

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic John Siddle Williams House

and/or common Hickory County Museum

## 2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ not for publication \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Hermitage \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district #4 - Hon. Ike Skelton

state Missouri code 029 county Hickory code 085

## 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 checked="" 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 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 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 Hickory County Historical County Improvement

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

city, town Hermitage \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 65668

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Hickory County Courthouse

city, town Hermitage \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 65668

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1977 \_\_\_\_\_ federal  state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local \_\_\_\_\_

depository for survey records Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176

city, town Jefferson City \_\_\_\_\_ state Missouri 65102

## 7. 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 John Williams House is located at the end of a short village street on the northwestern edge of the town of Hermitage, Missouri. Its east facade faces the road with a house to the south and open fields to the west and north.

The structure is a two-story, L-shaped I-house with a double gallery across its primary facade. The back wing projects from the north end of the west wall. The house measures sixty feet along the east and west sides and is forty-five feet deep down the back wing. A later one-story addition was built adjoining the north side of the back wing. There is a second double gallery along the back (west) wall running from the southern end to the back wing.

The house sits upon a stone foundation and is made of bricks produced on the farm by John Williams' slaves. The bricks have been coated with plaster scored to imitate ashlar which is now falling off. The roof of the main section is gabled and bell-cast in the front. The roof of the later addition is hipped and that of the rear wing is a hipped gable. All roofs are covered with gray asphalt shingles.

All windows are rectangular double-hung 1/1 light. There are three chimneys contained within the fabric: one on either end of the main block and one on the west end of the rear wing. A smaller chimney occurs on the later addition. The front gallery is supported on the first story by stone pillars that are probably not the original supports. The second story of the gallery is constructed of wood as is the second story of the back gallery where the first story pillars are brick.

There are two entrances on the east side and each is flanked by a window on either side creating a six bay front on this double pen I-house. This pattern is repeated in the second story. Secondary entrances include two doors on the south side of the back wing (one under the gallery and the other towards the west end) and a door in the east wall of the one-story addition.

Inside, the main section is one room deep and two rooms wide. The back wing is entered through the north room. This section consists of an anteroom (or square hall) and one room beyond. The stairs are in the anteroom and they lead up to the second floor which repeats the ground floor plan. The one-story addition on the north side of the house is two rooms deep. The front room is entered through the anteroom of the back wing and the back room of the addition is entered through the room in the back wing.

All decoration, interior and exterior, is simple and sparse. The woodwork is walnut which came from trees on the farm. There have been additions and removal of decorative elements both inside and out. The galleries seem to be original although the materials may have been replaced. It is not known when the one-story addition was built.

The house is in poor condition with cracking walls, holes in the ceilings, rotting floor boards, and falling plaster.

FHR-8-300A  
(11/78)

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

JOHN SIDDLE WILLIAMS HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

Basically the John S. Williams House remains true to its original appearance. Until 1976, when it became the Hickory County Museum, it served its original residential purpose. The Hickory County Historical Society plans to repair and restore the building so that it can serve both as a museum and as a symbol of the heritage of Hickory County.

## 8. 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John Siddle Williams House (now the Hickory County Museum) is significant as an example of ante-bellum vernacular architecture and as the residence of a prominent early citizen of Hickory County, Missouri.

John S. Williams, born in 1809 or 1810 in Wilson County, Tennessee,<sup>1</sup> moved to Missouri in 1842.<sup>2</sup> He quickly assumed a role of public service and played a part in the formation of Hickory County.

He was present at the first meeting of the county court which set up the new county's government in April or May of 1845. He was appointed the county's first sheriff and collector.<sup>3</sup> He served in these posts by appointment for two years and then through election until 1850.<sup>4</sup> He was elected to the Lower House of the Missouri General Assembly in 1852, 1856, and 1860.<sup>5</sup>

His last term ended with the beginning of the Civil War in which he fought for the Confederacy.<sup>6</sup> After the war, in 1867, he moved to Arkansas where he served both in the Lower House of the General Assembly and in the State Senate until his death in 1882.

John Williams' house in Hermitage, Missouri, built in the 1850's, reflects the importance of its owner who was not only a respected public servant and legislator but also a prosperous farmer. John Williams was one of the wealthiest men in Hickory County<sup>6</sup> and his residence is a fine example of the type of dwelling a mid-nineteenth century upper class Missouri farmer could build using only local building materials and labor.

### FOOTNOTES

1. Wilson's History of Hickory County (Hermitage, Mo.: Herald Office by Wilson Bros., 1907), p. 179.
2. Mrs. Ross B. Johnson. Some Early Settlers in Hickory County, Missouri from Sumner and Wilson Counties, Tennessee, 1973, p. 2.
3. History of Hickory, Polk, Cedar, Dade and Benton Counties, Missouri (Chicago: Goodspeed Publ. Co., 1889).
4. B.B. Ihrig. History of Hickory County, Missouri (Warsaw & Clinton, Mo.: The Printery, 1970), p. 61.
5. Wilson's History of Hickory County, p. 180.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

1

- 
6. Elizabeth Ellsberry. 1850 Federal Census of Hickory County, Missouri.
  7. Arkansas Democrat. January 27, 1882.
  8. This was determined from the 1850 and 1860 Censuses for Hickory County, Missouri.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Ellsberry, Elizabeth. 1850 Federal Census of Hickory County, Missouri.
2. History of Hickory, Polk, Cedar, Dade and Benton Counties, Missouri. Chicago: Goodspeed Publ. Co., 1889.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Hermitage, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1: 62,500

UMT References

A 1 5 4 7 7 9 3 7 4 1 9 9 2 7 7  
Zone Easting Northing

B                                
Zone Easting Northing

C                              

D                              

E                              

F                              

G                              

H                              

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point 1855 feet south of the NE corner of the NE 1/4 of the SW quarter of Section 23, Township 37, Range 22, at the NE corner of the former Edge tract as described in Deed Record 128, page 87, thence westerly along the N line of the former Edge tract as

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 1. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey

Department of Natural Resources

organization Historic Preservation Program

date March 10, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 176

telephone 314/751-4096

city or town Jefferson City

state Missouri 65102

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For HCERS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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## JOHN SIDDLE WILLIAMS HOUSE

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

3. Ihrig, B.B. History of Hickory County, Missouri. Warsaw and Clinton, Missouri: The Printery, 1970.
4. Johnson, Mrs. Ross B. Some Early Settlers in Hickory County, Missouri From Sumner and Wilson Counties, Tennessee, 1973.
5. Wilson's History of Hickory County. Hermitage, Missouri: Herald Office by Wilson Bros., 1902.

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

described in said Deed a distance of 106 ft., thence northerly 120 ft. thence Easterly 59.5 ft., thence Southeasterly 50 ft. to a point 84.5 ft. N of beginning, thence S. 84.5 ft to point of beginning.

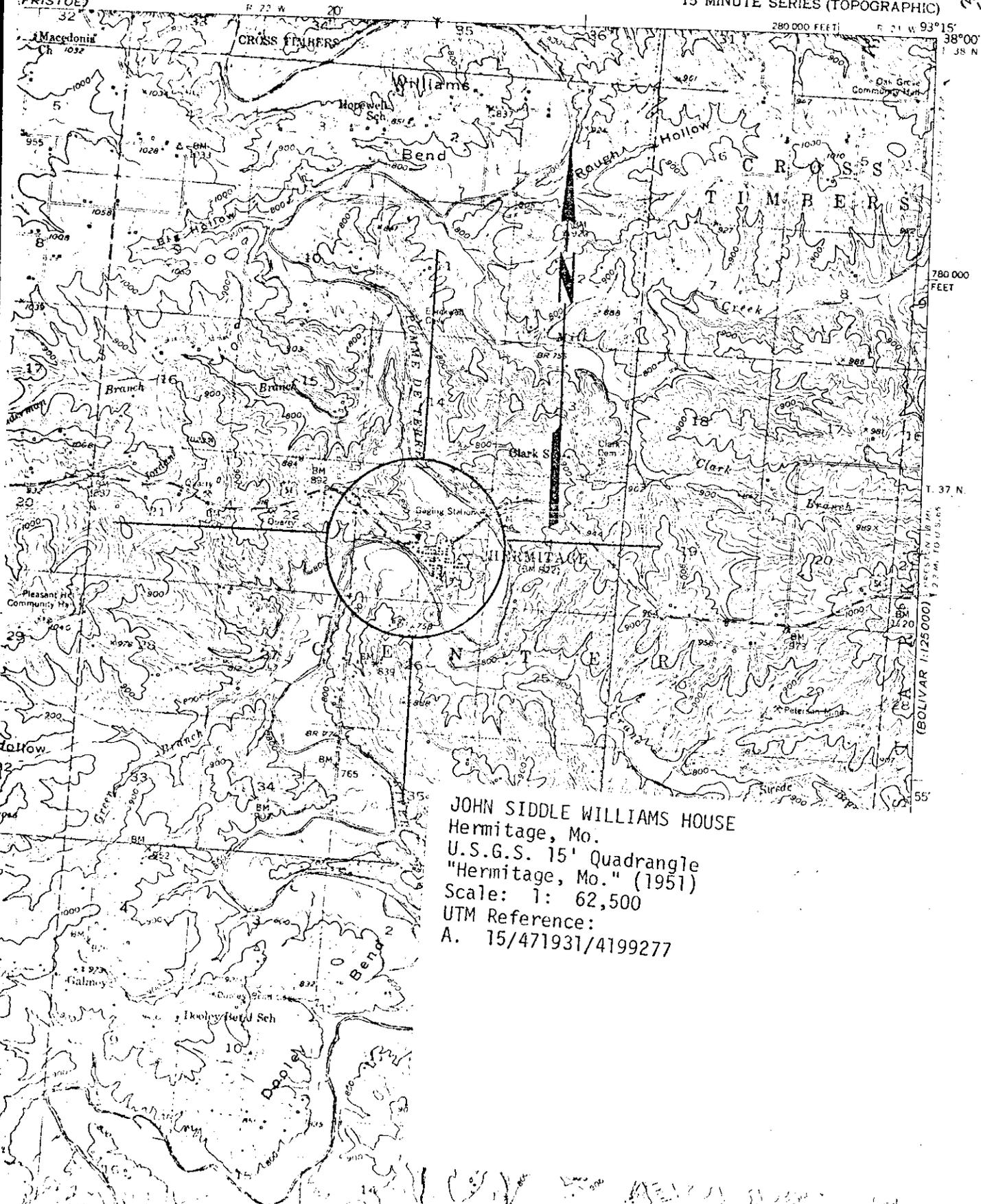
ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Barbara Carr - Research Assistant<br/>Department of Natural Resources<br/>Historic Preservation Program<br/>P.O. Box 176<br/>Jefferson City</li> </ol> | <p>March 10, 1980</p> <p>314/751-4096</p> <p>Missouri 65102</p> |
|--|---|

F MISSOURI  
AND WATER RESOURCES  
K. STATE GEOLOGIST

HERMITAGE QUADRANGLE  
MISSOURI  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

(WARSAW)  
1:125,000



JOHN SIDDLER WILLIAMS HOUSE  
Hermitage, Mo.  
U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle  
"Hermitage, Mo." (1951)  
Scale: 1: 62,500  
UTM Reference:  
A. 15/471931/4199277

JOHN SIDDLER WILLIAMS HOUSE  
Hermitage, Hickory County, Missouri  
Photographer: Doug Carr  
Date: December 15, 1979  
Neg. Loc.: Office of Historic Preservation  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box. 176  
Jefferson City, Mo. 65101

View from the southeast

1 of 8



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East (main) facade

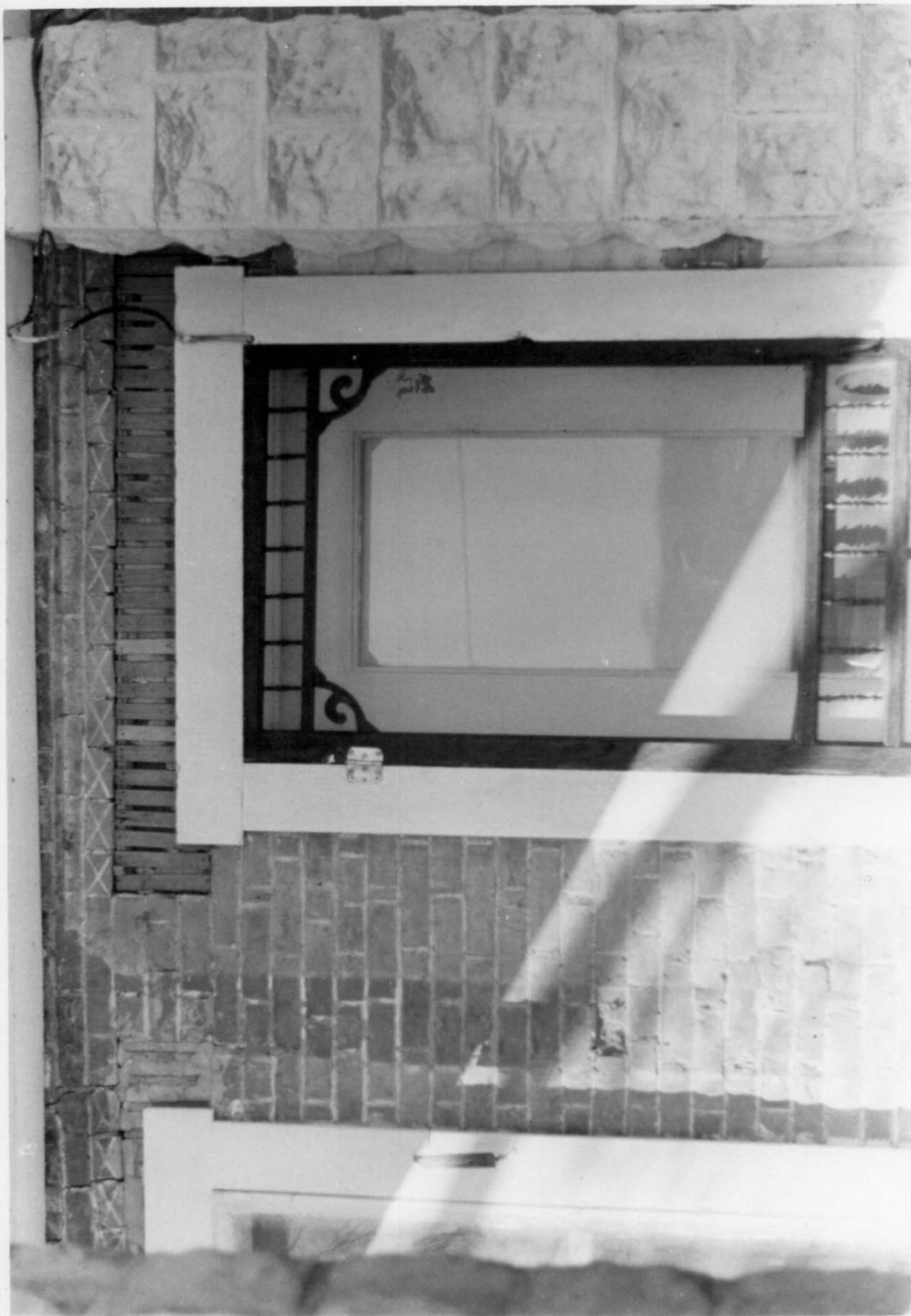
2 of 8



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Detail of south front door

3 of 8



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North side of house showing addition

4 of 8



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West (rear) side of house

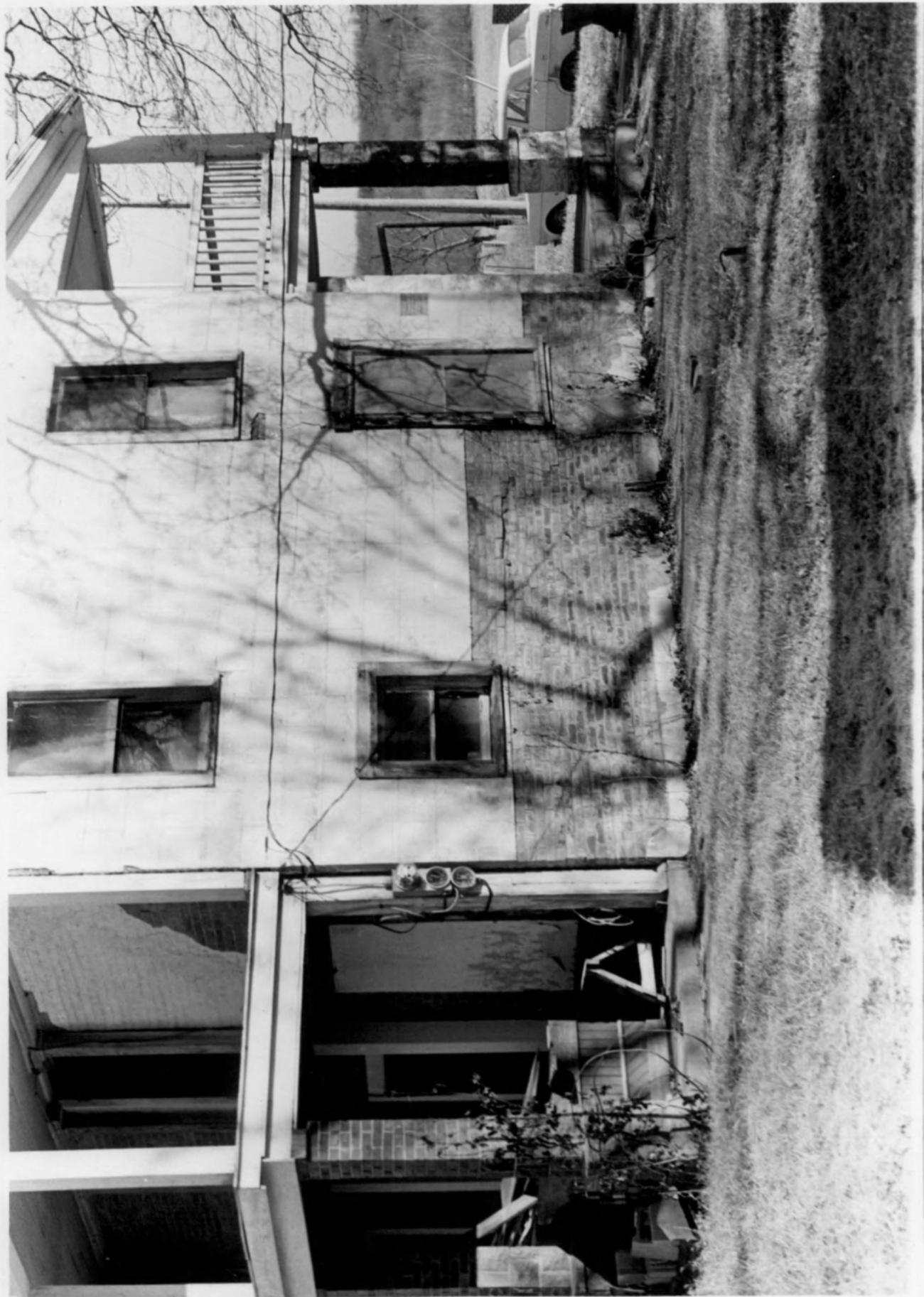
5 of 8



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South side of House

6 of 8



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Fireplace in back room of L section

7 of 8



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Detail of east and south walls of southern  
second story room

8 of 8

