

60-3-A027-61

NR 6-22-70

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

Arkansas	
COUNTY:	
Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Ten Mile House - Stagecoach House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
McHenry House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Location as shown on annexed map

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Arkansas      CODE: 03      COUNTY: Pulaski      CODE: 119

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
			No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Horace Kelton

STREET AND NUMBER:  
9739 Rockbrook Drive

CITY OR TOWN: Dallas      STATE: Texas      CODE: 42

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Pulaski County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock      STATE: Arkansas      CODE: 03

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1934      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Division of Fine Arts, Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (!! Known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McHenry House (ca. 1822-1835) is located approximately ten miles to the southwest of Little Rock, on the east side of State Highway 5. It fronts on the highway, and the grounds which surround the house are fringed with cedar trees. The walkways which approach the house entrances are paved with brick.

The building is a two story brick which stands between flanking double chimneys. The ends of the house are unique in that they show an interesting bridging of the wall between the pairs of chimneys. This pairing and bridging of chimneys reflects an Early Georgian influence which was evident in the Eastern part of the United States in the preceding century (The Read House, Newcastle, Delaware). The walls of the house are of brick and mortar and are sixteen inches thick. It is believed that the brick were made in a field near the site. Interior timbers which were used in construction are of cypress, pine, and oak.

The wood paneled entrance door, which still bears its original brass lock, opens into a wide hall which extends the length of the house. A steep flight of stairs, with hand carved rails of solid walnut, lead to the second floor. The downstairs hall is flanked by two spacious rooms on either side. The back porch is the width of the house, and a covered, curved extension of this porch connects the house with the picturesque old kitchen.

In addition to the separate, but connected, kitchen the other original outbuildings which are still standing are the well and dairy house, and the smokehouse.

The house is virtually unaltered. Some minor interior and exterior modifications have been made over the years, but they have not been of an extent or nature that would tend to destroy the basic integrity of the building.

The Historic American Buildings Survey lists this as a one story building. It does, however, have two usable floors. Evidence that the use of the second floor was originally contemplated by the architect is indicated by the pair of windows, at the second story level, which were constructed between the double chimneys at each end of the building. It is entirely possible that "dog-house" dormers were also contemplated in the original design. The walnut stairway is additional evidence that the second story was intended to be used.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian  16th Century  18th Century  20th Century   
 15th Century  17th Century  19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Archibald McHenry House was built on the Old Southwest Trail ten miles south of Little Rock. The Southwest Trail was one of the earliest arteries of traffic from the United States to Texas. The trail entered Arkansas Territory at St. Genevieve, Missouri and exited at Fulton on the Red River. Portions of the Southwest Trail exist today, and Route 5, the old Little Rock to Hot Springs highway on which the McHenry House stands, was once a part of the Southwest Trail.

The dates given for the erection of the McHenry House range from about 1822 to 1835. At this writing it is impossible to pinpoint the date of construction from the evidence available. It is believed that Archibald McHenry and his family arrived in Arkansas in either 1818 or 1819. It is known that a daughter was born to the McHenrys, at Little Rock, in January of 1820. By 1822 McHenry was occupying the site upon which the present McHenry House now stands, but there is no evidence that the brick structure was the first residence. In March of 1835 Archibald McHenry died, and from Pulaski County tax records it is apparent that he had prospered. From the amount of tax paid on real property it is reasonably safe to assume that the house had been built prior to his death.

The design of the building has been attributed to Gideon Shryock, the Kentucky architect who designed the Arkansas Territorial Capitol. The Historic American Buildings Survey also credits Shryock with the design of the McHenry House. The house is an example of an Early Georgian type house that was being built along the eastern coast a century earlier. The similarity is very apparent when photographs of the Read House in Newcastle, Delaware are compared with the McHenry House.

The name 'Ten Mile House' may well have been a name that was in use during the stagecoach era as it would have been a logical designation at that time. It is also possible that the McHenry House might have become a rest stop for the stagecoach travelers in much the same manner that bus travel today is interrupted with regularly scheduled stops for food, etc.

(See Continuation Sheet)

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COUNTY	
Pulaski	
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(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE, CONT'D

Archibald McHenry served Pulaski County as a commissioner, coroner and justice of the peace. His home became a stopping place for many of the men who were to achieve prominence as builders of Arkansas and the territories to the west. Matthew Arbuckle who commanded at Fort Gibson, and his fellow officer E.S. Hankins are known to have visited the McHenry House.

When Little Rock was occupied by Federal troops in September of 1863, General Frederick Steele's forces used the McHenry house as an outpost. It was at the McHenry House that David Owen Dodd, the boy martyr of the Confederacy was held prisoner after his capture by the Federal troops.

The McHenry House is certainly of significance architecturally, as evidenced by its inclusion in the Historic American Buildings Survey.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

American Guide Series. Arkansas, A Guide to the State. New York: Hastings House, 1941.

Arkansas Gazette. March 12, 1822, December 24, 1822, March 17, 1835.

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoir of Central Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1889.  
(See Continuation Sheet)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	34°	41'	11"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	92°	23'	38"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Jack E. Porter, Administrator, Historic Preservation Program

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Planning Commission DATE: 1/5/70

STREET AND NUMBER: Game and Fish Building

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 03

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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Pulaski	
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(Number all entries)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONT'D

Pulaski County Tax Lists for 1828, 1829, 1835, 1836, 1837, 1838, 1839.

Ross, Margaret Smith. "The McHenry Family, Pulaski County Pioneers,"  
The Pulaski County Historical Society Review, Vol. III, No. 1,  
(March 1955).

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(Number all entries)

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONT'D

Eison, James, "The Arsenal in Little Rock," The Pulaski County Historical Society Review, Vol. XVI, No. 2, (June 1968).

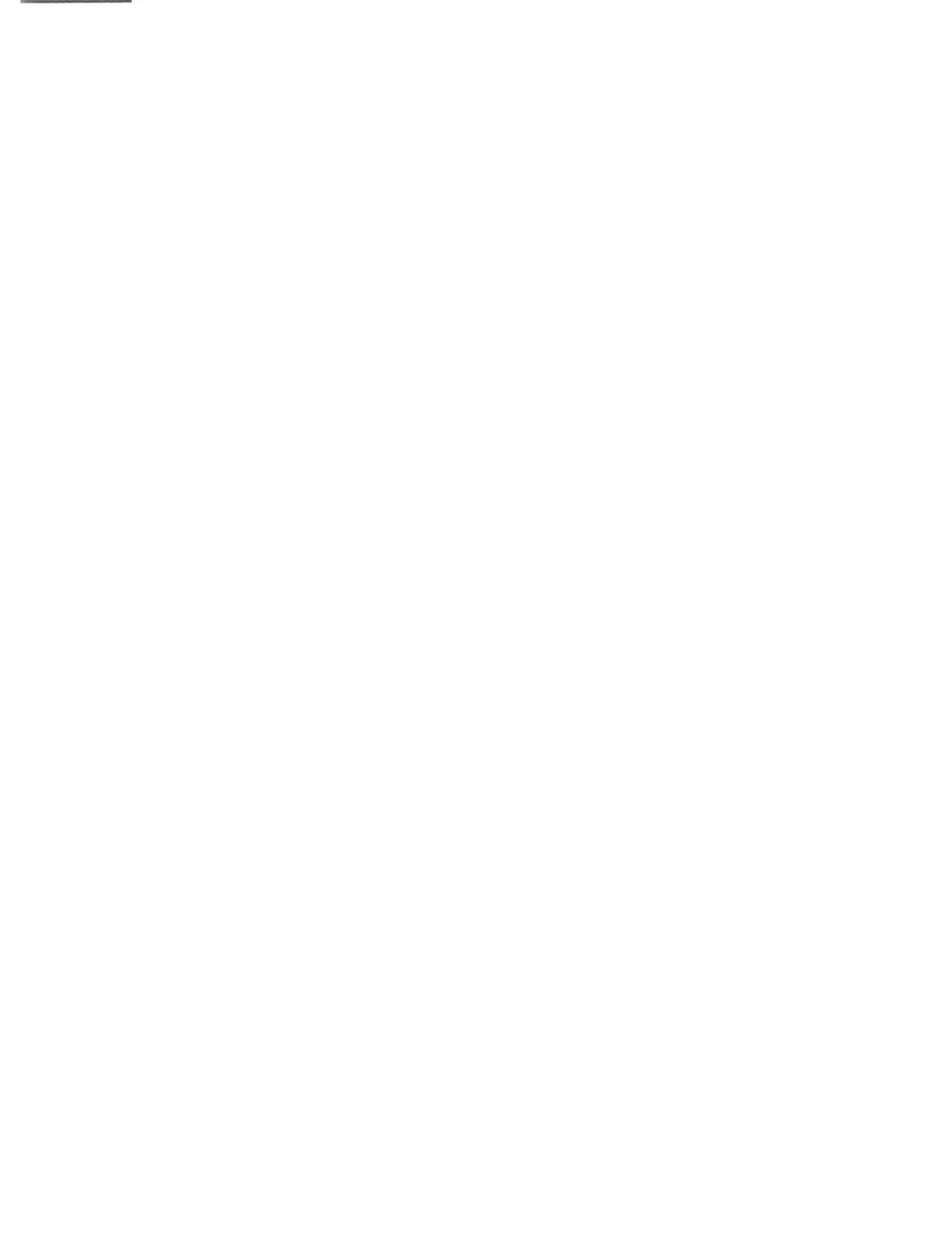
National Park Service, Historic American Buildings Survey Catalog, Washington: United States Government Printing Office, 1941.

Thomas, David Y., Arkansas in War and Reconstruction, 1861 - 1874, Little Rock: United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1926.

Tunnard, William H., A Southern Record, The History of the Third Regiment, Louisiana Infantry, Baton Rouge: Printed for the Author, 1866.

War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Washington: 1880 - 1901, Series I, Vols. 1, XIII.







NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Ten Mile House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: McHenry House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Location as shown on annexed map			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arkansas	03	Pulaski	119
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' Quadrangle "Alexander, Ark."			
SCALE: 1:24,000			
DATE: 1961			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

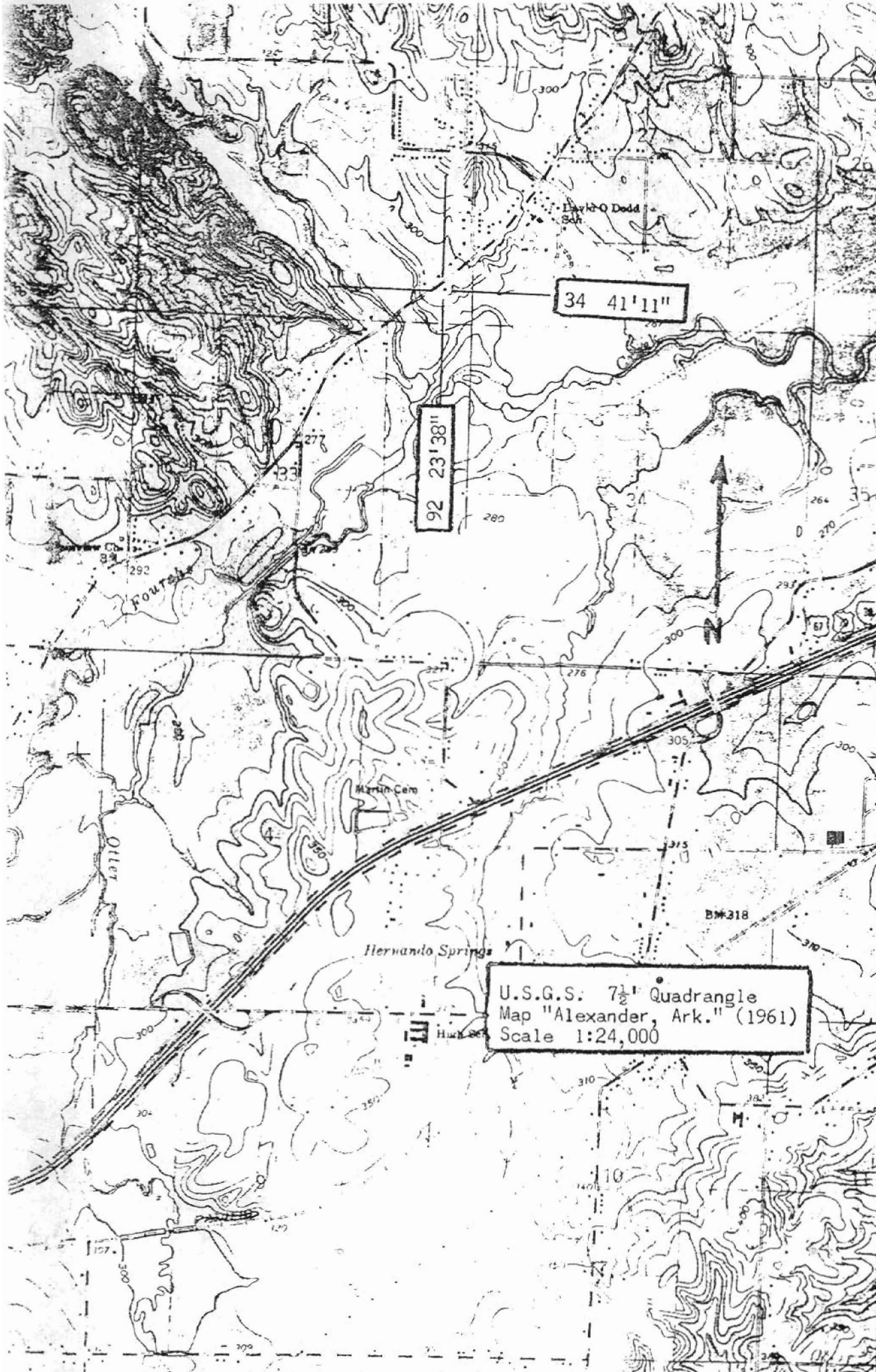
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Pulaski	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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COMMON: Ten Mile House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: McHenry House			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Location as shown on annexed map			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Arkansas	03	Pulaski	119
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Arkansas Parks Recreation and Travel Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1961			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
Arkansas Parks Recreation and Travel Commission			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Three-quarter view of the McHenry House as seen from the left front.			



34 41'11"

92 23'38"

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' Quadrangle  
Map "Alexander, Ark." (1961)  
Scale 1:24,000

3839  
TO SOUTH BYPASS INTERCHANGE (LITTLE ROCK)  
TO NORTH TERMINAL INTERCHANGE 7553 III NE  
15  
14  
40'  
3836  
3835  
3834

## ABOUT "TEN MILE HOUSE"

**HISTORY/OWNERSHIP:** Located ten miles from "old downtown Little Rock," the Ten Mile House eventually became known as the "Stagecoach House". Westbound travelers on the Southwest Trail to Texas often used the house as a stagecoach resting place. The house was built in the late 1820's and its original owner was Archibald McHenry from Tennessee. He built the house as a residence for his family. It is believed to be the oldest brick home in the state that is in private ownership.

During the Civil War, General Frederick Steele's Federal Army occupied Little Rock in 1863 and used the house as a military headquarters. Confederate soldiers were held there and bullet holes, initials, and inscriptions are still legible on some walls. One Confederate soldier is well remembered in Little Rock .....David O. Dodd. He was captured by Federal Marshals in the woods surrounding the house and held there overnight on December 29, 1863. Dodd was charged and convicted of spying and was hanged on January 8, 1864 becoming Arkansas' only Confederate hero.

From its origin in the 1820's until the 1960's, the house was owned by only three different families: McHenry, Neal, and Murphy. From the 60's until the purchase by its current owners, the house has been in various stages of restoration and deterioration. In 1983 the present owners, Nancy Newell and her husband, Gary Woods, purchased the house and its surrounding 52 acres. Since that time, the house has undergone major restorations under the guidance of the State's leading preservationists: Witsell, Evans and Rasco; the staff of the Arkansas Territorial Restoration; and other interested individuals.

**ARCHITECTURE/STYLE:** Many of the characteristics of the house have a Federal influence. The walls are 16 inches thick and much of the beauty of the house lies in its authentic simplicity. The Federal style can also be seen in the hand-planed molding encasing the front doors. Some of the original cypress flooring can be found. The staircase is made of black walnut from a tree on the property.

The original back porch has been enclosed and today is used as a sunroom. Several outbuildings are still standing including the smokehouse and wellhouse. There are eight fireplaces throughout the house: two have original hand-planed mantles. The woodwork in the house was brought by boat from Cincinnati, Ohio or Louisville, Kentucky.

Two rooms are of particular interest: the spacious hallway with doors at either end was used as the central gathering place. Tables were pulled in for dining and often people would sleep there. The detached kitchen is a completely separate building with two fireplaces, one used for cooking and one for heat.

**RESTORATION/FUTURE PROJECTS:** The house is being restored as authentically as possible. This includes construction of appropriate fencing for that period: white picket fencing surrounding the house complemented by hand-split cedar snake fence. The owners plan

to recreate an authentic 1830's farmstead complete with animal barns, chicken coops, and an 1830's herb garden. A variety of the David O. Dodd rose will bloom on the grounds. The original bake-oven was recently discovered behind a wall in the kitchen and eventually will be restored. All woodwork in the house will be grained and/or marbelized according to the tradition of that period. An old log house has been located in Nashville that will be reassembled on the east side of the house. Of particular interest is the creative aproach that the owners have taken to the kitchen: meshing the old with the new, the kitchen will have the luxury of modern conveniences concealed in hand-crafted period pieces.

**LEGENDS :** The house is noted for the many ghostly legends it has gathered over the years. People have regularly related "eerie, singing, floating" spirits, visions and thumping noises in the almost 170 year old structure. Legend has it that one evening at dusk an early owner was called to the front door and shot by a fleeing horseman. The victim supposedly staggered to the stairway and fell, his blood staining one of the steps. A daughter of the slain man died in one of the upper rooms and was said to have heard the singing of strange songs during her fatal illness. Mrs. Eloise Murphy, a former owner, said the singing could sometimes be heard upstairs on windy nights. Although she heard noises at night from the wellhouse, she never saw the little old lady dressed in white and riding a white mule. According to legend, at the stroke of midnight this apparition rises from the wellhouse and floats silently over the housetop. Mrs. Murphy also said she heard the ghost of an old miser who once lived in the house. Legend goes that the miser believed a valuable treasure was buried there during the Civil War. Mrs. Murphy claimed she once awakened her husband when she heard the miser's peg-leg and cane tapping on the steps, still searching for the treasure. Mrs. Murphy's niece, who died in one of the upper rooms of the house, held regular conferences with the ghost of David O. Dodd before her death. Her niece claimed the ghost would come down the chimney and sit among the logs of the fireplace for late-night visits.