(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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	
1. Name of Property	
historic name Ford, Henry and Cornelia, Farm	
other names/site number Site #PH0285	
2. Location	
street & number 1335 Phillips County Road 249	not for publication
city or town Lexa	⊠ vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Phillips	code
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby c	and the state of the desired of the defeater o
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered signify nationally statewide locally (See continuation sheet for additional comments.) Signature of certifying official/Title	opinion, the property 🗵 meets 🗆
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	And the second s
State or Federal agency and bureau	and the second s
In my opinion, the property ineets does not meet the National Register criteria. (Secomments.) Signature of certifying official/Title	ee Continuation sheet for additional
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby certify that the property is: centered in the National Register. See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet	he Keeper Date of Action
determined not eligible for the National Register.	
removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

Ford, Henry and Cornelia, Farm	Phillips County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)
 ✓ private ✓ building(s) ☐ public-local ☐ public-State ☐ public-Federal ☐ structure 	Contributing Noncontributing 3 1 buildings 1 sites
object	1 structures objects 5 1 Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
Get Down the Shovel and the Hoe!: Cotton and Rice Farm History and Architecture in the Arkansas Delta, 1900-1955	m the National Register
6. Function or Use	and the second of the second o
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/animal facility	outbuilding
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field	AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/horticultural facility OTHER/art studio
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field	OTHER/art studio
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) OTHER/Plain Traditional	Materials (Enter categories from instructions) foundation CONCRETE
	walls WOOD
	roof ASPHALT other
Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more contin	uation sheets.)

Ford, Henry and Cornelia, Farm	Phillips County, Arkansas
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Levels of Significance (local, state, national)
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	LOCAL
for National Register listing.)	
A Property is associated with events that have made	
a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
	ARCHITECTURE
our history.	
	AGRICULTURE
B Property is associated with the lives of persons	ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black
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	Date dof Cinciffeene
distinguishable entity whose components lack	Period of Significance
individual distinction.	c.1950-1956
The state of the s	
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield,	
information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	c.1950-1956
	0.1750 1750
Property is:	
A owned by a religious institution or used for	
religious purposes.	
	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
B removed from its original location.	
C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding	and the control of th
importance.	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)
D a cemetery.	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
L a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
F a commemorative property	The second secon
	Architect/Builder
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	
within the past 50 years.	
The first of the second of the	
Narrative Statement of Significance	the state of the s
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)	The second secon
O Malay Dibliance bind Defevences	the state of the s
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography	and the state of t
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one	or more continuation sheets.)
D (NIDC).	Primary location of additional data:
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	State Historic Preservation Office
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	
CFR 67) has been requested	Other State Agency
previously listed in the National Register	Federal Agency
Previously determined eligible by the National	Local Government
Register	University
designated a National Historic Landmark	Other
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
#	
recorded by Historic American Engineering	
Pecced #	

THE STATE OF THE S

Ford, Henry and Cornelia, Farm	A Part of the Part		ounty, Arkansas	
Name of Property		County and	State	·
0. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Approximately 5.25 acres.				
Approximately 3.23 acres.		V.0		•
UTM References Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)				
15 710146 3833098		2		
Zone Easting Northing	onest the second	Zone	Easting	Northing
		4		* *
		Sec	e continuation sheet	
Verbal Boundary Description		1. 1. 1. 1	A STATE OF THE STA	
Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)				
Boundary Justification		5.4.2. + 4.		
Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)				
1. Form Prepared By	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Co	ordinator		e same a management	
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program		date	September 27, 2005	
treet & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street		telephone	(501) 324-9880	,
city or town Little Rock	state	AR	zip code 722	01
Additional Documentation			1. 15. 8.44	
ubmit the following items with the completed form:			Na isang	k p. Wrv
Continuation Sheets				· ·
Viaps				
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	property's location			
				6.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties have	ving large acreage o	r numerous re	sources.	
	1			
Photographs			* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *	
Representative black and white photographs of the	nronerty			,
and the process of the state of	property.			
Additional items		egit ja vii a		
Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)	a description of the second		and the file of the and the second	
roperty Owner				
Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)				
			1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1	
name Alonzo Ford				
treet & number 1335 Phillips County Road 249		t	elephone	
city or town Lexa	state	AR		355
		4 344	CAN VUIL 14	

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 Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

Ford, Henry and Cornelia, Farm
Name of Property

Phillips County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior

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SUMMARY

The Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is located on Phillips County Road 249 northeast of Lexa in rural Phillips County. The farm complex consists of the main house, barn, shed, well and sorghum mill, studio and associated farm plantings. The farm buildings were built in the early 1950s, and their construction was overseen by the Federal Housing Administration (FHA). The Ford Farm has remained under the ownership of the Ford family since its construction and is still actively farmed by their son, Alonzo.

ELABORATION

Located northeast of Lexa on Phillips County Road 249 in rural Phillips County, Arkansas, the Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is representative of a small mid-twentieth-century family farm. The farm complex consists of the main farmhouse, barn, shed, well and sorghum mill, studio and associated landscaping. Most of the farm buildings, with the exception of the studio, were built in the early 1950s and their construction was overseen by the FHA. Although both Henry and Cornelia Ford have passed away, the farm is now in the ownership of their son, Alonzo Ford.

The buildings on the farm are wood frame and the house has weatherboard siding while the barn has board and batten siding and the shed has vertical board siding. (The modern studio is sided in plastic tarp material.) The house rests on a concrete pier foundation and has an asphalt-covered gable roof. The outbuildings, on the other hand, rest on unknown foundations and have metal gable roofs.

The property's associated landscape, which is centered around the house and outbuildings, consists of pecan trees around the buildings and lining the drive that were planted c.1955 by Henry Ford. In addition, an orchard planted c.1990 and extensive flower garden, both planted by Alonzo Ford, illustrate the growth and change of the landscape over time.

House (Contributing)

Front/East Facade

The front façade of the house has a gable-fronted porch projecting from the southern half. A set of five concrete steps leads up to the front entrance on the porch and the porch roof is supported by two square wood posts at each of the front corners. The front entrance with wood door and screen door is on the right side of the porch and a single metal-framed, two-over-two window is to the entrance's left. To the right of the porch is a single metal-framed, two-over-two window.

A louvered attic vent is located in the gable peak of the front façade.

Side/North Façade

The north side of the house, beginning at the east end, is fenestrated by a single metal-framed, two-over-two window followed by a smaller metal-framed, two-over-two window. The rest of the façade is fenestrated by three evenly spaced metal-framed, two-over-two windows.

Ford,	Henry ar	d Comelia,	Farm	
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Rear/West Façade

The left side of the rear façade is fenestrated by a single metal-framed, two-over-two window. The right side of the façade is comprised of the west end of the screened-in porch. As on the front façade, a louvered attic vent is located in the gable peak of the façade.

Side/South Façade

The left side of the south façade is occupied by the screened-in porch, which has a door on the right side accessed by four concrete steps. To the right of the entrance are three evenly spaced windows. The left window is a small metal-framed, two-over-two window, which is followed by two larger metal-framed, two-over-two windows.

Barn (Contributing)

The barn is located to the northwest of the house and is currently used for storage. The east and west façades of the barn have a large door on the ground floor to provide access to the interior with a smaller door providing access to the hayloft above. A single window is located to the south of each door to provide light and ventilation to the interior. The north side of the barn has a covered open area that allows storage of farm equipment. The south side of the barn is obscured by vegetation.

Shed (Contributing)

The shed is located to the west of the house and to the southeast of the barn. It is a small structure used for storage and is largely obscured by vegetation. The shed has a wood door in the center of the east façade and the roof overhangs the south side of the building providing some shelter to the fenced in area to the south.

Studio (Non-contributing)

The studio is a small rectangular structure located to the northwest of the farmhouse and to the northeast of the barn. The site used to be where the farm's henhouse stood. The studio is sided in plastic tarp material and features a shallow gable roof. Windows are present on the west façade and the entrance is located on the south façade.

Sorghum Mill/Well (Contributing)

The sorghum mill is an oval shaped metal machine currently located on top of the property's well. A shield-shaped plaque on top of the mill reads "ROSE LYON HDW. CO./LITTLE ROCK, ARK." A metal plunger-like rod with a handle on top sticks out of the top of the mill and a spout is located on the side.

The well that the mill currently sits on is marked by a concrete pad.

Ford,	Henry	and	Comelia,	Farm
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Landscape (Contributing)

The landscape around the farm buildings retains several pecan trees that were raised from seed and planted by Henry Ford shortly after the farm buildings were constructed. The pecan trees are scattered around the house and also line both sides of the driveway from Phillips County Road 249 to the house. Alonzo Ford has also made his mark on the landscape of the property by planting an orchard to the west of the house c.1990 and also by currently cultivating an extensive flower garden. Although these two landscape features were done outside the period of significance they still illustrate the evolution of the landscape over time as the family has evolved.

Integrity

Overall, the Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm has excellent integrity. Alterations to the buildings and structures on the property over the years have been minor and include the demolition of the henhouse and the construction of a small studio. In addition, the sorghum mill was moved on top of the well. The farm also tains landscape features that were planted by Henry Ford shortly after the farm buildings were built, giving fuller picture of mid-twentieth-century farm life and design. The Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is still located in a rural agricultural setting in Phillips County, and the setting still reflects the area's setting from the 1950s when the farm was developed. The Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is an excellent representation of a mid-twentieth-century family farm and very easily conveys its original 1950s appearance.

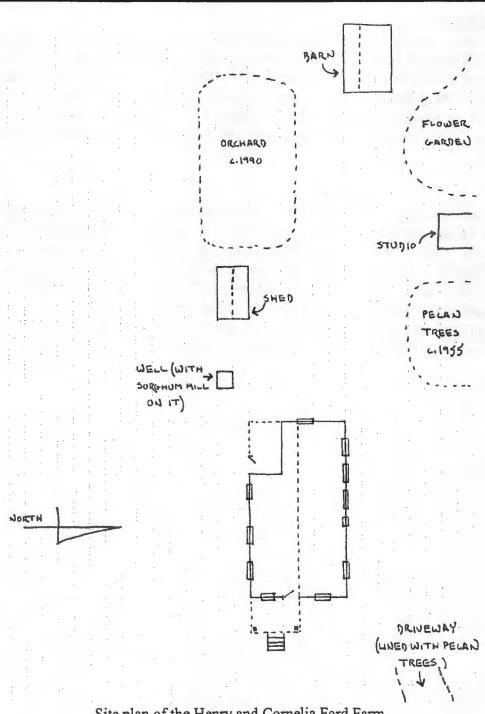
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Site plan of the Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm

Ford, Henry and Cornelia,	Farm	
Name of Property		

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SUMMARY

The Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm, which was built c.1950, is representative of the small-scale family farms found throughout the Arkansas Delta in the twentieth century. The farm is comprised of the farm house, barn, shed, studio, and a sorghum mill/well. In addition to its buildings, the farm still retains some of its original plantings, notably pecan trees scattered around the property and lining the driveway. Henry and Cornelia Ford were African-Americans who came to Lexa in the 1940s, and were able to develop the farm into a virtually self-sufficient enterprise. The Fords grew several types of produce on the farm, including all kinds of fruit and vegetables, hay and cotton, along with raising farm animals. The farm remains in the family today, and illustrates the evolution of the farm from the time of its construction to the present day.

As an intact example of a small-scale twentieth-century farm in the Lexa vicinity, the Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C. The Ford Farm is also being nominated to the National Register with local significance under iterion A for its associations with the role of agriculture and African-American history in the development of Phillips County. The nomination for the Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is being submitted under the multiple-property listing "Get Down the Shovel and the Hoe!: Cotton and Rice Farm History and Architecture in the Arkansas Delta, 1900-1955."

ELABORATION

Phillips County was created by an act of the Arkansas territorial legislature on May 1, 1820, and named after Sylvanus Phillips, a pioneer settler and one of the original owners of the site of Helena. Soon after Phillips County was created, the county seat was established at Helena, which was named after Sylvanus Phillips' daughter, and c.1821 Nicholas Rightor, an early settler and surveyor, laid out the town of Helena on land belonging to Sylvanus Phillips and William Russell.¹

From the very beginning, agriculture was a large part of Phillips County's economy. The Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas stated that, "Agriculturally speaking, Phillips County ranks equal to any in the state. The broad Mississippi in the southern part, interspersed with small, old lakes and bayous, is remarkably fertile. In the western part, watered by Big Creek, there is a large body of level land formed by the gradual flattening out of the Crowley's Ridge..."²

By the time of the 1880 census there were 1,311 farms in Phillips County with 85,379 acres of improved land, and the variety of crops grown was staggering, including cotton, Indian corn, oats, wheat, potatoes (both Irish and sweet), and tobacco. Sources indicate that, "The entire value of all the farm products raised in a county in 1879 were calculated at \$1,548,538... Cotton stands pre-eminently at the head [29,070 bales],

² Ibid, p. 742.

¹ Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890, p. 739.

Ford,	Henry	and	Cornelia,	Farm
Name	of Prope	rty		

Phillips County, Arkansas

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Indian corn next [332,585 bushels], all the other products, except sweet potatoes [21,956 bushels], being very limited."

The fertility of the land in Phillips County and the need for farm laborers caused the county's population to grow dramatically. In 1820, the county's population was 1,197, but by 1880 it had soared to 21,253, which included 5,444 whites and 15,809 blacks. The situation in Phillips County was similar to many areas of eastern Arkansas in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries which attracted people from outside the state hoping to make a living.

Among the people who came to Arkansas in the first part of the 1900s was Henry Ford and his family and the family of his future wife, Cornelia. Ford was born c.1890 in Scottsboro, Alabama, and Cornelia was also born in Scottsboro in 1900. In the early 1920s, their families migrated from Scottsboro to Lonoke looking for work and better opportunities than they had in Alabama. In April 1923, Henry and Cornelia were married in Lonoke.⁵

By the 1940s the Fords had moved to Lexa where Henry got odd jobs sharecropping. Lexa and nearby Southland, where the Fords would eventually buy land, were rural communities centered around the farming activities in the area. Lexa had been founded c.1880 as Lexington, likely when the railroad line was constructed through the area, and the name was changed to Lexa in 1885. Southland was founded around the same time, and had a post office established in 1889. (The post office would close in 1925 with the mail going to Lexa afterwards.) Both communities have remained small, and remain agriculturally centered today.

In 1944, the Fords had saved enough money that they were able to buy some farmland to the northeast of Lexa near the Southland community, and they were able to purchase the land without borrowing any money from the bank, which was quite a feat for the time.⁷ After the Fords purchased the land, they quickly got to work making it productive.

The Fords grew several types of produce on the farm, including all kinds of fruit and vegetables, hay and cotton. They also planted pecan trees on the property c.1955 that remain today. In addition to growing fruits and vegetables on the farm, the Fords also raised cows, hogs, chickens, and ducks. The crops and animals raised on the farm allowed the Fords to be virtually self-sufficient and it also allowed them to generate

³ *Ibid*, p. 743.

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 741.

⁵ Alonzo Ford. Interview with the author. 25 August 2005.

⁶ Russell Pierce Baker. From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988, pp. 130, 206.

Alonzo Ford. Interview with the author. 25 August 2005.

Ford, Henry and Cornelia	, Farm
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income by selling produce that they had raised on the farm. They took the produce, milk, and butter that they made and sold it in West Helena. The beans and spinach that they raised on the farm was used by a local canning operation. Cornelia also canned a lot of the vegetables that they grew to help them be as self-sufficient as possible.⁸

To supplement the income from the farm, Ford did other odd jobs around the community. For example, Ford purchased a sorghum mill and cooked sorghum molasses for the community. For every four gallons of molasses produced, he kept one gallon as his payment. In addition, Ford did carpentry, built fireplaces for people in the community and repaired shoes to bring in income.⁹

The way that the Fords ran their farm and the way that they were able to be virtually self-sufficient got the attention of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), which had been formed in 1934 to spur home construction and home ownership. The FHA came to the Fords' farm to learn how Henry farmed and how renelia canned so that the information could be passed on to other farmers to improve their methods of arming. The FHA also played a role when the Ford's farmhouse and outbuildings were built in 1951. 10

When the Fords were prepared to have their home built on the farm, the FHA oversaw its construction, and it was the first FHA-built home constructed in the Southland Community. Prior to its construction, the FHA took the Fords to see other FHA-built homes in Lexa and Lakeview, which is approximately fifteen miles southwest of Lexa. This allowed the Fords to see the kinds of homes that the FHA built to see if the house would meet their needs. The house that the Fords had built was perfect for the needs of the Fords and their four children then living at home (there were thirteen children total in the family), and it included a large pantry to hold all of Cornelia's canning. The house that the Fords had built was perfect for the needs of the Fords and their four children then living at home (there were thirteen children total in the family), and it included a large

After the construction of the house in the early 1950s, the Fords continued to be a prominent family in the community. They donated the land for the Spring Lake Church, which was built just south of the Southland Community, and also put money into the construction of a cotton gin in the local area. Ford was able to live in the house and work on the farm another ten years until his death in 1961. Cornelia outlived him for 34 years until she passed away in 1995.

lonzo Ford. Interview with the author. 25 August 2005.

11 Alonzo Ford. Interview with the author. 25 August 2005.

12 Ibid.

⁸ Alonzo Ford. Interviews with the author. 20 July and 25 August 2005.

Alonzo Ford. Interview with the author. 25 August 2005 and information on the Federal Housing Administration found at http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/fhahistory.cfm.

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The property is now owned and lived in by their son, Alonzo. He continues to do some farming on the property and his mark is visible on the landscape. He planted an orchard to the west of the house c.1990, and also maintains an extensive flower garden. In addition to continuing his family's agricultural tradition, Alonzo Ford is also an artist and has built a small studio in the vicinity of where the hen house used to stand. Even though Alonzo has made some changes to the property, it still very much reflects the period of its construction in the early 1950s.

The Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm remains today as an important part of Arkansas's African-American, agricultural and architectural heritage. The farm is a good example of a small-scale, mid-twentieth-century family farm with the main house, outbuildings, and landscape plantings. In addition, for its associations with the agricultural past of the Lexa and Southland areas of Phillips County, the Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is an important reminder of agriculture's role in Phillips County's and Arkansas's development.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm, which was built c.1950, is representative of the small-scale family farms found throughout the Arkansas Delta in the twentieth century. The farm is comprised of the farm house, barn, shed, studio, and a sorghum mill/well. In addition to its buildings, the farm still retains some of its original plantings, notably pecan trees scattered around the property and lining the driveway. Henry and Cornelia Ford were African-Americans who came to Lexa in the 1940s, and were able to develop the farm into a virtually self-sufficient enterprise. The Fords grew several types of produce on the farm, including all kinds of fruit and vegetables, hay and cotton, along with raising farm animals. The farm remains in the family today, and illustrates the evolution of the farm from the time of its construction to the present day.

As an intact example of a small-scale twentieth-century farm in the Lexa vicinity, the Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C. The Ford Farm is also being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion A for its associations with the role of agriculture and African-American history in the development of Phillips County. The nomination for the Henry and Cornelia Ford Farm is being submitted under the multiple-property listing "Get Down the Shovel and the Hoe!: Cotton and Rice Farm History and Architecture in the Arkansas Delta, 1900-1955."

Ford, Henry and Cornelia,	Farm	
Name of Property		

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baker, Russell Pierce. From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

Ford, Alonzo. Interview with the author. 20 July 2005.

Ford, Alonzo. Interview with the author. 25 August 2005.

Information on the Federal Housing Administration found at: http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/fhahistory.cfm.

Ford,	Henry	and	Cornelia,	Farm	
NT	. CD				

Name of Property

Phillips County, Arkansas County and State

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the northwest corner of the Highway 242 and Phillips County Road 249 intersection, proceed northerly for 6,865 feet along the west side of Phillips County Road 249 to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning, proceed northerly 310 feet along the west side of Phillips County Road 249, thence proceed westerly 745 feet perpendicular to Phillips County Road 249, thence proceed southerly 310 feet parallel to Phillips County Road 249, thence proceed easterly 745 feet perpendicular to Phillips County Road 249 to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary includes the farm buildings of the Ford Farm and their immediate setting that retains integrity.

