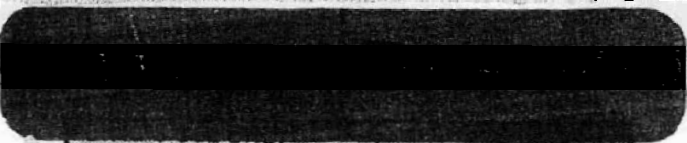


01-94-P090-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
1504 West 6th Street

CITY, TOWN
Pine Bluff

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

STATE
Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Jefferson

CODE
069

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Richard Morris Knox, III

STREET & NUMBER
1504 West 6th Street

CITY, TOWN
Pine Bluff

VICINITY OF

STATE
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER
Jefferson County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN
Pine Bluff

STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

VISITORY FOR
RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT

GOOD

FAIR

DETERIORATED

RUINS

UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The house which Colonel Richard Morris Knox built in 1885 is one of the most impressive Victorian residences in Arkansas. The two storey frame structure is one of the State's best surviving examples of the Eastlake style. Though the city of Pine Bluff has grown to completely surround this once suburban house, the structure itself has changed very little during its ninety year existence.

The Knox House has a T-shape floor plan with a two storey porch filling the north ell of the "T" and a one storey addition (c. 1900) filling in the south ell. Rising from the corner of the north ell is a three storey tower capped with a bellcast mansard roof with cresting. Shingles, ornate brackets and carved woodwork are used to decorate the tower.

Extending from the west end of the north facade is a two storey bay. Like the tower, it is noteworthy for its finely detailed woodwork. Panelling, scalloped shingles, and scrollcut woodwork are used to cover the entire surface. Upper storey balconies project over the beveled corners of the lower bay and have a decorative iron railing with balusters. Set into the gable end of this bay projection are the initials of the owner and the date of construction: R.M.K. - - 1885.

A two storey flat roofed porch covers two-thirds of the facade. Compared to the trim on the bay and tower, the brackets with pendants and Ionic capped columns provide rather simple ornamentation for the porch. However, the highly decorative style trim is continued at the gable ends on the east and west elevations, and around all the windows except those on the south (rear) elevation. Though *once* painted in contrasting hues which highlighted the ornate features (see attached photo, c. 1890), the Knox House is now white.

The main entry has sidelights and a semi-pentagon shaped transom with colored glass. Etched glass in the entry door bears the "R.M.K." initials of the original and present owner. The central hallway has a single flight of stairs rising to the second floor along the west wall. The stair rail, supported by ornate balusters, terminates in an intricately carved newel post.

Many interior features date from the 1885 construction of the house. These include the hardware, mantel pieces, and original flooring. Of special note is the marbelized iron mantelpiece in the bay parlor. Originally the walls were covered with wallpaper over canvas; however, all of the walls have since been stripped and recovered.

Lumber used in construction of the Knox House was cut from heart of pine. Double walls of horizontally laid planks were filled with sawdust, thus insulating the house. Sound construction and continual maintenance have kept the house in good condition throughout its ninety years of occupancy.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

The Knox House lies on a large corner lot which is still enclosed by the original iron fence. The present owner, R. M. Knox, III, is the third generation of the family to own and reside in the Knox House.

B SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the best examples of Eastlake Victorian architecture in Arkansas is the Knox House in Pine Bluff. Dominant structural features of this two storey frame house are the three storey tower, a gabled bay at the northwest corner, and the two storey porch along the east end of the facade. True to form, the house displays the types of trim associated with the Eastlake style. Shingles, panelling, brackets and intricately carved and cut woodwork are used in varying combinations to ornament the basic structure. This architecturally impressive residence was built in 1885 by R. M. Knox, a wealthy Pine Bluff businessman.

Richard Morris Knox (1838-1915) was one of seven children born to a Tennessee doctor. About 1848 the family moved to Panola County, Mississippi, where Dr. Absalom Knox continued his medical practice. After receiving some formal schooling, R. M. Knox began working as a clerk in a drygoods store. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in the Confederate army, along with four of his brothers.

Early in the war R. M. Knox served as a private in the First Mississippi Cavalry, and was later promoted to sergeant. He fought in several major engagements, had two horses shot from under him, and was once captured briefly by Union forces; nevertheless, he received no serious injury throughout the war.

The service Knox rendered to the Confederacy continued even after the Civil War through his work with the United Confederate Veterans. Though a private in the Confederate cavalry, he was elected a brigadier general in the United Confederate Veterans. R. M. Knox was one of three men instrumental in the founding of the Arkansas Confederate Home for disabled veterans and their dependents.

After the Civil War R. M. Knox worked in a drygoods store in Memphis, Tennessee. In 1871 he moved to Pine Bluff where he bought a store of his own. Knox used customer credit and stocked a wide variety of merchandise to attract a large number of customers. The mercantile business which he operated for thirty-four years was quite successful and made Knox one of the wealthiest men in the community. He was also a founder of Citizen's Bank of Pine Bluff and was First Vice President and a director at the time of his death in 1915.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE one

R. M. Knox was first married in 1865 to Mittie Sparks, a union which produced nine children. Left a widower, he married Victoria Tucker in the early 1880's (her wedding dress is still stored in the Knox House). In 1885 the couple's only child was born and named for his father. R. M. Knox, Jr. inherited the Knox House from his father, and in turn, deeded it to his son, R. M. Knox, III.

The Knox House has belonged to a Richard Morris Knox for almost a century. When constructed in 1885 the house was one of the finest residences in Pine Bluff. Still in good condition, the Knox House represents both an excellent example of Eastlake architecture in Arkansas, and a well-to-do businessman's home in 1885.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Evans, Clement A. Confederate Military History. Atlanta: Confederate Publishing Company, 1899.
 Herndon, Dallas T., ed. Centennial History of Arkansas, Vol. III. Chicago: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.
 Knox, Mrs. R. M., Jr. Interview at Knox House, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, December 12, 1974. "The Last Roll." Confederate Veteran, Vol. XXIII (July, 1915), p.322.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	115	5910450	3787150	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

3-11-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

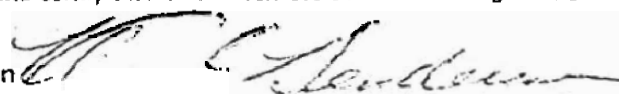
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE William E. Henderson



TITLE

State Historic Preservation

DATE 3-11-75

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

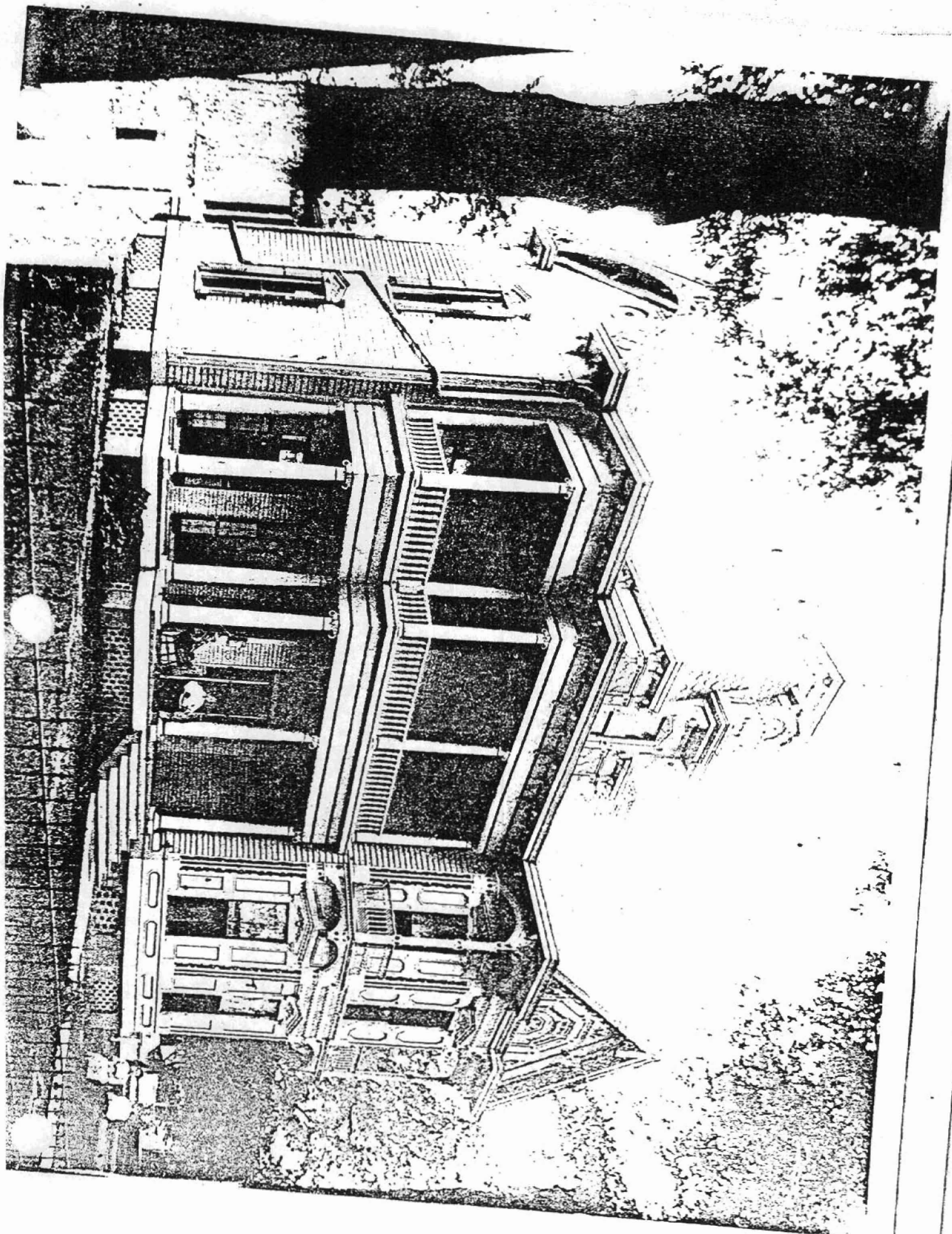
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



m No. 10-301a
v. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

NAME

HISTORIC R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN - Pine Bluff VICINITY OF COUNTY Jefferson STATE Arkansas

PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

copy of 1890 photo

1



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R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Pine Bluff

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

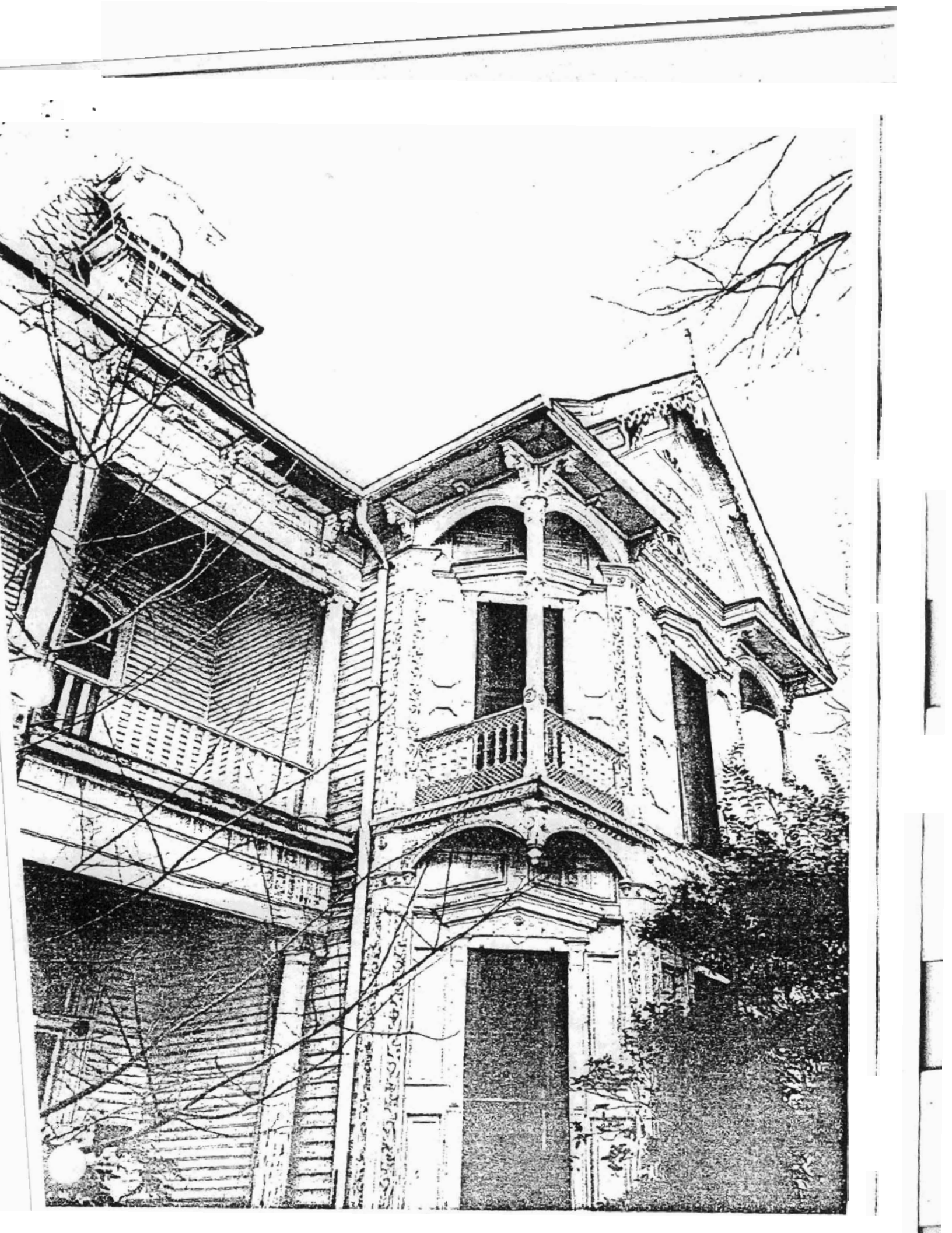
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

north facade, viewed from the northeast

PHOTO NO.

2



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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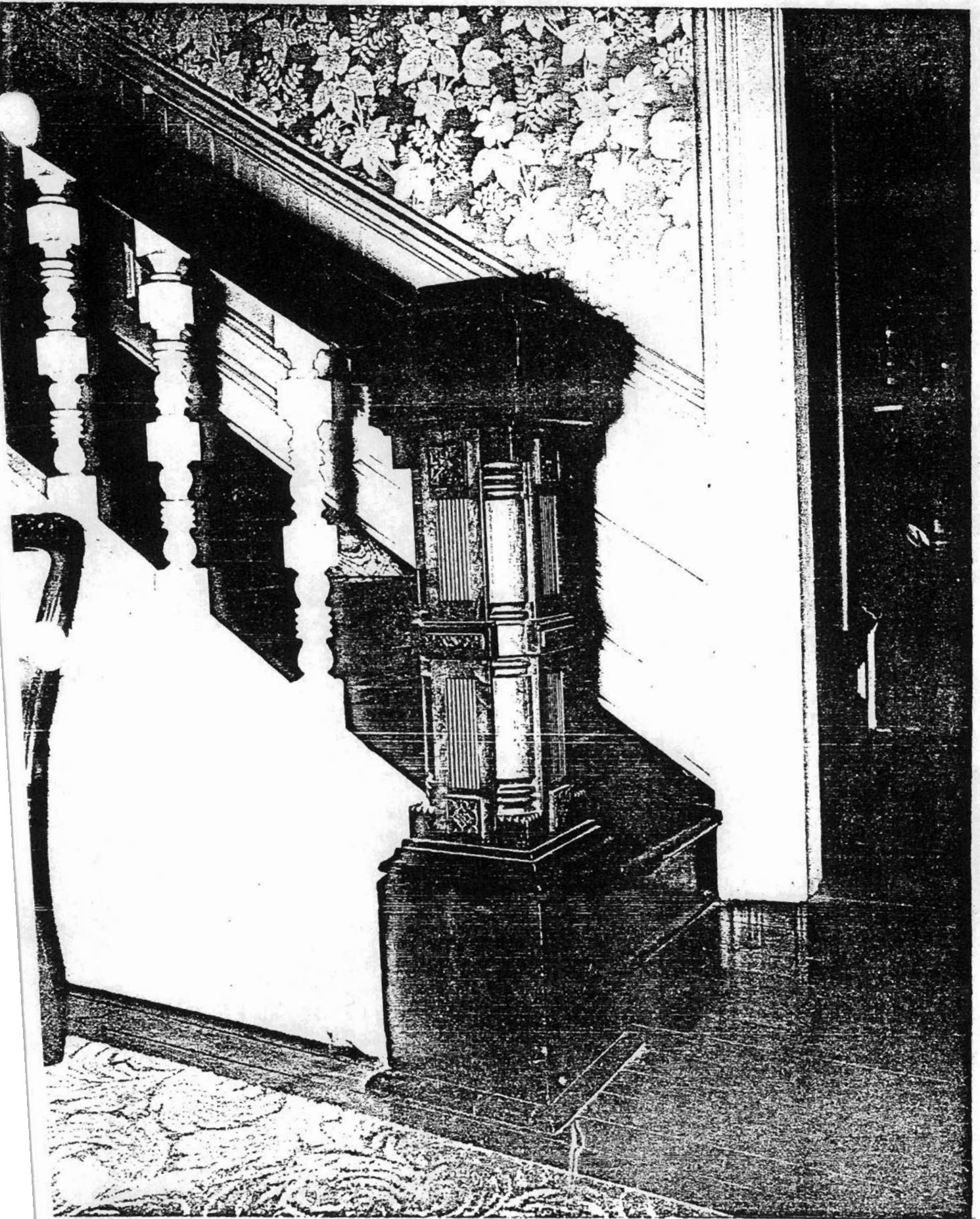
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

detail of bay, north elevation

PHOTO NO.

3



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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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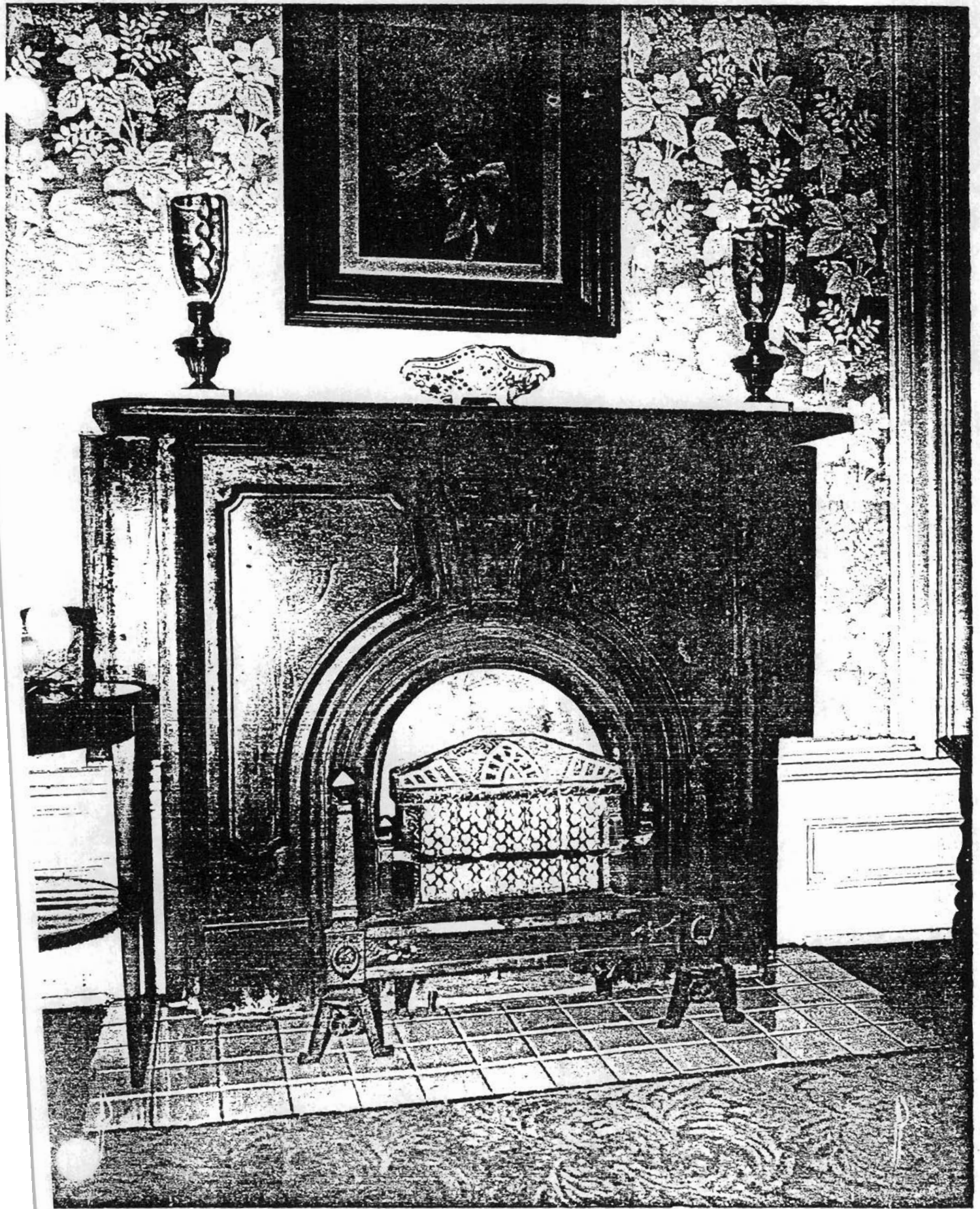
4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

detail of central hall stairway

PHOTO NO.

4



Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pine Bluff VICINITY OF COUNTY Jefferson STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
mantlepiece, bay parlor

PHOTO NO.
5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC R. M. Knox House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Pine Bluff

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Jefferson

STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

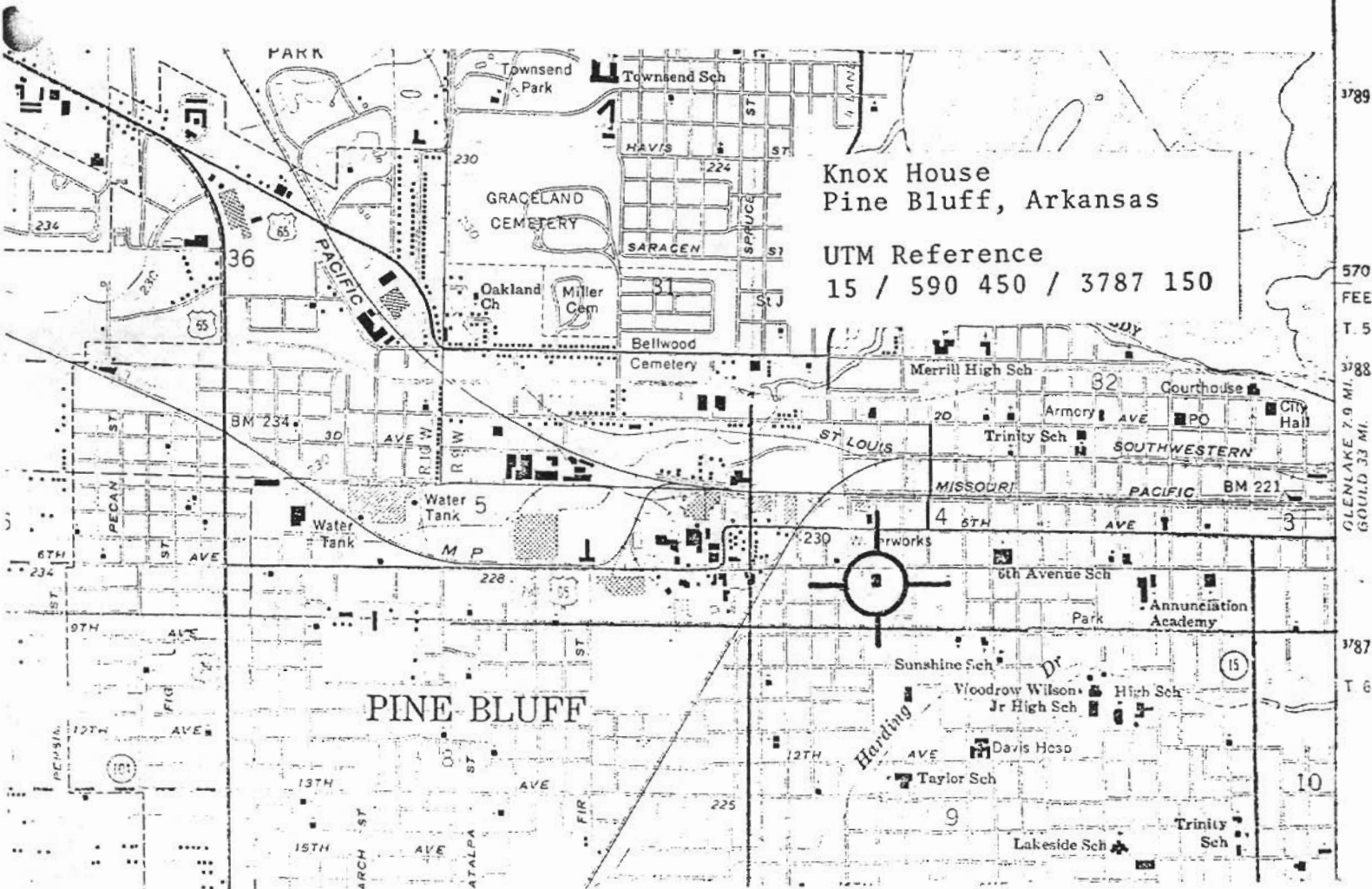
SCALE 1:2400

DATE 1962 (photorevised 1971)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES



Knox House
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15 / 590 450 / 3787 150

PINE BLUFF

00'
34°
3790
3789
5700
FEET
T. 5
3788
GLENLAKE 7.9 MI.
GOULD 3.3 MI.
3787
T. 6
10

