

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 Property

Historic name: Bransford, J. M., House

Other names/site number: Site #LN0162

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 506 South Center Street

City or town: Lonoke State: AR County: Lonoke

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

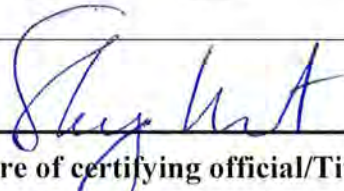
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

	<u>7-15-19</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

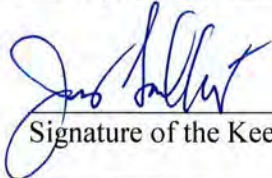
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4. National Park Service Certification

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

9. 27. 2019
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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/

Tudor Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, TILE, STUCCO

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 historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The J. M. Bransford House is a one-story house designed in the Tudor Revival style. Located on the south side of Lonoke, the house is located on Center Street, the main north-south street in town. The house is built on a generous site just to the south of the city park. The house rests on a continuous brick foundation with brick walls. The walls in the gable ends are half-timbered with vertical wood beams with stucco in between. Most of the house's windows are casement windows. The house's roof, which is partially gabled and partially hipped, is covered in flat clay tiles. In addition to the main house, the property also has the original garage and a shed.

Narrative Description

The J. M. Bransford House at 506 South Center Street is a one-story house designed by noted Arkansas architect John Parks Almand, and built c.1925 in the Tudor Revival style. Located in a residential area on the south side of Lonoke, the Bransford House is located on Center Street, the main north-south street in town. Houses on the west side of Center Street tended to be built on large parcels, often encompassing more than one lot, and the Bransford House was no exception. The house is built on a generous site just to the south of the city park. The house rests on a continuous brick foundation with walls that are mainly built out of brick. The walls in the gable ends along with around the front entrance are half-timbered with vertical wood beams with stucco in between. Most of the house's windows are casement windows and are arranged in bands around the house. The house's roof, which is partially gabled and partially hipped, is

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covered in flat clay tiles. In addition to the main house, the property also has the original garage and a shed.

MAIN HOUSE – Contributing

Front/East Façade

The front façade of the Bransford House is organized around the central main entrance. The entrance, which is recessed, is located in a slightly projecting section of the house that has a front-facing gable roof and half-timbered walls. The gable roof has a catslide roof line with the curved southern slope much longer than the northern slope. To the left of the entrance in the half-timbered section of the façade is a one-over-one, double-hung window. To the right of the half-timbered section of the façade, the front façade recesses slightly and is fenestrated by a band of seven, ten-pane casement windows. Above this section of the façade, the roof is pierced by a gable-roofed dormer. Continuing north along the front façade, the façade projects away from the main plane of the façade and is fenestrated by a band of five, eight-pane casement windows. At the north end of the façade, the east side of the north façade's projection is devoid of fenestration.

To the south of the house's main entrance is the main chimney, which is brick with clay chimney pots. The front of the chimney is decorated with a recessed brick section. To the left of the chimney, the façade recesses and is fenestrated by a band of four ten-pane casement windows. A gable-roofed dormer also pierces the roof above this section of the façade. At the south end of the façade, is a projecting sunroom that is fenestrated on the east side by a central band of five ten-pane French doors with two-pane transom windows above. The band of French doors is flanked on each side by a five-pane window with a single-pane transom above.

Side/North Façade

At the south end of the house is the north façade of the sunroom. It is fenestrated by a band of three ten-pane French doors with two-pane transom windows above. The band of French doors is flanked on the left side by a five-pane window with a single-pane transom above.

Beginning at the east end of the north façade, the façade is fenestrated by a group of three, eight-pane casement windows. The gable end of this part of the façade is half-timbered and it has a central rectangular louvered attic vent. To the right of the band of casement windows the façade projects, and in the center of the projecting portion of the façade is an entrance with a door and four-pane transom window above it. The entrance is flanked on each side by a single six-over-six, double-hung window.

On the rear of the house is a section that faces to the northwest, which has a central entrance with a set of French doors with a single-pane transom above it. The entrance is flanked on the right side by a large, plate-glass window and on the left side by two large plate-glass windows. To the right of this part of the façade, the north-facing façade of the rear ell is fenestrated by a band of four, ten-pane casement windows.

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Rear/West Façade

Beginning at the north end of the west façade, it is fenestrated by a single, six-over-one, double-hung window that is followed by a band of three, six-pane casement windows. To the right of the windows, the roof is pierced by a tall, square brick chimney followed by a gable-roofed dormer that is fenestrated by a pair of six-pane casement windows. Directly below the dormer, the first floor façade is fenestrated by a single, six-over-one, double-hung window.

The west façade of the rear ell is fenestrated at its northern end by a band of four ten-pane casement windows. To the south of the band of windows, the façade recesses and is fenestrated by a single six-pane casement window followed by a pair of six-pane casement windows. Above the pair of casement windows, in the attic, is a gable-front dormer fenestrated by a pair of four-over-four double-hung windows. On the first floor, near the south end of the façade is a pair of six-over-one double-hung windows.

Side/South Façade

The west end of the south façade projects from the rest of the façade and the section is fenestrated by a central pair of six-over-one double-hung windows. To the right, the façade recesses and is fenestrated by a group of three six-over-one double-hung windows. At the east end of the south façade is the south end of the sunroom, and it is fenestrated by a central band of four ten-pane French doors with two-pane transom windows above. The band of French doors is flanked on each side by a five-pane window with a single-pane transom above.

Interior

The interior of the house is arranged with the public spaces along the front façade. The north end of the house contains the kitchen with the dining room and living room to the south. The living room provides access to the sunroom at the south end of the house. The southwest corner of the house has the bathrooms and bedrooms.

The house contains many original features from the time that the house was designed by John Parks Almand and built in the 1920s. The living room features the original crystal chandelier and the original fireplace with tiled hearth and brass andirons. The sunroom features its original ornate tile floor, and original tile also exists in the main bathroom.

Between several of the rooms are original arched French doors and original built-in bookcases. The rooms also feature the original hardwood floors.

GARAGE/APARTMENT – Contributing

The garage/apartment is located directly to the west of the main house, and it was also designed by John Parks Almand c.1925. The 1929 and 1938 Sanborn maps indicate that the south half of the building was a garage and the north half of the building was a dwelling, likely the dwelling for the servant. (Based on the Census records, it is known that the Bransfords had at least two different servants while living in the house, Florean Prude in 1930 and Allene L. Nichols in

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1940.¹) The building matches the styling and detailing of the main house with brick walls and half-timbering in the gable ends.

The front façade of the garage/apartment projects at the south end where the garage was. The south part of the garage has a front-facing gable roof with half-timbering in the gable peak. Below the gable peak is the original garage area, which currently has a central entrance with wood door and a single-pane transom above. To the left of the entrance is a band of four eight-pane casement windows with half-timbering and herringbone brick below. To the right of the entrance is a set of outward-opening garage doors with a crossbuck design in the bottom portion and a six-pane rectangular window in the top of each door. The northern half of the façade is recessed and has a side-facing gable roof. The south end of the section has an entrance with a wood door with five recessed rectangular panels. To the right of the entrance is a pair of six-over-one double-hung windows.

The north façade of the garage has half-timbering in the gable peak and a central entrance with a door with decorative lower panel and a decorative diamond-paned window in the top. The west façade is fenestrated by two six-over-one double-hung windows, one located in the center of each part of the façade. The rear gable peak also features half-timbering to match the other gables. The south façade of the garage is fenestrated by a central six-over-one double-hung window.

SHED – Non-contributing

The shed, which is a later addition to the property, is to the southwest of the house near the south edge of the property. It is a one-story rectangular building with a front-facing gable roof. The front façade faces north and has a central entrance with a set of ten-pane French doors. A semi-circular fanlight is located above the entrance that is divided into triangular and diamond-shaped panes. In the gable end above the entrance is an octagonal window. The east side of the shed is devoid of fenestration. The south façade has a central wood door with recessed square panel in the lower half and four rectangular windows in the top half. The west façade is fenestrated by a central one-over-one double-hung window.

Integrity

The largest changes to the house have occurred to the porches on the house. The diagonal part of the façade, on the Sanborn maps for 1929 and 1938 are indicated to be an open porch. Although the porch has been enclosed, it was done with large panes of plate glass, allowing it to still read as a mainly open area. In addition, the sunroom on the southeast corner of the house is also indicated on the Sanborn maps as being an open porch. However, the enclosing of the sunroom was also done in a way that blends in with the overall architecture of the property. Changes have also occurred to the garage, specifically to the south half of the building in order to renovate it into a larger living space. However, as much of the original character as possible has been kept. The setting around the Bransford House still reflects the character of the neighborhood at the time that it was built in the 1920s. The neighborhood still has single-family homes on large lots as well as the city park across the street. Overall, the Bransford House retains good integrity and

¹ Information on John McKinnis Bransford and Elizabeth Bransford found at www.ancestry.com.

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is still able to reflect John Parks Almand's design and the characteristics that make the property significant.

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c.1925

Significant Dates

c.1925

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

John Parks Almand, Architect

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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 J. M. Bransford House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style designed by noted Arkansas architect John Parks Almand. With its steeply-pitched roof, front façade with prominent cross gable, decorative half-timbering, and tall, narrow, multi-pane windows in groups, the J. M. Bransford House is a textbook example of the Tudor Revival style. In addition, the J. M. Bransford House is a good example of Almand's design work from the mid-1920s, and is the only residential design that he carried out in Lonoke.

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

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Lonoke County, which is located in Central Arkansas, was created on April 16, 1873, with land taken from Pulaski and Prairie counties. It was named for the "lone oak" tree that stood at the site of the Town of Lonoke, the county seat.² The earliest settlement in the area that is now Lonoke County occurred beginning in the 1820s. Early settlements in Lonoke County included the Eagle settlement and Old Austin, both located in the northwestern part of the county near the Moss Prairie.³

The city of Lonoke was surveyed and laid out in August 1869 near the county's geographical center. By the 1880s, the area south of the railroad line was known as Hick's & Reynold's Survey and the area north of the railroad line was known as Wright's Survey, and they were both named after the town's original proprietors. Within ten years, Lonoke had a population of 659, and had become a commercial center for the area. By 1889, Lonoke had "one bank, ten general stores, six grocery stores, three drug stores, one hardware store, a harness and saddle store, two meat markets, three livery stables, two hotels, two boarding houses, a furniture store, four blacksmith and wood shops...a boot and shoe shop, two millinery stores, a lumber yard, a weekly newspaper – the *Lonoke Weekly Democrat* – restaurants, feed stores, brick kilns, and other miscellaneous enterprises."⁴

The Bransford family had been a prominent family in Lonoke since at least the beginning of the twentieth century. J. M. Bransford's father, W. Y. Bransford, had owned a cotton gin and the city's light and water company since at least 1909. In 1909, it was labeled as Bransford & Daniels Cotton Gin & City Lighting & Water Station on the Sanborn map, but Daniels' name was gone by the time the city's next Sanborn map was completed in 1913, which labeled it as W.Y. Bransford's Cotton Gin, City Light & Water Works.

² Information on Lonoke County found at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~arlonoke/>.

³ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 577.

⁴ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas*. p. 584.

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John McKinnis Bransford was born on November 29, 1901, to W. Y. and Mattie M. Bransford. In 1924, he married Elizabeth Schnabaum, who was born on March 16, 1904. By the time of the 1930 Census, Bransford had one son, John M., and it also noted that the family had a servant, Florean Prude. Their house was valued at \$15,000, according to the Census. Bransford was listed as a Cotton Buyer in the Census, and was either working for his father or he had taken over the family's cotton gin.⁵ According to the 1929 Sanborn map, it was Bransford's Gin Co. & Water Works. Interestingly, the electric plant was labeled as a sub-station of Arkansas Power & Light Company, and by 1938 the water works was no longer part of the Bransford's Gin.⁶

In addition to the cotton gin, Bransford was also involved in politics, serving as the Speaker of the House from 1938 until 1942. As his obituary notes:

[Bransford] served four terms in the house, succeeding his father, the late W. Y. Bransford, as representative from Lonoke County for the 1931 session. He also served in 1933, 1937, and 1939, the last two sessions as speaker and was the youngest speaker the state has ever had.⁷

After leaving the House of Representatives, Bransford served as the chairman of the Arkansas Agricultural and Industrial Commission from 1941 until 1945. Prior to his retirement in 1965, Bransford was the regional manager of the Anderson Clayton and Company cotton firm of Houston, and he operated the company's Little Rock offices. In 1959, Bransford was also one of the organizing directors of the Arkansas Industrial Pipeline Corporation, which later merged with Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company. Bransford died September 10, 1967, and his wife, Elizabeth died on April 29, 1992.⁸

Development on the south side of Lonoke, where the Bransford House is located, was somewhat sporadic in the first part of the twentieth century, as indicated on the Sanborn maps of the time. The location of the Bransford House is first shown on the 1929 Sanborn map, and at that time there were still many vacant lots in its vicinity. By 1938, when the next and last Sanborn map was completed for Lonoke, the development in the area was about the same. There were many vacant lots in the area, and, in fact, some of the houses that were on the 1929 map had disappeared by 1938. However, with the number of vacant lots in the area, it allowed houses to be built in the area that were large and gracious, often occupying more than one lot, and several houses on the 1929 and 1938 Sanborn maps did indeed occupy two or three lots.⁹

When J. M. Bransford decided to build a house in the mid-1920s, he also decided to build on a large and prominent site. Located at the southwest corner of South Center Street and West

⁵ Information on John McKinnis Bransford and Elizabeth Bransford found at www.ancestry.com.

⁶ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Lonoke, Arkansas: 1929, and 1938.

⁷ Obituary for John M. Bransford. *Lonoke Democrat*. 14 September 1967.

⁸ Obituary for John M. Bransford. *Lonoke Democrat*. 14 September 1967, and Obituary for Elizabeth Bransford. *Lonoke Democrat*. 6 May 1992.

⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Lonoke, Arkansas: 1929, and 1938.

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Locust, it faced South Center Street, the main north-south street in Lonoke. It was also across the street from the public park, which meant that it was very visible to residents visiting the park. Bransford decided to build his house on parts of at least three lots, and hired noted Arkansas architect John Parks Almand to design his house. Bransford would have been familiar with Almand's design for the Presbyterian Church (NR-listed September 24, 2004), located at South Center Street and West Pine, two blocks north of the site of his house.

John Parks Almand, who designed the J. M. Bransford House, was born in Lithonia, Georgia, in 1885, and was the fourth of eight children. His early education was done in Lithonia before he entered Emory College in Oxford, Georgia, (now Emory University in Atlanta) in 1903. When Almand entered Emory College, he was undecided on whether to pursue a career in medicine or architecture, and it was not until he graduated from Emory in 1907 that he decided to go into architecture. After graduating from Emory, Almand entered Columbia University in New York to pursue a degree in architecture, which he received in 1911.¹⁰

Although Almand did not graduate from Columbia until 1911, his experience as an architect actually began while he was in school. For a couple of summers, Almand worked as a draftsman from the firm of Hentz, Adler, and Schultz in Atlanta. In addition, while a junior at Columbia, Almand designed a new Methodist church for his hometown of Lithonia, which was built for \$12,000 in 1910.¹¹

Upon graduation from Columbia, Almand's first job was with the T. L. Hudson Company in Havana, Cuba, although Almand only stayed with the company for a year. Almand learned that Charles Thompson was looking to hire an architect, and he applied and got the position. Almand arrived in Little Rock on July 13, 1912, and was met at the railroad station by Frank Ginocchio of the firm. (Coincidentally, Almand and Ginocchio would both die on the same day – March 24, 1969.) Shortly after arriving in Little Rock, Almand met Miss Frances Reeve Edmondson, and they later married on November 4, 1914.¹²

For the first two and a half years (July 1912 – December 1914) that Almand worked with Charles Thompson, he was a designer and earned \$2,000 a year. For the next year, he was promoted to a junior partner with Thompson. However, Almand wanted to go out on his own – he had been in charge of designing some buildings while working with Thompson – and he opened his own office in January 1916 in room 1107 of the State Bank Building (now the Boyle Building).¹³

Although Almand opened his practice during the 1910s, it was not until the 1920s that it really took off. He received many large commissions during the 1920s, including Arkansas Children's Hospital, First Presbyterian Church, and he was also the designing architect of the Little Rock High School (now Central High School). Although a lot of his work was centered in Little Rock,

¹⁰ Almand, A. J. *John Parks Almand, Architect: A Biography of my Father*. Privately printed, 1976, pp. 2, 25, and 29.

¹¹ Almand, pp. 30-31.

¹² Almand, pp. 33-34.

¹³ Almand, p. 36.

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his practice grew to be statewide during the 1920s reaching from Paragould to Texarkana and from Bentonville to Wilmot. He also took on two associates during the 1920s (the only time that he ever would) – Van Valkenberg for a short period in 1925 and Elmer A. Stuck of Jonesboro in 1929 – 1930.¹⁴

In addition to designing buildings across the state, Almand also took a brief foray into development in the late 1910s. In 1919 Almand bought the land at the northeast corner of Center and 14th streets in Little Rock and built three speculative houses that he sold. He then bought the northeast corner of Spring and 14th streets for the same purpose. However, once the house at 324 W. 14th Street was completed, he decided to move his family in instead.¹⁵

As with most Americans, Almand and his family were severely affected by the Depression during the early 1930s. In June 1934, Almand moved to Washington, DC, where he had been hired as an architect in the Office of the Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department. The office was responsible for designing post offices, customs houses, mints and other federal buildings across the country. Even though Almand was in Washington, he kept a tie to Arkansas, designing the post office in Fort Smith.¹⁶

Almand returned to Little Rock in April 1936 to take charge of the Resettlement Administration's Inspection Division office, which covered Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. As the director of the office, Almand was responsible for opening the office, organizing the work that the office would do, and he was also in charge of ten assistants. The Resettlement Administration was involved in the construction of dams, farm buildings, utilities, roads, trails and lodges, and projects in Arkansas included Lake Dick (NR-listed July 3, 1975) in Jefferson County and Mount Magazine.¹⁷

In 1937, Almand was able to return to private practice in Little Rock, something that he truly enjoyed. However, with the onset of World War II in the 1940s, private construction stopped, and Almand was forced once again to look at something other than private practice.¹⁸

In the fall of 1942, Almand began work as the construction engineer for Naval Air Stations being built in Traverse City, Michigan, and Corpus Christi, Texas. The work with the Navy lasted just over a year, and Almand returned to Little Rock again late in 1943. Although he was able to do some architectural work, the effects of World War II still plagued him. As a result, in order to supplement his family's income, Almand turned to raising broilers. He built a chicken house on the north side of the vacant lot east of his home on 14th Street and raised the chickens for about two years until the effects of World War II eased. Due to growing up on a farm, and also being involved in farming in the 1920s, Almand was able to make enough money from raising broilers to live comfortably.¹⁹

¹⁴ Almand, p. 37.

¹⁵ Almand, p. 45.

¹⁶ Almand, p. 48.

¹⁷ Almand, pp. 49-50.

¹⁸ Almand, pp. 50 and 52.

¹⁹ Almand, pp. 52-53.

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After World War II, Almand's practice returned to normal. As before the war, Almand's commissions during the 1940s and 1950s encompassed a wide variety of building types including churches, residences, educational buildings, as well as the North Little Rock Funeral Home. Also, as before World War II, Almand ventured a little bit into developing, specifically developing the East Palisades Addition in Little Rock in the mid-1950s. (Almand and his wife would move into a house he designed at 27 East Palisades in 1956.)²⁰

Throughout his career, Almand was characterized as a very hard worker who demanded hard work from those he worked with. (In fact, on several occasions, he would require contractors to redo work if it did not live up to his standards.) However, in 1962, Almand suffered a slight stroke. Although he recovered, he suffered another stroke in mid-1963. He never fully recovered from it, and on March 24, 1969, John Parks Almand passed away as the result of a heart attack. After his funeral at First Methodist Church in Little Rock, he was buried in the Mount Holly Mausoleum. However, his legacy on Arkansas's built environment is significant, spanning a period of time of almost fifty years and reaching all across the state.²¹

When the Bransfords asked Almand to design their house c.1925, Almand chose the Tudor Revival style for the design of the Bransford House, and it's a style that enjoyed a fair amount of popularity during the 1920s. The Tudor Revival style of architecture first appeared in the United States in the late nineteenth century, and the early examples of the style tended to be landmark examples of the style that were architect designed. The early examples of the style often mimicked late Medieval buildings with Renaissance detailing, styles that were popular during the reigns of Elizabeth I (1558-1603) and James I (1603-1625), known as the Elizabethan and Jacobean periods of English history.²² As Carole Rifkind notes in *A Field Guide to American Architecture*:

The Period Revival dwelling of the period from 1910 to 1930 tends to be quaint and informal although carefully disciplined. It does, on occasion, reproduce historic precedent with accuracy, but more often it assimilates and combines diverse motifs for convenience, gracious living, and artistic effect.

...

Ornament tends to be underscaled and carefully executed. Fine effects are achieved through the handling of quality materials for color and texture – shingle or slate roofs with a weathered, hand-crafted appearance; dark-stained “hand-hewn” oak lintels, [and] tapestry brick laid to create a richly textured surface.²³

By the early 1900s, however, examples of the style tended to be less pretentious with Tudor detailing often applied to otherwise symmetrical façades. Wall materials for Tudor Revival

²⁰ Almand, pp. 59-60.

²¹ Almand, pp. 56, 62, and 65.

²² McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, p. 358.

²³ Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Plume Books, 1980, p. 101.

Bransford, J. M., House

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homes from the first part of the twentieth century tended to be stucco, shingles, or weatherboard. After World War I, however, especially during the 1920s and 1930s, the style became much more popular, especially as techniques in constructing masonry veneers allowed even the most modest homes of the style to mimic the masonry exteriors of their British precedents. The façades of houses of this period know no limits to their overall shapes or roof forms, and the front façades often employ different materials on their various divisions.²⁴

By the late 1930s, however, the popularity of the Tudor Revival style, along with many of the other revival styles based on European styles, quickly faded. A resurgence of the Tudor style did occur during the 1970s and 1980s, but the homes of that period made little attempt at accurately mimicking Medieval forms or detailing.²⁵

The Bransford House represents an example of the Tudor Revival style from the heyday of the style, and a large example for Lonoke. As a result, it employs the hallmark characteristics of the style, including the “fine effects that are achieved through the handling of quality materials for color and texture – shingle or slate roofs (or, in this case, tile) with a weathered, hand-crafted appearance; dark-stained “hand-hewn” oak lintels, [and] tapestry brick laid to create a richly textured surface.”²⁶ To date, the Bransford House is one of two Tudor Revival houses that have been documented in Lonoke. The other house, the Eagle House (NR-listed December 22, 1982), was designed by Charles Thompson and built in 1916.

The Bransford House stayed in the possession of the Bransford family until 1993 when it was sold to the John Hill family. After passing through a succession of owners, the current owners the Bailey family, purchased the house in September 2010.²⁷

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

The construction and design of the J. M. Bransford House illustrates the growth and development of the Tudor Revival style in eastern Arkansas, and the influences of the latest architectural fashion throughout the first part of the twentieth century. The development of Lonoke and the agriculture industry in the area during the 1800s and early 1900s brought a fair amount of wealth to the area, which also allowed residents to hire the era’s fashionable architects, such as John Parks Almand, to design high-style residences using the latest architectural styles. The Bransford House represents a good, well-detailed example of the Tudor Revival style, especially in the Lonoke area.

The Bransford House is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style. The house exhibits the identifying features of the style noted by McAlester and McAlester, notably a steeply-pitched roof; façade with one or more prominent cross gables, also usually steeply pitched; decorative half-timbering; tall, narrow windows, usually in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing; and massive chimneys with decorative chimney pots. In fact, the description of some of the Tudor

²⁴ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, p. 358.

²⁵ McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, pp. 358 & 491.

²⁶ Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Plume Books, 1980, p. 101.

²⁷ Information on the J. M. Bransford House in the files of the Lonoke County Assessor’s Office.

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Revival details in Virginia and Lee McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* almost seem to have been written while looking at the Bransford House. With respect to brick examples of the style, the book states:

Walls of solid brick masonry were sometimes used on landmark examples early in this century, but brick became the preferred wall finish for even the most modest Tudor cottages after masonry veneering became widespread in the 1920s. Brick first-story walls are commonly contrasted with stone, stucco, or wooden claddings on principal gables or upper stories. False half-timbering occurs on about half the houses in this style, with infilling of stucco or brick between the timbers and, quite often, elaborate decorative patterns in the arrangement of timbers or brick.

...Large, elaborated chimneys are favorite Tudor details; these are commonly placed in prominent locations on the front or side of the house. The lower part of the chimney may be decorated with complex masonry or stone patterns and the top commonly has a separate chimney pot for each flue. Multiple shafts of the chimney itself, representing the number of flues contained within, are also used.

Windows are typically casements of wood or metal, although more traditional double-hung sash windows are also common. Windows are frequently grouped into strings of three or more, which are most commonly located on or below the main gable or on one- or two-story bays; small transoms are sometimes present above the main windows. Stone mullions may divide casements and transoms in high-style examples.²⁸

The J. M. Bransford House was one of four buildings in Lonoke that Almand designed, and it was the only residential design that he executed in town. The other three buildings that Almand designed were the Lonoke Elementary School and the Lonoke High School, both of which have been demolished, and the First Presbyterian Church (NR-listed September 24, 2004), located two blocks north of the Bransford House.

Because of its significance as an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style in Lonoke by John Parks Almand, the J. M. Bransford House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

²⁸ McAlester and McAlester, pp. 357-358.

Bransford, J. M., House
Name of Property

Lonoke County, Arkansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Almand, A. J. *John Parks Almand, Architect: A Biography of my Father*. Privately printed, 1976.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

Information on the J. M. Bransford House in the files of the Lonoke County Assessor's Office.

Information on John McKinnis Bransford and Elizabeth Bransford found at www.ancestry.com.

Information on Lonoke County found at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~arlonoke/>.

Obituary for Elizabeth Bransford. *Lonoke Democrat*. 6 May 1992.

Obituary for John M. Bransford. *Lonoke Democrat*. 14 September 1967.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1994.

Rifkind, Carole. *A Field Guide to American Architecture*. New York: Plume Books, 1980.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Lonoke, Arkansas: 1897, 1903, 1909, 1913, 1919, 1929, and 1938.

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 # _____

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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): LN0162

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one acre.

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):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15 Easting: 600598 Northing: 3849157

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Bransford, J. M., House
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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Parcel #780-03701-000. East 200 feet of the north half of Block 37 of the Hicks & Reynolds Subdivision of the City of Lonoke.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
E-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov
telephone: (501) 324-9787
date: February 11, 2019

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.)

Bransford, J. M., House
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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: J. M. Bransford House

City or Vicinity: Lonoke

County: Lonoke County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Travis Ratermann

Date Photographed: February 7, 2019

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

- 1 of 19 . East façade of the house, looking southwest.
- 2 of 19 . North and east façades of the house, looking southwest.
- 3 of 19 . North façade of the house, looking south.
- 4 of 19 . West façade of the house, looking southeast.
- 5 of 19 . South end of the west façade of the house, looking east.
- 6 of 19 . South façade of the house, looking northeast.
- 7 of 19 . Fireplace in the living room of the house, looking east.
- 8 of 19 . Original chandelier in the living room of the house, looking south.
- 9 of 19 . Original tile floor in the sunroom of the house, looking southeast.
- 10 of 19 . Original tile in the main bathroom of the house, looking west.
- 11 of 19 . Original built-in bookcase of the house, looking southeast.

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- 12 of 19 . Original front door of the house, looking southeast.
- 13 of 19 . Original French doors of the house, looking south from the dining room through the foyer to the living room.
- 14 of 19 . South and west façades of the shed, looking northwest.
- 15 of 19 . North and east façades of the shed, looking southeast.
- 16 of 19 . South and east façades of the garage/apartment, looking northwest.
- 17 of 19 . East façade of the garage/apartment, looking west.
- 18 of 19 . North façade of the garage/apartment looking south.
- 19 of 19 . West façade of the garage/apartment, looking southeast.

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.

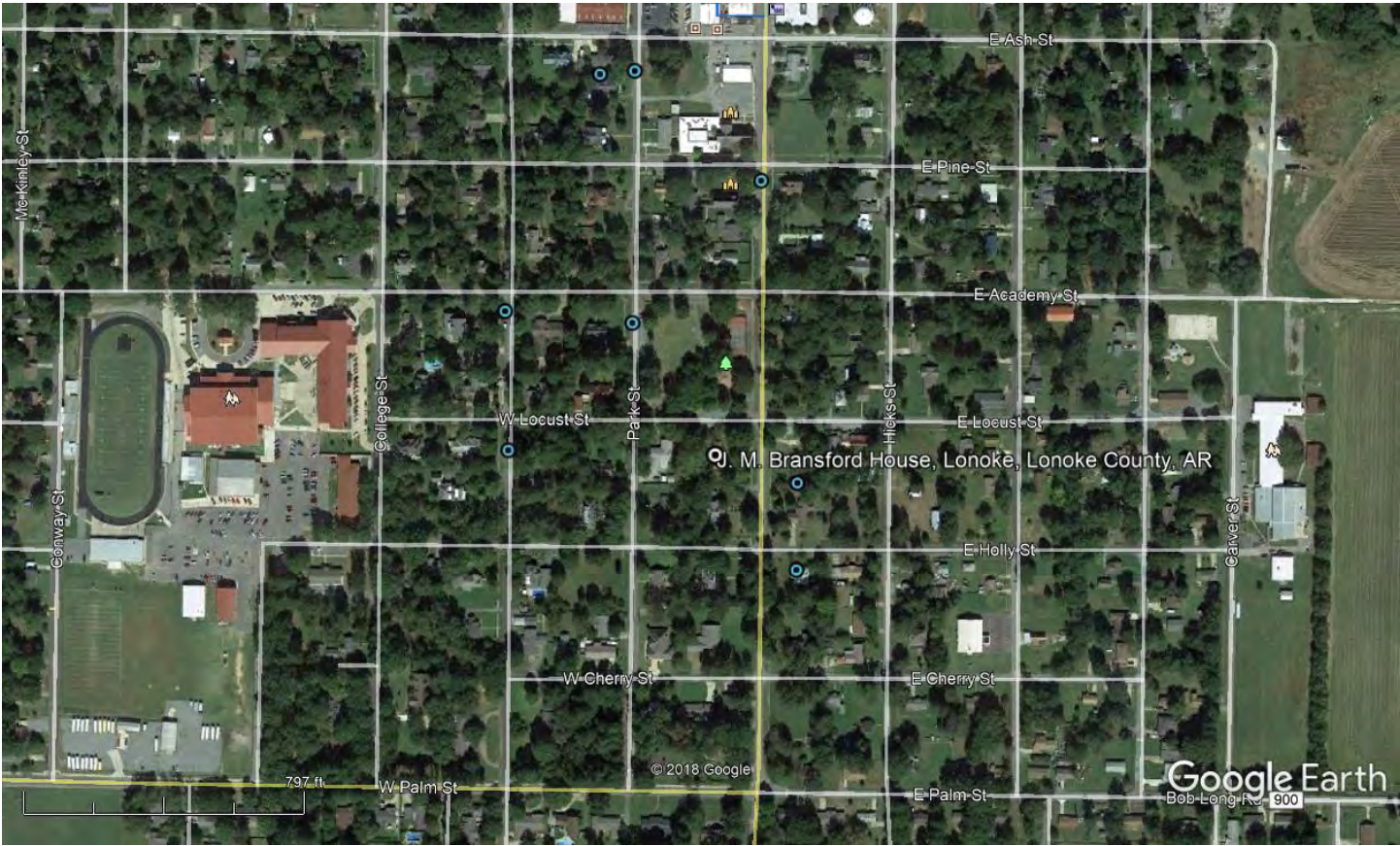


|-----128 feet-----|

J. M. Bransford House
Lonoke, Lonoke County, Arkansas

UTM 15 600598E 3849157N

↑
North



|-----797 feet-----|

J. M. Bransford House
Lonoke, Lonoke County, Arkansas

UTM 15 600598E 3849157N

↑
North







































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Bransford, J. M., House

Multiple Name: _____

State & County: ARKANSAS, Lonoke

Date Received: 8/13/2019 Date of Pending List: 9/13/2019 Date of 16th Day: 9/30/2019 Date of 45th Day: 9/27/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004440

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review: _____

X Accept Return Reject 9/27/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: Automatic listing
Reviewed and no substantive issues found

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept / C

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director



August 7, 2019

Joy Beasley, Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C Street, NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington D.C. 20240

RE: J. M. Bransford House – Lonoke, Lonoke County, Arkansas

Dear Ms. Beasley:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the J. M. Bransford House to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



ARKANSAS HISTORIC
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