

60-211-4100-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

6-17-77

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RECEIVED
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

Ragland House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1617 Center

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock,

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Otis B. & Wanda L. Hamilton

STREET & NUMBER

1617 Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ragland House, located in Little Rock's historic Quapaw Quarter district, was constructed in 1891-92 by architect, Charles L. Thompson. The house presents characteristics of Queen Anne architecture in its collection of Victorian elements. Dominant features of the house include a corner tower, variety of textural usage, bay windows, stained glass and ornamental woodwork.

Of frame construction, the Ragland House rests on a brick foundation and is topped by a multi-gable high-hipped slate roof. Four brick chimneys with corbelling and geometric patterns rise from the roofline of the house. The irregular-shaped house is sheathed in clapboard siding on the first floor level of the main wing. Clapboard siding covers both stories of the east wing. The second storey of the main wing is sheathed in alternating rows of shingles laid with staggered butts. A belt course runs around the main wing of the house directly beneath the second-story windows. The gable ends of this main section of the house are covered in waffle-patterned stick work.

The most outstanding feature of the Ragland House is a corner-tower located on the southeast corner. This two-story tower is capped by a bell-cast roof with a finial. A brick chimney marks the south side of the tower. Facing west on the tower on both the first and second story levels is a set of three double-hung curved windows separated by fluted mullions. These windows are topped by a horizontal leaded stained-glass transom. Located on the cornice of the tower is a pattern of Doric capital pilasters regularly spaced with decorative circle moldings.

The facade (west elevation) of the Ragland House features a gable end on the north end covered in waffle patterned stickwork surrounding a large semi-circular window of leaded stained glass in geometric patterns. A wide double-hung window flanked on either side by narrow double-hung windows are found at the second story level under the gable end. At the first floor level is a wide single light window topped by a stained glass horizontal transom. Narrow double-hung windows flank either side of this window. Below these windows is a narrow horizontal center section of vertical flushboard flanked by small sections of diagonal flushboard. The gable and the first and second story windows are found in a slightly projected bay.

A one-story portico beginning in the center of the facade circles around the southwest corner to the south elevation. This portico is supported by delicately turned posts with decorative brackets. Beneath the cornice of the portico runs a band of small square balluster-like posts. A railing with square vertical and horizontal balusters runs around the porch.

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In the center of the second story of the facade is a small portico covered by a shed-roof-like extension of the center hipped roof. Turned bracketed posts and square balluster-like posts under the cornice are featured on this small portico. A railing with square vertical and horizontal posts runs around the portico.

The dominant feature of the south elevation is a two story projection. A brick chimney with geometric designs runs up the center of the projection. The gable end is covered in waffle-patterned stick work. Double-hung single-light shuttered windows flank either side of the chimney on both first and second story levels. The east end of the south elevation is covered in clapboard siding and features a two-over-two-light double-hung shuttered window at both first and second story levels. Three small double-hung windows are found irregularly spaced on this section of the house. Two four-light windows with arched wooden heads are found at the basement level.

The east elevation features a two-story portico with a basement. The original lattice remains around the first floor portico while a portion of the second story portico has been enclosed.

The south elevation of the Ragland House is dominated by a two-story gable bay. Waffle-patterned stick work covers the gable end. A pair of double-hung windows is found at the second story level. The first floor of the bay is three sided featuring a double-hung shuttered window on each side.

The irregular-shaped Ragland House contains eleven rooms. Most of the original features of the house remain intact such as the brass door hinges. All windows have metal bases and screens fixed to go inside. The house is heated by radiator but contains seven intact fireplaces. A wine cellar in the basement features a safe door with a patent date of 1921. At one time the house contained an elevator.

Although complex in exterior shape, the Ragland House is basically a central hall plan. The original hardwood woodwork is found throughout the house in mantels, floors, doors, wainscoting, baseboards and window and door trim. All seven fireplace mantels are unique in design. The mantel in the south parlor is of decoratively designed birds-eye maple. The doors feature an unusual design in their panelling. An open well two-run stairway rises to the second floor from the central hall.

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The stairway features an ornamental newel post and turned ballusters. Several of the original light fixtures wired for gas and electricity are found in the house.

The Ragland House remains in much its original condition. The only alterations of which the present owner is aware are the enclosure of a butler's pantry and the enclosure of part of the second story portico on the east elevation.

The Ragland House rests in good condition on its original site. Designed by Arkansas' leading architect at the time of its construction in 1891-92, the Ragland House is an excellent example of Victorian architecture.

18 SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1891-92

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Charles L. Thompson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ragland House, located at 1617 Center in Little Rock's historic Quapaw Quarter District is an excellent example of eclectic Victorian architecture. Possessing elements of modified Queen Anne architecture in it's usage of a tower, textural variety, irregular shape and multiple gables and bays, the house is an architecturally significant structure in the city. Charles L. Thompson, noted Arkansas architect, was responsible for the design of the house. The majority of Thompson's structures were designed around the turn of the century and are basically classical in style. Thus the Ragland House is unusual in that it is one of his earlier designs and of modified Queen Anne architecture. In addition to its architectural merit, the Ragland House is significant in its association with the Urganhart family in whose hands the house remained from the time of its construction in 1891-92 until 1958.

The Ragland House was constructed for Margaret Urganhart Ragland and her husband, William H. Ragland. W. H. Ragland was a banker and stockbroker. A respected citizen of Little Rock, Ragland was appointed in 1891 to the Little Rock Democratic Executive Committee. Mr. and Mrs. Ragland moved to Alabama and in 1898, sold their house to Mrs. Ragland's parents, Edmond and Henrietta Urganhart.

Edmond Urganhart was born in Fort Henry, Ontario on April 5, 1834. His father Edward Urganhart was an officer in the British Army with the rank of quartermaster-general. Both Edward Urganhart and his wife, Elizabeth were natives of Wales. Edward Urganhart died in 1846. At the age of twelve, Edmond Urganhart was apprenticed to a forwarding and shipping firm in Hamilton, Ontario. He completed his apprenticeship six years later. At eighteen, Urganhart's early start in business proved advantageous in securing a job with the Great Western Railroad Company with whom he worked for three years. At the completion of his employment with the railroad, Urganhart established a shipping house in St. Catherine in Canada under the name of Urganhart and Bowen. There he built several vessels to engage in the booming Great Lakes grain trade. This business venture was so profitable that he moved to St. Louis, Missouri in 1861 where he worked with a distillery. He later moved to Memphis. At the end of the Civil War, Urganhart entered the hardware business and began the manufacture of cotton

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seed oil. He utilized an old government building in the Memphis Navy Yard and equipped it with special machinery for crushing and extracting oil from cotton seed. While in residence in Memphis, Urguhart helped found the Fourth National Bank and Home Insurance Company.

In 1876 Urguhart established a cotton seed oil mill in Little Rock on East Second Street. He became president of this company which was established under the name of the Little Rock Oil Company. This was among the pioneer cotton seed oil concerns in Arkansas. By 1880 he had established a total of eight mills, all of which he was president and by 1895 he was president of twelve oil seed companies, representing a capital of more than \$2 million.

All of Urguhart's companies and a few other cotton seed oil companies merged to form the American Cotton Oil Trust, the main office being in Little Rock with Urguhart subsequently becoming president. To manage the immensely expanded business, Urguhart moved to New York City where he stayed until he retired and moved back to Little Rock in 1903.

Besides his business success in the cotton seed oil business, Urguhart was Director of the First National Bank of Little Rock and was president and founder of the Ladies Building and Loan Association. Urguhart also owned several plantations along the Arkansas River. He also established the Varner Branch Railroad which connected his plantation and mills with the main railroads.

Edmond Urguhart and his wife, Henrietta, who he married in 1864, had three daughters, one of whom died in infancy. Built for one daughter, Mrs. W. H. Ragland, the house was sold in 1898 to Edmond and Henrietta Urguhart. Upon Urguhart's death in 1905, his second daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Miller, moved into the house with Henrietta Urguhart. Mrs. Urguhart lived in the house until her death in 1932. Mr. Miller died shortly thereafter but Mrs. Miller lived in the house until her death in 1958. The house then went to a daughter of Mrs. Ragland from which point the house had three owners before the present owners purchased the house in 1975.

Architecturally, the Ragland House is one of the most important Victorian structures in Little Rock. The house also represents the family of a nationally prominent businessman. The Ragland House is a surviving structure of a gilded period of history in which architectural ornateness

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abounded and it was possible to achieve immense business success through diligence, honesty and intelligence.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, February 19, 1891.
 Arkansas Gazette, December 2, 1905.
 Arkansas Gazette, May 30, 1938.
 Hamilton, Wanda, Personal interviews at the Ragland House, Little Rock,
 Arkansas, April 22 and November 1, 1976.
 Quapaw Quarter Association. Ragland House File.
 Thomas, David Y., Ed. Arkansas and Its People. New York: The American

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre.
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	56,6	3,6,0	3,8	4,3	4,8,0	B					
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C							D					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-14-76

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Building, Main & Markham

TELEPHONE

371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock,

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 Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-14-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



