

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

CHISUM HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1320 CUMBERLAND

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

LITTLE ROCK

VICINITY OF

SECOND

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

ARKANSAS

05

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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<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

John E. Matthews

STREET & NUMBER

1320 Cumberland

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

ARKANSAS

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE

STREET & NUMBER

PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN

STATE

LITTLE ROCK

ARKANSAS

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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 Chisum House, located in Little Rock's Historic Quapaw Quarter District was built in 1894 by Jason Sowell. The house presents characteristics of the Queen Anne Style of architecture in its variety of textural usage, its towers, and its irregular shape.

Of frame construction, the Chisum House features a multi-gable, high-hip roof. Two finials project from the center ridge of the roof. The dominant feature of the house is a three-storey tower on the southeast corner. This tower is capped by a bellcast roof with a finial. As is typical of the Queen Anne style of architecture, the Chisum House features a variety of window sizes and styles. Three distinct styles are found in the corner tower. On the first-floor level is one wide window topped by a semi-circular transom. Second floor windows are paired and feature a rectangular transom. Paired windows on the third floor level of the tower are small and nondecorative. The variety of textural usage associated with Queen Anne style is also exemplified by the tower in its usage of diamond-shaped shingle, clapboard, and flush-board wall surfaces.

Two porches are located on the facade. The first-storey porch has an oriental flavor in its roofline. The porch features an arched entrance flanked by turned posts. Directly beneath the cornice of the porch between the turned posts are unusual geometric designs. Below the porch railing is an unusual pattern of circular cut wood between cut wood blocks. Turned balusters extend to the bottom railing. Above the entry porch is a small balcony with turned balusters. Delicately turned columns support a shed roof on this second-storey porch.

The north elevation features a rectangular bay beneath a gable end. The gable ends on the north and south elevations are identical in their usage of semi-circular shaped windows and decorative woodwork. A wide chimney with corbelling extends from the northeast corner of the house.

The south elevation is marked by a two-storey rounded bay, topped with a gable. The bay features a center band of vertical plank between two wide bonds of scalloped shingles.

The interior of the Chisum House is of irregular floorplan, featuring the typical Victorian double parlors. The front hall is irregularly shaped with a two-landing staircase extending to the second floor.

The interior has been altered to accommodate its division into apartments. A two-storey addition has been constructed on the rear elevation, but does not detract from the architectural value of the house.

The Chisum House rests on a tree-shaped corner in Little Rock's most historic section of town. Still in good condition, the Chisum House is representative of an architectural style infrequently found in Little Rock.

# 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	
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			

SPECIFIC DATES 1894 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jason Sowell

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built in 1894, the Chisum House is a significant example of modified Queen Anne architecture. It is notable for its architectural oddity in relation to other buildings in Little Rock. The Chisum House embodies many of the Victorian period characteristics of irregular shape, towers, and multiple gables and bays. The Chisum House represents the eclectic manner of late nineteenth-century architectural style in America through its use of these characteristics. The house was built by and has since been associated with families of long social prominence in Little Rock. Jason Sowell, who built the house, came from a family who had already been leaders in social life in Little Rock for many years; the family had been one of Little Rock's earliest families. Jason Sowell's daughter married into the Chisum family, who were also among the favored social class in Little Rock and were to remain so for many years.

Sowell's daughter married Oscar Clifton Chisum in 1892. Chisum was born in Austin, Arkansas, in 1860. He was associated with a drug firm in Memphis, Tennessee, until he moved to Little Rock in 1892. Upon moving to Little Rock he assumed the position of Arkansas-Texas representative of a Louisville, Kentucky, hardware firm.

In 1894 Jason Sowell built a house for himself, his daughter, and her husband at 1320 Cumberland Street in Little Rock. In 1894 Cumberland Street was considered the "elite" section of town, and residence in the area symbolized social and/or financial success.

The Chisums had one son, O. C. Chisum, Jr., who was born June 13, 1899. He attended the University of Illinois and later was employed with the Internal Revenue Service. O. C. Chisum, Jr., was the first member of the Arkansas Industrial Board which was created in 1937 by the Arkansas General Assembly.

O. C. Chisum, Sr. lived in the Chisum House until his death in 1924; his son, O. C. Chisum, Jr., lived in the same house until his death in 1937.

The Chisum House is a significant structure in its architectural style. It has always been one of the most unusual residences in Little Rock. The aristocratic style of the house reflects the tastes of the man who built it and of the family it housed for many years.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette. March 18, 1924.

Arkansas Gazette. March 6, 1939.

"Chisum House", Information File, Quapaw Quarter Association, Little Rock, Arkansas  
 Renshaw, D. K. Personal Interview, Little Rock, Arkansas, May 6, 1975.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less Than One Acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	5 6 16 9 10 10	3 18 14 13 7 13 10	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

SANDRA TAYLOR, HISTORIAN

ORGANIZATION

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

DATE

SEPTEMBER 9, 1975

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

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

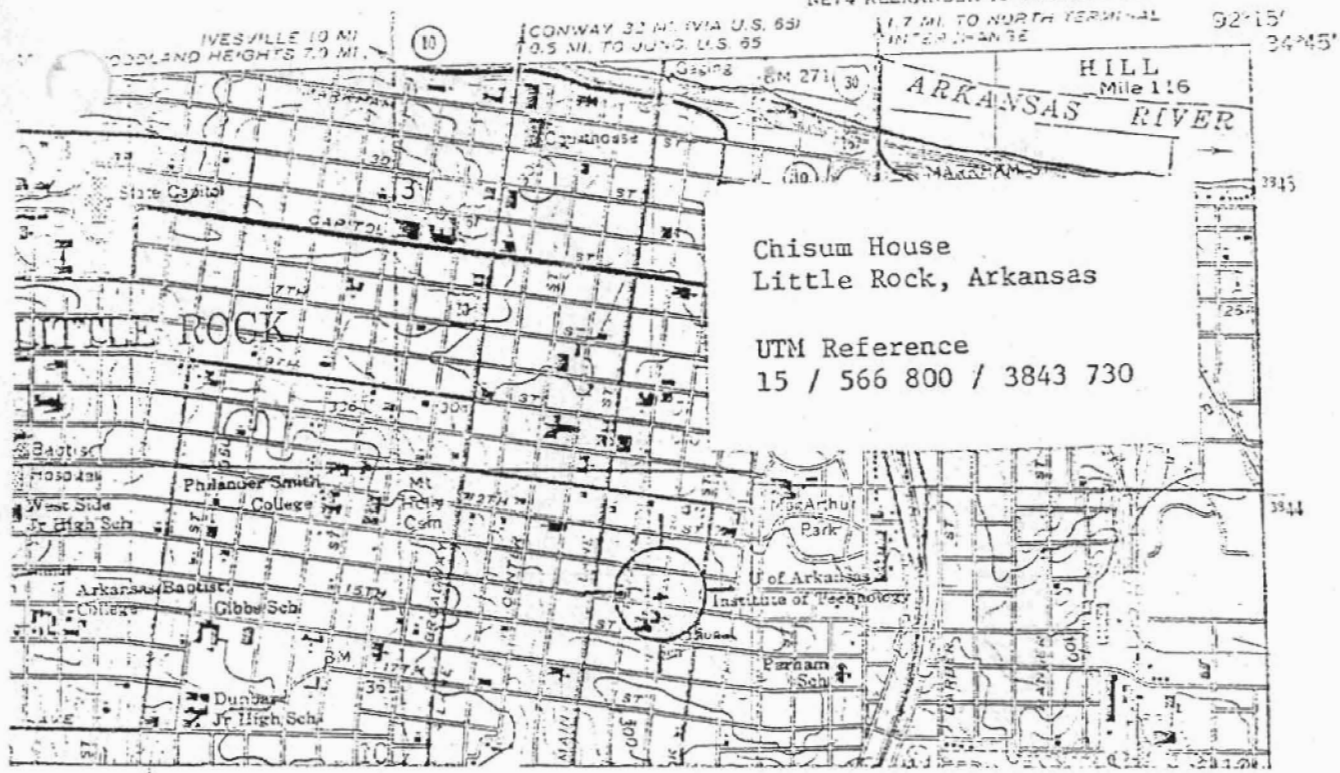
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

LITTLE ROCK QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7594 SW  
ENC AL MONT



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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE

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

**1** NAME

HISTORIC CHISUM HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

CITY, TOWN LITTLE ROCK

VICINITY OF

COUNTY PULASKI

STATE ARKANSAS

**3** MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U. S. 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



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 CHISUM HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN  
LITTLE ROCK

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
ARKANSAS

COUNTY  
PULASKI

## 3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

SANDRA TAYLOR

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

## 4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.

3





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 CHISUM HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN  
LITTLE ROCK

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
ARKANSAS

COUNTY  
PULASKI

## 3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT SANDRA TAYLOR

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

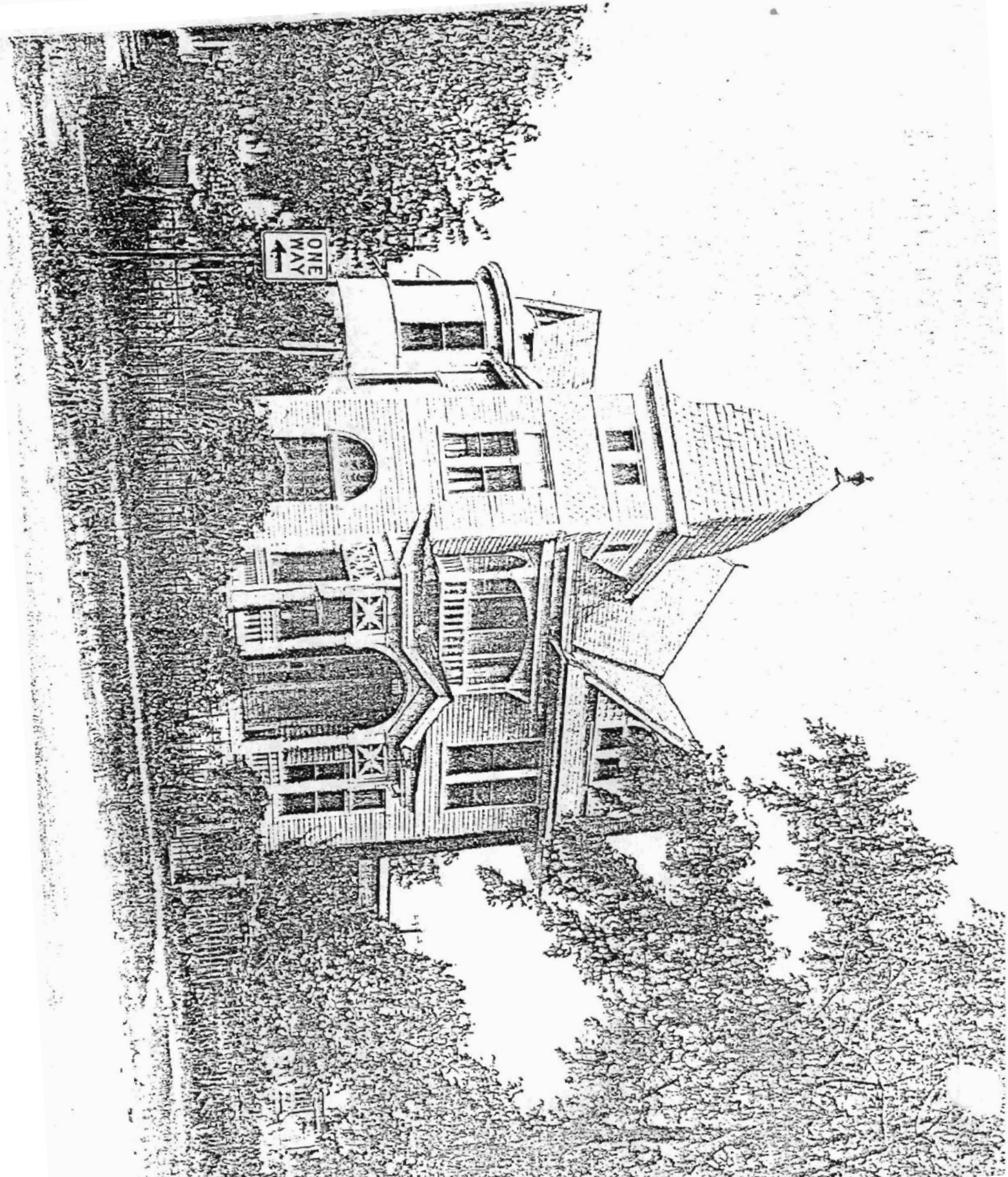
## 4 IDENTIFICATION

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

FACADE, VIEWED FROM THE EAST

PHOTO NO.

1



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 CHISUM HOUSE  
AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN  
LITTLE ROCK

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
ARKANSAS

COUNTY  
FULASKI

## 3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT SANDRA TAYLOR  
DATE OF PHOTO 1975  
NEGATIVE FILED AT  
ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

## 4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.  
2

