

Survey Number CH-13Owner Joe RobinsonProperty Name Earle HouseAddress Canehill, AR 72717Location East of Highway 45Construction Date 1859

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Sited on a densely planted raised site with stone retaining walls defining its east and west boundaries, the Earle House is visually secluded from the nearby highway. The one-story woodframe weatherboard-faced single-pile structure raised above grade on its stone foundation retains its nineteenth-century integrity virtually unaltered. A medium-pitched gable roof which breaks into a shed at the rear (east) shelters the building. The house's symmetrical front (west) elevation features a fine vernacular interpretation of a Greek Revival portico, here articulated as a central one-story gable-roofed element. The portico features boxed columns with capitals articulated in a triglyph-like design, and finely proportioned frieze and shallow box cornice and raking cornice which together create a distinct pediment in the gable end. A box cornice with cornice moulding caps the entire structure and brick chimneys terminate the north and south gable ends. Simple rectangular windows comprise the building's symmetrical fenestration and a multi-light transom and sidelights articulate its entrance. The house was designed on a traditional central hall plan. A root cellar was constructed under half of the structure. Of particular note are the outbuildings, possibly of pre-Civil War construction, that survive on the Earle House site, including a springhouse, a barn and the ruins of a chimney that may have been part of an early detached kitchen.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Earle House is of great significance to the Canehill community as an outstanding example of the architecture of the pre-Civil War era and as the home of Dr. Fountain R. Earle, president of Canehill College from the time of his arrival in Canehill in 1858 until the institution closed in 1891. During his long tenure, Dr. Earle was responsible for the reopening of the school after the Civil War and oversaw the merging of the Canehill College with the Canehill Female Academy. With an extraordinary degree of original fabric, including related outbuildings, surviving the property also offers a great deal of information about the mid-nineteenth-century domestic order. Its Greek Revival-derived details and proportions, especially as displayed in the central portico, are extremely fine and accurate, particularly in the context of a vernacular example. They contribute substantially to the building's significance as the best surviving Greek Revival style structure in Canehill.

Verbal Boundary Description Block 2, Original Plat, Part of Lot 12Acreage less than one acreQuadrangle Name Lincoln, Ark.Quadrangle Scale 1:24000

M Reference

Zone 15 Easting 374 030 Northing 3974 120