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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th CenturyAmerican Movements/Craftsman

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Limestonewalls Stone/LimestoneWood/Weatherboardingroof Asphaltother Knee Braces: Wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**Summary

The Pfeiffer House is a vernacular rendering of the Craftsman style as interpreted by a local stonecutter and quarry owner, Joseph A. Pfeiffer. Its elongated white knee braces and black frieze boards, considered with the blocky, irregular marble that visually distinguishes the window openings from the surrounding walls lend an exaggerated, almost mannerist aspect even to a style which advocated the exercise of creativity in the use of indigenous materials in forging an organic relationship between building and site.

Elaboration

The Pfeiffer House is a two story, gable roof stone residence, with an original main structure of rectangular plan, and a recent though sympathetic single story, gable roof ell added to the west (rear) elevation. The north, east and south facades are all of symmetrical composition, with only two wood frame, four-pane casement windows on each floor, placed one above the other on the northern and southern facades. The three-bay eastern, or front facade, features three pairs of four-pane casement windows spread evenly across the second story, tucked tightly under the broad eaves, with each pair placed centrally over the two first-story windows and central entrance. Short steps leading up from a white marble patio provide access to the entry which is covered with a gable roof supported on two of the knee braces prevalent in this design and decorated with jig-sawn wood verge boards. Beneath the ridge of the porch roof hangs one of the lanterns of jig-sawn wood hand-made by Pfeiffer. On the western elevation, the ell's northern wall is flush with that of the main structure, though its southern wall intersects that of the main building so as to leave one paired bay of four-pane casement windows on the first floor of its southern end. The ell has a blank northern wall, a western elevation with a central entrance next to an external concrete block chimney that breaks the roofline above. Two modern two-over-two aluminum sash windows flank the entrance to the north, and three eight-over-eight wood casement windows extend to the south, continuing around the southern ell elevation to an entrance porch almost identical to that on the eastern elevation, and two bays beyond.

The most visually striking exterior decoration is the series of long knee braces supporting the exposed rafters and deep overhanging eaves around the entire building. Painted white, these are chromatically constructed with the pine frieze boards behind, which are painted black and ornamented with white painted batten strips. The western ell features the same frieze board-batten configuration in the gable pediment, though without the knee braces. The spreading effect of the braces at the cornice line is

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### Elaboration - Cont.

echoed by the stone walls and foundation, which flare slightly toward the base to lend an earthbound, organic effect. The patterning created by the random-cut stone in the walls is offset by the lighter marble used both around the openings and as quoins to articulate the corners. The roofline of the main structure is interrupted only by a single stone chimney which rises from the ridge toward the house's southern end.

The house has been altered somewhat. The western (rear) ell was added by the current owners in 1946 to accommodate a bedroom and a sunroom. The hood over the original rear door was removed and placed over the new southern sunroom entrance. Though the addition was sympathetic to the original design, the new construction is obvious: the rubble cut of the new stone contrasts sharply with the rectangular cut of the old, and the characteristic knee braces are absent. In addition, the two first story multi-pane wood windows on the eastern elevation replaced the original four-pane wood casement windows which were identical to those that remain in the rest of the original structure. This alteration also necessitated enlarging those original window openings to their present dimensions.

Also included in the property is a contemporaneous single story wood frame garage and workshop that stands to the west and behind the house. With an overhanging gable roof with knee braces this building, sheathed in novelty siding, attempted to reproduce the style of the house. Of note in this regard is the splayed wood window trim on the western gable wall and the wood window box below with its abundance of jig-sawn wood supports and details. This garage building has been only slightly altered, and today it largely serves the same purpose for which it was built.

**B. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1924-1927  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Joseph A. Pfeiffer

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

Summary

The Joseph A. Pfeiffer House stands as an exceptional example of the work of a local craftsman and designer through his interpretation of the nationally popular Craftsman style of architecture. It also stands as a monument to the man who was its designer, builder, first owner and resident, Joseph Pfeiffer. Pfeiffer managed the Pfeiffer Stone Company quarry northeast of Batesville (in an area that would later be named Pfeiffer, after his family) that provided the stone for such large commissions as the Arkansas State Capitol and the Federal Penitentiary in Leavenworth, Kansas, and he was also the artisan who personally carved much of the detail work in many of these designs.

Elaboration

The Joseph Pfeiffer House stands as a building that is significant both for its architectural value as a unique interpretation of the Craftsman style, and for its association with an important Arkansas businessman and artisan.

The first Joseph A. Pfeiffer, grandfather of the builder of the house, brought the family over from Germany in the middle of the nineteenth century. They first settled in St. Joseph, Missouri, where he started the Pfeiffer Stone Company in 1860. The elder Joseph's son Charles became president of Pfeiffer Stone and expanded the business by purchasing land in Independence County, Arkansas, where he mined a type of limestone known as Batesville Marble beginning in 1903.

It was Charles' son Joseph, who was managing the Batesville quarry when the Pfeiffer Stone Company received the contract to supply the stone for the Arkansas State Capitol in 1902. Joseph was an accomplished stone carver, having been trained from youth in his father's stone quarries, and was capable of producing quality architectural carving and details whether executing the carving himself or supervising and training others. Joseph personally supervised the entire process of shipping the stone to Little Rock for the Capitol, from quarry to delivery. Using power tools, Joseph also personally

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carved much of the molding, capitals, and other decorative work. In fact, his expertise in this craft became so well known that he was called upon to execute architectural carving on buildings throughout Arkansas and Missouri.

A period of growth and prosperity continued at the quarry until the Depression in 1930, when it closed. This quarry supplied the stone for the federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas; the Methodist churches at Batesville, and Jonesboro, Arkansas; the Independence County Courthouse in Batesville; and many other buildings and monuments throughout the East and Midwest. Soon after the quarry opened a railroad spur was run to the quarry to facilitate shipping of the stone. In the meantime, a community grew up around the quarry, located in a rural area about five miles northeast of Batesville, and was named Pfeiffer in honor of the family and the company that had encouraged its growth. This community remains today, though it has diminished in size since the quarry closed.

Joseph Pfeiffer remained a bachelor throughout his life and resided at hotels and rooming houses in Batesville during the first two decades of his management of the quarry. He traveled extensively during this time and was interested in housing design. He brought this exposure and his almost thirty years of work experience to bear when in 1924, he bought the land in Pfeiffer on which he would build his house. Pfeiffer selected the stone blocks himself, directed their cutting and milling, and supervised the construction. His attention to the stone is evident in the tight, precise joints between blocks, and especially in the graceful curve of the walls as the building "grows" from the ground. Pfeiffer also designed and executed all the carved and milled wood for the house. Most notable are the porch lanterns that seem to exhibit an oriental influence and the ornate vergeboards that also decorate the entrances. Pfeiffer's dedication to the craftsmanship he personally devoted to the execution of the house's wood details provides an ironic counterpoint to the conspicuous absence of stone carving on the personal residence of a man who built a career on it. Ultimately, his sole reliance on wood for ornament, and his subtle manipulation of stone to obtain an earthbound, organic effect, reveal his awareness of and fondness for the rustic, hand-made Craftsman ideal. The Pfeiffer House remains one of the most creative and impressive interpretations of the Craftsman aesthetic in Arkansas.

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Stone, George Sr. (January 24, 1988) Interview.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

- Batesville Guard. Batesville, Arkansas. Undated clipping.
- Donaghey, George W. (1937) Building a State Capitol. Little Rock, Arkansas. Parke-Harper Co.
- James, Nola. (January 23, 1988) Interview.
- James, Phillip. (January 23, 1988) Interview.
- Parse, Irene. (January 22, 1988) Interview.
- Independence County Chronicle (1974) Vol. XV no. 4 page 15.
- Independence County, Arkansas Tax Records 1900-1950.
- Independence County, Arkansas Deed Books: A-3, p. 487; E-3, p. 44; H-3, p. 81; R-4, p. 264; A-5, p. 81; I-5, p. 58.
- Stickley, Gustav. (1979). Craftsman Homes. New York: Dover Publications.

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**

Acres of property 17.5 acres

**UTM References**

A 1,5 6|2,7|0,8,5 3,9|6,5|9,6,5  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1,5 6|2,7|2,4,0 3,9|6,5|6,0,0

B 1,5 6|2,7|3,5,0 3,9|6,5|9,6,5  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 1,5 6|2,7|0,8,0 3,9|6,5|6,0,0

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Starting at a point on the western side of U.S. Route 167 and approximately 1,540 feet north of the intersection of U.S. Route 167 and Pfeiffer Road (Bench Mark #424), proceed northeasterly along western edge of U.S. Route 167 for a distance of 1,260 feet; thence proceed due west for a distance of 190 feet; thence proceed due south for a distance of 1,200 feet; thence proceed due east for a distance of 450 feet to point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

This lot includes all the property historically associated with this property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

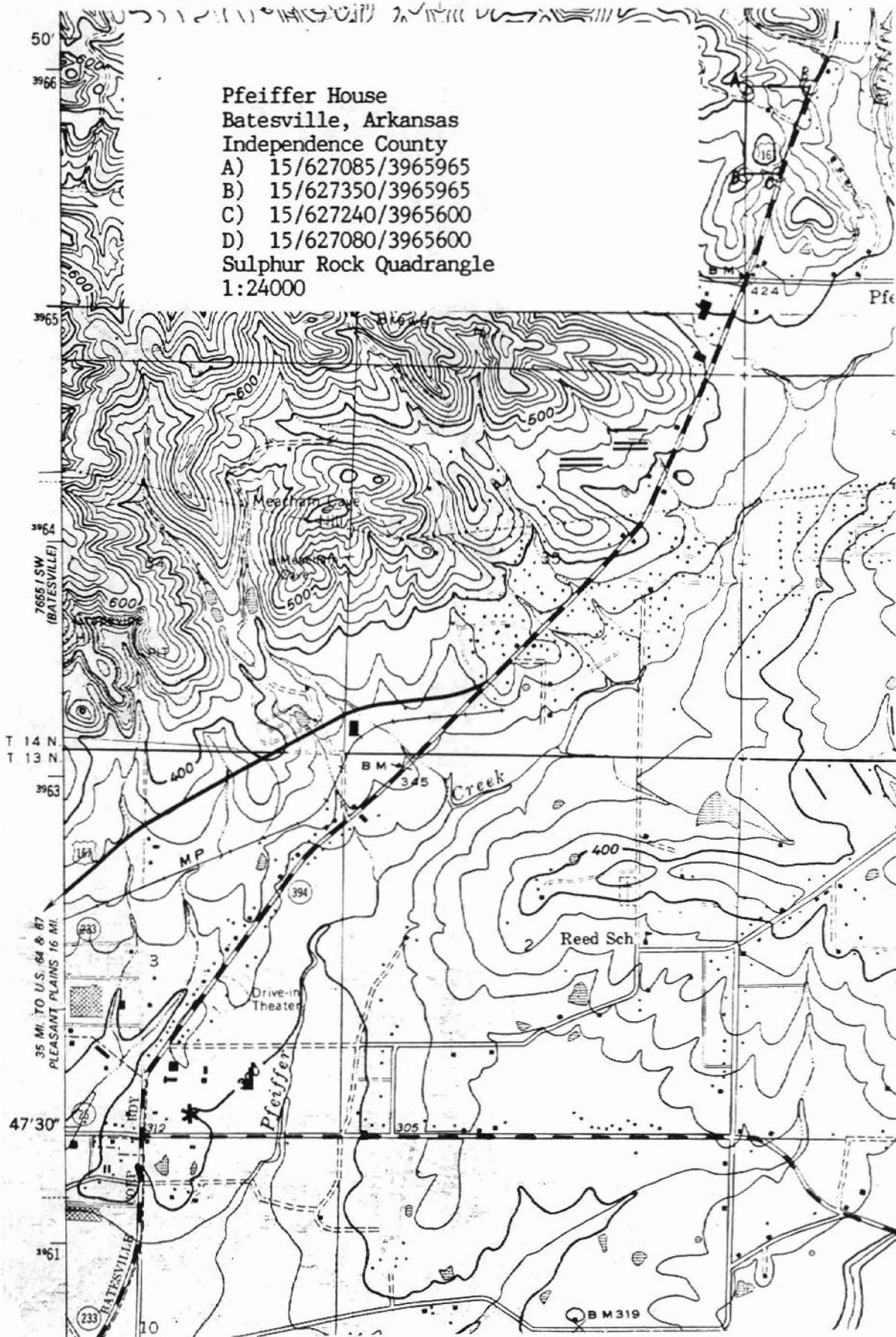
name/title Kenneth Story and Barbara Allen, Architectural Historians

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date April 17, 1989

street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Pfeiffer House  
Batesville, Arkansas  
Independence County  
A) 15/627085/3965965  
B) 15/627350/3965965  
C) 15/627240/3965600  
D) 15/627080/3965600  
Sulphur Rock Quadrangle  
1:24000



50'  
3966  
3965  
3964  
3963  
3961

7665 / SW  
(BATESVILLE)

T 14 N  
T 13 N

35 MI. TO U.S. 64 & 87  
PLEASANT PLAINS 16 MI.

47'30"

10

16

424

345

394

305

B M 319

Handwritten notes on the left margin, including a scale bar and other markings.

