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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Arkansas

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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This home on Barraque Street in Pine Bluff evolved through a succession of owners from a simple, but sturdy one story, two room cabin to the elaborately decorated two story house of today.

The original portion was built ca 1830 by William and Jane Woodruff. It was expanded and remodeled in 1860 by Marion and Emily Hudson, and purchased in a tax auction by Colonel W. P. Grace in 1868.

The house is wood frame construction with horizontal beveled siding and corner boards. There is a broad porch extending across the front (north) facade. Its roof is flat, forming a deck with an ornamental iron railing at the second level. The porch cornice is decorated with a row of triangular dentil-like blocks. It is supported by scrolled consoles from the frieze board. The frieze is decorated with a delicate scroll-work band between consoles. The posts supporting the porch roof are hexagonal in section, with moulded bases, resting on paneled pedestals which in turn sit on square plinths. The post caps are ornate and from them to the base of the flat architrave are delicate scroll work brackets. The character of the porch and columns is that of the New Orleans French.

The windows of the first floor have classical pedimented head surrounds, flat side surrounds and louvered shutters. The windows are double hung and have a pattern of 2 \times 2 lights. The double main entrance doors have upper lights with segmental heads, and a transom above.

The second story is within a bell cast mansard form with hip cap. The mansard is clad in diamond shape wood tiles in the Victorian fashion. The windows in the mansard level have decorated, pedimented head surrounds and decorated side surrounds that curve from narrow at the head to quite wide at the sill. The windows are double hung with a pattern of 2 x 2 lights.

This house is a delightful mixture of classic, Victorian and French colonial styles, a unique building in Arkansas.

The Hudson-Grace-Borreson house is in excellent condition, although the interior has been extensively modified to suit its present owners needs, the exterior design integrity has been retained.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Hudson-Grace-Borreson house lies in its delightful mixture of Greek Revival, Victorian and New Orleans French qualities.

It is interesting to note that although Pine Bluff owes much to her French families of the 19th Century such as the Vaugines, the Barraques and the Fourches, the only extant architectural example of that influence was built by a Kentuckian, W. P. Grace.

Grace had been in New Orleans during the Civil War and his home reflected his admiration of the French architecture there.

The prevailing architectural style in Pine Bluff in the early mid 19th Century was Greek Revival, later developing into the Victorian of the late 19th Century. The Hudson-Grace-Borreson house reflects transitional features of both these styles in addition to the strong New Orleans French qualities which give it its unique character. This would indicate that while the love of French Architecture was strong with Grace, he also respected the local trends.

William P. Grace was an attorney in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He was born in Caldwell County, Kentucky on November 22,: 1822. Grace's father was a bricklayer and young Grace worked for him, as a bricklayer, until he was twenty-two years of age. At that time he attempted to secure an education and attended Cumberland College, at Princeton, Kentucky for one year. After his year at college he read law with a Kentucky lawyer and was admitted to the bar in 1847. He left Kentucky and went to Florida to establish a law practice. He was not satisfied in Florida and left that state to come to Arkansas. He settled at Pine Bluff where he established a law practice partnership with Robert E. Waters.

Grace was elected to Pine Bluff's first city council, and

Form 10-300e (July 1969)

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, Continued

Grace was elected to Pine Bluff's first City Council, and in 1852 was elected prosecuting attorney. He was a Douglas Democrat in 1860.

The election of Lincoln to the Presidency resulted in the secession question being raised again for the first time since the Jackson Administration. The State of Arkansas called for a Secession Convention to be held at Little Rock. William P. Grace and James Yell were Pine Bluff delegates to that Convention. The Arkansas Secession Convention and Lincoln's inauguration were held on the same day. Grace was chosen Chairman of the Ordinance Committee of the Secession Convention, and he and his committee drew up the ordinance of Secession which took Arkansas from the Union.

In 1861 Grace was appointed Commissary of the Military Staff of Arkansas. He served through one battle (Oak Hill) before ill health forced him to leave the army. He returned to Pine Bluff to resume his law practice. Before his death in 1898 Colonel Grace became known as one of the best criminal lawyers in the State. He lost only one client to the hangman out of some fifty cases of this type.

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