

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

*Pulaski Co.
Little Rock
Lamb-McSwain House*

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Lamb-McSwain House

Other Name/Site Number: (PU9974)

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 2124 Rice Street

City/Town: Little Rock

Not for Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Pulaski

Code: AR 119

Zip Code: 72201

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Lamb-McSwain House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet

C. W. ...
Signature of certifying official

4-15-98
Date

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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper

Date of Action

Lamb-McSwain House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

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Function or Use
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Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:
Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials: foundation BRICK roof ASBESTOS
walls BRICK other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 2124 Rice Street in Little Rock, Pulaski County, the Lamb-McSwain House is a classic example of the Craftsman Bungalow. The house was constructed in 1926 as a wood framed residence with brick veneer. Typical of the Craftsman style the house utilizes a variety of materials including brick, wood and stucco. Also noteworthy are the front porch supports that are paneled and battered columns raised on piers. While there has been one addition to the back of the house, the visually prominent portion of the house retains a high level of integrity.

Elaboration

The Lamb-McSwain House is a one-story Craftsman-styled bungalow. The house is of frame construction with a continuous foundation, brick sheathing on the walls, and stucco and half-timbering details in the gable ends. The brick has an all-over "chicken wire" texture and is laid in a basic running bond with a decorative "hatch work" pattern along the floor level around the house. Wide overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends are found along the roof-line of every elevation. All original windows are six-over-one, double-hung wood windows. One exterior brick chimney is placed on the southern elevation. The original portion of the house is roofed with diamond shaped asbestos shingles and capped with clay ridge caps. In contrast, the 1977 addition located on the rear, or western, elevation is roofed with composition shingles.

The front, or eastern, elevation features a partial length wrap-around porch beneath its own separate gable. Beneath the porch is a pair of windows and a single leaf door. There were originally two front doors, one leading to the living room, and one leading into the front bedroom. Since the 1977 renovation, this bedroom door has been blocked off with a natural stone wall. The porch roof on this elevation is supported by three wood columns on brick piers. A solid brick balustrade surrounds the cast concrete porch which is accessed by four concrete steps. The porch gable is lower and smaller than the main roof gable, but echoes its decorative half-timbered details and placement of knee-brackets. There is a ribbon of three windows to the side of the porch.

The side, or northern elevation of the house is fenestrated by three windows of varying sizes and two pairs of triple windows.

The rear, or western, elevation contains the 1977 addition which added a bedroom and a bathroom to the house. The addition is stepped back on the northern elevation of the main house and covers one half of the original porch. It has a cement block foundation, small sliding aluminum window fenestration, and is sheathed in aluminum. The porch on the southern elevation has been enclosed and an exterior staircase runs along the rear of the southern elevation. The addition has a cement block foundation, small aluminum sliding window fenestration, and is sheathed with aluminum siding.

The opposite side, or southern, elevation contains the rest of the wrap-around porch with its small cross gable and concrete stairway. This elevation also contains the chimney which is flanked on either side by a pair of windows that are infilled with stained glass. Toward the rear of this elevation is a small exterior stairway leading up to the enclosed back porch. The rest of the elevation consists of a pair of six-over-one, double-hung wood windows and a smaller six-over-one, double-hung wood window.

The interior of the house retains the majority of its historic materials including the brick mantle piece, wood moldings, and wood flooring. The only major change has been the 1977 addition of a bedroom and bathroom connected to the rear porch by a new corridor. The original rear exterior wall has been left unpainted. In addition to indicating the architectural history of the house, the owner Bernice Lamb McSwain proudly displays articles from her family's history on this brick wall.

Also located on the property on the front elevation is a modern metal sculpture made in a joint effort by John B. McSwain and his son in the late 1970s.

Lamb-McSwain House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

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Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1926
Significant Dates: 1926, 1977

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Ye Planry Architects, Dallas, Texas
John W. Lamb (builder)
Ellard Lamb (builder)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

Built in 1926 the Lamb-McSwain House is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion C with local significance** for its Craftsman-styled architecture. The mail-order blue prints for the house were designed by Ye Planry Architects a Dallas, Texas based architectural firm. The Lamb-McSwain House was constructed by the original African-American owner, John W. Lamb with the help of his younger brother Ellard Lamb.

Historical Background

The community in which this house is located, is legally called Adams Addition, named after Howard Adams a land developer who, along with the West End Land and Improvement Company, set forth to plat this area in April 1888. Originally, the neighborhood was quite rural as can be seen by the Sanborn Maps and from descriptions of "geese and chickens running wildly around" the house.

The builder and owner John W. Lamb was born in Drew County but moved to Little Rock in 1917 with his new wife, Roxie Walker. Because she died in 1925, his wife never lived in the house on 2124 Rice Street. Later, John W. Lamb married Emma Taylor, a school teacher. John W. Lamb made a life-long career in the U.S. Postal Service as a letter carrier. It was through this job and his accumulated savings that Lamb was able to purchase the land and build his house.

During this time, the traditionally African American neighborhood around the Lamb-McSwain House was relatively quiet and crime-free. The late 1950's brought about severe changes to the neighborhood, caused in-part by the Livestock Urban Renewal Project. Also called the Coliseum Project, it was a grand scheme to redevelop the quiet neighborhood in line with national standards. The streets were re-aligned and paved; the run off ditches on both sides of the previous dirt roads were closed in with concrete drainage pipes and a proper sewage system was installed. Some of the older homes in the area were demolished and some were renovated. New, more contemporary houses were built on the lots where the houses were demolished. The new architecture and the relocation of many residents of the area had a grave impact on the character of the neighborhood.

Bernice Lamb McSwain, daughter of the original owner/builder, moved back to the house after the death of her parents. She and her late husband John B. McSwain Sr., have continued the care and maintenance of the house and its history. The McSwain's still have the original blueprints to the house, the 1925 receipts for building materials, historic photographs, and a variety of other materials that document the history of the house.

Architectural Significance

The Lamb-McSwain House was constructed in 1926 by the original African-American owner, John W. Lamb from mail-order blue prints designed by Ye Planry Architects of Dallas, Texas. Despite the 1977 rear addition, this Craftsman-style house has a high amount of architectural integrity. The house still contains its original fenestration, stucco and half timbered gable ends, and battered columns as well as many other typical Craftsman features. For these reasons the Lamb-McSwain House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Information provided by Robert Knapp, 1996.

Information provided by Vicki Curok, 1996.

Information provided by Carol Roark, 1996.

Information provided by Felton Lamb, Sr., 1996.

Arkansas Gazette, 1949.

Hazel, Michael V., ed. *Legacies: A History Journal for Dallas and North Central Texas*. Dallas, Texas: Dallas Historical Society, 1992.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 564020 3843020 B _____

C _____ D _____

Lamb-McSwain House
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Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot No. 205, Replat No. 1, Adams Addition to the City of Little Rock,
Pulaski County, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all remaining historically significant structures
associated with this property.

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11. Form Prepared By
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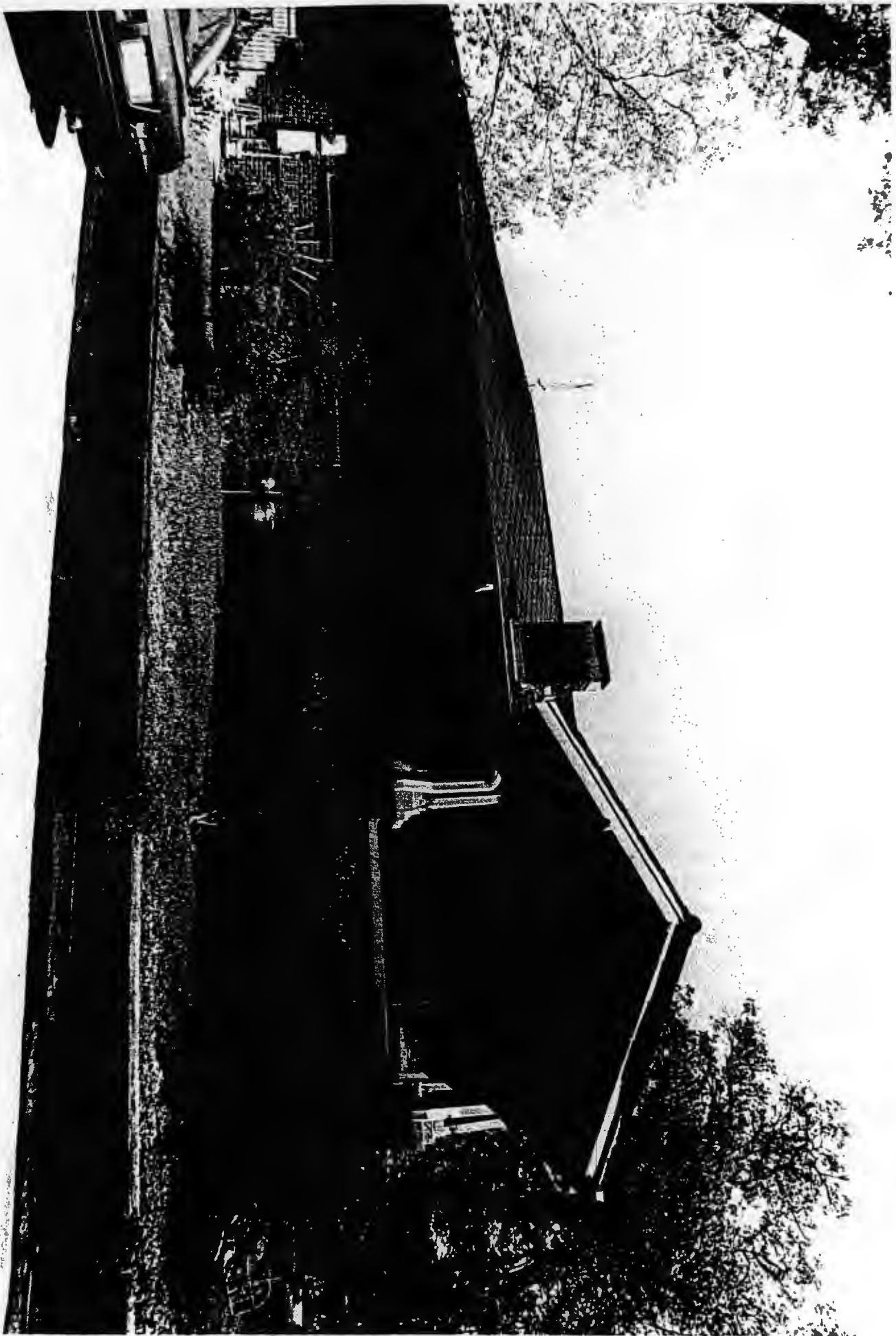
Name/Title: Amy Bennett, National Register/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 11/21/96

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



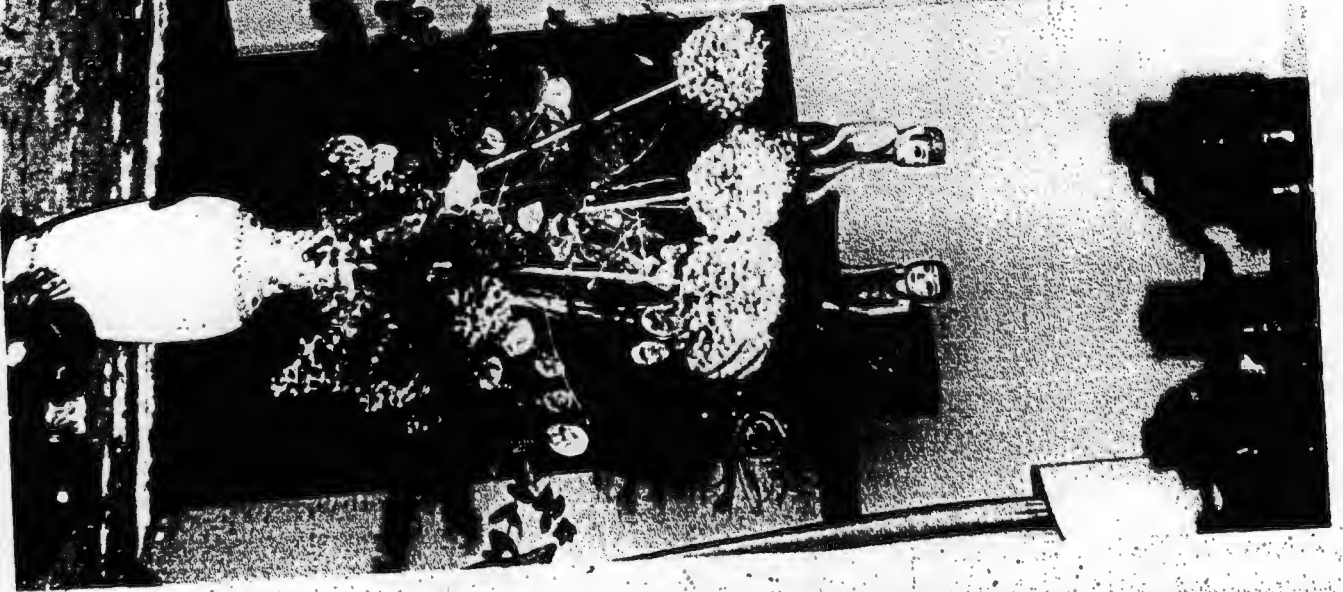
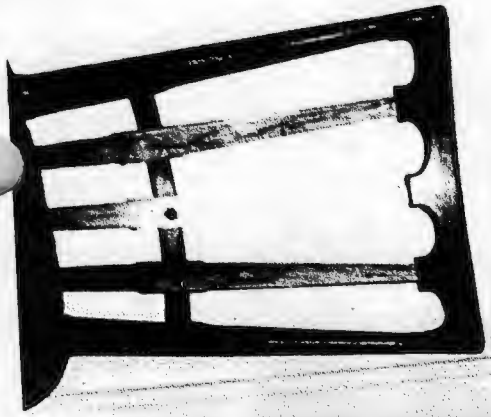












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Lamb-McSwain House
Pulaski Co., AR
UTM Reference:
15/564020/3843020

7553 IV SE
(NORTH LITTLE ROCK)

1910000 FEET

17'30"

1.1 MI. TO INTERSTATE 40

