National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 2 6 1986 date entered

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

Type all entries—complete applicable sec	ctions		
1. Name			
nistoric Edward Dickinson House			
and or common N/A			
2. Location			
street & number 672 East Boswell	Street		N/Anot for publication
city, town Batesville	N/A_ vicinity of		
state Arkansas code	county	Independence	code 063
3. Classification			
Category district public building(s) private structure both object m process being considered	Status X occupied — unoccupied — work in progress Accessible X 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 Propert Dr. and Mrs. Robert Holye			
street & number 672 East Boswell S	Street		
Batesville	vicinity of	state	Arkansas 72501
5. Location of Lega	I Description	on	
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	endence County Cou	rthouse	
street & number 193 East Main Stre	eet		
Batesville		state	Arkansas 72501
6. Representation in	n Existing	Surveys	
itle Batesville Community Survey	has this pro	perty been determined e	ligible?yes Xno
date April, 1979		federal sta	٧
depository for survey records Arkansas H	listoric Preservat	ion Program	
city, town Little Rock		state	Arkansas 72201

Condition Check one Check one

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

unexposed

SUMMARY

fair

7. Description

Constructed circa 1875, the Edward Dickinson House is one of the few remaining pre-1900 Gothic Revival cottages in Arkansas. Located in one of Batesville's oldest and best-preserved residential areas, the house plan consists of a one and one-half story traditional center hall cottage with an ell. Gothic Revival details include matching pointed arch windows in steeply pitched gables and heavy wood moldings over principal windows. A unique and simply decorated structure, the Dickinson House maintains excellent integrity for what has become a rare architectural style in Arkansas.

ELABORATION

Situated on a corner lot surrounded by other National Register properties which were constructed in the 19th and early 20th centuries, and adjoining the grounds of the First Presbyterian Church, the Edward Dickinson House displays the Gothic Revival idea of picturesqueness. Encircled by ample foliage and flowers, the house is painted in earth tones, sits closely to the ground and possesses steep, quaint gables, elaborate decorative trim and arched windows, all of which are typical Gothic Revival features.

On the facade, a three-bay porch is supported by four chamfered posts with a jig-sawed balustrade. Fanciful flat brackets support a pierced fascia board beneath a hipped and decked porch roof from which a balustrade has been removed. A three-part doorway assembled in a palladian composition is centrally positioned. A round-arch, single-pane, fixed transom is joined to sidelights by a continuous, deeply molded architrave matching that above the windows. The first floor windows contain six-pane sashes and are segmentally arched beneath the heavy hood moldings. Shutters have been removed to accomodate modern storm windows. Broad corner pilasters and gable returns suggest a touch of Classical Revival styling.

The foundation is cut sandstone; the walls are horizontal weatherboards suitably painted buff and trimmed in medium brown; the roof is gray composition shingles. The original interior end chimney on the west is gothic-inspired with a double stack and lozenge-shaped panel. The replaced east chimney of random ashlar stone has been moved to the exterior end wall. A one and one-half story ell in the same style connects the house to a once separate kitchen and limestone storage room. A secondary boxed staircase which once rose from the kitchen has been opened to a porch on the west.

The interior woodwork is simple but neatly finished with bold moldings. The four-panel doors are surrounded by molded casings which incorporate two-light transoms. The staircase in the center hall has a walnut railing and is decorated with flat, sawn stair brackets which are carried across the landing fascia in a foliate form.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The front portion of the Dickinson House appears to be unaltered except for the loss of the porch roof balustrade and changes to the east chimney. The original house consisted of a classic traditional plan of two rooms with a center hall. An ell on the east is original. From it, the kitchen was reached by an open porch. The porch was enclosed prior to 1897 to make a hallway from which a threepart doorway opens to 7th Street on the east. Beyond the kitchen was an open wellhouse which connected with a cut stone storage house with a stone floor, probably used for cool storage. Circa 1950, the Curtis Thompson family enclosed the wellhouse to make a garage, capping the well at floor level. A later owner converted the former wellhouse into a passage, moving to it a "gothic" window from a second floor rear gable. The Thompsons moved the west wall of the storage room outward to create a fireplace wall for a recreation room. The Thompsons also enlarged the ell hallway by moving the south wall of the dining room a few feet northward, creating a modern kitchen in the old hallway and a bedroom in the old kitchen. An additional bedroom was provided by enclosing a shed porch on the rear.

The Dickinson House maintains unusual integrity. The basic interior and exterior fabric is intact and the alterations are not disruptive. It remains a well-kept, liveable dwelling, responding on the interior to the decorating tastes of various owners but retaining integrity of basic fabric and appearance.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c.1875	Builder/Architect Unkn	own	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

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Few Gothic Revival cottages remain in Arkansas of the undetermined number built before 1900. The Dickinson House is the only survivor of a group of three similar cottages in Batesville, which once included the Neill and Reed Houses. The only other remaining Gothic structure is St. Paul's Episcopal Church, which was erected in 1872. While the Dickinson House is a late example of the style advocated by A. J. Downing thirty years earlier, the style-determining features are prominent and unaltered. The house is a sprawling conglomeration of rooms, giving a desirable effect of organic growth. The structure is partially shaded by large trees, resulting in a picturesque interplay of light and shadow, structure and nature, just as Downing's landscape plans specified. Furthermore, surviving contemporary local residences lack the finesse of interior and exterior trim which give this basically traditional house style and distinction. Alterations to the rear ell have been made sensitively and forward the Gothic Revival motif.

Most importantly, the Dickinson House contains the most fully documented pieces of woodwork by the Batesville firm of Charles L. Gorsuch. His firm employed the chief local woodcrafters during an era of considerable construction from 1867 to 1880. Gorsuch died February 1880 and in April of that year the probate sale bill records the making and installing of two walnut mantels and one set of walnut closet doors. One of the mantels survives, although probably stripped of applied ornament, and has made possible the identification of similar work in other structures besides the Dickinson House. An excellent example survived in the home of Gorsuch's brother-in-law, J. N. Reed, but this structure was razed in 1974. There are also chimney pieces done by Gorsuch on the second floor of the existing Glenn House. In the Dickinson House, the double-leaf closet doors, installed beside the mantelpiece in 1880, are decorated with pointed-arch panels, the single interior reflection of the exterior Gothic Revival Style. The doors have been moved from their original location recently, but are preserved within the house.

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Item number 8

Page 2

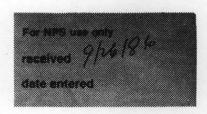
Charles Gorsuch was born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1828, descended from an English family which settled in Maryland in the seventeenth century. When he was a child, his parents moved to Peoria, Illinois where he and his brothers became carpenters, masons, and woodworkers. In 1855, he advertised as an undertaker, coffin maker and expert furniture repairer. In 1854, he married Sarah Reed whose brother, I. N. Reed, married into Batesville's prominent Weaver family and became a successful merchant in Batesville in the late 1860's. Gorsuch followed his brother-in-law to Arkansas and settled in the thriving town of Batesville in 1867. He advertised as a cabinetmaker with a shop on lower Main Street at "The Sign of the Bedstead". With the coming of the railroad to Newport in 1872, Gorsuch made a gradual transition to stocking manufactured furniture and decorating supplies after a futile attempt to advertise that "homemade is better". He supplemented his income by becoming the first sexton of newly opened Oaklawn Cemetery. By 1872 he had also acquired an impressive array of patented woodworking equipment for the production of sashes, doors, blinds and other millwork, called "jobbing work" in the sale bills. A prominent and well-known man, Gorsuch was killed in February 1880 by a falling wall of burning three-story brick Batesville Institute while helping save equipment from the office of the Batesville Guard.

Most Batesville houses built between 1870 and 1880 undoubtedly contain Gorsuch woodwork. Some pieces have now been identified. Even less furniture is known because no key to identification is available such as that provided by the Gorsuch work in the Dickinson House.

The original owner of the structure, Edward Dickinson, was a second generation Batesvillian, descended from a New York family. His father, Townsend Dickinson, was in Independence County in the early 1820's as one of the area's two earliest lawyers. He represented Independence County on the Council of the 3rd Territorial Legislature in 1823 and served in the House of Representatives in the first state legislature, 1836-38. He was an Associate Justice on the first Supreme Court, serving from 1836-42. Townsend Dickinson's brothers, Benjamin and William H. Dickinson, joined him in Batesville in the 1830's. Benjamin bought both farm property and Main Street lots in 1837-38. The three brothers opened a general store in Batesville.

Benjamin married Maria Slater of Pine Bluff and by 1840 Edward Dickinson was born followed by Elizabeth and John. During the Civil War Edward served in a local Confederate Company and in 1860 married Sarah Byers of Batesville, daughter of the former district prosecuting attorney. The Byers family was socially and economically prominent thus giving Dickinson important connections. Dickinson clerked and kept books for businesses in the area until the Reconstruction Republications were swept from county offices. In 1874, Dickinson was elected Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts. He held the office until 1886 with his brother serving as Deputy Clerk for most of the twenty-two years. Edward Dickinson carried on private enterprises while holding office. He acquired farm property and speculated in town lots, not only those on his own block but also those on the west half of the block directly across 7th Street from his residence where he had rental property. In 1888, he opened a book and stationery shop which probably supplied the needs of the courthouse. Dickinson represented Independence County in the 28th General Assembly

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 8

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in 1891, defeating a Union Labor candidate in a hard-fought campaign.

In 1893, he was appointed to a position in the Treasury Department in Washington under the second Cleveland administration, probably due to the influence of Mrs. Dickinson's brother-in-law, congressman Robert Neill of Batesville, who served in the 53rd Congress. Thereafter the Dickinsons returned to Batesville only for visits, most notably to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1918. Significantly, the celebration was held at the Neill home because the Dickinson property was rented. Two years later, Edward Dickinson died in Washington and his body was returned to Batesville for burial from St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

9.	Major	Bibliog	raphica	al Refe	ren	ces	
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Dickinson, Edward Independence Cour ARKANSAS				Working No	SEP 2 6 1986
resubmission nomination by perso owner objection appeal	n or local governm	ent		Action:A	23/86 - 11/10/86 CCEPT ETURN _0-23-86 EJECT
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summary paragraph completeness clarity alterations/integrity dates boundary selection					

8. Significance	
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Specific dates Builder/Architect Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)	J. Bright NO JAVE
summary paragraph completeness 3 \$ 932 clarity applicable criteria	Dickinson, Edward, House Independence County ARKANSAS
justification of areas checked relating significance to the resource context relationship of integrity to significance justification of exception other	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
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State Historic Preservation Officer signature	
title date	
13. Other	
☐ Maps ☐ Photographs ☐ Other	
Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to	Cororing the execute and exigrant (it known) physical appearance
Signed Dayer Date	e /5/23/86 Phone:



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

September 23, 1986

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1100 "L" Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Re: Edward Dickinson House

Batesville, Independence County

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination for the Edward Dickinson House. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Wilson Stiles

State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/TJ/do

Enclosure/s



Suite 200 • Heritage Center • 225 East Markham • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 • Phone (501) 371-2763

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received SEP 2 6 1986

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Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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state Arkansas code	county	Independence	code 063
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Category — district — public — public — Structure — both — object — Deing considered	Status X occupied — unoccupied — work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted — yes: unrestricted — no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
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city, town Little Rock		state	Arkansas 72201

7. Description

Condition A excellent B good	deteriorated	Check one unaltered	Check one original site moved date	
fair	unexposed			

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SUMMARY

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date

Chief of Registration

Attest:

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Charles Gorsuch was born in Baltimore County, Maryland in 1828, descended from an English family which settled in Maryland in the seventeenth century. When he was a child, his parents moved to Peoria, Illinois where he and his brothers became carpenters, masons, and woodworkers. In 1855, he advertised as an undertaker, coffin maker and expert furniture repairer. In 1854, he married Sarah Reed whose brother, I. N. Reed, married into Batesville's prominent Weaver family and became a successful merchant in Batesville in the late 1860's. Gorsuch followed his brother-in-law to Arkansas and settled in the thriving town of Batesville in 1867. He advertised as a cabinetmaker with a shop on lower Main Street at "The Sign of the Bedstead". With the coming of the railroad to Newport in 1872, Gorsuch made a gradual transition to stocking manufactured furniture and decorating supplies after a futile attempt to advertise that "homemade is better". He supplemented his income by becoming the first sexton of newly opened Oaklawn Cemetery. By 1872 he had also acquired an impressive array of patented woodworking equipment for the production of sashes, doors, blinds and other millwork, called "jobbing work" in the sale bills. A prominent and well-known man, Gorsuch was killed in February 1880 by a falling wall of burning three-story brick Batesville Institute while helping save equipment from the office of the Batesville Guard.

Most Batesville houses built between 1870 and 1880 undoubtedly contain Gorsuch woodwork. Some pieces have now been identified. Even less furniture is known because no key to identification is available such as that provided by the Gorsuch work in the Dickinson House.

The original owner of the structure, Edward Dickinson, was a second generation Batesvillian, descended from a New York family. His father, Townsend Dickinson, was in Independence County in the early 1820's as one of the area's two earliest lawyers. He represented Independence County on the Council of the 3rd Territorial Legislature in 1823 and served in the House of Representatives in the first state legislature, 1836-38. He was an Associate Justice on the first Supreme Court, serving from 1836-42. Townsend Dickinson's brothers, Benjamin and William H. Dickinson, joined him in Batesville in the 1830's. Benjamin bought both farm property and Main Street lots in 1837-38. The three brothers opened a general store in Batesville.

Benjamin married Maria Slater of Pine Bluff and by 1840 Edward Dickinson was born followed by Elizabeth and John. During the Civil War Edward served in a local Confederate Company and in 1860 married Sarah Byers of Batesville, daughter of the former district prosecuting attorney. The Byers family was socially and economically prominent thus giving Dickinson important connections. Dickinson clerked and kept books for businesses in the area until the Reconstruction Republications were swept from county offices. In 1874, Dickinson was elected Clerk of the County and Circuit Courts. He held the office until 1886 with his brother serving as Deputy Clerk for most of the twenty-two years. Edward Dickinson carried on private enterprises while holding office. He acquired farm property and speculated in town lots, not only those on his own block but also those on the west half of the block directly across 7th Street from his residence where he had rental property. In 1888, he opened a book and stationery shop which probably supplied the needs of the courthouse. Dickinson represented Independence County in the 28th General Assembly

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

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in 1891, defeating a Union Labor candidate in a hard-fought campaign.

In 1893, he was appointed to a position in the Treasury Department in Washington under the second Cleveland administration, probably due to the influence of Mrs. Dickinson's brother-in-law, congressman Robert Neill of Batesville, who served in the 53rd Congress. Thereafter the Dickinsons returned to Batesville only for visits, most notably to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary in 1918. Significantly, the celebration was held at the Neill home because the Dickinson property was rented. Two years later, Edward Dickinson died in Washington and his body was returned to Batesville for burial from St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

WASO Form - 177 ("R" June 1984)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Dickinson, Edward, House Independence County ARKANSAS

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PROGRAM

November 12, 1986

Ms. Carol D. Shull Chief of Registration U.S. Department of the Interior National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 1100 "L" Street, NW Washington, DC 20240

> RE: Edward Dickinson House Batesville, Independence County

Dear Carol:

Enclosed please find the nomination for the above-referenced property. As requested, we have clarified the verbal boundary description.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have additional questions.

Sincerely, Julie Vismik

Julie Vosmik

National Register & Survey Programs Manager

JV/dr

Enclosure



Edward Dickinson House
Batesville, Independence Co, Arkansas
Photographed by Alice Jones, 1985
Negatives on file at AHPP
Front elevation



Edward Dickinson House
Batesville, Independence Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Alice Jones, 1985
Negatives on file at AHPP
Interior hall