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**ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, HERITAGE AND TOURISM**  
**DIVISION OF ARKANSAS HERITAGE**  
**ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

**RULES GOVERNING THE ADDITION OF "CRITERION E" AND THE  
ADDITION OF THE "ARKANSAS HERITAGE SITE" DESIGNATION  
TO THE ARKANSAS STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROGRAM**

**I. PURPOSE**

Arkansas's historic sites need to be officially recognized for their heritage and cultural resources so that current and future generations can learn about their stories and enjoy them. Such includes geographic areas of historic importance. Accordingly, a new criterion will be added to the Arkansas Register program that will allow more opportunities for outward recognition, research, and heritage tourism opportunities for geographic areas of historic importance in our state. The new criterion to be added to the Arkansas Register program is: "Criterion E: Geographic importance of a property." the additional property type to be added is: "Area," and the additional area of significance to be added is: "Geography/Community Identity." Ark. Code Ann. § 1-4-134 created a new designation for historic sites known as an "Arkansas Heritage Site". Historic places listed in the Arkansas State Register of Historic Places through any of Criteria A – E may also qualify for designation as an "Arkansas Heritage Site".

**II. LEGISLATION**

The Arkansas State Register of Historic Places was created in 1993 and is codified at Arkansas Code Ann. § 13-7-109. This code section authorizes the State Historic Preservation Officer, in consultation with the State Review Committee for Historic Preservation, to establish this listing of sites, districts, structures, buildings, areas, or objects above or below the surface of the earth, whether on land or in the waters of the state, together with any designated improvements thereon, significant in the history, architecture, archeology, or culture of the state, its communities, or the nation. It also authorizes the State Historic Preservation Officer, with the advice of the State Committee for Historic Preservation, to establish the procedures and the criteria for listing in the State Register of Historic Places.

The Arkansas Heritage Site designation was created in 2019 and is codified at Arkansas Code Ann. § 1-4-134. This code section authorizes the Department of Arkansas Heritage to promulgate rules necessary to implement this section.

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PROPOSED RULE

**III. DEFINITIONS**

**Area** – An area of land containing historic or archeological resources that can be identified on a map and delineated by boundaries. In many respects an area may be thought of as a large district. However, where a district most often contains a group of resources of similar functional types, an area may encompass a wide variety of resources united by broad interrelated themes and geographic proximity. An example would be a town which includes residential neighborhoods and commercial and industrial areas along with transportation systems and parks and greenspaces.

**Arkansas Register Program** – The Arkansas Register is “a listing of sites, districts, structures, buildings, areas or objects above or below the surface of the earth whether on land or in the waters of the state, together with any designated improvements thereon, significant in the history, architecture, archeology, or culture of the state, its communities or the nation. Such listings shall constitute the State Register of Historic Places.”

**Community identity of a property** – A place’s community identity can be a blend of its geography, natural assets, architecture, history, culture, and economic activity. Community identity is what makes a place unique and distinctive in its own way. A location’s unique architecture may be significant for its community identity. For example, the Charleston single houses in Charleston, South Carolina, are unique to the area and give Charleston part of its unique character. Also, the Old Man of the Mountain, prior to its collapse in 2004, was a unique natural asset that was identified with New Hampshire.

**Geographic Importance of a property** - The geographic importance of a property refers to its location. A building or structure commonly recognized as a visual landmark due to its prominent location may be significant for its geographic importance. For example, a lighthouse has geographic importance as does a fire look-out tower. A park in the center of town and a cemetery on top of a hill may also have geographic importance. A property which helps establish a strong sense of place or provides community identity may be eligible for geographic importance.

**IV. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY**

The State Historic Preservation Officer is delegated all powers necessary and convenient to carry out the responsibilities contained in these rules.

**V. HOW TO APPLY**

***The Nomination Process***

***I. Determination of Eligibility***

The determination of eligibility form outlines the information required by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) staff to make a determination of eligibility (DOE). A DOE is the first step in considering a property for designation as an Arkansas Heritage Site. It is important

## PROPOSED RULE

to note that in order to be designated an Arkansas Heritage Site, the property must at least be significant at the state level.

### *II. Site Visit*

If the property is determined eligible, AHPP staff members will arrange a site visit to the property. The site visit will entail the AHPP documenting the potential Arkansas Heritage Site through photography and written documentation.

### *III. Nomination Form*

After the property has been determined eligible as an Arkansas Heritage Site and the site visit has been completed, the next step will be completing the Arkansas Heritage Site nomination form.

### *IV. Presentation to the State Review Board*

On acceptance of a completed nomination, the staff will schedule the property for presentation to the State Review Board. The State Review Board is a governor-appointed group of professionals that must approve the AHPP staff's recommendations before a property can be designated an Arkansas Heritage Site.

### *V. Designation*

After approval by the State Review Board, the property will be designated an Arkansas Heritage Site. Any property identified as an Arkansas Heritage Site by an act of the Arkansas General Assembly shall also be designated as such in the Arkansas State Register of Historic Places.

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1 State of Arkansas  
2 92nd General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2019  
4

As Engrossed: H3/28/19  
**A Bill**

SENATE BILL 557

5 By: Senators Teague, Hickey  
6 By: Representative Watson  
7

8 **For An Act To Be Entitled**

9 AN ACT TO DESIGNATE WASHINGTON, ARKANSAS, AS THE  
10 BIRTHPLACE OF THE BOWIE KNIFE, ARKANSAS HERITAGE  
11 SITE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
12  
13

14 **Subtitle**

15 TO DESIGNATE WASHINGTON, ARKANSAS, AS THE  
16 BIRTHPLACE OF THE BOWIE KNIFE, ARKANSAS  
17 HERITAGE SITE.  
18  
19

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
21

22 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 1, Chapter 4, is amended to add an  
23 additional section to read as follows:

24 1-4-134. Birthplace of the Bowie Knife, Arkansas Heritage Site –  
25 Legislative findings and intent.

26 (a) The General Assembly finds that:

27 (1) The Bowie knife has been designated the official knife of  
28 the State of Arkansas;

29 (2) The Bowie knife is recognized as Arkansas's most famous  
30 blade weapon and the national American Blade;

31 (3) Arkansas blacksmith James Black crafted an original Bowie  
32 knife in Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, in 1831;

33 (4) Washington, Arkansas, and James Black became almost  
34 immediately famous as the birthplace and creator of the Bowie knife,  
35 respectively;

36 (5) James Black continued to refine and improve his Bowie knife



1 design into the world's toughest but most flexible knife from his shop in  
2 Washington, Arkansas; and

3 (6) Because of the Bowie knife's national reputation,  
4 Washington, Arkansas, later became the location of the world's first  
5 recognized school of bladesmithing.

6 (b)(1) Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas, is designated the  
7 "Birthplace of the Bowie Knife, Arkansas Heritage Site".

8 (2) The designation of Washington, Hempstead County, Arkansas,  
9 as the "Birthplace of the Bowie Knife, Arkansas Heritage Site" is essential  
10 to:

11 (A) Celebrate, protect, and preserve the history and  
12 status of the Arkansas-created Bowie knife throughout Arkansas, the United  
13 States, and the world; and

14 (B) Preserve bladesmithing history and heritage, promote  
15 heritage arts and bladesmithing tourism in the area, and provide a  
16 historically accurate site designation for a heritage arts and bladesmithing  
17 enthusiast.

18 (c) The University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana is  
19 designated to develop and operate a school of bladesmithing located in  
20 Washington, Arkansas, to promote and protect the art of bladesmithing and the  
21 Bowie Knife crafted there.

22 (d)(1) The Arkansas Department of Transportation, in consultation with  
23 the Department of Parks and Tourism and the University of Arkansas Community  
24 College at Hope-Texarkana, shall design a sign that displays the words and  
25 any logo for the "Birthplace of the Bowie Knife, Arkansas Heritage Site".

26 (2) The sign shall be placed on or about the location of the  
27 school of bladesmithing developed and operated in Washington, Arkansas, by  
28 the University of Arkansas Community College at Hope-Texarkana.

29 (3) Information regarding the proper placement of copies of the  
30 sign at additional locations to promote and direct tourism to Washington,  
31 Arkansas, shall be made available by the Arkansas Department of  
32 Transportation.

33 (4) The sign in appropriate scale shall be used as the symbol on  
34 the state highway map and in all tourism mediums published by the Department  
35 of Parks and Tourism to indicate "Birthplace of the Bowie Knife, Arkansas  
36 Heritage Site".

1           (e)(1) The Department of Arkansas Heritage shall promulgate rules  
2 necessary to implement this section.

3           (2)(A) When adopting the initial rules to implement this  
4 section, the final rule shall be filed with the Secretary of State for  
5 adoption under § 25-15-204(f):

6                     (i) On or before January 1, 2020; or  
7                     (ii) If approval under § 10-3-309 has not occurred  
8 by January 1, 2020, as soon as practicable after approval under § 10-3-309.

9           (B) The department shall file the proposed rule with the  
10 Legislative Council under § 10-3-309(c) sufficiently in advance of January 1,  
11 2020, so that the Legislative Council may consider the rule for approval  
12 before January 1, 2020.

13  
14                                     /s/Teague

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17                                     **APPROVED: 4/9/19**  
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