

54-37-1040-61

NR 1-1-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

E. S. READY HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

COMFORT THATCH

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

929 Beech Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Helena

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Phillips

CODE

107

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. & Mrs. James I. Mayer

STREET & NUMBER

929 Beech Street

CITY, TOWN

Helena

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Phillips County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Helena

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ready-Mayer House in Helena is one of a number of residences designed by architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock. During the early twentieth century Thompson's designs were especially popular among wealthy Arkansas families. The Ready-Mayer House, built in 1910, is similar to other Thompson houses in its building materials and simple but elegant style; however, this particular house is built on a somewhat smaller scale than other Thompson houses.

The Ready-Mayer House is a two-and-one-half-storey brick residence painted white and trimmed with black shutters. The symmetrical facade is divided into three bays. Above the outside bays shingled dormers project from the gable roof. Twin chimneys rise above the ridge line near the north and south ends of the roof.

A one-storey portico with balcony covers the front entry. Paired Doric columns support the balcony which has a low railing with cast stone urn-shaped balusters. Both the ground floor and balcony entries are flanked by sidelights and set in an elliptical arch. The main entry has a fan-light transom above the paneled door. A railing similar to that on the balcony surrounds the open concrete porch which covers the entire area immediately in front of the house.

Projecting from the south elevation is a one-storey flat-roofed wing. Though originally open this sun porch is now enclosed. The only other exterior alterations to the structure include the enclosure of two lattice porches on the rear (west) elevation. These porch enclosures have left the basic floor plan unaltered.

The rear elevation of the Ready-Mayer House has two wings projecting from the basic rectangular structure. The south rear elevation has a two-storey wing with the upper porch enclosed. Projecting from the center of the rear elevation is the one storey gable-roofed kitchen wing with a tall brick chimney on the west end. A one-storey flat-roofed porch, now enclosed, lies north of the kitchen.

The interior of the house was completely redecorated in 1974. Floors not carpeted were refinished and are in beautiful condition. The original marble floor in the south sun porch also remains in excellent condition. Several original brass light fixtures are still in place in the dining room and formal living room.

The entry hall is open to the second storey and features a three-run stairway. Slender turned balusters support handrails set between square posts at each landing.

The original blueprints, now on file with the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, show that the Ready-Mayer House has changed very little since its construction in 1910. The house remains in excellent condition and rests on its original tree-shaded lot in a quiet residential section of Helena.

SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

HISTORIC	<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 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		

PECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT CHARLES L. THOMPSON

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ready-Mayer House is the only Helena residence known to have been designed by architect Charles L. Thompson of Little Rock. As one of Arkansas' leading architects in the early twentieth century, Thompson designed many buildings for both public and private patrons. The Washington County Courthouse in Fayetteville and the Garrett House in El Dorado are two structures designed by Thompson which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Though on a smaller scale than most residential structures designed by Thompson, the Ready-Mayer House does display other characteristics of his work. Thompson used brick and cast stone in his early twentieth-century designs. His balanced floor plans made use of wide hallways and large rooms. Classical facades with dormers and some classical features marked many of Thompson's residential designs.

The Ready-Mayer House is a two-and-one-half-storey brick structure. It has a symmetrical facade with elliptical arch entries on the first and second storeys flanked by twin dormers projecting from the sloping gable roof. Doric columns are used on the one-storey portico and on the sun porch and carport extending from the south elevation. Urn-shaped balusters of cast stone encircle the wide front porch area and the small balcony on the facade.

In 1910 the Ready-Mayer House was constructed for Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Ready of Helena. Mr. Ready was a prominent Helena businessman, and Mrs. Ready was involved in many local activities. She was especially active in the organization and construction of the Helena Library and Museum.

Following Mrs. Ready's death in 1954, the house was sold to a number of successive owners. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. James I. Mayer, purchased and restored the house in 1974.

The Ready-Mayer House exemplifies a wealthy businessman's house in early twentieth-century Arkansas. Architecturally, it is significant as an example of the work of an important Arkansas architect, Charles L. Thompson.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock) December 31, 1961.
 Kirkland, Dale. Personal interview, August 4, 1975. •
 Place file: Helena, Arkansas. Archives, Arkansas History Commission.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	7 2 0 9 5 0	3 8 2 3 5 7 5	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

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

September 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501) 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock, Arkansas

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Gene Richardson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 9, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY:

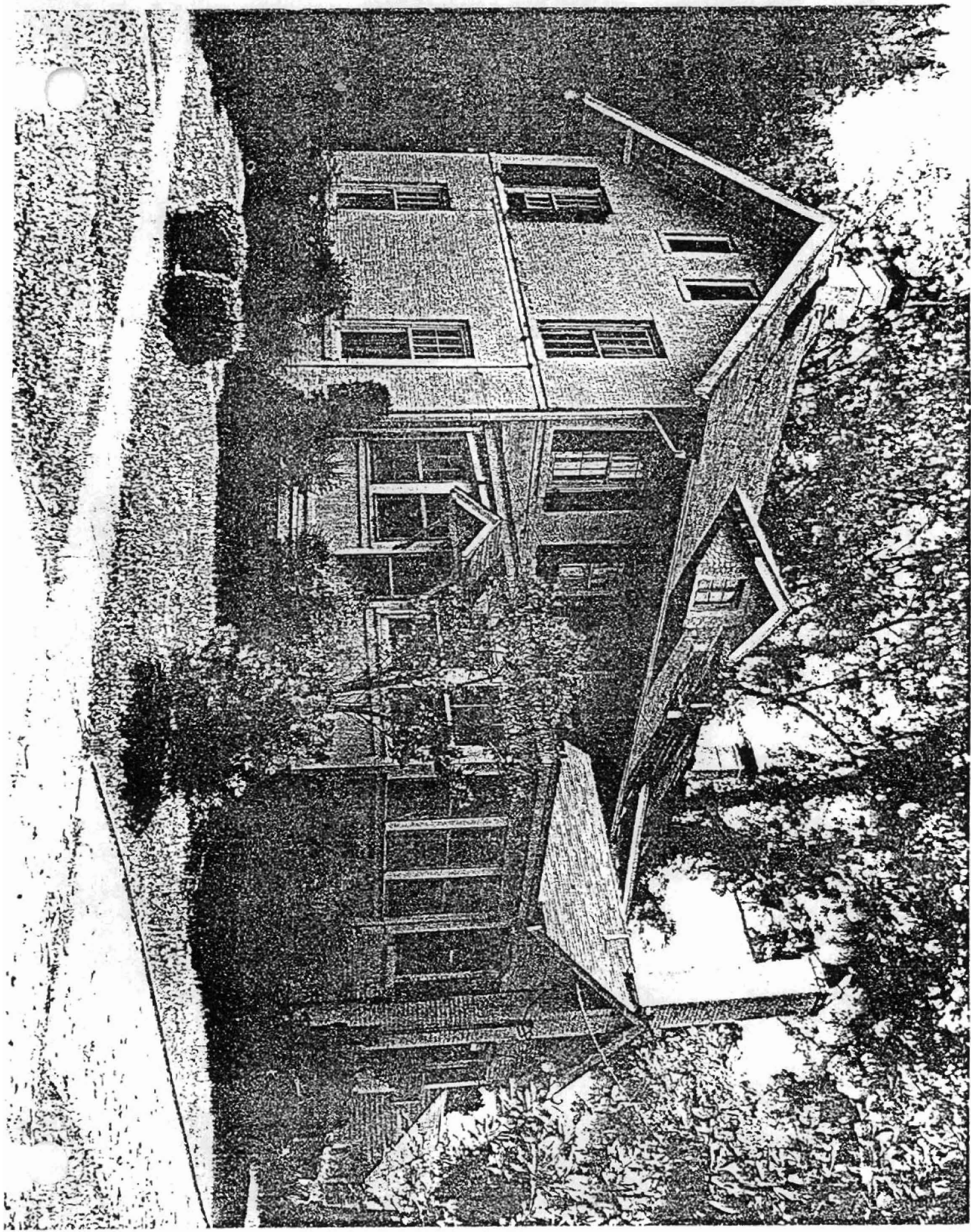
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



Handwritten notes and markings at the top of the page.

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ready - MAYER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

Comfort Thatch

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HELENA VICINITY OF

COUNTY PHILLIPS STATE ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT DIANNA KIRK

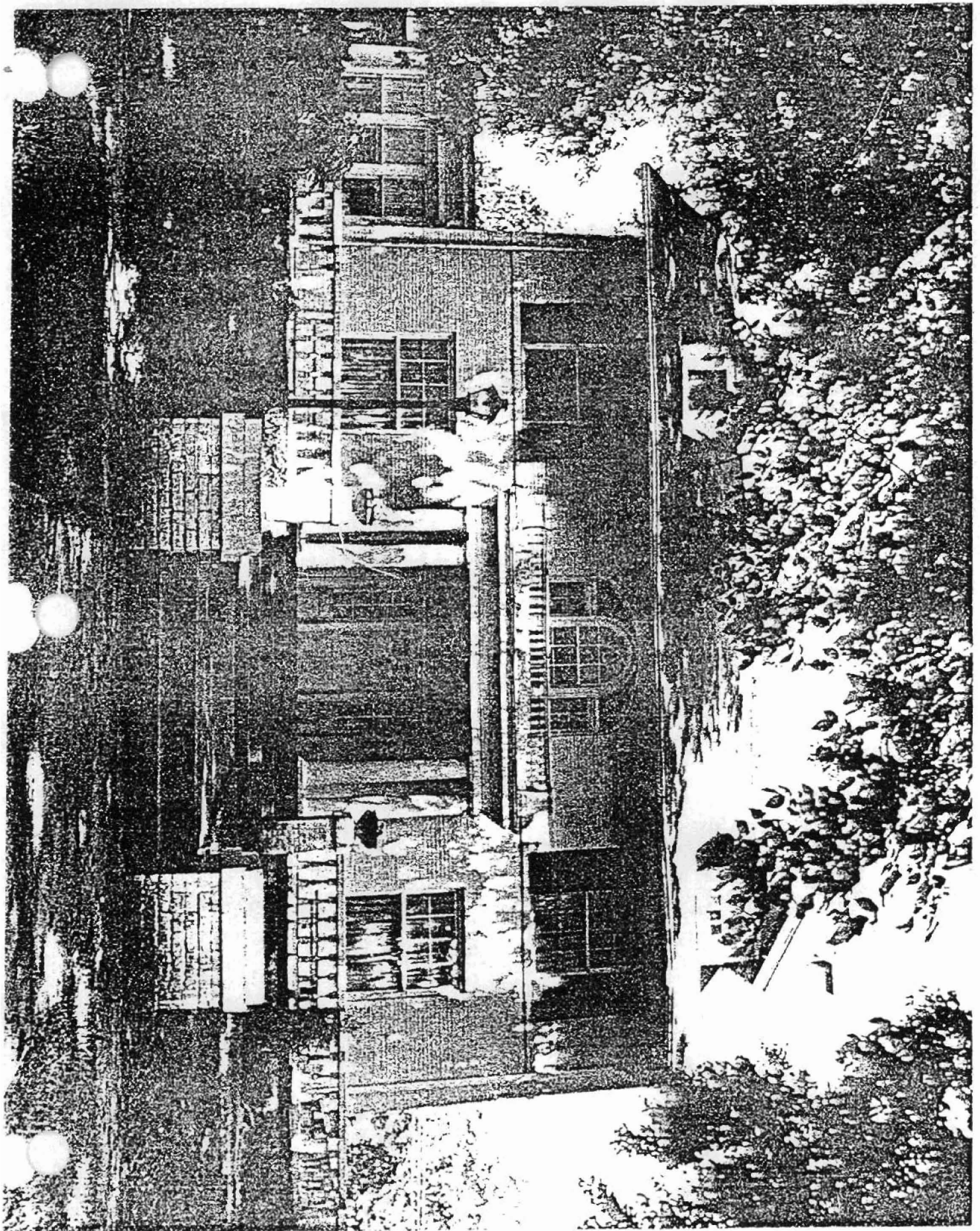
DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
NORTH AND WEST (REAR) ELEVATION,
VIEWED FROM THE NORTHWEST

PHOTO NO
2



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(Rev. 10-74)

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Ready - MAYER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON COMFORT THATCH

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HELENA _____ VICINITY OF COUNTY PHILLIPS STATE ARKANSAS

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

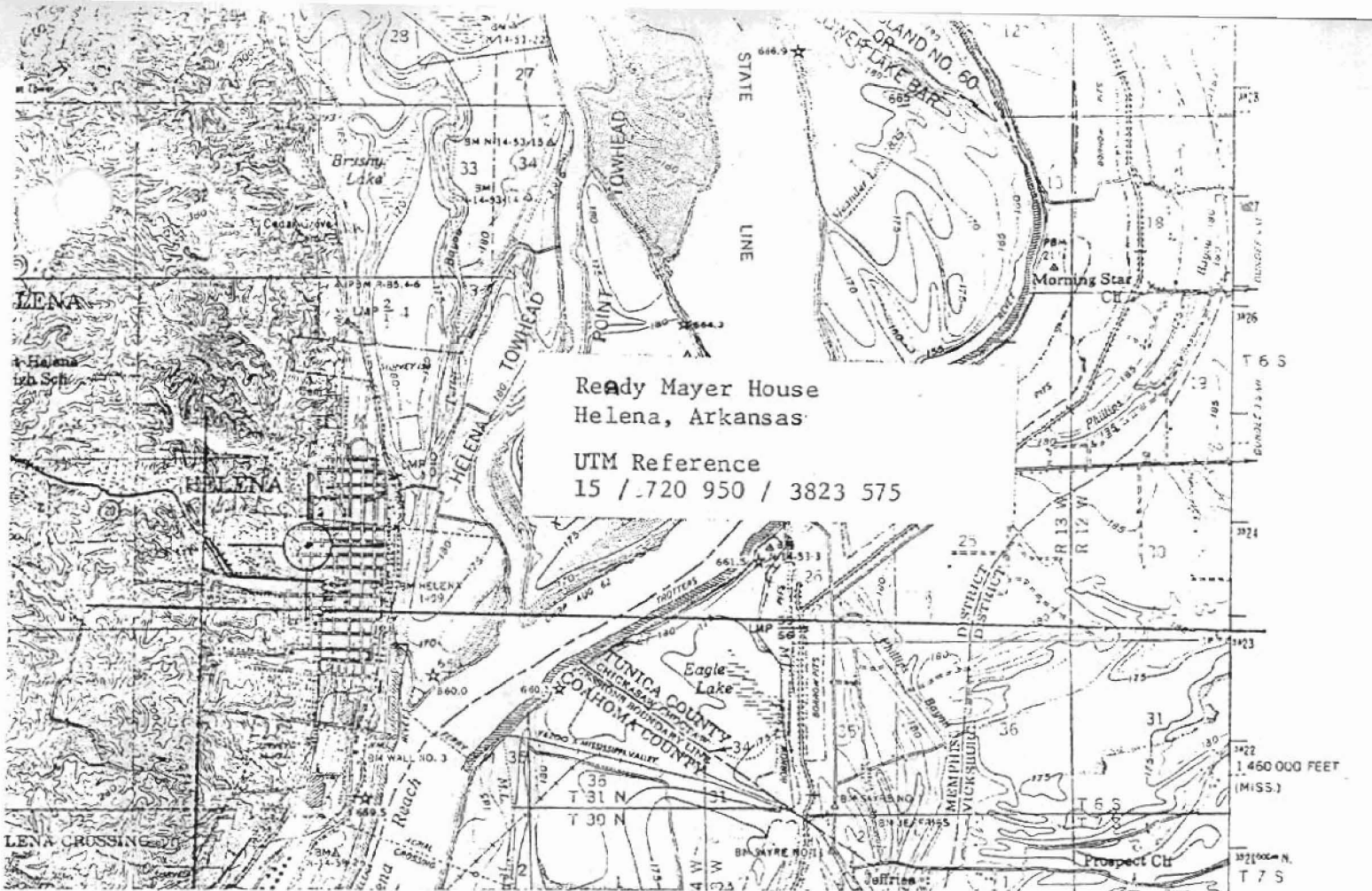
PHOTO CREDIT DIANNA KIRK DATE OF PHOTO SUMMER, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
FACADE, VIEWED FROM THE EAST

PHOTO NO
1



10-301
10-742

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 Ready - MAYER HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON COMFORT THATCH

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN HELENA VICINITY OF COUNTY PHILLIPS STATE ARKANSAS

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, LATOUR QUADRANGLE

SCALE 1:62,500 DATE 1961

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW

