

NR 11-26-86

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Edward Dickinson House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number 672 East Boswell Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Batesville

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

code

county Independence

code 063

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both

Public Acquisition

N/A
 in process
 being considered

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress

Accessible

yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military

museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. Robert Holyer

street & number 672 East Boswell Street

city, town Batesville

vicinity of

state Arkansas 72501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Independence County Courthouse

street & number 193 East Main Street

city, town Batesville

state Arkansas 72501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Batesville Community Survey

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April, 1979

federal state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock

state Arkansas 72201

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Constructed circa 1875, the Edward Dickinson House is one of the few remaining pre-1900 Gothic Revival cottages in Arkansas. Located in one of Batesville's oldest and best-preserved residential areas, the house plan consists of a one and one-half story traditional center hall cottage with an ell. Gothic Revival details include matching pointed arch windows in steeply pitched gables and heavy wood moldings over principal windows. A unique and simply decorated structure, the Dickinson House maintains excellent integrity for what has become a rare architectural style in Arkansas.

ELABORATION

Situated on a corner lot surrounded by other National Register properties which were constructed in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and adjoining the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church, the Edward Dickinson House displays the Gothic Revival idea of picturesqueness. Encircled by ample foliage and flowers, the house is painted in earth tones, sits closely to the ground and possesses steep, quaint gables, elaborate decorative trim and arched windows, all of which are typical Gothic Revival features.

On the facade, a three-bay porch is supported by four chamfered posts with a jigsawed balustrade. Fanciful flat brackets support a pierced fascia board beneath a hipped and decked porch roof from which a balustrade has been removed. A three-part doorway assembled in a palladian composition is centrally positioned. A round-arch, single-pane, fixed transom is joined to sidelights by a continuous, deeply molded architrave matching that above the windows. The first floor windows contain six-pane sashes and are segmentally arched beneath the heavy hood moldings. Shutters have been removed to accomodate modern storm windows. Broad corner pilasters and gable returns suggest a touch of Classical Revival styling..

The foundation is cut sandstone; the walls are horizontal weatherboards suitably painted buff and trimmed in medium brown; the roof is gray composition shingles. The original interior end chimney on the west is gothic-inspired with a double stack and lozenge-shaped panel. The replaced east chimney of random ashlar stone has been moved to the exterior end wall. A one and one-half story ell in the same style connects the house to a once separate kitchen and limestone storage room. A secondary boxed staircase which once rose from the kitchen has been opened to a porch on the west.

The interior woodwork is simple but neatly finished with bold moldings. The four-panel doors are surrounded by molded casings which incorporate two-light transoms. The staircase in the center hall has a walnut railing and is decorated with flat, sawn stair brackets which are carried across the landing fascia in a foliate form.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1875

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

Built by one of Batesville's earliest and most influential families, the Dickinson House has weathered the years to become one of the few nineteenth century Gothic Revival residences left in Arkansas. Richly detailed on the exterior and interior, the cottage contains the most fully documented examples of the mill work of the Batesville firm of Charles L. Gorsuch.

ELABORATION

Few Gothic Revival cottages remain in Arkansas of the undetermined number built before 1900. The Dickinson House is the only survivor of a group of three similar cottages in Batesville, which once included the Neill and Reed Houses. The only other remaining Gothic structure is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which was erected in 1872. While the Dickinson House is a late example of the style advocated by A. J. Downing thirty years earlier, the style-determining features are prominent and unaltered. The house is a sprawling conglomeration of rooms, giving a desirable effect of organic growth. The structure is partially shaded by large trees, resulting in a picturesque interplay of light and shadow, structure and nature, just as Downing's landscape plans specified. Furthermore, surviving contemporary local residences lack the finesse of interior and exterior trim which give this basically traditional house style and distinction. Alterations to the rear ell have been made sensitively and forward the Gothic Revival motif.

Most importantly, the Dickinson House contains the most fully documented pieces of woodwork by the Batesville firm of Charles L. Gorsuch. His firm employed the chief local woodcrafters during an era of considerable construction from 1867 to 1880. Gorsuch died February 1880 and in April of that year the probate sale bill records the making and installing of two walnut mantels and one set of walnut closet doors. One of the mantels survives, although probably stripped of applied ornament, and has made possible the identification of similar work in other structures besides the Dickinson House. An excellent example survived in the home of Gorsuch's brother-in-law, J. N. Reed, but this structure was razed in 1974. There are also chimney pieces done by Gorsuch on the second floor of the existing Glenn House. In the Dickinson House, the double-leaf closet doors, installed beside the mantelpiece in 1880, are decorated with pointed-arch panels, the single interior reflection of the exterior Gothic Revival Style. The doors have been moved from their original location recently, but are preserved within the house.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Britton Nancy and Diane Tebbetts "Nineteenth Century Houses of Batesville Arkansas" Independence County Chronicle, XX (January 1979), p. 64.

"John H. Dickinson", Goodspeed's Biographical and Historical Memories of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed, 1889, p. 661.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Batesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 5 and $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 Block 16, School Addition to Batesville
Corner of Boswell and Seventh Streets

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Pratt and Daniel Fagg/Edited by AHPP staff

organization Historic Preservation Studies

date May 26, 1985

street & number Arkansas College

telephone 501-793-9813

city or town Batesville

state Arkansas 72501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

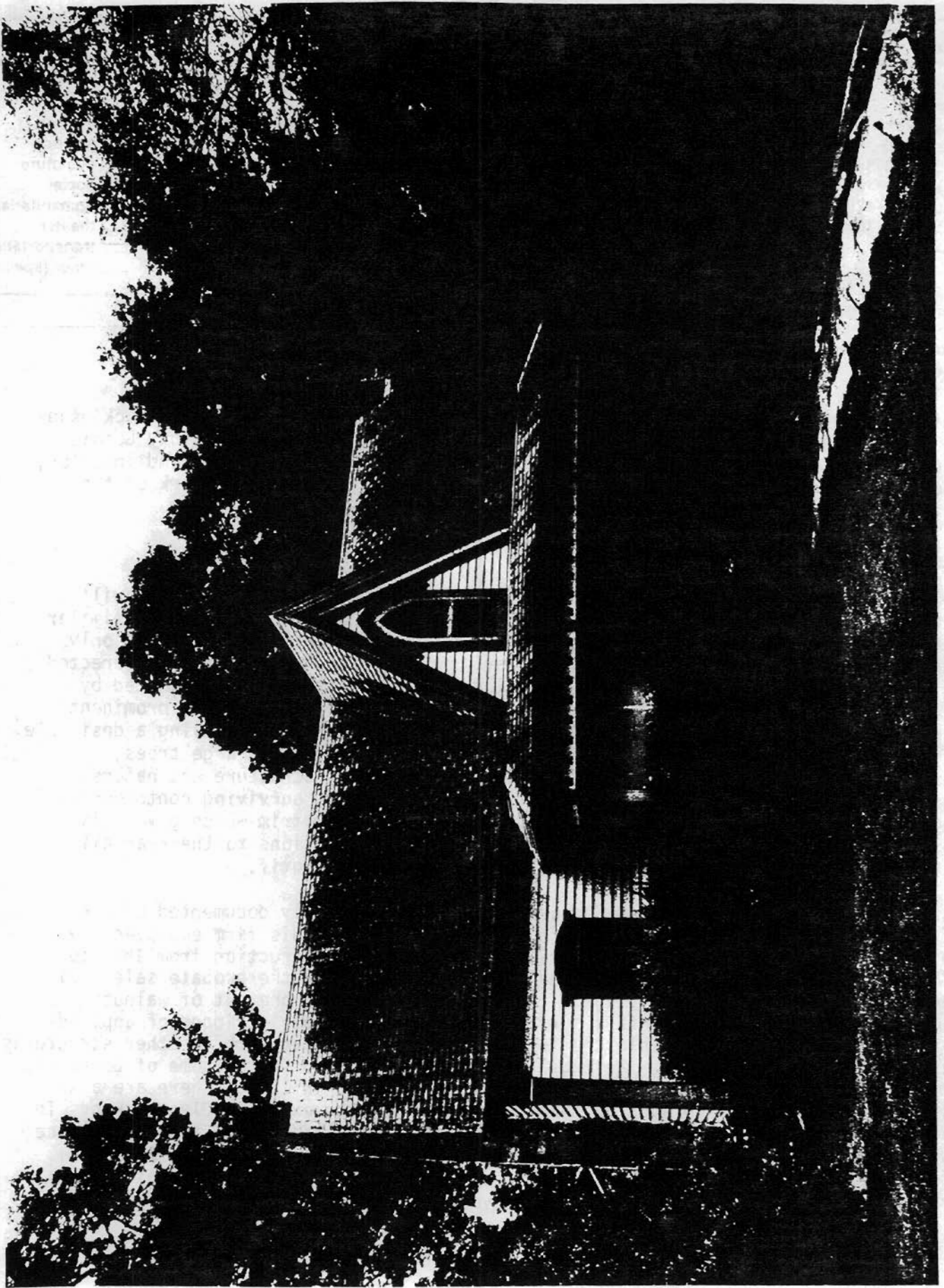
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c.1875

Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

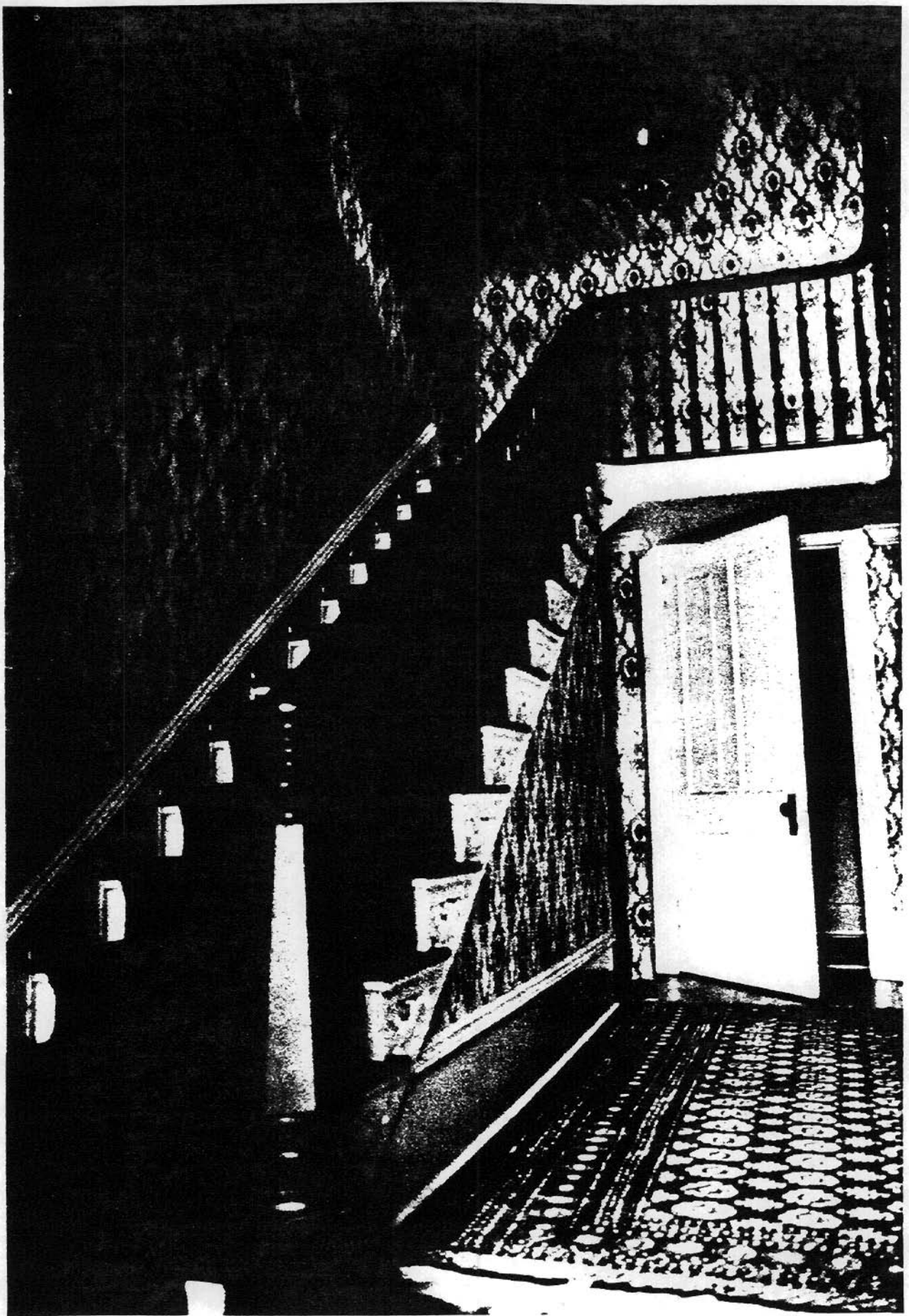
SUMMARY

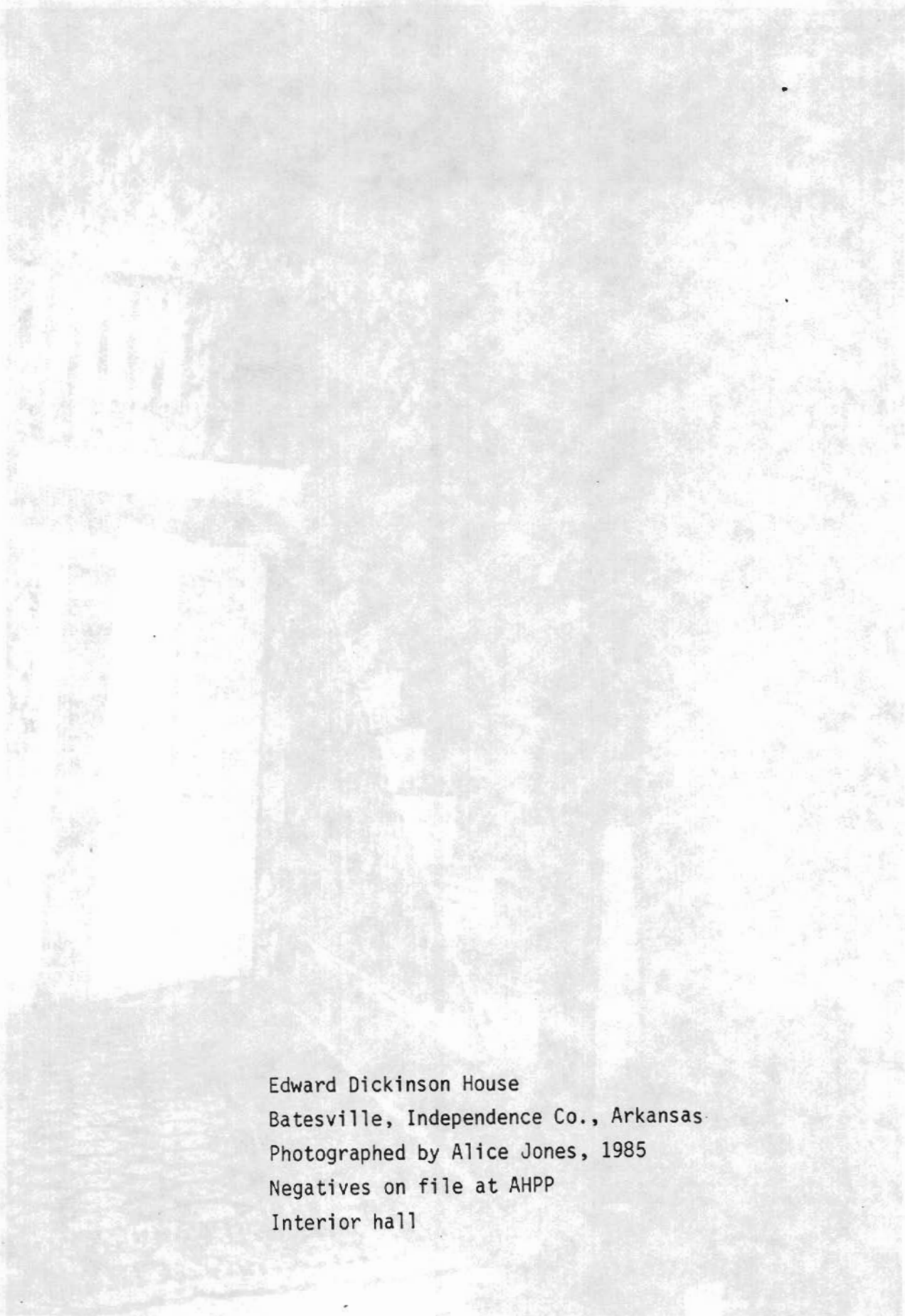
Built by one of Batesville's earliest and most influential families, the Dickinson House has weathered the years to become one of the few nineteenth century Gothic Revival residences left in Arkansas. Richly detailed on the exterior and interior, the cottage contains the most fully documented examples of the mill work of the Batesville firm of Charles L. Gorsuch.

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A black and white photograph of an interior hallway. The hallway is narrow and features a wooden floor. On the left side, there is a doorway leading to another room. The walls are light-colored, and the lighting is somewhat dim, creating a sense of depth and perspective. The overall appearance is that of a well-maintained, historical interior space.

Edward Dickinson House
Batesville, Independence Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Alice Jones, 1985
Negatives on file at AHPP
Interior hall

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Page 2

The front portion of the Dickinson House appears to be unaltered except for the loss of the porch roof balustrade and changes to the east chimney. The original house consisted of a classic traditional plan of two rooms with a center hall. An ell on the east is original. From it, the kitchen was reached by an open porch. The porch was enclosed prior to 1897 to make a hallway from which a three-part doorway opens to 7th Street on the east. Beyond the kitchen was an open wellhouse which connected with a cut stone storage house with a stone floor, probably used for coal storage. Circa 1950, the Curtis Thompson family enclosed the wellhouse to make a garage, capping the well at floor level. A later owner converted the former wellhouse into a passage, moving to it a "gothic" window from a second floor rear gable. The Thompsons moved the west wall of the storage room outward to create a fireplace wall for a recreation room. The Thompsons also enlarged the ell hallway by moving the south wall of the dining room a few feet northward, creating a modern kitchen in the old hallway and a bedroom in the old kitchen. An additional bedroom was provided by enclosing a shed porch on the rear.

The Dickinson House maintains unusual integrity. The basic interior and exterior fabric is intact and the alterations are not disruptive. It remains a well-kept, liveable dwelling, responding on the interior to the decorating tastes of various owners but retaining integrity of basic fabric and appearance.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Charles Gorsuch was born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1828, descended from an English family which settled in Maryland in the seventeenth century. When he was a child, his parents moved to Peoria, Illinois where he and his brothers became carpenters, masons, and woodworkers. In 1855, he advertised as an undertaker, coffin maker and expert furniture repairer. In 1854, he married Sarah Reed whose brother, I. N. Reed, married into Batesville's prominent Weaver family and became a successful merchant in Batesville in the late 1860's. Gorsuch followed his brother-in-law to Arkansas and settled in the thriving town of Batesville in 1867. He advertised as a cabinetmaker with a shop on lower Main Street at "The Sign of the Bedstead". With the coming of the railroad to Newport in 1872, Gorsuch made a gradual transition to stocking manufactured furniture and decorating supplies after a futile attempt to advertise that "homemade is better". He supplemented his income by becoming the first sexton of newly opened Oaklawn Cemetery. By 1872 he had also acquired an impressive array of patented woodworking equipment for the production of sashes, doors, blinds and other millwork, called "jobbing work" in the sale bills. A prominent and well-known man, Gorsuch was killed in February 1880 by a falling wall of burning three-story brick Batesville Institute while helping save equipment from the office of the Batesville Guard.

Most Batesville houses built between 1870 and 1880 undoubtedly contain Gorsuch woodwork. Some pieces have now been identified. Even less furniture is known because no key to identification is available such as that provided by the Gorsuch work in the Dickinson House.

The original owner of the structure, Edward Dickinson, was a second generation Batesvillian, descended from a New York family. His father, Townsend Dickinson, was in Independence County in the early 1820's as one of the area's two earliest lawyers. He represented Independence County on the Council of the 3rd Territorial Legislature in 1823 and served in the House of Representatives in the first state Legislature, 1836-38. He was an Associate Justice on the first Supreme Court, serving from 1836-42. Townsend Dickinson's brothers, Benjamin and William H. Dickinson, joined him in Batesville in the 1830's. Benjamin bought both farm property and Main Street lots in 1837-38. The three brothers opened a general store in Batesville.

Benjamin married Maria Slater of Pine Bluff and by 1840 Edward Dickinson was born followed by Elizabeth and John. During the Civil War Edward served in a local Confederate Company and in 1860 married Sarah Byers of Batesville, daughter of the former district prosecuting attorney. The Byers family was socially and economically prominent thus giving Dickinson important connections. Dickinson clerked and kept books for businesses in the area until the Reconstruction Republications were swept from county offices. In 1874, Dickinson was elected Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts. He held the office until 1886 with his brother serving as Deputy Clerk for most of the twenty-two years. Edward Dickinson carried on private enterprises while holding office. He acquired farm property and speculated in town lots; not only those on his own block but also those on the west half of the block directly across 7th Street from his residence where he had rental property. In 1888, he opened a book and stationery shop which probably supplied the needs of the courthouse. Dickinson represented Independence County in the 28th General Assembly

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in 1891, defeating a Union Labor candidate in a hard-fought campaign.

In 1893, he was appointed to a position in the Treasury Department in Washington under the second Cleveland administration, probably due to the influence of Mrs. Dickinson's brother-in-law, congressman Robert Neill of Batesville, who served in the 53rd Congress. Thereafter the Dickinsons returned to Batesville only for visits, most notably to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1918. Significantly, the celebration was held at the Neill home because the Dickinson property was rented. Two years later, Edward Dickinson died in Washington and his body was returned to Batesville for burial from St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Britton Nancy and Diane Tebbetts "Nineteenth Century Houses of Batesville Arkansas" Independence County Chronicle, XX (January 1979), p. 64.

"John H. Dickinson", Goodspeed's Biographical and Historical Memories of Northeast Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed, 1889, p. 661.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Batesville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	5	6	2	2	3	3	5	3	9	5	9	2	4	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

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Zone		Easting				Northing								

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 5 and $\frac{1}{2}$ 4 Block 16, School Addition to Batesville
Corner of Boswell and Seventh Streets

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Pratt and Daniel Fagg/Edited by AHPP staff

organization Historic Preservation Studies

date May 26, 1985

street & number Arkansas College

telephone 501-793-9813

city or town Batesville

state Arkansas 72501

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-23-84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

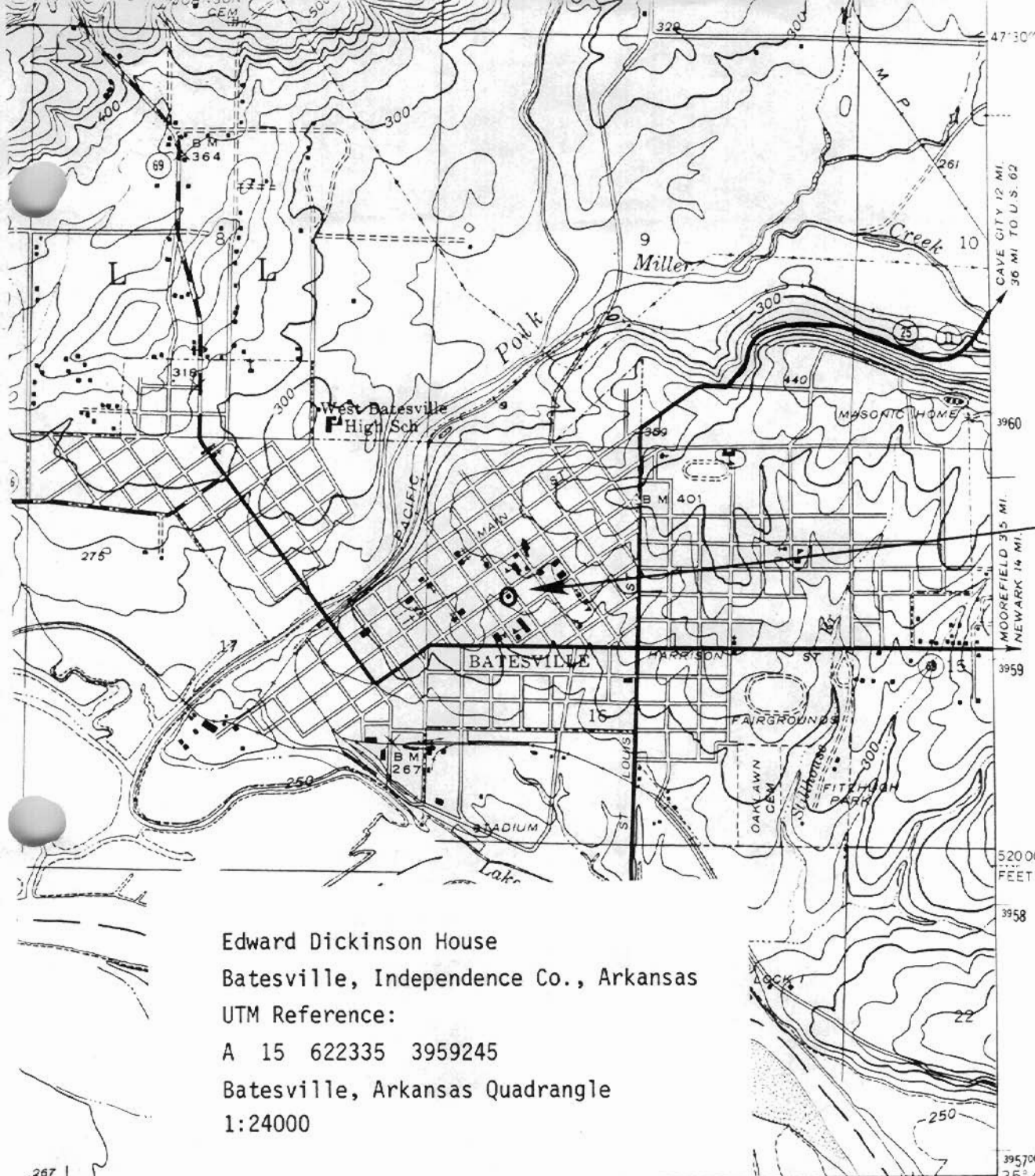
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Edward
Dickinson
House

Edward Dickinson House
Batesville, Independence Co., Arkansas
UTM Reference:
A 15 622335 3959245
Batesville, Arkansas Quadrangle
1:24000

40' INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WASHINGTON D C -1972

0.9 MI. TO JUNC. ARK. 11 AND 25
BALD KNOB (JUNC. U.S. 57) 34 MI.
623000m E. 2110000 FEET 91° 37' 30"

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
5000 yard grid based on U. S. zone system, C
10000 foot grid based on Arkansas (North)
rectangular coordinate system
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— 4 LANE 6 LANE Light-duty ———
Medium-duty - - - 4 LANE 6 LANE Unimproved dirt =====
U. S. Route State Route

BATESVILLE, ARK.

N3545-W3537 5/7.5
1943
AMS 7655 I SW-SERIES V884