

Survey Number DA-15

Owner Paul Schaffner

Property Name Amis House

Address 408 West 2nd Street

Location Fordyce

Fordyce, AR 71635

Significant Date/s c. 1900

#### ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Amis House is located on Second Street in Fordyce. This gable roofed frame structure is clad in weatherboards and rests on a continuous brick foundation. The plan of the structure is basically that of an I-house with a two-story gabled bay. This bay which projects from the center of the front facade has decorative shingles in the gable. The bay contains, on the first floor, an entry composed of a single door with an oval light flanked by panels each with one oval light. Above the entry is a two-light transom. The second floor of the bay contains a pair of double-hung windows of five vertical lights over one light. Flanking the bay on both floors are two six-over-six double-hung windows on each side. All windows and doors are crowned with a moulding that rises into a triangular pediment. Dividing the front facade horizontally is a flat roofed porch supported by four round columns. The columns are jointly a balustrade of turned posts. Flanking the main I, which has an exterior brick chimney on the west gable end, one two one-story wings. While the west wing is unfenestrated, the east wing has one window identical to those on the I.

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Amis House is one of two I-houses extant in Dallas County. The I-house was a popular form of the more prosperous families throughout rural 19th century Dallas County. Because of the form's rural identity, the Amis House is of special interest in its urban setting. The dwelling reflects the impact of the outside popular culture on the local traditional architecture that began in the late 19th Century. The prosperity brought in by the railroad and lumber industries began the transition from the traditional rural architecture to the ever increasing popular style house plans that became more available and acceptable as Fordyce developed into an urban center. The builder applied popular style elements to a traditional form to create a more desirable urban dwelling.

The house is also significant in its representation of the "triple A" variation of the I-house. Arkansans used this vernacular interpretation in many of their one-and-one-half and two story dwellings in 19th and early 20th centuries.

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Acreage: less than 1

Quadrangle Name: Fordyce

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference: 15 554090/3741160

Verbal Boundary Description:

The nominated property, located within the S $\frac{1}{2}$  of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Block 1, Wilkins Addition to Fordyce, is bounded on the south by Second Street, on the west by Mark Street and on the north and east by lines running parallel to and 50' from the north and east facades of the house.