

NR listed 11/24/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Collums-Baker House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: SE of int. of U.S. Route 65 & County Rd. 33

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Bee Branch

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Van Buren

code: AR 141

zip code: 72013

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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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 J. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

8-28-92
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 Dwelling

Current : Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian

Other Description: Folk Victorian

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
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: 1907

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Scroggins, Columbus

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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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0. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>555430</u>	<u>3922230</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at the southeast corner of the intersection of U.S. Route 65 & County Rd. 33, proceed south along the eastern curbline of U.S. 65 to a point formed by the intersection of said line and a line formed by the southern elevation of the barn. Then proceed east along this line to the intersection of said line and the western curbline of County Rd. 33. Then proceed northwesterly along the western curbline to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

This boundary, which roughly forms a triangle, includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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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: 08/27/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Collums-Baker House is a one-and-a-half story frame residence constructed in the Folk Victorian Style. Built in 1907, the irregular-plan, weatherboard-clad house rests on a new continuous concrete block foundation and is covered by a composition-shingled gable roof with hipped-roof projections.

Elaboration

Painted a light yellow with white trim and a green roof, the Collums-Baker House is a one-and-a-half story frame residence constructed in 1907 in the Folk Victorian style. The steeply pitched, composition-shingled gable roof provides the space for the second-story room. Two single-story hipped-roof projections are offset on the northern and southern elevations, and an asymmetrically placed cross gable accentuates the western or front elevation. A new continuous concrete block foundation supports the weatherboard-clad frame walls.

The front or western elevation is distinguished by a hipped-roof, wrap-around porch supported by ten box columns. The columns are connected by a turned-spindle balustrade and are adorned by jig-sawn and turned-spindle brackets. Two centrally placed, separate single-leaf doors provide access to the interior. One door leads to the living room, and the other opens into the dining room. These doors are flanked by two one-over-one double-hung windows.

The wrap-around porch curves ninety degrees to the east. Two, side-by-side, one-over-one double-hung windows allow light through the south facing wall behind the porch. The porch turns ninety degrees back to the south along the southern single-story, hipped-roof room. The western elevation of this room is accessed by a single-leaf door at the northern corner and is fenestrated by a single two-over-two double-hung window to the south.

The northern elevation of the house contains two paired, one-over-one, double-hung windows that are centrally placed in the hipped roof bay. To the east, a single-leaf door and a small, one-over-one window punctuate the smaller dropped hipped roof addition. The second story gable end is defined by a pent roof, and a single two-over-two double-hung window illuminates the upstairs room.

Originally, three symmetrically placed two-over-two windows graced the eastern elevation; however, a small, three-over-one Craftsman window has replaced the southernmost window.

The southern elevation of the house consists of a single-story den and garage addition that was constructed in 1971. The addition is covered by a low-pitched

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

hipped roof and is fenestrated by three small aluminum-framed windows on each elevation. On the western side, a single car width aluminum garage door is found at the southwest corner with a single-leaf door placed beside it to the north. The addition is in accord with the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* guideline that new additions ". . . should be designed and constructed so that the character-defining features of the historic building are not radically changed, obscured, damaged, or destroyed in the process of rehabilitation . . ." and must ". . . be clearly differentiated so that the addition does not appear to be part of the historic resource." The Collums-Baker House addition does not radically change, obscure, damage, or destroy any of the character-defining features of the historic house, nor does the addition overwhelm the house. The use of modern windows and a low-pitched hipped roof clearly differentiates the addition from the historic portion, and yet by utilizing wood weatherboarding of the same width as the original and by painting it with the same color scheme, the addition is sympathetic to the historic structure.

The interior is rather plainly adorned in comparison to the exuberant Folk Victorian detail along the porch, but does feature multiple-pane, double-leaf French doors between the living and dining rooms. Other detail of note is found in the living room where simple wainscoting circumscribes the room.

There is a historic barn and storm cellar on the property; however, due to modern repairs and reconstructions, these structures no longer possess the integrity required for National Register listing.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 **Summary**

The Collums-Baker House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example in Bee Branch of the Folk Victorian style of architecture.

Elaboration

The Collums-Baker House was built in 1907 for Milton Collums, a rural mail carrier. The older people in the community attribute the design and construction of the house to Columbus Scroggins of Damascus, a well-known carpenter in southern Van Buren County. In 1925, Ervin and Lizzie Baker moved into the house shortly after their marriage in February of that year. Their daughter, Mary Helen Baker, is the current owner of the property.

The area around the modern community of Bee Branch was settled circa 1830 by pioneers from Tennessee, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Carolinas. More accurate information is unavailable due to the loss of all records in the Van Buren County Courthouse fire of 1859. After the Civil War, several families from Illinois and Kansas moved to the Bee Branch area along with a few settlers from Tennessee, Georgia, and Alabama. The next major wave of immigration came in 1873, when four families from Newburg, Mississippi stopped their oxen-pulled wagons in Bee Branch and decided to abandon their westward journey and settle in the area. The first mention of any mercantile activity in the area occurred in 1881-1882 when J. E. Scanlan arrived in a slatted "chicken or peddling" wagon. According to *A History of Van Buren County*, Scanlan "put up a second store in Bee Branch, having a line of pins, thread, button, notions, and a few bolts of cloth." Coinciding with this development, the post office was moved from Cross Roads to a new log house in Bee Branch, where it remained until 1975. Scanlan also built the first frame residence in Bee Branch in about 1881 for his new bride.

A tornado wrecked much of the town in 1909, two years after the Collums-Baker House was constructed. In describing the destruction, *A History of Van Buren County* provides a fair depiction of the size of Bee Branch at the time the Collums-Baker House was built. Three stores, a blacksmith shop, an iron jail, and a cotton gin were destroyed in addition to four homes in the town and surrounding area.

The Collums-Baker House is locally significant under Criterion C as the best example in the Bee Branch area of a Folk Victorian-style residence. Because of the vernacular nature of the house and the relative lack of ornamentation, the Collums-Baker House can not technically be classified as a Queen Anne-style

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

residence; however, under the broad umbrella of the Folk Victorian style, defined in *A Field Guide to American Houses* as the presence of Italianate, Queen Anne, or Gothic Revival detailing on plain traditional house forms, the Collums-Baker house represents superb execution of the concept. By utilizing a relatively complex roofline, asymmetrical massing, and a wrap-around porch, the builder produced an imaginative vernacular form that certainly exceeds the simple building plan as defined by the Folk Victorian style. The Victorian detailing, though used sparingly, is most effectively and gracefully presented in the form of delicate jig-sawn and turned-spindle brackets which adorn the porch box columns and the turned-spindle balustrade along the wrap-around porch.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

A History of Van Buren County. Conway, Arkansas: River Road Press, 1976.

Information Supplied by Mary Helen Baker, February 1992.

1. JUN. MORGANTON 27 MI. HIDDEN 15 MI.

Cumms-Baker
Hoose
Bee Branch vic.
Arkansas

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