

NR listed 2/03/92

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Case-Shiras-Dearmore House

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: 314 E. 4th St.

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Mountain Home

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Baxter

code: AR 005

zip code: 72653

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Byrd  
Signature of certifying official

12-3-91  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper      Date  
                                         of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic: Domestic      Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current : Domestic      Sub: Single Dwelling  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other: Plain Traditional

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Stone roof Metal  
walls Metal/Aluminum other Stone Piers  
Wood Columns

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Communications

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1904-1941 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): Shiras, Thomas

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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X See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

MM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>555520</u>	<u>4021300</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the northern edge of Fourth Street located approximately 300 feet west of its intersection with College Street, proceed northerly along a line running parallel with the eastern elevation of the house to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern elevation of the associated outbuilding; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the western elevation of the house; thence proceed southerly along said line to its intersection with the northern edge of Fourth Street; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Ken Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: December 3, 1991

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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### Summary

The Case-Shiras-Dearmore House is a two-story, wood frame residential structure. The ell-shaped, intersecting gable roof plan of the main house is augmented at its northern end by a historic gable roof addition. A single story, shed roof porch runs along the center sections of the front of the house, and an associated outbuilding is located to the rear (west) of the house.

### Elaboration

The Case-Shiras-Dearmore House is a two-story, wood frame residential structure designed in the "Plain Traditional" style. Its ell-shaped plan is composed of two intersecting gable roof sections; it also features a historic two story, rectangular addition to the north. Though the building featured three interior brick chimneys originally, all have been removed. A continuous stone foundation supports the aluminum-clad walls (originally weatherboarded, they have since been covered with aluminum siding that duplicates the dimensions of the original weatherboard and trim underneath) and the intersecting gables that are covered with a standing seam metal roof.

The eastern or front facade consists of a gable end section to the south and the side of the intersecting gable roof section to the north. The gable end is highlighted by a hipped roof, projecting rectangular central bay on the first story that is lighted with a single wood sash window on each of the two sides and by a pair of wood sash windows on the front. Two symmetrically-placed wood sash windows light the second story above, and the cornice is trimmed with a broad fascia board. The second story of the side gable portion to the north is lighted by a triangular wall dormer next to the gable end, with three more identical one-over-one wood sash windows extending to the north. On the first story,, the shed roof porch shelters an entrance located directly below the wall dormer above and another double-leaf entrance to the north. The shed roof porch is supported on sloping Craftsman columns and stone piers that are connected by a solid stone balustrade. The addition to the north is lighted on the second story by a single central window placed within a triangular wall dormer and on the first story by a central, grouped pair of wood sash windows.

The western or rear facade consists of the projecting rear wall of the northern addition, followed by the projecting shed roof entrance bay that is attached to the northern end of the enclosed rear porch; the wall of the porch is lighted by three wood sash windows set into a slightly projecting beveled bay and is accessed by a single-leaf door placed at the southern end of the wall. The wall of the gable end at the southern end of the elevation is blank.

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The southern elevation is lighted on each floor by two symmetrically-placed one-over-one wood sash windows, with those on the first floor being slightly wider than those above. The northern elevation is lighted by a pair of one-over-one wood sash windows in the first floor of the northern wall of the original gable end and a single, central two-over-two wood sash window in the second story of the gable end of the addition.

The principal alterations to the house have been the removal of the chimneys, the enclosing of the back porch, the replacement of the turned posts that supported the front porch with the Craftsman-style supports and the recladding of the exterior walls with steel siding. However, the steel siding has been placed over the original wood weatherboard and trim, and was selected to duplicate exactly the dimensions of the original sheathing.

Also included in the nomination is the cut stone outbuilding located to the rear of the main house. Though it has had a second story added to it, it remains on its original site, above the basement that has since been filled.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   8   Page   1  **Summary**

Criterion B, local significance

In spite of the recent addition of steel siding to the Case-Shiras-Dearmore House, the original dimensions and any original trim (however limited) have been sensitively preserved, and thus the house retains its historic appearance, and so its associations with the noted Baxter County newspaper publisher Tom Shiras.

**Elaboration**

Dr. J. H. Case moved to Mountain Home, Arkansas from Ohio in 1873 along with his wife, Jennie McFarland Case. Dr. Case was a dentist, having chosen that profession over that of general medicine after his chilling experiences during the Civil War as a doctor and surgeon in the Federal Army (he entered the service in 1861, at the age of 23). Mountain Home was first settled in the early 1850's with a post office established as early as 1857 (the name was drawn from the plantation house built by Colonel O.L. Dodd at the future site of Mountain Home - first called Rapp's Barren - to which his slaves allegedly referred as "my sweet mountain home" whenever discussing the mountain setting vs. the site of Colonel Dodd's other plantation, down the White River at Augusta). The town grew up around the Mountain Home Male and Female Academy, opened in 1853 by Professor J.S. Howard, a minister and schoolmaster from Wisconsin. The Academy, like many other contemporaneous schools in the Ozarks, filled a need for education that was accessible to the mountain children in the face of a frequent lack of established public education. Parents from many miles away, as well as those that lived locally, frequently sent their children to board with residents or to stay with family in the community where the school was located. However, the success and local significance of the Academy had little impact upon the bushwhackers that virtually leveled the town during the Civil War, including the first buildings constructed for the Academy. The town re-built in the years thereafter, but was still a relatively small town and unincorporated as of 1873.

This period of rebuilding probably had a great deal to do with Dr. Case's decision to continue on with his family to New Mexico within two years after moving to Mountain Home. In such dire times of rebuilding homes and re-establishing livelihoods, dentistry probably seemed frivolous to the average citizen, and Dr. Case probably thought that his prospects would be better further west. However, within another three years he returned, probably due to the fact that he and his wife were expecting their first child, and he and his family went about establishing themselves in Mountain Home for good. The Case-Shiras-Dearmore House was completed within two years thereafter; Mayme, their first child, was one year old when they



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occupied the house. Dr. Case continued to find it difficult to make a living on dentistry alone, which resulted in his forming a partnership with Captain Ben Bodenhamer for the purpose of opening a store on the square in Mountain Home, an enterprise in which he remained involved until his death.

Little is known about the history of the construction of the house itself, as the names of neither the builder nor the architect (if any) have survived. The entire structure was originally heated with wood-burning stoves and lighted with kerosene lamps until c. 1918, when Wyatt Wolf, a Mountain Home native and former army officer, returned from the First World War and built the first local power generator in Mountain Home. However, the house remained in the hands of the descendants of the Case family until less than ten years ago (when it was purchased by the present owners, the Leisure Homes Corporation) and thus more is known about the use and occupation of the structure, including its associated property and outbuildings. It remained a family home for nine years, until the death of Dr. Case in 1889. It was in this year that Mrs. Case contracted for the construction of the addition at the northern end of the building for the purpose of converting the building into a hotel and boarding house for travelers and businessmen that frequented Mountain Home, the county seat of Baxter County. The stone outbuilding was almost certainly built by this time also, as it is known that an original cellar in the building (now filled) was used for storing 500 to 600 quart jars of canned goods that were up by the "hired girls" for the purpose of serving hotel guests. Three other wood frame outbuildings (not extant) were also constructed by this time: a servant's quarters and two large, two-story barns. The former housed the servants that helped Mrs. Case maintain and run the hotel, and the latter two buildings sheltered both the horses of the family and the horses and carriages of the guests. One of the barns also sheltered the "hack," the small stage coach the route of which included a stop at this building. However, the original property associated with the main residence has been partially subdivided in recent years, and no surface record remains of the location of these frame outbuildings.

The house was probably purchased by Tom Shiras -- who later married into the Case family -- around 1900. Tom Shiras came to Mountain Home from his native Kansas City at that time when he was working in the area as part of a Missouri-Pacific surveying crew. By 1904 he purchased a small local newspaper, the *Baxter Bulletin*, and persuaded his brother Enness, an experienced typesetter, to join him in operating the relatively small newspaper. Under the direction of the Shiras brothers the *Baxter Bulletin* became a newspaper of greatly increased circulation and influence, eventually becoming the principal news source and editorial voice for the entire north-central region of the state, and frequently wielding tremendous clout in local political and economic affairs. Furthermore, the Shiras brothers expanded their operations to

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include commercial printing, and achieved great success throughout. The Shiras family continued to operate their printing and publishing business -- and to reside in this house -- until the late 1970's, when they sold the entire enterprise.

The Case-Shiras-Dearmore House is locally significant under Criterion B as the historic resource most closely associated with Tom Shiras, the influential local publisher that controlled a newspaper with substantial regional influence in the days before the advent of dominant statewide daily newspapers.

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## Bibliography

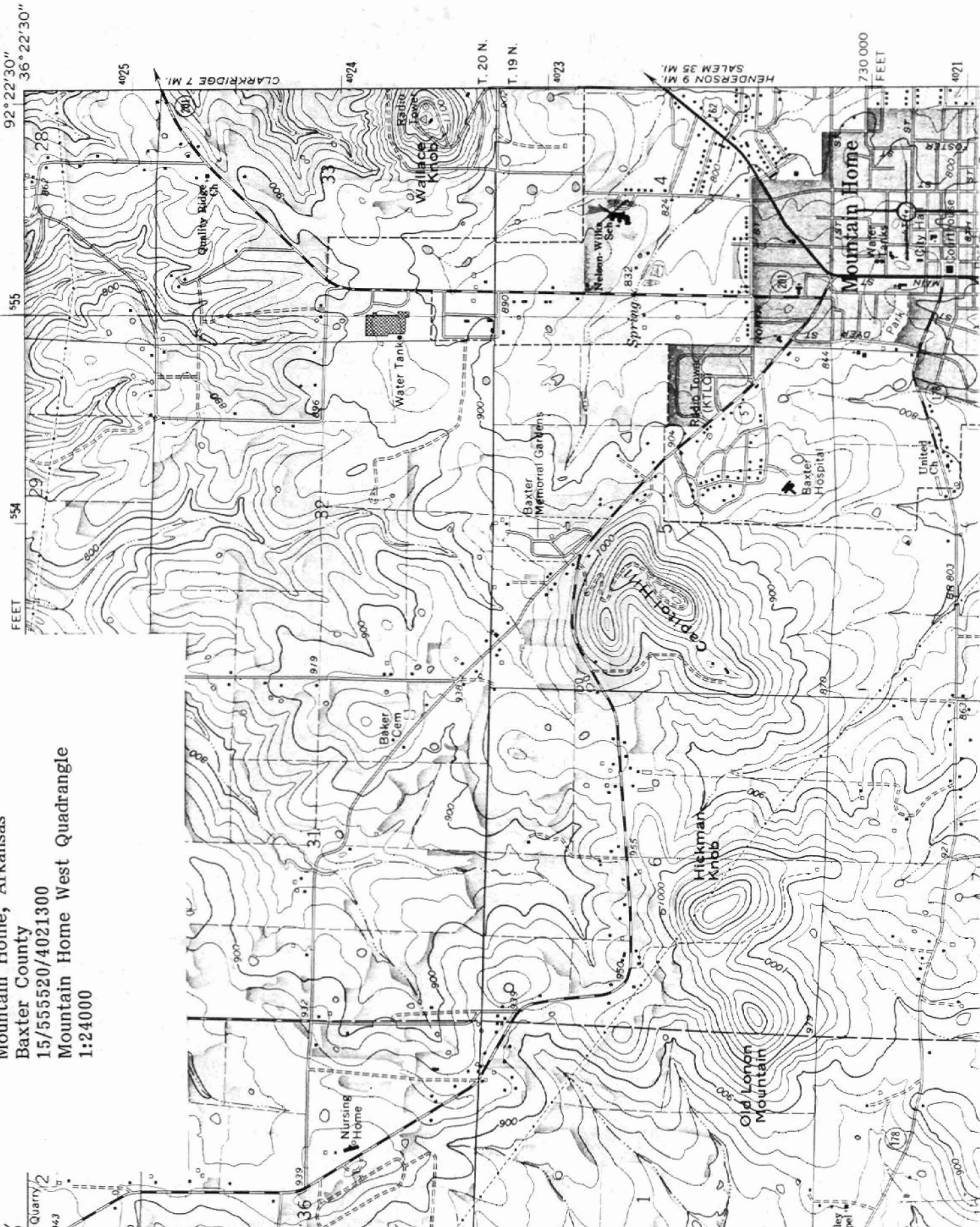
*Deed Records*, Baxter County Courthouse, Mountain Home.

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**MOUNTAIN HOME WEST QUADRANGLE**  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

Case-Shiras-Dearmore House  
Mountain Home, Arkansas  
Baxter County  
15/555520/4021300  
Mountain Home West Quadrangle  
1:24000



Quarry 2  
943

CLARK RIDGE 7 MI.  
HENDERSON 9 MI.  
SALEM 35 MI.

