

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: West – Blazer HouseOther names/site number: Monroe Jackson West House, PU10040

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 8107 Peters RoadCity or town: Jacksonville State: Arkansas County: PulaskiNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A B X C D


Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

☐

West – Blazer House

Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas

County and State

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

2

Noncontributing

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Brick, Walls: Wood:
Weatherboard, Roof: Asphalt

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has

Summary Paragraph

The West-Blazer House is a plain traditional single family residence that was constructed in c. 1912 in the rural farming community of Ebenezer in northeast Pulaski County.¹ The dwelling was constructed in several early phases by the original owners Mr. Monroe Jackson West and his family. The house sits on a larger farmstead with a brick wall enclosed well house and two ancillary structures to the rear of the house. The house includes some folk Victorian detailing, especially on the front porch. The roughly 1850 square feet interior is made up of several rooms and a rear hall, the result of early additions to create a roughly square structure with a side porch and sunroom.

Narrative Description

The house is a one story, frame structure with an original horizontal weatherboard exterior cladding. The corners of the house are accentuated with vertical corner boards. The house is topped with a hip roof covered with asphalt shingles with a side shed roof over the side porch and sunroom. The roof edge overhangs all of the facades of the house and feature exposed rafter tails. A single brick chimney pierces the roof. The house sits on a continuous exterior brick

¹ Records at the Pulaski County Assessor's Office indicate a date of 1912 for the house as well. Mr. West's deed to the property is dated January 21, 1908.

West – Blazer House

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

Name of Property

foundation surrounding interior piers. Most of the original windows in the house are wooden, double-hung, two-over-two, tall and narrow windows with modern exterior storm windows.

The house faces slightly north of east, overlooking Peters Road. To the rear of the house is a well and a modern propane tank. Also at the rear of the house, further to the west, are two ancillary structures. One is a large, two-room shed with a side porch and a rear garage area. The second ancillary structure is a smaller wood-framed structure topped with a gable roof and supported on concrete-block piers.

Northeast (Front) Facade

The northeastern facade is dominated by the large integral front porch and side screened porch. The front door of the house is sheltered by the large front porch and reached by a set of wooden steps. The far southern part of the porch, under the extended shed roof, has been screened in and is entered through a screen door under the main open front porch. The central open porch is supported by turned wooden columns, offering a bit of folk Victorian detailing to the plain traditional front facade. The open front porch has a painted wooden floor and the ceiling covered with bead-board and painted yellow to match the exterior walls of the house. A pair of tall, narrow, double-hung, two-over-two, wooden windows are located along the interior wall of the front porch to the south of the front door. The northern section of this facade is clad with horizontal, wooden weatherboard siding and includes a centered tall and narrow double-hung, two-over-two wooden window covered by a modern storm window.

Southeast (Side) Facade

The southeastern facade is dominated by windows and the screened in portion of the side porch. This facade originally was all open porches, but has been enclosed in part to create a sun room and a screened in porch. To the west, there are a row of eight identical modern windows, replacing what were similar wood windows that had deteriorated. These windows have a four-over-four pane arrangement. Just to the right of the center of this facade is a screen door with screened side openings reached by a flight of wooden stairs. The remaining eastern portion of this facade includes the side of the screened portion of the larger front porch. These side porches are topped with an extended shed roof. The side screened porch ceiling is the underside of the shed roof, with the rafters exposed. In the screened porch area, the interior wall includes a pair of windows. The area above and below the windows along the western part of this facade is clad with horizontal wooden weatherboard siding. The far western edge of this facade also includes the exterior metal utility boxes and cables.

Southwest (Rear) Facade

The rear facade faces the two rear ancillary structures and overlooks the well and a modern propane tank located in the rear yard. The rear door of the house is located just to the left of the center of the rear facade of the main house building. This door is reached by a set of wooden stairs that lead to a small open landing. To the north of the doorway is a pair of short stationary windows with two narrow panes each.

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

Directly to the south of the rear doorway is a square window opening infilled with a stained-glass panel. This window allows natural light into the rear interior hall space. Further to the south of the rear doorway are two pairs of tall, narrow, double-hung, two-over-two wooden windows with exterior storm windows. The far southern section of this facade is the rear portion of the interior sunroom. This section is set back slightly from the rest of this facade with the roofline of the extended side shed roof also set back slightly from the main house roofline. This rear wall of the sunroom includes a pair of small, four-over-four modern windows. The air conditioning unit for the home also sits at the rear of the sunroom, along the rear facade.

Northwest (Side) Facade

The northwestern facade is relatively simple, with only two pairs or two-over-two, double-hung windows, one toward the east and one toward the west. A small four-pane window is located between the western pair of windows and the western edge of the facade. This facade is actually made up to two separate wall planes, with the rear section of the facade is set back about eighteen inches from the front section of the facade. A small perpendicular section of flat vertical board infills the joint and a vertical corner boards mark this seam. The roofline is the same along this entire facade and the western portion of the roof simply overhangs the wall to a greater degree. The single brick chimney is visible along the roof plane on this side of the property.

Ancillary Structure #1 (non-contributing)

This structure is a wood framed building, clad with horizontal board siding and topped with a gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. The building currently sits on concrete block piers. A single door, along the eastern facade, centered under the gable and topped by a square vent, gives access to the interior. All four sides include screened openings, some covered with wooden shutters that would allow cross ventilation when the building was used as a barracks. The interior also retains its original shelving units, used by the soldiers to store items above their beds. This structure was used by Mr. Monroe West as an office space and is currently used for storage. Originally this structure was most likely constructed as a temporary barracks unit at Camp Robinson during World War II, possibly c. 1942, and then purchased by the contemporary owners of the West-Blazer House to be used as a storage building after the end of the war. Camp Robinson, located in nearby North Little Rock, has mostly served as a training facility for the United States Army National Guard units in Arkansas. However, during the 1940s, the camp was reclaimed by the United States Army as a training post and many temporary tent and wood framed building were constructed to house troops.² Due to its late addition to the farmstead, this ancillary structure is considered non-contributing.

² "History of the Post," <http://arngmuseum.com/history/history-of-the-post/world-war-ii/>. Accessed 1 June 2017.

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

Ancillary Structure #2 (contributing)

This multi room shed is roughly twelve feet by twenty feet in plan and includes an attached ten feet by ten feet milking shed. This shed has a wood frame structure with a gable roof and attached shed roofs covering the exterior porch. The exterior is clad with board and batten and also horizontal boards on portions of the rear. The gable roof and shed sections of roof are clad in metal sheets. The structure is supported by a concrete foundation, including concrete blocks. The interior includes partial concrete floors and some area of dirt floors. The interior also still includes vats and piping that relate to dairy equipment. The porch includes a concrete floor. The rear of this structure includes a simple shed with three walls and a slanted roof used either as a simple stable or a garage. This structure was most likely constructed in c.1912, when the main house was built. This structure is considered a contributing structure on the property.

Interior

The house retains its original floor plan, including two front rooms with a central entry hall space. A large kitchen space at the southwest corner of the house was most likely added and a rear porch was enclosed to create the rear hall space sometime early in the house's history. In that "squaring up" a bathroom was also added in part of the space of the earliest "L" shaped porch on the west side of the house. At some time the original owners' daughter and son-in-law moved in with Mr. Monroe West and his wife, most likely in the 1960s. The house then became a two-family home and the northwestern room in the house was also used as a second kitchen space. This room may have even been the original kitchen, before the addition of the larger kitchen across the rear hall. In recent years this second kitchen was renovated due to serious deteriorated including some of the floor giving way. The sink and part of the cabinets were removed from this room by the current homeowner. Some of the cabinets have been re-installed including three grain storage bins as strips of wood with holes for pegs put back up a little higher than chair rail height in this room.

The middle room on the north side of the house, which probably served as a dining room at some time, has some built-in cabinets on the east wall, most likely retained from the earliest period of the house's occupation. There is a built-in pie safe type unit, with shelves for storing dishes and possibly food with a door infilled with screening. Interestingly, the door knob was created by attaching half of a thread bobbin. There are also built-in shelves that likely served as pantry shelves. A handsome multi-paneled door encloses this shelf. On the south wall there is a small closet built into the wall space. Apparently the other half of the thread bobbin was used for its door knob. Also several of the interior walls are covered in beadboard, while other walls are have a plaster finish.

The east room on the north side of the house includes a fireplace with a mantel of simple design. The fireplace is located along the interior wall, opposite the cabinets described in the middle room. To the right as one faces the fireplace there is a door to another closet whose rear wall includes the backsides of the cabinets in the middle room. There is also in this room a small built-in cabinet with a door made of fruit crates.

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

Integrity

The house evidences a very major addition to it very early on. It originally was “L” shaped in plan, with two rooms facing east separated by a hallway with two additional rooms behind the northern front room. The original front porch facing the east had a shed roof and the turned porch posts are most likely original to the earliest house construction. Although the front porch is now under an extended section of the original hipped roof, the shed roof is still there with its original wood shake shingle roof, hidden from view by a wall when the house was “squared up.” The original roof can still be seen from the attic. There was also an “L” shaped back porch on the house facing west. Underneath the house in its crawl space one can still see a stone cistern which was originally located underneath the back porch and is now under the interior bathroom.

At an early date the house was “squared up” with the addition of a large kitchen at the southwest corner of the house. A new side porch was also added, wrapping the porch around practically all of the south side of the house. Additionally, the back “L” shaped porch was enclosed and made into a central rear hall space and an interior bathroom. The now interior walls of the rear hall space show evidence of this early addition in the weatherboard walls within the hall, showing where it was once an exterior space. A major part of this remodeling included the addition of the large windows in the new kitchen space. The large two-over-two windows in the rest of the house may have been added at this time as well, enlarging previously smaller window openings. The current owner of the property replaced part of the exterior wood on what is now the sunporch on the south side of the house after it fell away from the house due to deterioration. However, with some of the exterior wood siding removed, some of the original porch balustrade was exposed where the sunroom had been created by enclosing a previously open porch space. This balustrade matched the balustrade in the remainder of the porch which had not been enclosed. Additionally, in one conversation with a neighbor and friend of Ruth West Blazer, a former owner of the property, Patricia J. Loomis said that Mrs. Blazer had had the sun porch built after the death of her parents Mr. and Mrs. West.³ The windows in the sun porch were replaced in recent years as the old windows were beyond repair. They were replaced with more energy efficient windows with the same 4-over-4 pane design as the original windows. A single window was added to the structure in the last few years to bring light to the West hallway.

The original wood shake roof shingles covered by composition shingles existed as recently as the early 1990s. With a new composition shingle roof installed in the early 1990s and redone within the past few years the roof now has standard roof decking over which the composition shingles are attached. The exterior elevations of the house retain their original horizontally lapped wood siding, windows, and window trim. Much of the window glass is original. Of the three exterior doors one is original to the house from its earliest days, one has been in place for some time, and one is of recent vintage but harmonious in style.

³ Interview with Mrs. Pat Loomis, Interviewed by Richard Robertson, Pulaski County, Arkansas, 26 September 1999.

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

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.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

West – Blazer House

Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas

County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1912-1930

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder: Monroe Jackson West

West – Blazer House

Pulaski, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The West-Blazer House is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Republican Road and Peters Road in the historic rural farming community of Ebenezer in northeast Pulaski County. The West-Blazer House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with **local significance**, under **Criterion C** as an important example of a vernacular, wood-frame dwelling constructed by a local carpenter in c. 1912. The period of significance, from c. 1912 to c. 1930, was selected as it most likely encompassed the major early additions to the home that resulted in its current configuration. This period of significance also encompasses the period when the Ebenezer community was at its height as a cohesive rural community with an active local school, church, and multiple businesses.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The West-Blazer House is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Republican Road and Peters Road in the historic rural farming community of Ebenezer in northeast Pulaski County. The West-Blazer House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with **local significance**, under **Criterion C** as an important example of a vernacular, wood-frame dwelling constructed by a local carpenter in c. 1912.

Elaboration

The West-Blazer House is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Republican Road and Peters Road. The house was built in the small, rural community of Ebenezer, Arkansas, in northern Pulaski County. Today, the community has mostly vanished, with only a few scattered home sites where historic homes have been replaced with more modern structures and a small private cemetery just to the east of this property, in a stand of trees near a small pond. The West-Blazer House is one of the only historic homes remaining in the surrounding area.

What is now the northeastern corner of Pulaski County, in-between the current large communities of Jacksonville and Cabot, was settled in c. 1818. *The History of Jacksonville: 1818-1976* indicates that some of the earliest settlers in the vicinity were the Sherrard and Jacob families as well as Joseph Gray. The Grays were a large family which had moved from Tennessee to Arkansas. The Gray's arrival in the area predated much of the surveying and deeding of the land, so their claims had to be surveyed before their property could be recorded.⁴ The first recorded land transaction in the area was made in 1823 by Samson Gray, a son of the

⁴ Gregory A. Boyd, *Family Maps of Pulaski County, Arkansas*, Arphax Publishing Co. 2005.

West – Blazer House

Pulaski, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Gray family.⁵ The Samson Gray family and their collective farmsteads became a small community unto itself. The main Gray home also served as a tavern and early stagecoach stop.⁶ Importantly the Gray's home was on the "Military Road", the Memphis Military Road for which Samson Gray had helped survey a small portion.⁷ The tavern and stagecoach stop are long gone but were located approximately at the intersection of Military Road and State Highway 161 in Jacksonville.

In recounting the stories of some of the families who settled in the Ebenezer area of Pulaski County and Jacksonville both *The History of Jacksonville: 1818-1976* and *Siftings from Jacksonville's History 1820 to 1980* it is noted that many of the arriving families came from Southeastern states such as North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Maps of this part of Pulaski County of the late 1800s show several communities including Ebenezer. Some others were Piedmont, Hardcastle Springs, Warsaw, and Olmstead. Today Olmstead is a road intersection with the word "Olmstead" over the door of the closed store, an abandoned gas station and a cluster of a few houses. In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, up until the time of World War II, things were pretty slow for the people who lived in this area and north Pulaski County. The area was sparsely populated by farmers and small rural communities.

Local farmers eventually settled in the area north of the town of Jacksonville and the small community of Ebenezer emerged from the collection of homes, farms and a few small stores. The community was never officially organized as a town and never had a post office. The closest post office location during the late 19th century was the Piedmont post office, to the west of the Ebenezer community, active from 1892 to 1899, when the routes were transferred to the Macon post office, located even further to the west, near the current Little Rock Air Force Base. The main community gathering spaces were the small wooden church and a nearby schoolhouse. This church, known as the Ebenezer Cumberland Presbyterian Church was constructed in c. 1881 and served the community as the main religious center throughout the late 19th and early 20th century.⁸ The community also included at least two stores and several family homes during the 1910s and 1920s according to interviews with longtime area residents and collected memories of the Ebenezer School and church published in the local paper.⁹ Interestingly, the residents of the area were progressive in the installation of an early cooperatively owned telephone system in c. 1917.¹⁰

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Carolyn Little, et al, *The History of Jacksonville, 1818-1976*, Little Rock: Target Printing, 1976.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ Due to the rural nature of the community of Ebenezer, and its low population and loss of many historic resources, much of the history of the community can only be collected through oral histories. There is a substantial lack of historical documentation for the school, the church and many of the local farmsteads in the area.

⁹ "Go With Us Through the Changing Scenes of Life (Bro. Martin – Presbyterian Minister, Ebenezer)," *Cabot Star-Herald* (Cabot, Arkansas), 12 June 1981. Fred Woods recalled some of the stores, "The stores I remember in the community were owned by Uncle John Counts, Walter McKenzie, Miss Coulter and John Clements."

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

West – Blazer House

Pulaski, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

In county maps from 1898 and 1906, the Ebenezer Church and school are noted at the intersection of two county roads.¹¹ One of these roads, which runs roughly north to south, is now known as Peters Road. This road was formerly known as Trotter Road, which was named after the Trotter family who were major landholders in the area and well-known local farmers.¹² It is possible, based on historic maps that the roads have changed location slightly over time, but the intersection of the two is roughly in the same vicinity as the modern intersection between East Republican Road and Peters Road.

In *The History of Jacksonville: 1818-1976*, published in 1976, there is a mention of the Ebenezer Community, including the Ebenezer Presbyterian Church as well a note that “A small one room school was located near the church, and the community cemetery was also there.”¹³ The small Ebenezer cemetery, now no longer in use, sits on private land to the east of the West-Blazer House. The Ebenezer School taught many of the children of the surrounding families and offered courses to children from the first through the eighth grade. In a series of reminiscences about the school and community during a school reunion in 1981, brothers Jack, Fred and Jeff wood recalled:

“... Ebenezer school activities usually started about seven in the morning.

“It wasn’t unusual for a wagon and team of mules to arrive at the school by lantern light in the winter carrying 10 or 15 children.”... The first arrivals had the chore of building the fire in the wood stove at the center of the building.... “The school was in a separate two room building.

“The two rooms were divided by a flimsy partition,” Fred reminded the group.”¹⁴

The school was closed by 1928, due to the consolidation of the rural district with the nearby community of Cabot, Arkansas. The school house continued to be used by the church as a community building until its removal at an unknown date. The congregation of the Ebenezer Church was active until the 1980s, although the membership had greatly decreased in the later years. The church structure continued to serve the community, until 1987, when the church burned during a late night fire. This fire, unfortunately, was the effective end of the dwindling community of Ebenezer.

The West Family

On March 16, 1957, Monroe Jackson West and his wife of seventy years, Corilla Elizabeth Winkler West, celebrated their wedding anniversary. The couple were married on March 16th of 1887 in the rural North Pulaski County community of Ebenezer. On March 17th, 1957, an article in the *Arkansas Gazette*, one of the two major Little Rock newspapers, told of Mr. and Mrs. West’s anniversary celebration and their long life together.¹⁵ Both Mr. and Mrs. West had

¹¹ *20th Century Atlas of Pulaski County*, Little Rock, Arkansas: Guy Beauman, 1906. George P. C. Rumbough and George A. Merrick, *Merrick’s Sectional Map of Pulaski County, Arkansas*, New York, NY: Beers & Co., Map Printers, c1898.

¹² Little, *The History of Jacksonville, 1818–1976*, 1976.

¹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴ “Go With Us ...,” *Cabot Star-Herald*, 12 June 1981.

¹⁵ Patrick Carithers, “Childhood Sweethearts: Cabot Couple Observes 70 Years of Marriage,” *Arkansas Gazette* (Little Rock, Arkansas), 17 March 1957, p 8A.

West – Blazer House

Pulaski, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

been born, reared, and schooled in the Ebenezer community. Monroe Jackson West was born in Pulaski County, Arkansas, on July 15, 1863 and Corilla Elizabeth Winkler was born in the same community on May 10, 1868. In 1957, “Mr. and Mrs. West live comfortably in a well-kept, large white house which they built themselves in 1912. It is only a short distance from their church.”¹⁶ “Their church” was the nearby Ebenezer Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Mr. West had served as Elder at this church from the age of 23 and the couple continued to attend throughout their life together. As the article further described, “West, a retired carpenter and farmer, helped cut the logs and lay the foundation for the original church building in 1883.”¹⁷ It is also noted that “Mr. M.J. West was an early superintendent” of the Ebenezer church and/or school. Mr. Monroe West was also known to have helped renovate at least one home for one of his neighbors in the surrounding community in 1928.¹⁸

Monroe Jackson West’s father Martin Volney West came from South Carolina sometime before the Civil War. Martin Volney West was born in 1818 in South Carolina. The 1860 Census for Pulaski County, Gray Township, lists Martin West, age 35, and his wife Matilda West, age 23. Both Mr. and Mrs. Martin West were noted with a South Carolina birthplace. Only one child, one year old Corah, is listed in the West family in 1860, with a birthplace noted in Arkansas. Also, a resident in the same household, 21 year old farmhand John Wilson, is noted as being born in South Carolina as well. John Wilson may have been known to the West family through family or friends from before their move to Arkansas. Additionally, Martin West’s property and land holdings are shown as being valued at \$2,500 and \$900 respectively. A land patent map of Pulaski County compiled from a collection of various land records shows three 160-acre tracts as well as an 80-acre tract purchased by Martin West across various years including 1859, 1860, and 1861, all in the Ebenezer area.¹⁹ Martin and Sarah would go on to have at least six children, Cora, Mary, Monroe, Fannie, Octie and Maggie. Four of the children, at least, would survive past 1897. Local records, including confederate pension records, also indicate that Martin West served in the Confederate Army.²⁰ In an interview with long-time local resident and friend of descendant of the West family, Ruth West Blazer, Mrs. Loomis recalled that the family would often mention that Martin West would talk about how “he cleared 640 acres himself with just one mule.”²¹ Martin and Sarah West would continue to live in the Ebenezer community for the rest of their lives. Sarah West passed away in 1879, and Martin would remarry the next year to a woman by the name of Georgia. Martin West passed away in 1897.

In his visit with the *Arkansas Gazette* reporter in 1957, Mr. West said that he helped with the building of the Ebenezer Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1883. Probably sometime shortly after the church’s completion, a separate schoolhouse was built next to the church. A December 1910 photo of the Ebenezer School shows many of the students that attended the school in a

¹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁷ The construction of the church is listed in various sources as c. 1881, 1883, and 1891.

¹⁸ Interview with Mrs. Florence Burnett, Interview by Richard Robertson, Jacksonville, Arkansas, 5 November 2015.

¹⁹ Gregory A. Boyd, *Family Maps of Pulaski County, Arkansas*, Arphax Publishing Co., 2005, pp 74 and 134.

²⁰ Confederate Pension Applications, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

²¹ Interview with Mrs. Pat Loomis, Interviewed by Richard Robertson, Pulaski County, Arkansas, 26 September 1999.

West – Blazer House

Pulaski, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

class picture. Several of Mr. and Mrs. West's children are pictured, including Hazel West, Emmett West, Lottie West, Daisy West, and Ruth West.²² The school operated until 1928, when the school consolidated with the Cabot school district to the northeast. The students were then sent to Cabot to complete their education.

A 1906 Map of Pulaski County shows M.J. West owning a 40-acre tract somewhat to the East of the tract he purchased in 1908 on which is the West-Blazer house. That map also shows a larger tract somewhat to the South owned by Georgia West who was Martin West's widow. Martin West died in 1897 but had married Georgia West in 1880.²³

The 1957 article from the *Arkansas Gazette* talked about the Wests' life together in the Ebenezer community:

"They were childhood sweethearts and it was just natural for them to get married, Mrs. West said. 'Monroe and I grew up together and went to school together. He was in the fifth grade and I started in the first grade at our one room Ebenezer School.' They both finished the eighth grade at the school (that's as far as it went) and when West reached 23 and Mrs. West was 18, they married at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.K. Winkler near here."²⁴

The Winkler house still stands although it is not currently occupied and in in very poor condition.

The young West family rented a home in 1900, and Mr. West worked as a farmer. It seems like the West family either lived with Monroe West's family or in rented accommodations until they purchased the land on which they built their home in c. 1912. By 1920, most of the West's children were grown and married, and only Ruth West, the youngest child was living in the home. Mrs. Ruth Blazer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. West, and her husband eventually moved back into the family home, sometime in the late 1950s, to help care for her elderly and ailing parents. She had at one time worked at the local electric co-op as a cashier.²⁵ After the death of Monroe West in 1960 and Corilla E. Winkler West in 1966, Ruth West Blazer continued to live in the home until her death in 1989. At this time, the house became known as the Blazer House and many of those in the surrounding area continue to refer to this house as the West-Blazer House or the Blazer House. After 1989, the house was then occupied by a series of tenants until 1993, when the current homeowner purchased the property.²⁶

The West-Blazer House

The house that Mr. Monroe West built shows evidence of a very major addition to it sometime shortly after its construction in c. 1912. The house was originally "L" shaped in plan, with two

²² <http://www.argenweb.net/pulaski/ebenezer.htm>. Accessed 1 June 2017.

²³ "Plat of Twp. 4N, R10W, 1906," *20th Century Atlas of Pulaski County*, Little Rock, Arkansas: Guy Beauman, 1906, p 17.

²⁴ Carithers, "Childhood Sweethearts...." *Arkansas Gazette*, 17 March 1957, p 8A.

²⁵ Interview with Mrs. Pat Loomis, Interviewed by Richard Robertson, Pulaski County, Arkansas, 26 September 1999.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

West – Blazer House

Pulaski, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

rooms facing east separated by a hallway with two additional rooms behind the northern front room. There was also an “L” shaped back porch on the house facing west. Underneath the house in its crawl space one can still see a stone cistern which was originally located underneath the back porch and is now under the interior bathroom. At an early date the house was “squared up” with the addition of a large kitchen at the southwest corner of the house. A new side porch was also added, wrapping the porch around practically all of the south side of the house. Additionally, the back “L” shaped porch was enclosed and made into a central rear hall space and an interior bathroom.

Apparently “modernizing” older houses was one of Mr. West’s specialties as a carpenter. One of the people interviewed about the Ebenezer community and the West family in particular noted that Mr. West remodeled the house that was her family’s home, which is located fairly close to the West house.²⁷ Florence Burnett related that:

“Mr. West made what we always called a two story house out of a log cabin with a sleeping loft and a lean-to kitchen. My grandparents William Woody Tiney...and their three children lived there. The children were my dad....The log cabin and eighty acres was bought by my grandparents sometime in 1917...They moved into the remodeled home on the day my parents got married...”²⁸

The West-Blazer House is an important regional example of a plain traditional, vernacular house, built by a local carpenter for his own use. The house also shows evidence of early additions and alterations that may have been the result of added prosperity for the family in the late 1910s and early 1920s. The house was enlarged, a more modern kitchen and an interior bathroom was added. The home’s wooden framed construction, weatherboard siding and unusually tall and narrow windows are all typical of this period of vernacular building traditions. The house was not built to a specific high-style design, but was a product of local building traditions and the needs of the West family. The house’s evidence of additions, including the once exterior weatherboard walls visible in the interior rear hall space, the offset exterior walls along the north side of the house, and the unusual built-in shelves and closets throughout the house all point to a function over form vernacular building approach by Monroe West. The house is a product of the West family and the economic conditions of the early 20th century.

Statement of Significance

The West-Blazer House is located at the southwest corner of the intersection of East Republican Road and Peters Road in the historic rural farming community of Ebenezer in northeast Pulaski County. The West-Blazer House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with **local significance**, under **Criterion C** as an important example of a vernacular, wood-frame dwelling constructed by a local carpenter in c. 1912. The period of significance, from c. 1912 to c. 1930, was selected as it most likely encompassed the major early additions to the home that

²⁷ Interview with Mrs. Florence Burnett, Interview by Richard Robertson, Jacksonville, Arkansas, 5 November 2015.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

West – Blazer House

Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas

County and State

resulted in its current configuration. This period of significance also encompasses the period when the Ebenezer community was at its height as a cohesive rural community with an active local school, church, and multiple businesses.

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

20th Century Atlas of Pulaski County. Little Rock, Arkansas: Guy Beauman, 1906.

Boyd, Gregory A. Family Maps of Pulaski County, Arkansas. Arphax Publishing Co. 2005.

Carithers, Patrick. "Childhood Sweethearts: Cabot Couple Observes 70 Years of Marriage." *Arkansas Gazette* (Little Rock, Arkansas). 17 March 1957. p 8A.

"Go With Us Through the Changing Scenes of Life (Bro. Martin – Presbyterian Minister, Ebenezer)." *Cabot Star-Herald* (Cabot, Arkansas). 12 June 1981.

Interview with Mrs. Pat Loomis. Interviewed by Richard Robertson. Pulaski County, Arkansas. 26 September 1999.

Interview with Mr. Bill Roberts and Mrs. Catherine Roberts. Interview by Richard Robertson. Jacksonville, Arkansas. 27 October 2015.

Interview with Mrs. JoElla Pearle Miller and Mr. Gaylor Miller. Interview by Richard Robertson. Jacksonville, Arkansas. 29 October 2015.

Interview with Mrs. Florence Burnett. Interview by Richard Robertson. Jacksonville, Arkansas. 5 November 2015.

Little, Carolyn, et al. *The History of Jacksonville, 1818–1976.* Little Rock: Target Printing, 1976.

Little, Carolyn Yancey, ed. *Siftings from Jacksonville's History, 1820–1980.* N.p.: 1986.

Oman, Noel. "Congregation Grieves Loss of Historic Church by Fire." *Arkansas Democrat* (Little Rock, Arkansas). 22 July 1987.

Rumbough, George P. C. and George A. Merrick. *Merrick's Sectional Map of Pulaski County, Arkansas.* New York, NY: Beers & Co., Map Printers, c1898.

U.S. Census Bureau. United States Federal Census. 1880-1930. Ancestry.com.

West – Blazer House

Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas

County and State

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 Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): PU10040

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.5 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

West – Blazer House

Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas

County and State

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15	Easting: 583062	Northing: 3866756
2. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
3. Zone:	Easting:	Northing:
4. Zone:	Easting :	Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The West-Blazer House property includes 1.5 acres at the southwest corner of the intersection of Peters Road and Republican Road in rural, northeastern Pulaski County. The property also sits at the intersection of Sections 28, 29, 32 and 33 of Township 4 North, Range 10 West. The property is bounded by a roughly rectilinear shape with sides as follows: 297' along the western edge, 181.5' along the eastern edge along Republican Road, 321.75' along the eastern edge along Peters Road, and 255.75' along the southern edge.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated the West-Blazer House and its associated ancillary structures.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Richard Robertson
organization: property owner

name/title: Callie Williams, National Register Historian
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail Callie.Williams@arkansas.gov
telephone: 501-324-9880
date: June 1, 2017

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: West-Blazer

City or Vicinity: Jacksonville, vic.

County: Pulaski

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Callie Williams

Date Photographed: March 24, 2016

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 18: Front (northeast) facade of the West-Blazer House, camera facing southwest.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0001)
- 2 of 18: Front (northeast) and side (northwest) facades of the West-Blazer House, camera facing southwest. (AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0002)
- 3 of 18: Side (northwest) facade of the West-Blazer House, camera facing southeast.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0003)

West – Blazer House
Name of Property

Pulaski, Arkansas
County and State

- 4 of 18: Rear (southwest) facade of the West-Blazer House, camera facing southeast.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0004)
- 5 of 18: Rear (southwest) facade of the West-Blazer House, camera facing northeast.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0005)
- 6 of 18: Side (southeast) facade of the West-Blazer House, camera facing northwest.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0006)
- 7 of 18: Front (northeast) and side (southeast) facades of the West-Blazer House, camera facing northwest. (AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0007)
- 8 of 18: Front and side facades of the two rear ancillary structures, camera facing south.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0008)
- 9 of 18: Front facades of the two rear ancillary structures, camera facing northwest.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0009)
- 10 of 18: Front façade of ancillary structure #2, camera facing northwest.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0010)
- 11 of 18: Side façade of ancillary structure #2, camera facing northwest.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0011)
- 12 of 18: Rear façade of ancillary structure #2, camera facing northeast.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0012)
- 13 of 18: Rear and side view of ancillary structure #1, camera facing north.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0013)
- 14 of 18: Rear and side view of ancillary structure #1, camera facing southeast.
(AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0014)
- 15 of 18: Interior detail of the central hall space in the West-Blazer House, camera facing southwest. (AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0015)
- 16 of 18: Interior detail of the entrance hall space in the West-Blazer House, camera facing southwest. (AR_PulaskiCounty_WestBlazerHouse_0016)

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

West - Blazer House, Jacksonville vic., Pulaski County, Arkansas



Google Earth

feet 400
meters 100



UTM

NAD 1983

Zone: 15 S

Easting: 583062

Northing: 3866756

West - Blazer House, Jacksonville vic., Pulaski County, Arkansas



Google Earth

miles 1
km 1



UTM

NAD 1983

Zone: 15 S

Easting: 583062

Northing: 3866756































