

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Wadley, J. K., House

Other Name/Site Number: (MI0080)

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 618 Pecan

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Texarkana

Vicinity: x

State: AR

County: Miller

Code: AR091

Zip Code: 75504

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Wadley, J. K., House
Name of Property

Miller County, AR
County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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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. Sater _____ 1-8-99
Signature of certifying official 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

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5. National Park Service Certification
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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

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current : DOMESTIC Sub: hotel

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne

Materials: foundation BRICK roof ASPHALT
walls weatherboard other shingle
brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 618 Pecan Street, the J. K. Wadley House was built in 1895. The use of classical ornamentation such as: Palladian windows, dentil molding, columns grouped in threes and raised on piers, and classical pediments over entrances would lead one to believe this house is a Colonial Revival or Classical Revival-styled residence. However, the asymmetrical facades, a wraparound porch, extensive use of patterned wood shingles on the second story and such fanciful details as a stained-glass Florentine window, and an "onion dome" turret mark this house as an excellent example of the "Free Classic" subtype of the Queen Anne style of architecture.

In 1904, the Wadleys added a rear addition. This expansion is compatible with the main portion of the house and utilizes the same varieties of wall cladding. Also dating to the 1904 expansion of the house are a garage, a guest house, a potting shed, and an elliptical concrete goldfish pond. The guesthouse is non-contributing to the nomination, because of a siding change and the addition of a bay projection after a fire damaged the building. Also located on the property are a gate and an arbor of undetermined age.

elaboration

The J. K. Wadley House is a two-story frame residence designed in the Queen Anne subtype style known as the "Free Classic." The house rests on a continuous brick foundation, has a hipped roof with side gables, and is clad in weatherboard and fishscale shingles on its lower and upper stories, respectively. The majority of the windows are of the one-over-one double-hung variety, except the six-beside-six casement windows that fenestrate the sun porch. The 1904 addition to the rear elevation house is denoted by a slight change of pitch in the roofline, and is set back slightly from the original portion of the house. Otherwise, the addition blends remarkably well with the original building. Although four mantlepieces exist inside the house, only two corbeled brick chimneys remain.

The southwestern, or front elevation is enlivened by several architectural features. On the lower story, the wraparound porch is highlighted by a pedimented gable, grouped columns on piers and a band of dentil molding along the cornice. An over-sized dormer with Palladian louvered vents draws the eye up from the porch to the attic story. A large, Florentine window, featuring multiple panes of blue glass, adorns the second story near a rounded corner. Seated the top of the rounded southern corner of the facade, sits an architecturally distinctive "onion dome" turret topped by a finial.

A single-leaf main entry is located toward the western corner of the front facade. The door is built of oak, has sixteen, wood panels and contains a rectangular, beveled glass. Above the door is a single-paned transom. To the left of the entrance is a beveled corner with single window. Beneath the wraparound porch and to the right of the entry is an over-sized window. A pair of second story windows act to accentuate the pedimented gable end.

The southeastern elevation contains the remainder of the wraparound porch, a porte-cochere, a beveled gable projection, and the gabled, 1904 addition. Fenestration of the elevation is composed of evenly-spaced one-over-one windows, except for the sun room. Beneath the porch is another over-sized window and a secondary entrance set into a beveled corner of the gable projection. Extending from the porch is the porte-cochere. This carport is supported by grouped columns on piers. The sun room, located above the wraparound porch, is fenestrated by seven pairs of casement windows capped by transom windows. The gable end of the beveled projection is ornamented with shingles and punctured by a rectangular louver flanked by fan-shaped louvers. The gable end of the addition is identically fenestrated; however the gable is pitched slightly lower.

The rear, or northeastern elevation contains an exterior chimney and a projecting, enclosed back porch. The rear entry punctures the enclosed porch and is flanked closely by windows to give a sidelight-like effect.

The rest of the fenestration for the lower story is composed of one-over-one windows on either side of the chimney, and windows on either side of the enclosed back porch. The upper story is fenestrated by three, one-over-one windows of various sizes to the right of the chimney. The siding matches that seen elsewhere on the house.

Partially hidden from view by tree limbs, the northwestern elevation contains the stepped-back 1904 addition, and is fenestrated by one-over-one windows of various sizes. The significant feature of this elevation is a single projecting window located between the upper and lower stories.

In addition to containing other exemplary architectural features, the interior makes reference to the exterior's rounded corner by incorporating curved walls into the interior floor plan. Inside, the first story boasts three sets of double pocket doors, a single pocket door, picture frame molding in the parlors and dining room, parquet floors, and original mantelpieces. The butler's pantry is augmented by wainscoting, built-in china cabinets, and two original chandeliers. The 1904 kitchen addition contains a built-in corner cabinet, and cabinets that stretch to the ceiling. The center piece for the house is the dramatic staircase that leads from the foyer to the second story hallway. Upstairs, the historic features include: original door knobs and hardware, transoms over the bedroom doors, a walk-in closet that Mrs. Wadley had installed, and a sun room with casement windows. In the 1950s, Mrs. Wadley's health started to deteriorate and an elevator was installed in a foyer closet.

Dating to the 1904 expansion of the house are a garage, a guest house, a potting shed, and an elliptical concrete goldfish pond. Located to the northeast of the house, the weatherboard clad garage features a hipped roof, three large multi-paneled wooden doors and a ventilation dormer. The fenestration of the garage is composed of three evenly-spaced wood framed windows on its northeast and northwest elevations. The small potting shed is located to the east of the house and beside the elliptical concrete pond. The potting shed is also clad in weatherboard. Fenestration is composed of four large wood windows containing ten panes each allowing plenty natural light into the interior. The building is further specialized to its particular function by its bricked interior floor. The guesthouse is non-contributing to the nomination, because of a siding change and the addition of a bay projection after a fire damaged the building. Later the grandeur of the house was further supplemented by an arbor, and a decorative cast iron fence and gate.

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3. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: COMMERCE
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1895, 1904 - 1949

Significant Dates: 1895
1904

Significant Person(s): Wadley, John Keener

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Tupper, Tully

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

Summary

The J. K. Wadley House is sited on a rise of land at 618 Pecan Street in a neighborhood historically known as "Quality Hill." Built in 1895, the house utilizes classical ornamentation such as: Palladian windows, dentil moldings on the wraparound porch, columns grouped in threes and raised on piers, and classical pediments over entrances. The "onion dome" turret, extensive use of patterned wood shingles on the second story, and the horseshoe-shaped Palladian window define this house as an example of the Free Classical subtype of the Queen Anne style of architecture, rather than simply a transition between the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. J. K. Wadley was once listed as one of the *Twenty-Most-Wealthy Individuals in the United States*, because of his dealings in the lumber, railroad, and oil industries. J. K. Wadley owned the house from 1903 until his death in

1973, at the age of ninety-six. Although Wadley donated significant sums of money to build a hospital and invested in hotels and other businesses, this is the only known extant residence associated with J. K. Wadley. Wadley resided in the house for sixty-nine years. For these reasons, the J. K. Wadley House is being nominated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criteria B and C.

Historical Background

The city of Texarkana, Arkansas was founded in 1873. The tracks of the Texas and Pacific Railroad and the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway met at the Arkansas-Texas state line and prompted the creation of the city at this location. The first lots on the Texas side of town were sold on December 8, 1873. Texarkana, Arkansas was incorporated as a town on November 12, 1880 and the plat of the original town was recorded December 13, 1880. All the streets in this area run parallel to the railroad tracks. The J. K. Wadley House was built by Tully Tupper in 1895, on a rise of land at 618 Pecan Street in a neighborhood historically known as "Quality Hill."

The house was expanded in 1904, when it was purchased by John Keener Wadley and his wife Susie Wadley. The expansion was in keeping with the architectural details of the front facade and included: a large formal dining room, a kitchen (the previous one was not attached to the house), an upstairs bedroom with walk-in closet and a large upstairs bathroom. Although other changes were made to the house (these include the installation of an elevator in the 1950s, an arbor, and a cast-iron gate and fence of undetermined age.), the Wadley's maintained the original character of the house.

John Keener Wadley was born on April 1, 1877 (April Fool's Day) to William Garret Wadley and Emily Allen Wadley. He was one of six children (three boys, and three girls.) Wadley's father was a partner in the Allen Brothers and Wadley Lumber Company and young John got his start as a businessman by accompanying his father on business trips and attending board meetings.

In 1901, at the age of twenty-four, Wadley began his own lumber company with Edward Porter, after collecting a large amount of stock in the Bodcaw Lumber Company. In the same year, J. K. Wadley married Susie Crowell. Miss Crowell was originally from Lewisville, Arkansas, but had spent most of her life in Los Angeles. (Incidentally, this was Wadley's second marriage. At the age of seventeen he married Lillie Turner, but she died less than a year after the wedding.) The Porter Wadley Lumber Company was so successful that in three years both Wadley and Porter were able to purchase large houses on Pecan Street.

In 1903, while in Los Angeles California, Wadley was introduced to the automobile. He had a one-cylinder four-and-one-half horse power Oldsmobile shipped to Texarkana. Soon after, he collected more automobiles, and had a three car garage built at his new property located at 618 Pecan Street.

In 1915, the Texarkana County Club was organized. Mrs. Susie Wadley (now a mother of two daughters--Elloine and Emily) and her friends began to play golf. An avid hunter and fisherman, Wadley at first scoffed at the sport. Once he swung a club; however, he discovered natural talent for golfing. Soon he was playing in Red Cross tournaments (held to promote the sale of war bonds for financing the first World War) organized by the Arkansas Golf Association.

From his start in the lumber business, J. K. Wadley branched out into many other areas of business investing in oil wells, hotels and gold and uranium mining. The latter two investments were largely unprofitable. Not only did he make millions investing in oil and hotels, but through his hotel investments, Wadley met and started a life long friendship with Conrad Hilton.

However, these new business activities did not squelch Wadley's passion for golf. J. K. Wadley played throughout his life. He won the Southern California Senior Championship, was elected President of the Arkansas and Texas Golf Associations, and was chosen to play internationally as part of the U. S. Seniors Team for ten years. Several notable people Wadley played golf with were: General Dwight D. Eisenhower, Freeman Gosden of Amos & Andy fame, J. Howard Pew (head of the Sun Oil Company), Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, and Randolph Scott.

Wadley stood out from the rest of the "millionaire golfers" by having an excellent game as well as the money to pay the green fees. From the age of seventy until he was in his eighties, Wadley was able to "beat his age" in golf tournaments--that is play fewer strokes on an eighteen hole game of golf than the number of years of his age. In 1958 at the age of eighty-one, he was named Distinguished Senior Golfer. Two years earlier, General Dwight D. Eisenhower was honored with this award. The two men became friends and often visited each other during their senior years. Incidentally, Wadley's biographer brags that Wadley was the better golfer of the two.

J. K. Wadley made an important contribution to the game of golf by utilizing a cart as transportation around the golf course. According to James Coggin, Wadley's biographer, he saw a three-wheeled electric cart being used in Los Angeles, California to transport seniors to the grocery store. Afterwards, he purchased a cart and found it worked well on a golf course. Reportedly, this was the first use of the now popular golf cart.

In 1943, the Wadley's grandson, Keener Bob Moseley died of leukemia. This spurred the couple's philanthropic tendencies and during the remainder of their lives the Wadleys contributed large sums of money to hospitals and research centers in Texarkana and Dallas. They were noted contributors to the Wadley Hospital (dedicated on July 12, 1959) and the J. K. and Susie Wadley Research Institute and Blood Bank of Dallas (1952).

Mrs. Wadley died on December 18, 1964 in their home located at 618 Pecan Street after a long illness. J. K. Wadley died at the age of ninety-six in 1973.

The present owner of the J. K. Wadley House is Donna Gates. The historic residence is now home to the House of Wadley Bed and Breakfast and the House of Song Singing Supper Club.

Historical and Architectural Significance

The J. K. Wadley House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion B for its association with John Keener Wadley a well-known sportsman, businessman, and philanthropist. This is the only residence associated with J. K. Wadley. The Wadley House is also being nominated under Criterion C for its Free Classic style of architecture. Equally significant, as the elaborate detail of the exterior, is the fine wood detailing that appears on the interior of the house including: refined fireplace mantles, picture frame molding, wainscoting, staircase, door and window surrounds and parquet floors. In a neighborhood of architecturally elaborate houses the J. K. Wadley House defines its individual significance by being the only local example of the Free Classic subtype of the Queen Anne style. Today, the outstanding architectural features that established the J. K. Wadley House as a fine residence, also distinguish the house in its present function as a bed and breakfast and singing supper club.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Coggin, James E. *A Tree God Planted, J. K. Wadley.* Southwest Printers and Publishers, Inc. Texarkana, Arkansas. 1971.

Information provided by Robert and Dorothy Lamb. 1998.

Wadley, J. K., House
Name of Property

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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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Acreeage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 4033650 3699200 B _____

C _____ D _____

Verbal Boundary Description:

The north half of lot numbered 8, all of lots numbered nine and ten, and the south half of lot numbered 11 in block numbered twenty-two in the original city of Texarkana, Miller County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all the extent buildings and objects historically associated with the property.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 1-7-99

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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



J.K. Wadley House
 Texarkana, Miller C.
 AR
 UTM Reference:
 15/403650/369920x

MANDEVILLE HOPE
 3701
 (MANDEVILLE)
 7250 IV NW
 GARLAND 19 MI
 MAGNOLIA 52 MI

3698
 25'
 3697000m.N.
 T. 15 S.
 T. 16 S.















