Form 10-300 (Rev. 6-72)

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Ш ш S UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Arkansas COUNTY:

Conway

FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY DATE

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Moose House was originally a two-storey central hall plan with one room on each side. It is of rectilinear shape with gable roof. Stone inside end chimneys rise above the ridge line. A two-storey portico with second storey porch graces the front entry.

A provincial style best characterizes the Moose House. Weatherboard siding, green louver shutters, very little ornamentation, and symmetrical features combine to make a simple statement of the needs of the original builder.

The interiors of the Moose House continue the simple refinement of the exterior. All trim is plain, as are the fireplace mantels of clear finished oak.

A significant number of alterations in the form of additions to the original structure have been made to the rear of the house. Each addition blends harmoniously with the original structure, hence maintaining the integrity of the structure as a whole.

The original rectilinear plan has been altered to an ell-shape plan with an extruded corner in the elbow of the ell. The two-storey wing, forming the leg of the ell, was added about 1885 to accommodate the growing Moose family. About 1910 the central hallway of the original house was extended on both floors, thus forming the addition in the elbow of the ell. The one-storey room and enclosed porch were added soon afterwards. An original one-storey veranda across the front of the house was replaced by the present two-storey portico when the house was first enlarged.

The interior plan of the original structure is organized as a large central hallway with one room on either side. The open-well, two-flight stairway originates along the left side of the central hall with the landing across the end of the hall. The stair continues to the second floor along the right wall. The white walls were replastered in 1967.

The Moose House is in excellent condition, having been continually owned and occupied by a member of the Moose family. James Sayle Moose, Jr., grandson of the builder, now lives in this well cared for residence.

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)	2-600	
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AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Che	eck One or More as Appropr	riate)	
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When the Little Rock to Fort Smith Railroad was constructed through Conway County in the early 1870's, the tracks lay about one mile north of Lewisburg, a prosperous port city on the Arkansas River. A station was established north of the old town, and people began moving from Lewisburg to the railroad.

The land west of the Conway County station belonged to Edwin James Morrill, and that to the east belonged to James Miles Moose. The two gentlemen divided their lands into city lots and sold it to individual buyers who were moving to the railroad station area. As a town grew around the station Mr. Morrill and Mr. Moose decided to name the growing community. Purportedly, the unceremonious flip of a coin named the new town Morrilton rather than Mooseville.

Though the town was named for the Morrills, the Moose family has always been prominent in the city's history. The Moose family home, located in east Morrilton, has stood in the same spot for over one hundred years. It was built before the railroad came through and has witnessed the origin and continuing prosperity of the surrounding railroad community.

The Moose house was built in the late 1860's by James Miles Moose. After serving in the Confederate Army in Texas Mr. Moose returned to Conway County, Arkansas, to find that his former home had been burned during the war. He decided to rebuild on the same spot, about one mile north of Lewisburg. Using lumber from the Markham Tavern, an old stage stop in Lewisburg, Mr. Moose built the house around which the city of Morrilton grew.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	
Arkansas Gazette, July 3, 1892; September	8, 11, 1915; October 27
1935; September 11, 1953.	
Conway County Deed Record Book J, p. 222.	Archives, Arkansas

History Commission.

Goodspeed Company. Historical Reminiscences and Biographical

Memoirs of Conway County, Arkansas. Little Rock:

Arkansas Historical Publishing Company, 1890.

Hempstead, Fay. Historical Review of Arkansas, Vol. II. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1911.

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Form 10-300a (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Conway	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Moose House - Page 2)

In Goodspeed's 1890 <u>History of Conway County</u> the home of James Miles Moose was described as follows: "his pleasant residence in the eastern end is the old farm house remodeled and rebuilt, which surrounded with flowers and shrubbery, presents a most pleasing picture of peace, contentment, and prosperity to the visitor." The "remodeled and rebuilt" farm house could have referred to the original house burned during the Civil War, or it could have referred to improvements made on the house beween its late 1860's construction and this 1890 reference to the house.

Before settling permanently in the Arkansas River Valley, the builder of the Moose house had made two trips to California. Along with his father, John L. Moose, James M. Moose first made an overland trip to the California coast in 1849. After three years in the West, he returned to Arkansas in the autumn of 1852. The next spring young Moose married Sophia Stockton, daughter of a local farmer. Soon after his marriage he bought a herd of cattle and drove them on a second overland trip to California. Returning to Arkansas in 1854, he settled permanently, except for his Civil War service, in Conway County.

James and Sophia Moose had ten children, one of whom was president of the Arkansas Senate and judge of the Fifth Judicial District of Arkansas. Their youngest son, James Sayle, was born in the Moose house in 1875 and died there seventy-eight years later. His son, James Sayle Moose, Jr., former U. S. Ambassador to several Middle East countries, now owns and lives in the family home.

The Moose House is the most prominent historic landmark of early Morrilton. Its significance lies in the importance to the community of the family it has housed for over a century, and the fact that it is the oldest home, older than the community itself, in the railroad town of Morrilton.

The provincial character of the Moose House has remained, despite the surrounding expansion of the town. The two-storey white frame residence has a two-storey portico centered on the five-bay wide facade. The green shuttered windows overlook a spacious lawn. Additions to the original structure are all on the rear of the building and are in

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Arkansas
COUNTY
Conway
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER TO 1971E

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Significance (Moose House - Page 3)

keeping with the simple style. Architecturally, the Moose House expresses the rural lifestyle of a moderately wealthy Arkansas farmer in the years following the Civil War.



STATE

Form 10-300a (July 1969)

## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Arkansas	
COUNTY	
Conway	
FOR NPS USE ONL	Υ .
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
OCT 2	9 1974

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

9. Major Bibliographical References (Continued)

Moose, James Sayle, Jr. Interview at Moose House, Morrilton, Arkansas, April 25, 1974

Thomas, David Y., ed. Arkansas and Its People: A History, 1541-1930, Vol. III. New York: American Historical Society, Inc. 1930.



PROPERTY Moase House	STATE Cak.	74	000472
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	Name.
	Location.
	Classification.
	Owner of Property.
· .	Location of Legal Description.
	Representation in Existing Surveys.
•	Description. Please include a complete architectural description, including specific mention of additional lates, if Known 37's and
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	Geographical Data.  a. Longitude and Latitude Coordinates.
	b. Acreage.
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2.	Certification.
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Arkanoes Conway County Moose House

South FACADE VIEWED FROM THE SOUTH

FORM 10-301 A

UNITE ATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
СОММОН	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)  OCT 2 2 1974
Moose House	Markham Tavern	
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Arkansas	Conway	Morrilton
STREET AND NUMBER		
711 Green Street		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		NEGATIVE FILED AT
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	
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GPO 932-009



Mocse House Conway Country Ankansas east elevation, viewed from the morthead

> FORM 10-301 A (6/72)

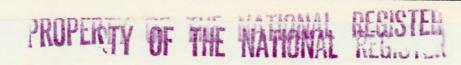
UNITED STATE PARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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## PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME COMMON		
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Moose House	Markham Tavern	OGT 2 2 1974
2. LOCATION		
Arkansas	Conway	Morrilton
STREET AND NUMBER		
711 Green Street		
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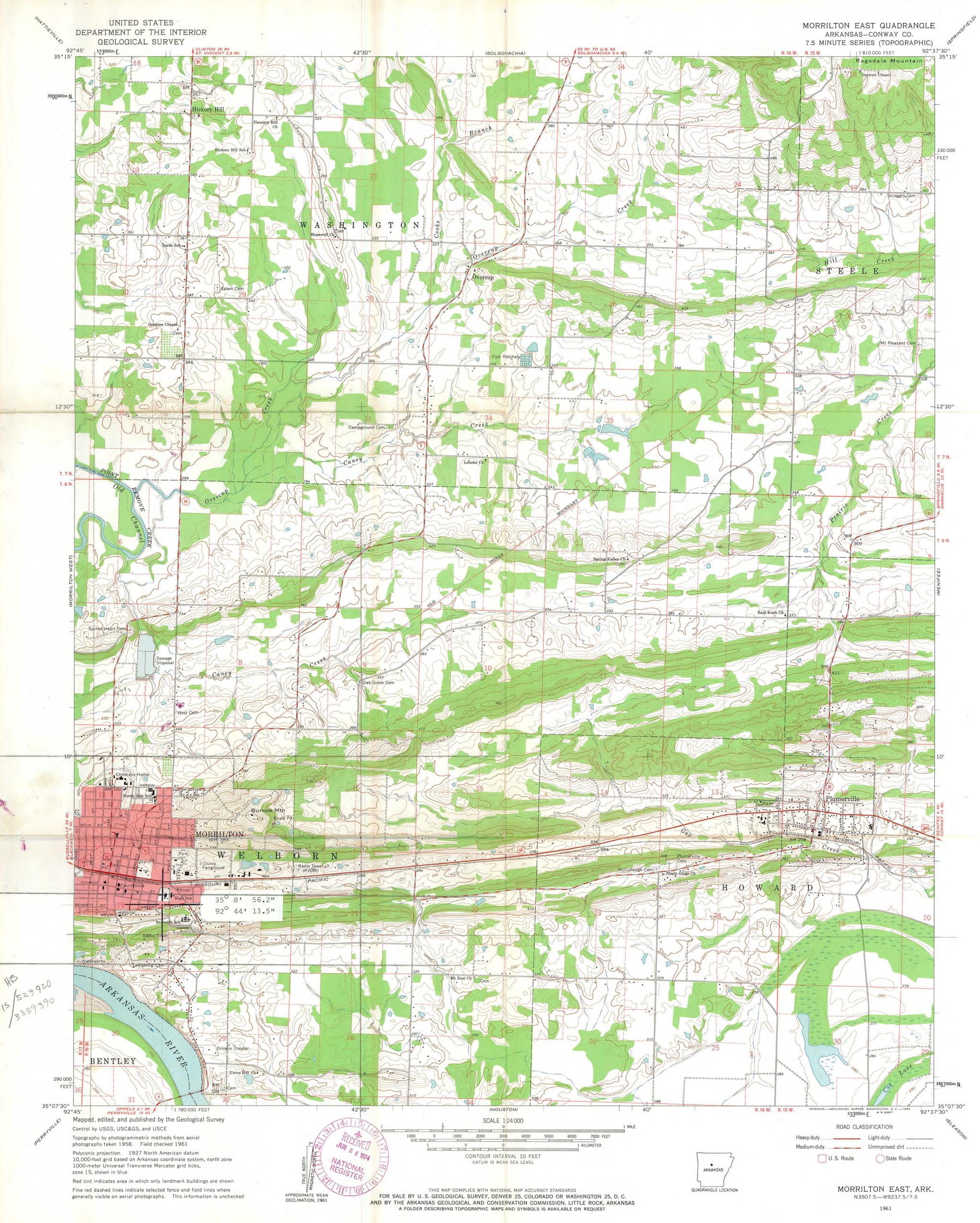
Form 10-301 (July 1968)

### 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				
2. LOCATION				
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STREET AND NUMBER				
711 Green Street				
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## ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

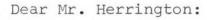
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SUITE 1030, PLAZA WEST, MC KINLEY STREET AND LEE AVENUE LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, 72205 501 371-1639

September 17, 1974

Mr. Charles A. Herrington Office of Nomination and Review National Park Service Department of the Interior Washington, D. C. 20240



Thank you for your questions concerning our nomination of the Moose House to the National Register of Historic Places. Our responses to your questions have been incorporated into the nomination. Additional information has been inserted in both Sections 7 and 8.

We appreciate your comments and hope to receive approval of this nomination in the near future. Please contact me if there are any further questions.

Sincerely,

Dianna Kirk Staff Historian

DK:cm

Enclosures

#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered OCT 2 2 1974

Name

Location

Estevan Hall

Helena Phillips County

Cox House

Morrilton Conway County

Moose House

Morrilton Conway County

#### Also Notified

Hon. John L. McClellan Hon. J. W. Fulbright Hon. Bill Alexander, Jr. Hon. Wilbur D. Mills

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

PR MMOTT: pl 10.24.74