

## Collection Summary

**ID Number:** CS 357

**Title:** Lake Dick Cooperative Association

**Extent:** 1 Folder(s)

**Span Dates:** 2000

**Language:** English

**Geographic Location:** Jefferson County, Arkansas

**Abstract:** This collection consists of some photographs and a letter about the community from an area resident.

## Selected Search Terms

**Subjects:** Communal living; Collective settlements; Housing, Cooperative; Collective farms; Commune; New Deal, 1933-1939

**Historical Notes:** The area of Lake Dick, a U-shaped oxbow lake in Jefferson County, was the site of a New Deal program in agriculture during the first administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The experiment involved the "resettlement" of struggling urban and farm families. How the lake got its name has been a source of speculation. Located one mile west of Arkansas Highway 88 and four miles south of Altheimer (Jefferson County), Lake Dick was at one time the site of farmsteads for some eighty white families who had been moved into the area. In 1936, the Resettlement Administration—later to be made a part of the Farm Security Administration—acquired 3,453 acres of farmland in Jefferson County with the twin goals of establishing a cooperative community of farmers, and assisting sharecroppers and tenant farmers to become independent landowners. The land was then leased to the newly formed Lake Dick Cooperative Association. Each family owned an equal share in the association, which conducted the farming operation and managed the association's cooperative services, such as the general store. After the onset of World War II, it was increasingly difficult to justify the economic function of the Farm Security Administration, which was dissolved by Congress in 1943. The Lake Dick Cooperative Association was finally dissolved in 1945, and the land was sold and returned to private use. Lake Dick was put on the National Register of Historic Places on July 3, 1975. Lake Dick was a Resettlement project, part of the efforts to help sharecroppers establish their own farms. The Resettlement Administration purchased 3,453 acres, built "80 houses, six community buildings, and several farm support structures" for a cooperative farm (Arkansas Historic Preservation Program). Eighty white farm families, who had been either sharecroppers or tenant farmers, from 29 Arkansas counties were selected by the Farm Security Administration to take part in the cooperative. The cooperative was designed for each farmer to have his house, with a small plot of land for vegetables, but the remaining acreage was to be farmed jointly. In this way, it was intended to give the benefit of large-scale farming, while still enabling the farmers to have cash income by sharing in the profits. In addition to farming cash crops, they had a livestock operation, and timbering. A third of the original structures remain, including 21 houses, mule barn, and other community buildings, including the school gymnasium. The co-op was dissolved in 1946 and the land sold to an individual. It is currently on the National Register of Historic Places, and is significant as the only farming cooperative attempted in Arkansas, and one of few during the Resettlement Administration/Farm Security Administration efforts to assist farmers.

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?entryID=537> ;

<http://livingnewdeal.org/projects/lake-dick-resettlement-community-altheimer-ar/>

## Administrative Information

**Copyright Status:** Digital Image Copyright ©2016 University of Southern Indiana Library. All Rights Reserved. Personnel, student records, and other personal information in the records are restricted. All other material is open to the public without restrictions. Copyright laws of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) govern the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

**Access:** Personnel and students records and other personal information in these records are restricted. All other material is open to the public without restrictions. Copyright laws of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) govern the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

<b>Contents</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Container</b>	<b>Location</b>
Photographs (6) w/ negatives and letter from photographer Lloyd Smith, Aug. 2000	2000	Folder 1	Filing Cabinet 15-A