

70-30-EO95-61

AIR

Form 10-300
(Rev. 5-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Arkansas
COUNTY:	Union
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Matthew Rainey House - ~~John Newton House~~

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
510 North Jackson Street

CITY OR TOWN:
El Dorado

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fourth

STATE Arkansas	CODE 05	COUNTY: Union	CODE 139
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Emmet Coley and Miss Penelope Garrett

STREET AND NUMBER:
Garrett Estate

CITY OR TOWN:
El Dorado

STATE:
Arkansas

CODE:
05

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Union County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:
El Dorado

STATE:
Arkansas

CODE:
05

3. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

NON COGNITIVE

STATE: Arkansas

COUNTY: Union

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Matthew Rainey House was originally a two-storey central hall plan with two rooms on each side. It is of rectilinear shape with gable roof. Brick interior chimneys rise above the ridge line. A one-storey portico with second storey porch graces the front entry. Heavy boxed columns with simple capitals carry the portico roof.

A provincial style best characterizes the Rainey House. Its weatherboard siding, symmetrical fenestration, green louver shutters and lack of ornamentation reflect a local building form adaptive to both the environmental requirements of the area and the building technology available. A wide, unadorned entablature continuous across the front and rear of the house, window trim with corner blocks, and a small portico entry are the only evidence of the application of a period style to the house. A door with flanking sidelights and transom light dominates the portico entry.

The interiors of the Rainey House maintain the simple refinement of the exteriors. Trim about all fenestration is fluted with corner blocks. The walls are plastered over handsplit lathe and covered with wallpaper. The original pine plank flooring is still present.

In 1910 the Rainey House was moved about 300 yards from from its original site to its present location. It now stands on the edge of the four acre lot on which it was originally centered; therefore, the setting has not been seriously altered.

One-storey additions have been made across the rear of the original structure. On the southwest the kitchen facilities were joined to the house with a covered passageway, and a bedroom was added on the northwest. The area between the kitchen and bedroom was made into a porch and was enclosed just after the house was moved. These additions are architecturally in keeping with the original building. The structure is in need of repairs from water damage caused by poor downspouts and a leaky roof.

SEE INST

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) c. 1852

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>local landmark</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Matthew F. Rainey House is a well preserved example of provincial Arkansas architecture of the mid-nineteenth century. The simple lines of this two storey frame residence are expressive of the unpretentious lifestyle prevalent in frontier Arkansas. Built by the city's first resident, the Rainey House has stood as an El Dorado landmark for over one hundred years.

Like many early nineteenth century Americans, Matthew Rainey moved west. He was born in Virginia and moved with his parents to Georgia. In 1820 he moved to Green County, Alabama, and made it his home for about twenty years. While living in Alabama Rainey served as president of the state's first agricultural society, sheriff of his home county, and a representative to the State Legislature. Yet, in the midst of this seeming success, adversity set in. Rainey lost all his money, his property, and even his family home through security debts for several friends. When this misfortune occurred, Rainey moved again. His final westward journey took him to Union County, Arkansas, where the financial and political success of his Alabama years were repeated.

Legend has it that Rainey stopped in Union County because his wagon broke down there. Whatever the reason, it was a wise or lucky decision on Rainey's part. In 1843 county commissioners selected the area around Rainey's cabin as the best spot on which to establish a new and more centrally located county seat. On December 2, 1843, Matthew Rainey deeded 160 acres of land to Union County, retaining a four acre tract where he then resided in a cabin, and upon which he planned to build a house.

During the next ten years Rainey once again became a politically active Democrat. In April, 1851, he presided over the Democratic State Convention in Little Rock, and during the next year was frequently mentioned as a gubernatorial candidate. Instead, he was elected to the State Senate from Union County in the summer of 1853.

SEE INS JCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Continued - Page 2)

Rainey's financial success also returned to him in Arkansas, for in August, 1853, he was able to pledge \$5,000.00 to build a railroad from Camden, Arkansas, south through El Dorado, and on to the state line. By that time his new house, planned ten years before, was probably completed.

On September 16, 1853, Matthew Rainey died. The residence which bears his name, planned in 1843, and completed by 1853, still stands in El Dorado today as an ever present reminder of the city's first citizen. It is the oldest house in the community and one of the most important historic sites in the county.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette. January 9, 1852; July 29, August 12, September 16, 1853.
 Arkansas History Commission. Archives, Letters of Matthew F. Rainey to C. C. "Kitt" Scott in C. C. Scott Collection.
 Arkansas History Commission. Union County Tax Records, 1838-1856 (Microfilm).
 Spencer, Annie Laurie. "The Blacks of Union County." Arkansas Historical Quarterly, XII, 1953.
 Union County Deed Record Book E, Page 10.

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	°	' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "	33	12 52.8	92 39 41.1
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY :

NAME AND TITLE:
Anthony S. Riddle, Architect and Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program DATE: 9-10-74

STREET AND NUMBER:
Plaza West, Suite 1030, McKinley and Lee Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock STATE: Arkansas CODE: 05

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: William E. Henderson
 Title: State Historic Preservation Officer
 Date: September 10, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

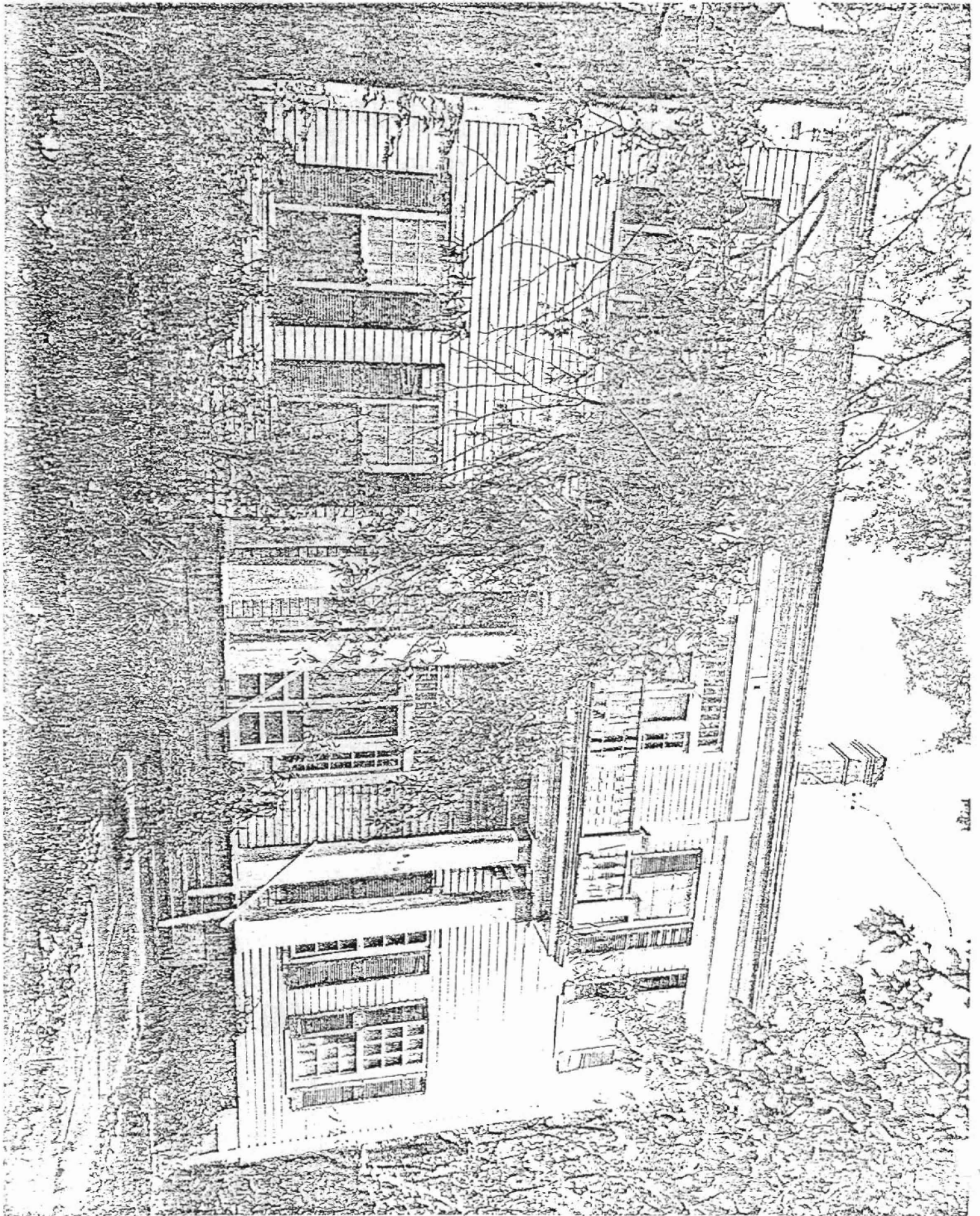
Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Matthew Rainey House		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Union	El Dorado
STREET AND NUMBER		
510 North Jackson		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

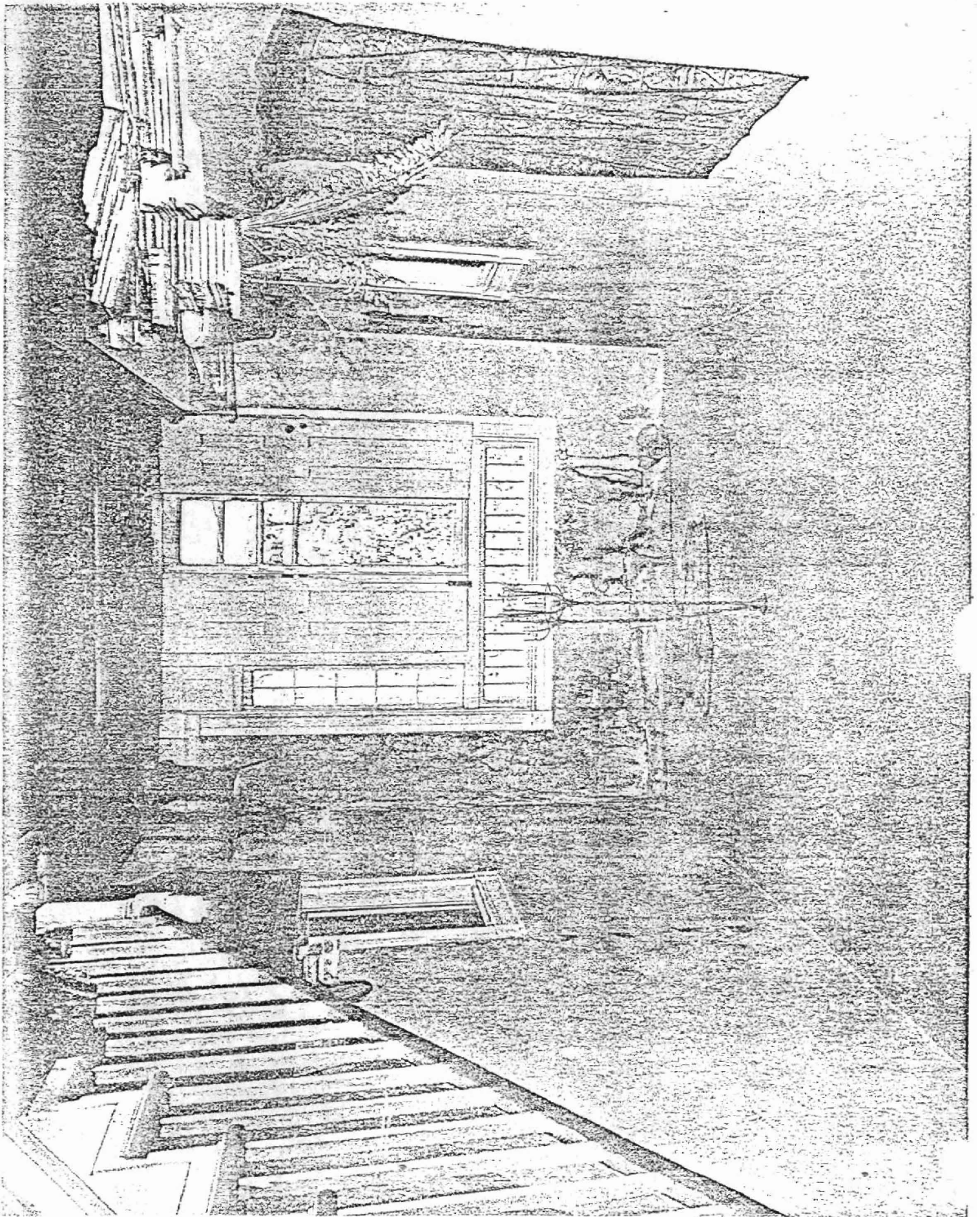
East facade, viewed from the east

GPO 932-009

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Interior shot from rear of central hall.
Water spotting visible above entrance.



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



92° 39' 41.1
33° 12' 52.8

Form 10-301
(July 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Matthew Rainey House		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Union	El Dorado
STREET AND NUMBER		
510 North Jackson Street		
3. MAP REFERENCE		
SOURCE	DATE	SCALE
U.S.G.S. Series	1951	1:62500

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.