

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF STONE COUNTY
STONE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Survey Number ST-31

Owner Mr. & Mrs. Ewell Hess

Property Name Thomas M. Hess House

Address 2150 Barrett St.

Location Marcella

Batesville, AR 72501

Significant Date/s C.1868

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The c. 1868 Thomas M. Hess House is located at Marcella in southeastern Stone County. The house stands east of Highway 14 and faces the unimproved road leading to the bottomland of the White River approximately three-quarters of a mile further east. The Hess House, facing south, was built according to a central hall plan with an original three room ell extending from the west room of the principal block. (The third room of the ell has since been removed and replaced by an open end porch.) The brace framed weatherboard house sits on a continuous three foot stone foundation and is covered by intersecting gable roofs.

The principal (east) facade of the house is distinguished by a Queen Anne inspired porch. The porch replaced an original Greek Revival influenced portico. The hip roofed porch is supported by four decorative cut-out columns adorned with jigsaw bracketing. The porch also features a decorative jigsaw balustrade. The facade displays symmetrically arranged windows on either side of a traditional central hall entrance, which consists of a wood paneled door with sidelights over wood panels and a five light transom. Flush board siding surrounds the entrance. Two large six-over-six double-hung windows create the fenestration of each front room as well as flank the main entrance.

The exterior cut stone chimneys define the south and north gable ends of the central hall portion of the house. The large six-over-six windows are placed on either side of the chimney's firebox. Wide cornice boards are also displayed in the gable ends.

The existing two room rear ell and the L-shaped porch dominate the north and south elevations. An interior cut stone chimney is located between the two rooms. The south side of the ell displays two six-over-six windows, each providing light to their respective rooms. The north side of the ell consists of two wood-paneled doors furnishing access to each room. The open L-shaped porch, supported on stone piers, provides cover for these entrances as well as for the rear entry of the central hall. Seven squared posts support the porch roof. The solid balustrade was built during a later period. The north end of the porch was enclosed for a room. A wood paneled door allows access to the room from the porch. A four-over-four window is located in the west wall of the room.

A ruined stone ancillary building, located a few yards north of the ell, sheltered a generator which provided electricity during a later period and is not part of the major significance of the house.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas M. Hess House is a most significant resource in interpreting the lifestyle of a successful rural entrepreneur, whose wealth was based upon the river commerce and farming in the mid-nineteenth century. Thomas M. Hess, who established Hesstown in eastern Stone County along the White River, inherited the family business, land, and wealth in the late 1860's. As a result of the family success, Thomas M. Hess built this finely crafted central-hall house with a rear ell in 1868. It is the oldest documented central hall house in the county.

Verbal Boundary Description: The nominated property, located within the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of S6, R8W, T13N, is bounded on the east by an unimproved road and on the north, south and west by lines running parallel to and 50 ft. from the three elevations of the house.

Acreage: less than 1
Quadrangle Name: Marcella

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference:
Zone: 15

Easting: 601300

Northing: 3961040

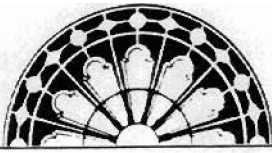


RESOURCE PHOTOGRAPH SHEET

ARKANSAS
HISTORIC
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Historic Resources of Stone County
Thomas M. Hess Homestead, ST-31
Marcella
Don Brown, photographer
1983
Negative on file at the AHPP
Viewed from the northeast

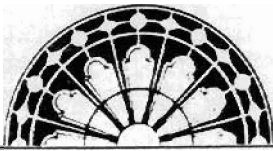


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