

65-69-595-61

LISTED 8/7/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NR-LISTED
8-7-79
* 367

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

Breckinridge, C. R., House

AND/OR COMMON

C. R. Breckinridge House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

504 North 16th St.

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fort Smith

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Sebastian

CODE

131

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wasson

STREET & NUMBER

511 North Sixteenth Street

CITY, TOWN

Fort Smith

STATE

Arkansas 72901

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Sebastian County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Rogers Avenue and Sixth Street

CITY, TOWN

Fort Smith

STATE

Arkansas 72901

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 type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1903</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The C. R. Breckinridge house (1903) consists of two stories, a full attic, and a full basement. It is a sixteen-room gray stucco house with a foundation of massive native stones which were taken from the Arkansas River. The structure is classically styled. Seven one-storey box columns are joined by a balustrade on a low veranda. The veranda stretches the width of the house. The roof of the veranda supports the second floor balcony. The balustrades and 2½ foot box columns of the balcony are duplicates of the porch. A second smaller portico with second floor balcony is on the south side of the building. The hipped roof-line is low, and it has gabled dormers. The eaves are bracketed. The interior end chimneys are corbeled. The entrance has sidelights, transom, and a single-door; these elements are contained in a five-centered arch. Windows are one-over-one (1/1) double hung and are symmetrically placed.

Flanking the large entry hall are the drawing room and the parlor. The parlor has a tiled fireplace. Two of the upstairs bedrooms also have fireplaces. There are servant's quarters in the attic.

Alterations include a metal fire-stair leading from the upper front porch, the kitchen and sunroom on the rear, and the stucco exterior. The original kitchen was in the basement. The new kitchen is on the first floor. All of these alterations are long standing.

SIGNIFICANCE

D STOHIC _1400-1499 _1500-1599 _1600-1699 _1700-1799 _1800-1899 X1900-	_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC _ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC _AGRICULTURE _ARCHITECTURE _ART _COMMERCE _COMMUNICATIONS	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW _COMMUNITY PLANNING _CONSERVATION _ECONOMICS _EDUCATION _ENGINEERING _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT _INDUSTRY _INVENTION	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE _LAW _LITERATURE _MILITARY _MUSIC _PHILOSOPHY X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_RELIGION _SCIENCE _SCULPTURE _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN _THEATER _TRANSPORTATION _OTHER (SPECIFY)
---	--	--	---	--

SPECIFIC DATES	1903	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Unknown
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Breckinridge House was built in Fort Smith, Arkansas, in 1903. Though the dwelling is not architecturally distinguished, it is significant through its association with C. R. Breckinridge, the original owner of the house. In the late Nineteenth Century Breckinridge was a prominent Arkansas politician. He represented Arkansas in Congress from 1883 to 1894, and he served as the United States Minister to Russia from 1894 to 1897. He was a central figure in one of Arkansas' most controversial and violent elections, the Second Congressional District election of 1888. By entering politics Breckinridge carried on a family tradition. His father, John Cabell Breckinridge, was the Vice-President of the United States in the administration of President James Buchanan. The Breckinridge House is the only surviving dwelling that connects C. R. Breckinridge to the history of Arkansas.

A native of Virginia, Breckinridge moved to Arkansas after the Civil War. In Arkansas he entered politics as a Democrat and successfully campaigned for the Congressional seat of representative-at-large. Breckinridge served as representative-at-large for three consecutive terms (1883-1888).

In the fall of 1888 Breckinridge entered what proved to be a fiercely contested race for Congressional representative from Arkansas' Second District. His opponent was John Middleton Clayton, who, like Breckinridge, was a member of a well-known political family. Clayton's twin brother, William Clayton, was a Presidential candidate in the 1880's and another brother, Powell Clayton, served as Arkansas' governor during Reconstruction. Breckinridge and Clayton were both popular candidates, and the election results were close. Breckinridge won the election by a margin of 866 votes.

Clayton immediately contested the accuracy of the final vote count. Normal election procedure had been violated several times on election day, and Clayton believed that these irregularities had affected the final outcome of the election. The most flagrant violation of election procedure occurred in Plummerville, Arkansas, where the ballot box was stolen by a band of armed men. Clayton went to Plummerville to conduct a personal investigation of the incident. An aide to Clayton stated that 104 voters in Plummerville were interviewed by Clayton's staff. Most of those interviewed had voted for Clayton. Before he could complete his investigation, Clayton was shot and killed at his lodging in Plummerville. After Clayton's murder, Congress nullified the election results for the Second Congressional District seat and declared the position vacant.

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Breckinridge won the election that was conducted to fill the vacant position. He was re-elected to the seat in 1891 and in 1893. On August 4, 1894 he resigned from Congress so that he could accept the post of Minister to Russia, a position he filled until 1897.

After his mission to Russia concluded, Clayton moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas. In 1903 he built the Breckinridge House. He lived in the house until 1921 when he left Fort Smith after the death of his wife. Breckinridge was very active in the business affairs of Fort Smith. He was the president of three of the community's leading commercial associations: the Arkansas Valley Trust, the Fort Smith River and Harbor Association, and the Fort Smith Commercial League. He curtailed his involvement in politics, though he did serve as a delegate to the state constitutional convention of 1917.

The classically styled Breckinridge House is two-stories in height and rectangular in shape. The exterior walls are grey stucco and the foundation is native stone. A hipped-roof with bracketed eaves surmounts the house. The interior end chimneys are corbeled.

A one-storey veranda spans the facade. A second floor balcony rests on top of the veranda. Seven box columns sustain the roof of the veranda. The columns are joined by a balustrade. The edge of the balcony is also delineated by a balustrade.

The entrance surround is a five-centered arch. The entrance consists of a single-leaf door, sidelights and a transom. Windows are one-over-one (1/1) and are double-hung. They are arranged symmetrically.

Several major exterior alterations impair the visual integrity of the Breckinridge House. The stucco covering of the house is the most significant alteration. The date when the stucco was applied is not known. Other alterations include the addition of a sunroom and kitchen to the rear of the house and the construction of a metal stairway which provides access to the balcony.

The interior is less altered than the exterior. The most noteworthy interior features are the structure's three fireplaces. A tiled fireplace is located in the first floor parlor, and two fireplaces are set in upstairs bedrooms. All of the fireplace mantels are trimmed in wood and are classically detailed. The original wooden trim for walls and doors also survives.

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The Breckinridge House is a fair example of early twentieth-century residential architecture, but other more spectacular examples of dwellings of the period are located in the vicinity of the house. The house is historically significant, but it possesses only a marginal architectural significance.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Yadon, Julia, Reflections of Fort Smith, Fort Smith Historical Press, 1976.
 Arkansas Almanac Co., 1963 Arkansas Almanac, Arkansas Almanac Company, 1963.
 Southwest Times Record, Fort Smith, Arkansas Sunday, April 9.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Fort Smith, Ark.-Okla.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1/24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 3, 7, 1, 6, 6, 0 3, 9, 1, 6, 5, 4, 0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE #7 - Frezil Miller
 #8 - Mike Shinn

Historical Research by:
Julia Yadon/Bernice Cole, Historians

ORGANIZATION

Fort Smith Heritage Foundation / Ark. Hist. Pres. Program

DATE

5/17/79

STREET & NUMBER

514 North Sixth Street

Suite 500, Continental Bldg.
 Little Rock, AR 722

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Fort Smith

STATE

Arkansas 72901

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE XX

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

Joan Williams Baldrige

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Program

DATE

May 22, 1979

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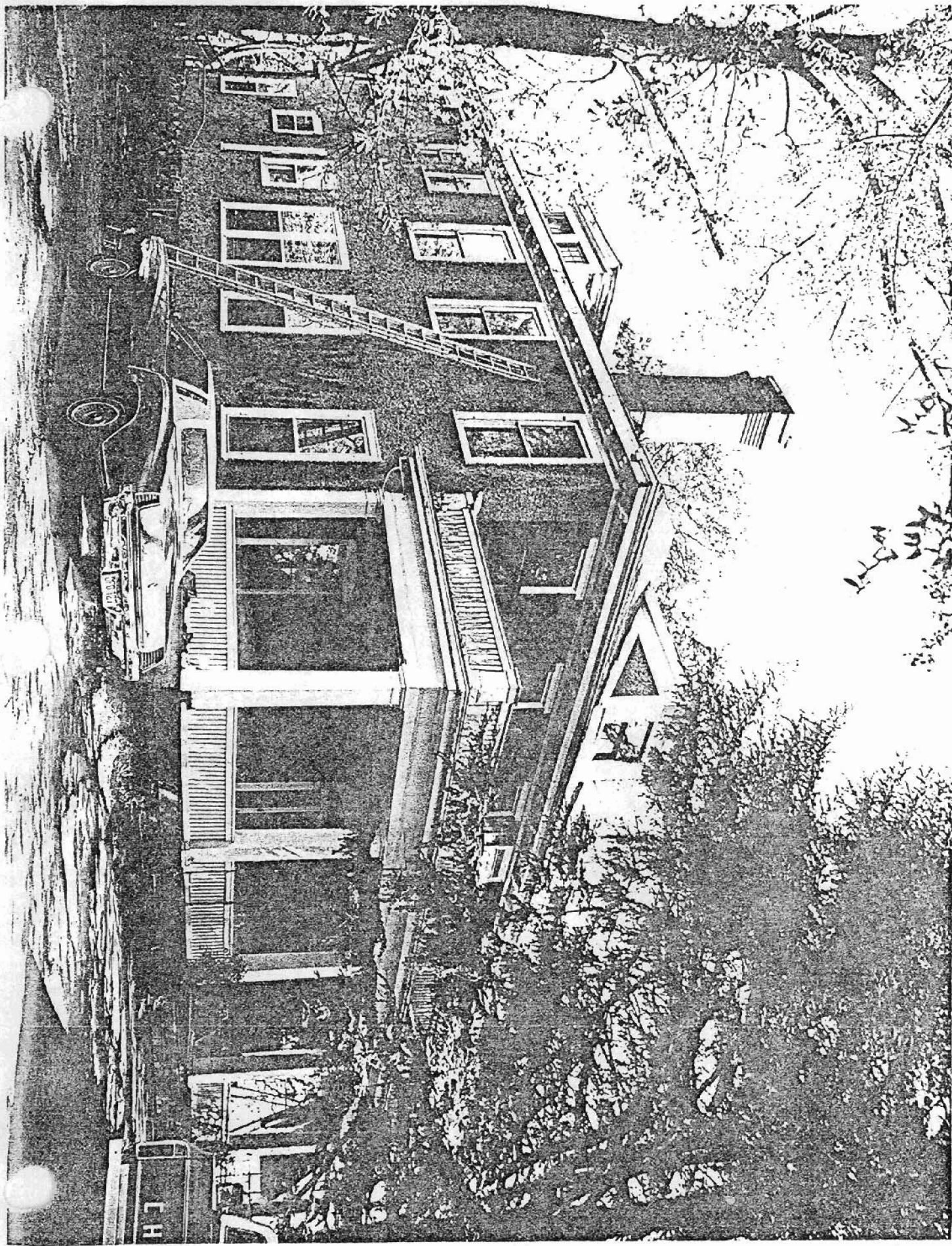
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

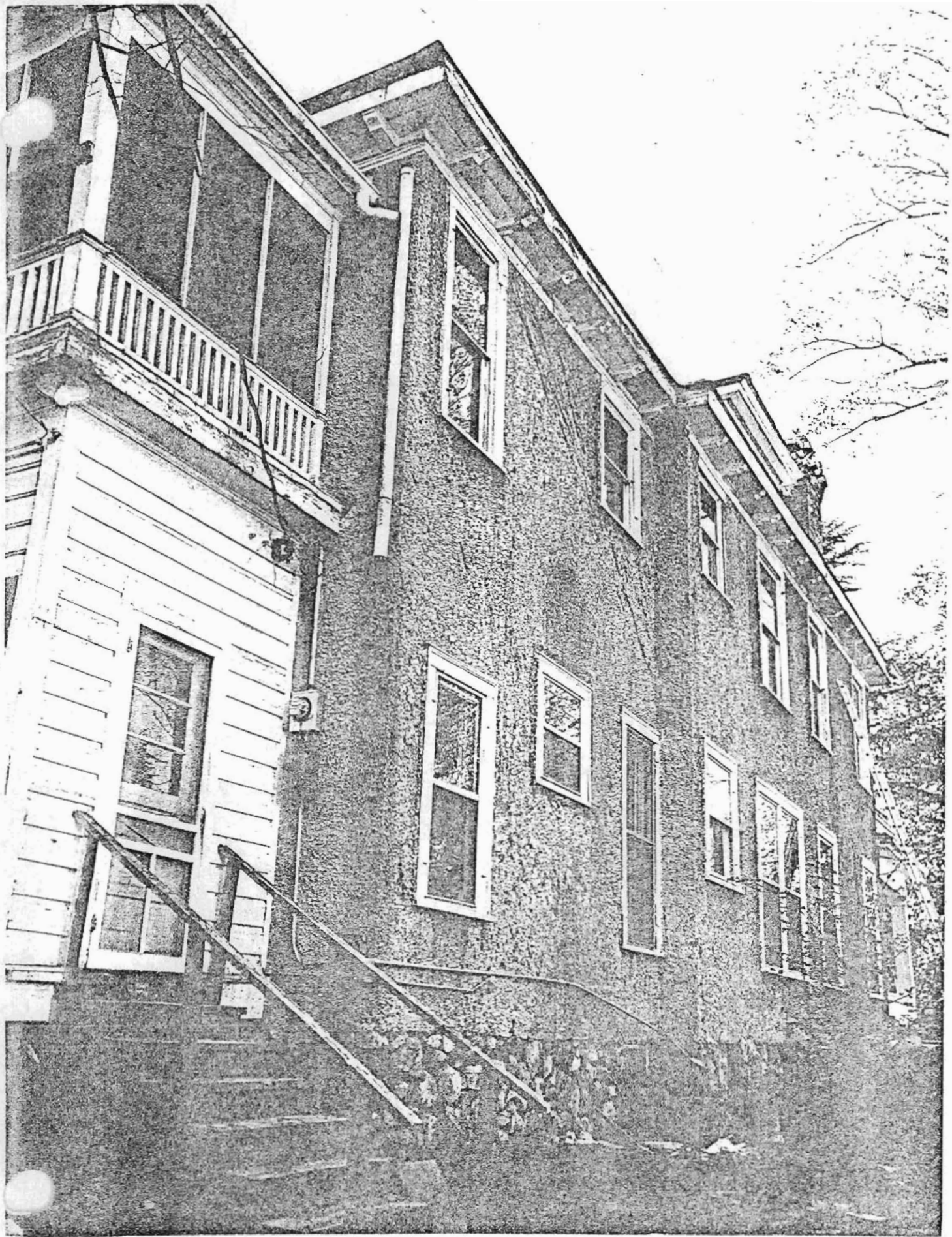
DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



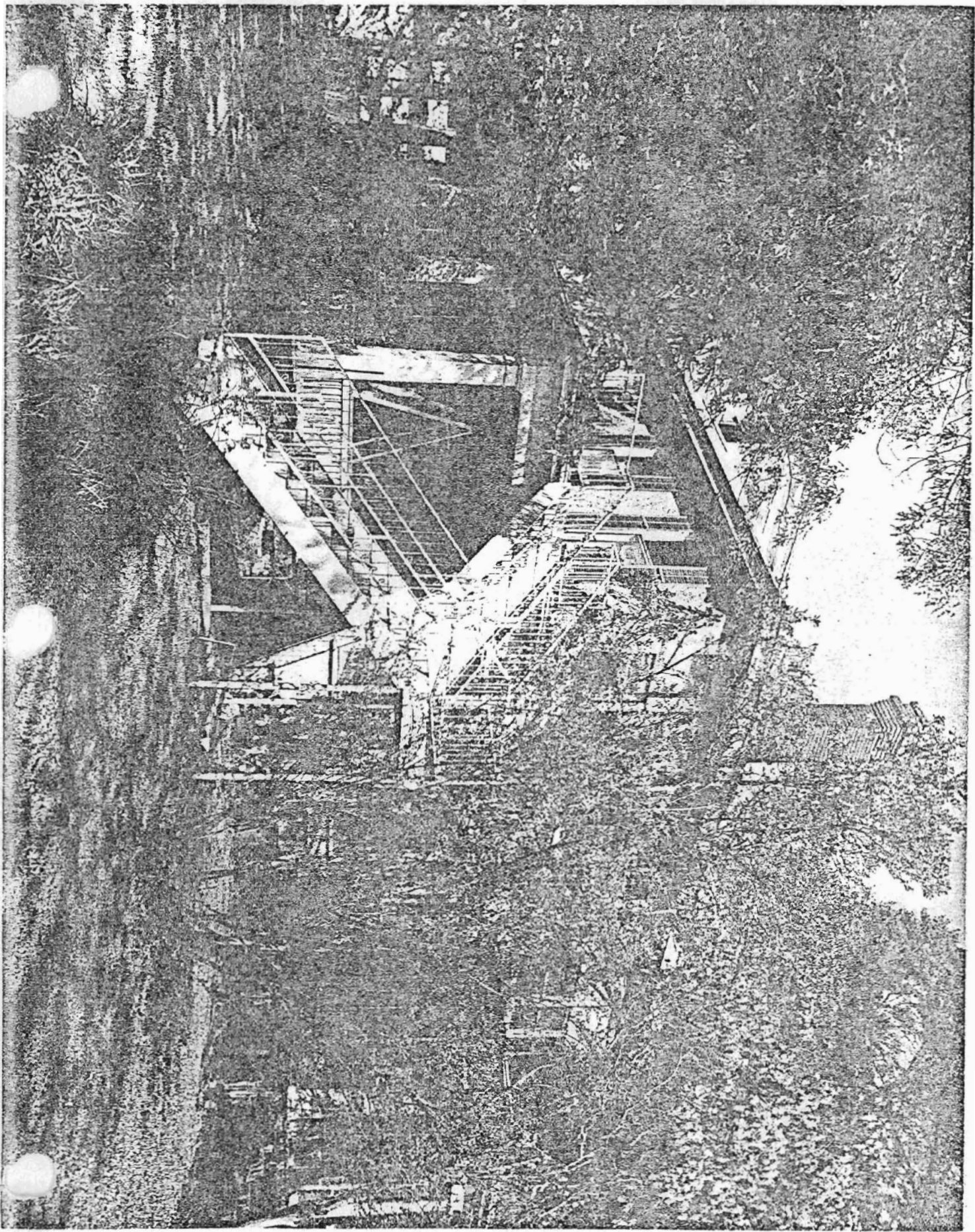
1. C.R. Breckenridge House
2. Fort Smith, Arkansas
3. Bob Dunn
4. April, 1978
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. viewed from the north
7. photo # 1

Added to the collection



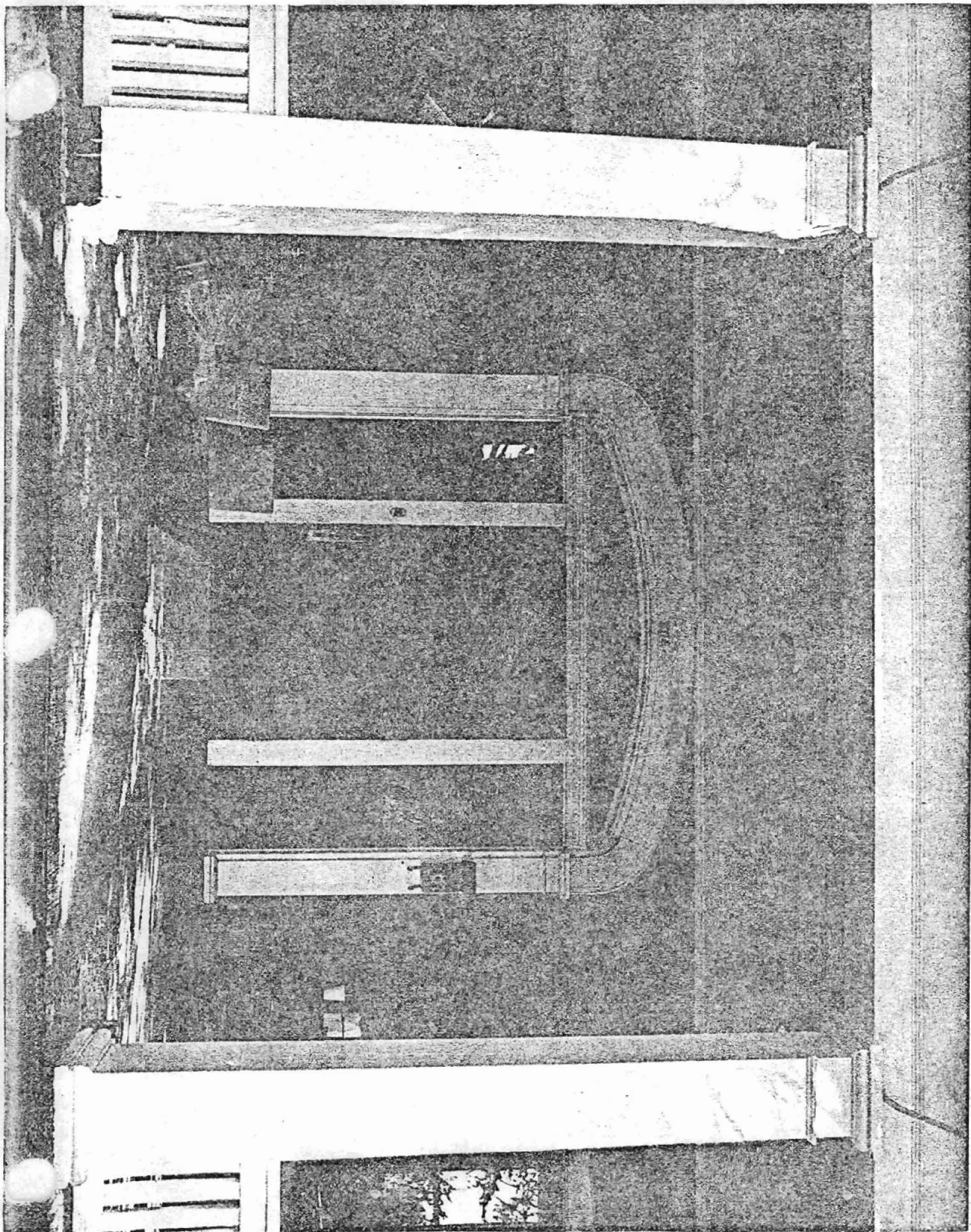
1. C.R. Breckenridge House
2. Fort Smith, Arkansas
3. Bob Dunn
4. April, 1978
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. viewed from the east
7. photo # 2

APR 28 1978



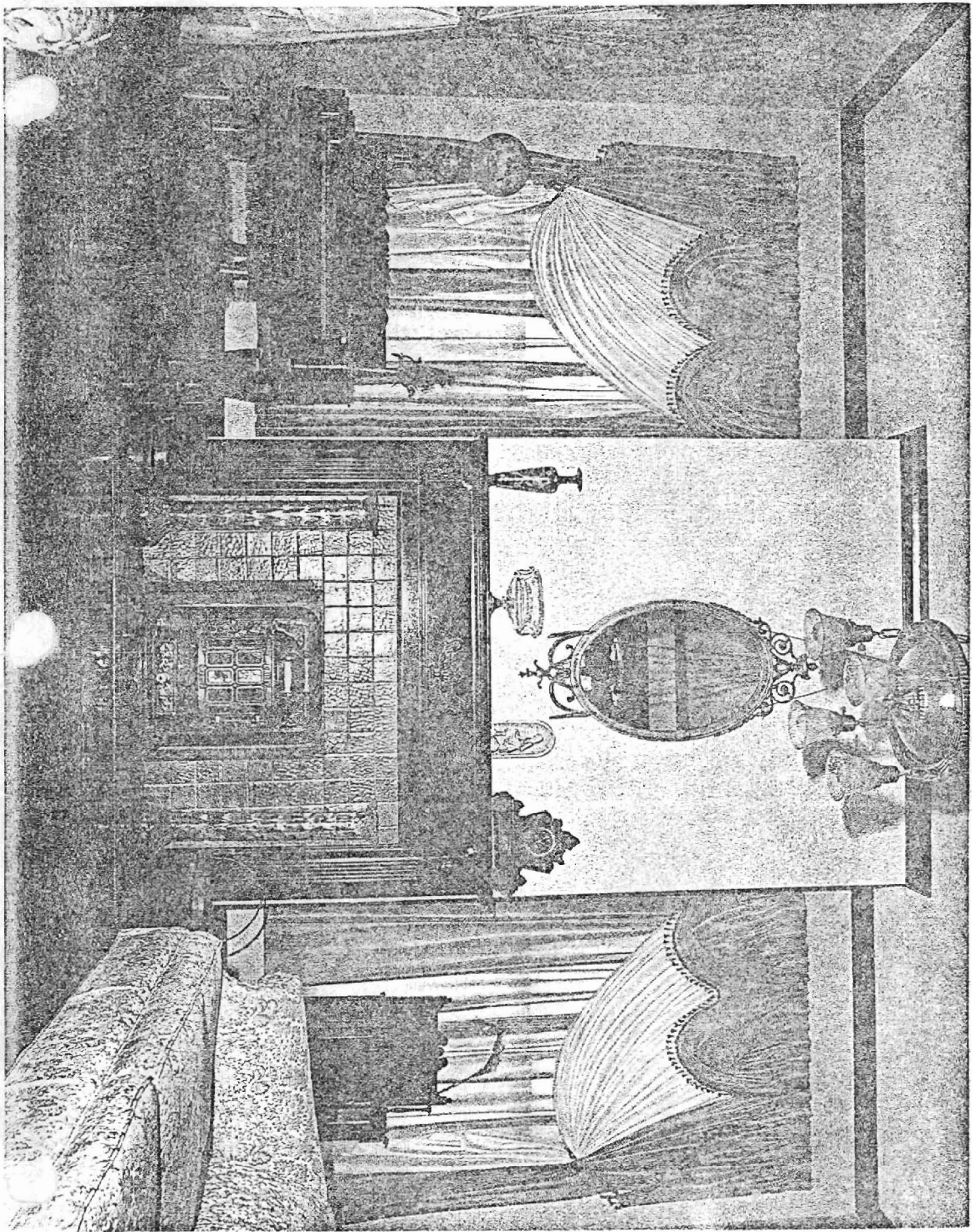
1. C. R. Breckenridge House
2. Fort Smith, Arkansas
3. Bob Dunn
4. April 1978
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. viewed from the west
7. photo # 3

no 2 1978



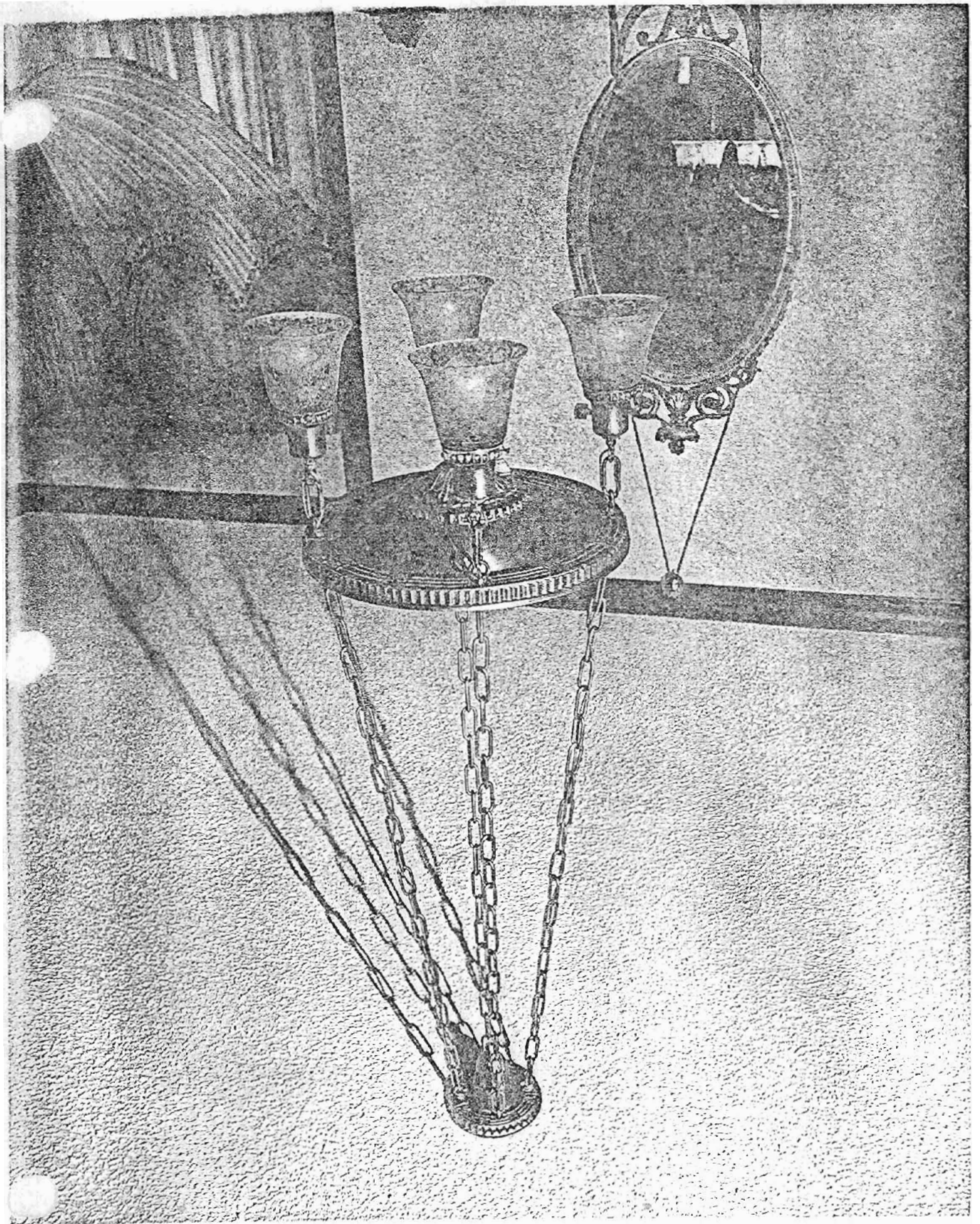
1. C. R. Breckenridge House
2. Fort Smith, Arkansas
3. Bob Dunn
4. April, 1978
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. detail of entry door
7. photo # 4

400 43 19/8



1. C. R. Breckenridge House
2. Fort Smith, Arkansas
3. Bob Dunn
4. April, 1978
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. original mantel
7. photo # 5

AUG 28 1978



1. C. R. Breckenridge House
2. Fort Smith, Arkansas
3. Bob Dunn
4. April, 1978
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. original light fixture
7. photo # 6

AUG 23 1978

