



**ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM**

History and Architectural Heritage of Stone County, Arkansas

By Don Brown

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Stone County Courthouse
Mountain View
Stone County, Arkansas

Cover illustration by
Cynthia Haas

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HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE OF STONE COUNTY

SUMMARY INFORMATION

Stone County is located in north central Arkansas and is part of the southeast border of the Ozark Mountain region. The county's early history is found in the development of four early nineteenth century counties: Independence, Izard, Searcy, and Van Buren. These counties contributed the townships that formed Stone County in 1873. Virtually unoccupied in the first decades of the nineteenth century, present-day Stone County was designated part of the Cherokee Reservation in 1817. The area remained an Indian reservation until 1828. Stone County's initial settlement began soon after that in the early 1830s.

The White River provided access to Stone County. However, the region's rugged terrain handicapped interior travel which in turn slowed migration and stifled major transportation and commercial development. The mountainous terrain also limited major agriculture operations; the majority of farms were self-sufficient. In specific areas, such as the bottom lands and valley regions, farms were larger and supported a yeoman lifestyle.

The majority of settlers in Stone County migrated from the surrounding parts of Arkansas and from Tennessee. These people brought and established their traditional lifestyles. One of the traditions was planning and building homesteads. The county's built environment is a microcosm of traditional building types illustrated by the construction of family dwellings, ancillary structures, commercial buildings, and education/religious structures. Despite the variety in construction materials, there were no significant changes in the building plans from the initial settlement to the 1930s. The Stone County properties nominated to and listed on the National Register of Historic Places through this historic context represent these traditional plans, which in turn reflect the lifestyles of the settlers and the successive generations.

Although building plans rarely changed, alternatives were available in the types of material used in the construction of these buildings. Log construction dominated Stone County's built environment during the settlement period and up to the Civil War. Although other plans existed during this period, extant settlement-type houses depict the single pen and dogtrot as two of the more popular house plans.

Very few of the ancillary structures which made up the homestead survive from the pre-Civil War years. As in most of the main dwellings, logs were the primary building material. Those structures that remain represent the traditional single- and double-crib plans. An additional structure began as a single-crib barn and later evolved into a linear triple-crib barn, with each log crib separated by driveways. These log-crib outbuildings provided storage for feed and equipment as well as the family food supply.

The post-Civil War years brought many changes to the area. Politically, Stone County was founded in 1873 and a year later Mountain View was created as the county seat. Economically, an influx of people into the county and the growth of the White River trade brought general prosperity to the area. This migration and prosperity influenced the county's built environment, particularly in the areas adjacent to the White River. This period showed a change in the preference of construction materials from log to sawn lumber, but not necessarily a change in traditional house plans which now included the central-hall plan with its one- and two-story forms. Frame technology emerged as lumber became more available with the increasing number of sawmills in the region. The various frame techniques and box construction became more prevalent on the landscape as the decades progressed toward the twentieth century.

Limited economic conditions did not exclude the use of lumber in constructing houses. Box-constructed buildings emerged in the late nineteenth century, adding another alternative to log and frame construction techniques. Box, a studless construction method, was a more simplified method of erecting a structure in comparison to log technology. It certainly required less skill and lumber than a frame structure.

Traditional floor plans dominated the house types well into the twentieth century. Stone Countians faithfully constructed their dwellings according to the traditional plans and materials used by their forefathers. It was not until the 1920s that an alternative, the Bungalow, emerged in the built environment. But the Bungalow did not significantly influence the local building tradition until the post-World War II era.

Ancillary buildings during the last decades of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century remained constant in both plans and materials used in the settlement phase of Stone County. The only additional plan incorporated was the transverse-crib barn. The barn type appeared on the county's homesteads in the early 1870s. The transverse plan was primarily executed with sawn lumber materials, primarily vertical board. In some instances lumber and log were combined to construct the barn type.

Like the primary and ancillary buildings, the commercial structures represent the rural architectural heritage of Stone County. Major commercial activities before the establishment of Mountain View were confined to the settlements along and near the White River. The commercial structures of the county reflect the traditional rectangular plan built with unpretentious wood materials and facades. Later in the nineteenth century, Mountain View grew into the business center of the county. Its commercial district developed around the courthouse square and during its first building phase followed nineteenth century traditional construction practices. However, by the first decade of the twentieth century a change in construction material appeared as native stone gradually replaced wood as the primary building material. Today, Mountain View exhibits a unified streetscape of stone vernacular structures in its business sector.

Like the commercial buildings, the church and school structures contribute to the vernacular architectural heritage in Stone County. In the tradition of rural areas, the local residents built a structure to house their school and church. Initially, these structures were constructed of log on a rectangular plan with gable-end entries. Many of the later church/school buildings maintain the same vernacular form, but are built of frame or box construction.

Until the last thirty years, Stone County's traditional culture had been successfully preserved by the isolation created by the region's physical features. Despite the exploitation of the tourist industry and the abandonment of family homesteads by recent generations, the county's historic built environment reflects the tenacity of traditional building practices in the Ozark Mountain region.

STONE COUNTY'S DEVELOPMENT

Although Stone County is accessible from the White River, its mountainous region with intermittent valleys and plateaus presented difficulties for interior travel. The first significant wave of migration into the county came after the removal of the Cherokee Reservation in 1828. The early pioneers relied heavily on secondary waterways for transportation into the interior. Overland routes began as trails and eventually, after constant use, resembled roads. During this settlement period, the area that formed Stone County in 1873 was considered the hinterland of the established counties of Independence (1820), Izard (1825), and later Searcy (1836) and Van Buren (1839).

The people who settled in Stone County were predominantly of Scotch-Irish ancestry. This is not surprising since the Scotch-Irish pioneered much of the of the southern United States, including its less desirable regions. The majority of settlers came into Stone County from other areas of Arkansas and Tennessee, though a significant representation migrated from Alabama, Georgia, and North Carolina. A large percentage of the antebellum settlers were agrarian in occupation representing the yeoman and subsistence levels of Arkansas farming culture. This dominance of one people and the isolation of the area created a homogeneous culture that continued into the twentieth century.

During the 1830s settlers claimed the bottom lands of the waterways and the fertile lands of the plateaus and valleys. By the late 1840s settlements existed across the county: Buckhorn in the east, Richwoods and Blue Mountain (Mountain View vicinity) in the central region, and Big Springs, and Locust

Grove in the western part of the county. As early as 1837 applications for post offices were accepted from Richwoods and Blue Mountain. John Lancaster ran the Blue Mountain Post Office, which was located near the mouth of Hell Creek (a tributary of the White River) where he operated a steamboat landing. This area is located about six miles northeast of Mountain View. By 1860 five other post offices opened in the county, one at Locust Grove in the west with the remainder situated in the eastern section adjacent to the White River.

Stone County's mountainous terrain does not facilitate large cash-crop farm operations. The average figures on production indicate the typical homestead in Stone County was self-sufficient in operation. The farm family needed to raise or make the necessary foodstuffs and other commodities to survive and prosper. They could not depend upon supplies from a market area due to isolation and difficulty of travel.

The average farm contained about 80 acres with approximately 30-35 acres improved for agriculture. The larger farms were situated along the bottom lands and in the valleys. Most of them were located in the eastern section of the county, particularly in Wallace Township. The township, adjacent to the White River, is located in southeastern Stone County. This area is the least mountainous and the larger farms averaged approximately 160 acres with a minimum of 50 acres in cultivation. Other large farm operations existed along the White River north of Mountain View as well as in the Richwoods and Timbo Valley areas.

The type of crop production and the number of livestock raised on the typical farm emphasizes the self-sufficient nature of the county's culture. Crops included Indian corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, wheat, oats, and beans. Both cotton and tobacco were grown, with production of tobacco exceeding that of cotton during the antebellum period. The farmer also raised livestock, primarily for his use and consumption. Types of livestock on the farm might have included a horse, mule, or ox for farming and transportation; pigs or cattle for meat products; cows for dairy products; and sheep for wool.

It is interesting to note the changes in production on the homestead during the post-Civil War years. Cotton production increased fivefold from an average of 30 bales in 1850 to 190 bales in 1870. Wool production in the area decreased as the availability of cotton products increased in the area. The amount of tobacco grown was drastically reduced by almost 60 percent during this period. Emphasis on livestock raised on the farm shifted as mules gradually replaced oxen as the primary beasts of labor.

Isolation and poor transportation initiated local industry. Early production was limited to the family requirements, such as grinding grain by hand and the preparation of cotton and wool for clothing. As demand for larger manufacturing facilities increased, gristmills, sawmills, and cotton gins were built to meet the needs. Much of the machinery for these mills was made by the operators themselves. The water wheels, shafts, pulleys, and flumes were built from seasoned wood. Native stone was cut for the burrs, while cowhide was used for the belts. According to oral tradition, an early water mill operated at Riggsville on the west fork of the Rocky Bayou. John Lancaster ginned cotton at the mouth of Hell's Creek on the White River, and in the western part of the county the Cooper family ran a mill at Big Springs on the Panther Creek, located east of Timbo. The 1850's industrial census listed John Monday as an operator of a sawmill in the southeastern section of the county in Wallace Township.

ARCHITECTURE IN EARLY STONE COUNTY

Arriving in the 1830s, the pioneers built their first homes with logs. Few sawmills existed in the upper White River region, making lumber difficult and expensive to obtain. The houses and ancillary structures reflect the traditional types so readily identified with rural architecture. The single-pen plan of the William Dillard Homestead represents a primary house type common in the early settlement period of Stone County. Built adjacent to the White River at Round Bottom, the ca. 1837 cabin features a purlin roof, uncommon in the area and representative of an early construction method. The cabin is rectangular and its rough-hewn logs are locked together with "V" notching.

Another early single-pen house built during the settlement phase is the Zachariah Farm House. The property, overlooking the White River, is located a few miles east of St. James, formerly the early settlement of Buckhorn, in the southeastern part of the county. In 1856 Ford constructed his cabin on land received for his service in the Mexican War. Ford built his house of rough-hewn logs joined with square notching. The cabin contains a loft and was accessible by a ladder attached to the west wall. Ford constructed the chimney with hewn stacked stone. Later, around 1885, Ford's son, George, built a second pen allowing an open hall between the two pens. The second pen (east) is distinguished by the fine workmanship of the logs and stone. He locked the finely hewn logs together with half-dovetail notching and cut and stacked the stone into a handsome chimney. Today the dwelling typifies the evolution of the single pen into the expanded dogtrot plan. It is also an excellent resource to observe the log and stone craftsmanship of two successive generations.

The other documented house type surviving from Stone County's antebellum period is the dogtrot or the two-pen with open hall plan. The Wesley Copeland House, built ca. 1858, best illustrates an original dogtrot plan. The house is located in the Timbo Valley in western Stone County. The pens measure 18' x 18' and are locked together with square notching. Each pen has a finely crafted exterior stone chimney. The house has a few interesting characteristics. The boxed-in stairway leading to the loft is not situated in the traditional place at the rear of the open hall. The stair is located in the front of the hall with the front porch providing the only access. The stonework of the chimneys represents two distinct methods of workmanship. The west chimney reflects the traditional dry hewn stone found in the early houses in the county. The east chimney is one of two documented that have a smooth-cut stone surface giving them a veneer look. The chimney is finely crafted and distinguished by a diamond pattern scored in the stone. N.F. Woodworth, acquiring the house in the late 1870s, is believed responsible for the east chimney as well as for the structure's unusually high-pitched roof, rear-shed addition, and weatherboard siding. Interestingly, the facade was not covered with weatherboard.

Another surviving antebellum log dogtrot, the ca. 1848 Samuel Brown House, is located in the Richwoods Valley south of Mountain View. Samuel Brown, a yeoman farmer, migrated from North Carolina in 1840. Upon his arrival and for the next few years, Brown is listed as a partial owner of land with a few other people. But by 1847, he had acquired his own land and began accumulating more acreage during the 1850s. Soon after, Brown sought to make his log house reflective of his prosperity. He covered the logs with weatherboard, added window shutters and multi-paneled doors, and remodeled the interior to include finely crafted fire mantels and handsome paneled wainscotting. The Samuel Brown House is a prime resource illustrating the popular up-grading and refining of a log dogtrot house in rural Arkansas to properly reflect the success of the owner.

The ancillary structures of the antebellum era were also built using traditional floor plans and materials. Settlers used log construction for their ancillary structures just as they had for their pre-Civil War dwellings. The few that survived from this period give a better insight into the farmsteads that existed in Stone County by illustrating the plans, materials, and functions of the outbuildings. The William Dillard Homestead includes a fine example of the log double-crib barn. The multi-functional barn is made of rough-hewn logs joined with saddle notching. An eight-foot driveway separated the two 13' x 18' cribs. Each crib is partitioned by logs creating two chambers. This partitioning is characteristic of most documented log barns in the county. The drive was enclosed, creating three cribs and a more functional barn.

A linear triple-crib barn with driveways was documented as part of the ca. 1859 Miles Jeffery Homestead located near Livingston Creek in the northeast section of Stone County. The barn does not represent an original plan. Each log crib, separated by drives, is of a different dimension descending in size from east to west. The original crib is the largest, measuring 10' x 17'. Its entry opens to the driveway and does not share a common plate with the other cribs. The smaller cribs, 8' x 11' and 11' x 11', are joined with a common log plate and their openings face south. The Jeffery Barn displays a traditional evolution from the

single crib to a triple-crib plan, as the demand for its functions increased with the growth of the farm.

Probably the most common barn found on the early homesteads was the single-log crib. In addition the plan was adopted in the county for more specialized functions on the farmstead such as a granary or smokehouse. The smokehouse built by Samuel Brown illustrates one use of the single crib. Made of rough-hewn logs, the smokehouse, with an overhanging gable roof, sits in the traditional close proximity to the main house.

The Civil War affected Stone County, but not through major military movements or occupations. Military action consisted of cavalry skirmishes between the two armies, particularly during the major military movements of General Curtis' Union Army in 1862 when he occupied Batesville and Confederate General Shelby's invasion of Missouri in 1864. However the major impact of the war in Stone County resulted in a breakdown of law enforcement which created an environment for bushwhackers and jayhawkers. These marauding bands, usually disguised as Union or Confederate troops, preyed upon the isolated farms and particularly the families of the enlisted men. They pillaged the families, leaving them without food or livestock. Both armies considered these men outlaws and tried to eliminate them.

The war's destruction of private property and crops and the confiscation of livestock caused major hardship among Stone Countians. Confiscation of horses by both armies and the bushwhackers sorely depleted the supply of horses, thus severely handicapping a family's means of raising crops for food. The armies, particularly the Union Army, also sought and destroyed local industries that might lend aid to the enemy. This activity crippled Stone County's few existing mills, distilleries, and tanyards.

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY AFTER THE WAR

Surprisingly, the post-Civil War years showed a steady growth and prosperity in the area that formed Stone County in 1873. While most of Arkansas bustled with railroad construction and characters of the infamous Reconstruction Government were developing their reputations, Stone County's isolation from the mainstream provided a more stable environment for recovery. Farming continued as the livelihood for the majority of Stone Countians. The types and production of the crops were much like the years before the war except for the noticeable increase in cotton acreage and the establishment of orchards. The major event during the Reconstruction Period for the area was the formation of Stone County in 1873. The following year Mountain View, centrally located, was created as the county seat.

In the years immediately following the Civil War, the county generally prospered, particularly in the areas along the White River. The town of Marcella began as a result of the White River commerce. Thomas M. Hess established the town, then known as Hesstown, soon after the war. Hess inherited the family business and expanded it to include a river port and ferry operation, cotton gin and warehouses, and retail and wholesale businesses as well as sizeable land holdings. As a result of this success, Hess built a finely crafted central-hall house with a rear ell in 1868. Its braced-frame construction is covered with weatherboard. In the interior, paneled wainscoting lines the walls of the central hall and the front rooms. The panels in the wainscoting and in the doors of the front rooms are accented by what appears to be the original graining. Hess' grandson states that his grandfather ordered all house furnishings from New Orleans. The Thomas M. Hess House is the oldest documented central-hall house in the county. It is possible, based on the available research and the construction date, that Hess built the first weatherboarded frame central-hall house in the county. Its survival makes the house a most significant resource in interpreting the lifestyle of a successful rural entrepreneur, whose wealth was based upon the river commerce and agriculture of the mid-nineteenth century.

Binks Hess, younger brother of Tom, built one of the earlier framed houses just west of the Tom M. Hess House. Hess constructed his weatherboard house in 1871, using a dogtrot plan with a rear ell. According to an interview with Herman Hess, Sr., son of Binks, Hess hired the Burrough brothers, local

carpenter and stone mason, to build his house. The Burrough brothers created a very stylish dogtrot with the use of weatherboard and trim work. In addition, they attached a handsome portico to the open hall. The portico, a vernacular creation, has return gables, columns, jigsaw-cut circles applied on the cornice between the returns and the columns, and segmentally shaped lattice attached along the bottom of the cornice. The overall design of the facade creates an illusion of the more sophisticated central-hall house. This vernacular method of upgrading the aesthetics of the dogtrot is found on one other dwelling, in dilapidated condition. Historic photographs indicate that this method was a known alternative in refining the dogtrot house in the county as well as throughout the region.

As illustrated by the construction of the Hess houses, sawn lumber was becoming more readily available through an increase in area sawmills and White River transportation. The post-Civil War era signified the incorporation of lumber into the county's built environment. The use of frame construction and weatherboard became well established, particularly in the eastern and central sections of the county during the 1870s and 1880s. It is also noteworthy that during this time the rear ell appears as part of the original floor plan. Evidence of earlier ells was not found in the survey.

Coinciding with the introduction of finished lumber is the appearance of period architectural styles. A number of frame houses display vernacular interpretations of the Greek Revival and Queen Anne styles on the appendages, usually the porch. The application of period style was limited to the applied components of the house. These elements reflect the builder's awareness of period architecture and the incorporation of it in his traditional building vocabulary. The resources that best reflect this stage of architecture in Stone County are the 1871 Binks Hess House, the above described dogtrot; the Jessie Abernathy House, a central-hall house built around 1883 at Marcella; the Copeland House, a ca. 1895 double-pen plan located at Pleasant Grove (a few miles north of Marcella); and the ca. 1890 John L. Lancaster House in Mountain View.

By the end of the nineteenth century changes were evident in the local builders' repertoire. Lumber and the application of period architectural elements were now a part of Stone County's built environment. Although these changes were incorporated, the builders continued their adherence to traditional building plans and forms.

Despite the increasing availability of lumber following the Civil War, log construction maintained popularity throughout the county. The earliest log house documented during this period is the 1876 Stokes-Taylor House. Constructed of logs and covered with weatherboards, the house is the only saddlebag structure surveyed in the county. Although not verified, the lack of evidence of chinking or board covering of the logs' interstices suggests that the weatherboard could be a part of the original construction which is not found elsewhere in the survey of Stone County historic resources. If not, the logs were covered soon after its completion. The original stairway, doors, and one fire mantel are intact despite its present use as a hay barn.

Another significant log structure is the Clark-King House located northwest of Mountain View. The house is an unusual example of the expansion of the single-pen in Stone County. The structure is made of two single pens built at different stages. P.C. Clark built the first pen about 1885. The cabin faces east adjacent to the old road that ran north from Mountain View. The pen is rectangular and its hewn logs are neatly locked with half-dovetail notching. The Reverend Jacob King bought the property in the late 1880s and immediately built an addition to the Clark cabin. However, instead of placing his single pen in a linear position to the existing structure, he built his cabin to the rear. Leaving an eight-foot open hall, King constructed his pen perpendicular to the existing structure. King's cabin, which faces south, is built with crudely hewn logs which are attached by saddle notching.

Jacob King, a prominent religious and political figure in Stone County, migrated from North Carolina after the Civil War. He was a circuit preacher and served in the State Assembly in 1891-93 and 1897-1901. In 1901 he represented Stone and Independence counties in the Arkansas Senate.

The ca. 1890 George Anderson log house is the last nineteenth century log house surveyed in Stone County. It is located in the western part of the county. The structure is built on a slope above Panther Creek

with the rear shed resting on the ground and the front porch elevated on stone piers. No significant log houses were built after the ca. 1890 construction of the Anderson House.

During the last decade of the nineteenth century, as log construction was coming to an end in Stone County, it is interesting to note the emergence of box construction in the county's built environment. The survey indicates both the box and frame building techniques supplanted log construction as the preferred house structure by the turn of the century. The box house proved especially popular among those of a lower economic and social status. The appeal of box construction involved several factors. For one, the method required less skill, materials, and labor. Another factor was the increase of sawmills throughout the county, which caused competitive price ranges. Lumber became cheaper and more available, unlike the earlier years of the nineteenth century when log was the only convenient and accessible building material. The exterior of the typical box house was covered with board and batten. Weatherboard was also used as an exterior wall material, giving the impression of the more sophisticated frame house but at a more affordable cost.

THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD

The first decade of the twentieth century brought significant events to Stone County. In 1907 the Ozark National Forest was created in Arkansas and included the northern section of Stone County as part of its Sylamore District. Sparsely populated, this section of the county was barred from future settlement and development.

The other event was the railroad industry's penetration of the rugged Ozark Mountain region. Stone County's only railroad, the Missouri and North Arkansas, came across its southwest corner and established the only railroad town at Arlberg in 1907. However, the railroad had little effect on Stone County's economy as part of the Blue Mountain range, which isolates this southwest corner, proved a serious obstacle in developing an efficient transportation route to the rest of the county. It was during the construction of the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad that Joe Guffey built his house approximately one mile south of the future town of Arlsburg, at Old Lexington. The weatherboard house is T-shaped with a double pen and centered rear ell. The house features a dominant pedimented porch roof with a decorative bargeboard and embriated shingles. Recessed under the porch is a unique splay area in which the door of each pen is located.

It was the Missouri and Kansas City Railroad, built to the east across the White River in Independence County, that spurred Stone County's early twentieth century economy. Beginning in 1902, the railroad brought additional prosperity to the county, particularly those areas adjacent to the White River. The county temporarily benefitted from the railroad construction by supplying the necessary raw materials for the railroad company. Marcella, for example, reached its prime during this period as a river port with a population of 300 people. The community's economic prosperity rested on the trade of products coming by way of the river and from the adjacent interior areas. The railroad's demand for local raw materials spurred Marcella's economy because of the need to transport the material by boat. Thomas M. Hess, assisted by his son Thomas E., controlled the area's commerce by operating the river boat landing and the various related business enterprises. The success of the Hess enterprise is reflected in the 1900 Thomas E. Hess Homestead. The Hess House, an impressive two-story, central-hall house, rises above the one-story structures of Marcella, symbolizing the height of the family's success and in turn Marcella's prosperity.

After completion of the Missouri and Kansas City Railroad, Stone County and specifically its eastern section began experiencing a backlash as the railroad proved a more efficient transporter of the region's commerce than the riverboats on the White River. Ironically, the steamboats, which had transported the railroad construction materials, suffered immediate consequences of the railroad operations in the Ozark region. River transportation's inability to compete against the railroad resulted in the decline of the small river ports all along the White River that could not successfully tie into the development of the railroad

industry. In the case of Stone County's river ports, the geographic location of the Missouri and Kansas City Railroad and the introduction of the automobile age crippled the local commercial development. The boat landings and the towns supported by their business, such as Marcella, began an eventual economic death as the steamboat became more obsolete in transporting the region's commerce.

The railroad brought the outside world closer to Stone County. Although there was a greater exposure to the quickening culture of America's society, it did not significantly influence the county's built environment during the first decades of the twentieth century.

TWENTIETH CENTURY ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Early twentieth century construction continued to reflect the area's allegiance to traditional plans identified with the rural lifestyle of the region. The survey of Stone County historic resources showed the dogtrot and double pen as the most popular house plans. The 1910 Walter Gray House and the 1920 Noah McCarn House are excellent representatives of the dogtrot house, while the finely crafted 1920 Owen Martin House illustrates the execution of the double-pen plan. These structures reflect the use of contemporary building methods and materials on the traditional house plans.

A change in Stone County's dogtrot facades occurred in the 1920s and 1930s. The modification entailed the enclosure of the open-hall area of the dogtrot plan. The most recognized characteristic of the enclosed dogtrot is the central door, which becomes the principal entry into the house. The ca. 1905 Dougherty House, with an enclosed open hall, best exemplifies this type of modification to the dogtrot house. Its hall area is closed with weatherboard, which characterizes the house. The application of a 1" x 4" board covers the connection of the infill wall with the original wall structure. The centrally located door, unadorned by sidelights or transom, is the most common treatment of the enclosure. As the century progressed, this practice gained popularity throughout the region.

It was not until the mid-1920s with building of the John F. Brewer House that an alternative to the traditional house appeared. The Brewer House, located in Mountain View, was the first Bungalow style house built in the county. The structure introduced to the area a new house type, as well as a new building material, stucco. A second house type of the Craftsman influence also appeared in the county during the same period. The John Bettis House was built as a farmhouse in 1929. The incorporation of the Bungalow/Craftsman style house into Stone County's farmsteads reflects its popularity as an alternative to the traditional farmhouse. Although the Bungalow form and Craftsman style appear in the twenties, they did not become a significant part of the county's built environment until after World War II.

The existence of multiple ancillary structures as part of the landscape surrounding the main house emphasizes the rural character identified with Stone County. Like their counterparts in the antebellum period, these late nineteenth and twentieth century buildings utilized traditional plans and construction materials. Logs continued as the primary building material for ancillary structures well into the twentieth century. Outbuildings, unlike houses, required less skilled craftsmanship with the logs. Generally, in the past, Arkansans spent little time or money on constructing ancillary structures because they were less concerned about sheltering livestock and feed in a climate with relatively mild winters. Because of these circumstances, the negligible cost, and abundant availability, logs remained the constant building material used for ancillary structures.

The log barns in the county were built on the familiar single-, double-, and four-crib plans. The Pinkney Pruitt Barn, built around 1890, is a single-crib log barn with open side and front sheds. Not only does it reflect the oldest barn type prevalent during the early settlement period, it also illustrates the continued use of the single crib on the farmstead.

The double-crib plan also continued as an important barn type in the farmstead. Although log-

constructed double-crib barns exist from this period, additions damage their integrity. The only intact representative of the double-crib plan is the Okie Davis Barn, which was built about 1915. The Davis Barn is different in its use of building material. It is built of frame construction covered with sawn vertical planks instead of the more familiar logs.

The Fred Lancaster Barn, built in 1918, is a fine example of a log four-crib barn. Built on the original four-crib plan with intersecting driveways, Lancaster later enclosed the driveway running perpendicular to the ridge pole to create more functional space. The barn is a valuable resource in understanding the evolution from the traditional crib plan to the transverse-crib barn plan.

The transverse-crib barn began appearing on nineteenth century farmsteads simultaneously with the increase of saw mills in the area. This increase allowed the marketing of cheaper priced lumber and in turn an incorporation of lumber as a viable building material for ancillary structures. This barn type generally consisted of frame construction covered with vertical planks and, in rare cases, with weatherboard. Continuing the traditional use of the barn, the transverse-crib barn served a variety of functions including shelter for feed, equipment, and livestock. The barn type appeared soon after the Civil War, as illustrated by the ca. 1871 Binks Hess Barn at Marcella. The barn is built of wood-frame construction and covered with vertical planks. It is the earliest transverse-crib plan documented and could be the first of its type built in Stone County.

The 1925 Clarence Anderson Barn, located at Newnata in the western part of the county, is another example of multi-function barns so prevalent in Arkansas's farmsteads. Identical in plan and material to the nineteenth century Hess Barn, the Anderson Barn displays an architectural element unique to barn types in the area. The builder, Paul Smith, recently from the mid-eastern section of the country, incorporated two sets of window dormers along the barn's ridge pole. The use of the dormers in barns is not found elsewhere in Stone County.

Although most transverse-crib barns in the county were built as multi-function structures, the plan also appears in connection with specialized barns. Two fine examples of the specialized barn are the Jim Morris Barn at Timbo and the H. S. Mabry Barn in the Richwoods Valley. The Morris Barn, built in 1900, stables horses. The builder modified the central driveway into a walkway. The horses enter the stalls by way of the large rear lattice gates. The second barn, the H.S. Mabry Barn, was built around 1923 by Albert Huebbler, a German craftsman. The barn housed Mabry's large mule herd, which he used in farming and in his stave mill operation. Each stall is designed so that the feeding of the livestock is conveniently done from the second floor. The frame structure, covered with weatherboards, is an unusually large and finely crafted barn in comparison with other barns throughout the county.

The transverse-crib barn in Stone County is generally associated with frame construction. Logs, however, were also used in the building of this barn type. The builders combined log and lumber in executing the plan. The 1922 Orval Gammill Barn best illustrates this combination of material usage. The builder used logs for the crib section and vertical planks to construct the loft.

The unique barn plan documented in Stone County is the John Avey Barn at Big Springs. The 1906 Avey Barn is built on the bank barn plan. The plan allows ground access to loft area. The builder combined stone and lumber in this picturesque barn.

STONE COUNTY COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE

Although primary and ancillary structures dominate the historic built environment, commercial structures also contribute to the county's building inventory. At least one commercial building served each community or town throughout Stone County. The only significant commercial structures, however, are located in Mountain View. These buildings reflect the standard commercial plans and are constructed of native building materials. Mountain View's present commercial area formed soon after the construction of the two-story wood-frame courthouse in 1888. Before the turn of the century, establishments were operating on three sides of the square while the north side became residential. The John L. Lancaster House, located on the north side, represents this period of residential development. John L. Lancaster built the first native-stone commercial building on the square in 1904. The structure stands on the southeast corner, but a major portion has been rebuilt due to fire.

Despite Mountain View's distance from the White River, the major transportation outlet, it still became the market center of the county. The absence of a significant river port in the county, Mountain View's central location, and its prestige as the county seat contributed to its emergence as the area's commercial center. The economic base for this development depended on small-scale farming with cotton, corn, wheat and livestock marketed in small quantities and upon a limited lumber industry after the turn of the century.

The first structures around the square were wood frame. Wood construction dominated the streetscape until the 1920s. The Stone County Recorder Building, built around 1908, is the only surviving frame commercial structure that represents this period of wood construction. The native stone, which is predominant on the square today, was not used as a building material until 1904. From 1904 to 1922 stone constructed buildings appeared in the commercial area. The C.L. Smith and Son General Store and the Farmers and Merchants Bank represent the first period of stone construction. These early structures, although primarily traditional in style, reflect an awareness by the builders of the Romanesque style, as exhibited by the stone work around the door and window openings of the buildings. The Brewer Brothers of Mountain View constructed the C.L. Smith General Store in 1905. Bill Laroe, also a local mason, is credited with the stone work on the 1910 Farmers Merchants Bank.

The completion of the three-story Stone County Courthouse in 1922 initiated a second stage of stone construction that secured stone as a primary building material on the square. In addition to the courthouse, two other massive stone buildings were erected on the commercial square's most prominent sites. In 1924 Bill Laroe, the head mason on the courthouse project, built the Lackey General Merchandise Store and Warehouse on the corner east of the courthouse. The building housed the largest merchandise business in the county. On the west corner of the courthouse square the Brewer Brothers constructed the C.B. Case Motor Co. Building in 1928. Built to house and service automobiles, the Case Motor Building represents the establishment of the automobile trade in Stone County.

Additional stone construction in the twenties is represented by the 1926 Stegall Store and the 1929 A. B. Brewer Building. The two buildings better reflect the more modest building scale of the square than the three massive stone buildings characterizing this decade of stone construction. The Brewer Brothers are credited with the stone work on both the Stegall Store and the A.B. Brewer Building.

As in many courthouse squares throughout Arkansas, the Mountain View Courthouse Square's physical layout gave convenient access to government and business activities while providing a natural focal point for social exchange. This natural setting attracted outside visitors, such as aspiring politicians, drummers, peddlers, and, sometimes, entertainers. These activities created the need for hotels. Mountain View supported as many as five hotels during the first decades of the twentieth century. John W. Webb built the earliest known hotel in 1886. He later built the Dew Drop Inn, one of the two remaining hotels of this period. Constructed around 1920, the Dew Drop Inn is located one block west of the courthouse square. L.

C. Johnson, like Webb, replaced his earlier establishment with the Commercial Hotel. Built around 1925, the hotel occupies the northeast corner of the Courthouse Square. Both hotels operate today and appropriately represent the accommodations available to the early twentieth century traveler staying in Mountain View.

Located two blocks west of the commercial square, Brewer's Mill stands as the only historic industrial structure in Stone County. In 1915 Frances Brewer built the mill which served Mountain View and the surrounding area until the 1960s. Recently, the rehabilitation of the mill's structure and operational equipment was completed and it now functions as a flour mill.

RELIGIOUS AND EDUCATIONAL STRUCTURES IN STONE COUNTY

Stone County's religious and educational institutions also reflect the traditional heritage of rural architecture. It was the practice in the county's rural areas to build one facility to house both activities. The religious practices were conservative and in many cases fundamental. In most sections of the county, the Methodists and Missionary Baptists dominated the denominational preferences of the people.

The county's earliest education was based on the nineteenth century subscription system. Social statistics of 1860 reveal that Blue Mountain Township (Mountain View vicinity) supported three subscription academies, which accommodated 71 pupils. Little is known of the existence of other such schools in the county. Stone County's only nineteenth century school structure stands on the Thomas E. Hess Homestead at Marcella. Thomas M. Hess built the rectangular one-room log building about 1870. His son later moved the school from its original location near Wallace Creek to its present location (one mile north) assuring its preservation.

The school/church buildings nominated to the National Register of Historic Places represent the school districts that developed across the county at the turn of the twentieth century. Stone County was divided into 75 school districts. The people in each district were responsible for providing an educational facility. The two earliest structures representing this period of education are Bluff Springs Church and School and the Marcella Church and School. Bluff Springs Church and School, built in 1900, is rectangular in plan with two entries in the gable end. It is box constructed and originally covered with board-and-batten siding. In the thirties, the batten was removed and weatherboard applied to vertical boards. This process created a more stable and weathertight structure. The second structure, the Marcella Church and School, built around 1900, is framed with weatherboard covering. The building is also rectangular in plan, but with a single entry.

The remaining three school/church buildings of later construction dates also reflect the same traditional floor plan. These structures, like the previous buildings, reflect a rural custom of constructing a multi-function community facility. The community hired a carpenter to lay out the plan and supervise volunteers in the completion of the project. The Roasting Ear Church and School, built ca. 1918 under the direction of Dee Whitts, is rectangular in plan with two entries in the front gable facade. Adjacent to Mill Creek in northwest Stone County, the frame weatherboarded structure sits on a three-foot stone foundation. The West Richwoods School, located in the Richwoods Valley, was built ca. 1921 by Albert Huebbler. Modifying the traditional plan, Huebbler, who later built the H.S. Mabry Barn, deviated from the usual entry design by building a splayed entry with double doors. The Turkey Creek School, built in 1925 by Robert Hawkins and George Green, also follows the traditional rectangular plan. The framed weatherboard structure is characterized by the two entries in the front gable facade. The school maintains its original blackboard, woodstove, and some of its desks. Presently, all the structures house small religious congregations as well as community organizations.

METHODOLOGY

Since 1972, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has periodically recorded data on the historic and architectural resources of Stone County. Five properties were listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the country's official list of historically significant properties, between 1976 and 1983. From October 1982 through July 1983, AHPP survey historians conducted a comprehensive survey. Stone County was selected for a survey for several reasons, including lack of available information on the county's built resources, evidence that the National Register properties listed before the survey did not properly reflect the county's historic built environment, and a strong local constituent interest. The survey team used United States Geological Survey maps and appropriate Arkansas city maps to locate and investigate all properties 50 years old or older. All properties were recorded except in cases where the structure's integrity was compromised through additions or alterations; where it was a well-documented type in the county, but in a state of disrepair; or when the owner was reluctant to cooperate, in which case the locations of such unrecorded resources were noted on the USGS maps. Exceptions to these conditions included documentation of a type or plan not typical to the area and having the potential to reveal information toward understanding Stone County's architectural and cultural development.

A total of 246 properties were documented in Stone County. These sites represent the traditional, vernacular, and popular forms of architecture that dominate the county's historic built environment.

Forty-four Stone County properties were listed on the National Register in 1985 as a result of that survey. This historic context was prepared with that nomination.

For more information on the National Register of Historic Places, or to notify the AHPP of other historic resources of Stone County, write the AHPP at 225 East Markham Street, Suite 200, Little Rock, AR 72201 or call (501) 324-9346.

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Stone County Sites on the National Register of Historic Places

MARCELLA

Thomas E. Hess House, Hwy. 14, 1900 I-house.

Taylor-Stokes House, off Hwy. 14 near Marcella, ca. 1876 log house.

Owen Martin House, Hwy. 14, ca. 1920 double-pen house.

Marcella Church and School, Hwy. 14, ca. 1900 vernacular Greek Revival structure.

Jessie Abernathy House, off Hwy. 14, 1884 central-hall plan house.

Binks Hess House and Barn, off Hwy. 14, ca. 1871 Greek Revival dog-trot house with transverse-crib barn.

H.J. Dougherty House, Hwy. 14, ca. 1905 dog-trot house.

Thomas M. Hess House, off Hwy. 14, ca. 1868 central-hall house with Queen Anne porch.

PLEASANT GROVE

Henry Copeland House, Hwy. 14, ca. 1900 double-pen frame house.

Zacharia Ford House, near the White River, ca. 1856 log house converted to dog-trot in ca. 1885.

John Bettis House, Hwy. 14, ca. 1929 Craftsman farmhouse.

Davis Barn, west of Pleasant Grove, ca. 1915 double-crib frame barn.

ST. JAMES

Pinky Pruitt Barn, Hwy. 14, ca. 1890 single-crib plan barn.

MELROSE

Walter Gray House, Hwy. 14, ca. 1910 dog-trot house.

MOUNTAIN VIEW

Farmers and Merchants Bank, Hwy. 66, 1910 vernacular Romanesque-style stone building.

Lackey General Merchandise and Warehouse, Courthouse Square, 1924 stone commercial building.

Commercial Hotel, off Hwy. 66, 1925 Craftsman hotel.

John F. Brewer House, Peabody St., ca. 1924 Craftsman Bungalow.

C.L. Smith and Son General Store, Hwy. 66, 1905 Romanesque-inspired structure.

Stegall General Store, Hwy. 66, 1926 stone commercial building.

A.B. Brewer Building, Hwy. 66, 1929 stone commercial building.

John L. Lancaster House, Courthouse Square, ca. 1899 frame house with high style elements.

Dew Drop Inn, off Hwy. 66, ca. 1920 Craftsman hotel.

Stone County Recorder Building, courthouse square, ca. 1907 frame commercial building.

Brewer's Mill, Hwy. 66, 1914 industrial structure.

Clark-King House, NE of Mountain View, ca. 1885 double-pen log house.

Noah McCarn House, Hwy. 5, 1920 dog-trot house.

Stone County Courthouse, Courthouse Square, 1922 stone building designed by architect C.A. Ferrell.

C.B. Case Motor Co. Building, Hwy. 66, 1928 office of county's first automobile dealership.

George W. Lackey House, 124 Washington St., 1915 home of Mountain View businessman and civic leader.

EAST RICHWOODS

H.S. Mabry Barn, near Johnson Creek, unusually large ca. 1922 transverse-crib barn.

WEST RICHWOODS

Samuel Brown House, off Hwy. 66, ca. 1848 weatherboard-covered dog-trot house.

West Richwoods Church and School, Hwy. 9, ca. 1921, early 20th century public school.

ROUND BOTTOM

William Dillard Homestead, near White River, ca. 1837 log cabin and double-crib log barn.

Fred Lancaster Barn, near White River, ca. 1918 log four-crib barn.

BIG SPRINGS

John Avey Barn, off Hwy. 66, 1906 gambrel-roof barn partially built into hillside.

Orvall Gammill Barn, NW of Big Springs, ca. 1922 log-and-lumber, transverse-crib barn.

George Anderson House, west of Big Springs, ca. 1890 log dog-trot house.

TURKEY CREEK

Turkey Creek School, Hwy. 9, 1925 traditional frame school building.

NEWNATA

Clarence Anderson Barn, Hwy. 66, ca. 1925 transverse-crib barn with dormers.

TIMBO

Jim Morris Barn, Hwy. 66, ca. 1900 transverse-crib barn.

Wesley Copeland House, SE of Timbo, ca. 1858 dog-trot house.

ONIA

Roasting Ear Church and School, NE of Onia, ca. 1918 vernacular Greek Revival structure.

Bluff Springs Church and School, 3.5 miles west of Onia, 1900 box-constructed building.

OPTIMUS

Miles Jeffery Barn, off Hwy. 5, ca. 1858 single-crib barn altered over years into triple-crib barn.

OLD LEXINGTON

Joe Guffey House, Hwy. 110, ca. 1900 house on T-shaped plan.

ADDRESS RESTRICTED

Fox Pictograph, ca. 1500 rock art site.

Pictograph Cave, ca. 1500 rock art site.

Wingard Cave, ca. 1500 rock art site.



**ARKANSAS HISTORIC
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By Don Brown

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