

60-88-1100-61

NR 8-6-75

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 Fordyce House

AND/OR COMMON

Egyptian Revival House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 2115 South Broadway

CITY, TOWN Little Rock

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Second

STATE Arkansas

VICINITY OF  
CODE  
05

COUNTY CODE  
Pulaski 119

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 Mr. and Mrs. Frank McNally

STREET & NUMBER

2115 South Broadway

CITY, TOWN Little Rock

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET & NUMBER

Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Little Rock

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 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

Located in Little Rock's historic Quapaw Quarter district is a two and one-half storey house of Egyptian Revival architecture. **Considered to be the only** example of this architectural style in the state, the house is of wood construction. The house was built and designed about 1904 by Charles L. Thompson for Colonel John R. Fordyce.

True to Egyptian Revival style, the house features battered walls. The narrow clapboard siding of the house is accentuated by the contrasting colors in which the trim is painted. **Dormers project from the north, west and east** elevations of the hip roof. Windows are grouped irregularly and are plentiful.

The facade of the house is marked by a boxed-in battered porch which extends across the entire facade of the house. Simple handrails and balusters are located on the front and side openings. The porch entry features two heavy columns, which in the tradition of Egyptian Revival structures, resemble bundles of stalks tied together with horizontal bands below the capitals. Second storey windows on the facade are found in groupings of three, each separated by pilasters. Curved brackets are found at the cornice line of the facade and extend around the north and south elevation to the end of the porch projection.

Extending from the north elevation is a bay at the one and one-half storey line. **The shingled bay features curved brackets beneath it and at the** cornice line, identical to the brackets found on the facade. Just west of this bay is a set of casement windows with small diamond shaped lights set into the upper sash. A small window near the porch opening on the north facade repeats this design.

The interior of the Fordyce House is a modified side hall plan. The rooms are large with high ceilings. The dominant feature of the interior is the woodwork, most of which is quarter sawn oak. A high paneled wainscotting and a cornice of oak mark the front parlor. The focal point of this parlor is a fireplace which was installed in the house during the residence of the Shipton family. **The mantel came from the home of Robert Crittenden,** who was one of early Arkansas' most prominent statesmen. According to the Shipton family, the design in the panels above the mantel is the symbol of hospitality. The interior door and window heads feature entablatures. The rectangular opening onto the entry hall from the front parlor features a dentiled entablature.

The original wallpaper is found in the library. **The wainscotting separates** the two art nouveau patterns which have been painted over. The east end of the library is marked by an inglenook. The mantel is of a pyramidal design with the base slanting slightly upward to the mantel shelf. Centered above the fireplace is a carved woodwork pattern. Narrow shelves lie on either side of the center panel on which the art nouveau design carving is located. Leaded glass fills in long narrow doors which flank the mantel-

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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piece. Built-in cabinets and seats feature the same leaded glass pattern.

The stairway is two flights with one landing. The squared newel post features deeply grooved ridges on all four sides. The turned balusters are of two alternating designs. An interesting aspect of the second storey is that all the rooms are interconnecting.

The exterior of the Fordyce House reflects very little change since the days when the Fordyce family lived there. During the residence of the Shiptons, the house was slightly remodeled with a new kitchen built onto the east elevation and a back stairway taken out. A ground floor glassed-in porch with a second storey sleeping porch above it were also added onto the east elevation.

Interior alterations dealt primarily with the parlor, dining room and library. What is now the front parlor was originally divided into three rooms including a parlor, conservatory and dining room. In the inglenook of the library, long narrow windows of leaded glass were made into doors which lead to the newly added glassed-in porch.

Still in excellent condition, the Fordyce House stands as an example of an architectural style unique in Arkansas.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1904

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Charles L. Thompson

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the Fordyce House lies in the areas of architecture and engineering. The house is Egyptian Revival in architecture and is significant in that it is considered to be the only true Egyptian Revival style structure in the state. The house was designed and constructed in approximately 1904 by Charles L. Thompson. Thompson was responsible for the construction of many of the finest structures in Little Rock, and in 1890, founded an architectural firm which is considered to be the longest established practice west of the Mississippi. The man for whom the house was constructed, Colonel John R. Fordyce, was an engineer of national prominence. His association with the house alone establishes its significance.

John R. Fordyce was the son of Samuel W. and Susan Chadwick Fordyce. Born in 1840, Samuel W. Fordyce was a native of Ohio who moved to Alabama just after the Civil War. He was a banker in Huntsville, Alabama where John R. Fordyce was born on November 7, 1869. The Fordyce family moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas about 1874 in an attempt to restore the elder Fordyce's failing health. In Hot Springs Samuel W. Fordyce became involved with civic affairs and was instrumental in securing a hospital, opera house, various hotels and public utility companies for that city.

John R. Fordyce attended Hot Springs public schools and in 1887 entered Washington University in St. Louis. In 1892 he obtained a Master's degree in Mining Engineering from that school. The next four years he spent working on engineering projects. In 1896 he moved to Little Rock and joined the Thomas-Fordyce Manufacturing Company of which he later became the president. The company was engaged in the manufacture of cotton gin machinery and special types of machinery.

Fordyce was responsible for the perfecting of many inventions, most of which dealt mainly with cotton gin and compress machinery. Among his first inventions were a press for making round bales of cotton, a cotton feeder which extracted hulls, leaf trash and dirt from cotton, and a cotton gin different from that of Eli Whitney's. Fordyce's cotton gin stripped the cotton from the ginning saws by revolving discs instead of fixed ribs. This increased the speed of ginning, decreased power required and did not injure the cotton fiber. Fordyce also developed a system which drew the cotton from the saws by air suction instead of the old method of brushing it off with revolving bristle brushes. He also perfected a cotton trolley used for handling bales in compresses.

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On April 28, 1917, Fordyce became a major in the Engineer's Reserve Corps of the United States Army. On May 23 he was called to active service and was made construction engineer of Camp Pike, near Little Rock. His war service also included the building of the St. Louis Clothing Warehouses for the Quartermaster Corps and Terminal Engineer for the Mississippi Waterways. During the war, he invented a method of firing the Lewis machine gun from the shoulder. In Arkansas, Fordyce was appointed by the United States Department of the Interior to Engineer of Construction of the Bath Houses in Hot Springs (added to the National Register in 1974).

Colonel Fordyce became widely known in the engineering profession and was a member of a number of societies and organizations. In addition to belonging to almost every known engineering society, Fordyce was a member of the Arkansas History Commission and the Naval Consulting Board of Arkansas. In 1933 Fordyce was appointed by President Roosevelt to the Desoto Expedition Committee.

Fordyce is known for his talents as an engineer and inventor and greatly contributed to his field. The cities of Hot Springs and Little Rock benefited from Fordyce's civic involvements. The Fordyce House is both architecturally significant and important because of the man who had it built and lived there for over twenty years.

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, June 10, 1939.

Barnes, H. F., ed. Among Arkansas Leaders. Little Rock: Lex B. Davis, circa 1933.

McNally, Mr. and Mrs. Frank. Personal interview at Fordyce House, Little Rock, May 7, 1975.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	56,60,9,0	3,84,2,9,0,0	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

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

6-10-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

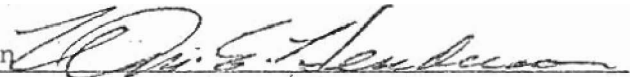
NATIONAL

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE William E. Henderson



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 6-10-75

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

**1** NAME

HISTORIC Fordyce House

AND/OR COMMON  
Egyptian Revival House

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Little Rock VICINITY OF COUNTY Pulaski STATE Arkansas

**3** MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

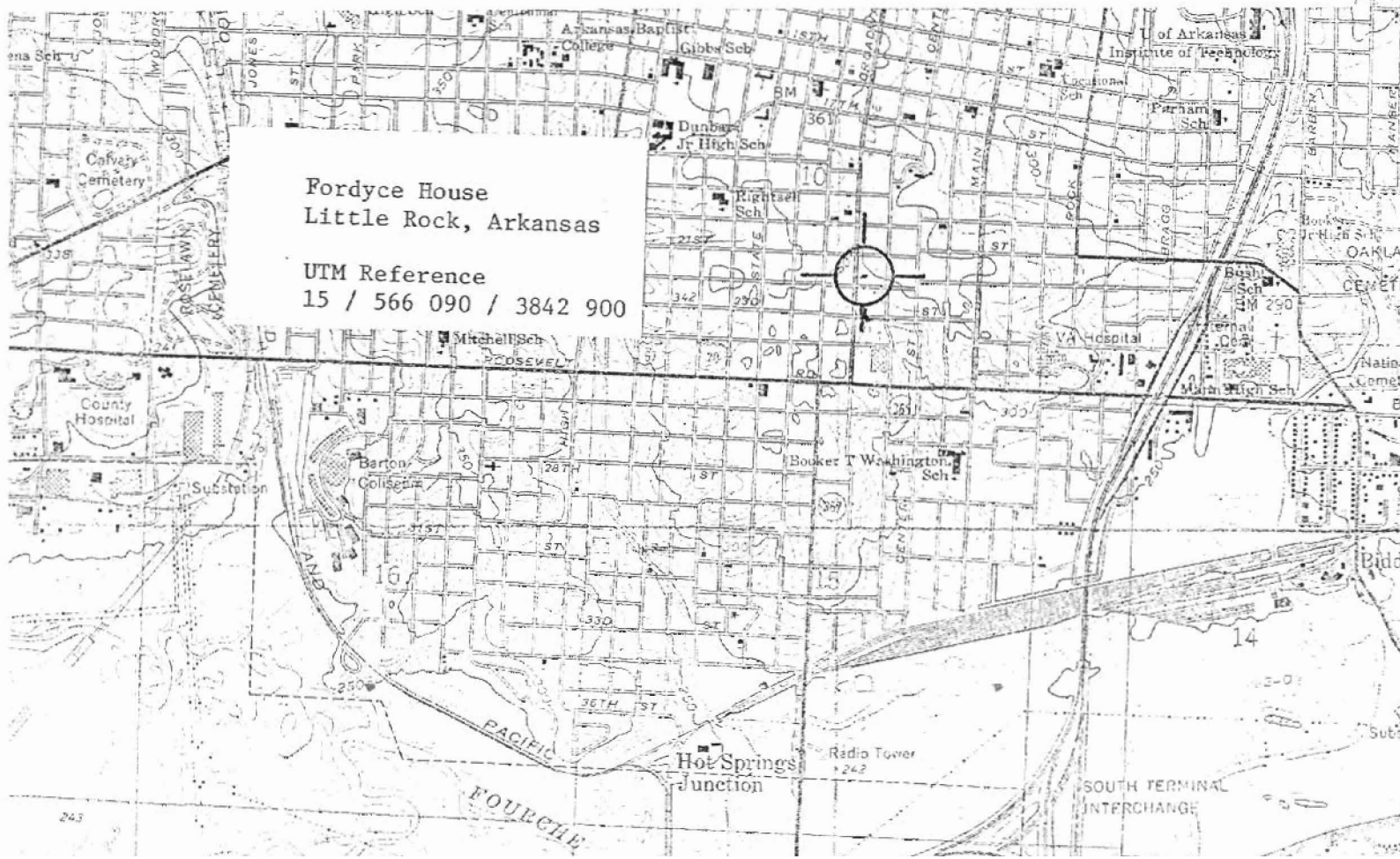
SCALE 1:2400 DATE 1961 (photo revised 1970)

**4** REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

INT: 2986-75



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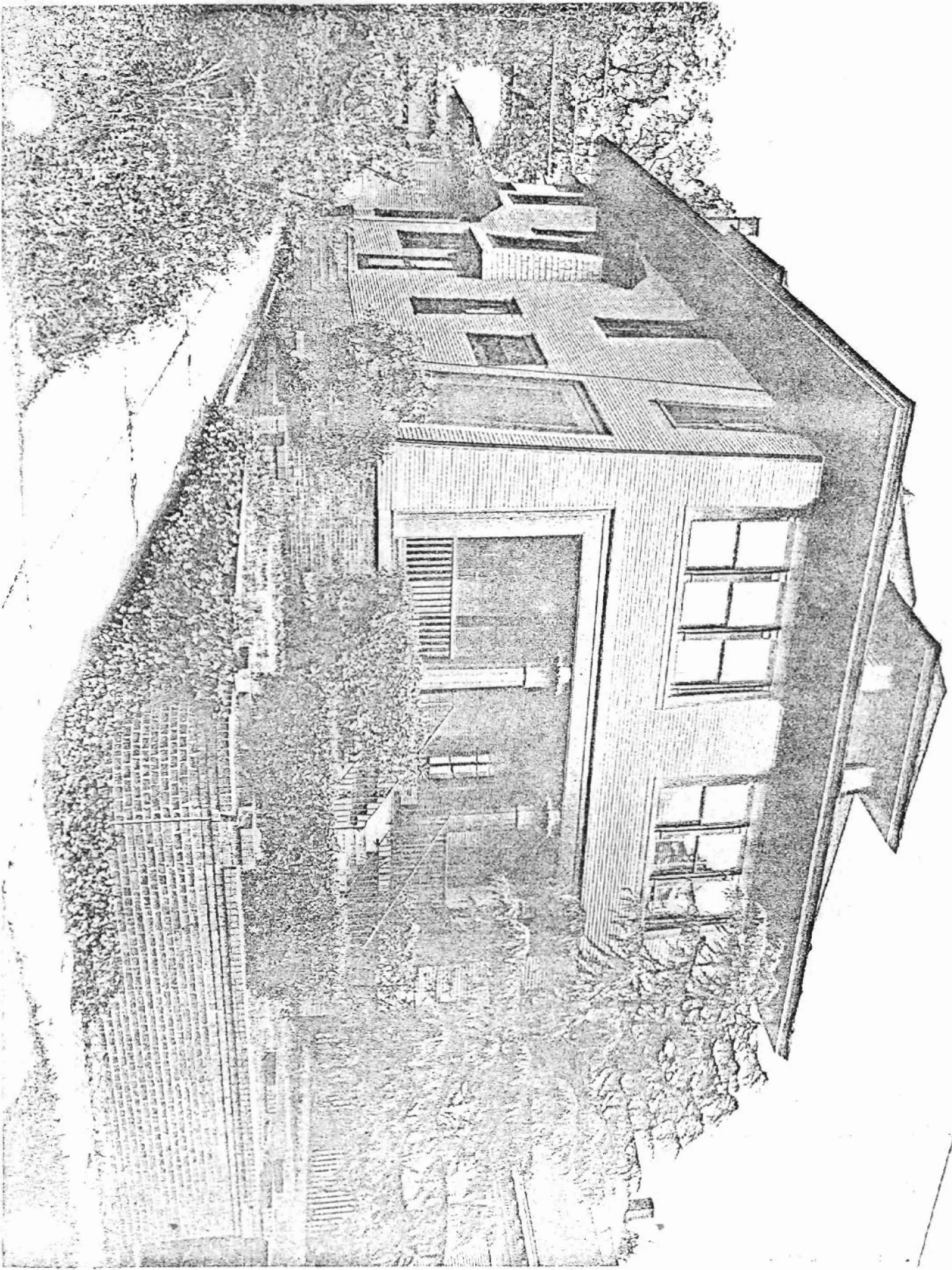
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COUNTY

. Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

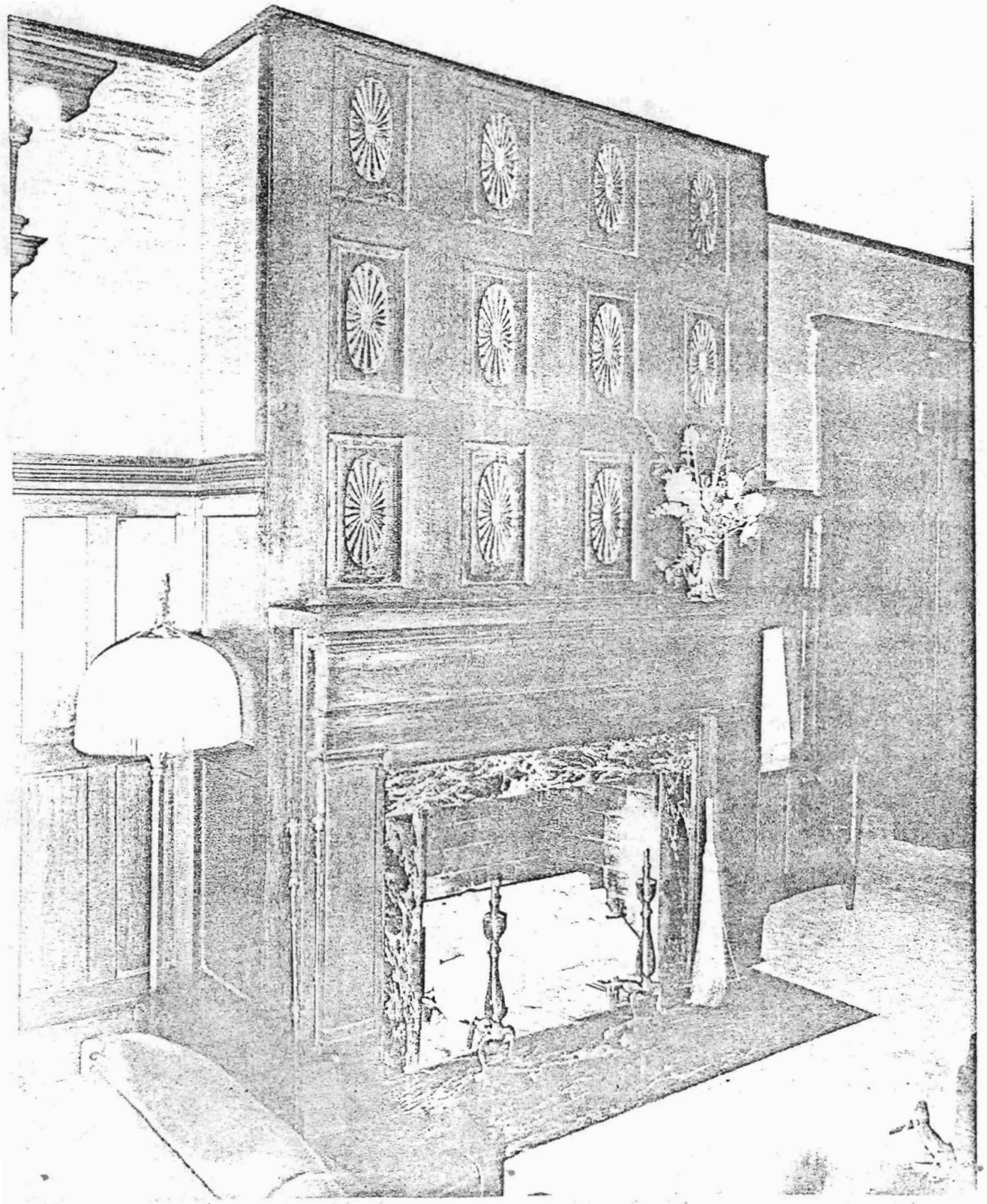
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

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

PHOTO NO

Facade, viewed from the west

1



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DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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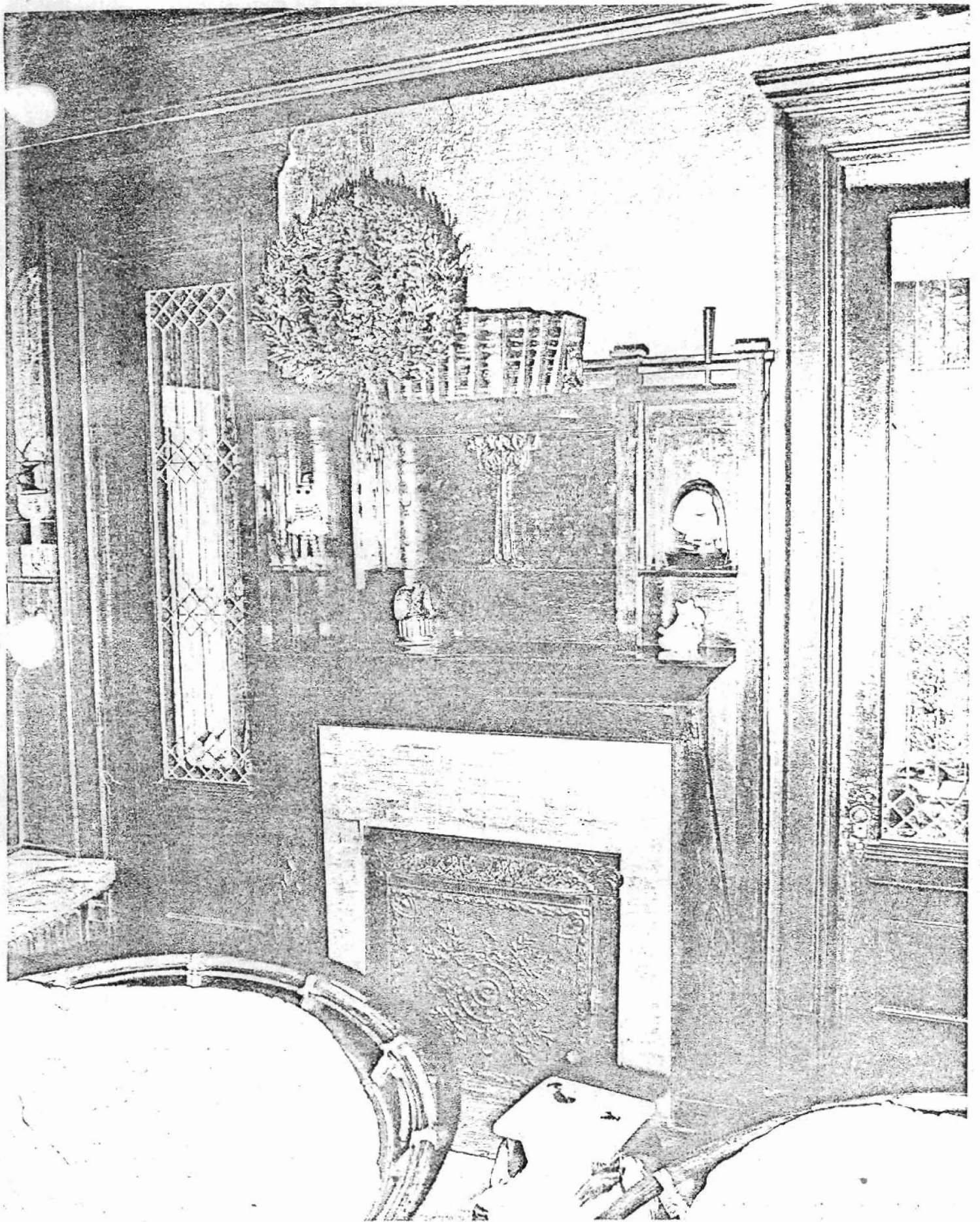
**4** IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

Mantel piece in front parlor, originally from Robert  
Crittenden Home

2



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Little Rock

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

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PHOTO CREDIT

Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

**3** IDENTIFICATION

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

Mantel piece in inglenook of library

PHOTO NO

3