

PH 0047040

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

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	NOV 6 1974

**1. NAME**

COMMON:	Matthew Rainey 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

**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"/> Object	<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	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) _____ _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

**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

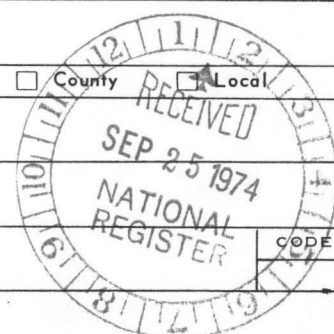
**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Union County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse Square			
CITY OR TOWN: El Dorado		STATE: Arkansas	CODE 05

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Arkansas	COUNTY: Union	ENTRY NUMBER NOV 6 1974	DATE
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# 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 INSTRUCTIONS



## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian | ☐ 16th Century | ☐ 18th Century | ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century | ☐ 17th Century | ☒ 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) <u>local landmark</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  |   |

## 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.

4/5 E 531475  
2415 N 3674950

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"	33	12	52.8	92	39	41.1
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"						
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"						

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

NAME AND TITLE:		
Anthony S. Riddle, Architect and Dianna Kirk, Historian		
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	9-10-74	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
Plaza West, Suite 1030, McKinley and Lee Streets		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Little Rock	Arkansas	05

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

*A. R. Heston*  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 11/6/74

**ATTEST:**

*Wm. H. Smith*  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 11.5.74

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Arkansas	
COUNTY Union	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 6 1974

(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.





PROPERTY

Rainey, Matthew, House STATE Arkansas 74000501

WORKING NUMBER

9. 25. 74. 1499 Union Co.

TECH REVIEW

PHOTOS

2

MAPS

1

CONTROL REVIEW

ck

10-1-74  
CA

HISTORIAN

if this is on a 4 acre lot, why is less than  
1 acre nominated? — [There is another  
house on this 4 acre lot, the Garrett House]  
called State 10/11/74

ACCEPT  
H. Thorman  
10/11/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Despite short period of assoc. with Rainey's  
life ... accept  
J. Thorman 10/11/74

ARCHEOLOGIST

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

ACCEPT  
Cole  
10/30/74

BRANCH CHIEF

ACCEPT  
H. Thorman  
11.4.74

KEEPER

W  
11/5/74

National Register Write-up

11/18/74

Send-back

Federal Register entry

1/7/75

Re-submit

Entered

NOV 6 1974







Rainey House, Union County, Arkansas  
east facade, viewed from the east

FORM 10-301 A  
(6/72)

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)

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Matthew Rainey House		NOV 6 1974
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Union	El Dorado
STREET AND NUMBER		
510 North Jackson		
<b>3. PHOTO REFERENCE</b>		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

East facade, viewed from the east

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

# 1072







Rainey House  
El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas  
Interior shot from rear of central hall

FORM 10-301 A  
(6/72)

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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510 North Jackson		
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PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
<b>4. IDENTIFICATION</b>		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

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

**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

# 5452





**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

<b>1. NAME</b>		
COMMON  Matthew Rainey House	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE <i>(Assigned by NPS)</i>  NOV 6 1974
<b>2. LOCATION</b>		
STATE Arkansas	COUNTY Union	TOWN El Dorado
STREET AND NUMBER  510 North Jackson Street		
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>		
SOURCE U.S.G.S. Series	DATE 1951	SCALE 1:62500

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

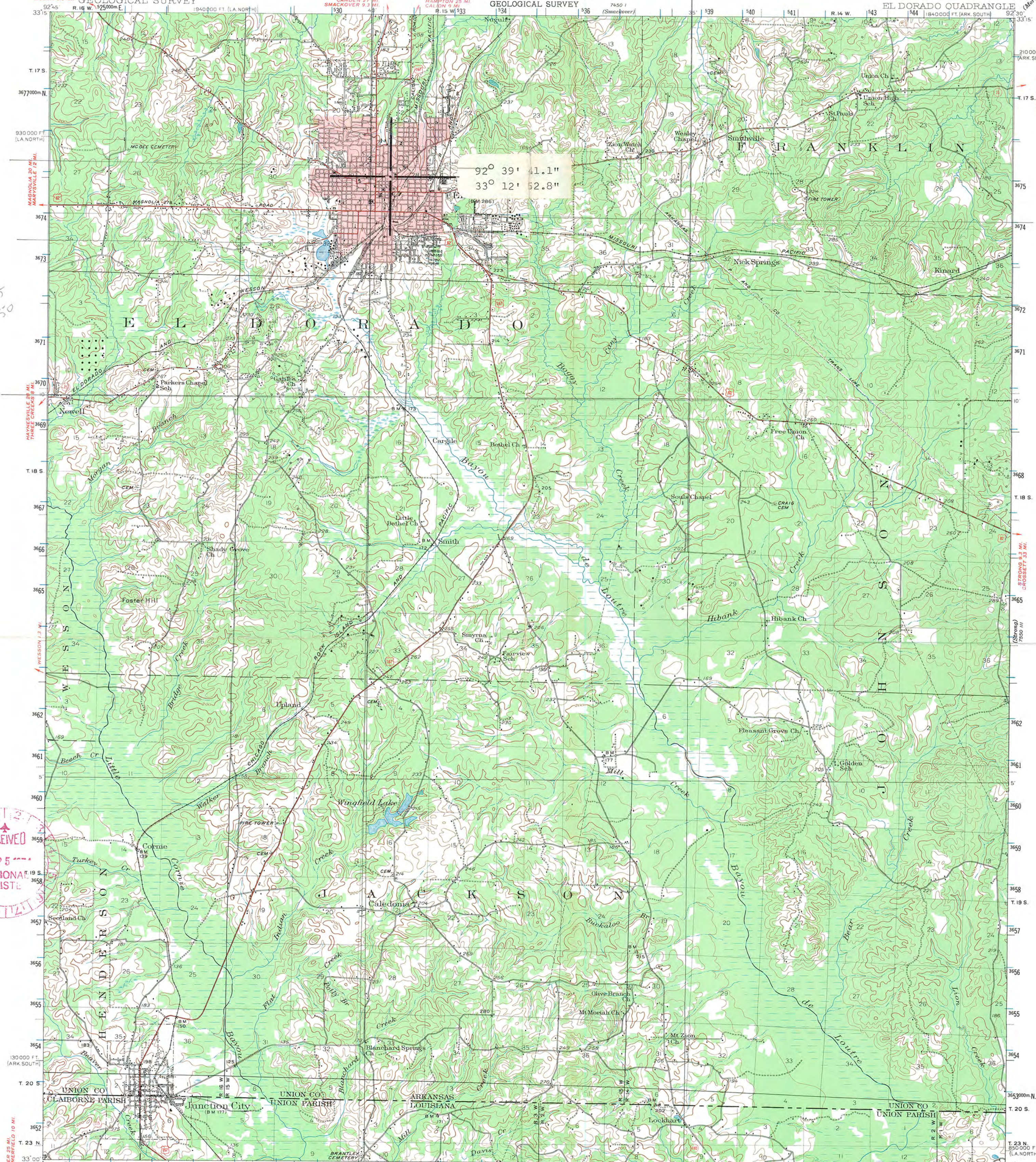




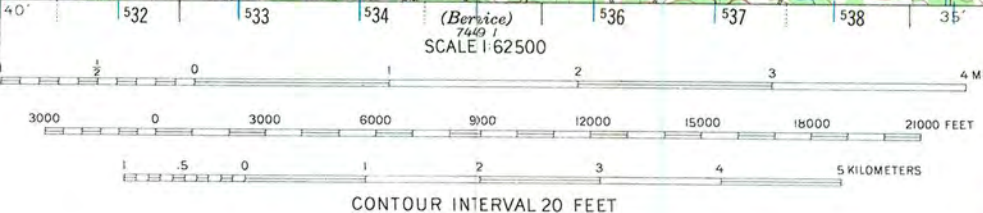
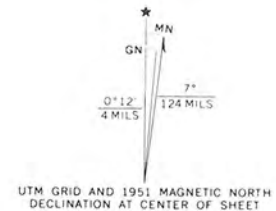
H13  
Zn15  
E531475  
N2674950



92° 39' 41.1"  
33° 12' 52.8"



Topography by C.L. Sadler, F.L. Whaley, Daniel Kennedy, H.S. Milsted, and A.T. Munson  
Control by U.S. Geological Survey  
Surveyed in 1927  
Revised in 1951  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt = = = = =  
U. S. Route      State Route

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Arkansas (South) and  
Louisiana (North) rectangular coordinate systems  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
EL DORADO, ARK.-LA.  
N3300-W9230/15

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242,  
THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201,  
AND BY THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70804  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE     ARKANSAS

Date Entered     NOV 6 1974

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Rainey, Matthew, House	El Dorado Union County

Also Notified

Hon. J.W. Fulbright  
Hon. John J. McClellan  
Hon. Ray Thornton, Jr.

Regional Director, Southwest Region

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. William E. Henderson, Director  
Arkansas Department of Parks and  
Tourism  
State Capitol-Room 149  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201