

NR Listed - 9-25-03

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rumph House  
other names/site number OU0084

2. Location

street & number 717 Washington Street  not for publication  
city or town Camden  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR County Ouachita code 103 zip code 71701

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets   
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
 nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rumph House

Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2            | 0               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | Sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 2            | 0               | Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls BRICK, STUCCO

roof ASPHALT

Other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1925

Significant Dates

1925 - Craftsman remodeling

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Rumph House  
Name of Property

Ouachita County, Arkansas  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

Age of Property Approximately four acres

#### UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 514817 3715873  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

#### Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

#### Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wendy S. Perkins, National Register Historian

Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date 11 June 2003

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street

telephone 501-324-9874

city or town Little Rock

state Arkansas

zip code 72201

#### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

#### Continuation Sheets

##### Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

##### Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

#### Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

#### Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. James Harvey (Alice Chandler) Rumph

street & number 101 Jewell Road

telephone 501-663-4158

city or town Little Rock

state Arkansas

zip code 72207

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## SUMMARY

Located at 717 Washington Street in Camden, Ouachita County, Arkansas, the Rumph House is an excellent example of a Craftsman style house. Originally constructed in 1874 as a one-story Victorian wood-frame house with turret and gingerbread work, the Rumph House was expanded and remodeled in 1925, reflecting the owner's changing architectural taste as well as his new financial success from the South Arkansas oil boom. The remodeling included expanding front rooms of the house and adding a second story with 3 bedrooms and bath. The residence features distinctive Craftsman elements including exposed rafter details, wood bracketing, wide eave overhangs, stuccoed gable ends, and exposed false roof beams under side gables. Sitting on a continuous red brick foundation, the house features a red brick and concrete porch extending across the entire front façade with square red brick columns and a porte-cochere along the side. All of the chimneys were converted to ornamental gas stoves during the 1925 remodeling.

## ELABORATION

### North Elevation

The front, or north, elevation is defined by a partial wrap around porch with a centered gable roof supported by four brick and stucco square columns. The raised porch rests upon concrete over brick with four concrete steps leading up to the porch. The deep porch is open and features a beaded board ceiling. Located under the stuccoed gable porch is a centrally placed front door flanked by two twelve-over-twelve double-hung wooden windows. Three diamond and half-diamond paned casement wooden windows are found in the gable end. On the eastern end of the front facade, not under the gable-roof porch, are three side-by-side eight-paned casement wooden windows topped with matching four-paned transoms.

### East Elevation

The east elevation contains a one-story, gable-roof three-sided bay with nine-over-one double-hung wooden windows on the north and south side of the bay and two side-by-side nine-over-one double-hung windows on the east side. South of the bay are three side-by-side eight-paned casement wooden windows topped with matching four-paned transoms. North of the bay is one nine-over-one double-hung wooden window and one six-over-one double-hung wooden window.

### South Elevation

The rear of the building, facing south, is dominated by an attached screened in porch that extends away from the house and covers approximately one-half of the elevation. Located under the porch is the winter greenhouse. Two side-by-side double paned awning windows are located on the west, east, and north side of the greenhouse. Eight freestanding concrete steps flanked by metal rails lead up to the porch. One nine-over-one double-hung wooden window is located east of the porch and one six-over-one double-hung wooden window is located west of the porch. Three-fourths of the second story gable extends away from the house and rests atop the screened in porch. The western one-fourth of the gable is flush with the walls of the house. One nine-over-one double-hung wooden window fenestrates the west wall of the screened porch. The back porch overlooks approximately three acres with very old oak and pecan trees, and a notable eleven foot circumference pine tree. Although the house was not built until 1874, it is thought that Confederate soldiers camped under these trees during the Camden campaign, with Confederate Headquarters located at the nearby Elliott-Meek House (NR Listed 03/01/74).

### West Elevation

The west elevation is defined by the gable roof porte-cochere supported by four square brick and stucco columns. Moving north to the north side, the west elevation is fenestrated with one six-over-one double-hung wooden window and two side-by-side six-over-one double-hung wooden windows. A side gable roof addition extends slightly away from the house. One six-over-one double-hung wooden window is located on the north side of the addition, and two side-by-side six-over-one double-hung wooden windows are located on the west side. Under the exposed rafters on the north side of the hipped roof addition are two side-by-side four paned awning wooden windows. In the gable end are three six-over-one double-hung wooden windows that are rounded on top to form a

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single large arch. A vent is located above the windows. Extending out from the addition is the porte-cochere. Under the porte-cochere, three concrete steps lead up to a side entrance located under the covered partial wrap around porch. A nine-over-nine double-hung wooden window is located on the south side of the addition and under the porte-cochere.

### Interior

The interior of the Rumph House still features the original Victorian "dog trot" style plan with fourteen foot ceilings. Passing through the main hallway, the rear is wood clapboard and the interior kitchen walk-in pantry has a window, original to the house, looking out to the hallway. Detailed carved woodwork and brass door hinges also reflect the home's origins during the Victorian era. An ornamental mantel in the front living room is original to the home as well as the mantel in the bay-windowed bedroom. The breakfast room is also original with built-in cabinetry added in the remodeling.

The more modern Craftsman features are visible in the front rooms of the house and the upstairs addition. The sunroom features tall casement windows and Craftsman style mantle over the fireplace. French doors separate the living room from the sunroom and there is a wide doorway between the living and dining rooms with glass pocket doors. All of the fireplaces were converted to ornamental gas stoves, still used today.

1966, the kitchen was remodeled with modern appliances and custom cabinets. Wall-to-wall carpet was added covering hardwood floors in the bay-window bedroom, living room, dining room and sunroom. The carpet replaced the wool area rugs ordered from Vermont in the 1920's. The servants' bell in the dining room floor was disconnected when the carpet was installed. A large attic fan was installed above the stairs leading up to the second floor.

### Garage

Beginning east of the house, a driveway for the Rumph House circles around the rear of the house, through the porte-cochere, and back out to Washington Street. Located southwest of the house and driveway is a rectangular shaped, two car garage that was constructed in 1925. Resting on a continuous foundation of concrete blocks, the white weatherboard Plain-Traditional structure features some Craftsman style influences, such as the wide eave overhangs and exposed rafter details. Due to its historical construction, the garage is being nominated as a contributing structure.

The east elevation, moving south to north, is defined by two separate single car openings, a wooden door with two concrete steps leading up to it, and one two-over-two double-hung aluminum window. The south elevation is fenestrated with one four-over-four double-hung wooden window. The north elevation is fenestrated with two identical two-over-two double-hung aluminum windows. The west elevation is plain with no fenestration.



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### SUMMARY

The Rumph House, which sits on approximately four acres and is located at 717 Washington Street in Camden, Ouachita County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** for its Craftsman style architecture. Originally constructed in 1874 as a one-story Victorian wood-frame house with turret and gingerbread work, the Rumph House was expanded and remodeled in 1925, reflecting the owner's changing taste as well as his new financial success from the South Arkansas oil boom.

### ELABORATION

Built on the banks of the Ouachita River, the community of Camden was first and foremost a major river port town, and, in later years, a major crossroads for railroads. The city was incorporated on 1 January 1849, electrified in 1890, and enjoyed a political and cultural heritage that would equal that of any larger city. The town's early growth was influenced by the Homestead Act of 1862, the riverboats, the stagecoach stop at the McCollum-Chidester House (NR Listed 06/24/71), and railroads. In the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the South Arkansas economy benefited from a wealth of natural resources, particularly timber and oil.

As described in the book of letters edited by Sarah Mosely Fountain, *Sisters, Seeds, & Cedars*, the Rumphs, Gardenhires, Braggs and Gaughans were among the early settlers of Ouachita County that wove the fabric of the community into a place that nurtured and molded their youth into respected citizens in all walks of life. Several renowned leaders of Arkansas and country have called Camden home, including three governors and two United States Senators, John Little McClellan and David Hampton Pryor.

The Rumph House may have first been owned by Dr. Junius N. Bragg, assistant surgeon of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Confederate Army. Educated at Tulane, Dr. Bragg was a well-respected local physician who raised his family for many years in this Victorian-style house. The house is directly across the street from the Graham-Gaughan-Betts House (NR Listed 10/18/74), which served as the Union Headquarters for General Frederick Steele. Dr. Bragg's daughter, Helen Bragg Gaughan, was married in the 1874 Victorian style house in 1899. Shortly after the turn of the century, Dr. Bragg sold the home to Samuel (Sid) and Mary Gaughan Green.

In April 1904, the Greens sold the house to Garland S. Rumph, son of Dr. John Benjamin Rumph, an early settler of Ouachita County. Dr. Rumph was a country doctor educated at the Medical College of South Carolina and twice elected state representative (1852 and 1874) from Ouachita County. Garland's mother, Martha Hodge Proctor, was Dr. Rumph's third wife who bore six of his nineteen children: Maude, Bessie, Charlie, Garland, Hattie and Lillian. Reared in the rural Harmony Grove area (Van Duzer), where many of the pioneer families of Ouachita County settled after migrating, young Garland chose to make his home in the county seat of Camden.

Garland, born 26 September 1878, was named for his father's good friend, Governor and United States Attorney General, Augustus H. Garland. Listed in the *Centennial History of Arkansas* as a partner in the retail grocers firm of Rumph and Tyson, Garland initially shared his home with his mother, Martha Proctor Rumph, and his sisters. In October 1904, Garland married Cassandra Mae Gardenhire, an accomplished musician who in 1901 had taken the Gold Medal in a piano competition at Ouachita Baptist College. One of eight children, Mae's family migrated from the hills of Tennessee near Oak Ridge to Iowa, Texas, then to Camden.

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Garland and Mae had three children: Dorothy Mae Rumph (m. Charles Wilkin); Frances Elise Rumph (m. Richard Smith), and James Harvey Rumph (m. Alice Chandler). Garland served on the Camden City Council, on the board of stewards for First Methodist Church, and was a member of the Knights of Pythias. Mae was the organist of First Methodist Church for 30 years and a charter member of the Thursday Musicale and the New Century Club, among others. Their family home would offer hospitality to both political and cultural leaders of Arkansas.

Seven years prior to the Busey #1, which was the discovery well that sparked the South Arkansas oil boom on 10 January 1921, Garland began his career in real estate. Before 1921, Garland started the Camden Electric Gin Company. He also increased his land holdings in Ouachita County. With a keen knowledge of South Arkansas and his success with the Richardson Well #1, Garland sold his share of the grocery business in order to focus on real estate and oil. His cash journal of 1927 to 1929 shows that he bought, sold and traded oil leases in partnership with well-known names in Camden's businesses.

In a long-running column in the *Camden News*, "Al's Alfalfa," a eulogy was written for the death of Garland in 1950. It stated,

For years Mr. Rumph was in business here and this writer recalls when he was in the grocery business and the candy and cookies we got from him while with ST Tyson in that famous firm of Rumph and Tyson...He was a booster and believed in Camden and Ouachita County. Back when he went into the oil and realty business after retiring from the grocery firm, he put his money and his faith in projects to build Camden. He and the late Henry L. Berg developed the tract of land on South California Street that has grown so fast. These two men then deeded the acreage for the proposed new county hospital and it was choice acreage too that had already been divided into building lots. We will miss Garland Rumph...

Garland believed in retaining mineral interests in all real estate transactions. Garland's success in oil and real estate continues to generate income for his descendants.

During World War II, with Garland and Mae's children married and living elsewhere, the upstairs rooms were rented out to teachers. Two who lived there survive today, Elizabeth Henry Buck, well-known favorite Hot Springs, Garland County, high school teacher of President Bill Clinton, and Francis Brooker, retired from Camden schools.

In addition to the extended Rumph family, the house was a center of family events for Mae's family, the Gardenhires. The clay tennis court in the lower yard behind the house, no longer extant, was a popular spot for Camden teens and adults from the 1910's - 1940's. Rumph daughters Dorothy and Mae were both accomplished athletes in tennis and golf. The house was a favorite location for holiday feasts, summer picnics, and parties for family weddings and receptions, with Southern hospitality that reflected warmth and collegiality.

Known to their grandchildren as Big Mama and Big Papa, Mae and Garland raised newborn granddaughter, Elise Ann, in their home following the death of daughter Elise in 1941. After Garland's death in 1950, the house then became home to James Harvey's family, which included his wife, Alice and children, Julia Mae, Dottie, Jim, and Alice (b.1953). Mae continued to share the home with her family until her death in 1965. At that time, James Harvey and Alice purchased the home from Mae's remaining heirs.

Public service was considered an honorable calling. Garland's reputation in business and civic affairs undoubtedly provided a strong foundation for his son's and granddaughter's campaigns for public office. Following the legacy of twice-elected state legislator, Dr. John Rumph, three family members who lived in the Rumph House were elected to public office:



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- Garland Rumph served for 10 years on Camden's City Council (ca. 1911-1921)
- James Harvey Rumph, who was known at Hendrix College in 1930 as the "fastest man in Arkansas football," was a popular citizen of Camden. He was elected Ouachita County Circuit Clerk (1942) running on the slogan "two terms and out," and then Tax Assessor (1952-1978). He was a gubernatorial appointee to the Arkansas Oil and Gas Commission (1971-73). The Ouachita County Quorum Court asked him to come out of retirement to serve an unexpired term as Ouachita County Judge following an investigation and successful prosecution of county judges across Arkansas.
- Julia Rumph Hughes Jones, first woman elected as Pulaski County Circuit Clerk (1976-78), became the first woman elected to a statewide constitutional office without first having succeeded her husband. She served as Arkansas's Auditor of State from 1980-1994.

Following James Harvey's death at age 89 in 1998, Alice continued to live in the house until September, 2002. Matriarch of a large family that now includes 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, she recalls how family memories resonate within the walls of the house.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rumph House, which sits on approximately four acres and is located at 717 Washington Street in Camden, Ouachita County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** for its Craftsman style architecture. Originally constructed in 1874 as a one-story Victorian wood-frame house with turret and gingerbread work, the Rumph House was expanded and remodeled in 1925, reflecting the owner's changing taste as well as his new financial success from the South Arkansas oil boom.

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Books

Carmody, Josephine G. and Mary Ellen Sanders. *The Gaughans: Remembered by Helen Bragg Gaughan*. Shreveport, LA: Mid South Press, Inc., 2002. Book mentions Helen Bragg and TJ Gaughan's marriage in front of the mirrored mantel in the living room in the 1874 Victorian home on 12 September 1899).

Fountain, Sarah M. ed. *Sisters, Seeds and Cedars: Rediscovering Nineteenth-Century Life through Correspondence in Rural Arkansas and Alabama*. Conway, AR: UCA Press, 1995.

Herndon, Dallas T. ed. *Centennial History of Arkansas*. Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1984.

#### Interviews

Interview with Floy Pope, lifelong resident of Camden, 98 years young, May 2003.

Interview with Alice Rumph, owner, March, 2003.

Oral history of James Harvey Rumph discussing "The Smackover Oil Boom," circa 1986. Cassette tape from Natural Resources Museum in Smackover, Arkansas.

#### Other Sources

"Al's Alfalfa," *Camden News*, 17 January 1950, p. 4.

Arkansas History Commission, newspaper clipping from 1904 with same picture of home labeled, "residence of Garland S. Rumph."

Arkansas History Commission, newspaper clipping in Mrs. J.T. Sifford's scrapbook of Camden showing photo of home in 1895 labeled "residence of Dr. & Mrs. J.N. Bragg."

Date of remodeling written in concrete driveway under porte-cochere.

Family photos of Rumph House.

Garland Rumph's business ledger (cash journal) from 1827 to 1929.

Ouachita County warranty deed showing sale of home by Sid Green to Garland Rumph in April 1904.

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## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning on the Southerly side of Washington Street at a point 12 feet Easterly from the Northwest corner of Lot 1129 and from this beginning point run Southerly perpendicular to Washington Street 360 feet from inside of side walk; thence Easterly parallel with Washington Street to East line of said Lot 1129; thence Southerly with Easterly line of Lot 1129 to right of way of St. Louis Iron Mountain Railroad; thence Westerly with right of way of said railroad to Westerly line of said Lot 1129; thence Northerly along Westerly line of said Lot 1129 to Washington Street; thence Easterly 12 feet to point of beginning, according to the Official Map of Camden, Arkansas, made by J. Victor Pedron in the year 1891.

## BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This boundary contains all of the structures and sites associated with the Rumph House that retains its historic integrity.