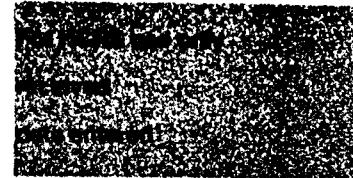


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Absolom Riggs House

and/or common Mathias House

2. Location

street & number R.F.D. #1 ___ not for publication

city, town Weatherby ___ vicinity of congressional district #6 - Hon. Thomas Coleman

state Missouri code 29 county DeKalb code 063

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 Lillian Mathias

street & number R.F.D. #1

city, town Weatherby ___ vicinity of state Missouri 64497

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registrar of Deeds

street & number DeKalb County Courthouse

city, town Maysville state Missouri 64469

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title 1. A Historic Survey of DeKalb County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Missouri Fall, 1979 federal state county local

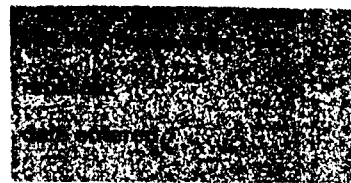
depository for survey records Historic Preservation Program

city, town Jefferson City state Missouri 65102

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ABSOLOM RIGGS HOUSE



Continuation sheet

Item number 6

Page 1

2. Missouri State Historical Survey

1980

state

Department of Natural Resources

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City

Missouri 65102

Item number 11

Page 1

2. Nancy Sandehn, Research Consultant

Northwest Missouri State University

Box 43

St. Joseph

June 27, 1980

816/279-3558

Missouri 64501

3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
and State Contact Person

Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Program

P.O. Box 176

Jefferson City

August 25, 1980

314/751-4096

Missouri 65102

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Mathias-Riggs house is a two story brick dwelling built in an original ell shape plan with alterations. The structure is in a rural area located on a portion of a farm that once numbered one thousand (1,000) acres.

EXTERIOR

The main structure is forty (40) feet east to west on the south facade; sixteen (16) feet north to south on the east and west facades and the original ell portion on the north measures fourteen (14) by fourteen (14) feet. In 1902, an addition was added on the east side of the ell which measures fourteen (14) feet by seventeen (17) feet six (6) inches which makes the north portion fourteen (14) feet by thirty-one (31) feet, six (6) inches today. The common bond brick walls are fifteen (15) inches thick.

PORCHES

There was a small one story enclosed porch added on the west side of the original ell which measures fourteen (14) feet by eight (8) feet. On the east side of the addition is an open one story shed roof porch which measures fourteen (14) feet by seven (7) feet. Although the original plans called for a two story portico, at the center of the south facade, it was never built.

ROOF

The chimneys on the east and west facades go through the roof line. Asbestos shingles cover the gable roof on both the original and addition to the house.

WINDOWS

The windows in the original structure are double hung six-over-six light, with a seven (7) and one-half (1/2) inch beveled sill. The windows in the addition are double hung single pane. The lintels and lug sills of all the windows are wood. In the northeast addition there is a molded lintel over the window. There is one small four light window in the attic section of the original ell.

The exterior doors on the south facade at the first and second floor levels have sidelights and a transom.

INTERIOR

The fireplace in the southwest room on the first floor has a wooden mantel, which has been painted. The fireplace in the original ell has been covered over in a remodeling project.

The ceilings in the house were 9 (nine) feet high. The remodeling of these with accoustical tile has lowered them by six (6) inches.

The woodwork throughout the house is native walnut. In the addition on the northeast corner the woodwork has Victorian designs in both the first and second floor rooms.

The central hall has an open staircase with small square balusters made by Mrs. Mathias. The newel post is a massive carpenter turned piece with knob.

The house rests on a foundation of limestone twenty (20) inches thick.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

ABSOLOM RIGGS HOUSE



Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

FOOTNOTE

1. Interview with Lillian Mathias, June 10, 1980.

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 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 checked="" 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 1865 **Builder/Architect** Absolom Hicks Riggs

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Absolom Riggs House is significant as a rare Northwest Missouri Civil War period brick "mansion", and as the home of Absolom Riggs, a locally prominent citizen.

In the development of the counties in northwest Missouri the wealthy landowners stand out as a influential force. They occupied the highest social positions and were identified with the idea of the self-made man. Absolom Hicks Riggs, the builder of this house, was one of the driving forces in DeKalb County.

Absolom Hicks Riggs was the brother of William W. Riggs who came to Adams Township, DeKalb County from Boone County in 1851. He acquired land on March 23, 1856, by Patent from the U.S. Government. In 1866, William W. Riggs was elected Representative from DeKalb County on the Republican ticket. He persuaded his brothers, Absolom W. and Bennett Riggs to come to the area.

The three brothers played an important role in the development of DeKalb County. They were farmers, stockmen, teachers, merchants, blacksmiths, carpenters, pharmacists, township officials, county court clerks, representatives to the General Assembly, probate court judges and postal employees. Their thousand acre holding formed one of the largest farms in the county.²

In 1865, Absolom Hicks Riggs built this large home on his property located on the southwest quarter section fifteen (15) Township fifty-nine (59) north and Range thirty (30) West. The bricks were molded and kiln-dried on the farm. Limestone rock was burned in a deep trench to make the mortar. At the time the house was constructed it was surrounded by a split rail fence with elm trees set into the corners. One of these elm trees still stands today.

The house and farm have been occupied and operated by Absolom H. Riggs and his descendants since 1859. Lillian Riggs Mathias, present owner and operator is the daughter of Silas A. Riggs and granddaughter of Absolom Riggs.

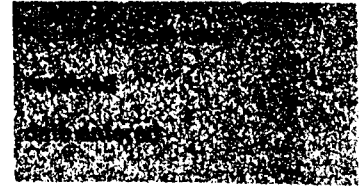
FOOTNOTES

1. Interview with Lillian Mathias, May 20, 1980.
2. Adams Township Centennial: 1870-1970. Weatherby, MO. (Maryville, MO: Rush Printing Co.), 1970.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

ABSLOM RIGGS HOUSE



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3. DeKalb County Cemetery Census: 1845-1951. Compiled by the DeKalb County Historical Society, 1951. Stewartsville: Farmer Printing Co., 1972.
4. DeKalb County, Missouri: Rural Resident Directory. Boulder Co.: Directory Service Co., 1979.
5. History of Andrew and DeKalb Counties, Missouri. St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1888.
6. Interview with Lillian Riggs Mathias, May 20, 1980 and June 10, 1980.
7. Interview with Lora Lockhart, November 20, 1979.
8. On site observations by Nancy Sandehn and Tom Carneal, November 20, 1979, May 20, 1980.
9. Ruth Ownes Inventory of DeKalb County Historic Homes and Sites.

Item number 10

Page 1

line and the south edge of the driveway forming the south boundary line.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Abstract to the Lillian Mathias House.
2. Adams Township Centennial: 1870-1970. Weatherby, MO. Maryville, MO: Rush Printing Co., 1970.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Two (2) one-half (1/2) acres

Quadrangle name "Maysville, MO"

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	5	3	9	2	8	9	5	4	4	2	0	0	3	6
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for the Mathias-Riggs House is a rectangle four-hundred (400) feet from east to west and two-hundred and fifty (250) feet from north to south, with the center being the UTM coordinate reference and : with the county road forming the east boundary

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 1. Thomas W. Carneal, Associate Professor of History

organization Northwest Missouri State University date June 11, 1980

street & number 306 Colden Hall telephone 816/582-4955

city or town Maryville state Missouri 64468

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Signed

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

date 16 Feb 82

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

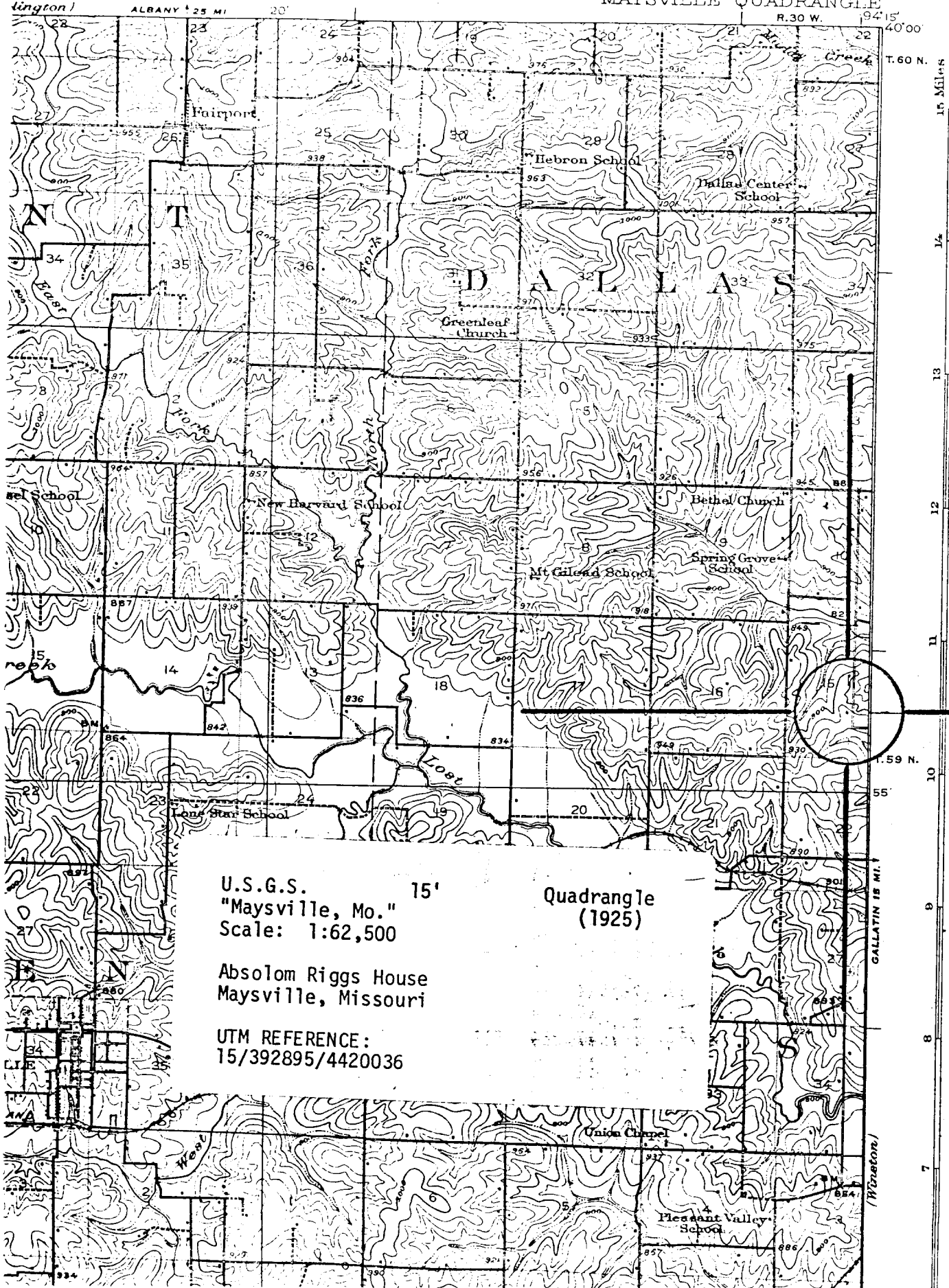
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

MISSOURI
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
STATE GEOLOGIST
(Clinton)

MISSOURI
(DE KALB COUNTY)
MAYSVILLE QUADRANGLE



U.S.G.S. 15'
"Maysville, Mo."
Scale: 1:62,500

Quadrangle
(1925)

Absolom Riggs House
Maysville, Missouri

UTM REFERENCE:
15/392895/4420036

15 Miles
14
13
12
11
10
9
8
7

RIGGS, ABSOLOM HOUSE

#515

COUNTY:

DeKalb

LOCATION:

R.F.D. #1, Weatherby, Mo.

OWNER:

Lillian Mathias

ADDRESS:

R.F.D. #1
Weatherby, Mo. 64497

DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:

October 24, 1980

DATE SENT TO D.C.:

February 19, 1982

DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:

February 23, 1982

DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:

April 12, 1982

DATE CERTIFICATE AWARDED
(AND PRESENTOR):

DATE FILE REVIEWED:

Mathias-Riggs House
Rt 1, Weatherby, MO
Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
Tom Carneal, May 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
South
1 of 10



Mathias-Riggs House
Rt 1, Weatherby, MO
Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
Tom Carneal, May 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
Southwest
2 of 10



Mathias-Riggs House
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Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
Tom Carneal, May 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
Northwest
3 of 10



Mathias-Riggs House
Rt 1, Weatherby, MO
Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
Tom Carneal, May 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
Northeast
4 of 10



Mathias-Riggs House
Rt 1, Weatherby, MO
Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
Tom Carneal, May 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
East
5 of 10



Mathias-Riggs House
Rt 1, Weatherby, MO
Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
Tom Carneal, May 20, 1980
Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
Northwest Missouri State University
Maryville, MO 64468
Interior/ Downstairs
6 of 10



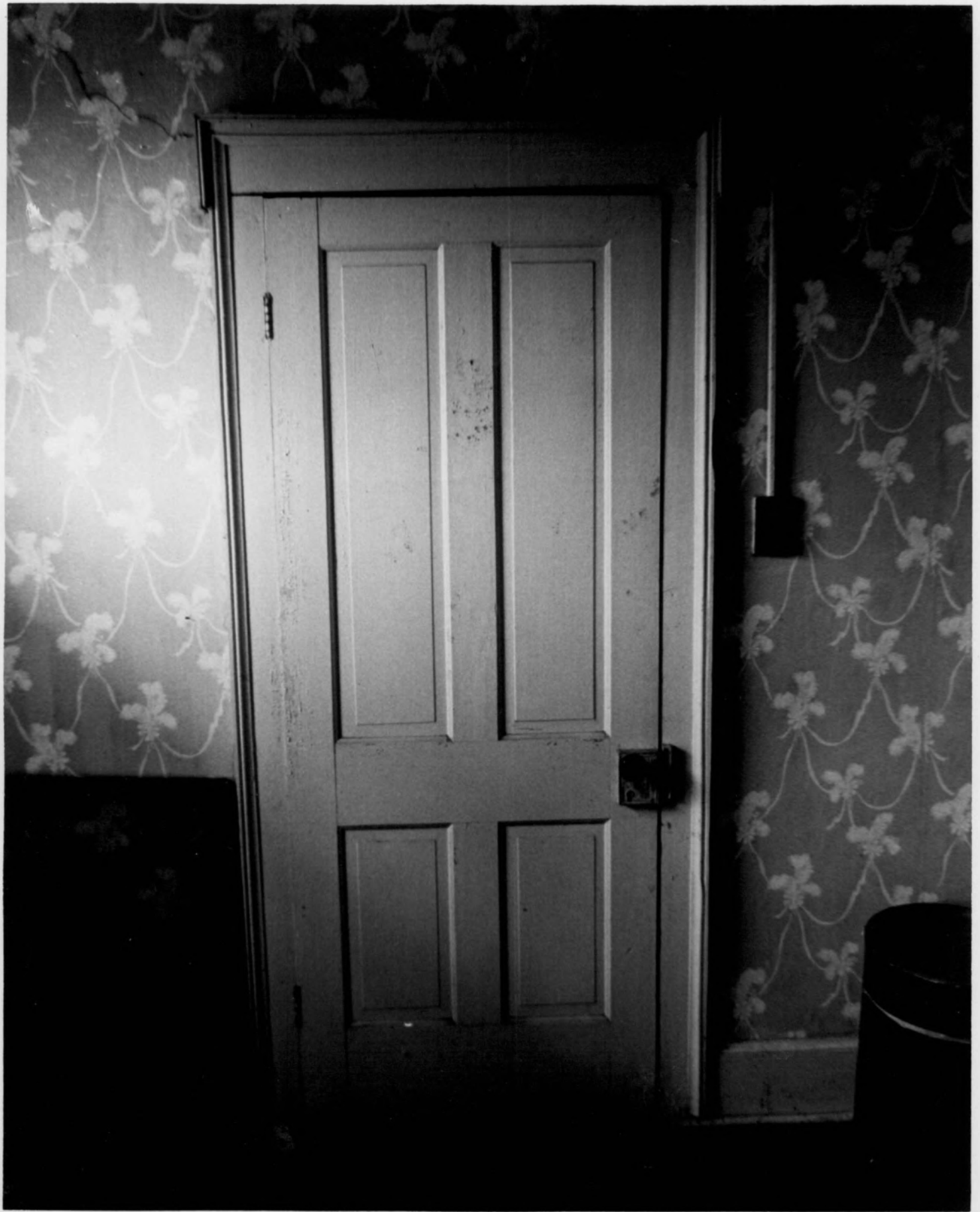
Mathias-Riggs House
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Interior/ Downstairs
7 of 10



Mathias-Riggs House
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Adams TWP, DeKalb, MO
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Carneal's Office, 306 Colden Hall
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Maryville, MO 64468
Interior/ Downstairs
8 of 10



Mathias-Riggs House
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Maryville, MO 64468
Interior/ Upstairs
9 of 10



Mathias-Riggs House
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Interior/ Upstairs
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