

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dorman, Judge Jerubial Gideon, House

and/or common Dorman House

2. Location

street & number 302 West Franklin

___ not for publication

city, town Clinton

___ vicinity of

state Missouri

code 29

county Henry

code 083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> n/a	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Udolpha Sarah Phillips

street & number 302 West Franklin

city, town Clinton

___ vicinity of

state Missouri 64735

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds

street & number Henry County Courthouse

city, town Clinton

state Missouri 64735

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ☒ no

date 1963 ___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records State Historical Society of Missouri

city, town Columbia

state Missouri 65201

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

The Dorman House is a central-passage I house of brick construction facing north from its lot at the corner of Franklin and Water Streets one block off of the square for the town of Clinton, Missouri. An original two story ell also of brick construction is attached to the rear of the main block as is a later Victorian era addition. A more recent frame addition is connected to the rear ell and a modern garage of brick faced frame construction is attached to the west end of the house. The main block of the house and its ell have projecting eaves, and returns are an added feature of the rear of the ell. The Victorian addition has a raised corbeled parapet on its west end. Windows in the main block are slender and have six-over-six sash with segmentally arched brick voussoirs. The windows in the rear ell are, by contrast, flat arched. The front doorway, also segmentally arched, features a single-leaf door enframed by sidelights and a transom. The "Mount Vernon" type front porch is a later replacement for the small Greek Revival porch that originally fronted the house. The original stone retaining wall still defines the front edge of the property.

The interior has a narrow 9 1/2 foot wide hallway in which the straight-run main staircase is located. This stair is executed in walnut and has the typical tapered octagonal newell post, turned balusters, and flat bannister of the period. Doorway enframements in the hall are a simple expression of the Greek Revival with pedimented heads and transoms. The most elegant interior room in the house is the west parlor. Its mantel is painted to imitate marble and its pilasters have recessed ogee arched panels. The door connecting with the hall has a four panel door enframed by a shouldered architrave with exaggerated crossets and a pedimented upper border. Other original mantels in the house are of a more simple pilaster design, and the Victorian addition has an Eastlake mantel in it. The West upstairs room of the main block has a curious miniature version of a pilaster mantel, also marbelized, of the correct proportions to accomodate the flue of a wood or coal stove. The Dorman house also retains several 19th century gas light fixtures.

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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1852+ later add. Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Judge Jerubial Gideon Dorman house is significant according to the criteria of evaluation under definitions B and C to wit: it is associated with the life of Judge Jerubial Gideon Dorman a person significant to the history of the town of Clinton and county of Henry in Missouri; it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the vernacular I house and Greek Revival style in Missouri. The Dorman house's areas of significance are as follows:

ARCHITECTURE : The Dorman house is a good example of an effort to erect as pretentious a house as possible in an area on the remote fringes of Missouri's rich agricultural zone bordering the Missouri River valley. It is a typical type termed by folk researchers the Central-Passage I house built throughout the upland South and beyond and symbolic of middle class achievement. It is also a good expression of the Greek Revival style in its vernacular phase which persisted in Missouri through the Civil War period. This was particularly evident in its small (and regionally typical) temple-like porch, now gone, and in its interior wood work which is still intact. The folk qualities of the style are expressed by the awkward proportions of the "dog-eared" architraves in the west parlor and in the feathering of the pilaster mantels (themselves folk evocations of the Greek Temple) to make them appear as if they were constructed of marble rather than wood. The tapered octagonal newell post in the hall is a typical, and probably factory-made, feature of pretentious houses after about 1855. A quality of the house that is not typical is its fenestration. The segmental arched window and door openings do not conform to the trabeated treatment more in keeping with Grecian principles and more usually encountered in Missouri, and the elongated proportions of the windows are Victorian in character in contrast to the more "squarish" piercings of the Greek Revival. The Eastlake decorations of the Victorian-era addition exemplify the efforts of the Dorman family to keep abreast of changing fashion as they expanded their house. The survival of the gas lighting fixtures from this era is an important element in evaluating the significance of the Dorman house.

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN : J. G. Dorman's life (1818-1910) is an interesting case study of a successful southerner on the Missouri frontier, as will be seen in the remaining areas of significance which have been noted. He was born in Bourbon Co., Kentucky in 1818 to Matthew, of Scotch ancestry, who had come from the eastern shore of Maryland. Dorman was primarily raised in Gallatin Co., Kentucky and after a try at farming which he found monotonous he took to river boat life and ran the western rivers until 1849 at which time he headed for the gold fields of California taking the sea route and becoming stranded in Honduras of the way. By 1852, he appeared ready for a more sedentary existence, for in that year he wed Udolphia Eagle, a widow with one son. Their union would produce six children. During J. G. Dorman's 55 year residence in Clinton, Missouri, his economic and political achievements, which were evidence of his stature and abilities, established him as perhaps the town's leading citizen. His house, probably the most elegant of its day, was the frequent stop over for distinguished out-of-town visitors, a long list that included prominent political and military figures.

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EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT : Three years after their marriage, Dorman and his bride removed to Henry Co., Mo. to the town of Clinton. Clinton was laid out as the county seat in 1837 on the prairie uplands bordering the valley of the Grand River, a tributary of the Osage River, a region which is on the northwest fringe of the Ozark highland. Though projected as a "model city of the prairies," Clinton grew slowly during the first two decades of its existence and was laggardly in fulfilling the promise forseen for it. Why Dorman selected Clinton as the place to seek his fortune is unclear, although he did have a brother, Matthew, who had been in Missouri since 1841 and in Clinton since 1854.

COMMERCE : The 1883 county history characterized Clinton prior to the Civil War as a place which had exhibited little enterprise and which was content to float with the current rather than sieze the moment, and the entry of J. G. Dorman into the picture seems to have constituted the sole exception to that characterization. Upon his arrival in Clinton, he began to engage in the mercantile business and the county history states that his house was the only business of any importance in the county prior to the War. While specifics are sparse, he served the needs of that still isolated farming region by freighting goods from the Missouri River port town of Boonville overland by Ox teams, a distance of eighty miles. After the Civil War, Dorman's evident faith in the potential of Clinton began to bear fruit, as the town began a period of rapid growth, its population increasing 450% to 2,868 by 1880. Undoubtedly, an important factor in that growth was the coming of the Tebo & Neosho Railroad in 1870. J. G. Dorman's business activities appear to have expanded as well, and he was credited with being one of the founders and first president of the First National Bank. He also invested in land and owned a large farm near Clinton. There was also mention of a store owned by Dorman burning in 1888 which was located in the small railroad town of Montrose also in Henry County, suggesting again that his interests were diversified.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT : Soon after his arrival in Clinton, J. G. Dorman began to play an important role in local politics. When the town was incorporated in 1858, he was appointed one of the first trustees. Two years later he was elected a county judge. In that same year, he also moved into a larger political arena, being elected at the county Democratic meeting to a committee to draft resolutions, and as one of 17 delegates to attend the state convention in Jefferson City. At this meeting, a resolution was passed to conserve the Union inspiring a local newspaper to comment: "We have not seen before in any portion of the South a single instance of a public recognition of the conservative principles which prompted the recent Union demonstrations in the North. Can it be that Henry County has taken the lead of the entire South in a movement which sound policy as well as common sense would suggest?" During the course of the war, Confederate bands twice threatened to destroy or carry off the courthouse records, so finally they were boxed and sent to Sedalia by wagon under the charge of Judge J. G. Dorman. In 1872, the culmination of Dorman's political career came with his nomination as the Democratic candidate to the state House of Representatives. His election by a large majority was a good measure of the respect and public confidence he had earned by that time.

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FINAL COMMENT : While not a factor in National Register consideration, it is nonetheless of considerable importance to the history of the Dorman House that it has never passed from the Dorman family, and that furniture and manuscript materials relating to that important western Missouri family are still present in the house which is rare in this day and age. It is also worth noting that the house, while it has deteriorated some in recent years and needs attention, is still in the hands of descendants of Judge Dorman who are vitally concerned with its restoration and preservation.

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2. Denny, James M. "Form and Style in Missouri's Antebellum Architecture," unpublished paper, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, April 11, 1981.
3. History of Henry and St. Clair Counties, Missouri. St. Joseph: National Historical Company, 1883. pp. 311-12, 315, 324, 326-329, 510.
4. Miles, Kathleen White (Compiler). Annals of Henry County, Vol. I. Clinton: The Printery, Fall, 1973. pp. 44, 62, 64, 150.
5. Phillips, Udolpha Sarah (Compiler). "Judge J. G. (Jerubia Gideon) Dorman," mimeographed paper, 1973.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Davis, Walter Bickford and Durrie, Daniel S. An Illustrated History of Missouri.
St. Louis: A. J. Hall & Co., 1876, pp. 497-98.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name "Clinton South, MO."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	4	3	1	8	9	5	4	2	4	7	0	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 83, Original town of Clinton. This is the parcel upon which the nominated property rests, and has been in the Dorman family since 1852.

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 James M. Denny, Section Chief & State Contact Person

organization Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Program

date September 27, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 176

telephone 314/751-4096

city or town Jefferson City

state Missouri 65102

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

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

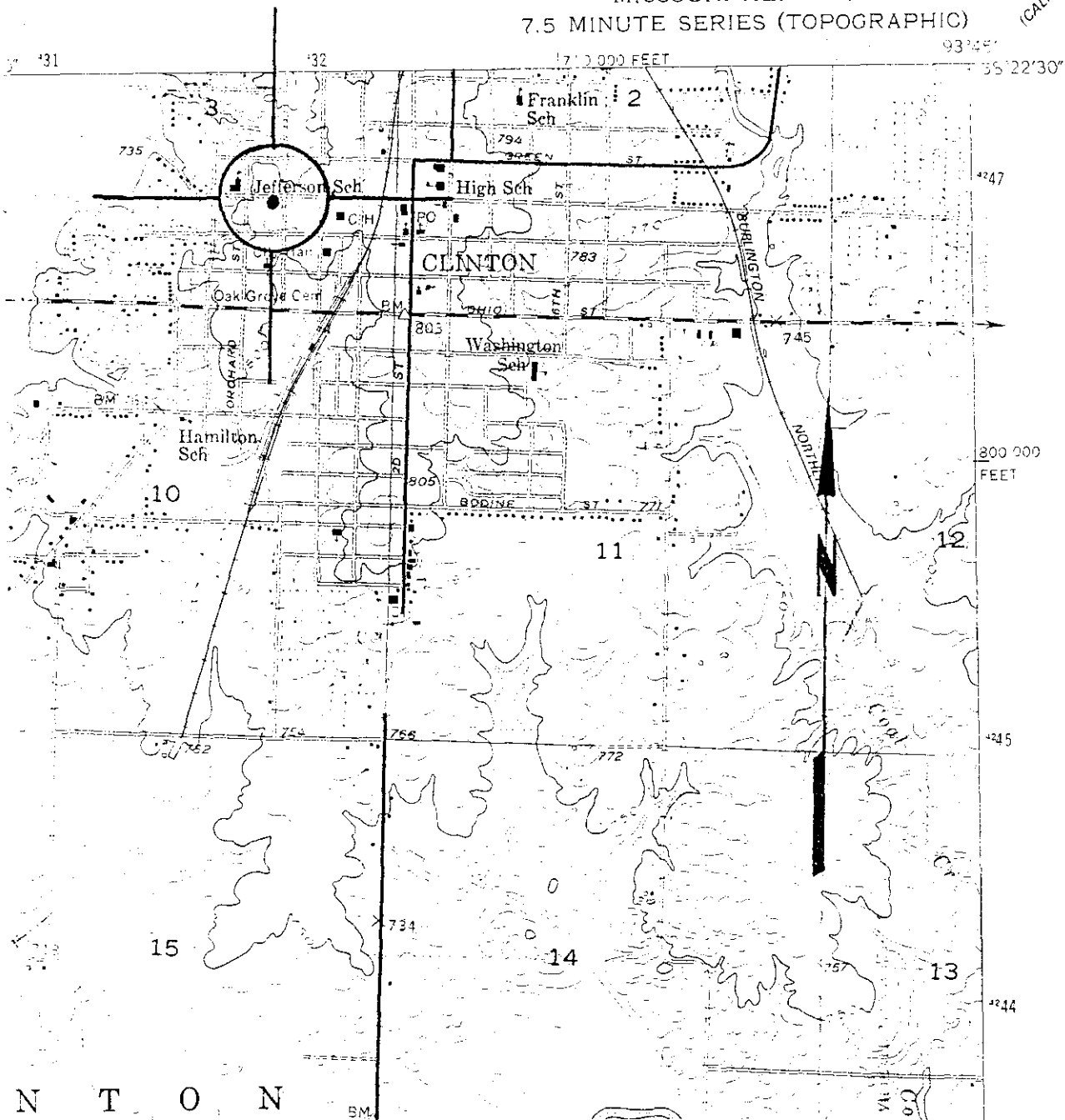
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

CLINTON SOUTH QUADRANGLE
MISSOURI-HENRY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

750' NW
(CALHOUN WEST)



N T O N

— DORMAN HOUSE
Clinton, Henry County, Missouri

U.S.G.S.
"Clinton South, MO."
Scale: 1:24,000

7.5'

Quadrangle
(1953-photo
revised 1931)

UTM REFERENCE:
15 431895 4247020

HARRY S

GRAND TRUNK

DORMAN HOUSE

1 of 14

302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : November, 1980

Neg. Loc. : Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Program

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Primary (North) facade and front retaining wall; looking Southeast.



DORMAN HOUSE

2 of 14

302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : November, 1980

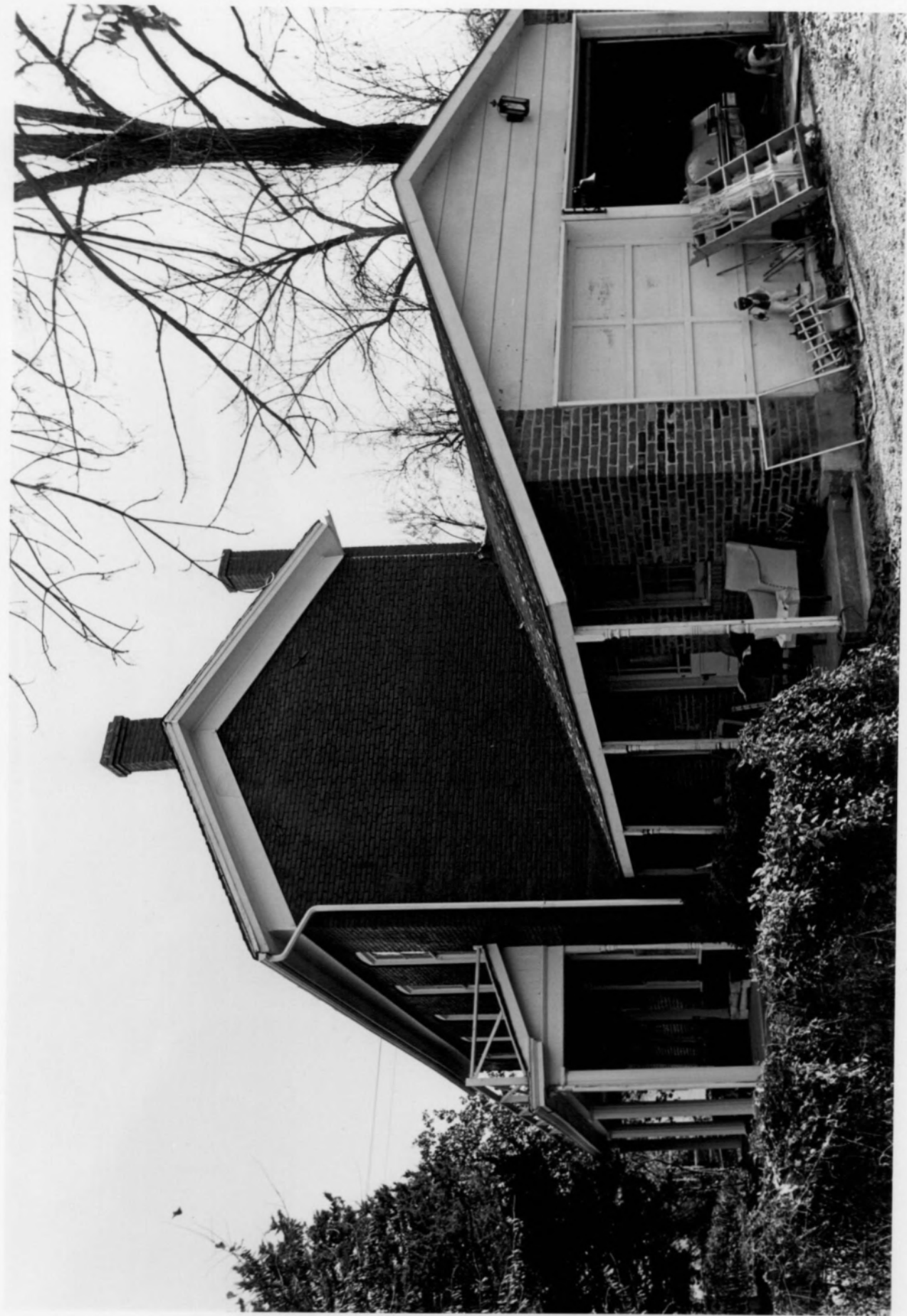
Neg. Loc. : Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Program

P.O. Box 176

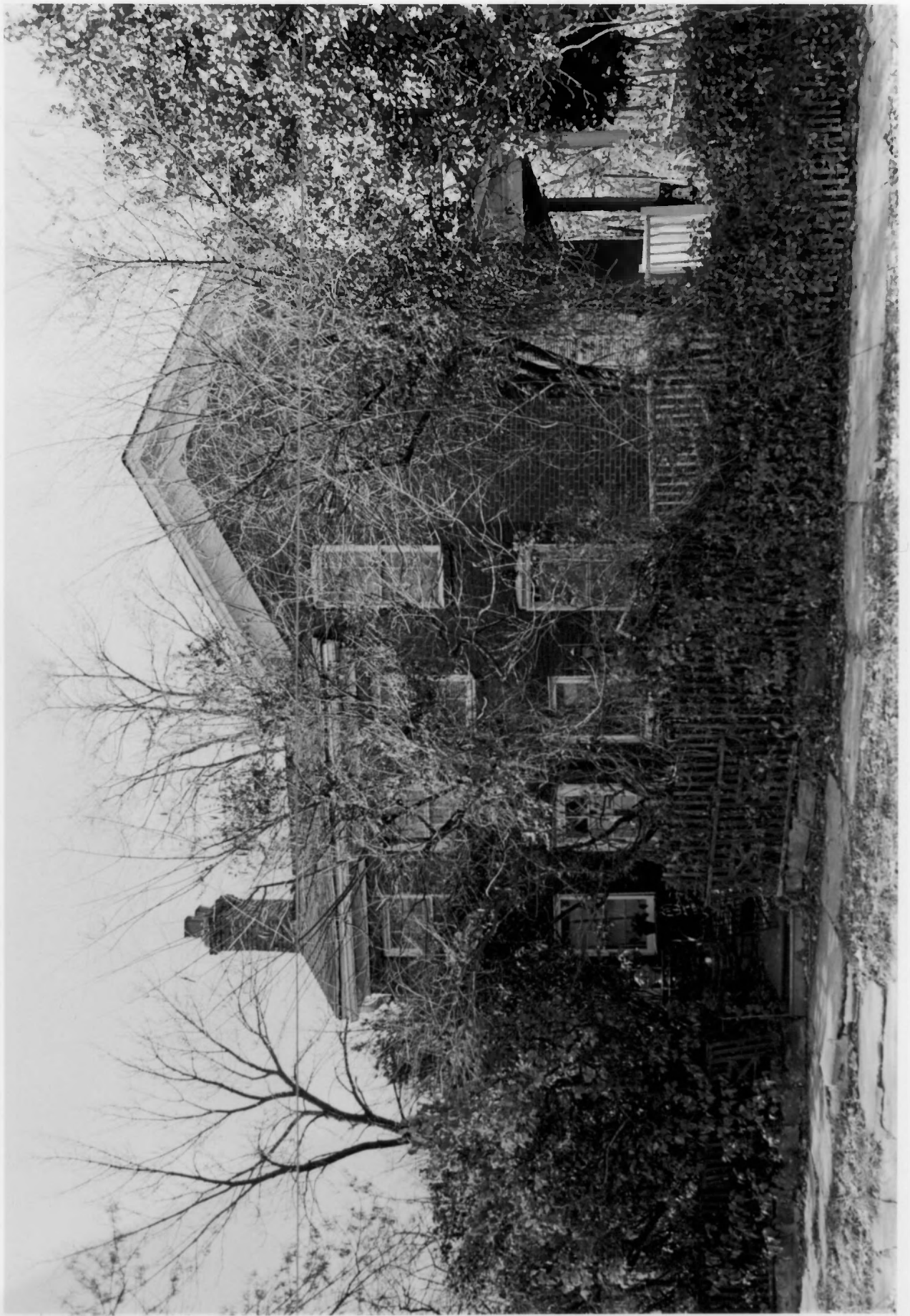
Jefferson City, Mo. 65102

Primary (North) facade and west facade;
looking Southeast.



DORMAN HOUSE 3 of 14
302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.
Photographer: James M. Denny
Date : November, 1980
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East facade; looking West.



DORMAN HOUSE

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302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : November, 1980

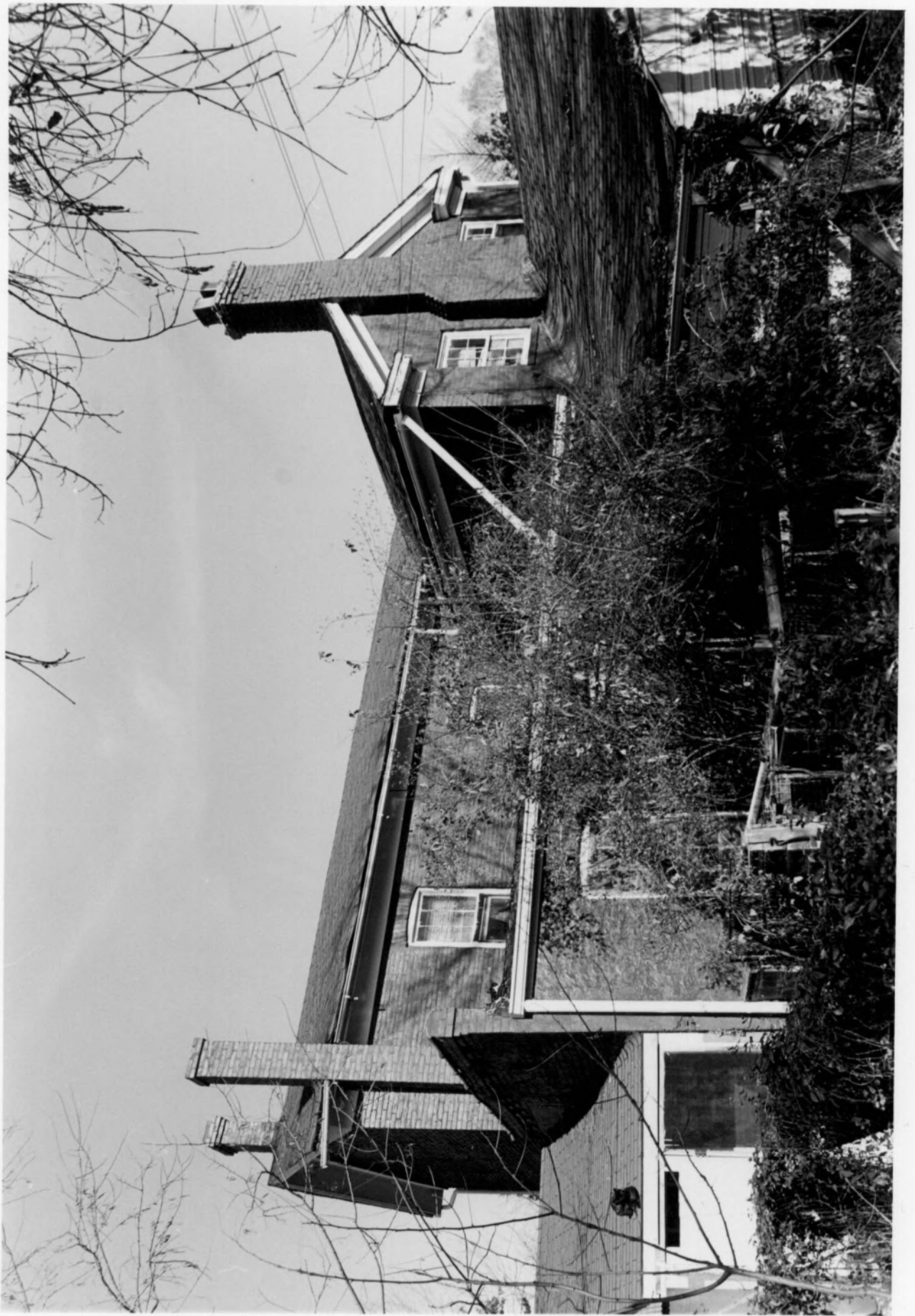
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Rear (South) facade, looking Northeast.



DORMAN HOUSE 5 of 14
302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.
Photographer: James M. Denny
Date : November, 1980
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Rear (South) facade, looking North.



DORMAN HOUSE

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302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : November, 1980

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Entrance door; looking South.



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Interior view, entrance door; looking North



DORMAN HOUSE

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302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.

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Interior detail, newell post main staircase.



DORMAN HOUSE

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302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.

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Interior view, mantel, west parlor looking
Southwest.



DORMAN HOUSE

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302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.

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Interior detail, mantel, west parlor.



DORMAN HOUSE 11 of 14
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Interior view, doorway from hall to west
parlor, looking East.



DORMAN HOUSE 12 of 14
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Photographer: James M. Denny
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Interior detail, gas light fixture, west
parlor.



DORMAN HOUSE

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302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.

Photographer: James M. Denny

Date : November, 1980

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Interior view, mantel in west upstairs bedroom,
looking Southwest.



DORMAN HOUSE 14 of 14
302 West Franklin, Clinton, Henry Co., Mo.
Photographer: Unknown
Date : Unknown
Neg. Loc. : Department of Natural Resources
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Historic view of Dorman House, looking
Southeast.



EXTRA
PHOTOS











