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Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Arkansas
COUNTY:	Phillips
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 22 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:	Estevan Hall
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Hanks Homestead

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:				653 South Biscoe Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:				
Helena			First				
STATE		CODE	COUNTY:		CODE		
Arkansas		05	Phillips		107		

3. CLASSIFICATION

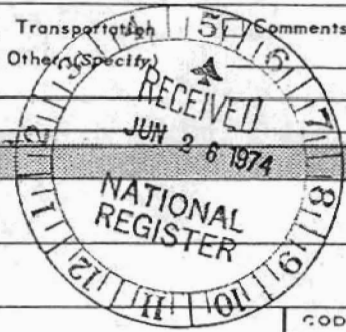
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:	Katherine Stephens Hill		
STREET AND NUMBER:	645 South Biscoe Street		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE	
Helena	Arkansas	05	



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:			
Phillips County Courthouse-Circuit Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Cherry Street			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Helena		Arkansas	05

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey No. 5 - Deed Book C, page 112 and Hanks Place - Deed Book 173, page 461.					
DATE OF SURVEY: 1827 and 1919		<input type="checkbox"/> Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> State	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County	<input type="checkbox"/> Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
Phillips County Courthouse - Office of Circuit Clerk & Recorder					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Cherry Street					
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE		
Helena		Arkansas	05		

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: _____

COUNTY: _____

ENTRY NUMBER: OCT 22 1974

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE: _____

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Since its construction in the late 1820's, Estevan Hall has undergone extensive alterations. Available evidence suggests that the original structure was rectilinear in shape with a long veranda on the front and rear. Hand hewn beams and timbers with wooden pegged joinery were used.

The house was built on a sloping hill site; consequently, a retaining wall of brick was used. The house rests on a one storey brick enclosed basement. In an excellent adaptation of the site, the house was built over a natural spring which permitted use of an easily accessible water supply and a cool storage vault in the basement.

The present structure is an eclectic mixture of many architectural features with no prevalent architectural style. At best a "southern colonial" description could be used, indicating a raised structure with long low sweeping veranda to shade the house and permit outdoor living during the hot, humid summers.

One senses a New Orleans French influence in the multi-light arched windows of nearly floor to ceiling height which pierce the front elevation at symmetrical intervals. Especially noteworthy features include a large Venetian doorway at the head of the long flight of stairs rising to the veranda, and hooded dormers with massive boxed cornices. One dormer contains a Venetian window which is centered on the front entry.

The interior of Estevan Hall bears little resemblance to the original, with the exception of boxed beam ceilings reminiscent of pioneer construction techniques. A paneled wainscot is used throughout with decorative wallpaper of geometric design or pastoral scenes of Grecian ruins. A boxed cornice continuous about each room is an unusual feature. A thin band decorated with anthemions is continuous with the boxed cornice of one room.

A vast open lawn graces the approach to Estevan Hall and compliments its southern colonial mansion image.

Interior alterations took place in 1919 when the present owner moved into Estevan Hall as a new bride (see Section 8, page 3). In 1953 the front veranda was extended to the carport on the north side of the house. That same year the ornate iron railing which was in need of repair was replaced with a railing of similar height and design. The rear veranda was removed some time between 1874 and 1919, and the separate kitchen was joined to the main house.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>one-family</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>residence</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Estevan Hall, probably the oldest structure in Phillips County, is a home whose history is intertwined with a single family. Since its construction in the 1820's, Estevan Hall has continually been owned and occupied by a member of the Hanks family. The present owner is a great-great-granddaughter of Fleetwood Hanks, the original owner of Estevan Hall.

Among the early settlers of Helena were the three Hanks brothers, Fleetwood, James and Millinder. On July 25, 1827, Fleetwood and Millinder Hanks bought a ten acre tract on which Estevan Hall now stands. Their \$100.00 purchase price gave them an excellent location on which to build a home. The Hanks Homestead was on the outskirts of early Helena, but it was also a farm homestead. Though the Helena of Fleetwood Hanks' day was often flooded by the overflowing Mississippi River, the Hanks home was located on a very high ridge, and therefore safe from inundation.

The two Hanks brothers owned the homestead jointly until 1834, when Millinder deeded to Fleetwood one-half of the tract "where F. Hanks now resides." The partnership of the two brothers continued during their joint operation of a mercantile store in Helena. Millinder Hanks' death ended this association.

Fleetwood Hanks was active in county, territorial and state government. From 1830-32 he served as Sheriff of Phillips County. In Arkansas politics he was an elected member of the Council of the Sixth Territorial

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, March 19, 1870.
 Davis, Granville D. "The Grange Movement in Arkansas." Arkansas Historical Quarterly, IV (Winter, 1945).
 Arkansas History Commission. Archives, Diaries of Judge James Millinder Hanks, 1865-1909.
 Kirkman, Dale. "Estevan Hall." Unpublished research report, Helena, Arkansas, 1974.
 Phillips County Deed Record Book C. Phillips County Courthouse, pp. 112, 572.
 Phillips County Deed Record Book 173. Phillips County Courthouse, p. 461.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0			0			34	30	49
NE	0			0			90	35	38.8
SE	0			0					
SW	0			0					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



u771
15/7209
322150
CTD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Dianna Kirk, Staff Historian and Anthony S. Riddle, Architect
 ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
 DATE: April 30, 1974
 STREET AND NUMBER: Suite 1030, Plaza West
 CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock
 STATE: AR
 CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: William E. Henderson
 William E. Henderson

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: June 11, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Martensen
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 10/22/74

ATTEST:
Com. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 10-18-74

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Phillips	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	OCT 22 1974

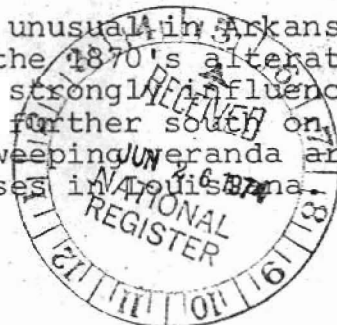
(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued - Page 4)

The Hanks Homestead has probably been held by one family longer than any other structural property in Arkansas. For almost 150 years it has witnessed the daily events, both large and small, in the lives of the Hanks family and their friends.

Though the interior of Estevan Hall has been greatly altered, the exterior lines have retained their present appearance during most of the last century. Fleetwood Hanks' original house was probably not as imposing as is the house today; however, from Judge Hanks' diaries comes evidence that Estevan Hall has continually housed the Hanks family since its late 1820's construction. In what must be the earliest reference to historic preservation in Arkansas, Judge Hanks recorded in his 1883 diary. "It is slow and tedious work repairing old houses...."

The Hanks House is architecturally unusual in Arkansas. Located on the Mississippi River, the 1870's alterations of the Hanks House seems to have been strongly influenced by New Orleans French style prevalent further south on the river. Its raised base and long sweeping veranda are features of most ante-bellum plantation houses in Louisiana.





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8. Significance (Continued - Page 3)

In later diaries Judge Hanks made other references to his house. On August 7, 1896, he wrote: "I have often heard my father say frequently how that in 1826 when he was building this house, there was no rain from April till October." Though this construction date preceeds the land acquisition, both dates are in harmony with the late 1820's origin of the Hanks House.

During the summer and fall of 1873 Judge Hanks noted repairs and some modernizations to the house. In July of 1884 fire struck Estevan Hall for the first time. Fortunately the fire was confined to the kitchen, which was connected to the main house only by a passageway.

After Judge Hanks died in 1909 the ownership of the house passed to his adopted son, Harry Stephens. Orphaned after his English parents emigrated to the United States, Stephens married Judge Hanks' great-niece, Johnnie Porter, who was descended from Fleetwood Hanks through his daughter Anne. With this marriage, another Hanks returned to Estevan Hall.

As a new bride Mrs. Stephens made extensive changes to the interior of the Hanks House. Her 1919 remodeling included reroofing, moving the kitchen into a rear bedroom, changing interior wall positions and ceiling heights, and removing the outbuildings at the rear of the house. Except for minor repairs and upkeep, Mrs. Stephens made no changes on the exterior of the house.

The name "Estevan Hall" was given to the Hanks Homestead when Mrs. Stephens moved into her great-grandfather's home. With a Spanish flavor, Estevan Hall was named by Mrs. Stephens to honor her new husband, Harry.

Besides hosting Hanks family weddings, Estevan Hall also was the scene of the marriage of Helen Kellar's grandparents. Charles W. Adams, later the law partner of Judge Hanks, and Lucy Helen Everett were married at Estevan Hall on September 29, 1845.



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(Continuation Sheet)

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8. Significance (Continued - Page 2)

Assembly, the House of Representatives of the Seventh Territorial General Assembly, and the House of Representatives in the Third General Assembly.

In June, 1827, Fleetwood Hanks married Frances Sanford, the daughter of another early Helena family. The Hanks-Sanford family ties were further cemented when John, Frances' brother, joined Fleetwood Hanks in the mercantile business after Millinder Hanks' death.

James Millinder Hanks (1833-1909) was Fleetwood Hanks' youngest son. After attending college in Indiana and Tennessee, James M. Hanks was graduated from the law college of the University of Louisville in 1855. The next year he was a member of Helena's first city council, and soon after began a law practice in Helena with Charles W. Adams. Following the Civil War James M. Hanks was made judge of the First Judicial District of Arkansas. In 1871 he was elected as a Democrat to the House of Representatives in the 42nd Congress. Judge Hanks left the Democratic Party in 1873 to become a member of the Grange. The organizational meeting of the Grange in Arkansas was held in Helena on June 18, 1873, where Judge Hanks was elected to a minor position in the Party.

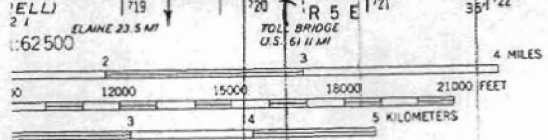
From 1865 until his death in 1909, Judge Hanks kept a detailed diary. Each year's entry is recorded in one volume, and the complete 45 volume set still remains at Estevan Hall. These diaries give a factual and picturesque account of 19th century life in eastern Arkansas, and provide a unique source of information to the researcher.

Judge Hanks made several references to his home during the course of his writings. Throughout 1865 he often mentioned efforts by the Hanks family to recover their home from Union forces which had occupied the house during the Civil War. By early 1866 the Hanks family was back in their home and receiving promises from Dr. Smith, a Union medical officer, that damages to the house would be listed in his official report. Many believe Estevan Hall was used as a hospital for wounded Union troops during the federal occupation of Helena.



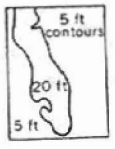
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90° 35' 38.8"

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NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 R. COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,
 MISSOURI, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,
 MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA,
 JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI
 A FULL LIST OF SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty —————
- Light-duty —————
- Unimproved dirt —————
- State Route —————

LATOUR, ARK.—MISS.
 N3430—W9030/15

1961

AMS 7853 II—SERIES V784

(MARKS)
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