

Nov. 10, '89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational 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 Jack Wood House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Judson Avenue☐ not for publication N/Acity, town Judsonia☐ vicinity N/Astate Arkansascode ARcounty Whitecode AR - 145zip code 72081

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

5. National Park Service Certification

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade/Business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Box Construction

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Wood/Shingles

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary. Though its current appearance dates from c. 1924, the original one-and-one-half story, gable roof, box construction portion of this house dates from c. 1890. The Jack N. Wood House is a one-and-one-half story, wood box construction residence with one single-story box construction ell projecting from the southern elevation and a later single-story frame ell projecting from the eastern elevation. The main portion of the house originally retained a full basement (which has since been filled), and all principal components of the house are covered with gable roofs.

Elaboration. The Jack N. Wood House as it appears today is largely a Craftsman style residence; however, its original one-and-one-half story box construction section was erected 1890, and its single-story box ell was probably added soon thereafter if it is not original also. The frame ell with a southern porch supported by turned wood posts was added by 1907, as was the original western entrance porch. This porch also featured turned posts originally; these were replaced with box columns in the 1924 renovations, which saw the southern porch on the frame ell filled, the frame ell largely refitted with Craftsman windows, and the entire building resheathed in weatherboarding. All three principal components of the house are covered with restored wood shingle gable roofs.

The western or main elevation is composed of the original one-and-one-half story box construction section to the north and the single-story box construction ell extending to the south. The northern component is fenestrated with a pair of grouped, fixed wood single-pane windows in the gable peak and a pair of one-over-one wood sash windows flanking the central doorway below. The low wood entrance porch is covered with a single-story hipped roof porch supported on four wood box columns. The gable roof ell to the south is relieved only by a pair of grouped one-over-one wood sash windows placed in the center of the wall.

The southern elevation is composed of the gable end of the box ell to the west and the southern wall of the frame ell to the east. The gable end is fenestrated only with a pair of one-over-one wood sash windows on the first floor, flanked by a pair of louvered wood shutters, painted black. To the east, the frame ell is accessed by a central entrance and fenestrated with two three-over-one wood sash windows to the west evenly spaced between the abutting wall and the entrance, and a pair of grouped three-over-one wood sash windows to the east. The roof above changes in pitch as it extends to cover the original porch, now filled.

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The eastern elevation consists of the side wall of the box ell and the half-story of the original box structure that rises above the 'salt-box' form of the end of the frame ell. The wall of the box ell is highlighted by a single one-over-one wood sash window and the raised half-story of the original box section features only a single fixed wood window to the south of the peak of the frame ell's gable. The 'salt box' end of the frame ell is fenestrated by one three-over-one wood sash window to the south and a grouped pair of three-over-one wood sash windows in the center of the gable wall.

The northern elevation is relieved by a one-over-one wood sash window to the east and a pair of grouped one-over-one wood sash windows toward the west, all of which are set into the wall of the single-story frame ell. The wall of the original box section of the house features a grouped pair of one-over-one wood sash windows, centrally placed. The simple interior features some original moldings, plaster walls, and hardwood floors.

The structure's appearance has been altered since its original box form was constructed, but the structural integrity of the box form has not been compromised, nor has it been replaced. Its simple, vernacular Craftsman exterior complements the structural simplicity of its predominantly box construction.

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northern riverbank, and not of itself a major destination for settlement or commerce. In 1870 a group of Baptists from Michigan and the Chicago area came via riverboat to Prospect Bluff to found a Baptist colony among a population that purportedly needed their spiritual guidance.

One of the goals of this community--which settled to the north of the original settlement of Prospect Bluff--was the establishment of a Baptist college. They appointed a board of trustees to raise funds and procure land for such a venture, named Judson University after one of America's first Baptist missionaries, Adoniram Judson (the Baptists were influential enough to get the name of the town changed to Judsonia in 1874). For a period of approximately fourteen years, these trustees purchased and attempted to retain the lot of land in question for the purpose of permanently siting this school. However, the University's recurring financial problems, coupled with the increasing development pressures brought on by the construction of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad in 1872 not only delayed any actual construction of a school facility but also forced the trustees to start subdividing the 250 acre parcel and selling off lots presumably for residences. A lawsuit recorded in 1879 against the school mentions both the lack of construction and the subdividing of the original parcel, the latter claim of which is supported by an 1876 deed to a Henry S. Reynolds. This deed is also the first evidence of any settlement activity that can be traced to this house site specifically, as the deed grants both all of Block 1 West and all of Block 1 East, according to the original plat of Judsonia, and for a total of \$600.00; the Jack N. Wood House is located on Block 1 East. Yet no mention is made of any structures on the site, and paradoxically, the University had regained ownership of the entire 250 acre parcel by 1886 without any record of transfer.

The attributed date of 1890 seems fairly accurate for two reasons. Both box sections of the house were constructed with square nails, a building technology that quite likely would not have been used after 1900, especially in an active commercial and transportation hub where wire nails would have been available. Secondly, the deed records indicate ownership by John DeBois and his wife Hattie before 1900, the year in which they sold the property to Alfred W. Henson, the same Henson for which the Henson House in Judsonia is named. John DeBois was the builder of the original single-story frame portion of the Henson House (constructed 1884; listed 10/23/86), and hence it is likely that he would have built himself a frame structure of far greater sophistication; thus the house predates his occupancy of the property. The DeBois family's date of occupancy for this property is not recorded in the deed information, but the 1890 date is probably the latest date for the use of square nails in this particular area and town.

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The Jack N. Wood House is a locally unique example of box construction. The technique of box construction--defined by the use of heavy wood planks nailed vertically to a sill supporting the plate holding the roof rafters and deck, and which form the walls of the building itself without the use of studs, braces or other framing--is a vernacular building method traditionally employed by those who are unskilled at frame construction and who simply needed to enclose a space against the elements in the most expedient and ostensibly reliable fashion. The Jack N. Wood House, through its application of this technique to a taller and more technically ambitious structure, exhibits a level of craftsmanship and skill unusual for this building type in Judsonia. The Jack N. Wood House survives as the finest and most ambitious example in Judsonia of a vernacular and relatively common building method as handled by a skilled craftsman and builder.

The house is named for the late Jack N. Wood, an asphalt paving contractor who was well-known throughout Arkansas and who had owned this property with his wife Marye since 1940.

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

Significant Dates

1890

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Significance. The Jack N. Wood House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance for its unique construction. It is a locally rare example of a one-and-one-half story box construction residence, the structural planks of which extend through the full height of the structure. Its box portions continue to serve the same purpose as when they were built, in that the wall planks provide the only load-bearing support for the roof.

Elaboration. The Jack N. Wood House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance, but for its unique construction technique rather than its architecture. Though the name of the original builder does not survive, the builder's craftsmanship is evident by virtue of the fact that a vernacular building method typically reserved for single-story structures is here employed in the erection of a one-and-one-half story residence with a plank floor in the upper half-story. No other buildings survive in the town of Judsonia exhibiting this structural design in this scale.

The original box components of the Jack N. Wood House are difficult to date exactly. The earliest deed records concerning the property on which the house sits date to 1852, when a John Exum bought the eastern half of the northwest quarter of Section 34, Township 8 North, Range 6 West with a military land warrant. This grant was confirmed by President Franklin Pierce one year later, and the entire northwest quarter of Section 34 was granted to a Robert M. Exum (presumably a brother) by President James Buchanan in 1857, also by virtue of a military land warrant (although he had taken title from the United States earlier, in 1854). Before his title to the property was even confirmed by President Buchanan, however, Robert Exum and his wife Sarah has sold the entire northwest quarter of Section 34 plus the northern half of the southwest quarter to a James McCauley for a total of \$1,600. It was in this deed that the acreage is recorded as a total of 250 acres.

This parcel remained intact in spite of an assortment of property exchanges and court actions throughout the next twenty years, a period of time which saw great changes in the town formerly known as Prospect Bluff. This community could trace its origins to the mid-nineteenth century, when it probably served as a ferry crossing on the Little Red River; yet it was by all accounts only a small community, concentrated near the

☒ See continuation sheet

Abstract of Title to Property of Jack N. Wood, 10/17/74.

Orr, W.E., That's Judsonia, (Judsonia, 1957).

Sherwood, Diana, "Arkansas Baptist Colony, 1870," Arkansas Gazette, Sunday magazine section, 7/20/41, p.2.

Wood family records (in the possession of Marye Wood).

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

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A 115 623945 3904790
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Southern half of Block 1 East, Judson University
Addition to City of Judsonia

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian/Joe DeRose, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date September 29, 1989

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