

Crossroads Fire Tower was constructed by the Aermotor Company and erected by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1935. Located on Highway 133 North and only a short distance north of Ashley County Road 12, legendarily known as Crossroads. This fire tower standing at 120 feet tall, may have been the tallest and is the tallest remaining tower in the state of Arkansas.

The structure itself is typical for such construction during this period consisting of a braced galvanized metal frame that supports the enclosed 7' x 7' observation structure from which the operator could view the surrounding landscape in all directions. Each of the four walls consists of 18 windowpanes in units for unobstructed viewing with the option to open or close units for ventilation or warmth.

Sometime between 1936 and 1943, there was an additional 20 feet added to the height of the tower to achieve a clearer view over the surrounding trees. The additional 20 feet altered the original tower design with it no longer tapering from the bottom to the top. It now tapers out before tapering inward again where the additional 20 feet was added.

In early days of operation, the fire tower operator's house was located where the Hamburg Rural Water tower is now located.

The state of Arkansas originally had 121 fire towers. Today 74 have been removed leaving only 47 that remain standing. Fire towers were phased out including Crossroads in favor of aerial fire detection.

During the time of its operation, the operators were as follows:

John D. Tucker 1935-1943

Mack L. Kinnaird 1943

Richard McLemore 1944-1952

J.E. High 1952-1953

Mack L. Kinnaird 1953-1964

Andrews Eugene Anthony 1964-1966

Faye R. Jones 1966-1975

Glendine Rauls 1975-1985

The City of Hamburg purchased this property in 2000. The City of Hamburg, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Plum Creek Timber, Home Depot and the Forest Fire Lookout Association made the restoration of this fire tower possible in 2008.



First day of cab restoration
(5/12/08)