

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McConnell, Edward Taylor, House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 302 South Fulton Street

☐ not for publication

city or town Clarksville

☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Johnson code 071 zip code 72830

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Catherine Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

3/22/01
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

Edward Taylor McConnell House
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

EDUCATION: school

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Folk Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK

Walls WOOD: Weatherboard

Roof Asphalt

Other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** moved from its original location.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance **within the past 50 years.**

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1869, 1876

Significant Dates

1869

1876

1902

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Edward Taylor McConnell House
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas
County and State Johnson, Arkansas

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.33 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 457740 3924960
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

PART OF LOTS 2,3, AND 4 OF ROGER'S ADDITION TO THE CITY OF CLARKSVILLE, JOHNSON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all resources historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lorre Moore Edited by: Zac Cothren

organization

date 3/15/01

street & number 302 South Fulton Street

telephone (501) 324-9879

city or town Clarksville

state AR

zip code 72830

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

Located just two blocks southwest of the court square in Clarksville, Arkansas, the Edward Taylor McConnell House is a two-story frame home that experienced a major remodeling in 1876 and has been altered little since. Originally constructed for use as a school and Masonic Hall in 1869; it was renovated in 1876 in the Folk Victorian style and converted to a single-family dwelling. The T-shape building is sheathed in weatherboard and rests upon brick piers. The house is located on an approximate 1.33-acre tract of land with a large flagstone walkway leading from the street to the house's front entryway. The spacious yard is landscaped with mature magnolias; a ginkgo tree dating from 1886, pecan trees, walnut trees, and splendid dogwoods. Iris, tulips, and jonquils are some of the other historic plantings. When approaching the home the eye is drawn directly to the beautiful full front Folk Victorian porch. Porch details include turned spindle posts and beautiful gingerbread trim. The home is set in the middle of the lot and is comprised of a center section measuring 30x60 feet and wings on both the north and south sides of the house measuring 20x24 feet each. Decorative bracketing accentuates the entire roofline of the house.

ELABORATION

The Edward Taylor McConnell House is a two-story frame home that experienced a major remodeling in 1876 and has experienced few alterations since. Originally constructed for use as a school and Masonic Hall in 1869; it was renovated in 1876 in the Folk Victorian style and converted to a single-family dwelling. The T-shape building is sheathed in weatherboard and rests upon brick piers. When approaching the home the eye is drawn directly to the beautiful full front Folk Victorian porch. Porch details include turned spindle posts and beautiful gingerbread trim. The entire roofline of the house is accentuated with decorative bracketing. Its proximity to the courthouse has made it a longstanding landmark at the corner of Taylor and Fulton Streets in the town of Clarksville.

1869 Construction

The Franklin Lodge No.9 Free and Accepted Masons built the house in 1869, to serve as a girl's school downstairs and a Masonic Lodge upstairs. Originally there was no internal access to the second floor. The Masons accessed their hall from an external stairway on the west side of the structure.

1876 Renovations

The building was converted to a single-family residence in approximately 1876. During the renovation the school belfry was dismantled, and interior rear stairs rising from the kitchen replaced the exterior stairwell that accessed the lodge hall. A platform that ran across the eastern wall of the school was removed and the center portion of the structure was divided into paired rows of three rooms each. A formal internal staircase was installed in the foyer and a total of five two-over-four, floor-to-ceiling windows were installed on the facade of the house. One floor to ceiling window was added in both the north and south sitting rooms and three in the formal living room. The front porch was added, as well as a porch on the northwest side of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

house that was attached to the milk-house and well house. Both the milk-house and well houses were removed at an unknown date, and a carport was attached to the house in this location. Wainscoting was added in the upstairs landing, dining area and sitting rooms. Transoms were added above all doors, both interior and exterior. Louvered shutters were added to all windows unprotected by the porch. Tiger oak mantels with fired ceramic tile surrounds were added to four coal-burning fireplaces. There was also trap door of sorts installed in the attic. When the transoms above the interior doors and the trap was opened a chimney effect was created giving the house a "cooling system". The attic trap door was covered at an unknown date, and the original wood shingles were replaced with composition shingles.

1902 Renovation

In approximately 1902 the house experienced a much smaller scale renovation. This was for the most part a "modern" interior upgrade. A private sewer system was installed, and a bathroom took over the west end of the sitting room. The remainder of the sitting room together with the central room makes up the present back parlor. Three new double pocket doors plus a set of folding doors were installed downstairs and a large single pocket door was installed connecting the second floor center bedrooms. Wide interior door and window trim was also installed. Closets were added in the upstairs front room and flanking the chimney in the upstairs landing. The south wall chimney was removed and a stairway was built in its place. The south screened-in porch was added. The wainscoting was removed from the dining and sitting rooms, and possibly from the upstairs landing as well. Electricity was also added during this renovation. The shutters were removed and the exterior doors and windows were screened at this time.

Other Renovations

During the 1950's, the south sitting room was converted into an efficiency apartment. The south stairway was removed and an efficiency kitchen and bathroom were installed in its place, with two added exterior windows. The upper portions of the mantles in the north and south sitting rooms were removed, and mantles and wooden trim in these rooms were painted. Sheet rock was added to some first floor rooms. A kitchen was installed upstairs adjacent to the back stairwell during this period, as was an upstairs bath in the southwest room.

The chimneys were removed in approximately 1996. Upon acquisition by the current owner in February 1998, new wiring, plumbing and central heat and air were added. The canvas covering the pine walls was removed and sheet rock was installed on the remainder of the walls. The bathroom that occupied the west end of the first floor sitting room was converted to a laundry room and a powder room was added under the back stairwell by extending an interior wall. The upstairs kitchen was converted into a master bath and closet. The kitchen was modernized and a doorway into what was a dining room was closed off. Additionally, closets were added in the upstairs south bedroom, and two closets flanking the fireplace in the downstairs north sitting room were removed and replaced with built-in bookcases. The linoleum in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

kitchen was removed, revealing pine floors comparable with those in the remainder of the downstairs, all of which were refinished.

Over the life of the property, many outbuildings have been added and removed, including a rather spacious privy. However, the sole outbuilding now on the grounds is the remains of the smokehouse, which dates to approximately 1870-1880.

East Elevation

The facade of the house fronts east and is the domineering elevation of the T-shaped home. The centrally located front projection of the home is fenestrated by two double hung; two-over-four; floor to ceiling pocket windows that allow people to pass freely from the interior to the exterior of the house. There are a total of five of these windows, all of which are located on the facade. Fenestration also includes a two light over two panel wood door that is flanked by two pane sidelights and crowned with a three light transom. The south side of the projection is fenestrated by a floor to ceiling window. The north side of the projection is fenestrated by a four panel wood door that is crowned with a three light transom. The north and south sides of the facade are each fenestrated with a floor to ceiling window.

The second story of the house displays a total of eight two-over-two double hung windows. Two of which are located on the east-facing wall of the central projection. A door flanked with historic light fixtures that was once used by the Masonic hall still remains on this portion of the projection, but there is no access to the door from the exterior. The north and south facing walls of the projection are each fenestrated by a single two-over-two window. The north and south wings of the house are each fenestrated with two; two-over-two windows.

North Elevation

The north elevation has no fenestration on the projecting portion of the elevation. The south facing section of the projection presents two double hung two-over-two windows on the first story and two on the second story. Seen from this elevation is the carport that was added at an unknown date. The section of the elevation that is covered by the carport is fenestrated by three double hung windows and two small doors. The second story above the carport is fenestrated by three double hung windows.

West Elevation

The west elevation is fenestrated by three two-over-two windows on the first story. The second story is fenestrated with three double hung two-over-two windows, each of which is located directly above a first story window.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

South Elevation

The south elevation is fenestrated with a double hung window on the first floor. Moving east along the elevation is the screened in porch that is located in the corner where the west facing and south facing projections intersect. The second story above the screened porch is fenestrated with three double hung windows. The south facing projection is fenestrated on the west side by one double hung window on the first floor and two on the second story. The only fenestration on the south facing wall of the south projection is a pair of small one-over-one double hung windows.

Interior

There are several notable interior features that are historic to the home. The beautiful staircase that was added in 1876 leads up from the foyer to the second story and is one of the most eye-catching features. Historic light fixtures and mantle pieces also add greatly to the character of the home. Hard wood floors and large pocket doors can also be found inside the home.

Integrity

The Edward Taylor McConnell House in Clarksville, Arkansas possesses a high degree of integrity. The home has been through several phases of renovation. However, with the exception of the removal of the chimneys all exterior renovations are historic. The house is a wonderful example of a property's transition over a long period of time. The home exemplifies integrity of setting and location, as it is located in one of Clarksville oldest neighborhoods just off of the court square. The home also maintains integrity of design, workmanship and materials as it has been updated in a way that does not upset the historic fabric of the home.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

Located at the corner of Fulton and Taylor Streets in Clarksville, Arkansas, the Edward Taylor McConnell House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance because it exemplifies large-scale Folk Victorian architecture. Although it was constructed in 1869, it is being nominated to the National Register for its 1876 Folk Victorian appearance. The home is located in a residential area two blocks from the Johnson County Courthouse and has had virtually no alterations since 1876.

ELABORATION

Edward Taylor McConnell was known as "Bud" from childhood to old age. The first major highlight of McConnell's life occurred when he was chosen to serve as a page for the 1860-61 Arkansas Legislative Session. In this historic "Secession Convention" the Arkansas Legislature voted to leave the United States and join the Confederacy. On 13 September 1863 Bud McConnell enlisted in the Confederate Army at age 17 in Col. John F. Hill's Regiment of Mounted Riflemen. Bud spent most of his war experience as a courier for Gen. Cabell, on a line extended from Camden to a point in Mississippi. He was in Calhoun County at the close of the war, where he was "mustered out" on 1 June 1865.

Following the Civil War, Bud returned to Clarksville and engaged successfully in several activities. Bud's ventures included driving a stage between Clarksville and Ozark, and running contract mail routes between Little Rock and Fort Smith and between Clarksville and Forsythe, Missouri. McConnell also farmed rented land and operated a store near the mouth of Big Piney Creek. These operations proved lucrative enough that in 1867 he was able to buy out the Paine and Adkins Pharmacy in Clarksville and reestablish a McConnell Drug Store on the site where his father had originally owned one. He greatly expanded the range of merchandise and was very successful. When the pharmacy burned in 1887 McConnell rebuilt it using the interior materials from the "Importer", a wrecked steamboat that had operated between New Orleans and Fort Gibson, Oklahoma.. McConnell eventually bought the remainder of the block in which his drugstore was located. Over the years, he developed a complex including offices and commercial space, a Knights of Pythias Hall, a hotel, and Clarksville's first opera house.

By early 1872 Clarksville had become so violent it had earned the nickname "Bloody Clarksville". McConnell opened a print shop and named his nephew Edward Jamison as editor. They began publication of the weekly Clarksville Enterprise. The paper campaigned for the end of violence and restoration of law and order to the town. Bud took the issue very seriously and served six years as town marshal. In April 1874 McConnell led a special militia that commandeered a train to Little Rock and captured escaped Johnson County outlaw Sid Wallace. McConnell also headed a special guard that escorted Wallace to the gallows. Almost immediately after the Wallace incident, McConnell organized eleven different companies of state guards to aid Elisha Baxter in what is now referred to as the Brooks-Baxter War. He was commissioned the title of Colonel for his service during this Reconstruction political struggle.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

The McConnell House was originally constructed in 1869 by the Franklin Lodge No. 9, Free and Accepted Masons, Clarksville, Arkansas, to serve as a girls' school downstairs and a lodge hall upstairs. Minutes of the June 25, 1869 meeting state that the membership adopted the report of an exploratory committee which found "...it is absolutely necessary that this lodge build them a Hall, and in addition thereto, that the lower or basement story be owned and occupied by the lodge as a high school to be called 'Franklin College' under the sole control of the lodge." Costs for building the 30x60 feet two story high with a 20x24 feet wing on each side including all necessary door locks, windows and materials; including \$416.00 to purchase the site (at that time a cornfield) was estimated at \$3,456.00. A school was located in the structure from 1870 until 1876. At the time the vote was taken to acquire the property and construct the building, the members of the Lodge had pledged over \$2,000.00 toward the total estimated cost of the structure. The minutes of the lodge give little insight into further financing and the project proved to be beyond the lodge's ability to sustain. Minutes stated that, "the work progresses slowly in consequence of want of money". The building was completed with funds borrowed from J.G. Brown. Several desperate attempts to arrive at a way to repay the money followed, but all proved unsuccessful.

On March 21, 1874 title passed to J.G. Brown in satisfaction of the unpaid loan. According to oral tradition, the loan from Brown to the lodge was at 20% interest. The lodge minutes from April 28, 1874 report that the lodge had rented the structure back from Mr. Brown for \$6.25 per month, and continued operating the school through some period in 1876.

On November 4, 1876, J.G. Brown deeded the property to Edward Taylor ("Bud") McConnell. The date was chosen to celebrate Mrs. McConnell's 21st birthday. McConnell is credited with designing the renovations that changed the structure from a schoolhouse to its current Folk Victorian appearance shortly after he purchased the home in 1876.

Shortly after moving into the newly redesigned home Bud McConnell was elected Sheriff of Johnson County and served in the role from 1878-1884. During his term, he is credited with establishing an outstanding record for fair but fearless law enforcement. McConnell enforced a policy prohibiting pistols from being carried in town, and arrested troublemakers in local saloons. McConnell increased the willingness of citizens to trust law enforcement to settle grievances, as opposed to taking matters into their own hands, as had previously been the case. The most famous incident of McConnell's period as sheriff was the trial and execution by hanging of four men convicted of train robbery and murder. Two of McConnell's best men aided Franklin County authorities in the three-week long manhunt for the men and eventually forced the robbers to surrender. Upon McConnell's invitation at a state sheriff's convention, 42 sheriffs and 6 railcars filled with spectators came to the specially constructed gallows in "Southtown" of Clarksville near the train depot to witness the simultaneous execution of the four convicted men. The execution on June 22, 1883, set a record, which has never broken, for hanging more men at one time than any other sheriff in Arkansas's history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

On the strength of his record McConnell was appointed by Arkansas Governor Fishback in 1894 to become the Superintendent (Warden) of the Arkansas State Penitentiary in Little Rock. During his eight-year tenure he reorganized the convict labor system, the institution's finances, and replaced the old penitentiary with a new one. McConnell was also instrumental in suggesting the site of the old penitentiary as the site for Arkansas's new state capitol. Later in life, Bud was designated a Brigadier General as commander of the Third Brigade of United Confederate Veterans of Arkansas.

The exterior of the home retains almost all of its integrity from this era. As a result of his foresight, the architecture of the home is unique to the Clarksville area. The home was occupied by the McConnell family and its descendants from 1876 until February 1998, when the home was acquired by its current owner, Lorre Moore. Ms. Moore not only lives in the home, but also uses a portion of the building for her law office. In addition to his personal notoriety, one of Bud's daughters, Imogene Ragon, is a well renowned painter from the Clarksville area.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Edward Taylor McConnell House being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance as the best extant Folk Victorian house in the town of Clarksville, Arkansas. The home achieved its current appearance in 1876 and has been virtually unaltered with the exception of the removal of two chimneys in 1996. Located just two blocks from the Johnson County Courthouse, the one hundred-thirty year old Folk Victorian home continues to play a visible role in the town of Clarksville.

Edward Taylor McConnell House
Name of Property

Johnson County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Minutes of Franklin Lodge #9, Free and Accepted Masons

Johnson County Historical Society Journal, April 1996, Vol. XXII, No.1

Recollections of Louise Spanke (granddaughter of E.T. McConnell), October 12, 1998









7255 II SE
(HARMONY)

