

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Thomas E. Hess House

and or common Turk Hess Place

2. Location

street & number State Highway 14 not for publication

city, town Marcella vicinity of

state Arkansas code county Stone code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ewell G. Hess

street & number 2150 Bearette

city, town Batesville vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Stone County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Mountain View state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

file Hist. & Arch. Survey of Stone Co has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Sept. 1982-July 1983 federal state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

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 (all but one corner)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date ca. 1905
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY. The Thomas E. Hess House is a typical I house: a two-story, single-pile house with two rooms on each floor and a central hall. A one-story ell contains the dining room and kitchen. The frame house, built of selected lumber, has a cedar-shingled gable roof and native sandstone foundation. The two-story, centered front porch with hip roof features jigsaw wooden lace ornamentation. The balusters are of native walnut. The L-shaped back porch has been enclosed. The foundation, originally piers, is now continuous. Behind the house are ten outbuildings typical of the sorts of structures necessary to a small working farm. These include two storage sheds, two barns, a cornercrib, two chicken coops, a garage, a pumphouse, and a storm cellar. A large garden lies beside the house, but the land behind the outbuildings has grown up in woods.

ELABORATION. The house faces State Highway 14, which serves as Marcella's Main Street. The front yard is delineated by a decorative woven-wire fence. A concrete sidewalk leads up to the house, and the name "T. E. HESS" is spelled out in block letters in the first square inside the gate. The house is relatively plain in appearance: corner boards capped with molding, simple decorative moldings above the two over two windows, and a transom above the front door with its applied wreath on the lower panel are the only decorations besides the rather restrained jigsaw work and turned balusters of the front porch. The interior is similarly simple.

The hall and stairwell have wainscoting of beaded boards, which also make up the ceiling. The staircase has an attractive free-standing walnut newel post, balusters identical to those on the porch, and scalloped strings.

The front parlor is to the left. It features the house's only mantel, a simple composition of pine boards with minimal millwork. The original sandstone fireplace front was lightly worked by a stonemason using a toothed chisel to produce a grooved band at the edge of the fireplace opening. Recently a wood stove fireplace insert has been installed here. This room has been paneled and the ceiling lowered. The woodwork has all been painted, but the bedroom across the hall retains the original woodgraining.

The dining room, immediately behind the parlor, has beaded board wainscoting and originally had walls of horizontally-applied beaded boards. These have been covered with paneling, and the ceiling has been sheet-rocked.

The kitchen is behind the dining room and has been similarly paneled. Also, a door which once opened into the side yard has been closed up and a double window above a kitchen sink installed in approximately the same space.

The L-shaped back porch has been enclosed. First, the part behind the

United States Department of the Interior
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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 5

bedroom was enclosed to provide a bathroom and a room for the safe where Mr. Hess kept the money and the accounts for the store and the farm. This room now houses a second bathroom. The remainder of the porch was enclosed more recently with horizontal boards and windows.

The two upstairs bedrooms have horizontal board walls which were canvassed and papered. Floors are painted; ceilings of beaded boards were papered. The original woodgraining is extant on all doors, window and door frames, and baseboards. Attic space is available above the rear ell (accessible from the adjoining bedroom) and above the main pile.

In addition to the parlor fireplace, wood stoves were used to heat the house.

Immediately behind the house are a stone and concrete storm cellar, a frame pump house, a storage shed which is half box construction and half frame with stone veneer, and a large box smokehouse with storage. Behind these buildings are the remains of the fence which once separated the yard from the animal lots. Located behind this fence are a frame garage, a chicken coop, a transverse crib barn, a log cornercrib, another barn, and an abandoned chicken coop.

The transverse crib barn has an open central aisle with four stalls to the right and a small granary and larger cornercrib to the left. This central portion has hewn log-sills. A shed on the left appears to be an animal shelter while a smaller shed on the right was apparently for equipment storage. Floored areas above the stalls and cribs held loose hay. The cornercrib, now in deteriorated condition, has hewn log walls joined with square notching. The door is traditional: vertical boards joined with two chamfered horizontal boards. About fifteen feet square, the building was originally located on a neighboring farm, where it served as the first school building in the area. The Hess children went to school there, and Thomas E. Hess purchased it about 1905 and moved it to its present location for use as a cornercrib.

The second barn follows no traditional pattern but contains two cribs, probably for feed storage, three stalls, and a floored area under the roof for hay storage.

The buildings are a good collection of the various types needed in the early twentieth century to support a small farm. They represent also the major building techniques employed in the area in the time period: balloon frame, box, and log.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
... prehistoric	... archeology-prehistoric	... community planning	... landscape architecture	... religion
... 1400-1499	... archeology-historic	... conservation	... law	... science
... 1500-1599	X agriculture	... economics	... literature	... sculpture
... 1600-1699	X architecture	... education	... military	... social
... 1700-1799	... art	... engineering	... music	... humanitarian
... 1800-1899	... commerce	... exploration/settlement	... philosophy	... theater
X 1900-	... communications	... industry	... politics government	... transportation
		... invention		... other (specify)

Specific dates 1900

Builder/Architect Thomas M. Hess, father of Thomas E.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY. Thomas E. Hess was the grandson of William Hess, the first white man to settle on the west bank of White River in present-day Stone County after the departure of the Cherokees in 1828. The Hess family remained the dominant farmers and merchants in that area for three generations, each generation moving a little farther inland. The Thomas E. Hess House has dominated the hamlet of Marcella since its construction in 1900. Other structures on the 6.4 acre plot include a stone cellar, a washhouse and well, a smokehouse, a barn, and a log corn crib, once a school. This log schoolhouse originally stood on the old Evetts place on Wallace Creek and was the first school building in the neighborhood. Abandoned, it was purchased about 1905 by T. E. Hess and moved to its present location. The farmstead, then, is significant both because of its association with the influential pioneer Hess family and because of the collection of buildings still on the site.

ELABORATION. William Hess settled on the west bank of White River in 1828 on land only recently vacated by the Cherokees. He built a log house and store near the ferry landing serving the area's main road to the west. His son, Thomas M. Hess, continued his father's enterprises, transforming the old log house into a general store and moving into a new log home on the ridge above the river before the Civil War. As other families moved in, the settlement on the river became known as Hesstown. Hess's farms prospered too, and in 1869 he and his brother built frame homes a little further up the road. Nearby Hess built a new store and a distillery, becoming increasingly involved in the growing riverboat trade on White River.

By the time Hess's children were grown, he was prosperous enough to give each one some land and to build each a house. These formed the nucleus of the little village which he named Marcella. In 1899 his only son, Thomas E., married Nellie Knight, and in 1900 Thomas M. gave them a house on 6.4 acres of land, the largest house in Marcella.

Except for four years spent in Batesville so that his children could attend school there, Thomas E. Hess (known as Turk) spent his entire life within a quarter mile of the house where he was born, most of those years in the house his father gave him. Turk Hess died in 1973 at the age of 100, his house and the associated outbuildings much as they had always been.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Lankford, George E. Unpublished materials on the Hess family and the development of Marcella. Arkansas College, Batesville, AR.
Luther, Edwin. "Hess Story," Heritage of Stone 1, no. 4 (Spring 1973): 3-7.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 6.4

Quadrangle name Marcella

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References

A
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Pt. of the N $\frac{1}{2}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 6, T13N, R8W, beginning at the SE corner of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of said section 6, which is also the SW corner of the Methodist Episcopal church lot, and running N 158 links; then E 340 links; then N 10 W 573 links to the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Tebbetts, Executive Director

organization Batesville Preservation Assn. date July 30, 1983

street & number P. O. Box 1811 telephone 793-4632

city or town Batesville state Arkansas 72503

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 _____

title _____ date _____

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register _____

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Designation _____

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 6

Massey, Melissa Loy. "History of Marcella," Heritage of Stone 1, no. 4
(Spring 1973), 21-22.

"Celebrates 100th year," Stone County Leader, 25 January 1973.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 7

SE corner of the T. Y. Casey lot; then S $82\frac{1}{2}$ ° W 1035 links; then S 572 links; then E 770 links to the beginning, containing six and $\frac{40}{100}$ acres, more or less.





