

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Wyatt House

Other Name/Site Number: (IN0608)

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2. Location

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Street & Number: corner of Hwy 25 and Gainer Ferry Road

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Desha

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Independence Code: AR063 Zip Code: 72527

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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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

Carlynn A. Sater _____ 1-18-99
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

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5. National Park Service Certification
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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

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: single dwelling

Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE Sub: _____

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

OTHER: I-house

Materials: foundation Sandstone roof ASPHALT
walls Weatherboard other Sandstone

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located on the corner of Arkansas Highway 25 and Gainer Ferry Road in the town of Desha, the Wyatt House was built circa 1870 as a frame dogtrot house. Sometime before 1900, the single story Wyatt House was enlarged to a two-story house with a one-story rear ell addition. This type of two-story vernacular house is called an "I-house," a house type commonly found in the Midwest, but also found in abundance in Arkansas. Also remarkable about the house are its two cut stone chimneys. Although the open breezeway was infilled and some windows have been replaced the house retains much of its historic integrity from the turn-of-the-century alterations. Contributing to the nomination is a stone well house that dates to the enlargement of the house. A smoke house was torn down in the early 1990s; however, the original logs are still on the property and are awaiting restoration.

Once located on a thirty-seven acre farm, the residence now rests on a one acre section of land. The surrounding houses spread out along the highway feature various styles of architecture, from the nearby one-and-one-half-story Craftsman-styled farmhouse, to mobile homes. Across the street from the Wyatt House is a group of vacant one-story early twentieth century commercial buildings that once composed the commercial center of Desha.

Elaboration

The Wyatt House was a frame dogtrot house built c. 1870, and later transformed into a two-story I-house with a central hall plan and a rear ell addition. The house originally stood on cut stone piers, but these have been infilled with field stone to give the look of a continuous foundation. Underneath, the house rests on hand-hewn split log sills. Two-over-two wood windows dating from the expansion of the house are found on the front facade, the upper stories of the northern and southern elevations, and the rear elevation. The other windows have been replaced by double-hung, multi-pane, wood-framed windows except for the modern windows with false muntins found in the enclosed "L"-shaped porch. The side-gabled roof is covered with gray asphalt shingles, replacing the historic wood shingles.

A one-story portico with chamfered columns capped by a simple balustrade and chamfered newel posts dominates the otherwise simple front, or western, facade. Access is gained to the portico by four cut stone stairs with a metal handrail. Beneath the portico is a modern door with a frosted glass ovular light and brass hardware. The double doors that dated to the early 1900s were replaced in the 1960s with an aluminum door that was itself replaced by the present door. The door is flanked by two six-pane sidelights and capped by a five-pane transom. On either side of the entrance is a two-over-two wood-framed window. The second story is composed of two symmetrically placed windows on either side of a French-styled door. This door opens onto the roof of the portico.

The southern elevation contains the two-story main block of the house, plus the one-story ell addition. Centered on the two-story section is an exterior stone chimney. The lower story contains a six-over-six double-hung wood window near the southwest corner. Above in the second story, a pair of two-over-two windows flank the chimney. The ell addition is fenestrated by a centered six-over-six window and another six-over-six window at the southeastern corner. Just to the left of the latter window is a kitchen entrance covered by a small shed roof porch. The porch is supported by square posts. The northern elevation of the two-story portion of the house is composed identically to the southern elevation.

The rear, or eastern, elevation reveals the majority of the alterations to the house. The original kitchen window located on the ell addition was replaced by a smaller six-over-six window. Above the kitchen window is a stationary, octagonal attic window that was recently installed. The "L"-shaped, shed-roofed porch was originally open, but has been enclosed. The northern elevation of the porch has been enclosed by modern false muntin windows above beaded board, as is one third of its eastern elevation. Access is gained to the "L" porch through a single leaf door. The remainder of the eastern elevation of the porch is enclosed by

weatherboard, except for a false muntin frosted window located on the northern elevation.

The interior retains much of its historic charm despite the usual modernization of water and electricity. An indoor bathroom was installed in the late 1940s and the kitchen was updated in the 1950s. Significant interior details include wainscoting in one front room, large multi-paneled interior doors with original hardware, and one original mantelpiece. The straight staircase rises up from the eastern side of the house. The newel posts are chamfered columns elaborated upon by adding two capitals on top of one another. The balustrade is comprised of thin square posts.

Contributing to the nomination is a stone well house that dates to the enlargement of the house. The sandstone of the well house matches the two exterior chimneys of the house. The well (now capped by a concrete slab) is covered by a porch that extends from the main gabled roof. Despite the failing mortar, and an asphalt shingle roof the outbuilding retains enough integrity to contribute to this property as a fine example of a vernacular well house design. A smoke house was torn down in the early 1990s; however the original logs are still located on the property and are awaiting restoration.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1870 - c. 1900

Significant Dates: c. 1870 c. 1900

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Wyatt House
Name of Property

Independence County, AR
County and State

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Wyatt House was built circa 1870 as a single-level dogtrot. Several years later, a second story was added, the breezeway was infilled and a rear ell addition expanded the house. In doing so the house was updated into an vernacular type best known as an "I-house." Despite the recent front door change and the modern replacement of a few windows, the house maintains a high degree of integrity. Noteworthy are the two exterior cut stone chimneys that are in good condition. The Wyatt House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C. Also contributing to the nomination is a cut stone well house on the southern elevation of the house.

Elaboration

The town of Desha is named for Franklin Desha, a prominent lawyer, District Prosecutor and farmer. In 1847, Franklin Desha married Elizabeth Searcy and settled in Independence County. At the time of the marriage, the house known locally as "Fox Hill" (NR listed 10-09-86) was built near the principal road from Batesville westward towards Clinton in Van Buren County just outside of present day Desha. Franklin Desha also served in the Mexican War and became a Captain in Buena Vista. Incidentally, Franklin was the second in his family to have a site named after him. His great-uncle Benjamin Desha was appointed Receiver of Federal Monies in Arkansas, and settled in southeast Arkansas within the bounds of the county that was named in his honor in 1838.

According to oral history, Samuel McCutchen Wyatt followed his father and sisters to Arkansas from Tennessee around 1861 to join the Confederate Army. Samuel enlisted in the First Arkansas Mounted Riflemen and served throughout the war, surrendering at Jacksonport in 1865. After the war was over, Samuel Wyatt helped his father run the family farm. He was married in 1867 to Mary Redmon Gainer, the young widow of their neighbor John Gainer who had died in the war. Samuel and Mary lived for three years in her home on the Gainer land, near the ferry.

Around 1870, they decided to move to higher ground. They built the home that still stands in Desha and that has been owned by various members of the Wyatt family ever since. The house was first built as one-story dogtrot but after a trip to visit relatives in Kentucky, where all her sisters had two-story houses, Mary insisted that a second story be added. The

Wyatt House
Name of Property

Independence County, AR
County and State

breezeway or dog-trot was enclosed later. Samuel and Mary Wyatt had three children: Isaac, John Redmon, and Mamie. Young John Redmon Wyatt died in 1899 of a "congestive chill" after playing in a baseball game in Newport.

The Wyatt House is now owned by J.R. Wyatt.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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Crowley, William J. Tennessee Cavalier in the Missouri Cavalry. Columbia, MO.: Privately printed, 1978.

Batesville Guard. April 1987.

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeastern Arkansas. Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

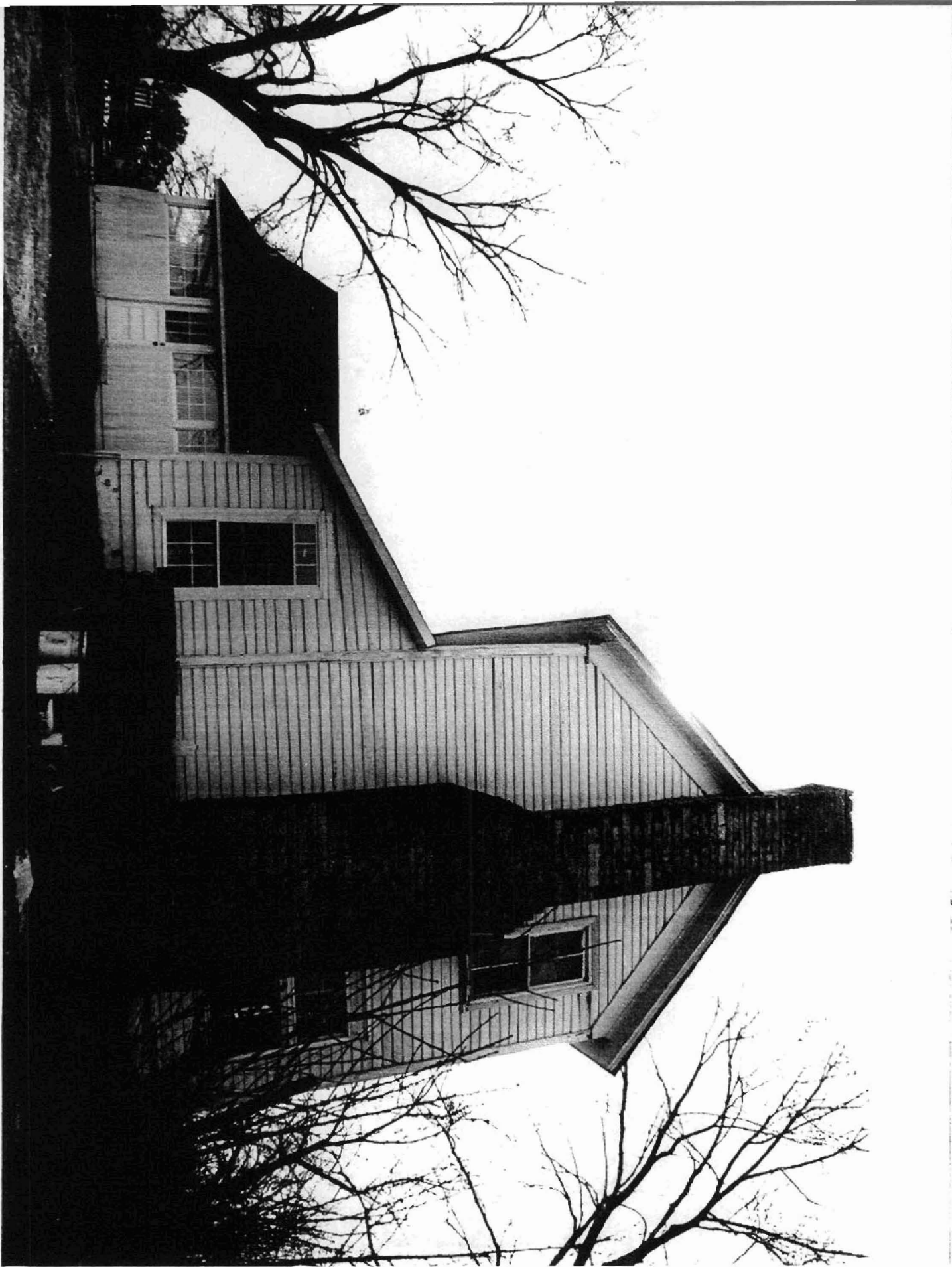
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

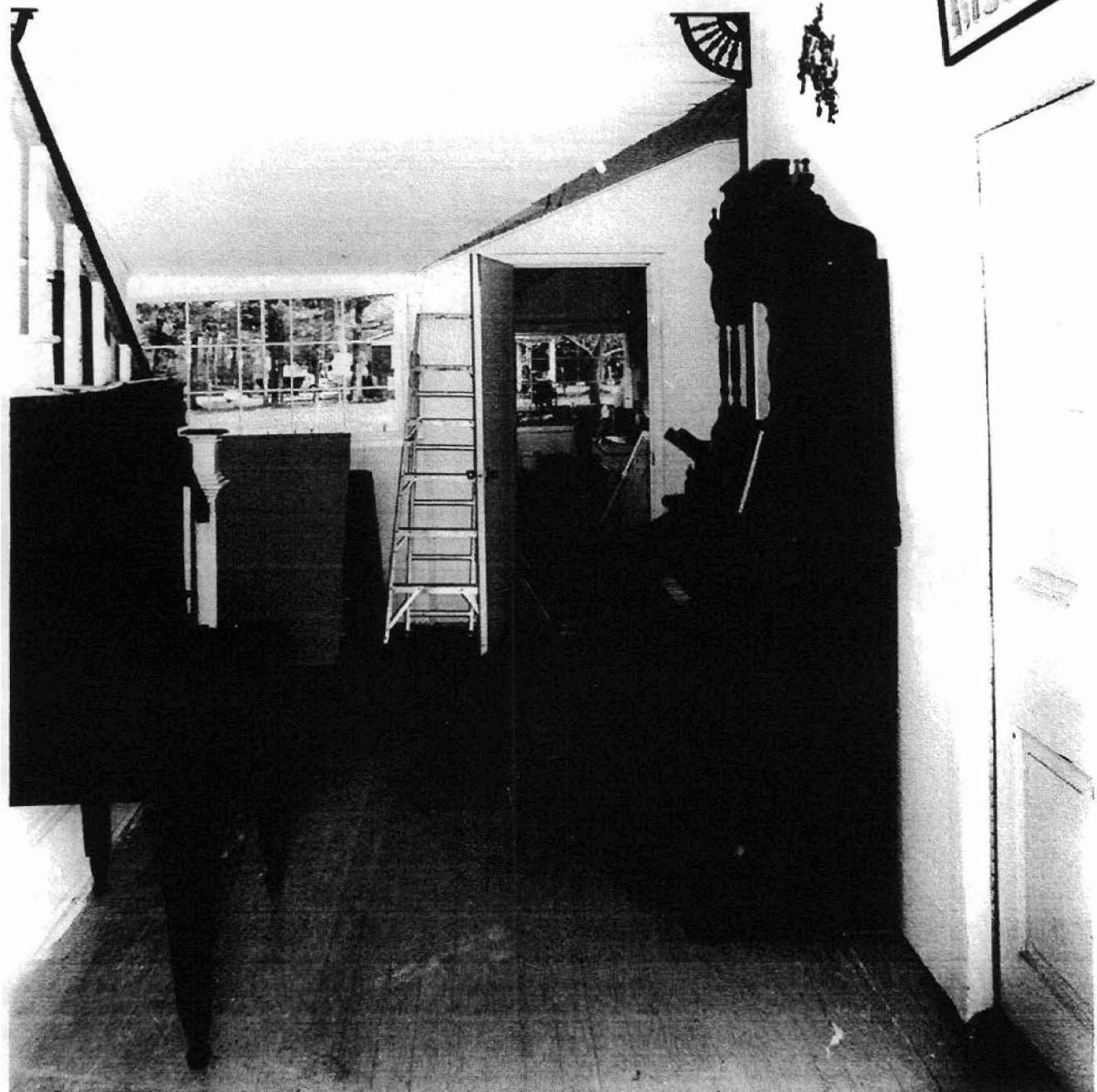
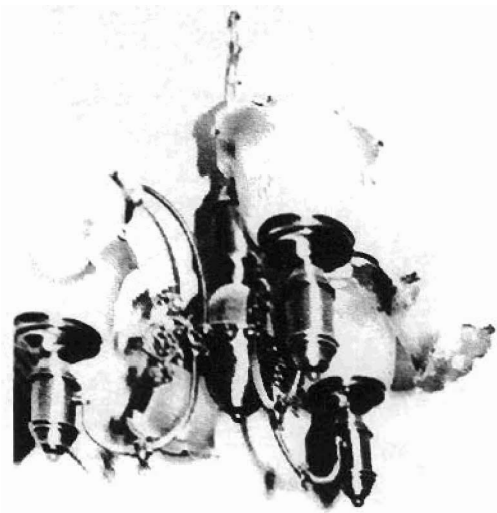
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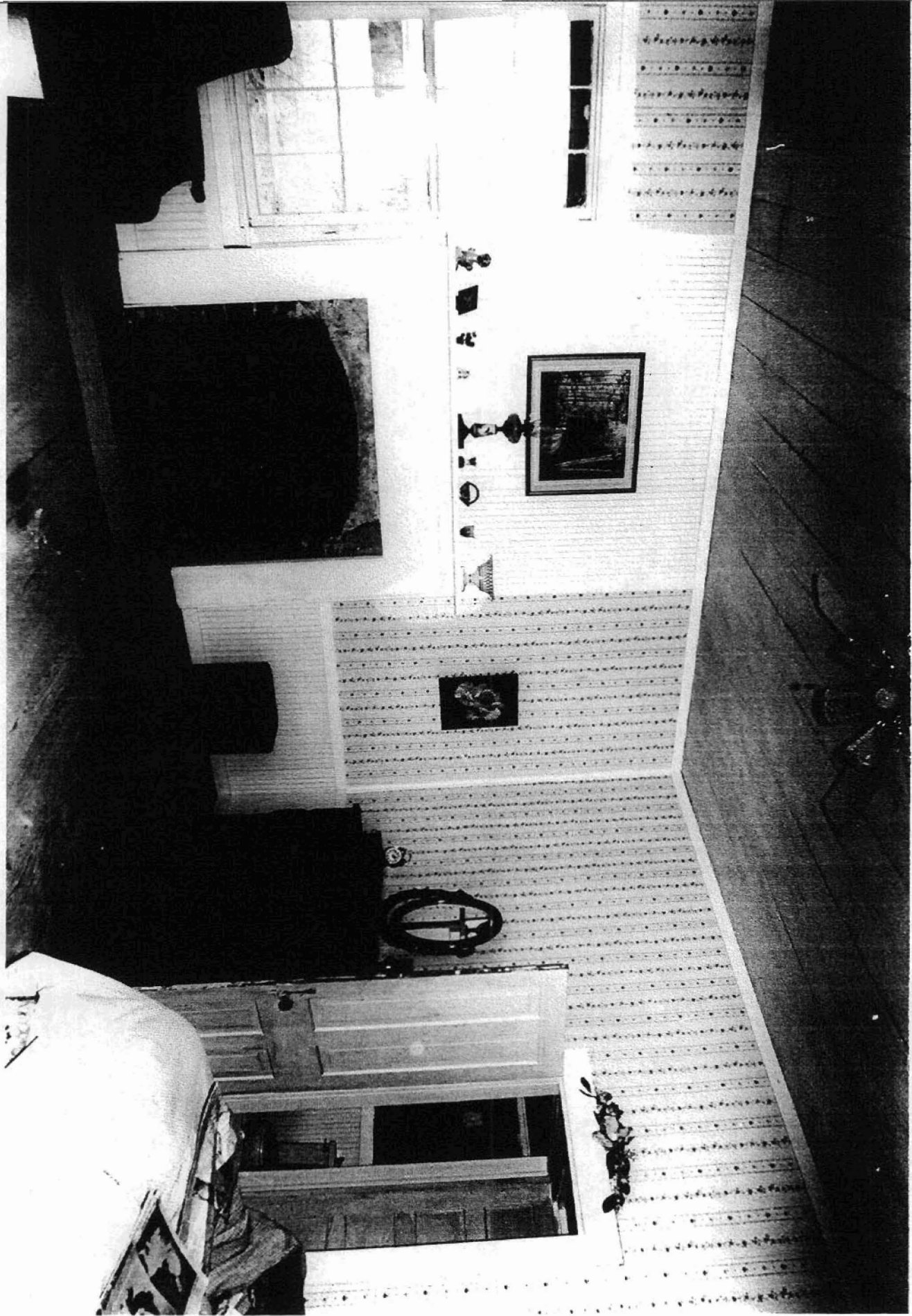
- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____













Wyatt House
Desha, Independence Co., AR
UTM Reference:
15/619800/3955370

