

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED DEC 29 1975
DATE ENTERED NOV 3 1978

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 *Mr* John Tilley House

AND/OR COMMON

Tilley-Buchanan House, Cloverdale Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Prairie Grove*

Rhea's Mill Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Prairie Grove

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Washington

CODE
143

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 John A. Buchanan

STREET & NUMBER Rhea's Mill Road

CITY, TOWN Prairie Grove

VICINITY OF

STATE
Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER Washington County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Fayetteville

STATE
Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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

In 1855 John Tilley of Washington County, Arkansas, built a four-room brick house on the road between Prairie Grove and Rhea's Mill. This two-storey house, still on its original site, was built on a central hall plan with one room on either side. With the exception of the frame upper half of the hallway's east wall, all of the interior and exterior walls are of brick construction. The lower walls are sixteen inches thick, tapering to eight inches on the second storey.

When originally constructed the house had no porch on its facade, with only a flat stone slab marking the uncovered entry. About 1880 a two-storey porch was added across the facade. This porch featured a railing and decorative shingles at the second-storey line. In 1952 this Victorian era porch was removed and replaced with six square slender columns supporting the porch roof which projects from the front slope of the gable roof.

Sheltered by the two-storey porch is a five-bay-wide facade. Flanking the center entries are paired windows with double-hung sashes. The lower windows have flat arches with radiating voussoirs. The upper windows are shorter and are set in plain frames. Like the lower windows the main entry has a flat arch with radiating voussoirs. Sidelights above panels and a transom surround the single-door entry. The second-storey entry, set in a simple wood frame, was originally a window but enlarged to accommodate a doorway when the first porch was added.

Stacks from the interior chimneys project above the ridge line at the east and west elevations of the house. The corbelling on the east chimney is still in place, but that on the west has been removed. Windows on the rear elevation match those on the facade. The only side window was added in the 1890's to the lower west elevation.

About 1890 the house was enlarged with a two-storey frame addition on the west side of the rear elevation. This clapboard wing with gable roof houses the kitchen and dining room on the first floor and bedrooms on the second floor. This addition, which replaced the separate frame kitchen, gave the house an ell-shape floor plan. The one-storey porch around the south and east elevations of the frame wing was enclosed in 1952. A small porch northwest of the addition was enclosed in 1970.

Projecting from the west elevation of the brick house is a small, shed-roof cellar entry. From this covered entry, steps lead downward to the dirt-floored cellar which lies beneath the west room. Dug by John Tilley, this cellar is original to the house.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

The interior of the Tilley House is relatively simple with wide baseboards and plain moulding around doors and windows. The original plaster is still in place on the brick walls. Pine flooring is used throughout with eight-inch-wide planks in the brick house and six-inch planks in the rear wing.

The Tilley House remains in excellent condition, and has been continually occupied and carefully maintained. Its peaceful rural setting has changed little in the century-and-a-quarter since the house was constructed.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> _MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> _SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> _1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> _ART	<input type="checkbox"/> _ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> _MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> _THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> _1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> _EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> _TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> _1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> _COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> _INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> _POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> _OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> _INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tilley House, located west of Prairie Grove on Rhea's Mill Road, was constructed about 1855. In comparison with the rest of the state, this area of northwest Arkansas was well-populated in the mid-nineteenth century. The Tilley House is one of several antebellum homes constructed in Washington County; however, the Tilley House is one of the few early brick houses to be built in a rural section of the county.

Before building their brick house, John Tilley and his family lived in a one-and-one-half-storey log house. About 1854 they began construction of their brick home on a site just northeast of the log cabin. When the brick house was completed in 1855, a covered walkway connected it to the log house, which thereafter served as kitchen and dining room. In the 1890's the log house was torn down and a frame wing, housing a kitchen, dining room and additional bedrooms, was added to the rear of the house.

The brick house built by John Tilley was a two-storey structure. Using bricks made about one-half mile southwest of the site, Tilley built walls which were sixteen inches thick on the first storey and half that width on the second storey. Plaster of lime, sand and hog hair covered the interior walls and was done with an egg-shell finish. The tongue-and-grove floors, pegged doors and simple window frames were all made from heart pine.

A native of Tennessee, John Tilley moved to Arkansas about 1845. Tilley was a successful farmer, and by 1860 owned property valued at over twelve thousand dollars. That same year he estimated his personal estate to be worth almost sixteen thousand dollars.

The Civil War brought great upheaval to the Tilley family. The oldest son, John Tilley, Jr., enlisted in the Confederate army and was killed in the Battle of Prairie Grove in 1862. Fought just a few miles east of the Tilley farm, this battle was considered to be a Union victory and led to the Civil War occupation of northwest Arkansas.

Several published memoirs of the Tilley family and their descendants record interesting events which occurred during the occupation. One

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, October 13, 1974.

Buchanan, H. E. "The Ante-Bellum Tilley House Near Prairie Grove," Washington County Historical Society Flashback, Vol. 16 (August, 1966).

United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Population Schedule for Washington County, Arkansas. Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	5
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3	7	5	1	0	0
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3	9	8	3	8	4	0
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B

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C

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D

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-9-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-9-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-3-78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-3-78

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ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 1

account describes how wheat was hidden in the attic, removed through a hole in the roof, and taken by night to a nearby mill to be ground into flour. Another published story recounts Mrs. Tilley's successful efforts to have some Union troops expelled from her house and reprimanded by their commanding officer.

During the Federal occupation of Washington County, John Tilley and one of his sons fled to Texas. After the Civil War ended, but before he could return home, John Tilley died in Texas. The farm and house passed to his son, Joseph Tilley, who lived and worked there his entire lifetime.

A fourth generation of the Tilley family currently resides in the house built by John Tilley. John Buchanan, a grandson of Joseph Tilley, now owns and occupies the house.

This historic northwest Arkansas residence, architecturally important as an antebellum brick house, is significant as the home of one of the area's most prominent nineteenth century citizens. The Tilley House is an important historic landmark in the Prairie Grove area of Washington County.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States, 1860: Population Schedule for Washington County, Arkansas. Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission.

Buchanan, John. Interview at Cloverdale Farms, October 27, 1975.

Property Filley, John, House

78000639

State Arkansas

Working Number 12, 29.75.2221

TECHNICAL

Photos 3
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl
1.5.76

I think there is a real question about the architectural integrity of the house. It can not qualify under military, although perhaps for the owner under settlement.

HISTORIAN

Conference
W. B. Luce
2/2/76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Conference Accept
4/13/76
Accept
W. B. Luce
4.19.76

BRANCH CHIEF

This is a significant building in a very poor and underdeveloped area. The posts are unattractive, but do not constitute a serious alteration. They could easily be removed and the original appearance restored. This is what grants are for.

accept
Hurst
4.20.76

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry _____

Send-back 9.20.76
Re-submit 11.9.76

Entered _____

INT:2106-74

Property Jilley, John, House

2nd Control Sheet

State Arkansas

Working Number 12.29.75.2221

78 000639

TECHNICAL

Photos 4
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK 11.10.76

The photograph they sent doesn't show what they claim it shows. But as before, it is historically significant,

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
Livengood
17 N 76

RETURNED TO STATE ON GROUNDS THAT PORCH AND ROOF ALTERATIONS COMPROMISED INTEGRITY. STATE RETURNED NOMINATION WITH HISTORIC PHOTO AND ARGUMENTS THAT PORCH IS ONLY SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT THAN ORIGINAL AND THAT THE HOUSE IS HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: (1) CIVIL WAR ASSOCIATIONS, (2) CONTINUOUS OCCUPATION BY TILLEY'S, AND (3) LANDMARK ON ONE OF ^{N.W.} ARK.'S OLDEST THOROUGHFARES.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

RETURN(?)
LEBOVICH
11.18.76

THE ARGUMENTS ARE WEAK, THE PORCH IS DIFFERENT, BUT ROOF SLOPES APPEAR THE SAME.

ARCHEOLOGIST

THE ONLY CONSIDERATION FOR CHANGING OUR OPINION IS THAT ARK. FELT STRONGLY ENOUGH TO RESUBMIT. MS BARTLEY REQUEST WE TELEPHONE IF WE HAVE A PROBLEM

It seems impolitical to return. Ark feels strongly about its eligibility

Accept
Lebovich
1.21.77

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

THIS NOMINATION WAS RESUBMITTED NEARLY TWO YEARS AGO, TO REJECT AT THIS TIME WOULD BE UNCONSCIONABLE.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF
HELD BY KATE UNTIL
8/10/78 LEBOVICH

SEE MS BARTLEY LETTER.
OWNER WROTE TO TIPS.

8/10/78 ACCEPT LEBOVICH
BRANCH CHIEF

With the photographs of the original appearance and the owner's letter, I am firmly convinced this property is eligible and should be listed. This building is highly significant on the local level.

7/err/jk
11.3.78

KEEPER

Approved
12/3/78

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered NOV 3 1978

Federal Register Entry 12/15/78

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



1 John Tilley House
Prairie Grove,
Arkansas
facade, viewed from the north

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Tilley House

AND/OR COMMON

Tilley-Buchanan House Cloverdale Farm

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Prairie Grove VICINITY OF COUNTY Washington STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

facade, viewed from the north

PHOTO NO.

1

NOV 3



2

John Tilley House
Prairie Grove,
Arkansas

rear elevation, viewed from the southeast

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-7-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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NOV 3 1978
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Tilley House

AND/OR COMMON Tilley-Buchanan House. Cloverdale Farm

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Prairie Grove

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
rear elevation, viewed from the southeast

PHOTO NO.

2



3 Tilley House

Prairie Grove, Washington Co.

Arkansas

facade & west elevation, viewed from the northwest

W

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-7-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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RECEIVED

DEC 29 1975

NOV 3 1978

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Tilley House

AND/OR COMMON

Tilley-Buchanan House, Cloverdale Farm

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Prairie Grove

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Facade and west elevation, viewed from the northwest

PHOTO NO.

3



3 John Tilley House
Prairie Grove
Washington County
Arkansas

c. 1908 view of north facade

Form No. 10-301a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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NOV 3 1978
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Tilley House

AND/OR COMMON

Tilley-Buchanan House, Cloverdale Farm

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Prairie Grove

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Washington

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Copy of c. 1908 photograph showing 1880's porch; viewed from the
the north.

4

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED NOV 3 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC John Tilley House

AND/OR COMMON

Tilley-Buchanan House, Cloverdale Farm

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Prairie Grove VICINITY OF COUNTY Washington STATE Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

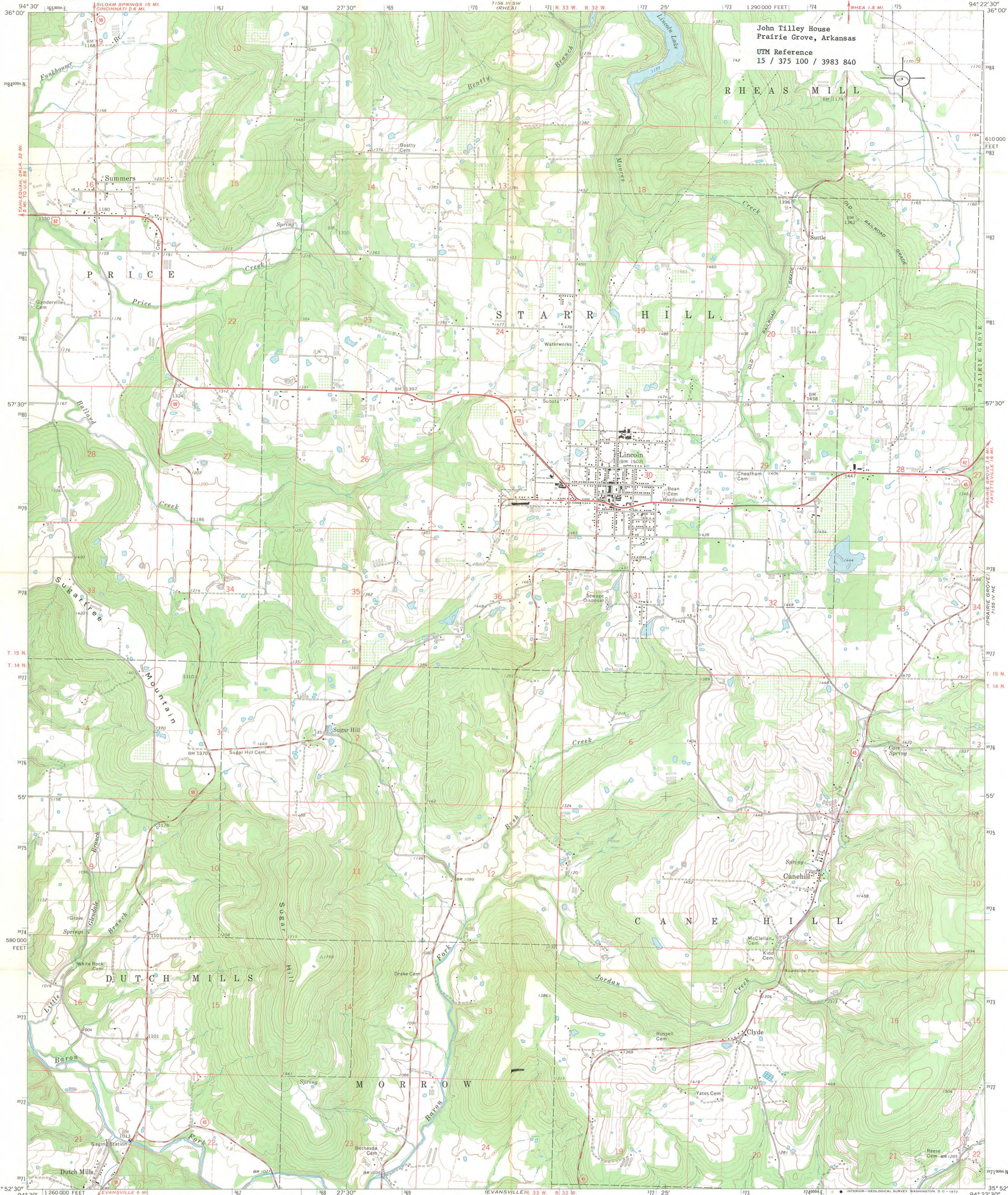
SOURCE United States Geological Survey, Lincoln Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000 DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

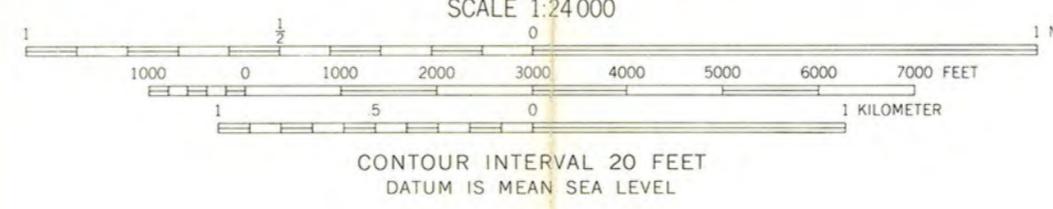
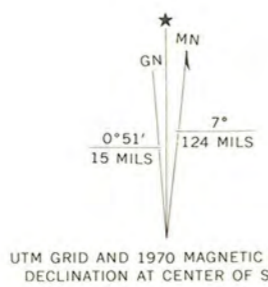
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



John Tilley House
Prairie Grove, Arkansas
UTM Reference
15 / 375 100 / 3983 840

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



SCALE 1:24000
CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
U. S. Route	State Route



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

LINCOLN, ARK.
N3552.5—W9422.5/7.5
1970
AMS 7155 IV NW—SERIES V884

NOV 3 1975

STRICKLER
7:55 7:56

Herrington
9.16.76

H34-PR

SEP 20 1976

Ms. Anne Bartley
State Historic Preservation Officer
Acting Director, Department of Natural
and Cultural Heritage
The Old State House
300 West Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Anne:

After careful consideration, we are returning the nomination for the John Filley House because we are concerned that the 1950's alterations to the facade and roof have seriously compromised the visual integrity of the house as an example of rural 19th century architecture. From the information presented in the nomination, it would appear that the original appearance of the facade could be recaptured relatively easily, and we would prefer to delay our acceptance of this property for listing until a greater degree of integrity has been restored. If the State contemplates using grant funds to aid the owner in a facade restoration, we would be happy to review the nomination again.

We would be pleased to further discuss our decision with you or Diana.

Sincerely yours,

((Sgd.) William J. Murtagh

William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register

Enclosure

bcc: Regional Director - Southwest Region

Director's Reading File

PR- mott

FNP: CHerrington:bpl

9/15/76

BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PR



ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201 Telephone: (501) 371-2763



November 2, 1976

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Washington, D. C.



Dear Dr. Murtagh:

On September you returned the nomination of the John Tilley House in Washington County, Arkansas. Your comments indicated that alterations to the porch have detracted from the visual integrity of the house; however, as shown in the enclosed photograph (#4), the second 1880 porch is quite similar to the present 1952 porch (note the slope of the roof and the placement of the porch posts). In comparing the early photograph with a current photograph, the only significant difference lies in the second floor railing and trim. We believe these alterations are not sufficient to prevent the National Register listing of this property.

The Tilley House is significant not only architecturally, but also historically. Its proximity to the site of the Battle of Prairie Grove, as well as the Union occupation of the surrounding area, caused the house to be the scene of several war-related events during the Civil War. Locally, the house is important for its continuous occupation by the Tilley family, and as a familiar historic landmark on one of the oldest thoroughfares in northwest Arkansas.

We are returning the Tilley House nomination, along with uncompleted comments from your staff, and request that you review it in relation to the additional photograph enclosed, and in regard to its local significance concerning the family and Civil War events associated with the house. Please contact us by telephone if we may answer any new questions concerning this nomination.

Sincerely,

Anne Bartley
State Historic Preservation Officer

4P

John A. Buchanan
Rt. 1 - Cloverdale Farm
Prairie Grove, Arkansas 72753
March 12, 1977.

Response sent 4-4-77
Y.P.

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Sir:

2/17/76
Re: John Tilley Home Washington Co.

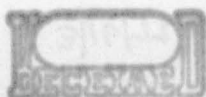
In answer to your letter of Feb. 17, 1977 I am enclosing for your information an example of the several articles published in area newspapers and the Washington County Historical Association publication, Flashback, relating to the construction of and incidents of historical value involving this house and its occupants.

I am the youngest son of Dr. Herbert E. Buchanan and Ada Tilley Buchanan, and interested in preserving it for future generations as well as for my wife's and my five children. We have written to the Technical Preservation Services for any pertinent information, and await further information from the interested parties.

Very truly yours,

John A. Buchanan
Cdr. John A. Buchanan
U.S.N.R.

JAB/mhb
Enc. 1



RECEIVED
3/16/77

TO: [Illegible]

FROM: [Illegible]

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

26

RECEIVED
[Illegible text]

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered NOV 3 1978

Name

Location

Tilley, John, House

Washington County

Also Notified

Honorable Dale Bumpers
Honorable Kaneaster Hodges, Jr.
Honorable John P. Hammerschmidt

State Historic Preservation Officer
Ms. Anne Bartley
Acting Director
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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Markham and Main Streets
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

N R Byers/bjr 11/8/78

Two Union soldiers forced their way upstairs in the Tilley house where they began spitting tobacco juice on the walls until it ran down to the lower floor . . .

Old Times Are Not Forgotten At the Cloverdale Farm

By Robert Edmisten

WHILE RELAXING in her favorite chair, Mrs. H. E. Buchanan, 94, narrated several intriguing stories about herself, her ancestors and the house in which the family has lived continuously the last 120 years.

Mrs. Buchanan, the former Ada Tilley, is the last of the Tilley heritage to occupy the historic house located about five miles west of Prairie Grove on the Rhea Mill Road. Her grandfather, John Tilley Jr., built the antebellum mansion around 1855, using slave labor.

Mrs. Buchanan is the widow of Dr. Herbert Earl Buchanan, a well-known educator who died January 17 at the age of 92. The couple acquired the house and 195 acres — presently known as Clover-

dale Farm — in 1950, after Dr. Buchanan retired with 52 years in the teaching profession. He at one time served as interim president of The College of the Ozarks in Clarksville for two years.

Buchanan enrolled at age 14 in the University of Arkansas, where he graduated in 1902. He received his Ph.D. degree from the University of Chicago in 1909, and later taught in several states. He was a member of the Washington County Historical Society, which recently published his "Memoirs."

He once remarked, "I taught about 10,000 students in my lifetime as a teacher." Many of his former pupils have since gone on to become college presidents, prominent physicians and engineers.

Mrs. Buchanan's son, John A. Buchanan, and his wife Marjorie, former-

ly from New Orleans, are in charge of running the farm.

Although Mrs. Buchanan is confined inside because of failing eyesight, the keen-witted "lady of the house" manages to keep up with current events by listening to the news on television and radio. Her daughter-in-law also reads to her.

ONE OF MRS. BUCHANAN'S favorite stories is about her step-grandmother, Martha Crawford Tilley, who could accurately tell the time of day by a mark she made on the doorstep of the porch. "When the sun's rays would strike a certain point on the step, she knew what time it was," Mrs. Buchanan related, noting that noontime was especially important for the Tilleys. "That was the dinner hour for everybody."

The house was masterfully constructed with brick on the outside, with every piece of wood tongued and grooved in place. The floors are original but have since been refinished. The brick was hardened in a nearby kiln, traces of which are still noticeable.

One of the most impressive interior features of the residence is the original staircase leading to the top floor. "The walls and ceilings contain the original plaster," Mrs. Buchanan said. "The hair of hogs was used to hold the plaster together — a common practice back then."

Some of the prized heirlooms in the two-story, nine-room dwelling include a chair dating back to 1853, hand-hewn beds which belonged to the first occupants, carpentry tools older than the house, an 1853 vintage secretary (writing desk), a baby cradle that served five generations of Tilleys and was particularly used during the Civil War, and a table and candle stand which Mrs. Buchanan estimated to be 200 years old.

The downstairs rooms each measure about 20 by 20 feet, with 10-foot high ceilings. The walls are 18 inches thick.

The house at one time was covered with a shake roof. Buchanan once described a shake as being a board split from a log two feet long, about one-half inch thick and four or five inches wide.

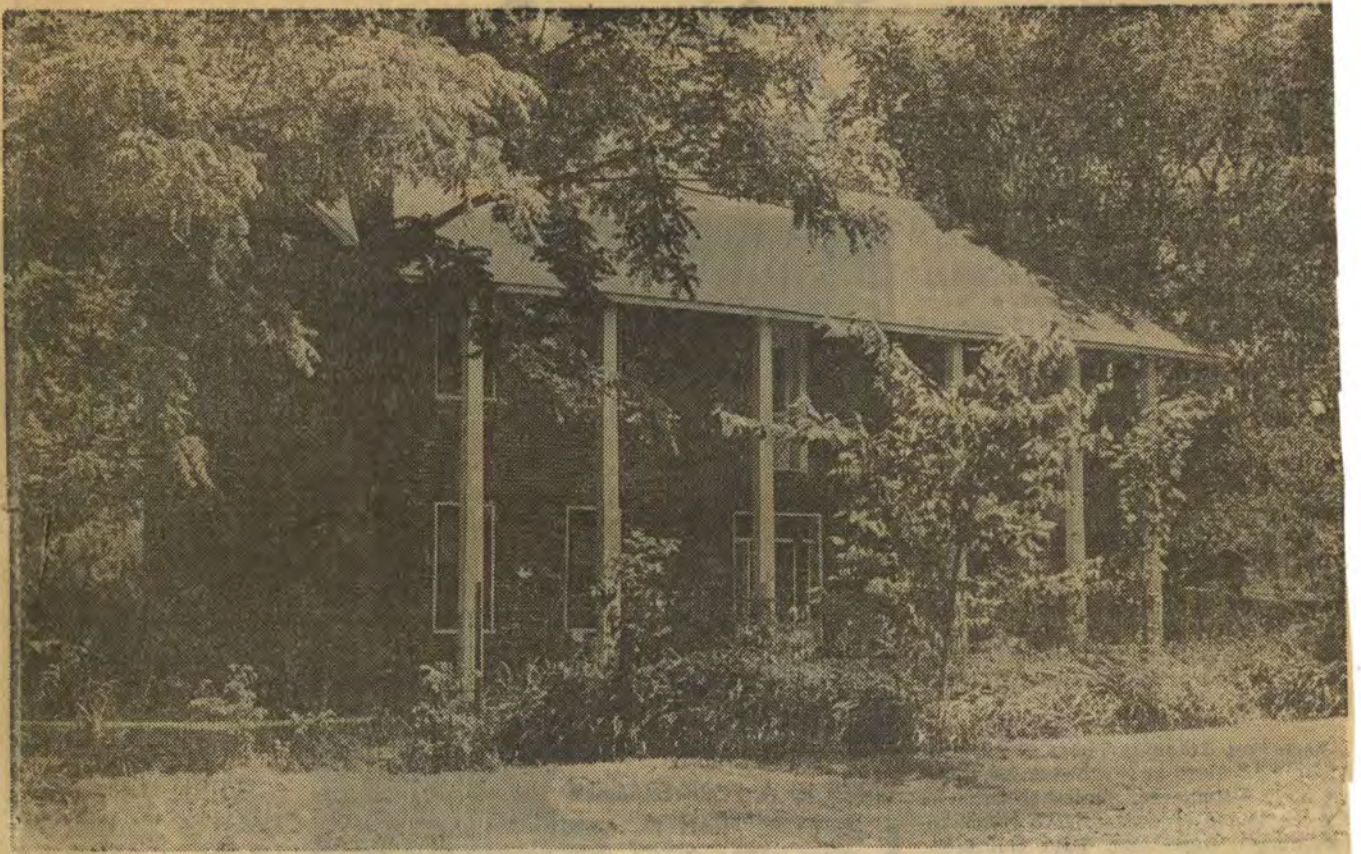
Plaster of the interior walls was applied to bricks wherever possible. When lathing was required on the ceilings, it was made by cutting small oak sapplings, splitting them after they were cut in 2½-foot lengths and nailing them to the frame work.

FOR A SHORT TIME during the Civil War, Union troops camped near the Tilley farm. During the Federal encampment, Tilley and his son braved harassment by bushwhackers, who eventually stole all the livestock on the farm.

Nine children were living in the house during the war. A young black girl helped



This baby cradle served five generations of Tilleys.



John Tilley Jr. built this antebellum brick house nearly 120 years ago.

take care of the children and an elderly black man helped with the chores.

The house was "fair game" for Union soldiers. One incident involved two army privates who forced their way upstairs, where they began spitting tobacco juice on the walls until it ran down to the lower floor. They also defaced the beds with their muddy boots, daring anyone to challenge their impudence.

As the story goes, Mrs. Tilley became so angry about the affair that she rushed to the Federal encampment and returned with the commanding officer, who commenced to beat the soldiers out of the house with the broadside of his sabre.

Food was scarce during the Union occupation, so the Tilley family devised a plan to hide their grain in the attic to prevent the soldiers from confiscating it. The attic was sealed off from the rest of the house and was an ideal hiding place. The family removed the carpets from the

downstairs floors and put them across the attic rafters. The wheat was placed on the rugs for storing, and at night was sneaked out and taken to Rhea's Mill to be ground into flour.

The late H. E. Buchanan enjoyed recounting historical incidents concerning his family. His father, James Albert Buchanan, was born in 1844, and was a student at Cane Hill College when the Civil War erupted. He joined the Confederate army just after the Pea Ridge conflict and was in Capt. F. R. Earle's company, in which he served as a private for the remainder of the war.

Buchanan remembered his father telling about a certain visit he made during one of the winter encampments. He had heard that a family named Buchanan was living nearby and was eager to check out the land. He tidied himself up for the trip, blackening his shoes from the bottom of a skillet, brushing his Confederate uniform

and walking two miles to the residence. After summoning the lady of the house to the door and inquiring about her name, she snapped at Buchanan: "Got no kin-folk this side of the Mississippi River." She then slammed the door in his face.

ALBERT BUCHANAN was known for his exceptional ability in laying out tracts of land. He was regarded as one of the best surveyors around the area, and his work was so accurate that the Frisco Railroad Company employed him to lay out the land lines so the railroad would know whose land they were crossing.

Despite her age, Mrs. Buchanan has retained a keen sense of humor and treasures her memories of the Tilley house.

"You know," she said, "Mr. Buchanan and I were married in the east room of this house in 1904. We would have celebrated our 70th wedding anniversary later this year if he had lived."



—Photos by the Author.

Mrs. H. E. Buchanan points to carpentry tools used in the 1850s.

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 4-19
Reviewer INITIALS: KMC

NR DOE NOV 3 1978

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: Tilley, John, House

OTHER NAMES: Tilley-Buchanan House

LOCATION: Clowerdale Farm

STREET & NUMBER: Rhea's mill Rd

CITY, TOWN: Prairie Grove

VICINITY OF: W of Prairie Grove

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE: Arkansas

COUNTY code

Washington 143

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle) PRIVATE STATE LOCAL GOV'T MUNICIPAL COUNTY OTHER

ADMINISTRATOR (underline)

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE) N. ATLANTIC MID ATLANTIC SOUTHEAST MIDWEST

SOUTHWEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN WEST PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

<u>INTERIOR</u>	<u>EXTERIOR</u>	<u>ENVIRONS</u>
<u>- Substantially intact-1</u>	<u>- Substantially intact-2</u>	<u>- Substantially intact-3</u>
<u>- unknown - 4</u>	<u>- unknown - 5</u>	<u>- unknown - 6</u>
<u>- not applicable - 7</u>	<u>- not applicable - 8</u>	<u>- Not applicable-9</u>

- Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION - <u>- EXCELLENT</u>	<u>- DETERIORATED</u>	<u>- UNALTERED</u>	<u>- ORIGINAL SITE</u>
<u>- GOOD</u>	<u>- RUINS</u>	<u>- ALTERED</u>	<u>- MOVED</u>
<u>- FAIR</u>	<u>- UNEXPOSED</u>	<u>- Reconstructed</u>	<u>- Unknown</u>
	<u>- Unexcavated</u>	<u>- Excavated</u>	

ACCESS - Yes-restricted Yes-unrestricted No access Unknown

historic district? YES NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES NO
IF YES, NAME:

ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO Saved? YES NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)
then- residence

now- residence

SIGNIFICANCE:

<u>- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC</u>	<u>- CONSERVATION</u>	<u>- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>- RELIGION</u>	<u>- entertainment</u>
<u>- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC</u>	<u>- ECONOMICS</u>	<u>- LAW/Gov't/politics</u>	<u>- SCIENCE</u>	<u>- health</u>
<u>- AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>- EDUCATION</u>	<u>- LITERATURE</u>		<u>- recreation</u>
<u>- ARCHITECTURE</u>	<u>- ENGINEERING</u>	<u>- MILITARY</u>	<u>- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</u>	<u>- settlement</u>
<u>- ART</u>	<u>- EXPLORATION</u>	<u>- MUSIC</u>		<u>- socio/cultural</u>
<u>- COMMERCE</u>	<u>- INDUSTRY</u>	<u>- PHILOSOPHY</u>	<u>- TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>- urban & commun</u>
<u>- COMMUNICATIONS</u>	<u>- INVENTION</u>	<u>- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>- OTHER (SPECIFY)</u>	<u>planning</u>

Claims

"first" YES NO "oldest" YES NO "only" YES NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE: Federal w/ later phoney colonial porch

architect/m.builder:

engineer:

landscape/garden designer:

artist/artisan:

interior decorator:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP:

NAMES:

(label role
&
appropriate date)

personal

John Tilly 1854-1865 owner, early

events

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century): 1854-1855

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS: 1890, 1880, 1952

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1854-1855

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre) 2

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

2 1/2 story brick w/ 2 story porch ^{5 column} 5 bay w. facade
2 story frame addition to rear Pitch roof
Well-plan

SIGNIFICANCE:

(maximum two sentences)

The Tilly House is one of several antebellum houses constructed in Washington County and one of the few early brick houses to be built in the rural section of the county.