

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Estes, Horace, House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 614 E. Main St.

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Gurdon

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Clark

code: AR 019

zip code: 71743

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

4-15-93
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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the
National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic

Sub: single dwelling

Current : Domestic

Sub: single dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Tudor Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation brick roof asphalt
walls brick other stone

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: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1934 - 1943

Significant Dates: 1934

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Estes, Gertrude
Coleman, Marv
Anderson, Marvin

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>486430</u>	<u>3752730</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Lots 7 & 8, Block 9 of J. B. Corn's Addition to the town of Gurdon.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the 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: 04/14/93

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

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

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Summary

The Horace Estes House is a single-story, wood-frame with brick veneer residence that was constructed in 1934 in a restrained interpretation of the Tudor Revival style of architecture. Tudor Revival elements are reflected primarily in the irregular plan that features a steeply pitched multiple gable roof, a large ornamented chimney, and tall, narrow windows. An integral, recessed wrap-around porch with arched openings adds to the decorative effect. The interior is finished more in the simple, Plain Traditional style, but does feature a large brick fireplace with a stepped-ogee Colonial Revival-style mantelpiece. There is one contributing outbuilding - a combination washhouse/storage shed located north of the house - and one noncontributing detached carport located to the east of the house. Located at 614 E. Main Street in Gurdon, the Horace Estes House is in excellent condition.

Elaboration

Constructed in 1934, the Horace Estes House is a single-story, wood-frame with brick veneer residence that was designed in a restrained interpretation of the Tudor Revival style of architecture. The house rests upon a cast concrete foundation (faced with brick) and is covered by a composition-shingled, multiple gable roof.

The front, or southern, elevation contains an integral, recessed wrap-around porch (currently screened in) to the east that is formed by a projecting gable. The porch consists of two large semi-circular arched openings on the southern and eastern elevations, a narrow arch to the north, a doorway arch to the west of the large southern elevation arch, and an identical-size arched opening to the west. Each arch contains a stone keystone with the exception of the very narrow arch that faces north. The two largest openings have three keystones while the doorway arch features five stones. The principal gable above the recessed porch contains an eight-pane stationary window near the peak. This window features a flat arch with a decorative stone keystone. Decorative stonework is also found in the peak of the smaller doorway gable, which contains a triangular pattern of three inlaid stones. The light (and varied) color of the stone contrasts nicely with the reddish-brown tapestry brick.

To the west of the wrap-around porch, the long side-gable wall is punctuated by a central cross gable with the chimney placed in the center. The large chimney is adorned at the base with irregular-shaped stonework of apparently both sandstone and limestone. In the center of the chimney, an arch pattern is formed by an outline of inlaid stones of alternating shape (a quoin-like effect) and color (again, most likely created by the use of sandstone and limestone). As in the stonework at the base, the stone mortar joints are of the "grapevine" variety. The interior

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of the arch is decorated with patterned bricks laid diagonally in two "vee"-shaped rows. The chimney is stepped twice - each step capped with a sandstone - and features panel brickwork near the top. This cross gable bay is flanked on both sides by paired four-over-four double-hung window. Both pairs are ornamented with flattened-arch crown with keystone.

The western elevation is composed of a gable end at the southern end that slightly projects from a long side gable wall that extends to the north. Two six-over-six double-hung windows illuminate the gable end portion while the side gable wall is fenestrated (to the north respectively) by a group of three six-over-six windows (identical to the gable end windows), a smaller six-over-six bathroom window, and a pair of normal-length six-over-six windows.

Two equal-size bays comprise the rear, or northern, elevation. The western bay is created by a projecting gable and is fenestrated by two separate six-over-six double-hung windows. The eastern bay contains a pair of windows that are identical to those in the adjacent bay but are positioned side by side.

The eastern elevation is similar to the western elevation in composition. A group of three six-over-six double-hung windows are placed at the northern end with a single-leaf doorway and a small six-over-six double-hung kitchen window to the south respectively. A metal awning shields the doorway, which currently contains a nonhistoric door. Another pair of six-over-six double-hung windows are located just north of the wrap-around porch (to the south of the kitchen window) in the cross-gable bay.

The interior is more simply ornamented, but does feature a large fireplace constructed of buff brick and a stepped-ogee mantelpiece of Colonial Revival appearance. Interior door and window moldings are of the simple, Plain Traditional type. Although single-panel wood doors predominate, there is one fully glazed, fifteen-pane door. Faceted glass doorknobs are found throughout. The bathroom is largely original and consists of a mosaic inlaid tile floor and a pedestal sink. Principal alterations to the interior include the addition of modern imitation wood panelling to most of the rooms. The front door, which faces east and opens into the front porch, is of unknown age, but does reflect Tudor Revival detailing in the use of a small nine-pane window and exterior channelling (to resemble board-and-batten construction).

There is one contributing outbuilding on the property. A 1943 combination washhouse/storage house is located to the north of the house. It is of wood frame construction and covered with simple drop siding that was typically used during that time period. The shallow-pitched gable roof, which exhibits exposed rafters (due to simplicity of construction rather than ornamentation) is covered with green composition shingles. Two single-leaf, five-panelled wood

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doors on the southern elevation permit entry into the respective rooms. Fenestration is accomplished by three four-over-four single-hung windows on the southern elevation and one identical window on the eastern elevations. The other two elevations are blank. A noncontributing detached carport of recent vintage is located on the eastern side of the house.

Located at 614 E. Main in Gurdon, the Horace Estes House is virtually unaltered on the exterior and is in excellent condition.

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The Horace Estes House is locally significant under Criterion C as the best example in Gurdon of a Tudor Revival-style residence.

Elaboration

The construction of the railroads played an instrumental part in the birth and growth of a lumbering industry in what had earlier been unreachable stands of timber, and hence in the growth of Gurdon also. The community now known as Gurdon started as a construction camp on the Iron Mountain Railway, completed in 1873. Soon thereafter the Iron Mountain Railway constructed a branch to Camden leaving the main line from Gurdon, which only increased the activity and regional centrality of the town; and by 1906 the Gurdon-Fort Smith railroad was in operation and connected Gurdon with the virgin forests of Montgomery County and the lumbering operations which were cutting throughout the Ouachita Forest.

This coincidental accessibility via modern transportation and rapid expansion of surrounding lumbering operations made Gurdon particularly attractive as a mill site and so allowed it to participate in the rapid expansion of the lumbering industry in the South which saw it take over the lead from the great Lakes region in lumber production by 1899. The forests around Gurdon, and especially to the northwest, contained huge stands of yellow pine, a preferred construction material for a rapidly growing and building nation. A large segment of Clark County participated to some degree in the local expansion brought on by the lumbering industry, but Gurdon by far took the lead: in 1888, the mills in Gurdon (and especially the Gurdon Lumber Company) exceeded the number of shipments of cut lumber shipped by the other milling town in Clark County combined (4,178 railroad carloads vs. the combined total of 3,346 carloads from Arkadelphia, Smithton, Bierne, Whelen and Curtis).

This industrial development naturally led to the commercial growth of the town as well. By 1888 Gurdon could boast of a population of approximately one thousand, most of which were employed at the mills. Gurdon supported six general stores, groceries, meat markets, barber shops, mechanics' shops, two hotels, a livery stable, a weekly newspaper, post office, churches, etc. Four physicians also found sufficient work to remain. By the turn of the century Gurdon's other industries included cotton gins, a brick company, and an ice plant which supplied the Missouri-Pacific Railroad as Gurdon was a re-icing stop for trains carrying refrigerated goods. The town also claimed a bank and several other "similar conveniences."

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Gurdon continued to grow thereafter, and its fortunes improved in direct proportion to both the popularity of yellow pine as a building material and the primacy of the railroad as the means for shipping it to meet the nationwide demand. The prosperity enjoyed by communities along the main line of the Missouri-Pacific Railroad (formerly the Iron Mountain) encouraged dramatic growth in their residential neighborhoods, a phenomenon not lost on a number of real estate speculators. In Gurdon, Wright's Park Addition and J. B. Corn's Addition were two of that town's new subdivisions.

On April 16th, 1934, Horace and Gertrude Estes purchased the vacant Lots 7 and 8 of Block 9 of Corn's addition and constructed a new residence in that year. According to local oral history, the house was designed by Mrs. Estes and her sister, Mary Coleman, who was also said to have designed many houses in Prescott, Arkansas. Otherwise, it is known only that a local craftsman, Marvin Anderson, was responsible for the brick laying.

In 1943, the Estes family sold the house to B. F. and Mildred Willingham, and they have been the only other owners of the property (Mrs. Willingham still resides there today; her husband died in 1976). The Willinghams have altered the property very little during their ownership. A washhouse/storage shed was erected to the north of the house in 1943, and a free-standing, non-attached carport was added more recently to the east of the house.

Although there is no known documentation on the evolution of Gurdon's built environment, it appears that residential housing was typically of wood-frame construction with some form of weatherboard siding and, when not of Plain Traditional appearance, followed the typical architectural style progression of an Arkansas railroad town. Although not common, brick-veneer siding (and to a lesser extent, stone) was used occasionally for residences - usually 1920's Craftsman-style houses. In Arkansas, the popular period revival styles of the late 1920's and 1930's were largely confined to the suburbs of the larger cities and towns with relatively few examples found in the smaller, more rural towns.

The Horace Estes House in Gurdon is one of the exceptions to that general trend and is a modest, but well-executed example of a brick-veneer Tudor Revival-style residence. The design exhibits such characteristic Tudor Revival details as a multiple-gable roof, a large, elaborated chimney, and tall, narrow multiple-pane windows. A design contribution of more vernacular inspiration - the integral, wrap-around porch with arched openings - blends harmoniously with the more pure Tudor Revival elements to create a dignified and distinctive residence that is undoubtedly the best representative of its style in Gurdon. Moreover, the design of the Horace Estes House is distinguished from the majority of Gurdon's Depression-era structures, which reflect an almost nonexistent use of ornament and a minimal use of

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materials. As such, the Horace Estes House is eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

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Bibliography

Information supplied by Mildred Willingham, January, 1993.

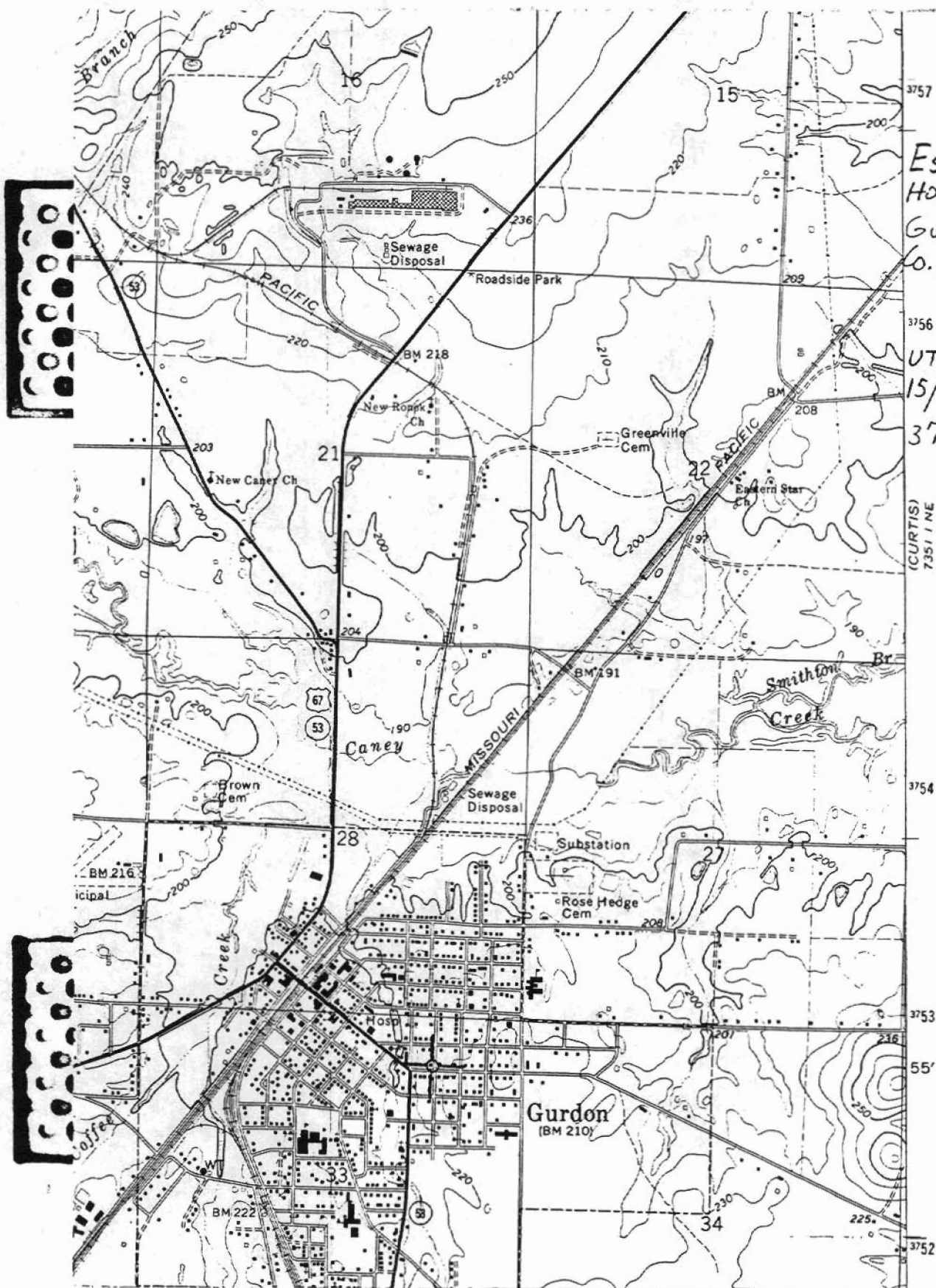
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Thomas, David Y., ed. *Arkansas and Its People*. New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1930. Vol. II.

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Estes, Horace,
House
Gurdon, Clark
Co., Arkansas

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