

NR LISTED
11-8-74

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Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE	Arkansas
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	NOV 8 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: Lake-Bell House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Lake-Shores-Bell House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route 2 - N. Prairie Grove

CITY OR TOWN: Prairie Grove vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third

STATE: Arkansas

CODE: 05

COUNTY: Washington

CODE: 143

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Mr. and Mrs. Bunn Bell

STREET AND NUMBER: Rural Route 2

CITY OR TOWN: Prairie Grove

STATE: Arkansas

CODE: 05

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: College Avenue & East Center Street

CITY OR TOWN: Fayetteville

STATE: Arkansas

CODE: 05

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

CODE:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HB
2/15

STATE:
COUNTY:

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Milton F. Lake House is a one-storey brick structure strongly reflecting, in its front facade and its interior decorative detailing, the symmetrical Georgian and Greek Revival house designs of the early 19th century.

The front facade, consisting of a portico entrance door with transom and sidelights and flanked by double-hung windows, gives expression to the two front rooms and the wide entrance hall. From a precisely frontal view there is no hint of the multi-room ell which extends to the rear behind the two front parlors.

Double-pitched roofs with an 8/12 slope cover the main block, the ell, and the entrance portico. Originally wood shingled, the roof was re-shingled with cedar in 1932, and more recently, with asphalt shingles. The front parlors have fireplaces, their outside chimneys straddling the ridge. The brick chimneys terminate in corbeled caps.

The ell extending to the rear, built as a part of the original house, is three rooms deep. The first two rooms of the ell wing are bedrooms which were once heated by a back-to-back fireplace located in the common partition wall. The third room is a kitchen which has undergone a number of modifications and is now completely modernized. Parallel to these three rooms are secondary spaces, consisting of an open porch off the front parlors, a dining room and a rear pantry.

Most of the interior surfaces were plastered, sometimes directly on brick, sometimes on wood lath. Much of the original plaster is intact. Some of the original floors are in place, though most have been replaced or recovered.

The present plan consists of a parlor, library, three bedrooms, two bathrooms, dining room, breakfast room, entrance hall and a sun porch. The latter was added to the west end of the house and is glazed on three sides.

Modernizations have included new plumbing, electric wiring, and a heating system with a gas-fired furnace. Access to the utility-room basement in which the furnace is located is by a narrow stairway concealed in the bedroom floor by an inconspicuous trap door floor panel. Two new double-hung windows have been installed on both sides of the fireplace in the front parlor (south wall). These windows match the large front windows in height but are narrower. Frames and trim of the new windows match the original, providing a beveled window reveal which widens the opening at the inside face, presumably to allow maximum light to pass through the 12-inch brick walls.

I N S T R U C T I O N S

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Description (Continued - Page 2)

Another new window has been added between the breakfast room and the sun porch at the rear of the house. This affords a pleasing view of the rear gardens and pastureland from the breakfast table.

The entrance portico was missing for a number of years and the present one is a reconstruction. Slender wood columns have been made to match columns supporting the porch at the rear of the parlors. The floor of the portico is of brick. The narrow white fascia of the portico roof, as well as the fascia of the main roof, are without ornamentation.

Always used as a farm house, the Lake-Bell House has had the typical variety of out-buildings through the years. A barn built at the same time as the house still stands, though it has been altered extensively. The original well is still extant, though the well house has long since been removed.



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7. Description (Lake-Shores-Bell House - Page 3)

The Lake-Shores Bell House has been changed very little during its one hundred year existence. The basic ell-shape floor plan has been altered only by the 1952 addition of a glass walled porch on the west leg of the ell. In that same year the open porch in the elbow of the ell was enclosed using brick from the milk house.

One interior wall was moved in 1932 when Mr. and Mrs. Shores moved into the house. The east wall of the pantry (see diagram) was moved four feet further east, making the area large enough for a breakfast room. Because the house had been badly misused for a number of years, most of the original flooring had to be replaced when the house was made habitable in 1932. However, the original flooring remains in the entry hall and the north parlor. The original brick floor of the kitchen lies three feet below the present floor which was raised to the level of the rest of the house.

The Lake-Shores-Bell House is in excellent condition due to the efforts of the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bunn Bell. When Mrs. Bell's parents bought the property in 1932, the Bell's supervised the restoration. Since 1952, Mr. and Mrs. Bell have resided in the house. Situated just west of the Prairie Grove Battlefield Park, the Lake-Shores-Bell House is enhanced by its pastoral setting.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Lake-Shores-Bell House is a well preserved example of the one-storey brick farm house of a well-to-do gentlemen farmer, statesman, and community leader of the post-Civil War era in north Arkansas. Though modest in size and architectural detailing, the house is nevertheless notable for the individuality of its plan, for the deceptively grand scale of its high ceiling interiors, and, particularly, for the care and skill with which it has been renovated.

Milton F. Lake came to northwest Arkansas from Kentucky in the late 1860's and purchased a large farm, portions of which had been the scene of the Battle of Prairie Grove (Prairie Grove Battlefield Park is a National Register property). The precise date of construction is uncertain, though it is thought to have started in 1868 and to have continued over a three year period. A granddaughter of Mr. Lake, Mrs. Kathleen Cummins of Prairie Grove, says her father recalled preparing meals for the plastering crew when he was 16 years old, which would have been in 1870. Alexander Hendry, one of the leading carpenter/contractors in Washington County during this decade, was involved in the construction of the Lake House. Hendry was later to be one of the prime contractors in building the University Hall at the Arkansas Industrial University, some 15 miles away in Fayetteville.

M. F. Lake was a man of considerable political ability, for in less than ten years after coming to Arkansas, he was a member of the Arkansas legislature. By 1874 he had been appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Arkansas Industrial University. In that same year he was appointed to serve on the University's third building committee. Additionally, he was one of the signers of the 1874 Constitution of Arkansas.

The Lake House remained in the family until 1932 when a daughter of the builder, Mrs. Ella Barnett, sold it to Mr. John C. Shores, a retired insurance man from Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Shores did some remodelling in 1934, and subsequently transferred ownership to his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bunn Bell.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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Significance (Continued - Page 2)

Modernization of the house by Mr. and Mrs. Bell began in 1952, and has been painstaking and meticulous. They have attempted to change as little as possible of the original fabric of the building while incorporating into the house the comforts and conveniences of contemporary life. In this respect the house can be regarded as a model of adaptive preservation.



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Washington County Record Book, Vol. 278, p. 461.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36	00	3.6
NE	° ' "	° ' "	94	18	20.1
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Margaret Mitchell and Cyrus A. Sutherland, Professor

ORGANIZATION: Department of Architecture DATE: 9-10-74

STREET AND NUMBER: University of Arkansas

CITY OR TOWN: Fayetteville STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name William E. Henderson

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date September 10, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

[Signature]
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/8/74

ATTEST:
[Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11-8-74

SEE INSTRUCTIONS