

NIU-500 4/15/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Thrasher, John, Homestead
other names/site number Resource #WH0089

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication N/A
city, town Midway vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county White code 145 zip code 72568

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
VACANT/ Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Vernacular/ Double-Pen

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____ stone
walls _____ board and batten
roof _____ metal
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1885

Significant Dates

c. 1885

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Thrasher, John

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section B.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property _____

UTM References

A Zone Easting Northing

B Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 16 April, 1990

street & number 225 E Markham, Suite 300 telephone 501-371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Description

The John Thrasher Farmstead is being nominated for its residence only, which is a one-and-one-half story, gable roof building of double-pen, saddlebag design and box construction. The central chimney typical of this floor plan was actually an exterior end, massive cut stone chimney originally, but was later enclosed within a chimney closet when the slightly smaller western pen was added. The original gable roof kitchen, which featured an open passageway between it and the main house, was later rebuilt and the passageway enclosed, though the current kitchen retains the wall and entrance that would have composed the front of the kitchen as well as the same puncheon floor that exists in the older pen. The exterior walls are board-and-batten, the roof is covered with corrugated metal, and the foundation is composed of stone piers.

A central, single-leaf entrance on the southern elevation provides access to the chimney closet only. Two four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows flank the single-leaf entry in the original, eastern pen, while a single, identical window lights the western pen, placed to the west of the third single-leaf entry. The continuous platform across the front may have been covered by a porch roof earlier, though its advanced state of deterioration and the lack of evidence of rafters attached to the wall of the building make this difficult to prove. The northern elevation features a blank wall on the rear of the eastern pen, two covered windows on the rear of the kitchen ell, and a pair of entrances into the rear of the newer, western ell, with the wall finished by a covered window.

The eastern and western elevations are similar in that neither is currently open, though a window opening in the western elevation has been covered with corrugated metal.

The interior is simple and without discernible ornament. The original half-turn staircase located in the northwest corner of the original pen survives, though a second, later staircase has been added in the space directly behind the chimney, which provides access to the sleeping loft above the eastern pen from the kitchen ell. Of greatest significance, however, is the construction of the floors. The floors of the newer pen are composed of a simple plank deck supported on 2" x 8" boards for both plates and joists; however, the floor of the older pen is a puncheon floor, constructed of split, rough-hewn logs that are half-notched at the ends to fit over the sills, which are also slightly notched to receive them. The plank deck is sealed underneath with molded battens, which form the surface laid upon the puncheons. This batten method is employed for both the floor of the first story and the ceiling of the second story sleeping loft, although the second floor is composed of sawn, square-end joists that rest upon summer beams nailed into the wall planks along the long sides of the house. These joists are covered with a plank deck and molded battens on the ceiling of the first story and with the plank deck only on the floor of the sleeping loft (this floor has since been removed and salvaged), both of which create a space equal to the height of the joists. The summer beams that support the second floor are covered on the first floor with slanted, "gambrel" boards which round off the ceiling.

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Significance

The John Thrasher Farmstead residence is an outstanding example of vernacular craftsmanship in the service of both the construction of a single pen residence originally and in the expansion of that home into a saddlebag residence. It was built (and later enlarged) by John Thrasher, a local farmer, c. 1885 on land adjacent to another farmstead, that of the Ransom family. The skill and construction expertise exhibited in both the overall framing and the notching of the sills and puncheons of the older, eastern pen are obvious; however, the use of molded battens to insulate the first floor of the pen and to finish the first story ceiling while also sealing the cracks to the sleeping loft above is a solution that is both practical and aesthetically consonant with the use of battens throughout the rest of the structure. The desire to finish off the first floor space with the gambrel boards that hide the summer beams for the second floor is unusual and equally creative. In spite of its unfortunate state of decay, the John Thrasher Farmstead House remains a remarkable, relatively intact testimonial to the craftsmanship and aesthetic sensibilities of a rural builder and carpenter during the Railroad era as manifested in a gable roof, saddlebag plan residence; thus it is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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National Park Service**

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Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Acreage of property: Less than one

UTM References:

A 15/625720/3929340

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point located 50 feet to the northeast of the northeast corner of the residence (located approximately 3,900 feet west of U.S. Highway 167 and 275 feet south of County Road 359), proceed southerly for a distance of approximately 200 feet on a line parallel to the eastern elevation to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with its southern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with its northern elevation; thence proceed easterly for a distance of approximately 200 feet along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The original lot has been subdivided during the non-historic period, resulting in an indefinite current lot boundary; therefore, this boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.







