

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received 4-10-84
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic West House

and or common West-Webb House

2. Location

street & number 229 Beech Street N/A not for publication

city, town Helena N/A vicinity of congressional district First

state Arkansas code 05 county Phillips code 107

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Harry Webb, Sr.

street & number 229 Beech Street

city, town Helena N/A vicinity of state Arkansas 72342

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Phillips County Courthouse

street & number Cherry Street

city, town Helena state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Helena Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no N/A

date 1979 federal state county local N/A

depository for survey records Phillips County Library

city, town Helena state Arkansas

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved <input type="checkbox"/> date
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Impressive as an early Arkansas example of the Georgian Revival, the West House was built in Helena in 1900. The house is a meticulously detailed blend of the Georgian Revival with Queen Anne decorative details. Built by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis for Mercer Elmer West, the house is identical in plan to the Short-Bieri House, also in Helena, constructed by the same builder.

ELABORATION

The West House was built in 1900 by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis for Mercer Elmer West and his wife, Mary Moore Govan West. Highly respected builders, the Clem Brothers are known to have constructed three houses in Helena. The West House sits high on a terrace of Crowley's Ridge and commands a magnificent view of Helena and the Mississippi River.

The West House is a two-and-a-half story frame structure of Georgian Revival design, with some features such as cornice brackets and stained glass used in some of the windows reflecting the influence of the Queen Anne style, which in 1900 was coming to an end. The symmetrical placement of windows and doors, the Greek Ionic columns of the wide verandah and the use of Palladian windows on each floor clearly demonstrate the predominate influence of the Georgian Revival. The house sits on a brick foundation and has four brick chimneys, one of which has decorative corbeling. The wide full front verandah of the front facade curves outward to form a rounded projection at the south corner. Verandah detailing includes Ionic columns, a rail of turned spindles, and a dentilled cornice. The centered front door is flanked by sidelights and has a transom above. Slender columns between the door and sidelights support an architrave with an applique of garland swags. A bay window to the left of the entrance has a fixed center with a stained glass transom, flanked by double-hung windows. A Palladian window to the right of the entrance adds further interest to the front facade. Centered above the entrance is a slightly projecting bay with a Palladian window, equal in width to the entrance, with pilasters supporting a keystone cornice. A wide bracketed cornice details the projecting bay. Bay windows with three one-over-one double-hung windows flank the center fenestration. The slate covered roof is punctured by two gable roofed dormers, each with slate siding and a dentilled cornice. The center window is oversized with a pair of arched casement windows. The flanking pedimented dormers have a single double-hung window, with diamond-paned upper sash. The north elevation has three windows on each floor and a single dormer. An interior brick chimney punctures the hipped roof. A three-sided bay window with three double-hung windows is positioned at the east corner of the first floor. The south side elevation has similarly arranged fenestrations, the largest consisting of a single fixed pane topped by a stained glass transom and balanced on either side by a

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Item number

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double-hung window. A one story gable roofed kitchen with side porch extends from the rear. A second floor sleeping porch is partially enclosed and a single dormer penetrates the roof. The north portion of the rear elevation is covered by a cross gable roof.

The interior is finished in white oak. Doors are made of quarter-sawn oak. The parlor, library and dining room are separated by pocket doors, while others throughout the house are paneled with transoms. The central hall is highlighted by an elaborately carved stairway with a built-in curved settee beneath the landing. The stairs, with wood paneled wall below, have square newel posts with bead trim and an applique of ribboned laurels. Each newel post is topped by a carved wood urn. Three steps lead to a landing, turn and continue in a straight flight. Resting atop one of the newel posts is an Ionic column supporting a frieze of spindles that spans the width of the hall. The library is located to the right of the entrance and the parlor to the left. The dining room is located off the parlor. Three elaborately carved corner fireplaces on the first floor have tile faces and classically detailed mantelpieces with inset beveled mirrors. The library mantel is distinctive for the two large Neptune figures that flank either side. All rooms have a picture mould and three-quarter round corner mouldings. Simple architrave mouldings and cornices surround the doors.

Though none remain today, there originally was a carriage house, horse barn, cow shed and other outbuildings behind the house. Except for attaching the kitchen in 1960, there have been no changes to the original structure of the house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
pre-historic	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	X architecture	education	military	social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
X 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1900 Builder Architect Clem Brothers Builders of St. Louis

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1900 for Mercer Elmer West, the West House on Beech Street in Helena is a marvelous example of the Georgian Revival style. Some Queen Anne decorative detailing ties the house to others on the block which precede it by a few years. The house was built by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis who came to Helena to build several of the finer homes in town. One of these, the Short-Bieri House (NR-74), is a mirror image of the West House. The two houses are located only a block away from each other, and they are often referred to as the "sister houses." The West House exhibits some of the finest craftsmanship available during the period. West was involved in the timber business, as well as being a prominent banker, and hand-picked all of the white oak which was used throughout the house. The elaborately carved mantels, parquet floors, pocket doors, and panelling were produced from trees cut from those growing on Crowley's Ridge upon which most of Helena sits. These trees were then milled and cured at the McCoy lumber yard in Helena. All of this attention to detail produced a house which is considered by Helenians and others as nothing less than impressive.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Titles, Horner-Morris Abstract Co., 711 Walnut Street, Helena, AR
Dale P. Kirkman, Helena historian
Mrs. Charles L. Moore, III, (Masie West Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer West, and born in the West House, January 23, 1901)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre
Quadrangle name Latour, Ark.-Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A

1	5	7	2	0	9	7	5	3	8	2	3	0	7	5
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 9, West Addition

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Annetta Talbot Beauchamp, edited by staff of Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

organization Phillips Co. for Historic Preservation date August 2, 1983

street & number 804 Columbia telephone 338-7401

city or town Helena state Arkansas

12. 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 [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8-5-83

For NPS use only

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

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/8/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date



West House
Helena, Arkansas
J. Carfagno & A. Jones, photographers
November, 1982
Negative on file at AHPP
Viewed from the East



West House
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J. Carfagno & A. Jones, photographers
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