

52-85-1040-61

NR 12-2-77

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Richmond-Tufts House

AND/OR COMMON  
Pryor House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Route #1, Box 851

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN  
Camden

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Arkansas

CODE  
05

COUNTY CODE  
Ouachita 103

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Mrs. Edgar Pryor

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 1, Box 851

CITY, TOWN  
Camden

STATE  
Arkansas

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Ouachita County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
Court Square

CITY, TOWN  
Camden

STATE  
Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1961</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Pryor House was built in 1853 as a double pile with central hall. The structure is rectangular in plan with a five-bayed facade, and gabled roof. Facings on the double entrance doors have pronounced plinth and corner blocks. The transom has eighteen lights and each side light had twelve lights. On the west elevation is a concrete floored three-bayed shed porch. The porch has boxed columns and straight railing. The north elevation contains four irregularly spaced windows. On the south is a shed porch with two turned post, and three regularly spaced windows. The east side of the structure has two shed additions.

Windows are nine over nine lights with inoperable shutters. Siding is weather board with board and batten gables.

The house is somewhat altered. In 1883, the owner, Alfred A. Tufts remodeled the entrance porch bracketed post and spindle work. The original roof became a combination of hipped and gabled with dormer. In 1977, Mrs. Pryor had the 1883 roof and porch replaced with one more in keeping with the house's original style. The two rear additions contain a modern bathroom and closets. The wall between the original house and additions was removed and the ceiling lowered. The mantel in the living room is a replacement, and a fireplace was added to the kitchen. Door facing and molding leading between rooms in the main body of the house are original.

# 84 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1853

BUILDER/ARCHITECT N. W. Richmond

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Richmond-Tufts House is an ante-bellum house through which can be traced a cross-section of the nineteenth-century inhabitants of Camden, Arkansas. One of the early occupants of the home, A. A. Tufts, was a northerner who came to Camden after the Civil War and achieved local prominence both as a landowner and as a "carpet-bagger" who managed to win the respect of the community through time. Architecturally, the building has experienced remodelings. It currently looks to be a typical, rural classically detailed dwelling - the type of which are common in southwest Arkansas.

The Richmond-Tufts House was built in 1853 as a frame, double pile with central hall by Mr. N. W. Richmond in Camden, Arkansas. The dwelling was erected in the 700 block of West Washington Street, an important stage line route in this early established port city on the Ouachita River. Little is known of Richmond's life, but in 1858 Mr. Julius Stanley, principal of the Camden male school, boarded with the Richmonds. Stanley was also a preacher and is said to have delivered the first sermon in the Camden Methodist Church.

J. S. Rainey bought the house and accompanying property in 1859 for \$5,000.00. However, Rainey died during the Civil War and the building was used as a rent house by Rainey heirs. One family of renters was Mr. and Mrs. C. Thrower. Thrower was an attorney and publisher of the Ouachita Herald.

In 1869 the residence was purchased by Professor Barcus, a music instructor at Camden High School. But shortly thereafter, the house once again became a rental property. Colonel Thomas Thornton, principal of the Camden High School rented the house in 1872. Thornton's father, who shared the home with him, was a well-known Camden personality who was publicly remembered in a Camden newspaper as being "rather eccentric but very interesting in conversation, especially when started on his favorite theme of Henry Clay."

The most prominent owner of the house during the nineteenth century was probably Alfred A. Tufts, a native of Milwaukee who came to Camden after the Civil War. Tufts was born on September 3, 1847. During the Civil War, he served in Company K of the 126th regiment of the Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He moved to Camden in 1867 to take charge of the public money of the U. S. Land Office. Six years later he married Miss Nellie Scott, the youngest daughter of Camden judge, Christopher C. Scott. His rise to local prominence stemmed from his acquisition of a large amount of land in and around Camden.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

He purchased the Richmond-Tufts House in 1883 and named the property "Myrtle Lodge" after the large crepe myrtles found on the grounds. Under his direction, the simple ante-bellum home received a complete face-lift. The extent of the changes imposed upon the structure are partially described in an 1887 newspaper article and an early photo of the home also illustrates a number of the alterations made by Tufts. A bracketed porch with spindle work was added to the front (south elevation of the structure). The early roof was replaced by a high-hipped roof featuring gable projections. Three rooms and a gallery porch were added to the rear of the structure, giving the building an ell-shaped appearance.

Despite the fact that he had been a Union man, Tufts eventually won the respect of the ardently southern Camden citizenry. A quote from the Ouachita Herald of June 2, 1887 perhaps indicates the nature of Tufts' early life in the South.

"Twenty years ago today, Captain A. A. Tufts pitched his tent here and became a citizen of Camden...in spite of some obstacles in the way of sectional prejudices, he had come to stay.

During these twenty years he has passed through some warm scenes - some heated campaigns - and has been arrayed in politics against the democracy of this county, but his conduct and bearing have been such to denote the inborn gentleman and he has commanded the respect and admiration of all classes and creeds."

Mrs. Tufts also was well remembered and she has even been called the "most memorable inhabitant of the house. She distinguished herself through her study of the history of Ouachita County, especially that relating to the Civil War. Her southern sympathies must have helped the standing of the Tufts family in the eyes of local citizens by providing a proper counterpoint to her husband's war record and government affiliation.

In 1909, the title to the property was willed to St. John's Episcopal Church, which in turn sold the residence in 1931.

Mrs. Edgar Pryor purchased the home, which was badly deteriorated, in 1961. In order to return the house to a livable condition, she had the home remodeled under the auspices of Harold Tutt, a Camden builder familiar with Greek Revival architecture. The Richmond-Tufts house was moved to its present location on Highway 24 outside of Camden, a new roof added and an ante-bellum style porch was placed on the front of the building. Shed roof additions were placed on the rear of the house. On the interior, the kitchen was remodeled and a new mantel was placed in the parlour. The three room addition, added by A. A. Tufts in 1883,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE \*

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

---

was completely removed from the house nearly returning the building to its original configuration. One of the original two chimneys remains.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

Pryor, Suzie, Interview, July 1977; Camden, Arkansas

























