

Searcy County  
Snowball vic.  
Gates-Helm Farm

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Gates-Helm Farm

other name/site number: SE 0320

2. Location

street & number: Co. Rd. 13; approx. 1 mi. N. of int. w/ Co. Rd. 250

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Snowball

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Searcy

code: AR 129

zip code: 72650

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>      </u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>      </u>	structures
	<u>      </u>	objects
	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of Searcy County

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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.

Cathryn Byrd Sater  
Signature of certifying official

6-14-93  
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

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic: Domestic

Sub: single family dwelling

Current : Domestic

Sub: single family dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation stone roof metal  
walls weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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**8. 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. 1870 - c. 1900

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Helm, William Henry

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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X See continuation sheet.

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:

- X 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: Approximately two

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>514930</u>	<u>3975010</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point 20 feet northeast of northeast corner of the c. 1900 main residence, proceed 450 feet due west, a point approximately 40 feet northwest of the western corner of the log barn. Then proceed 250 feet due south, a point approximately 150 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the c. 1870 log residence. Then proceed 450 feet due east. Then proceed 250 feet due north to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes the c. 1900 residence along with the two associated c. 1870 log structures.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 05/13/93

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

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### Summary

Located on both sides Searcy County Road 13 in the Snowball vicinity, the Gates-Helm Farm consists of a total of three buildings: a rough-hewn, V-notched, single-story, single-pen residence and a single-pen barn of the same construction, both built c. 1870, and a later weatherboard-clad, frame "duplex," erected c. 1900.

### Elaboration

The Gates-Helm Farm is composed of a total of three individual structures, two of which date from the original c. 1870 settlement of this land by Peter Austin Gates: the rough-hewn, V-notched single-pen residence and a single-pen barn.

The single-story residence features exposed logs throughout the exterior with the exception of the rear shed addition, which is covered with both vertical planks and some horizontal weatherboarding. Its single-pen plan is fundamentally square, though a single-story, shed roof porch does extend across the entire front, or eastern elevation. It is supported by four simple wood posts that in turn rest upon a deteriorated wood porch deck. The porch roof shelters a central, single-leaf entrance into the house. A series of stone piers supports the house, which is covered by a corrugated-tin, gable roof.

A massive, stepped chimney anchors the southern elevation, and the only other detail of note is the slightly-projecting portion of the rear shed with its band of window openings (now unglazed) and the entrance on its northeastern face. The western elevation is composed of the rear wall of the frame shed addition, while the northern elevation is fenestrated by a single central shuttered window. This building is currently vacant and for purposes of this nomination is considered an outbuilding.

The associated rough-hewn log barn consists of a single log pen with flanking wood-frame, shed and gable roof additions. An opening in the front provides access into the hay loft, and is covered with a vertical sliding wood plank door. Its metal gable roof, and log and frame walls are all supported by a series of stone piers.

Across the road to the east, the c. 1900 one-and-one-half story, wood frame residence of Plain Traditional construction represents a substantial improvement over the earlier residence. Its L-shaped plan is covered with an intersecting, metal-sheathed (standing seam) gable roof that is augmented with hipped and shed roof porches on both the eastern and western elevations. The frame walls are clad with weatherboard and rest upon a continuous stone foundation. A single exterior end stone chimney rises through the gable peak on the northern elevation.

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The front, or western, elevation is symmetrically-composed, with the pair of single-leaf entrances in the center of the first floor, with a single four-over-four wood sash window placed to either side. The entire front elevation of the first floor is sheltered by a hipped, standing seam metal roof porch supported upon a series of six simple wood posts that in turn rest upon a continuous stone porch foundation and wood deck. The half-story above is lighted by a pair of recently added gable roof dormers that are symmetrically placed and lighted by a single four-over-four wood sash window. The porch is accessed by a two-step, cut-stone stair.

Two symmetrically-placed four-over-four wood sash windows on the first floor and a single central one-over-one wood sash window in the gable peak above comprise the southern elevation. The shed-roof porch to the east is screened and continues across the width of the house's rear, or eastern, elevation and wraps around to the southern facade of rear ell. The porch is accessed via a single-leaf entrance that is reached by a concrete stair. Originally constructed as a pantry addition in 1912, the single-story, hipped-roof room at the rear, or eastern, end of the ell is lighted by a single two-over-two wood sash window. It was later converted into a bathroom.

The northern elevation is anchored by the large, cut-stone chimney that rises through the center of the front gable end. It is flanked by a pair of four-over-four wood sash windows, and two more identical windows light the side gable wall of the ell to the east.

A concrete well is placed just to the east of the rear porch stair, and a metal pump is set into its concrete cap.

Substantial original interior detail remains in the interior of the c. 1900 residence, including horizontal beaded board walls and trim, matching wood mantels and doors, and built-in cupboards and cabinets in the kitchen. A partial stone fruit cellar is located largely underneath the rear porch. An inscription in the concrete floor reveals "April 15, 192 \_" (last numeral unreadable).

The Gates-Helm Farm is located on both sides of Searcy County Road 13 in the Snowball vicinity, approximately one mile north of the intersection with County Road 250. The two log buildings have experienced some additions, though they appear to be historic; otherwise, the chief problem with these structures is their deterioration, particularly with respect to the log residence. By comparison, the later house is in excellent condition, having been continuously occupied. With the exception of the two recently added gable dormers, the alterations to the structure have all occurred historically and thus contribute to the house's essential character as a rural farm residence that of necessity evolved over time.

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### Summary

The Gates-Helm Farm is locally significant under Criterion C as representative of the building style evolution typical of an Ozark Mountain-region family farm between c. 1870 to 1900.

### Elaboration

The Gates-Helm Farm began in 1870 when Peter Austin Gates moved from Georgia with his wife, Paulina, and purchased 80 acres of land near the community of Snowball in Searcy County. Shortly after his purchase, Gates constructed a rough-hewn, V-notched single-pen residence and a single-pen barn of the same construction.

The Gates had ten children, and their fourth child, Frances Jane, married William Henry Helm in 1879. Helm was a farmer as well as a noted carpenter in the area. He was the head carpenter for the construction of the first Snowball school building, and in 1914 Helm and another carpenter, Taylor Campell, were in charge of reconstructing the Searcy County Courthouse roof. Helm also served as a road overseer in 1893.

William Helm and his wife settled on the Gates farm around 1900, and Helm constructed a weatherboard-clad, frame "duple" at this time. The house is located approximately 100 feet east of, and across the road from, his father-in-law's home.

The Gates-Helm Farm is locally significant under Criterion C as representative of the building style evolution on a rural Searcy County farm from c. 1870 to 1900. Although deteriorated, the Gates House and barn are good examples of the type of building form utilized by early settlers in the remote, mountainous terrain of Searcy County. Similarly, the Helm House, a frame "duple" residence, is typical of the residential form constructed in Searcy County after sawn lumber became widely available.



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### Bibliography

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Passmore, Ben. *Interview*, November, 1992.

Searcy County Tax Records: Searcy County Courthouse, Marshall, Arkansas.

Taylor, Arthur. *Interviews*, 1990-1992.

Also see "Historic and Architectural Resources of Searcy County, Arkansas," Section H.





















