# United States Department of the Interior

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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        Absolom Riggs House

and/or common   Mathias House

## 2. Location

street & number  R.F.D. #1

city, town       Weatherby

state          Missouri

county      DeKalb

code           29

code         063

## 3. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>district</td>
<td>public</td>
<td>occupied</td>
<td>agriculture</td>
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<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>structure</td>
<td>both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>Accessibility</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object</td>
<td>In process</td>
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<td>government</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>being considered</td>
<td>yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>Industrial</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>military</td>
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## 4. Owner of Property

name        Lillian Mathias

street & number  R.F.D. #1

city, town       Weatherby

state          Missouri

city, town       Maysville

state          Missouri

code           64497

code         64469

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.  Registrar of Deeds

street & number  DeKalb County Courthouse

city, town       Maysville

state          Missouri

code           64469

code         65102

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. A Historic Survey of DeKalb County, has this property been determined eligible?  yes

date    Fall, 1979

depository for survey records  Historic Preservation Program

city, town       Jefferson City

state          Missouri

code           65102
2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
   1980  
   Department of Natural Resources  
   P.O. Box 176  
   Jefferson City  

   [city]  
   [state]  
   [Missouri 65102]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item number</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Nancy Sandehn, Research Consultant  
   Northwest Missouri State University  
   Box 43  
   St. Joseph  

   June 27, 1980  
   816/279-3558  
   Missouri 64501

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

   August 25, 1980  
   314/751-4096  
   Missouri 65102
The Mathias-Riggs house is a two story brick dwelling built in an original ell shape plan with alterations. The structure is in a rural area located on a portion of a farm that once numbered one thousand (1,000) acres.

**EXTERIOR**

The main structure is forty (40) feet east to west on the south facade; sixteen (16) feet north to south on the east and west facades and the original ell portion on the north measures fourteen (14) by fourteen (14) feet. In 1902, an addition was added on the east side of the ell which measures fourteen (14) feet by seventeen (17) feet six (6) inches which makes the north portion fourteen (14) feet by thirty-one (31) feet, six (6) inches today. The common bond brick walls are fifteen (15) inches thick.

**PORCHES**

There was a small one story enclosed porch added on the west side of the original ell which measures fourteen (14) feet by eight (8) feet. On the east side of the addition is an open one story shed roof porch which measures fourteen (14) feet by seven (7) feet. Although the original plans called for a two story portico, at the center of the south facade, it was never built.

**ROOF**

The chimneys on the east and west facades go through the roof line. Asbestos shingles cover the gable roof on both the original and addition to the house.

**WINDOWS**

The windows in the original structure are double hung six-over-six light, with a seven (7) and one-half (1/2) inch beveled sill. The windows in the addition are double hung single pane. The lintels and lug sills of all the windows are wood.

In the northeast addition there is a molded lintel over the window. There is one small four light window in the attic section of the original ell.

The exterior doors on the south facade at the first and second floor levels have sidelights and a transom.

**INTERIOR**

The fireplace in the southwest room on the first floor has a wooden mantel, which has been painted. The fireplace in the original ell has been covered over in a remodeling project.

The ceilings in the house were 9 (nine) feet high. The remodeling of these with acoustical tile has lowered them by six (6) inches.

The woodwork throughout the house is native walnut. In the addition on the northeast corner the woodwork has Victorian designs in both the first and second floor rooms.

The central hall has an open staircase with small square balusters made by Mrs. Mathias. The newel post is a massive carpenter turned piece with knob.

The house rests on a foundation of limestone twenty (20) inches thick.
FOOTNOTE

1. Interview with Lillian Mathias, June 10, 1980.
8. Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance—Check and justify below</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>archeology-prehistoric</td>
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<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>archeology-historic</td>
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<td>X 1800-1899</td>
<td>commerce</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900-</td>
<td>communications</td>
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Specific dates 1865

Builder/Architect Absolom Hicks Riggs

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Absolom Riggs House is significant as a rare Northwest Missouri Civil War period brick "mansion", and as the home of Absolom Riggs, a locally prominent citizen.

In the development of the counties in northwest Missouri the wealthy landowners stand out as an influential force. They occupied the highest social positions and were identified with the idea of the self-made man. Absolom Hicks Riggs, the builder of this house, was one of the driving forces in DeKalb County.

Absolom Hicks Riggs was the brother of William W. Riggs who came to Adams Township, DeKalb County from Boone County in 1851. He acquired land on March 23, 1856, by Patent from the U.S. Government. In 1866, William W. Riggs was elected Representative from DeKalb County on the Republican ticket. He persuaded his brothers, Absolom W., and Bennett Riggs to come to the area.

The three brothers played an important role in the development of DeKalb County. They were farmers, stockmen, teachers, merchants, blacksmiths, carpenters, pharmacists, township officials, county court clerks, representatives to the General Assembly, probate court judges and postal employees. Their thousand acre holding formed one of the largest farms in the county.

In 1865, Absolom Hicks Riggs built this large home on his property located on the southwest quarter section fifteen (15) Township fifty-nine (59) north and Range thirty (30) West. The bricks were molded and kiln-dried on the farm. Limestone rock was burned in a deep trench to make the mortar. At the time the house was constructed it was surrounded by a split rail fence with elm trees set into the corners. One of these elm trees still stands today.

The house and farm have been occupied and operated by Absolom H. Riggs and his descendants since 1859. Lillian Riggs Mathias, present owner and operator is the daughter of Silas A. Riggs and granddaughter of Absolom Riggs.

Footnotes

1. Interview with Lillian Mathias, May 20, 1980.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item number</th>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Reference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ruth Ownes Inventory of DeKalb County Historic Homes and Sites.</td>
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</table>

line and the south edge of the driveway forming the south boundary line.
9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Abstract to the Lillian Mathias House.


10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property: Two (2) one-half (1/2) acres

Quadrangle name: "Marysville, MO"

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

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<td>G</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>H</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for the Mathias-Riggs House is a rectangle four-hundred (400) feet from east to west and two-hundred and fifty (250) feet from north to south, with the center being the UTM coordinate reference and with the county road forming the east boundary.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Thomas W. Carneal, Associate Professor of History

organization Northwest Missouri State University

date June 11, 1980

street & number 306 Golden Hall

telephone 816/582-4955

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 ___ 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 6 Feb 82

For HCRR 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
Riggs, Absolom House

COUNTY: DeKalb
LOCATION: R.F.D. #1, Weatherby, Mo.
OWNER: Lillian Mathias
ADDRESS: R.F.D. #1
Weatherby, Mo. 64497

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.: October 24, 1980
DATE SENT TO D.C.: February 19, 1982
DATE OF REC. IN D.C.: February 23, 1982
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER: April 12, 1982
DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED (AND PRESENTOR):
DATE FILE REVIEWED:
Mathias-Riggs House
Rt 1, Weatherby, MO
Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
Tom Carneal, May 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
South
1 of 10
Mathias-Riggs House
Rt 1, Weatherby, MO
Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
Tom Carneal, May 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Golden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
Southwest
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Interior/ Downstairs
7 of 10
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Interior/ Upstairs
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