TENNESSEE MULTIPLE PROPERTY FORM

Title: Historic Resources of Paris, Tennessee

County: Henry

Historic Name: Bruce, H.L., House (Site # 5)

Common Name: Dumas Inn

Classification Building

Owner: First Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 107, Paris, Tennessee 38462

Location: 202 South Poplar Street, Paris, Tennessee

Contributing:		Non-Contributing	
Buildings	1	Buildings	1
Structures	0	Structures	0
Sites	0	Sites	0
makal.	1	Metal.	,
Total:	1	<u>Total:</u>	T

Description:

The H.L. Bruce House is a two-story frame Neo-Classical style residence residence built ca.1910. The house was designed in a central hall plan and is three bays in width. On the main (east) facade is a two-story porch with fluted Corinthian columns. On the second story of the porch is a railing with turned balusters. The main entrance has an original frame and glass door with leaded glass sidelights and an elliptical transom. On the first floor of the main facade are large single light windows with leaded glass rectangular transoms. On the central bay of the second story is an entrance with a single light frame and glass door with sidelights and transom. Windows throughout the house are one-over-one sash. The house has a brick and stucco foundation.

The house has a pyramidal roof with gable dormers on each facade. These dormers have one-over-sash windows with the dormer on the main facade displaying paired windows. At the roofline on the main facade is a decorative cornice with guttae and metopes and modillion blocks. The house rests on a brick foundation and has been covered in recent years with metal siding. At the rear of the house is a two-story original wing with an original one-story lattice porch.

The interior of the house displays its original central hall plan. Some of the interior rooms have been subdivided for apartments. The interior retains an original staircase with milled balusters and newel post and mantles with simple Doric pilasters. No photographs of the interior were permitted. At the rear of the house is a modern non-contributing garage.

Period of Significance: ca.1910

Area of Significance: Architecture

Criterion: C

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance:

The H.L. Bruce House is a notable example of a Neo-Classical style residence. Constructed ca. 1910, the house is one of the largest and best examples of this style constructed in Paris. The house displays a large two-story frame Corninthian portico and classical detailing such as guttae and metopes and modillion blocks at the roofline. Despite the addition of metal siding the house has its original form and design and few other changes have occurred to the residence. The house is the most ornate Neo-Classical residence in the city with large eave modillion blocks, Corinthian columns and elliptical entrance.

This lot was the site of a 19th century frame house which was owned by the W.D. Kendall family for many years. In 1909, the property was sold to H.L. Bruce and his wife Sallie Thomason Bruce and they erected this house soon after. Little is known of Bruce and they sold this house in 1920 to Dr. John Weldon and the house was later purchased by the Dumas family in 1924. The Dumas family converted the house into apartments and owned the house until recent years when it was sold to the First Presbyterian Church.

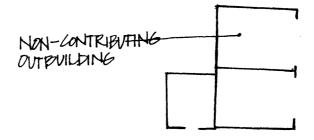
The Bruce House is notable for its Neo-Classical architectural design. The house is one of the largest and most imposing in the downtown vicinity and retains its original design. Its Cornithian portico and classical decoration at the roofline and entrance makes it one of Paris' most important homes of the early 20th century.

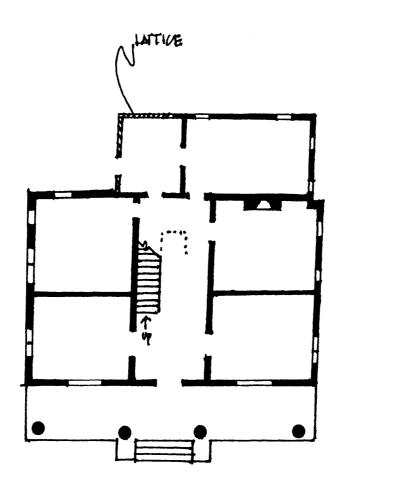
Acreage: Less than 1 acre

UTM References: Paris Quad/380980/4017970

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification: The boundary for the H.L. Bruce House is illustrated on accompanying Henry County tax map # 106A, block F, lot 16. The boundary is drawn to include all property presently associated with the Bruce House. The boundary includes sufficient property to protect the historical setting of the site.

Supplemental Bibliographical References: Interview, Mrs. Elizabeth Dumas, October 12, 1987.





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