

NR 7-20-78

# 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  
The Cowdrey House  
AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
Number One Valley Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Yellville  
STATE  
Arkansas

VICINITY OF  
Third

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third

COUNTY  
Marion

CODE  
05

CODE  
089

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

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Lloyd Blasdel  
STREET & NUMBER  
Number One Valley Street  
CITY, TOWN  
Yellville  
STATE  
Arkansas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC  
Marion County Clerk's Office  
STREET & NUMBER  
Box 385  
CITY, TOWN  
Yellville  
STATE  
Arkansas

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN  
STATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

# 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

The Cowdrey House, built in 1904-08, is a basically rectangular wood structure, which rests on a rock foundation. The house faces north with its longer side running north to south. The front of the house is asymmetrical with a large gable over the northwestern corner and a three story octagonal tower on the northeastern corner, topped by a ribbed conical roof. On the east and west sides are center projections, which terminate in a large gabled dormer. On the main roof, which is hipped, are four symmetrically placed, one on each side, gabled dormers. Roofing is newly replaced.

The interior of the house is in good condition and only slightly altered; wall covering has been changed. The oak woodwork is unaltered. The stair has turned balusters and balustrade. The stair wainscot is paneled oak. Pocket doors divide the parlors. The first parlor contains a mirrored fireplace mantel supported by carved columns. The original light fixtures are still hanging and are of geometric natural forms.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
REHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
X1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1902 to 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The J. S. Cowdrey House, constructed in 1904, is significant in its turn-of-the-century Victorian style of architecture. It is a two-and-one-half story frame structure featuring, among other Victorian detailing, a three story octagonal tower. The house is also significant in its reflection of the Cowdrey family, a prominent business factor in Yellville.

The J. S. Cowdrey House, completed in 1904, was built on the site of the Cowdrey family homeplace. Materials from the original Cowdrey House were used in construction of the 1904 structure. In 1902, J. S. Cowdrey hired a contractor from Texas to build the two-and-one-half story house. All interior woodwork was hand-made in Memphis and shipped close to Yellville on packet boats by way of the Mississippi and White Rivers. The woodwork was taken by mule-drawn wagons to the building site.

At least one notable person was a house guest at the Cowdrey House. In 1927, Herbert Hoover, then Secretary of Commerce, visited Yellville for review of the devastation caused by flooding of the White River. Due to the lack of hotel facilities in the town, the Cowdrey family opened their home to the future President of the United States.

The Cowdrey family was in itself a notable and prominent family. J. S. Cowdrey's parents, Dr. J. M. and Agnes Cowdrey, were among the first settlers of the Yellville area. In addition, Dr. Cowdrey was a well-known doctor and druggist in the north central section of Arkansas. J. S. Cowdrey was an influential business factor in the town. In addition to owning a dry goods store and a large amount of land, he dealt in cotton and banking, serving as President of the Miners and Citizens Bank of Yellville.

The house remained within the Cowdrey family until 1971 when the last surviving child of J. S. Cowdrey sold the house to the present owners. The Cowdrey House is being carefully restored to its original condition.

The picturesque setting, combined with the stately historic Cowdrey house, was used in the filming of scenes in two movies made in the early 1970's. The Cowdrey House has remained for over seventy years a landmark in the small Ozark town of Yellville.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of the Ozark Region, Goodspeed Publishing Co. Chicago, 1894. pp. 105-09.

Hempstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas, III. Lewis Publishing Co., Chicago, 1911. pp. 1423-25.

Launius, Philip, "Yellville Landmark is Being Restored." Baxter Bulletin, Thursday, September 14, 1972, p. 1.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

C	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Wayne Kastning, 221 North Church, Fayetteville, AR 72701 Phone: 521-9195

Edited by:

DATE

Sandra Taylor, Historian & Frezil Miller, Architectural Historian 4/27/77

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Arkansas Historian Preservation Program, Suite 500, Continental Bldg., 371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Little Rock

Arkansas 72201

# 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

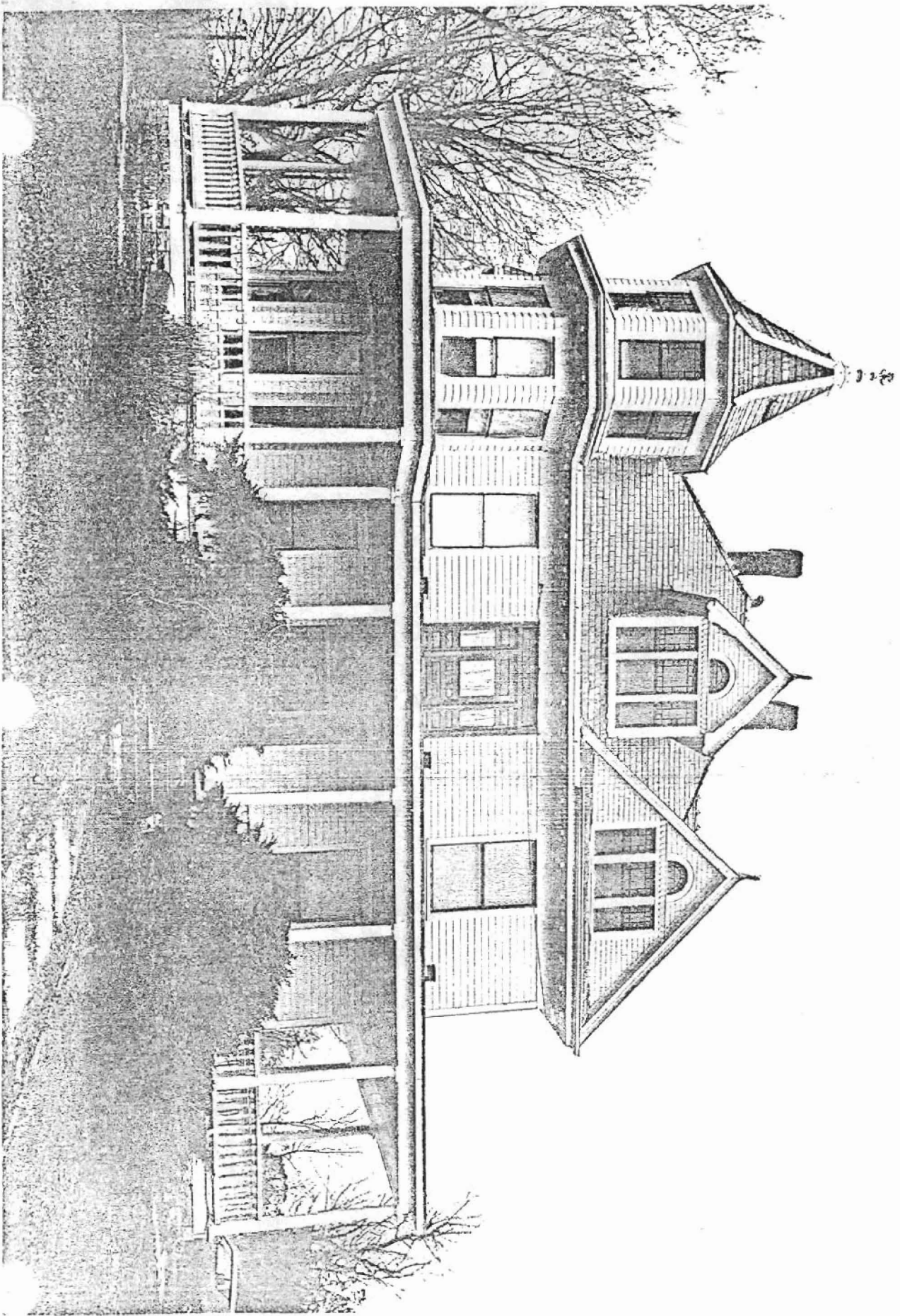
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





# ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763

August 8, 1977

Mr. Lloyd Blasdel  
#1 Valley Street  
Yellville, AR 72687

Re: Cowdrey House  
Yellville, Marion County

Dear Mr. Blasdel:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program is preparing a National Register nomination for the Cowdrey House which will be presented to the Arkansas State Review Committee at their September meeting. If approved, the nomination will be submitted to the National Register office in Washington for final consideration.

The National Register of Historic Places is a listing of historic sites, buildings, objects, and districts from all across the country that are worthy of preservation.

Entry in the National Register is an honor which places no obligation on a private owner. It does, however, provide protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation from federally financed, assisted or licensed projects that might affect a National Register property.

On October 4, 1976, the President signed a Tax Reform Act of which Section 2124 refers to tax incentives for historic properties. Enclosed you will find an information sheet on that tax act.

If you have any questions concerning the program or this property's nomination, please contact Dianna Kirk of our staff.

Enclosed are two copies of this letter. Please complete the form below, sign and return the original to our office. The copy is for your files. We would appreciate receiving any comments you might have concerning the nomination of this property. If we do not hear from you within 30 days, your approval will be assumed.

Sincerely,

Barbara Woodard, Deputy Director  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

I approve of the nomination of the above property  
to the National Register of Historic Places.

Yes       No

Comments:

Aug 24 1977

Date

Signature