

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 Clayborn , John Henry House

other names/site number PU4274

2. Location

street & number 1800 Marshall

not for publication

city or town Little Rock,

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72202

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

Carrie Matthews 4/7/06

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

Clayborn , John Henry House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

foundation Concrete and wood
walls Brick

roof Shingle

other _____

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)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

RELIGION

Period of Significance

1932-1954

Significant Dates

1932-1954

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

John Henry Clayborn, Sr.

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

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:

Clayborn , John Henry House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 564790 3843720
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 Elizabeth A. James/National Register Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date January 16, 2006
street & number 1500 Tower Building , 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9789
city or town Little Rock state AR 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. Lyndajo Jones
street & number 1800 Marshall telephone 501-374-2016
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72202

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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SUMMARY

Built in 1932, the John Henry Clayborn House in Little Rock, Arkansas, is a two-story Craftsman-influenced design. The house is in the Centennial neighborhood. Centennial was initially a middle class subdivision, but is now a mixed income neighborhood. The property is in fair condition with very little alteration since its construction. Reverend John Henry Clayborn and his family were the first occupants of this house and it is still occupied by his extended family.

ELABORATION

The 1932 John Henry Clayborn House is located at the corner of Marshall and West 18th streets in Little Rock, Pulaski County. The house faces east toward Marshall Street. The Clayborn house is a two-story brick Craftsman-style house that sits on a small hill. It is supported by post and beams with concrete walls around it for added support. The brick and shingle house retains all the original windows and screens (with the exception of five screens located on the north and west sides of the house). The house is topped by a gable roof with asphalt shingles. Original rock walls bound the property on the north and east sides. A garage with two apartments above it (built in the late 1940s) is attached to the house on the west side. In the 1940s two additional rooms were added upstairs. A library was added to the rear of the house and a sun porch was added to the front.

East Elevation

The east façade is divided into three distinct bays. The left (south) side is fenestrated by three original six-over-six double-hung wood windows (as are all windows throughout the house). This south end of the front façade is the only part to have originally been a full two-stories in height. There are two windows centered on the wall on the second story. A front gable is centered above these windows. The wall space within the gable is covered in rough-textured stucco and is set off from the rest of the wall with a piece of wood molding. The central bay of the east side is defined by two brick columns. These were originally porch supports, but today they blend into the overall façade. The porch was enclosed in the 1940s when several updates were made to the house. Two flights of concrete steps lead up to the central entrance which has two windows flanking the door. A mail chute was added under the window to the right of the screen door. Underneath is a nameplate that bears the name of Bishop John H. Clayborn. The second story was also a 1940s addition. It has a shed roof that meets a side gable facing north. The central bay of the second story is fenestrated by a set of three windows. The wall space around the windows is sheathed with Inselbric. The third bay is a continuation of the enclosed porch. The northeast corner has another brick column which was originally a porch support. There are three windows centered on the first floor of this bay and three above them on the second story.

North Elevation

The north façade faces West 18th Street. This elevation is symmetrical and is comprised of three bays. The bay on the far left is the north side of the enclosed porch. The exterior walls of the porch are Inselbric and brick. There are two windows centered on the first floor wall enclosing the porch. A low pitched gable is

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centered directly above these windows and visibly separates the first and second floors. Another two windows are centered on the second story wall section. This wall section is also sheathed in Insulbric and is the north side of the east second story addition. The central bay is fenestrated by two first story windows and two second story windows with a chimney running vertically up the center in between. This section has a gable end punctured in the center by the chimney. The triangular section beneath the gable is sheathed in white stucco. The right bay is identical to the left. A second story addition was also made to the west side of the house which matches the one on the east side. The shed roof profiles of these additions are visible on the north side where they meet the original gable roof.

West Elevation

The west façade of the building faces Wolfe Street. Full view of this elevation is obscured by the attached garage and garage apartments. The north corner of this elevation houses the parlor. Three windows open into this space on the first floor. The second floor on the north side is a room added in the 1940s. It is clad in Insulbric and has two windows set apart from each other on the wall. The attached garage was also built in the 1940s. It meets the house via a small one-story shed roof addition. This addition comprises the remainder of the first floor façade elevation on the west side. The small vestibule is clad in wood clapboards and has a door on its north facing wall. The second floor is a near exact match to the front side of the building. Adjacent to the second story addition is a section of wall beneath a gable end. Like its counterpart on the east elevation, this section contains a pair of six-over-six windows. There is also a window set between this pair of windows and the addition. It sits is a section of wall that is finished in rough-textured stucco. The gable section of wall is also finished with rough-textured stucco.

South Elevation

The south elevation of the John Henry Clayborn House faces the neighboring building. It is a full two-stories in height. There are five windows on each floor of the south side. From east to west along this elevation the windows are distributed so that there is a pair of windows on the first and second floor, then a single window on the first and second floor in the center of the wall, and finally another pair of windows on the first and second floors. The first floor windows on the west end of the wall are shorter than the others as this room was later remodeled to become the laundry room. The windows match the others in terms of style and material. At the west end of the south elevation the rear of the vestibule connecting the house and garage is even with the south wall of the house.

Garage/Apartment Addition

The garage is a full two stories high to accommodate cars on the bottom floor and apartments above. The structure has a concrete block foundation (which extends the full height of the first floor). The apartments are wood frame set on the concrete block. The structure is clad in wood clapboards with a gable roof. There

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are three large openings on the north side for cars on the bottom floor. The garage apartment building has the same roof material and windows as the house. It also is of similar scale and generally appears to be compatible with the house itself. The apartment entrances are on the west side of the structure. A wooden stairway leads to two doors which open into separate apartments. There is a three-over-one wood double-hung window next to each door. The building has four windows along the north and south sides that look into each apartment.

Interior

The interior of the house reflects the traditional style of the 1930s with an arched opening that leads upstairs, French doors that open into the dining room and the parlor or sunroom. The bathroom features a built in oval tub in the upstairs bathroom, sculptured walls in the dining room and living room, hardwood floors and many tall windows.

INTEGRITY

The 1932 John Henry Clayborn House retains many elements of integrity. The building has undergone few changes and nearly all alterations have achieved historic significance of their own at the submission of this nomination. Alterations to the home include infill of the front porch, addition of a sunroom and library on the east and west sides of the second story, and addition of a garage with apartments on the rear of the building. These changes occurred in the 1940s when Bishop Clayborn was living in the house. The house reflects the years in which Clayborn was living in Little Rock and spreading his influence both locally and abroad.

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SUMMARY

Constructed in 1932, the John Henry Clayborn House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion B** for its association with John Henry Clayborn. He was an influential advocate for African Americans both inside and outside of Arkansas and outside of the United States. The house was constructed in a middle class neighborhood a few blocks from historic Little Rock Central High School (NR Listed 08-19-1977, NHL 05-20-1982), the site of one of the most pivotal school integration events in the country. Bishop John H. Clayborn and his wife Lula were dedicated to the spiritual welfare and education of African Americans. Bishop Clayborn spent his life developing means to facilitate equality.

ELABORATION

The John Henry Clayborn House sits in the Fulk's Subdivision of the Centennial Addition in Little Rock. Centennial Addition was first granted to William Wilson by the U.S. Government in a land patent dated June 24, 1811. The Fulk's Subdivision was platted on April 14, 1890. Much of the growth in the Centennial Addition occurred in the early years of the twentieth century. The John Henry Clayborn House was built a few years beyond the initial building boom in the area. Much of the area is already part of a National Register Historic District. The Central High School Neighborhood Historic District (NR Listed 08-16-1996) reaches to within two blocks of the John Henry Clayborn House and celebrates much of the historic significance of the Centennial Addition of which the John Henry Clayborn House is a part.

The Centennial Addition had homes greatly ranging in size and style yet it remained a generally middle class development in its early years. The area initially housed a mix of white and black residents. Race relations in Little Rock were famously displayed on national television in 1957 when the National Guard was deployed to force integration of Little Rock Central High School just blocks away from the John Henry Clayborn House. Over the years the neighborhood has deteriorated due to many factors, namely newer construction in the western part of the city which lured many residents away. As a result the Centennial neighborhood experienced a shift in demographics primarily in the middle of the century. Today the area remains a mix of low to middle income residents and houses some of the most significant and characteristic architecture of the city.

John Henry Clayborn was a longtime resident of the Centennial Addition during his adult life. He was born in Spring Hill, Arkansas, December 2, 1881, to Dave and Martha Clayborn. He was the eldest of nine children. He was converted at the age of 9 and joined Spring Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1903 John was licensed to preach in the A.M.E. Church. In 1902 he met and married Lula Mitchell. To this union were born six children who followed in their father's footsteps by becoming businessmen and women, preachers and journalists.

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John Henry Clayborn, affectionately called JH, was a graduate of Arkadelphia Public Schools. He later attended Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas, Shorter College, and Jackson Theological Seminary, North Little Rock, Arkansas, where he finished with honors. He was a public school teacher, a fraternal order leader, a journalist, a minister, and a businessman. He was the owner of what was known as the Clayborn Building. It was a small business strip located near downtown Little Rock that housed several small businesses and apartments. It was located at 913 – 925 West 9th Street. The Clayborn Building was later demolished as part of the construction of I-630 in Little Rock. As a journalist, he was the editor and manager of the Southern Christian Recorder (a journal for the African Methodist Episcopal Church). This magazine was and is distributed nationwide and throughout several countries. Its main office moved to Little Rock from Nashville and was housed in the Clayborn Building while JH was editor from 1931-1938. He also founded a local newspaper in Little Rock, Arkansas called *The Twin City Press*. There is one edition on file at the Arkansas History Commission. It was printed June 22, 1940. The newspaper served as a voice for all races in the community. It featured a directory of local churches, religious articles, news from other surrounding cities in Arkansas, a sports section, a social section and other significant news. A subscription cost \$2.00 for one year, \$1.00 for six months or 50 cents for three months. It was a reader's newspaper, non-political, non-sectarian, independent, clean, progressive and constructive.

As an educator, he was elected president of Shorter College in 1940. Shorter College still stands today and is viable to the North Little Rock community and the African Methodist Episcopal Church. After being elected Bishop in 1944, he was sent to West Africa. There he continued his love for education and the church by organizing new churches and organizing Clayborn College (no longer exists) located at Sekondi in Ghana; reorganized Clayborn Industrial School in Monrovia and the Shaffer Day School into Shaffer-Smith Elementary School at Arthington. Upon returning to the States from the West African District, he continued serving the African Methodist Episcopal Church. From 1946 -1948, he was assigned to oversee churches in part of the 2nd, 12th and 13th districts. He established many churches throughout his tenure in these districts. In 1952 on July 7th he opened the session of the Republican National Convention, held in Chicago, with a prayer.

Bishop Clayborn was a 33 degree mason, Worthy Grand patron in the Order of the Eastern Star of the Jurisdiction of Arkansas, a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Urban League, N.A.A.C.P., American Woodmen, member of the Board of the Fraternal Council of Negro Churches, stockholder in the Tri-State Bank of Memphis, and Universal Life Insurance Company and a beloved brother of the Christian faith. Bishop John Henry Clayborn was listed in the 1960 edition of "Who's Who in America." Although small in stature he had a strong voice, was a convincing debater and a powerful preacher. Named for him is Clayborn College, West Africa; A.M.E. churches at Chicago, Tulsa, and Knoxville and Memphis, Tennessee. He was an educator, a businessman, a leader, a preacher and more. He was a man whose abilities stretched beyond the United States and into other countries. Bishop Clayborn died in 1954. His extended family continues to live in the house at 1800 Marshall.

Clayborn, John Henry House

Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas

County and State

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1932, the John Henry Clayborn House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion B** for its association with John Henry Clayborn. He was an influential advocate for African Americans both inside and outside of Arkansas and outside of the United States. The house was constructed in a middle class neighborhood a few blocks from historic Little Rock Central High School (NR Listed 08-19-1977, NHL 05-20-1982), the site of one of the most pivotal school integration events in the country. Bishop John H. Clayborn and his wife Lula were dedicated to the spiritual welfare and education of African Americans. Bishop Clayborn spent his life developing means to facilitate equality.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Smith, Marion B., *Arkansas Writers Project*. Arkansas History Commission, WPA Research File on religion.

Wright, R. R. *Bishops of the A.M.E. Church*. The A.M.E. Sunday School Union, 1963

The Wright Avenue Neighborhood Association, Inc. Newsletter, Volume 9, No. 1, January 13, 2006

Clayborn, John Henry House

Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas

County and State

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Fulk's subdivision, Centennial Addition, Block 41, Lot 20

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes all land historically associated with the John H. Clayborn House.

JOHN HENRI CLAY/JOHN HOUSE
LITTLE ROCK, PULASKI COUNTY, AR

UTM REFERENCE: 15/564790/3843700

LITTLE R

7.5-MINUTE















