

65-53-SHS-62

NR 9-14-72

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

ARKANSAS	
COUNTY:	
Sebastian	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME					
COMMON:					
Taliano's Italian Restaurant					
AND/OR HISTORIC:					
James Sparks House C. 1887					
2. LOCATION					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
201 North 14th Street					
CITY OR TOWN:					
Fort Smith					
STATE		CODE	COUNTY:		CODE
Arkansas		05	Sebastian		131
3. CLASSIFICATION					
(Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building		<input type="checkbox"/> Public		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes:
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure		<input type="checkbox"/> Private		<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
		Public Acquisition:			<input type="checkbox"/> No
		<input type="checkbox"/> In Process			
		<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY					
OWNER'S NAME:					
Thomas K. Caldarera, Jr. and James J. Cadelli					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
201 North 14th Street					
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		CODE	
Fort Smith		Arkansas		05	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION					
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:					
Sebastian County Courthouse					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
Sixth Street and Rogers Avenue					
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		CODE	
Fort Smith		Arkansas		05	
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS					
TITLE OF SURVEY:					
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program					
DATE OF SURVEY: August 1971 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local					
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:					
Arkansas History Commission					
STREET AND NUMBER:					
300 West Markham Street					
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:		CODE	
Little Rock		Arkansas		05	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The James Sparks House is a two-storey brick Victorian Romanesque style residence having a rusticated stone base with a round, three-storey, corner tower and a veranda which sweeps around the base of this tower. The original steeple roof is missing from the tower and the ornate porch posts and decorative trim are also missing. However, the main entry, as well as an entrance to the balcony above, is flanked by two small columns with composite capitals supporting a rusticated stone semicircular arch. An unusual three-quarter circular keyhole-shaped front window contains a single-light, double-hung sash window surrounded by stained glass panels with an unusual semicircular iron flower box at the base of this window. A semicircular fan-shaped window in the original library is glazed entirely with stained glass. Other windows in the house have rusticated stone sills with segmental arched brick heads supported by corbelled brick and stone shoulders with stone keystones. The attic gable windows have semicircular arched head windows with rusticated stone sills and stone keystones. The chimneys are decorated with corbelled brick as well as corbelled brick corners on the main house plus brick corbelling topping the round tower just under the cornice.

The interior is original except for floor and wall coverings. Each of the four main rooms have their original handcarved oak fireplaces with one inch bevelled mirrors and Italian marble trimmed hearth. Two of these fireplaces have the original brass fire shields of ornate design built into them.

The four main rooms still have their original, solid brass, combination gas and electric chandeliers. Two of these have ornate scroll designs with four gas jets and four electric light arms with hand-etched satin glass shades on all. A third chandelier which is in the original dining room has a Tiffany glass shade comprised of four multicolored panels of antique German stained glass together with four gas jets. The fourth chandelier has a large globe of vaseline opalescent glass with a swirl design, topped with solid

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7. Description

brass panels of lace design including a brass floral drape which falls from the center of the lamp around the globe itself.

The main rooms downstairs may be opened up by sliding nine-foot, oak-panel doors into the walls. The openings are decorated with bent wood and handcarved wood lattice. All of the interior doors are panelled and all woodwork has an oval cut and bead design. The original floors are an inch and one-quarter oak, not tongue and groove, but surface nailed. The ornate design, original front doors are of oak and feature handcarved panels on both the exterior and the interior of the doors, including heavy plate glass windows with one and one-quarter inch bevelled edging. The transom is of stained glass.

Alterations from the original design include major modification in the kitchen area necessary for its present adaptive use as a restaurant, and on the exterior a composition shingle roof has replaced the original roof covering.

The James Sparks House is one of the finest historical restorations in Arkansas, lacking only a restoration of the tower steeple and the ornamental porch posts and porch trim.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

☐ Philosophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

☐ Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

☐ Itation

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

James M. Sparks, the builder of the house, was the son of Mitchell Sparks, a native of Ireland. Mitchell Sparks was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, and was graduated with a degree in medicine, although he never was to be a practicing physician.

In 1843 Mr. Sparks came to the United States and Arkansas. In 1847 he married Hannah Bennett of Massachusetts who had come to the frontier to visit her uncle. After their marriage, Mitchell and Hannah Sparks settled in Fort Smith, then a bustling border city and a debarkation point for westward immigration. He engaged in business up and down the Arkansas River and was a prosperous merchant. He died in 1864.

James M. Sparks and his brothers continued in the family tradition. James became a successful druggist and a director of one of the largest banks in Fort Smith. David Sparks, a brother, was a prominent wholesale merchant; and another brother, George, held a prominent position in local financial circles. It is for George's wife, Annie Sparks, that the Sparks Regional Medical Center is named.

The James Sparks House is an unusually good example of a moderate sized Victorian Romanesque style residence. The combination of red brick and rusticated stone as building materials is typical of the style, however, the detailing of these materials particularly for window and door openings is unusual and rather ornate for a house

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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8. Significance

no larger nor more pretentious than this particular house is. Extensive use of brick corbelling for decoration around window openings and other points around the cornice of the tower and particularly the chimney caps is unusually appropriate to the overall design of the house.

The fact that the interiors are almost totally original is important. The original natural finished old woodwork has never been painted. The fireplace mantels and bevelled mirrors have not been mutilated and most importantly, the original solid brass combination gas and electric chandeliers have been restored and preserved.

The James Sparks House was an outstanding residence of its day. As the result of a careful restoration and preservation the house is now one of the best surviving examples of the Victorian era of architecture in the City of Fort Smith, Arkansas.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Fort Smith Times Record. December 13, 1909.
Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas. Chicago: 1889.
Hempstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas, Vol. II. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1911.
Southwest Times Record (Fort Smith). August 29, 1971.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "		0 ' "	0 ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Douglass Yadon and Staff	
ORGANIZATION Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	DATE December 1971
STREET AND NUMBER: 1023 West Third *Street	
CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock	STATE Arkansas
	CODE 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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