

NR 8-3-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

PUB 230

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

Ada Thompson Memorial Home

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2021 South Main

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

72205

COUNTY

Pulaski

CODE

119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. Frederick H. and Nancy Roy

STREET & NUMBER

2021 South Main

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

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>11/4/76</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1909, the Ada Thompson Memorial Home is one of Little Rock's most important historic structures. The house has undergone few alterations and appears much the same as when it was originally built. The architects, Frank Gibb and Theodore Sanders, designed the Ada Thompson Home in a Georgian Revival architectural style.

The two and one-half storey house with a full basement is constructed of brick. The high hipped roof is characteristic of Georgian Revival architecture. Projecting from the roof are several dormers, spaced symmetrically about the house. The cornice is marked by decorative brackets and dentils.

The facade of the house is marked by windows which feature ornate window heads with keystones. Lugsills are of cut stone. The dominant feature of the facade is the two storey portico, supported by two pairs of fluted capitol columns. The hipped roof rectangular portico is marked by ornamental brackets and dentils on the cornice. A round ornamental window is above the portico.

The main entry door is flanked by fluted Ionic capitol pilasters. Leaded glass windows flank the entry. Shutters flank the major windows. A feature of note on the south elevation is the one storey sun porch. The north elevation contains a one storey projection. The first floor porch contains steps leading to the north entry. The east elevation features a two storey porch supported by nine square brick columns. There is a half storey walk-down to the basement. Open at the first level, the porch is enclosed by screen at the second floor level.

There are approximately 18,200 square feet of living space in the two and one-half floors. The main floor has four large halls each ten feet wide running N-S and E-W. The stairway is located at the point where the wide and front halls meet. Over the landing of the stairway is a four-pane sky-light. The main floor will contain a large entry hall, library, dining room, reception room, music room and powder room.

The upstairs has N-S hall and E-W side hall off of which are ten bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a family room.

The basement houses a kitchen, breakfast room, two pantries bedroom, bath and laundry room. The electric elevator connects all three floors.

Alterations include removal of seven walls to make larger rooms.

Resting on half a block, the Ada Thompson Memorial Home is remarkably well preserved and appears practically the same as when it was first constructed. Most of the doors in the house are marked with bronze dedication plaques.

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A large marble plaque hangs in the front entry hall where inscription is as follows:

ADA THOMPSON MEMORIAL HOME

1909

Erected Under the Bequest of
ADA THOMPSON CRUTCHFIELD
in memory of her father and mother
William Jackson and Sarah Ann Thompson
Charitable in all things, she especially
Revered and Ministered to the Aged.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

E. G. THOMPSON, Chairman
H. L. REMMEL S. W. REYBURN
B. W. GREEN ROBERT E. WAIT
W. S. HOLT ED. CORNISH

GIBB AND SANDERS, ARCHITECTS,
GEO. W. FAIR, CONTRACTOR.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" 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 **1900**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Frank Gibb / Theodore Sanders**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ada Thompson Memorial Home, located in Little Rock's historic Quapaw Quarter district, was built by donations from many of Little Rock's most prominent families. Founded in 1882, this home for elderly women served a vital community service until 1976. The ladies, many without any family, lived out their remaining years in this elegant home with the privacy and comfort that would be found in their own home. The Ada Thompson Memorial home is architecturally significant in its elegance, fine detail of design, and immense size. Designed by Frank Gibb and Theodore Sanders, two of Little Rock's most prominent architects, and constructed in 1909, the house reflects the Beaux Arts tradition. The house has been remarkably well preserved.

This home for elderly was founded in 1882 and was initially named Old Ladies Home of Little Rock. "On April 16, 1882, Mrs. R. L. Dodge, Mrs. P. Jordan, Mrs. R. H. Johnson and Mrs. J. W. Peidelman was elected the first Board of Lady Guardians. As Col. Logan H. Roots made the first subscription of \$500, he had the privilege of naming one of the guardians, and his selection was Mrs. Logan H. Roots, who was duly elected. On April 16, 1883, by-laws for the government of the home were approved. On April 17, 1883, Mrs. G. H. Van Etten and Miss Sophia Crease were elected to the Board of Lady Guardians. At the first meeting of the Board of Lady Guardians, at the home, on April 25, 1882, Dr. R. B. Christian was elected physician of the home. Miss Lauriatt Ashley was the first of the charges of the home to actually take possession of her room in the home, and she did so on March 29, 1882."

"The Home is the outgrowth of a suggestion offered by Prof. Otis Patten in a paper read before the Bible club of the Presbyterian Church, on the evening of March 14, 1882. The matter at that time was referred to a committee to investigate and make inquiry in regard to the workings of similar charities, and on the evening of March 28th., at a regular meeting of the club, a reading of the minutes showed that the committee deemed such an institution both needed and practicable, so a constitution was adopted and signed by members, and on the evening of April 17th. officers were elected and the work begun."

"This institution is intended to afford a comfortable and permanent home to white women of Little Rock of unblemished moral character and, unless in exceptional cases, over sixty years of age. It is not a poor house, but, what the name implies, a quiet comfortable home for respectable

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old ladies who have outlived their near relatives and their means of support. They are fairly supposed to have done their share of the world's work, and to be entitled to shelter and support in their declining years."¹

Mrs Jane Kellogg, who sold the first home at the southwest corner of east Seventh and Scott Streets, was a dominant force in the early development of the home. "The large house and valuable lot on which it stands were donated to the "Home" by Miss J. C. Kellogg-formerly a teacher in Little Rock - reserving a life annuity of \$200. The house is two stories high, and contains thirteen good-sized rooms. It was handsomely painted last fall, and recently some of the rooms have been nicely papered."² Her portrait currently is displayed in the Ada Thompson home.

The name was changed to the Jane Kellogg Home for Old Ladies in 1889 following her death.

Mrs. Ada Thompson Crutchfield, wife of a wealthy New York lawyer, in her will set aside a memorial of \$20,000.00 for a memorial to her father and mother. Her uncle, Mr. E. G. Thompson was one of the early organizers and officers of the Old Ladies Home and the executor of his niece's estate on her death in 1904. Mrs. Crutchfield is buried at Mount Holly Cemetary.³ The board accepted the money plus interest equaling \$22,850 with the consideration attached, that the name be changed to the Ada Thompson Memorial Home.

" The old home on Seventh and Scott Streets was sold for \$8,000.00 and three lots on the corner of Twenty-first and Main Streets were purchased for \$6,000.00. The contract was let for construction of the Ada Thompson Memorial Home of pressed brick and stone to cost \$20,600, and the plumbing, heating, and lighting in addition will make the building cost about \$25,000."⁴

The Ada Thompson Home was completed in 1909. Ladies moved in soon after its completion and it has been continuously occupied until present day.

Because of the many prominent ladies that have resided at the Ada Thompson Home, it has been a prominent social center. Poetry readings, singing sessions, and social gatherings have been frequent. Mrs. Margaret Duncan, a resident of the Ada Thompson Home, wrote a poem concerning it:

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THE ADA THOMPSON HOME

There is a lovely house on the hill-top
A picture of beauty and art,
Whose stately walls and columns,
Speak praise for a generous heart,
A heart that gave to the world
Not just a monument of stone
But a place where the aged finds retreat
As they walk life's twilight alone.
Tis not a place of sadness or want,
Comfort and plenty are there,
And she who enters its portals
Should praise God for its love and care,
Her path thru' the years of youth,
May have passed thru' lovely bowers,
Or she may have stumbled o'er jagged rocks,
As she toiled thru' working hours
Helping to build a sheltered home
For those who were left to her care
Forgetting that time has a subtle way
Of catching us in its snares.
Too soon the home was empty,
Too soon the loved ones were gone,
Too soon was she left frail and weary
As the busy world rushes on.
But a hand was held out from somewhere,
A guiding hand from God's dome
And it led her to the portals
Of the Ada Thompson Home.
There in her own sequestered room
With her treasures books and flowers,
She may pass if she will
In peace and love, the last of life's fleeting hours.

By: Margaret H. Duncan

In recent years because of rising costs and declining occupancy,
it became necessary to sell the Home to its present owners. The eleven remaining
residents were transferred to Presbyterian Village.

The Ada Thompson Memorial Home stands as a monument to the humanitar-
ian spirit of Little Rock's people.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Quapaw Quarter Association.
Information File, Ada Thompson Memorial Home File
2. Arkansas Democrat, August 26, 1976.
3. Arkansas Gazette, May 30, 1976.
4. Arkansas Gazette, February 7, 1909.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	56,6	5,3,0	3,8	4,3	0,2,0	B						
	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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Dr. F. H. Roy DATE: November 4, 1976

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER: Continental Building, West Markham & Main Streets TELEPHONE: 371-2763

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 STATE:

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

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 4, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

