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1-18-78

10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC

Ferguson house

AND/OR COMMON

Martha Mitchell House

## 2 LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

902 Est Fourth Ave.

CITY, TOWN

Pine Bluff

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF  
CODE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Jefferson

COUNTY

CODE

## 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 ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☒ OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrx and Mrs. Bob Abbot

STREET &amp; NUMBER

902 Washington St.

CITY, TOWN

Pine Bluff

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. East 1/2 Lot 2 Block 6 James Addition to Pine Bluff Arkansas

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 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 .

Constructed circa 1896, the Ferguson House displays characteristics of Queen Anne architecture in its variety of textural usage and ornate trim. The house is sheathed in wood siding with cornice molding and corner boards. The two-story Ferguson House is topped by a hip roof with gabled bays. Two brick chimneys with corbelling rise from the roofline.

The facade (north elevation) features a two-story gabled bay on the northwest corner. The gable end of the bay utilizes flushboard siding and scalloped shingling in a decorative triangular pattern. Pairs of double-hung windows are found at both first and second story levels. Located in the center of the facade is a small ornate second story porch, which also faces the east elevation. The porch features a railing with turned balusters and spool work, centered by an elliptical arch opening covered in scalloped shingling. Extending from the roof directly above the porch is a gabled dormer with a decorative wood design in the gable end. A one story hip roof porch begins in the center of the facade and turns onto the east elevation. This porch is supported by square wooden posts. A gabled extension of the porch marks the entry on the facade.

The east elevation also features a two story gabled bay. This bay features an ornate verge in the point of the gable end. A keyhole shaped air vent and a mixture of scalloped and small rectangular shaped shingling are distinctive features of this gable end. Single double-hung windows are found at the first and second story levels of the bay.

The interiors of the Ferguson House feature decorative mantels and woodwork. The most outstanding interior feature is the stairway located in the entry hall. The paneled stairway features an ornate newel post with a form of baluster composed of spindles.

The Ferguson House rests on its original site in good condition. A good example of Queen Anne architecture, the house stands as a reminder of Pine Bluff's past.

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When the Bealls were first married, they lived with the Ferguson family.<sup>7</sup> Later the Bealls had their own homes in several locations in Pine Bluff, but during the 1930s depression, moved back into the Ferguson home.<sup>8</sup> Beall died and Mrs. Beall continued to live there until her death December 26, 1967.

John Quincy Nash, Jr., also lived in the house with his mother and grandmother. He married Louise McLeod Pugh after he was in his 40s and they had one son, John Quincy Nash III, who lives in Rhode Island. The Elder Nash died February 7, 1973.<sup>9</sup> After Nash's death, his son and Martha Mitchell offered the house for sale. Before she died on May 31, 1976, Mrs. Mitchell signed the deed selling the old family home to Mr. and Mrs. Bob Abbott of 902 Washington, Pine Bluff. The deed was dated May 8, 1976.

The Abbotts have undertaken the restoration of the house which had deteriorated considerably. At the present the house has been painted and necessary repairs made to the porch. The interior has been cleaned and ceilings repaired. The Abbotts have left the wallpaper untouched and furnished some of the rooms with period furniture. They are allowing local civic groups to tour the home and plan to make it available to the public. The house has several features which give it special significance. These are the handsome staircase, the double entrance with bevelled glass in the sidelights and doors and the oriental-style decorations on the second floor porches. It is the only house of its design in the city and is worthy of preservation.

<sup>1</sup> The Pine Bluff Graphic, February 11, 1911, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> The Pine Bluff Commercial, August 4, 1958, p. 1.

<sup>3</sup> Commercial, April 21, 1893, p. 3.

<sup>4</sup> Jefferson County land records, Deed Book 24, p. 315.

<sup>5</sup> Jefferson County Paid Tax Book 1896, p. 339 and Jefferson County Assessments 1897, p. 335.

<sup>6</sup> Weekly Commercial, October 12, 1901, p. 7 and October 19, 1901, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup> Pine Bluff City Directory 1920-21. (Ashville, N. C., Gulf States Directory Co., 1920), p. 119.

<sup>8</sup> Pine Bluff City Directory 1936 (Hebron, Nebraska, Baldwin Con Survey Co., 1936), p. 214 and Pine Bluff City Directory 1939 (Parsons, Kansas, Commercial Directory Co., 1939), p. 215.

<sup>9</sup> John Quincy Nash Tombstone, Bellwood Cemetery.

# 18 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Historic	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Circa 1896 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ferguson-Abbott house is a different style of house, built when most of the best homes being constructed in Pine Bluff were of the Queen Anne Victorian style of architecture. What makes this house different are the decorations on the two second-story porches. These decorations are elliptical in shape supported by rod and ball forms which indicate an Oriental influence on the designs of the day. The inspiration for these decorations probably came from China or Japan. The other features of the house show the typical Victorian influences of the era.

Calvin M. Ferguson, the builder of the house, was born in Chester, S. C., April 15, 1852. He married Sallie Scott, a native of Chester, on March 6, 1879. Mrs. Ferguson was the daughter of Winfield and Mary McMullen Culp Scott and was born January 21, 1859. Ferguson was in business at Chester for a number of years before coming to Pine Bluff in 1893. He died in Miami, Florida, where he had gone for health reasons, on February 9, 1911.<sup>1</sup> Mrs. Ferguson died August 4, 1958, at the Davis Hospital in Pine Bluff, at the age of 99. The Fergusons had two children, a son, Hinton H. and a daughter, Arie Elizabeth.<sup>2</sup>

When Ferguson came to Pine Bluff in April, 1893, he opened "an elegant and fancy grocery store" at 328 Pine Street in partnership with M. P. Russell under the trade name of Ferguson and Russell.<sup>3</sup> Ferguson later entered the wholesale grocery business with his son, Hinton. This firm was operated under the name of C. M. Ferguson and Son and was located on the southwest corner of West Third Avenue and Walnut Street in Pine Bluff.

On March 8, 1894, Ferguson, for the consideration of \$675, bought the East ½ of Lot 2 Block 6, James Addition to Pine Bluff located on the southwest corner of West Fourth Avenue and Elm Street from John Baker of Pulaski County.<sup>4</sup> Judging from the fact the assessment on the property was increased in 1897, the house was built in late 1895 or early 1896.<sup>5</sup>

Ferguson's daughter, Arie, was born in Chester, South Carolina July 15, 1882, and married Lieutenant John Quincy Nash of Barnesville, Georgia on October 15, 1901.<sup>6</sup> The couple had one son, John Quincy Nash, Jr. Nash died and Arie married George V. Beall in 1917. The Bealls had one daughter, Martha E., born on September 2, 1918, who later attained

## MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 591000 3787440  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING  
D \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Leslie, Jefferson County Historical Society

ORGANIZATION

Sandra Taylor, Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

6-14-77

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 500, Continental Building

TELEPHONE

501-371-2763

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

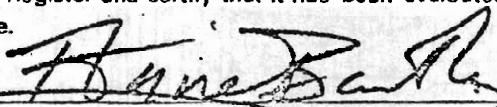
STATE \_\_\_\_\_

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 National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Anne Bartley



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 6-14-77

FEDERAL USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE



