

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Ethridge House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 511 North Main Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Hope

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Hempstead code: AR 057 zip code: 71801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. _____ See continuation sheet.

Carolyn H. Slater _____ 10-6-93
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 4.24

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>444970</u>	<u>3725920</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Part of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter (NE 1/4, SW 1/4) Section 28, Township 12 South, Range 24 West, in the City of Hope, Hempstead County, Arkansas: Commence at the NW corner of Block 4 of the City of Hope, Arkansas; thence N 17 Degrees 30' W along the E R/W of North Main Street 359.48' to a steel pin, the point of beginning (P.O.B.). Thence N 73 Degrees 27' East 276.70' to a steel pin; thence N 18 Degrees 28' W along the west R/W of Missouri-Pacific Railroad 540.00' to a point on said R/W; thence N 43' W along said R/W 418.00' to a point on the centerline of an alley; thence S 16 Degrees 29' E and parallel with N. Main Street 607.60' to a steel pin; thence S 73 Degrees 31' W and perpendicular to N. Main St. 150.00' to a steel pin; thence S 16 Degrees 29' E along the E R/W of N. Main St. 217.00' to a steel pin; thence S 84 Degrees 01' E 78.48' to a point on said R/W; thence S 27 Degrees 16' 30" E 57.94' to the P.O.B., containing 4.24 acres.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/05/93

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

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Summary

Located at 511 North Main Street just north of Hope's historic downtown, the Ethridge House is a two-story, wood frame residence that, though originally constructed in 1894, was significantly modified to its present Plain Traditional style appearance in 1912. Its full-width, single-story front porch roof and balcony is supported by the four Tuscan columns that dominate the front elevation.

Elaboration

The Ethridge House is a two-story, wood frame residence that, though originally constructed in 1894, was significantly modified to its present Plain Traditional style appearance (though with Colonial Revival and early Craftsman style influences) in 1912. Its plan consists of a fundamentally rectangular two-story section augmented by a single-story rear shed and a later single-story, hipped-roof addition on its eastern elevation. A single exterior brick chimney adjoins the eastern elevation. Both the gable-on-hip roof, the rear shed and the hipped addition are covered with asphalt shingles. The walls are sheathed in both weatherboard and novelty siding, and the entire building rests upon a continuous brick foundation.

The southern or front entrance is dominated by the single-story, flat-roofed front porch with its Classical columns-on-piers and simple balcony balustrade. The four columns-on-piers feature Doric capitals and bases and are connected by a simple wood balustrade that is echoed on the balcony above. The first-story wall beneath the porch roof is accessed via a central, single-leaf entrance, surmounted by a five-pane fanlight transom, and fenestrated by two flanking nine-over-one wood sash windows, placed symmetrically in the wall. The second-story above is also symmetrical, as it is fenestrated by three nine-over-one wood sash windows. The blank pediment of the gablet above completes the elevation.

The eastern elevation is composed of the side wall of the two-story section, the projecting, single-story hipped roof addition, and the side wall of the shed roof section at the rear. The two-story wall is fenestrated with a total of five nine-over-one wood sash windows, three on the second floor and two in the wall below, with a single-leaf entrance placed to the north of the hipped-roof section finishing this section. The side wall of the shed roof section is accessed via a single-leaf door at grade and lit by a single six-over-six window above. The end of the hipped roof projection is blank. The western elevation consists of the side wall of the two-story section and the side of the single-story shed roof section to the north. The two-story section is punctuated by three symmetrically-placed nine-over-one windows in the second story and two

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identical windows placed directly below the southernmost and central windows on the first story. The northernmost window in the first floor is a group of three wood sash windows. The shed roof section is fenestrated with a pair of wood sash windows.

The northern elevation is composed of the side of the eastern hipped-roof projection and the rear of the single-story, shed roof section. The hipped-roof section is fenestrated with a single small six-pane fixed window that abuts a larger, central, two-over-two window, both of which are tucked tight beneath the cornice. The narrow portion of two-story rear wall is fenestrated with a single one-over-one wood sash window above a pair of narrower windows of identical sash configuration in the first story. The rear wall of the shed section features two six-over-six wood sash windows placed one above the other, and then another identical window placed between them and the single-leaf entrance with its shed roof. A final identical window lights the wall to the west. A roof vent in the dormer above completes the elevation.

The significant exterior details include the thin decorative exposed rafters around the entire cornice of the two-story section, the Classical columns on the front porch, the nine-over-one wood sash windows set into relatively simple exterior window moldings, and the more elaborate pyramidal moldings around the windows on the rear shed section that are obviously of an earlier vintage. Otherwise the building is relatively plain.

The interior proportions and details appear to largely reflect the earlier, 1894 decorative scheme. Tall ceilings and relatively spare decoration are complemented with delicate, Classical entrance moldings around the large, square-headed openings between rooms and the window and entrance door trim throughout.

The alteration history of this structure is difficult to establish, particularly since no historic photographs of the house in its original, pre-1912 condition have survived. It would seem logical to conclude that the entire front section of the house was added in 1912; yet this does not explain the clearly Queen Anne Revival influenced chimney cap found in that part of the building. Nevertheless, the Classical columns on piers of the front porch and the Craftsman-style roof form, cornice detailing and sash windows all clearly date from the substantial later construction, and define its principle architectural character.

Also included in the nomination is a single-story, wood frame, gable roof garage building that was constructed some time after 1981. It is non-contributing.

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Summary

Criterion B, local significance

The Ethridge House is locally eligible under Criterion B through its direct associations with Miss Mable Ethridge, a resident of Hope who was raised in this house and who returned to it to live while pursuing a long and distinguished career in both academic and performing arts education as a teacher in the Hope public school system.

Elaboration

The city of Hope, Arkansas was platted in 1873 by Chief Engineer Morley of the Cairo and Fulton (C. & F.) Railroad. The city was named for the daughter of Major Loughborough, a director of the C. & F. The activity and settlement encouraged by the railroad proceeded rapidly enough for the city to become incorporated by 1875 and for the first municipal elections to be held that same year. Hope was later selected as the terminus for the Arkansas and Louisiana Railroad also, which only served to increase its importance as a southwest Arkansas commercial center. Goodspeeds records that by 1890 Hope could boast of a business district "...nearly all built up with one and two story brick buildings..." and a population of approximately 1,500.

Mr. Richard Ethridge moved to Hope from Okolona in Clark County some time before 1894 to open a drug store, the Ethridge Drug Company. He brought with him his wife and two young children. This vacant lot was on the northern edge of town at the time. He contracted with a local carpenter (identity not known) to construct a wood frame residence here for his family, which they moved into by 1894. Another child was born to them soon thereafter.

Mabel, their eldest daughter, was twelve years old when her parents brought her to live in their new house in Hope. She graduated from the old high school there and matriculated at Galloway College in Searcy, Arkansas, from which she obtained a teacher's degree. She returned to her home town -- and to this house -- and began teaching school there by the fall of 1906. As was the case with virtually all school teachers then, she led classes in all the principal areas of study: English, composition, mathematics, geography, history, etc.

The school facilities at the time were rather small, as Mabel, Bessie Green and a Mrs. George Green comprised the entire faculty. However, the enrollment was growing steadily, and soon the school board approved plans to acquire and adapt nearby existing buildings for teaching space; however, this effort was soon followed by the decision to construct a new school building, which became known as the Garland School (built on the current site of the Hempstead County Courthouse). This was considered to be "state of the art" at the time, as it boasted of

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three full stories, in addition to a full basement and a cafeteria. Most importantly, however, for the first time in the history of the Hope public school system the school facilities included an auditorium for various kinds of public performances.

Though her teaching career in the Hope public school system was impressive indeed -- she taught there for a total of forty years -- Mabel Ethridge probably became better known for her leadership in directing the school's performance arts program. She supervised rehearsals for various dramatic, musical and children's events in the Garland School auditorium for the duration of its existence, and thereafter, when that school building was demolished and a new, more "modern" building erected to accommodate the growing student population. The performing arts and encouraging Hope's young people to pursue them were clearly her first loves, as she even collected many of the costumes, props, scripts and other stage paraphernalia left over from such events, all of which she kept at home in a room known as the "plunder room." She would then bestow various of these treasures upon deserving youngsters who came to visit her. It seems quite likely that she did so to excite interest in this field of the arts among these young people and to encourage them to explore their talents.

Ms. Ethridge's activities were not limited to school hours, however. This residence became a popular place for students to visit during the summer also, when she would host various breakfasts, social events and other get-togethers. She was known throughout town as a good cook, and though people of all ages would look forward to an invitation to her home, she made a special effort to open her house to the children of the neighborhood and to encourage a more friendly and informal rapport with them.

As one would expect, Mabel Ethridge's retirement from teaching in 1946 was received with a mixture of sadness and celebration. She had literally become a fixture of the Hope public schools during her long and active teaching career and many would miss her. And yet, many appreciated the positive influence this humble school teacher had exerted over their lives through both her love for formal education and the arts. Her considerable ability to impart this enthusiasm over her long career endeared her to many of her former students and their families, and this small city took great pains to thank her for her dedication and spirit.

Mabel Ethridge remained in this house with her younger widowed sister Mary and remained active in the community. Mary died in 1968 and Mabel lived another ten years, dying in this house in 1978.

The Ethridge House is locally significant under Criterion B through its direct associations with Mabel Ethridge, an influential local public school educator who resided within this house during

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the entire length of her rich forty-year teaching career.

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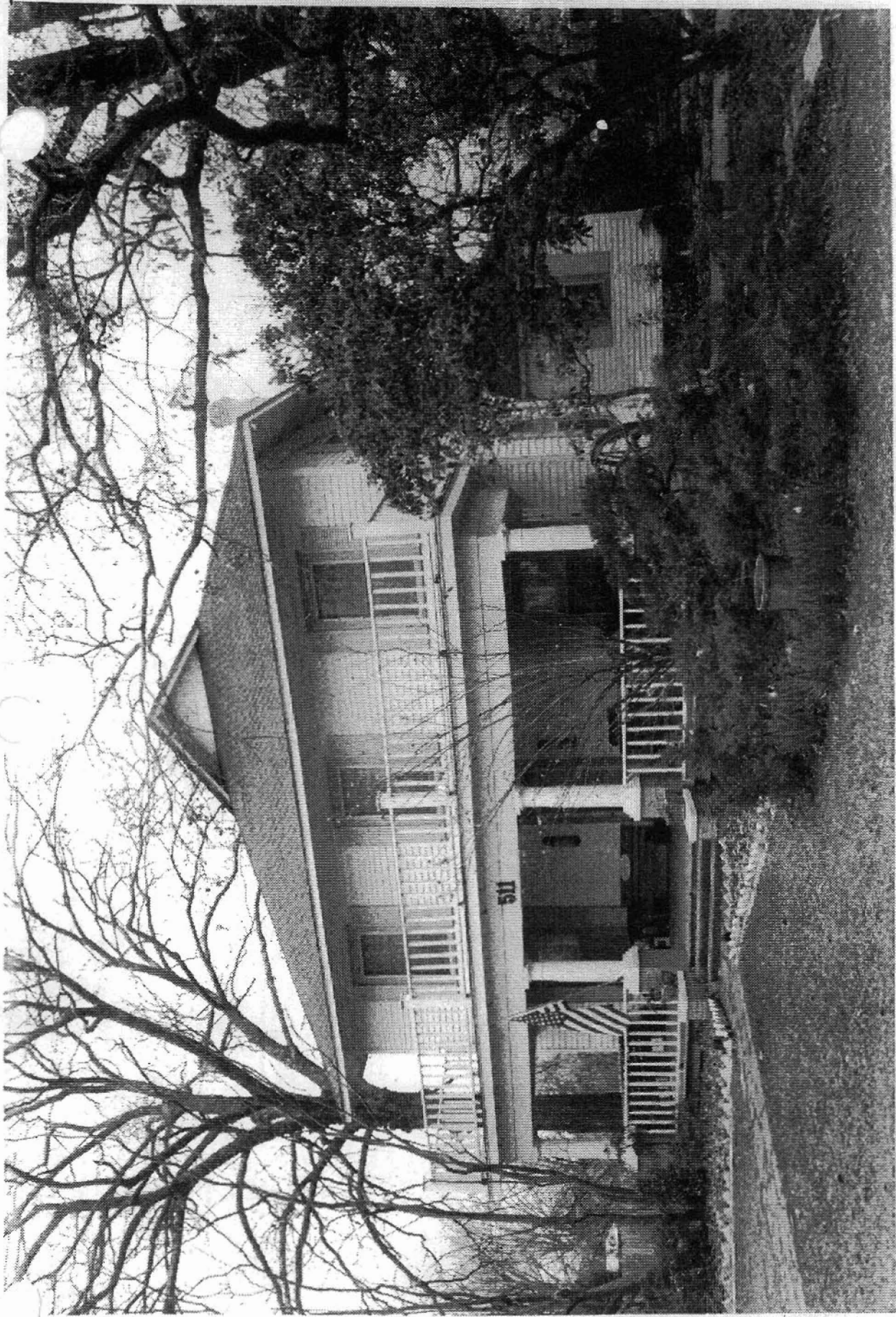
Bibliography

Anderson, Roy, *Dear Folks, Letters 1961-1971*, edited by Mary Nell Turner, 1979.

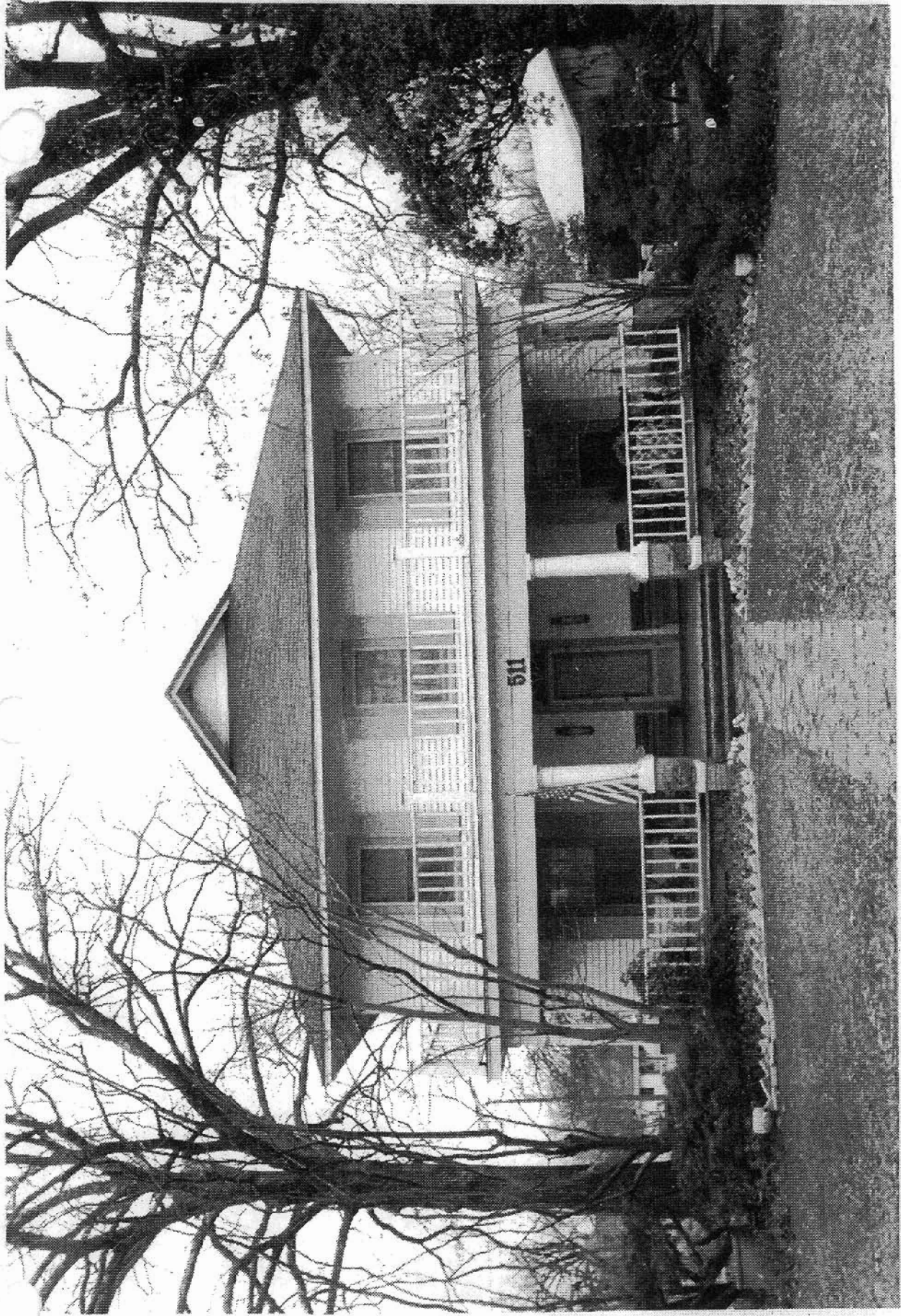
A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas, edited by Harry W. Shiver, (Hope, Arkansas: 1974).

Information provided by Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Godden, Owners.

"Miss Ethridge Honored for Her Outstanding School Work," *Hope Star*, Sunday, June 16, 1946.



ETWING HOUSE
HOPE, HEARSTAD RD, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. WOODY
FEBRUARY, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP
VIEW FROM SOUTH EAST



ETHRIDGE HOUSE
HOPE, MEMPHIS CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHERED BY R. BERRY
FEBRUARY, 1923
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP
VIEW FROM SOUTH



EMERSON HOUSE
1800, HENNINGSEN CO, AKRON, OH
PHOTOGRAPHS BY K. V. STORR
FEBRUARY, 1993
REFERENCE ON FILE AT
NEW YORK JOURNALIST



101st Street House
101st Street and N. McKinley
Photographed by K. Shopp
February, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM NORTH



EMERSON HOUSE
HOPE, MEMPHIS END CO., MEMPHIS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. ROBY
FEBRUARY, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT NAPP
IN THE STATE ARCHIVES DETAIL



STARRIDGE HOUSE
HARRIS, HENRIETTA CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. J. STACY
FEBRUARY, 1993
NEEDLE ON FILE AT AHP
INTERIOR LIVING ROOM DETAIL



PHILIP'S HOUSE
HAPPY HANPUSTAD G. NEXONISAS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY K. VONNY
FEBRUARY 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT HAPP
VIEW IN BARBERA FROM SOUTH