

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Nash-Reid-Hill House

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

=====

street & number: 418 West Matthews

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Jonesboro

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Craighead code: AR 031 zip code: 72401

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

July 5, 1994
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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5. National Park Service Certification

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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 Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

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Historic: Domestic

Sub: single dwelling

Current : Domestic
Commerce

Sub: multiple dwelling
professional

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne

French Renaissance

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick roof Slate
walls Brick other Wood, Stucco

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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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: B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Health/Medicine
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1898-1944

Significant Dates: 1934

Significant Person(s): Nash, William Travis

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

X See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

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Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office  
 - Other state agency  
 - Federal agency  
 - Local government  
 - University  
 - Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 0. Geographical Data

Acres of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

|   |             |               |                |   |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| A | <u>15</u>   | <u>706970</u> | <u>3967960</u> | B | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
| C | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u>   | <u>    </u>    | D | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:        See continuation sheet.

Lot 8, Block 11 of Flint's Addition to the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:        See continuation sheet.

his boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 06/20/94

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1**Summary**

The Nash-Reid-Hill House was constructed from 1898 to 1902 as a two-story Queen Anne-style residence. The structure consists of a cypress frame with a brick veneer and is covered by a hipped roof with three projecting cross gables and a tower. In 1934, the turned-spindle wrap-around porch was removed and the exterior remodeled to a more French Eclectic appearance. Black wrought-iron porches were added during a second remodeling c. 1970. The interior is virtually unaltered and features, among other detail, three ornate mantelpieces. There is a historic carriage house that is contributing to the nomination. Located at 418 West Matthews in Jonesboro, the Nash-Reid-Hill House is in excellent condition.

**Elaboration**

Constructed from 1898 to 1902 at 418 West Matthews in Jonesboro, the Nash-Reid-Hill House is a two-story brick residence that was designed in the Queen Anne style. The two-story structure is actually built of first growth cypress with an applied veneer of brick, which was fired locally. Resting upon a continuous brick foundation, the house is covered by a hipped roof with three projecting cross gables and a tower. The roof is sheathed with gray slate, ornamented with metal roofline cresting, and drained by a hidden gutter design. Each of the cross gables has a shallow pent roof that forms a pediment. The three pediments are all filled with stucco and decorative false half-timbering. The southern and western cross gables feature curved half timbers, while the eastern cross-gable pediment has a tree-like pattern of diagonal timbers. An unusual feature of the house is the pargetted frieze of plaster and rock that encircles the two-story portion of the building. There are three original interior brick chimneys, although the main chimney has lost its decorative brickwork.

The front, or southern, elevation is composed of a projecting gable end to the west, a side-gable center section with front entry, and a round tower on the east. The two-story projecting gable is fenestrated by a round bay window on the first story that contains three one-over-one, double-hung windows. A flat deck with a curved shed roof covers the bay and is ringed with a black wrought-iron balustrade. The second story of the projecting gable is illuminated by a single one-over-one, double-hung window. The center section features the single-leaf entry adjacent to the projecting gable bay. This entry is protected by a single-story, flat-decked porch supported by three ornate wrought-iron columns. Underneath, the wood-panelled door is surrounded by a six-pane fanlight and three-pane half side lights. Above, the flat deck is outlined by short shed roof and a wrought-iron balustrade of the same pattern used above the bay window. The second story has a one-over-one, double-hung window placed above the deck. The tower is more than half-round and contains four bays of one-over-one, double-hung

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windows on each floor. In 1992, the brickwork and frieze molding on the tower were replaced due to deterioration of the original bricks and mortar from a combination of a leaking gutter and ground moisture from a built-up flower garden. As with the original construction, flat bricks and molding were used during the reconstruction and the finished appearance matches the superb craftsmanship of the original bricklayer.

The eastern elevation is almost a mirror image of the front elevation. The adjacent single-story entry porch is slightly larger and is supported by four wrought-iron columns. The single-leaf door entrance is minus the fanlight and sidelights. Above, the one-over-one, double-hung window is protected by an exterior louvered shutter. The projecting gable bay differs in that both stories are bevelled and there is not an additional first-story bay. Fenestration is accomplished by a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows on each floor. To the north of the cross-gable bay is the eastern side of the one-story kitchen ell, which presents a side gable to this elevation. A shed-roof bay, not quite the width of the kitchen, extends from the gable and contains a sliding-glass door entry.

The rear, or northern, elevation of the kitchen ell has a central one-over-one, double-hung window and a stuccoed and false half-timbered gable end that is a simplified version of the eastern cross-gable pediment. Unlike the two-story cross gables, a simple wood frieze forms the pediment instead of a pent roof. A saltbox roof with the long end to the west extends north from the kitchen wall and shields the cellar entrance that was dug c. 1970. The kitchen ell is not fenestrated on its western elevation, but anchors a large flat-roof porch that extends to the west. This porch, which is currently supported by a wrought-iron column and a steel pole, is historic, although the date of construction is unknown. Underneath, a single-leaf door enters into the main section of the house. To the west of this entrance is a one-story, shed-roof bathroom that was enlarged to the west at the time of the other 1970 alterations. A rectangular stained-glass window faces north, and a large stationary window is placed on the western elevation. The second-story of the northern elevation is fenestrated by a conventional-size one-over-one, double-hung window above (and behind) the entrance, a small one-over-one window and a pair of one-over-one windows to the west, respectively.

The western elevation features the third two-story, cross-gable bay, which is largely obscured by a nonhistoric wrought-iron *porte cochere* with an upper deck. This conglomeration is supported by two wrought-iron columns and features an exterior spiral staircase along with a wrought-iron balustrade around the deck. The first story of the bevelled bay contains a one-over-one, double-hung window and single-leaf entry to the south. The second-story was originally fenestrated by a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows; however, the southern window has been converted into a door. The wall to the south of the cross-gable bay contains

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a single one-over-one window on each floor. Both second-story windows have external louvered shutters as seen on the eastern elevation.

As originally constructed, the Nash-Reid-Hill House was one of the finest Queen Anne-style residences in Jonesboro. The plan was modified from one drawn for the Berger House at 1120 South Main Street by an unknown St. Louis architect. In 1934, the original turned-spindle porch, which wrapped around the first story of the tower, was removed along with a flat-roof, second-story porch above the front entrance. Originally, the front entrance consisted of ornate double-leaf doors with upper lights outlined with stained glass. This was replaced in 1934 with the current single-leaf door with fanlight and sidelights entrance. One of the original doors was placed on the eastern elevation entry and the other used elsewhere in the house. Other alterations include the removal of the turned balustrade on top of the round bay window, the addition of canvas awnings with insignia on the tower windows, and a coat of white paint over the exterior brick walls. This remodeling diluted the original Queen Anne style and created an appearance that was more reflective of the French Eclectic style that was then in vogue.

Additional alterations occurred c. 1970 with the installation of the flat-roof, wrought-iron entry porches on the front and eastern elevations and the wrought-iron balustrade atop the round bay window. Also at this time a cellar was dug underneath the kitchen and the saltbox roof added over the access stairs. The bathroom on the rear elevation was enlarged, and a wrought-iron *porte cochere* and deck was attached to the western elevation.

The interior is essentially unaltered and rich in detail. Door and window moldings are appropriately elaborate and contain the familiar patera corner blocks. The hardwood floors feature three different parquet designs. Three original gas light fixtures that were converted to electricity remain in the parlor, library, and foyer. Other noteworthy features include two large, wood-panelled pocket doors, and a turned balustrade staircase with an ornately carved newell post.

The most striking interior ornamentation is found on the three original coal-burning fireplace mantels. While all three are of a two-tiered design with a rectangular mirror, each is distinctive. Both the library and parlor mantels have full-height Ionic columns, bracketed shelves, and classical entablatures. The parlor mantel differs, however, in that it lacks the fluted columns of the library mantel and contains more detail. Egg-and-dart molding adorns the cornice and the frieze is decorated with a Zephyrus masque in the center with carved relief depicting "wind" spreading to each end of the mantel. The foyer mantel eschews the classical vocabulary and consists of a bow-front mantel shelf supported by a floral bracket and attached quarter round columns with garland decoration. The shelf above the mirror is also bow shaped,



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and the back plate reflects a Rococo-like shell motif.

There is one associated outbuilding remaining on the property. A historic two-car carriage house is located to the northwest of the house. A composition-shingled saltbox roof covers the structure, which is clad with a mixture of weatherboarding and corrugated metal.

The Nash-Reid-Hill House is currently owned by Clifford Toney and is used as his residence and business office in addition to housing two rental units.

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**Summary**

The Nash-Reid-Hill House is being nominated under Criterion B with local significance for its association with the Nash family, who played an important role in the field of medicine in pre-World War II Jonesboro. Under Criterion C, the structure is locally significant as a Queen Anne-style house that was modified to a more French Eclectic appearance in 1934.

**Elaboration**

In 1859, the state legislature created Craighead County from portions of Greene, Poinsett, and Mississippi Counties and designated Jonesboro as the county seat. A two-story frame courthouse was erected in a clearing. A few years later, the new building was the site of minor Civil War skirmish when in 1863 Confederate forces drove out the Union troops quartered there. Jonesboro was incorporated in 1883 and described by a railroad surveyor as "a remarkable village of some 300 or 400, all log buildings, with a 90-foot well in the middle of the square." Jonesboro grew quickly during the 1880's on the basis of transportation facilities provided by the Texas & St. Louis Railroad, the Kansas City, Fort Scott, & Memphis Railroad, and the Knobel to Helena branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad, which was located three miles to the east at Nettleton. By 1890, the town had a population of over 2,000 despite a fire the previous year that destroyed three blocks of buildings on Main Street.

It was in this environment that the Nash family settled and established a family pharmaceutical business. The builder of the nominated property, William Travis Nash, was born in Alabama in 1852. After the Civil War, he practiced pharmacy under the guidance of a cousin. W. T. Nash's father, A. S. Nash, had served in the Confederate Army and moved the family to Jonesboro in 1871 and opened a mercantile business. In 1875, W. T. Nash established the Nash Drug Company on the east side of Court Square. An early advertisement noted that he was a wholesale and retail dealer in "Drugs, Patent Medicines, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, and Window Glass," and that "prescriptions" were his specialty. Nash was also involved in other businesses and industries. He was one of the first directors of the Bank of Jonesboro, an organizer and president of the Jonesboro Roller Mill, and a director and stockholder in the Jonesboro Building & Loan Association. Nash also owned considerable Main Street property as well as valuable farm acreage.

Nash initiated construction on a new residence at 418 West Matthews in 1898, and the stylish Queen Anne residence was not completed until 1902. W. T. Nash and his wife, Louisa (Lula) Hinson, had six children: Effie, Gus Sr., Flora Louisa, Wiley, Marjorie, and Sidney. While

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the house was being constructed in 1899, Flora Louisa married a druggist, A. W. Reid, who owned Reid's Pharmacy. They had two children, William Travis and Ruth Nash Reid. In 1904, A. W. Reid died, and Flora and the children moved in with her family at the new house. Flora assumed ownership of the Reid Pharmacy and managed the business as well. According to descendants of the Nash family today, Flora may have been the first registered woman pharmacist in Arkansas.

In 1907, Gus Nash, Sr. established the Globe Drug Company, which is still in business today and operated by William Cox, a great-grandson of W. T. Nash. In 1915, Gus and his brothers, Wiley and Sidney, assumed control of their father's business, and the name changed to Nash Brother's Pharmaceuticals. Unlike many pharmacists at the time, the Nash brothers were college educated. Gus and Wiley attended Vanderbilt, and Sidney studied at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. In 1919, four years after his sons took over the family business, W. T. Nash died.

The Nash Brothers manufactured and marketed their own line of "over-the-counter" or "patent" medicines. At that time, medicine had not yet progressed to a point of specific cures for specific ailments with the exception of quinine for malaria. Patent medicines could actually only extenuate an illness. Nevertheless, they were the best medications known of at the time, and were often advertised and sold as great remedies. Shortly after its formation, Nash Brother's Pharmaceuticals developed and marketed Nash's Croup and Pneumonia Salve, which evolved from a Mexican pneumonia salve sold by an itinerant peddler. The salve sold well, especially during the flu epidemics of 1919 and 1920.

The Depression practically ruined Nash Brother's Pharmaceuticals. Facing bankruptcy, Gus Nash assumed all debts and assets, closed the wholesale division, sold the building, and started over in a small, crude building. Although the Croup Salve sales were minimal and the future bleak, Gus scored an immediate success with Nash's Chill and Liver Tonic. The tonic formula was a combination of Quinidine Alkaloid for malaria and Phenolphthalein and Fluid Extract of Mandrake as a laxative. This remedy actually cured malaria, which persisted well into the twentieth century and accounted for over half of doctors' patients. By 1932, the debts had been paid, and Gus Nash, Jr. joined the business, which was now operating in eight southern states. Nash's Chill and Liver Tonic sold extremely well and in 1938 surpassed Grove's Chill Tonic, the national leader, in sales.

In 1930, Wiley Nash opened the Court Square Drug Company after returning from a stint in Colorado due to tuberculosis. He, too, entered the drug manufacturing business and started Dr. Dodd's Medicines. Wiley enjoyed moderate success with Dr. Dodd's Kurex Tablets, a diuretic,

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as his principal product.

In 1934, there were four generations of W. T. Nash's family residing in the family home: his wife Lula Nash, who would die later that year; daughter Flora Louisa Nash Reid; granddaughter Ruth Nash Reid Hill, who married James Clifford Hill in 1926; and their daughter, Flora Ruth Hill. All were living in the house at or about the time that the house was remodeled to a more Chateausque appearance.

Flora Reid died in 1940, and, according to the inheritance, Reid's Pharmacy was given to her son, William Travis, and ownership of the house was passed to her daughter, Ruth Hill. Travis attended to the pharmacy for many years, retired, and then returned to duty as a pharmacist at St. Bernard's Hospital before he died in 1979. Ruth Hill was very active in the community, and in 1953 she was the first woman appointed to serve on the Jonesboro City Planning Commission. Her daughter, Flora Ruth Hill, married Almon Gene Toney in 1957. Their son, Clifford Toney, is the current owner of the property.

After World War II, the availability of Sulfanilamide, penicillin, and other antibiotics through prescriptions effectively ended the patent medicine industry. The Nash family played an important role in this field of medicine as evidenced by their legacy of pharmacies in Jonesboro. Altogether, the Nash Drug Company, Reid's Pharmacy, Globe Drug Company, Globe Drug Store, Nash Brothers Pharmaceuticals, Court Square Drug Store, and Service Pharmacy were all either established or operated by W. T. Nash and/or his descendants at one time or another. Four of W. T. Nash's children, three of his grandchildren, and one great-grandchild have operated pharmacies in Jonesboro. Today, the Service Pharmacy and the Globe Drug Store are still in business, although only the Globe Drug Store is still operated by a member of the Nash family. Because the Nash-Reid-Hill House is the best extant property associated with the Nash family and appears essentially as it did in 1934, it is being nominated under Criterion B with local significance.

Under Criterion C, the Nash-Reid-Hill House is also locally significant as an interesting example of architectural fashion evolution. As originally constructed, this house was one of a handful of grand brick Queen Anne-style residences in Jonesboro. By the 1930's, a host of other architectural styles had come and gone, and the Queen Anne style was considered dated and overly ornate by many people. Although new building construction was rare in Arkansas during the Depression, those new residences that were being built generally reflected some iteration of the popular revival styles such as the Tudor/English Revival, Spanish Mission/Mediterranean, and French Eclectic. The 1934 exterior alterations to the Nash-Reid-Hill House either removed or de-emphasized the majority of the original Queen Anne

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ornamentation, which was considerably restrained for its era. It is probable that these alterations were influenced by the then-fashionable French Eclectic style, and the resulting appearance does resemble the towered subtype of that style. Still, the Nash-Reid-Hill House retains much of its original Queen Anne essence, especially in the interior, and can not truly be labeled a French Eclectic-style structure. It is significant under this criterion primarily for its depiction of the change in the public's perception of appropriate residential architecture within a thirty year period and the coincidental similarities of the different styles that enabled a graceful hybridization.

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Nash, W. Gus, Jr. "Family Medicine in Craighead County." *The Craighead County Historical Quarterly*, April 1980.

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Stuck, Charles. *The Story of Craighead County*. \_\_\_\_\_, Arkansas: The Hurley Company, 1960.

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Nash-Reid-Hill House  
Jonesboro, Craighead Co., Arkansas  
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