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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (II known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Arthur Thompson House is a very early Victorian style in the State of Arkansas. Built in 1859, it must have been a style setter in the City of Helena, because other houses in the area at that time were Greek Revival style or otherwise symmetrically-styled buildings. There is good indication that the original front porch was executed in wood and that the present wrought iron front porch was a later alteration to the house. The original front entrance matched exactly the rear entrance with a perfectly semicircular arch headed doorway in place of the present fan shaped front door with side lights.

The house is basically a red brick, two-storey, five bay structure with the two left side bays projecting to the front. There are two rooms on either side of the center hall both upstairs and down with a separate onestorey kitchen located off the right hand rear corner of the house. The projecting ell has a gable roof connecting to a hip roof on the rest of the house with four internal chimneys, two on either end of the house. The house presently has a bracketed cornice, however, the brackets may have been added to a simpler cornice that was originally installed.

The interior of the house is especially impressive with an unusually handsome staircase in the center hall and ceilings in excess of fourteen feet in height on both 'the first and second floors. The cast plaster cornices on the interior are elaborate and in good condition. Several very early, if not the original, chandeliers survive in the house. The windows are long and relatively wide, having operating louvered shutters on each of them. The right hand front room has the windows extending to the floor opening onto the front porch.

The spacious grounds are surrounded by a handsome wrought iron fence. The area between the main house and the original kitchen has been closed in with a one-storey brick connection topped by a second-storey frame-constructed sleeping porch. It appears that some portion of this was original, probably in the form of a porch extending across the back of the main house, but now completely enclosed and added to in later construction. S

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While the Thompson-Moore-Hornor House is significant because of its architecture, it is interesting to note that the main scene of fighting during the Battle of Helena took place directly behind the house. It is amazing that the house escaped destruction for it was in the direct line of fire from Fort Curtis and Battery D. There are two bullet holes in the sliding doors between the double parlor, said to have come from the Confederates on the hill firing on the Gun Boat Tyler on the Mississippi River.

The Thompson-Moore-Hornor House is architecturally significant because it is an early asymmetrical Greek Revival style. It was a style-setter in Helena that was patterned after the newer Victorian style of the east coast of the United States. It represents one of the earliest examples of this type of architecture in Arkansas.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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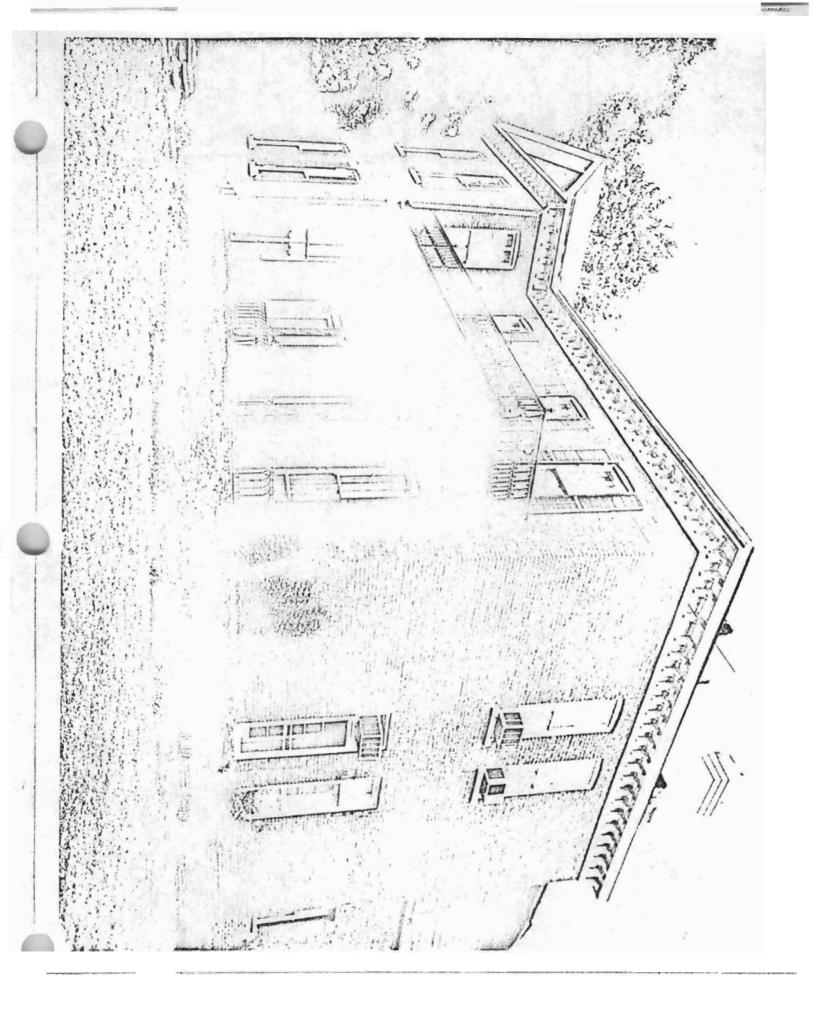
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