

48-46-6185-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



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NR 12-8-78

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ellas - McKay House

AND/OR COMMON McKay House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 404 N. Walls

CITY, TOWN Clarendon VICINITY OF First NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Arkansas CODE 05 COUNTY Monroe CODE 095

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME R. J. McKay Estate

STREET & NUMBER 404 N. Walls

CITY, TOWN Clarendon VICINITY OF STATE
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Clerk's Office Monroe County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER 123 Madison

CITY, TOWN Clarendon STATE Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE _____

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ellas - McKay House is an architecturally significant and charming Queen Anne Cottage with Eastlake detailing. The house is a yellow two-story, hipped-roofed, irregularly massed, clapboard-frame building set on a 36" brick foundation with its entry facing west. The house is also located on a corner lot, among homes which vary in origin from the 1890's to the 1960's and are in both good and bad condition. The exterior of the house retains its original character and is in good-to-excellent condition.

The front of the house is basically composed of two bays. The left bay (when facing the building) is defined at the roof level by a clipped-gabled roof complete with barge board decoration, on the second floor level, by paired double-hung windows, and on the lower level by a beveled bay window with three single double-hung windows complemented by a corner scroll bracket with ornamental pendent. The top of the right bay is a small gabled porch complete with a barge board, turned wooden columns, and spindled balusters and cornice. This porch is easily accessible through a paneled door w/ glass, at the top of the second floor stairlanding inside. Below the gabled porch is an impressive semi-circular entrance verandah. This verandah, which helps define the house's scale and entry, is complete with a porch swing. The verandah's eave overlaps the right beveled window of the left bay and continues in a parallel manner along the front of the house to finally project in a semicircular form at the corner of the house. The verandah is complete with a turned spindled cornice which rests on turned wooden columns via fanned shaped brackets. The balustrade is constructed with turned wooden spindles, complete with turned wooden newels to help define the verandah entry. The verandah is in good condition but needs some work (decking).

The front door is basically divided into two parts. The upper half contains a piece of beveled oval glass. The glass is symbolically supported by a cornice complete with dentils. Below the dentils, the door has four panels in two vertical tiers.

The basic components of the south elevation are divided into three parts. On the left side, is the projecting end of the entry verandah. In the central area is a projecting gabled bay (one of three) and to the right on the lower level is a porch with a latticework screen. The lattice is constructed with 1/2" x 1" members laid 90 degrees to one another. The lattice and porch wrap from the south-east third of the house to completely cover the rear the house. The lattice porch still has two original pie tables which are built into and supported by the latticework and the floor. The view from inside the house through the lattice-porch occurs from within the kitchen and dining areas (see floor plans).

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The northern elevation consists of three components. Towards the back (left) of the house, a bathroom (added around 1913) complete with a curved roof blends in well and complements the scale of the house. The central element in the elevation is a projecting gabled bay which is different on the lower level because it does not become a beveled bay. Also it is different in that the corner trim rises to suggest a pilaster.

The house also has a garden which is located on the southeastern part of the property. The garden is defined by a fence constructed with 3" x 3' boards pointed at the top complete with arbors at the entries. The garden and fence are an original part of the house. The house also has azaleas planted along its front (West), south, and north sides. A large (150 years old) oak tree resides in the front yard. An old but not original storage shed is placed at the back extremity of the property.

The interior of the house is in good condition. The floor is still the original hardwood. The walls have been repainted or repapered. The original trim around doors, windows, and ceilings is in excellent condition. The baseboard trim is accented throughout the house with corner pendants. The decorative hardware and light fixtures are original. The house retains its essential character even though alterations have been made. The original velvet curtains have been removed. The original 11'-12' ceilings have been lowered (1957) to accommodate HVAC ductwork. When the ceiling was lowered a Eastlake screen (latticework) was removed from the doorway between the entry parlor and the central living area (see floor plan). This screen is in storage and is in excellent condition. Upstairs there has been a small alteration. A small bathroom was added (1913). This addition is small and unnoticeable because of the irregular massing of the house.

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The house is entered through the verandah to the foyer. The foyer contains two doors, one straight ahead and one to the left. To the right, after entering, the foyer is an open-string, open-well, three-flight stairway with a winder. The stairway is a major feature of the interior. The stair's balusters are constructed with turned wooden spindles. The stairway is also decoratively paneled underneath. The meeting of the stairway and the upper floor is accented by a projecting corner newel. The room to the left of the foyer is the entry parlor. This room has a beveled bay with three single double-hung windows. This room still retains its original light fixture. Entering straight through the foyer instead of turning to the left, one enters another room with a projected bay, also with its original light fixture. Both rooms just described open via original sliding doors to a centralized living area (see floor plan). This room was heated by a coal fire and above the stove was an opening in the upper floor to allow heat to circulate upstairs. Also opening into this centralized living area on its third side (east) through sliding paneled doors is the large dining room. The latticework-porch runs along the south wall of the dining room. From the dining room one can either go onto the porch or enter the kitchen via a hall which also connects to the bathroom addition mentioned earlier (see floor plan).

The kitchen contains three tall double-hung windows and an exit onto the back porch. The kitchen once had a dumbwaiter. The fixtures are not original but are inadequate and old.

Upstairs the stairway intersects a hallway which runs east-west. Three bedrooms and one bath (addition) is served by the hallway. The rooms are basically alike. All but one of the bedrooms enjoy paired double-hung windows with the sash about 1' above the floor. The ceiling is clipped at different walls in each room where the hipped-roof adds character to the bedroom spaces. The combination of 9' ceiling heights (clipped), and large paired windows provide a pleasant sense of proportion which reinforces the scale and imagery of the house as a whole.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHAEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ^E 1908...circa 1880's BUILDER/ARCHITECT T. S. Ellas ^E

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

¹ The Ellas - McKay House is an architecturally unique Queen Anne Cottage with Eastlake detailing. ^F The combination of the house's humane massing and it's thorough execution of detail (from the use of barge boards, balustrades, corner brackets, latticework, down to the corner pendants in the base trim) make this house truly unique in this state-region. ² The house is also one of two substantial high-Victorian structures remaining in Clarendon, a small, architecturally significant rivertown which played an important role in the development of this state. This house has the potential to be completely renovated and provide the public with a truly unique and complete expression of Victorian life and imagery.

The house is also significant because of the prominent Clarendon family who consider this house their family home and are associated with this structure.

The land was originally owned by Simon P. Hughes, ^A a former governor of Arkansas. J. S. Walls owned the land when ^B it was purchased by T. S. Ellas on June 30, 1908. T.S. Ellas was a carpenter and sawmiller. He built this house in 1908 for his family. He was a competent carpenter who constructed other structures in Clarendon. One such structure was a grandstand at the athletic field. This grandstand is said to have been built with large, heavy timbers and was very large in scale.

On March 5, 1942, ^C R.J. and Josie McKay purchased the property from Bernice Wheelis, who was a daughter or step-daughter of T.S. Ellas. R. J. McKay, born 1882 in Keevil, Ark., served as county treasurer for 18 years and also as deputy sheriff. R.J. and Josie had 11 children. The majority of whom have made their home in Clarendon. R. J.'s sons have become established business and civic leaders in the community.

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Robert McKay, a son of R.J., and his family renovated the house in 1974, after the house was used as a rent house for years. The renovation project included: painting the house a nice yellow, replacing missing decorative pieces, etc. The house is now used as a private residence by the Robert McKay family.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- A Warranty Deed, Monroe County Courthouse, Clarendon, Ar.-S. Hughes- W. Smith
- B Warranty deed, Monroe County Courthouse, Clarendon, Ar.-J.A. Walls- T.S. Ellas
- C Interview, McKay family, June 1978
- D Interview, Robert and Jean McKay, May 1977- July 1978
- Interview, Lena Everett, April 1978
- Cyrus Sutherland, Architectural Preservation class, April 1977
- Warranty deed, Monroe County courthouse - B. Wheelis- R.J. McKay

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property is located in Lot 18 in Block One of Walker's Addition. The property is bounded on the south by Walker St., on the west by Walls St., on the north by Lot 17, on the east by a 10' alley.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Steve Warnock-Architectural Apprentice

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE 8/ 3/ 78

STREET & NUMBER 500 E. 8th ST. TELEPHONE 376 6671

CITY OR TOWN Little Rock, Arkansas 72202 STATE AR.

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 _____ DATE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

