

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

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

1. Name

historic Vest, John S., House
Vest-McEnany House

and/or common John S. Vest House, "The Old Brick House"

2. Location

street & number 21 North West Street _____ not for publication

city, town Fayetteville _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Third

state Arkansas code 05 county Washington code 143

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Donald Patrick McEnany

street & number 21 North West Street

city, town Fayetteville _____ vicinity of _____ state Arkansas 72701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse

street & number College Avenue and East Center Street

city, town Fayetteville _____ state Arkansas 72701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Washington County Historic Register Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February 2, 1976 _____ federal _____ state county _____ local

depository for survey records Washington County Historical Society

city, town Fayetteville _____ state Arkansas 72701

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The John S. Vest House (1870) is a two story brick structure that reflects, through modest Italianate and Gothic design elements, the architectural eclecticism of the 19th century. Its broad, overhanging eaves, paired brackets, and steeply pitched roof suggest the popular Gothic Revival style, while its symmetrical proportions and tall, narrow silhouette are reminiscent of Italian Renaissance-derived forms.

The brick portion of the house is a two story single mass with central hall. The hall contains a stair with turned balustrade. The hallway is quite narrow, but the stair is well proportioned to the space. A high gabled roof extends over the front of the house. The roof was originally covered with pine shingles but they have been replaced by asphalt shingles. The deep overhanging eaves are partially supported by three sets of paired brackets on the gable ends and by nine sets of brackets on the front. Each of the wooden brackets ends in a turned pendant.

The front facade consists of a classically detailed porch which features wooden Doric columns on brick pedestals. Entrance is offered through a centrally-located four-panel door with a three-light transom. There is also a centered door on the second story which opens to the porch roof. This door contains a stained glass window which is an alteration.

There are flat arches above the two one-over-one (1/1) double-hung windows on the gable ends. On the north elevation a flat arch supports the opening for an outside four-panel door with three-light transom. A gabled single-bay portico with Classical Doric columns protects the north entrance.

The building is constructed upon a continuous brick foundation. Load-bearing walls ten inches thick complete the structural system. These are constructed of a common bond of locally-produced red bricks which are still held together with lime mortar.

The front and north porches are c. 1921 additions. The present owner of the house plans to replace these, and is considering various suggestions that would match the original style of the house. There is considerable physical evidence to indicate the appearance of the original porches.

The one-story frame addition on the rear of the brick structure was built in about 1905 to replace an earlier, perhaps original, frame addition which was destroyed by fire. The addition is covered by a hip roof which is penetrated by two brick chimneys. Its board siding has been covered by cedar shingles. One single light and three four-over-four (4/4) double-hung windows penetrate the addition. The foundation is constructed of coursed native stone. There are two single-light back doors that open on a redwood platform porch constructed in 1977.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1870 **Builder/Architect** John S. Vest

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Vest House is a two-story red brick cottage built in 1870. It is a small, unpretentious home that can readily stand on its own as a significant example of 19th century domestic architecture. The house is also an important part of a rich post-Civil War brick tradition in and around Fayetteville. Some of the area's grandest, most imposing buildings date from the reconstruction period and have collectively come to symbolize the recovery of the area from a particularly devastating war experience. The more stately relatives of the Vest House, Old Main on the University of Arkansas campus, the Gregg, Walker-Knerr-Williams, Johnson, and Combs Houses, which were all built at about the same time, are on the National Register of Historic Places.

John S. Vest, born in New York City, came to Fayetteville after the Civil War. He was a brick mason. In 1870, when he was 35 years old, Vest went into partnership with John H. Kelton in order to manufacture bricks and take on building contracts. The Kelton-Vest brick works seems to have prospered. There is evidence that it supplied bricks for Old Main, the Walker-Knerr-Williams House and the walls around the Federal Cemetery. Vest built the house at just about the same time, mid-1870, that the Kelton-Vest brick works began operations. Vest had a house elsewhere in town and apparently never intended to live in this one himself. He sold the home to Reding Putnam in October, 1870. Putnam, a leader in the Fayetteville community, owned the property until 1879. At different times Putnam was a teacher, a doctor and a merchant. He owned a considerable amount of property in the Fayetteville area. It is not certain, but he and his family may have lived in the Vest House for a time.

The Vest House changed hands several times in the 19th century. From 1898 to 1917

Mrs. Sarah Harris owned it and made the house her retirement home. Mrs. Delnora J. Fincher bought it in 1920. She and her family owned it until recent times. Donald McEnany is the current owner.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Fayetteville, 1897, 1904, 1908, 1913, 1919
Washington County property records, 1860-1890
Fayetteville Democrat, 1868-1874 (especially April 2, 1870, p. 3)
William S. Campbell, One Hundred Years of Fayetteville, 1828-1928, pp. 40, 104

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Fayetteville

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	5	3	9	5	0	4	0	3	9	1	4	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The northern portion of Block 21, Original Town. Bounded on the east by West Street, on the south by the Ella Fincher Tharp property, on the west by a railroad right-of-way, and on the north by Meadow Street.

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

state Arkansas code 05 county Washington code 143

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert D. Besom

organization _____

date 2/1/79

street & number 17 North Locust

telephone 501-442-9208

city or town Fayetteville

state Arkansas 72701

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Jean Williams Baldridge

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/14/79

For HCRS use only

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

Arthur Charles O'Shea
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

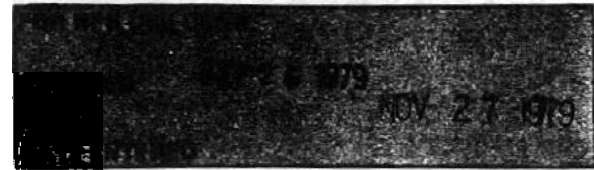
Chief of the Office

11-27-79

1/26/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

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The interior of the house seems to be almost totally original. A fire which destroyed much of the frame addition 70 years ago did little more than char the upstairs floor and doors of the brick portion. **The charred parts were painted over after the fire.** The interior surfaces are plaster on wood lath and plaster on the brick. The plaster is intact.

The present plan of the home consists of a parlor, two bedrooms and a storage room, all in the brick portion, and a living room, bathroom and kitchen in the frame addition. **The grounds around the home, especially the back yard, have been beautifully landscaped.** Throughout the spring-summer-fall seasons, the flower gardens provide a rare and brilliant spectacle.