

Oct. 6, 1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Parnell-Sharpe House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 302 North Second Street not for publication N/A
city, town McGehee vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county Desha code 041 zip code 71654

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Buford
Signature of certifying official

8-21-89
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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Other: French Eclectic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Brick

Stone

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Summary

The Parnell-Sharpe House is a one-and-one-half story, towered subtype residence of the French Eclectic style. The house has a projecting bay tower placed in the northwest corner of the intersection of the principal gable roof components which otherwise form a T-shaped, cross-gable plan. It is covered with a slate roof and set upon a cast concrete foundation, though there is no basement. It was constructed in 1936.

Elaboration

The Parnell-Sharpe House is a one-and-one-half story, gable roof and towered subtype residence of the French Eclectic style which was popular in the early twentieth century in the United States. It is constructed of dark red tapestry brick accented with random cut stone quoins at the corners and western (front) doorway entrance, set upon a grey cast concrete foundation and roofed with dark grey slate shingles. It features an essentially T-shaped plan, with the western or front elevation dominated by a projecting, full-height central bellcast gable and a round inset tower just to the north which contains the principal entrance and is capped with a conical roof. The plan is augmented by a single-story, gable roof family room (formerly a garage) projecting from the north elevation, an original hipped roof wrap-around kitchen at the northeast corner and a later eastern (rear), shed roof dining area (formerly an open patio).

The western or main elevation is divided into the one-and-one-half story section of the house to the south, featuring its central, bellcast roof gable and northern conical roof entrance tower, and the single-story, gable roof garage to the north. The wall plane to the south of the projecting gable is blank though a tall brick chimney rises from the southern side of the gable itself. The gable end is ornamented only with a large rectangular window opening, dressed with stone, and fenestrated with a central monumental, steel frame, fixed forty-eight pane window. The circular tower is relieved only by the stone-dressed entrance, which contains its original wood panelled door, and a fixed metal window on the first floor, around the tower to the northeast. The garage at the northern end has been filled with ten fixed panes set into a wood frame.

The northern elevation features the projecting western gable and circular tower with the gable end of the garage to the east. Above the garage the gable end of the main part of the house is blank with the exception of the central brick chimney rising through the peak. To the east the hipped roof dormer echoes the form of the hipped roof wrap-around kitchen below. The kitchen is fenestrated with a pair of metal casement windows and a transom to the west and a leaded stained glass window with small, lozenge-shaped panes set between two clear,

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vertical, single-pane windows to the east. The latter window arrangement is set into a shallow wood board-and-batten bay which projects slightly from the brick wall. The shed roof and blank wall of the rear dining area projects to the east.

The eastern or rear elevation is highlighted by the recently filled and covered dining area to the south with its bouldered chimney at the southern end of the elevation. The dining area is lighted by four one-over-one stationary windows of the same type as those used in the filled garage on the western elevation. A hipped, horizontal roof dormer is placed in the center of the main section of the house above the shed roof section, and the northern kitchen wall is covered with wood board-and-batten sheathing. The southern elevation is divided into the side of the eastern shed roof dining area, with its massive bouldered chimney; the gable end of the main portion of the house, which is fenestrated on the first story with two symmetrically-placed rectangular openings, each filled with a pair of six-pane casement windows and a four-pane transom, and on the second story with a central metal window; and the side wall of the western projecting gable, which has the tall brick chimney to the east and the rectangular window opening filled with two eight-pane metal casement windows below a four-pane transom to the west.

Wood red-gum structural members, finished naturally, are exposed on the interior of the round entrance tower. Immediately to the right, through a doorway, is a formal parlor with an elaborate fireplace constructed of fieldstone, surrounded by a red-gum, wood panelled mantel reaching from floor to ceiling and centered on the south wall of the room. Interior living areas are finished in natural wood red-gum panelling and flooring with plaster walls. Exposed timbers with iron reinforcements at the wall and ceiling joints frame the interior rooms of the back portion of the house (including the enclosed porch). The formal parlor has no upper story and features instead a cathedral ceiling. All wood details in the house are also red-gum.

Located on the southeast corner of North Second and Lynn Streets in McGehee, Arkansas, this house was originally constructed for use as a single-family dwelling by Buren F. and Mildred Parnell Sharpe. The house appears substantially as it did when it was built with the exception of filling the original garage door with fixed wood windows and covering and enclosing the original stone rear patio to form a dining room. It is presently used as an agribusiness office for Mr. John Maier, Jr., the current owner.

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Summary

The Parnell-Sharp House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as an unusual and remarkably intact example of French Eclectic architecture in the city of McGehee, Arkansas.

Elaboration

A comprehensive survey of McGehee, Arkansas has not been completed; however, this building is in fine condition and is probably the only structure of this architectural style in McGehee and Desha County. The craftsmanship exhibited by the original owner, builder and designer--Duren Sharpe--make this building an exceptional example of French Eclectic architecture using native materials.

Duren Sharpe was born in Monticello, Arkansas in 1901 and moved to McGehee in 1924. Sharpe was a self-trained brickmason, draftsman, carpenter, contractor and businessman and was remembered locally as a craftsman who had "a concern for quality which is the common thread through all of his business ventures, including the oldest building materials center in town." Between 1924-1948, Sharpe built the B.F. Selman home, the C.A. Linaker Sausage Plant (now the Hampton Pugh Company at 203 Ash Street) and supervised the construction of the Wells-Lemont Factory and the Delta Country Club, all in Desha County. He also periodically financed the construction of "spec" houses in McGehee when local builders faced unemployment, a gesture which represented an investment in both the town's future and its people. Sharpe also served as the president of the McGehee Chamber of Commerce and a member of the City Planning Commission. In 1948 Sharpe opened a building materials business in McGehee, a business he was to continue to operate successfully until 1984, when he sold the enterprise before retirement.

Duren Sharpe and his wife, Mildred Parnell Sharpe, built and lived in this house from 1936 until his death in 1986, raising two children. Whether or not Sharpe designed his home from an experience in northwestern France or not, it is an unusual example of the French Eclectic style. The French Eclectic houses were principally built between 1915-1945 in the United States, in response to the familiarity with French prototypes witnessed by American soldiers in France during World War I. This style is relatively common and is found throughout the country in 1920s and 1930s suburbs. Characterized by the tower on its south facade, the Parnell-Sharp House is a Norman Cottage subtype (farmhouse typically found in the province of Normandy in northwestern France) of the French Eclectic style. While decorative half-timbering is obviously missing on the exterior, enough interior detail resembling half-timbering relates it to this subtype style. While this style resembles the English Tudor style, French Eclectic houses

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usually lack the dominant front-facing cross-gables characteristic of the Tudor style, and many French prototypes have formal Renaissance or English Georgian detailing (McAlester, pp. 387-388).

Sharpe's concern for craftsmanship and quality is evidenced by the intact state of this house and the fact that its current owner has been required to devote minimal care to its upkeep. Though it encloses a relatively small amount of floor area, through its combination of a one-and-one-half story height with its rambling, picturesque elevations it is reminiscent of much larger farmhouses in France; as such it survives as a unique example of this particular style in rural Arkansas.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

N/A

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Buren Sharpe

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than one

UTM References

A 15 | 648600 | 3722175
Zone Easting Northing

B _____ | _____ | _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____ | _____ | _____

D _____ | _____ | _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 1, Block 38, Original Town of McGehee.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

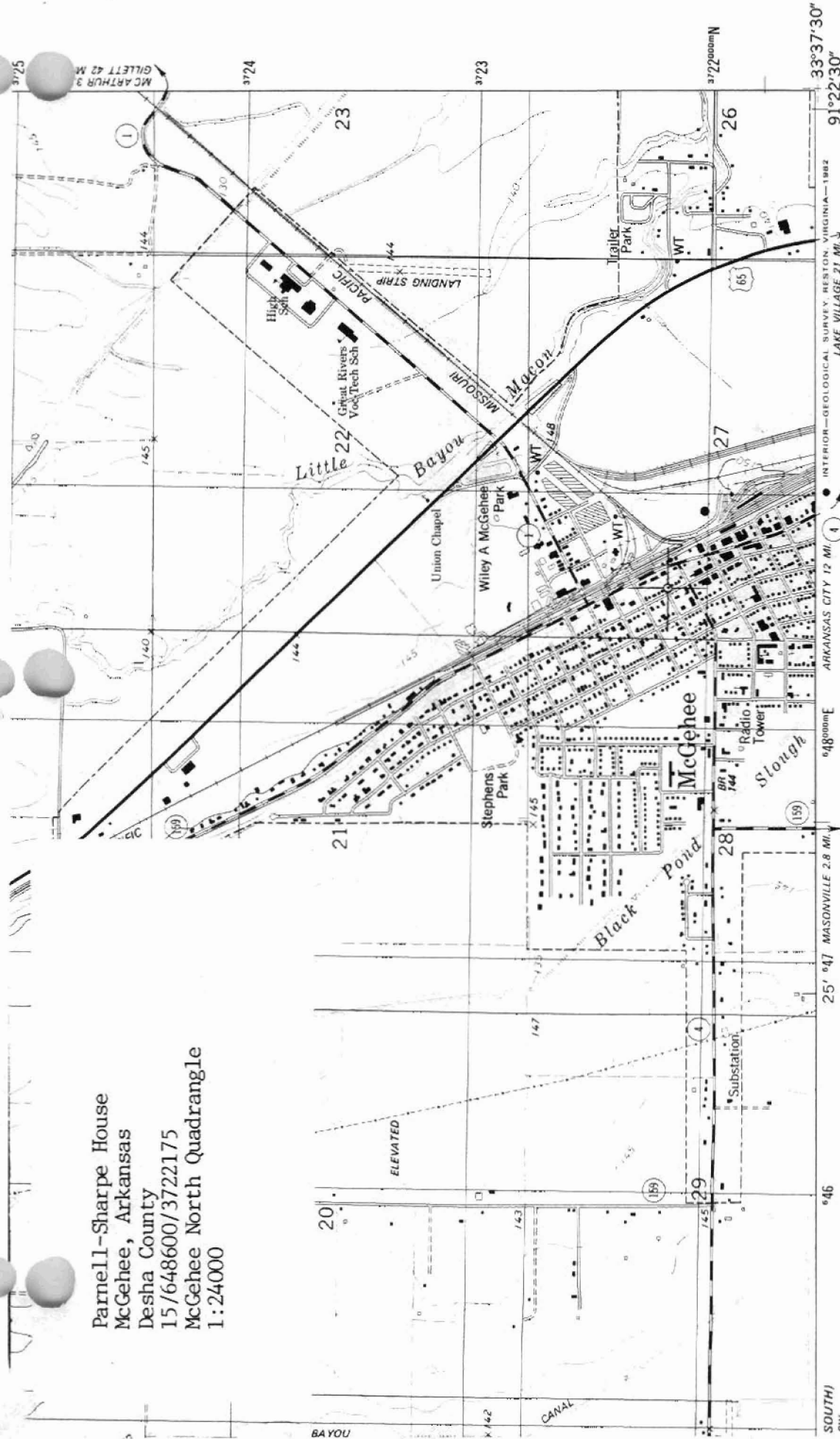
This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story and Mary Ann Anderson
 organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date August 14, 1989
 street & number 225 E. Markham Street, Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763
 city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

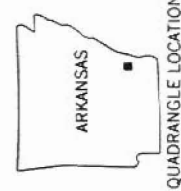
Parnell-Sharpe House
 McGehee, Arkansas
 Desha County
 15/648600/3722175
 McGehee North Quadrangle
 1:24000



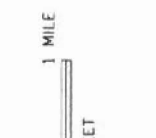
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface ————
 Light-duty road, hard or improved surface ————
 Secondary highway, hard surface ————
 Unimproved road ————

○ Interstate Route ◻ U. S. Route ○ State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MC GEHEE NORTH, ARK.
 NW/4 MCGEHEE 15' QUADRANGLE
 N3337.5-W9122.5/7.5

FOR FULL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 OR LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
 AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1981

DMA 7751 III NW-SERIES V884

