

75-9-DO90-661

Listed in the NR - 6-23-82

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Kimball House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 713 North Front Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Dardanelle

N/A vicinity of

congressional district Thirdstate Arkansascode 05county Yellcode 149

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both

Public Acquisition

☐ in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied
☐ unoccupied
☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military

☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation
☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Kathryn Ann Keenanstreet & number 804 North Front Streetcity, town Dardanelle

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk's Office, Yell County Courthousestreet & number Union and Front Streetscity, town Dardanellestate Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

title State Surveyhas this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate December, 1971☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Programcity, town Little Rockstate Arkansas

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Picturesquely occupying a spacious tree and shubbery laden corner lot in the residential district of the north-central Arkansas rivertown of Dardenelle, the Kimball House typifies the Italianate style of architecture of the early Victorian era. The survival of related outbuildings together with the integrity of the house's original interior space conveys a good sense of the domestic order of late-nineteenth-century life. Built in 1876, the house is a two-story hip-roofed brick structure with full attic and basement. Finely crafted woodwork provides decorative detailing that relieves and enriches the brick facades. The building's regular and rather massive scale and proportions, segmental arched windows and doors, quoined corners, and prominent bracketed cornice all contribute to its Italianate esthetic.

ELABORATION

The principal (east) facade of the Kimball House is a formal, three-bay composition with the entrance placed on the center axis. A low, one-story gallery was designed with chamfered columns, distinguished by double-torus bases and moulded capitals, supporting a narrow, bracketed cornice. It nearly spans the full width of the facade and shelters the double-leaf, paneled-and-glazed entrance door and the paired, one-over-one windows which flank it. Brick, fabricated in a local kiln, finely laid in five-course common bond was used for the veneer of the house's brick bearing walls and for important decorative devices such as the corner quoins. The fenestration is enriched by segmental arches designed with bricks alternately recessed for a rich comb-like effect. All windows are fitted with shutters. The prominent roof line is characteristically designed with sawn brackets set into a brick frieze (interspersed with attic story windows) which rest on a thin brick architrave and supports a wide, overhanging cornice and hipped roof. With the exception of the bricks, all materials used in the construction of the house were purchased in New Orleans and shipped to Dardanelle by boat.

The architectural unity and integrity of the Kimball House is readily apparent from the side (north and south) elevations. The same decorative elements and stylistic treatments that distinguish the principal facade were consistently applied to these secondary elevations to produce a harmonious composition. A lone bay window, which lights the drawing room, is unique to the south elevation and adds a measure of irregularity and picturesqueness of the design. Single-story galleries, of three unequal bays, occupy positions north and south of the rear kitchen wing and are detailed in exactly the same manner as the front gallery. Double-hung, two-over-two windows are also enriched with the same comb-like segmental arches, and the bracketed entablature is carried around the full perimeter of the two-story rear section. Even the rear (west) elevation is treated in a similar fashion as is the original summer kitchen which is attached to it. Because it is only one-story high, however, this section's gallery, cornice and brackets are more simply articulated.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ humanitarian
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ theater
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ transportation
		☐ invention		☐ other (specify)

Specific dates 1876

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Virtually unaltered since its construction in 1876, the stately Kimball House's significance derives from its exemplification of the Italianate style of architecture popular during the early years of the Victorian era. Constructed for George Kimball, a prominent merchant and land owner, the massive and finely crafted house reflects the prosperity Dardanelle experienced in the 1870s when the developing railroads together with steamboat traffic through Dardanelle on the Arkansas River from cities along the Ohio and the Mississippi brought much commercial activity to the area. The creation of a recreation center at nearby Mount Nebo also contributed to Dardanelle's 1870s boom. This period saw great construction activity with a number of hotels, mercantile establishments, an opera house, and numerous residences erected between 1872 and 1878. Unfortunately, at the turn of the century much of the city's nineteenth century building stock fell prey to fire and by 1913, the last of its woodframe commercial buildings had burned leaving little physical evidence of the 1870s heyday. Architecturally, the Kimball House is important for its outstanding representation of the Italianate style, one of few such pristine Italianate residences constructed of brick in the state, characterized by its Renaissance derived scale and proportions, segmental arched openings, and prominent bracketed cornice. Moreover, it is unique as the only one of Dardanelle's many fine residences of the 1870s to remain extant and survives as one of the oldest, and most architecturally distinguished, residences in the city.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dardanelle Regional Library; Dardanelle Post Dispatch; Reminiscences of Dardanelle 1857-1861;

The Dardanelle of Today and Yesterday; "Old Kimball House, A home of Distinction", Dardanelle Post Dispatch, 3 July 1979.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Dardanelle Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 1 5 4 8 5 6 9 10 3 18 8 17 9 18 10
Zone Easting Northing

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification Lots 9-11-13-15-18-20-22-24 & 26 in Block 33; also the remainder of the alleys and open court in said Block 33 as follows: S $\frac{1}{2}$ alley between Lots 7 & 9; S $\frac{1}{2}$ Center court adjacent to Lots 17-19-21-23 & 25; all the alley between Lot 17 and Lots 1-3-5-7; all the alley lying between Lot 25 and Lots 2-4-5-8;

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kathryn Ann Keenan, edited Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Staff (eg)

organization Property Owner

date May 11, 1981

street & number 804 North Front Street

telephone (501) 229-3273

city or town Dardanelle

state Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Wilson Stiles

title

SHPO

date

3-5-82

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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As is easily discernible from its exterior mass and fenestration, the Kimball House was laid out using the traditional double-pile formula for the principal block and more utilitarian space arrangements for the rear wing and summer kitchen. In the main section, a central stairhall, over eight feet wide, separates the drawing and dining rooms on the south from the music room and parlor opposite. Each pair of rooms is served by back-to-back fireplaces having common chimneys. Flanking the chimney breasts are closets except in the drawing room behind. Access to the service passage and kitchen in the rear wing from the central hall was originally direct but has since been blocked by the addition of a bathroom in the rear portion of the central hall. A service stair is located in the rear wing. With this one exception, the plan of the Kimball House, which is mirrored on the second floor where bedrooms surround the central stairhall, enjoys considerable spatial and architectural integrity.

Interior details, doors, woodwork and window surrounds reflect the simplicity of the Italianate esthetic. The front parlor is of especial interest for its marbelized iron fireplace and its crystal oil chandelier which is the only original lighting fixture remaining in the house. The stairhall is distinguished by its attractive floor composed of narrow widths of dark and light wood created by alternate walnut and oak boards. The simply designed turned balusters and banister of the main stair are built of walnut. Segmental arched window frames appear throughout the interior. In a more utilitarian vein, the summer kitchen contains a large brick stove, original to the house, which was used both for heating water and for cooking.

Two nineteenth century outbuildings are located near the rear elevation of the residence. Directly behind the summer kitchen is a well with cast iron cover and hand pump protected by a braced frame shelter supporting a pyramidal roof. A square smoke house, also with a pyramidal roof, is located northwest of the well house. It is constructed of brick, laid in five-course common bond, with wooden lintels and brick arches above a shuttered window and door.

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the alley between Lots 8 and 10 and W $\frac{1}{2}$ alley between Lot 26 and Lots 10-12-14-16 in said Block 33, Dardanelle, Arkansas.