hollis Britt Aikens, who was a doctor in the Civil War. Hollis Aikens was from Ohio, and fought on the Union side.<sup>3</sup> It is also known that a post office existed in Hollis between 1886 and 1961. After that, mail for Hollis was sent to Plainview to the northwest, where it continues to go today.<sup>4</sup>

Due to the mountainous topography in the Hollis area, highways were few, and Highway 7 was the main route for people traveling between Russellville and Hot Springs. Even though it was the main highway, it remained gravel in the Hollis area up through the 1930s.<sup>5</sup> Additionally, the towns between Russellville

<sup>1</sup> Dallas T. Herndon (ed.). *Centennial History of Arkansas, Volume 1*. (Chicago, IL: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922) p. 788.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Connie Hawks. Phone conversation with the author. April 29, 2002.

<sup>4</sup> Russell Pierce Baker. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. (Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988) p. 107.

<sup>5</sup> Elliott West. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 publication) p. 295.

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and Hot Springs were small and widely scattered. As a result, establishments like the Hollis Country Store were essential for providing goods and services to travelers and residents in the surrounding area.

The original portion of the Hollis Country Store was begun in 1931 and finished the following year. The building was built using local stone laid in a random pattern, a type of construction found in many parts of Arkansas. The building was built by Mike Gross and William (Bill) Furr. Mike Gross operated the store along with the Hollis post office, which was on the south side of the building. In addition to operating the store, Gross was a country doctor who was often called upon to pull teeth in the surrounding areas. The small shed behind the store, which housed a Delco for generating electricity, was constructed about the same time as the store.<sup>6</sup>

In 1940 Mike Gross sold the store to Dennis and Lillie Crain, and they renamed it the Crains Store. While they owned it Lillie was in charge of running the post office. The Crains also lived on site in the rear portion of the building. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, Dennis and Lillie's daughter, Gulelma, and her husband, Loyd Hawks, took over operation of the store. Gulelma was paid \$8 per month for working in the store. In addition, Dennis and Lillie Crain's sons, Gerald and Harley helped with the store's operation, although they never took ownership of the building.<sup>7</sup>

In order to provide more services to motorists traveling on Highway 7, Dennis Crain had two tourist cabins built south of the store in the early 1950s. Bert and Bart Graves built the cabins, and bathrooms were added between the cabins in the late 1960s by Dennis Crain and John Whitcomb.<sup>8</sup>

In the early 1950s, the store building was expanded with a large addition that was constructed on the north side of the building. Also in the 1950s, space in the store was further expanded through the construction of frame additions on the south and rear sides of the store building.

It is likely that the picnic shelter was constructed at the same time that the stone addition on the store was constructed. The same style siding was used in the gable ends of both structures, and Dennis Crain was involved in its construction. George Hooper also helped build the shelter. The picnic shelter and the well were used both by the patrons of the store and the occupants of the tourist cabins. Prior to the construction of the current shelter, an icehouse stood on the site.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Connie Hawks. Letter to the author. July 2002.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

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After Dennis Crain's death, Lillie sold the store to their son Harold and his wife Louise. They built the brick house just to the north of the store in 1980. In 1989, the store was again sold, this time to Loyd and Gulelma Hawks' son, Berl, and his wife, Connie. Although Berl died in 1999, Connie continues to run the store, which is open seven days a week, providing goods and services to the people of the Hollis area.<sup>10</sup>

### SIGNIFICANCE

The Hollis Country Store is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance under Criterion C** for its vernacular architecture. The Hollis Country Store has retained its historic form and materials, and is the only example of an early twentieth-century store in Hollis, and also includes the best example of the tourist cabin property type in Hollis. The Hollis Country Store is also being submitted to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A** with **local significance** under the multiple property listing "Arkansas Highway and Transportation Era Architecture, 1910-1965" in conjunction with the historic context "Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965."

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

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West, Elliott. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. (Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 edition.)

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### Verbal Boundary Description

Part of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of the Southeast Quarter (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section Twenty-Seven (27), Township Three (3) North, Range Twenty (20) West, Perry County, Arkansas, more particularly described as: Commencing at the Southeast (SE) Corner of Section 27, thence West 621.3 feet to the West right-of-way (R/W) of State Highway 7; thence North 02 degrees 54' West, along the said right-of-way, 208.7 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue North 02 degrees 54' West, along the right-of-way 243 feet; thence South 85 degrees 33' West, leaving the right-of-way, 218.7 feet; thence South 02 degrees 54' East, parallel to the right-of-way of Highway 7, 243 feet; thence North 85 degrees 33' East 218.7 feet to the point of beginning and containing 1.22 acres, more or less.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary contains all of the remaining land and buildings historically associated with the property.