United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register* of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name Rice-Upshaw House other names/site number RA0091
2. Location
street & number Arkansas Highway 93 two miles south of Dalton not for publication
city or town Dalton vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Randolph code 121 zip code 72455
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this in 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property in meets in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the Posterian I recommend that this property be considered significant in the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant in the property in the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant in the National Register of Certifying official/Title International Register Criteria. International Register Continuation Sheet for additional Register Criteria. In my opinion, the property indicated in the National Register Criteria. In the National Register Criteria and the National Register Criteria. In the National Register Criteria and the N
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is: centered 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. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)

Name of Property	Randolph County, Arkansas County and State		
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)		
 □ private	Contributing Noncontributing		
public-State site	2 0 buildings		
public-Federal structure	0 0 sites		
☐ object	0 0 structures		
	0 0 objects		
	2		
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		
N/A	N/A		
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		
DOMESTIC: single dwelling	VACANT		
2 or indicate or only			
7. Description			
Architectural Classification	Materials (Enter rategories from instructions)		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)		
	(Enter categories from instructions) foundation STONE		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions) foundation STONE walls WOOD- log		

 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{Narrative Description} \\ (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) \end{tabular}$

Rice-Upshaw House	
Name of Property	

Randolph County, Arkansas

County and State

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SUMMARY

Located southeast of the small town of Dalton, Randolph County, Arkansas, the Rice-Upshaw House is a one and one-half story single-pen "hall and parlor" log house built less than one mile east of the Eleven Point River on a small creek known locally as Upshaw Creek. The house rests on a stone-pier foundation that has been repaired numerous times, yet retains the majority of the original quarried stone materials. The house is constructed using half-dovetail notching with half-hewn red oak, white oak, maple, elm, and walnut logs. The exterior walls are currently sheathed in shiplap siding. A cut stone chimney rises up on the east side of the house. The chimney has been reconfigured from its original appearance, but retains its original location and uses cut stone salvaged from the previous—chimney. A corrugated-metal gable-roof shelters the house.

ELABORATION

The Rice-Upshaw House is a one and one-half story "hall and parlor" log house built c. 1826 less than one mile east of the Eleven Point River on a small creek known locally as Upshaw Creek. The house is constructed using half-dovetail notching with half-hewn red oak, white oak, maple, elm, and walnut logs.

The home was "updated" in the 1920s and it is unclear exactly which elevation would have been considered the front of the house, but it is speculated that it was either the east or north elevation. The exterior walls are currently sheathed in shiplap siding that was probably added during the 1920s remodel. A cut stone chimney rises up on the east side of the house and was reconfigured in the 1920s when windows were added to each side of the fireplace. The chimney remains in its original location and was constructed using salvaged cut-stone from the original chimney construction. Wood shingles were replaced with corrugated-metal atop the gable-roof most likely during the same remodel. Other changes include the enclosure of a porch along the north elevation in the 1920s creating a bathroom and kitchen. The south porch had already been partially enclosed by 1900, but an additional section of the porch was enclosed in the 1920s. The remaining windows in the house are wood-frame, double-hung, three-over-one windows. All windows are currently covered with corrugated metal to prevent vandalism. The size of the window openings were increased during the remodel. One original window opening remains in the west gable end, but it now houses a louvered vent instead of a window.

East Elevation

The east side, possibly front façade, of the house faces Arkansas Highway 93 and is the view of the home seen by motorists traveling the area. The south portion of the elevation is open and makes up part of the south-side porch. The east elevation is dominated by an imposing, centrally located cut-stone chimney that rises above the ridge of the gable end along the exterior of the house. The chimney is flanked on each side by a three-over-one window that is presently covered with corrugated metal. The windows were either added during the 1920s remodel or were greatly enlarged. The northern portion of the east elevation was created when the north facing porch was enclosed in the 1920s. The porch enclosure is fenestrated by a single-leaf entryway followed by a three-over-one window, both of which are covered with corrugated metal.

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North Elevation

The north elevation, which at one time may have been considered the front of the home, has been more heavily altered than the other elevations. In the 1920s the entire north porch was enclosed creating a bathroom and kitchen. Porches were often enclosed on early log buildings to provide additional indoor living area as the family grew or as additional space was needed to accommodate "modern" conveniences. A pair of three-over-one windows followed by a pair of smaller three-over-one windows are the only fenestrations on the north elevation. Both pairs of windows are covered.

West Elevation

The west elevation faces open fields that extend to the Eleven Point River approximately a mile away. The north portion of the west elevation consists of the 1920s porch enclosure. The porch enclosure is fenestrated by a small covered three-over-one window. The center portion of the elevation is part of the original log construction. It is fenestrated by a three-over-one window. The last remaining original window opening is located in the gable-end above the newer three-over-one window. Although the opening is still there, the window has been replaced by a louvered vent. The southern portion of the elevation is formed by an enclosure of the south porch which was partially enclosed before 1900.

South Elevation

The western portion of the south elevation is made up of a pre-1900 enclosed porch that makes up approximately half of the overall length of the elevation. The porch was enclosed before 1900, but the enclosure was extended further east during the 1920s remodel. The enclosure is fenestrated by a pair of three-over-one windows. Entry into the enclosure is through a door located on the east side of the enclosure. The remainder of the south elevation is made up of the unenclosed section of the porch. The porch is sheltered under the main roof of the house. The porch's roof is supported by four wood posts. A doorway located on the porch leads into the main room of the house.

Interior

An interior log wall divides the house's first floor into a hall and parlor. The walls of the larger "hall" are covered with beaded board that was added during the 1920 remodel. The ceiling is made up of the exposed second-floor joists. A fire box with a plaster surround and simple mantle remain in the parlor. Some components may be original, but have probably been altered.

The walls of smaller parlor section are covered with gypsum. The room is partitioned to enclose an original tight-winder closet-staircase that leads to the upper floor. The original handrail remains at the top of the stairs. The loft area is undivided with logs, plates, rafter joists, and rafters left fully exposed. A spinning loom remains attached to the exposed rafters.

Rice-Upshaw Ho	ouse
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Three additional rooms were added to the house by enclosing porches. The entire north-side porch was enclosed creating two additional rooms. The two rooms have gypsum covered walls and were used as a bathroom and kitchen. Approximately half of the south-side porch was enclosed creating a single additional room. The interior wall of the enclosure is an exposed log wall that was once an exterior wall.

Outbuilding

One outbuilding located adjacent to the west side of the house is being included in the nomination. The outbuilding most likely served as a smokehouse and is constructed of logs. It is covered with a metal gable roof. The building is beginning to lean and is deteriorated, yet it retains sufficient integrity and is a contributing resource.

INTEGRITY

Although the Rice-Upshaw House is definitely showing signs of age it possesses a high degree of integrity. The most significant change to the property over the years is the full enclosure of the north porch and partial enclosure of the south porch. The north porch enclosure dates to the 1920s while the south porch was enclosed before 1900. The house was sided before 1900, but probably received its current wall treatment in the 1920s. Even with the alterations, the original construction and plan of the c.1826 "hall and parlor" style house are very evident, especially on the interior of the house. The setting remains rural and one can easily imagine how the area would have looked when it was originally settled. The Rice-Upshaw house is one of the two oldest remaining standing buildings in Arkansas, and a rare surviving example of a building from Arkansas's territorial period.

Rice-Upshaw House Name of Property	Randolph County, Arkansas County and State	
8. Statement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Levels of Significance (local, state, national) State	
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT ARCHITECTURE	
☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.		
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance Circa 1826-1954	
□ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.		
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) Property is: A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Dates 1826 Circa 1920	
☐ B removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked) N/A	
 C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance. D a cemetery. 	Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked) N/A	
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.		
☐ F a commemorative property	Architect/Builder	
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Reuben Rice	
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)		
9. Major Bibliographical References		
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one of	or more continuation sheets.)	
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	Primary location of additional data: State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository:	
Record #		

Rice-U	pshaw House	
Name of	Property	

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SUMMARY

The Rice-Upshaw House, located in Dalton, Randolph County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** as an outstanding example of an early nineteenth century log dwelling. Constructed c.1826, the Rice-Upshaw house is one of the two oldest remaining standing buildings in Arkansas, and a rare surviving example of a building from Arkansas's territorial period. Reuben Rice came to Arkansas from Hawkins County, Tennessee, in 1812 to join other members of his extended family that had settled in the area in 1802. As a result of the homes early date and the family's role in early settlement, it is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with exploration and settlement in Randolph County.

ELABORATION

Although permanent settlement did not occur in the Randolph County area until the early nineteenth century, exploration in the area began in the sixteenth century. Nineteenth century settlers uncovered coins and other artifacts associated with an expedition of Spanish explorers led by Hernando De Soto that passed through the area in 1541. By the 1600s, French explorers were passing through the area, including Marquette in 1673, LaSalle in 1682, and DeTonti in 1686. Some Native American occupation occurred in the 1700s, primarily by bands of Osage, Shawnee, and Delaware, but their occupation was transitory in nature. ¹

In 1819, the Arkansas Territory was formed and approximately two-thirds of the northern part of the state was part of Lawrence County of the Missouri Territory, including present day Randolph County. Lawrence County was divided several times to form other counties in the area, and Randolph County was created on October 29, 1835, and comprised the area's oldest settlements. Arkansas would become a state the following year.²

Early land records indicate that by the late 1700s and early 1800s several Frenchmen had settled in the area. Randolph County possessed several features that made it attractive to early settlers. The county has many streams and rivers that could provide water, and they were the way that many of the early settlers arrived in the area. The old animal and Native American trace that entered Randolph County where the Missouri state line crossed the Current River and ran along the Ozarks foothills also made travel in the area easier than in other parts of the state. The trace was known by a number of names, including the Southwest Trail, the Watchitoches Trail, and the National Road. In addition, by 1803, William Hicks was operating a ferry on the

² *Ibid*, pp. 1-2.

¹ Joan Gould (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004*. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2004, p. 1.

Rice-Upshaw House	
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Current River where the Southwest Trail crossed it. (It would later be known by the Arkansas Road or Arkansas Trace by some of the early government surveyors in the area.)³

By 1803, immigrants started pouring into the area mainly from Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia. The immigrants accessed the area via the many waterways in the area. The earliest river transportation in the area was on canoes, flatboats, or keelboats. It would not be until 1829 that steamboats came to the area with the arrival of the Laurel on the Black River. Many of the early towns in the Randolph County area came about as a direct result of river travel, including Lawrence (later Davidsonville) and Bettis Bluff (later Pocahontas) on the Black River, and Biggers on the Current River.⁴

William Looney arrived in Randolph County from Tennessee with three of his slaves in 1802. In 1803 he returned to Tennessee and enticed his cousins, Coleman and Fielding Stubblefield, to return with him to the Eleven Point River in Arkansas. By 1812 a wagon train arrived from Tennessee, bringing members of the Rice, Stubblefield and Looney family, all of which was part of William Looney's extended family. Life was not easy for the early settlers of the area. In order to get supplies in the earliest days of settlement, William had to travel to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, a trip that required two weeks to complete.⁵

Included in the wagon train from Tennessee was Reuben Rice, his wife and several children. Reuben Rice chose his home site approximately one mile east of the Eleven Point River along a small creek presently known as Upshaw Creek. He would eventually receive land patents totaling over 450 acres of land. His home was located on the opposite side of the river from William Looney and nearly a mile away; however, a fording point near the Looney's house made contact with other family members more accessible.⁶

Reuben was apparently illiterate having signed his name with an (X) on legal documents, yet he was commissioned as an elections judge for the 1825, 1827 and 1829 elections for Davidson Township. The years he served in that capacity the elections were held in his home. There is also a distinct possibility that the house which stands today may have been used as a polling place for territorial elections.

Rice built the current house on the property c.1826. A recent dendrochronology study of the house, conducted by the University of Arkansas, determined that the logs were cut between June 1826 and April 1827 from trees that began growing between 1700 and 1751. Logs were normally allowed to season for

4 Ibid, p. 3.

7 Ibid.

³ *Ibid*, p. 2.

⁵ *Ibid*, p. 5-6.

⁶ Ibid, p. 9.

Rice-U	pshaw House

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several months. Therefore, the house could have been built in late 1826, but was most likely built in 1827 or as late as 1828.

After Reuben's death, his son Thomas Blackman Rice and his wife Nancy Stubblefield Rice moved into the home. Their daughter Lydia married Andrew Jackson Upshaw and continued to live in the home which had became known as "Old Monarch."

While in her seventies, Lydia's daughter-in-law, Melissa Upshaw, wrote a book titled *Lydia of the Valley*, that recorded stories told to her of the people who had made the house their home. The book mentions specific features of the property, many of which no longer exist. One feature specifically mentioned is a springhouse and detached kitchen, which could easily be the outbuilding that remains standing to the west of the house.¹⁰

The house has been owned by Rice and Upshaw family members for almost 180 years. The house remains in the Upshaw family today and is now owned by Dorothy Jean Upshaw.

Today, the Rice-Upshaw House represents an important tangible link to the early history of Arkansas and Randolph County. Constructed c.1826, the Rice-Upshaw House is an outstanding example of an early nineteenth century log dwelling. The Rice-Upshaw house is one of the two oldest remaining standing buildings in Arkansas, and a rare surviving example of a building from Arkansas's territorial period.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rice-Upshaw House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** as an excellent example of an early nineteenth century log dwelling. Constructed c.1826, the Rice-Upshaw house is one of the two oldest remaining standing buildings in Arkansas, and a rare surviving example of a building from Arkansas's territorial period. Reuben Rice came to Arkansas from Hawkins County, Tennessee, in 1812 to join other members of his extended family that had settled in the area in 1802. As a result of the homes early date and the family's role in early settlement, it is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with exploration and settlement in Randolph County.

⁸ David Stahle. *Tree-Ring Dating of the Rice-Upshaw House, Randolph County, Arkansas*. January 2004. Found in: Joan Gould (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004*. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2004.

⁹ Gould (ed.), pp. 10.

¹⁰ Ibid, p. 10.

Rice-Upshaw House	Randolph County, Arkansas		
Name of Property	County and State		

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Gould, Joan (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study*, 2003-2004. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2004.

Stahle, David. *Tree-Ring Dating of the Looney-French House, Randolph County, Arkansas*. January 2004. Found in: Joan Gould (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004*. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2004.

Rice-Upshaw House Name of Property	Randolph County, Arkansas County and State		
10. Geographical Data			
10. Geographical Data			
Acreage of Property Less than one acre			
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)			
1 15 668584 4031656 Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing		
2	4		
	See continuation sheet		
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) From the center line of Arkansas Highway 93, proceed 80 feet southwesterly to th southwesterly 150 feet, thence proceed northwesterly 150 feet, thence proceed northwesterly 150 feet to the point of beginning. Boundary Justification The boundary includes all historic resources that retain integrity.			
11. Form Prepared By			
name/title Zac Cothren organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street	date 7/19/04 telephone 501-324-9880		
city or town Little Rock state	AR zip code72201		
Additional Documentation			
Submit the following items with the completed form:			
Continuation Sheets			
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location			
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage of	or numerous resources.		
Photographs			
Representative black and white photographs of the property.			
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)			
Property Owner			
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)			
name			
street & number	telephone		
city or town state	zip code		

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION	
PROPERTY RiceUpshaw House NAME:	
MULTIPLE NAME:	
STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Randolph	
DATE RECEIVED: 8/24/04 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/16/0 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 10/01/04 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 10/07/ DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:	0
REFERENCE NUMBER: 04001107	
REASONS FOR REVIEW:	
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N N
COMMENT WAIVER: N	
COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPTRETURNREJECT	
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:	
Entered in the National Register	
RECOM./CRITERIA	
REVIEWERDISCIPLINE	
TELEPHONEDATE	
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N	
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.	



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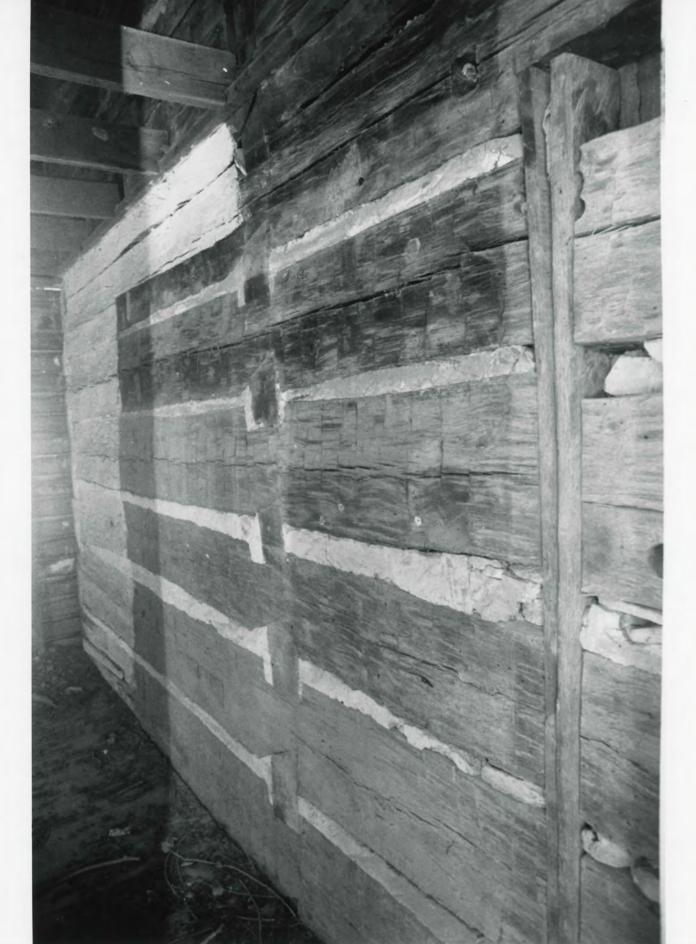
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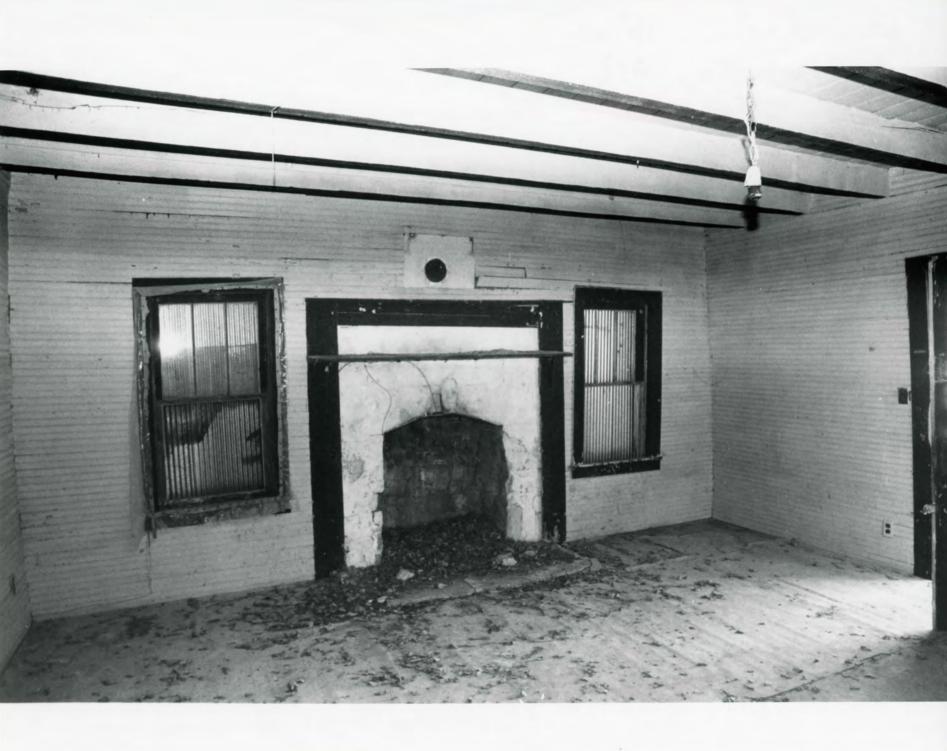
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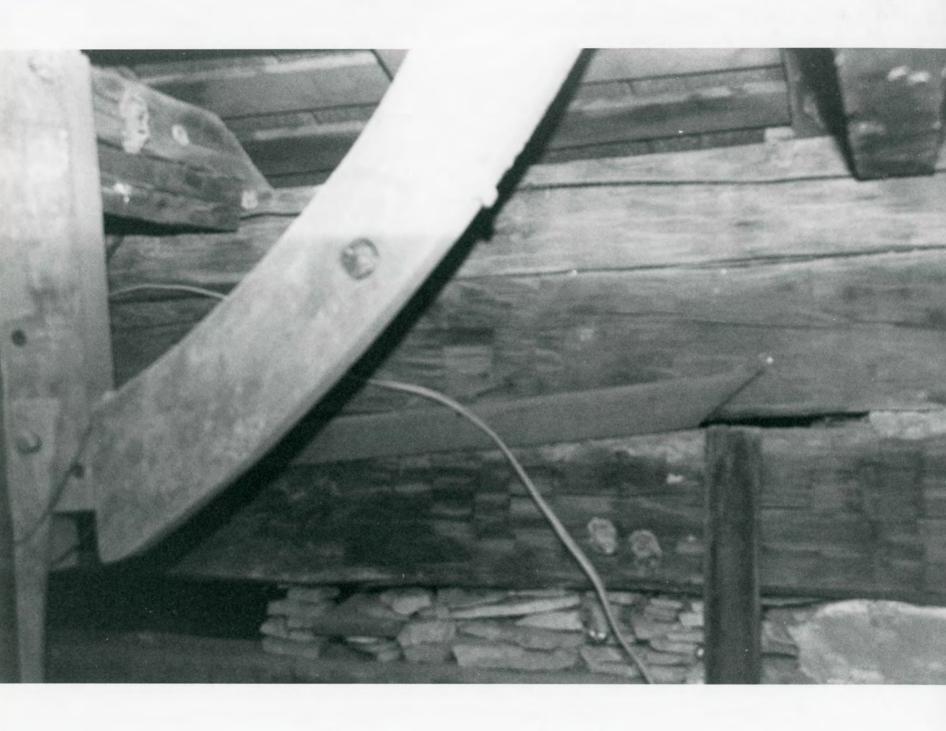
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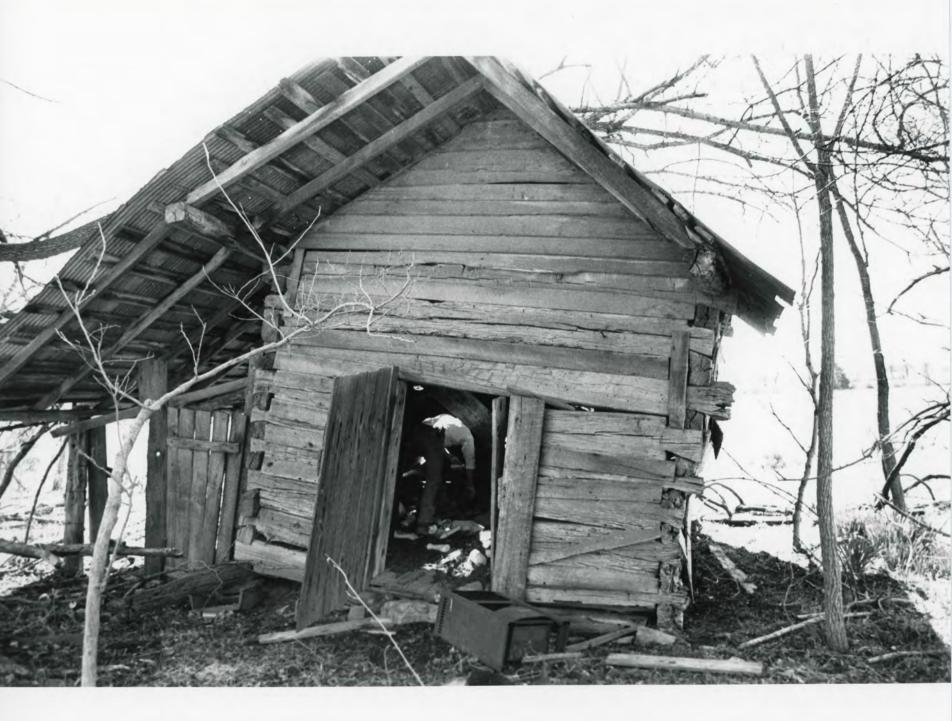
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The Department of Arkansas Heritage

Mike Huckabee, Governor Cathie Matthews. Director

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission

Historic Arkansas Museum

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street Little Rock, AR 72201 (501)324-9880 fax: (501)324-9184 tdd: (501)324-9811

e-mail: info@arkansaspreservation.org website: www.arkansaspreservation.org August 20, 2004

Carol D. Shull
Chief of Registration
United States Department of the Interior
National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
8th Floor
1201 Eye Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005



RE: Rice-Upshaw House- Dalton Vic., Randolph County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews

State Historic Preservation Officer

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CM:zac

Enclosure

An Equal Opportunity Employer



