

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name: Colonel Samuel W. Peel House

other name/site number: The 1875 Col. Samuel W. Peel Mansion

2. Location

street & number: 400 S. Walton Boulevard

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Bentonville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Benton code: AR 007 zip code: 72712

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Benton County (Partial Inventory: Historic and Architectural)

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater

Signature of certifying official

3-31-95

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the
National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register _____
☐ removed from the National Register _____
_____ other (explain): _____

Carl R. Luper 5/4/95

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single dwelling

Current: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Museum

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Italianate

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>Brick/Stucco</u>	roof	<u>Metal</u>
	walls	<u>Brick/Stucco</u>	other	<u>Brick chimneys</u>
				<u>Wood brackets</u>

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____

Areas of Significance: POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1875-1915 _____

Significant Dates: 1875 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

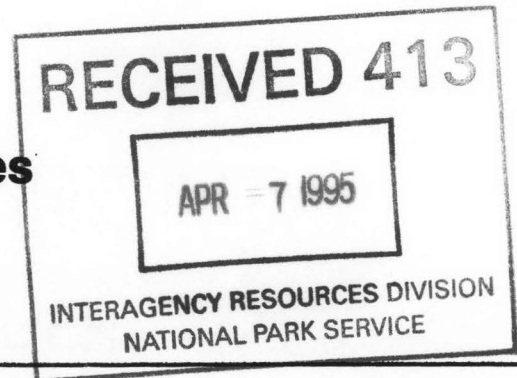
Architect/Builder: Sheffield, John C.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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Summary

The Colonel Samuel W. Peel House is a two-storey, brick masonry residence designed in the Italianate style, complete with a central, hipped-roof three-storey tower that dominates the eastern or front elevation. The single-pile plan is arranged around a central hall on both storeys, with a staircase rising to the second storey along its northern wall. A two-storey, hipped-roof ell extends to the rear and contains three axially-arranged rooms; an original single-storey, hipped-roof ell finishes the plan (a later "carriage house," added in 1983, extends to the north from the western end of this ell). A total of four brick chimneys project from the roof line: one each at the northern and southern ends of the main house block, another from the center of the ridge of the two-storey ell, and another from the western end of the ell. The brick and stucco foundation support the brick and stucco walls, and the entire building has been covered with a standing-seam metal roof.

Elaboration

The Colonel Samuel W. Peel House is a two-storey, brick masonry residence designed in the Italianate style, complete with a central, hipped-roof three-storey tower that dominates the eastern or front elevation. The single-pile plan is arranged around a central hall on both storeys, with a staircase rising to the second storey along its northern wall. A two-storey, hipped-roof ell extends to the rear and contains three axially-arranged rooms; an original single-storey, hipped-roof ell finishes the plan (a later "carriage house," added in 1983, extends to the north from the western end of this ell). A total of four brick chimneys project from the roof line: one each at the northern and southern ends of the main house block, another from the center of the ridge of the two-storey ell, and another from the western end of the ell. The brick and stucco foundation support the brick and stucco walls, and the entire building has been covered with a standing-seam metal roof.

The eastern or front elevation is organized around the three-storey, central hipped tower with its pair of arched window openings placed centrally on each of the upper two levels, and each pair of which is set within a single arched opening in the masonry wall. The third storey windows are one-over-one, while those in the second storey are two-over-two wood sash. A single-leaf entrance on the first storey is flanked by half-sidelights and capped with a three-pane transom. The four-panel door features two rectangular panels below two taller, arched panels, and the panels below the half-sidelights are also rectangular. To either side of the entrance are two pair of symmetrically-placed one-over-one windows, with each pair being capped with a

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projecting, decorative wood hood. The second storey window openings above that flank the central tower are also formed by pairs of arched, one-over-one wood sash windows set into large arched window openings. The bracketed cornice caps the elevation, and the single-storey, flat-roofed Italianate porch extends across the entire front; it is supported upon square wooden posts-on-piers and a simple, panelled cornice.

The southern elevation is composed of the main house block with its tower to the east, the two-storey ell in the center, and the single-storey ell projecting to the west. All of the windows on this elevation are one-over-one wood sash, including the pair of narrow windows in the central window opening on the first storey of the main house block. Two single-leaf entrances with transoms provide access into this elevation, and irregularly placed single and double window openings light the interior on both levels. A restored single-storey shed roof porch augments the two-storey and the single-storey ell. The northern elevation is also irregularly-fenestrated with one-over-one wood windows and features two single-leaf entrances into the brick wall of the ell. This elevation has also been augmented with a modern (c. 1983) porch that duplicates the basic form of the original porch but which is significantly larger, and which has been enclosed with large glass panes that run the full length of the gallery. The later "carriage house" (also of the same date as the above-mentioned porch) projects from the northwest corner of the house and is clearly visible from this elevation.

The western elevation is dominated by the rear of the two-storey section of the house and by the modern "carriage house" that projects from the house's northwest corner.

The significant exterior details include the bracketed cornices, the decorative jig-sawn hood molds over the paired first-storey windows, the cornice decoration at the post intersections on the front porch, the arched windows on the second and third storeys, and the quoins on the eastern elevation.

Inside, the floor of the central hall and of the major rooms on the first floor are covered with narrow tongue-and-groove oak flooring with dark stain (this flooring appears to be relatively modern and was probably laid during the 1920's alterations). The southern first floor parlor has a fireplace on the west wall from which an elaborate fireplace mantle had been removed, but which has since been restored. The elaborate door and window trim of this room displays the influence of the Greek Revival, an influence that is found nowhere else in the house. The northern first floor parlor has a north wall fireplace that features an elaborate black slate and cast iron mantle that has recently been restored.

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The formal staircase in the entrance hall connects the first floor to the second floor and continues up into the third floor of the tower. The handrails and turned balusters are of solid black walnut. A door at the rear of the entry hall leads to the rooms in the ell and another door under the staircase leads into the basement that extends beneath the entire front section of the house.

The most notable alteration to the building was the exterior stucco that was added in the 1920's. Such other alterations as the replacement of the front porch and the addition of the two shed roof sections that project from the western wall of the main house block at the northern and southern ends also occurred at that time. However, it should be noted that since then the front porch has been restored to its c. 1875 appearance, and though the two brick shed-roof additions remain, they are located at the back of the original house block and so are not visually obtrusive. Finally, it should also be noted that though attempts were made to remove the stucco, it was found that the original brick beneath was of such middling quality that the removal of the stucco might actually jeopardize the structural integrity of the entire building.

Also included in the nomination are the ruins of a small brick outbuilding and a log building that was moved to this site within the last three years. The remains of the brick outbuilding are considered a contributing site and the log building is considered a non-contributing building.

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Summary

Criteria B and C, local significance

The Colonel Samuel W. Peel House, constructed in 1875 and currently located at 400 S. Walton Boulevard in Bentonville, Arkansas, was built by the man for whom it is named, Samuel West Peel. This building remains locally significant by virtue of both its associations with Col. Peel and his contributions to the history of Bentonville and Benton County, and its status as one of the finest extant examples of the Italianate style of architecture in this region of the state in spite of the alterations it has suffered over time.

Elaboration

The Arkansas native Samuel W. Peel was born near Batesville (Independence County) on September 13, 1831. By 1858 he had relocated to the old county seat of Carrollton in Carroll County, Arkansas (located just to the east of Benton County) as he was elected clerk of the Carroll County Circuit Court in that year. In 1861 Peel enlisted in the Confederate Army as a private, later rising to the rank of Major of the 3rd Regiment of Arkansas Infantry; by the end of the war he had been elected Colonel of the 4th Regiment. The principal engagements in which he saw action were the fall of Little Rock, the battle of Wilson's Creek in southern Missouri, and the battle of Prairie Grove in northwest Arkansas.

Like many southerners, Peel was left penniless at the end of the war and had to begin anew. He began his study of the law immediately upon his discharge from the Confederate army and was admitted to the bar in Carrollton in 1865, where he began a private practice; however, in 1866 he relocated his young family and his practice to Bentonville, Arkansas. His command of the principles of jurisprudence was sufficiently impressive for him to be chosen to fill the office of prosecuting attorney for the 4th Judicial Circuit of Arkansas. He served for four years in that capacity (1873-1876), and apparently with such distinction that he was elected to the U.S. Congress in 1882. He represented his district in Washington, D.C. from 1883 until 1893, during which time he served as the Chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs. Though defeated for re-election in 1892 he remained active in Washington for some time thereafter as the legal representative of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Indian Nations, and as an attorney for the U. S. Claims Court.

Peel also kept his hand in various affairs in his hometown during his service in Washington. Though he had retired from the active practice of law in Bentonville in 1890, soon thereafter he organized the First State Bank of Bentonville, which later became the First National Bank.

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He served as its president, and remained active in its management for several years thereafter. Peel also made extensive investments in land around Bentonville, including the farmstead containing the undeveloped tract upon which he eventually built this home for himself and his family. Peel remained in this house until about 1915, when he moved to a new residence elsewhere in Bentonville (his wife had died in 1904). He died on December 18, 1924.

Legend has it that soon after he relocated his family from Carrollton to Bentonville Colonel Peel promised his wife, the former Miss Mary E. Berry, a native of Alabama, that he would build her a "fine mansion" type house reminiscent of her girlhood years spent to the east. The identity of the architect and/or contractor remains unknown; however, John Braithwaite, an Englishman who founded the first brickyard in Bentonville, supplied both the brick and the stone for the house. It is also known that one Goldsmith Davis was one of Braithwaite's master bricklayers. Constructed of red brick and native stone, the Colonel Peel House is constructed of brick walls (internal and external) that range in thickness from eighteen inches to two feet. The principal structural members are rough-sawn oak timbers. Consisting of fourteen total rooms, the house was originally heated by eight fireplaces, each featuring a different mantelpiece, and all of which were the creations of the master craftsman John C. Sheffield, another Englishman and fireplace specialist.

The Colonel Samuel W. Peel House remains a remarkably good example of the Italianate style of architecture in spite of the covering of the main body of the house with stucco and the placement of a large though sympathetic addition at the rear of the building. The dominating central, hipped-roof tower, the offset corner quoins, the large arched windows, and the bracketed cornice that unites the entire composition renders this composition a classic example of this particular aesthetic and one of the finest of its type in the entire state. For all of these reasons the Colonel Samuel W. Peel House stands as one of the most significant buildings in Bentonville and Benton County.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately 1.25

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>390400</u>	<u>4025380</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the western edge of State Hwy. 71 (S. Walton Boulevard) with the southern edge of the unnamed northern entrance into the Wal-Mart parking lot located directly to the west of the Peel House, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 250 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the western edge of State Highway 71; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 250 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the southern elevation of the Peel House; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 250 feet to its intersection with the western edge of State Highway 71; thence proceed northerly along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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Bibliography

Information provided by John Cole, Director, Benton County Preservation Project and the 1875 Col. Samuel W. Peel Mansion Museum & Historic Gardens, August, 1994.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Ken Story, National Register/Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/24/95

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR Zip: 72201

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Peel, Col. Samuel W., House
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Benton

DATE RECEIVED: 4/07/95 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/18/95
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/04/95 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/22/95
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 95000571

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 5/4/95 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The Col. Samuel W. Peel House is significant under NR Criteria B and C. Built in 1875, the imposing brick residence is a good local example of Italianate-style design. Despite alterations to the exterior brick surface, the building retains characteristic period details including extensive wood trim and round-arched window openings. The house is associated with locally prominent businessman and politician Samuel W. Peel, who contributed to the post-bellum development of the Bentonville area.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept B+C

REVIEWER Paul R. Lusignan DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN

TELEPHONE 202-343-1628 DATE 5/4/95

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 95000571

Date Listed: 5/04/95

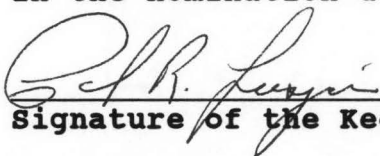
Peel, Col. Samuel W., House
Property Name

Benton
County

AR
State

Historic Resources of Benton County MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

5/4/95
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Significant Person:

The significant person block was omitted from the original nomination form. It should read: **Peel, Col. Samuel W.**

This information was confirmed with Ken Story of the AR SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE

BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO, AR

PHOTO BY R. BARLOWIN

JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM SE



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALOWIN

JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM NORTH



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE

BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

JUNE, 1994

NER. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE

BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR

PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN

JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SE



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BARLOWIN
JUNE, 1994
NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
INT. WINDOW DETAIL



COL. SAMUEL W. PEER HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY B. BALDWIN
JUNE, 1994
NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM NE



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON Co. AR
PHOTO BY R. BARDWIN
JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
FRONT PORCH DETAIL



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALOWIN
JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
NEWEL POST DETAIL



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON Co., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALOWIN
JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
INT. STORAGE DETAIL



COL. JAMUEL W. PEEK HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN
JUNE, 1994
NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
N. PARLOR MANTLE DETAIL



COL. SAMUEL W. PERK HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN
JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
INT. HALL DETAIL



COL. DANIEL W. PEEK HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN
JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP

S. BEDROOM MANTLE DETAIL



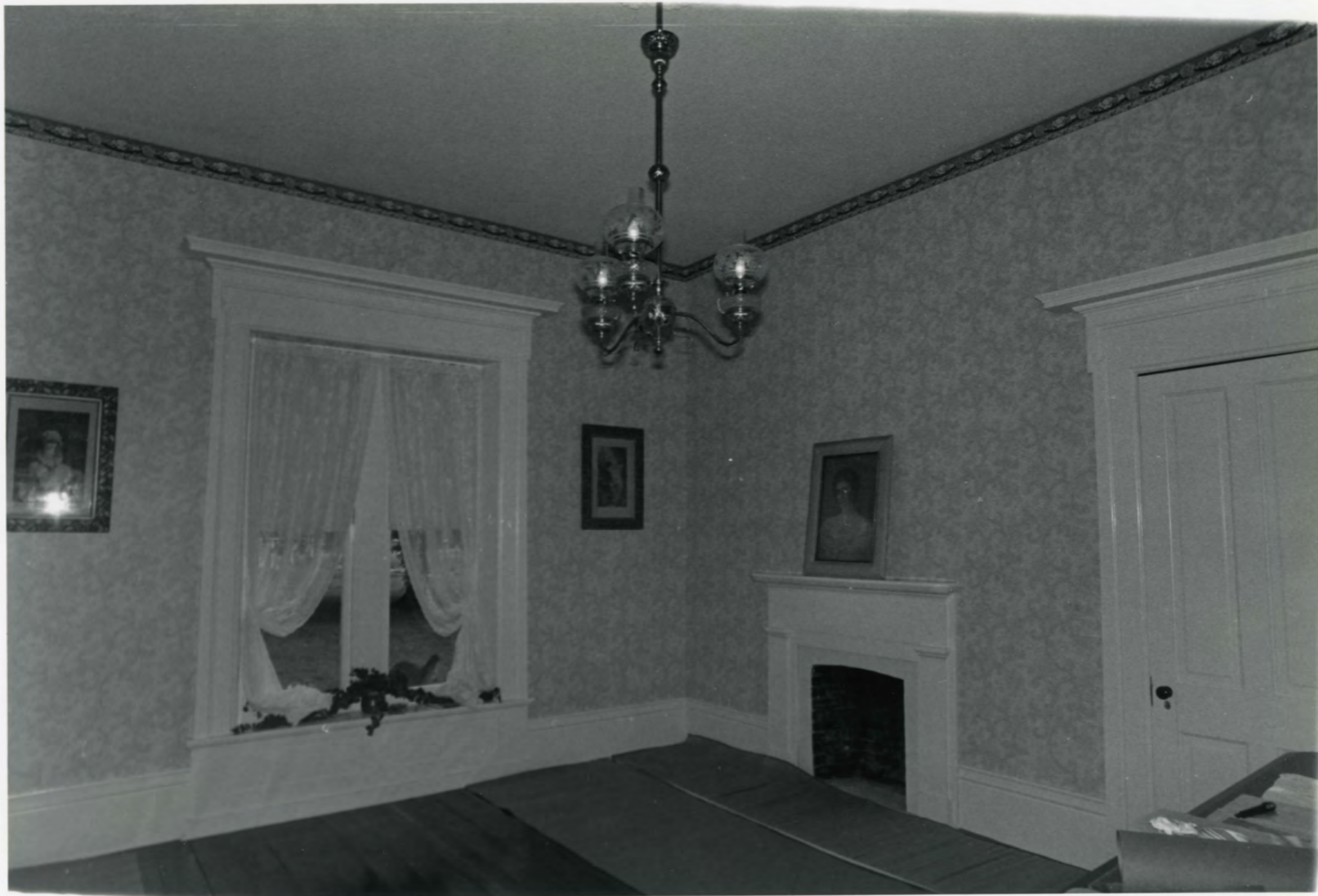
COR. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY B. BARDWIN
JUNE, 1994

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VIEW FROM SOUTH



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BOLWIN
JUNE, 1994

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N. PARLOR DETAIL



Col. Samuel W. Peel House
Bentonville, Benton Co., AR
Photo by R. Baldwin
June, 1994
Neg. on file at AHPP
S. Parlor Detail



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN
JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
S. BEDROOM DETAIL



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEK HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN
JUNE, 1994
NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
N. BEDROOM DETAIL



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON CO, AR
PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN
JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
INT. BASEBOARD DETAIL



COL. SAMUEL W. PEEL HOUSE
BENTONVILLE, BENTON Co., AR
PHOTO BY R. BALDWIN
JUNE, 1994

NEG. ON FILE AT AHPP
INT. DOOR DETAIL

