FHR-3-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Fenton, Enoch Madison House/Fenton Edward Jackson House

and/or common The Fenton Homeplace

2. Location

street & number ____ not for publication

city, town Rushville ____ vicinity of congressional district #6 - Hon. Tom Coleman

state Missouri code 029 county Buchanan code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	____ occupied	X agriculture	____ museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	____ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	X private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	____ religious
____ object	____ in process	X yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	____ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
		____ no	____ military	____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Thomas Fenton Thomas

street & number R.F.D. 5 P.O. Box

city, town Rushville ____ vicinity of state Missouri 64484

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds - Buchanan County Courthouse

street & number 5th & Jules

city, town St. Joseph state Missouri 64501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri State Historical Survey has this property been determined elegible? ____ yes X no

date 1980 ____ federal X 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		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated in a rural area near Rushville, Missouri, the Enoch Madison Fenton, Edward Jackson Fenton House is a two story rectangular building of frame construction. The frame Greek Revival one and a half story house is of a type common in many areas of the United States, but unique in Northwest Missouri. The building being nominated is bold in silhouette, broad in proportions and simplified in detail which is traditional in this style of house in Missouri.

The Fenton House is fifty feet long by thirty-four feet wide in the main five bay structure. There is a one story addition on the north which measures twenty feet long by seventeen feet wide. There is an ell shaped addition on the west which was added about 1940 that measures twenty-six feet by eleven feet with a small porch measuring six feet by nine feet added on the north side of the house. An alteration was made on the east facade of the second floor which changed the porch and opened a second floor doorway upstairs.

The windows are nine-over-six pane on the first floor and vary from four-over-four to six-over-six on the second floor. The lintels are narrow with very small wood lugsills. There is a five pane transom above the double entrance doors on the east facade. There are five single stack fireplace chimneys, flush with the gables. The gable roof had wood shingles, but is covered with asbestos shingles at the present time.

The central entrance hall is flanked by double rooms which are of equal size, the fireplaces with circa 1850 mantels are centered in the north and south walls. Floor to ceiling cabinets of tongue and groove construction flank the double entrance doors and are an obvious alteration. The northwest room has a floor to ceiling closet which matches the rest of the woodwork in the house. The two south rooms have exterior doors on the south facade that were part of the original construction. The one story room on the north has a matching fireplace on the north wall. There is a porch on the east side of this room and the roof line indicates it was part of the original house. There are two stair wells in the house, one in the central hall and one in the northeast room off the central hall.

The ceilings in the house are nine feet on the first floor and six feet on the second floor. The walls are seven inches thick and window casings have a five inch inset. The original floors throughout the house vary from three inches to seven inches in width.

The entire house rests on a limestone foundation that varies from twelve to thirty-six inches in width. There is a basement under the two south rooms which is reached by an exterior stairwell on the west side of the house. Structurally the house has been altered by a gabled wall dormer in the east facade of the second floor, an ell addition on the northwest corner of the building and a porch on the east facade. The structural integrity of the original exterior and interior is not affected by these alterations.

Also, on the property is a root cellar with an entrance shed made of wood planks located about thirty feet to the west of the house. A board and batten smokehouse or shed near the northwest corner of the house is used as a storage shed today. The remnant of an orchard is located to the west of the house and lies within the property being nominated.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates circa 1850 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fenton Homeplace is significant as an unusual story and a half frame constructed Greek Revival Ante-bellum residence, and as the home of the Fentons, a locally prominent family.

In form the Fenton homeplace is more characteristic of Federal Style houses being built three decades earlier, especially in its story and a half double pile form with two end chimneys (not connected by parapets) at either end, and its double leaf entry doors. There are no other known examples of this house type from so late a period surviving in Missouri, although a few of brick and in one instance, stone, survive from ca. 1820 and these are in a simplified federal style whereas the one under consideration is in the Greek Revival mode and it should be given the period. As such, it is an odd and important survival.

There are two handwritten notes in the family Bible which concern the house. The first written by Mrs. E.J. Fenton: "The old Fenton home built in 1850 -- completely built of walnut logs." The second written by Mrs. Forest (Mary Ruth Fenton) Thomas:

> "The andirons were bought by Thomas H. Irvine at the Henry Clay sale...brought to his home in 1865. Grandma bought them at Irvine's sale...They were kept in our old home for 64 years, the old home that was built in 1850."

Thomas Irvine is listed in the 1850 census as being a native of Kentucky aged 37 with a child of one who was born in Kentucky. By the 1860 census, he is listed as a farmer with $23,200 in real estate and $6,325 in personal property. There are no Irvines buried in the nearby cemeteries, and the family is not listed in the 1880 census. Knowing that he sold at least the one piece of land to Fenton in 1865, it may be safe to guess that the Irvine family moved west after the Civil War.

After moving to the farm Matt Fenton became a horse breeder, raising Saddlebred horses. The Fenton horses brought home many ribbons from local county fairs. Each summer the yard around the home was the site of a picnic which people from miles around attended. Horsemanship skills were shown off and games on horseback, such as a form of jousting, were played. The Fenton family was also proud of its draft mule teams.

Enoch Fenton's son, Edward Jackson was born in this house in 1870, and lived there until his death in 1960. He not only farmed, but was also a major breeder of foxhounds. Mrs. Thomas has in the house two loving cups won by Edward Jackson Fenton which were awarded to Fenton's dogs in 1908 and 1912 by the Missouri Valley Fox Hunt Association. Matt Fenton died when Edward Jackson was only ten years old and he became responsible for the operation of the farm. During Edward Jackson's lifetime the family holdings were increased to all of Section seven. Thomas Fenton Thomas, the son of Edward Jackson's daughter Mary Ruth (Mrs. Forest Thomas)lives on the farm and the acreage is farmed by Jarry Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fenton Thomas.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Abstract of Thomas Farm. In possession of Thomas Fenton Thomas.

2. Fenton Family Bible in possession of Thomas Fenton Thomas.

3. Globe, Atchison, Kansas. February 24, 1952.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property App. one and one quarter acres.

Quadrangle name "DeKalb, Mo." Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	330410	438420	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

An area surrounding and centered upon the house 252 (two hundred and fifty-two) feet east to west by 221 (two hundred and twenty-one) feet north to south, defined by a woven fence all of which is in the northwest quarter of Section 7 (Seven) Township 55 (Fifty-five)

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. Thomas W. Carneal, Associate Professor

organization Northwest Missouri State University date August 14, 1980

street & number 306 Colden Hall telephone 816/582-7141 ext. 1289

city or town Maryville state Missouri 64468

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 Signed

title Director, Department of Natural Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer date 16 Feb 82

For HCRS 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

4. History of Buchanan County: 1881. St. Joseph, MO: Union Historical Co., 1881.

5. Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fenton Thomas, Rushville, MO.

6. Scrapbook in possession of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fenton Thomas, Rushville, MO.

7. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States: 1850. Manuscript.

8. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States: 1860. Manuscript.

9. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Ninth Census of the United States: 1870. Manuscript.

10. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census of the United States: 1880. Manuscript.

north Range 36 (thirty-six) West.

2. Nancy Sandehn, Research Consultant
Northwest Missouri Historical Inventory
Box 43
St. Joseph

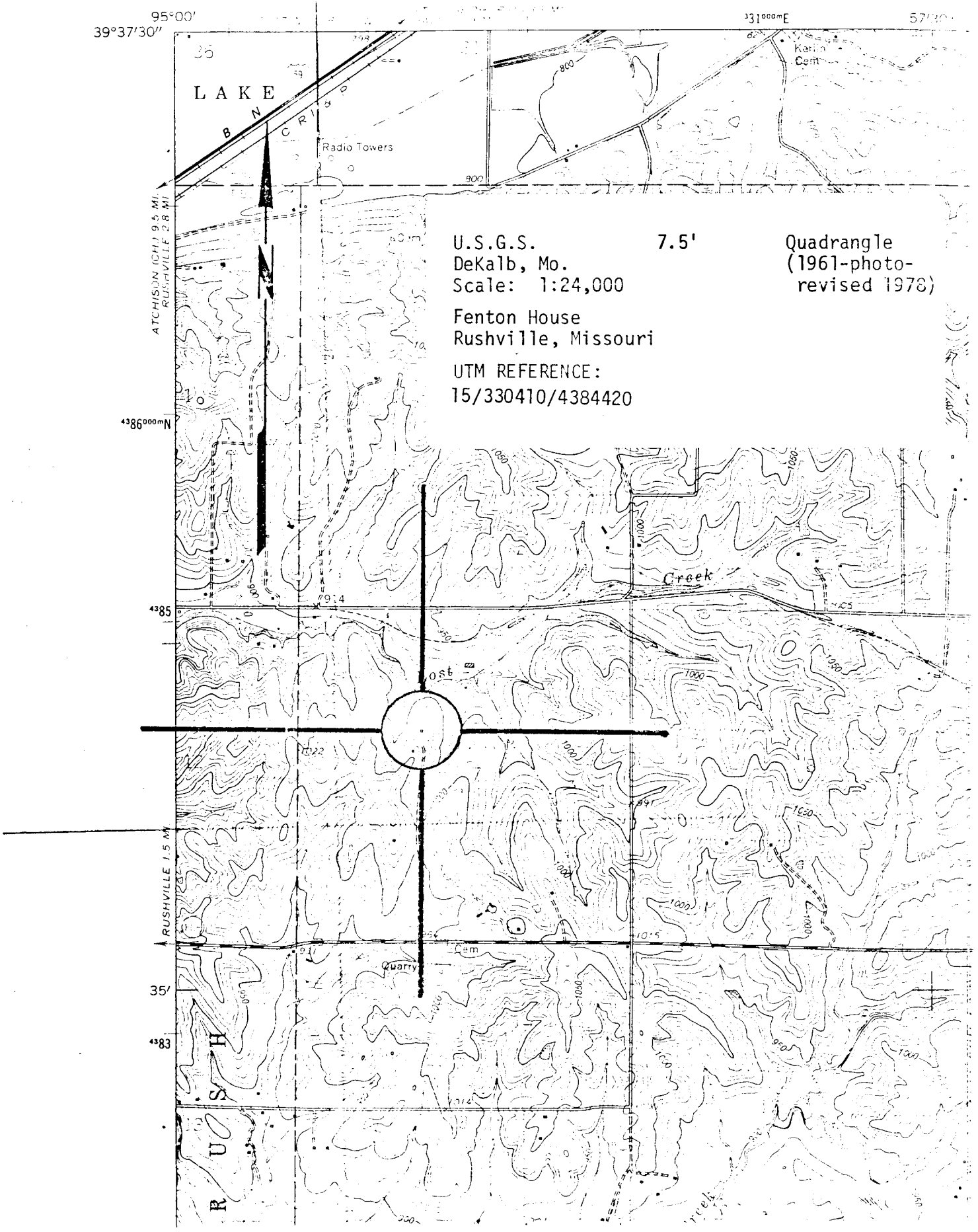
August, 1980
816/279-3558
Missouri 64501

3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
Reviewer and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City

September 5, 1980
314/751-4096
Missouri 65102

6363 II NE
(ATCHISON NE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
DeKalb, Mo. (1961-photo-revised 1978)
Scale: 1:24,000

Fenton House
Rushville, Missouri

UTM REFERENCE:
15/330410/4384420

Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Fenton, Enoch Madison, House**

City or Vicinity: **Rushville**

County: **Buchanan County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Tom Carneal**

Date Photographed: **Aug. 1980**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 15. NE.
2 of 15. SE.
3 of 15. SW.
4 of 15. E.
5 of 15. E.
6 of 15. W.
7 of 15. Interior.
8 of 15. Interior.
9 of 15. Interior.
10 of 15. Interior.
11 of 15. Interior.
12 of 15. Interior.
13 of 15. NE.
14 of 15. S.
15 of 15. SE.