

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR LISTED

JUN 03 1998

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Harris House

Other Name/Site Number: Griffin-Harris House (PU9976)

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 6507 Fourche Dam Pike

City/Town: Little Rock

Not for Publication: N/A

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Pulaski

Code: AR 119

Zip Code: 72201

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Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: BUILDING

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	_____	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Harris House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:
Other: Spanish Eclectic

Materials: foundation STUCCO roof ASPHALT
walls STUCCO other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 6507 Fourche Dam Pike in Little Rock, Pulaski County, the Harris House is a one-story, stucco veneered residence constructed in 1924 in the Spanish Eclectic style. The characteristic exterior details include a tower, parapets, open-ended rafters, and battered columns. Extraordinary interior details include several elaborate plaster designs, and pilasters on either side of the fireplace. The nomination also includes a c. 1940's garage apartment in a style that matches the residence.

Elaboration

The Harris House is a one-story, stucco-veneered, Spanish Eclectic-style residence with a continuous stucco-covered foundation. The irregular plan features a projecting tower on the northwestern corner. The roof of the main house is sloped behind a parapet that is capped by concrete. A sunroom and a 1950s addition have flat roofs with wide, boxed eaves and the garage has a flat roof behind a parapet on the north and west. Window types include wooden double-hung, and wooden casement. Alterations include a recent conversion of a screened-in porch to a sunroom, a 1940s garage apartment addition, and a rear addition from the 1950s.

The front, or north, elevation is dominated by the tower near its northeastern corner. On front of the tower facing the road is a ribbon of three geometric-paned, double-hung windows separated by two fluted pilasters. A single, small arched window with concrete drip molding and sill is placed above the windows. Also cut into the tower is the front

Harris House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

door that contains three beveled lights and opens from the east side of the tower onto a concrete stoop. Directly in front of the door is a small wing wall. A composition shingle covered, shed roof is supported by a knee bracket and covers the porch and three one-over-one double-hung windows. The west wing holds two nine-by-nine casement windows surrounded by decorative concrete molding. An arched porte-cochere supported by battered stucco posts is adorned with arrow-shaped molding detail at the western junctions of the arches and the house. The roof of the porte-cochere is lower than the house roof.

A small, arched hyphen links the carport area to the double-bay stuccoed garage apartment addition. A long, narrow sidewalk leads back to a wooden three-light Craftsman-styled door. Between the house and the garage is a modern patio area paved with salvaged bricks from the owner's grandmother's house nearby.

Along the western elevation of the house, a line of three battered stucco posts separates double arches on the porte-cochere. Beneath the roof of the covered parking area is a nine-by-nine, double door with a single concrete step. Two, short one-over-one, double-hung windows open into the kitchen. To the south of the windows is a modern paneled door. The parapet above the porte-cochere is stepped down toward the south. A flat-roofed addition built in the 1950's is found on the rear of the house. Originally clad in wood, it has recently been stuccoed to match the rest of the house. The 1950s addition features one wooden six-light paneled door and two-over-two windows. Beside the addition the rear elevation is fenestrated with a short two-over-two window beside three larger two-over-two windows.

The eastern elevation contains the original screened-in porch that the owners have since converted into a sun room. All three walls contain large rectangular stationary glass windows. On the center of the eastern elevation of the sunroom is a modern wooden door with a single light that gives access to the sauna. Inside the sunroom--on what was originally the outside wall--the original door remains, but one large flanking window has been infilled. Another exterior casement window remains within the sun room. The eastern curve of the turret holds a battered stucco chimney decorated with a blind arch below and three smooth squares at the apex. A stepped parapet echos the western roofline.

The 1940's garage apartment connected to the main building by an arched hyphen was added by the original owners to generate extra income. A parapet conceals a shed roof that slopes toward the east. The west wall of the garage is long and uncomplicated. It is broken up by two plain pilasters with angled tops that end just before the roof line. Flanking the rear pilaster toward the south end is a pair of two-over-two double-hung windows covered by black metal awnings. A sliding metal door opens onto a concrete stoop behind a tall wooden fence. On the south, or rear, elevation there is a plywood wall fenestrated by a ribbon of three two-over-two double-hung windows. One square wooden post supports a recessed porch with a concrete stoop. Beneath the roof of the porch is a sliding metal door.

Harris House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

The interior of the Harris House features a round living room with a fireplace flanked by two fluted plaster pilasters. The dining room and living room walls contain varying sizes of plaster rectangles surrounded by thin molding. Originally intended for murals, these were never completed due to the death of the artist. Each room of the house, including the hallway, displays a different style of crown molding and ceiling medallions in various sizes and styles. Some of the crown molding is several feet wide. The ceiling of the sitting room holds a decorative band of plaster mixed with gold dust. In the kitchen and bathroom, the plaster walls have been scored to resemble glazed bricks or tiles. The arched breakfast nook entrance is decorated with scrolled plaster brackets, rosettes and triangular molding. Hardwood floors of oak are featured in the living room, dining room and hallway, but are covered by carpeting in the bedrooms and linoleum in the kitchen. There is a partial basement with access through a "trap door" in the kitchen.

Harris House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1924

Significant Dates: 1924

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Flint, Lester (architect)
Harris, Porter Field (builder, plaster work)

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

Summary

Located at 6507 Fourche Dam Pike in Little Rock, the Harris House is a one-story, stucco veneered residence designed in the Spanish Eclectic style. Significant architectural features include the tower, parapets, and battered columns on the exterior, and decorative plasterwork in the interior. The Harris House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of a style that is not common in Little Rock, and features unusual and extensive plaster work and other detailing in the interior. The nomination includes a c. 1940s garage apartment in a style that matches the residence.

Historical Background

The Harris House is located on the first plot of ten acres purchased in the late 1800's by Henry Griffin, the great-grandfather of the present owner, Patricia Huitt. Henry Griffin divided ten acres of rural land in the Fourche Dam area among seven of his eight children. His daughter, Florence Elizabeth Griffin Harris received the first plot of the ten acres. Florence and her husband Porter Field Harris built the house in 1924 on her

Harris House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

tion of land. Since they were unable to have children, they did not build a large home. However, the couple decided to build a unique house in the Spanish Eclectic style with the help of blue prints drafted by Lester Flint of Flint and Broad Architects of Dallas, Texas. All the interior plaster work was by Porter Field Harris himself. Porter Field Harris was a master plasterer, and is known to have helped with the building of the Arkansas State Capitol (NR listed 6/24/74) and with the elaborate remodeling work in St. Edward's Church, Little Rock (NR listed 12/22/82).

Architectural Significance

In 1924, the Harris House was constructed from blueprints drawn up by Lester Flint of the Dallas, Texas architectural firm, Flint and Broad Architects. The exterior details include a tower, parapets, and battered columns. Also located on the property is a c. 1940s garage apartment in a style which matches the residence. The extraordinary plaster work, including several elaborate plaster moldings, and a ceiling banded with a gold/plaster, is the work of Porter Field Harris, the husband of the original owner of the house. For these reasons the Harris House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C as an excellent example of the Spanish Eclectic style.

Harris House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Information submitted by Patricia Huitt, January 1997.

The History of Catholicity in Arkansas: From the Earliest Missionaries Down to the Present Time. Historical Commmision of Diocese. Little Rock, 1970.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>573460</u>	<u>384220</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

L. P. Coleman Sub Block 016, Lot 008, Section 16, Township 1N, Range 11W.

Boundary Justification: This boundary contains all of the historic buildings related to the property.

Harris House
Name of Property

Pulaski County, Arkansas
County and State

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Amy Bennett

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 04/8/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



















