

17-58-M295-62

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL 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

Colonel Jacob Yoes Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Front Street

CITY, TOWN

Chester

STATE

Arkansas

VICINITY OF

CODE

05

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

COUNTY

Crawford

CODE

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Colonel Weldon O. Ramey

STREET & NUMBER

Post Office Box 122

CITY, TOWN

Chester

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Crawford County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Van Buren

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

Built in 1887, the Colonel Jacob Yoes Building is a fine example of late nineteenth century commercial architecture in Arkansas. The original building is a two storey rectangular structure measuring approximately 47 feet by 100 feet. A one storey addition on the north elevation measures approximately 25 feet by 50 feet. Though the exact date is unknown, the addition was almost certainly made prior to 1900.

The two storey structure is topped with a roof which has about a two foot slope from front to back. Seventeen short chimneys project above the roofline. Double-hung sash windows with segmental arched heads and cast stone sills are uniform around the two storey section of the building. A narrow band of brick projects around the roofline of the entire structure.

The facade of the two storey section has some architectural features of special note. Cast iron label-style heads cover the brick window and door openings. The brick above the second storey windows is set in an ornamental pattern with three inset panels beneath dentil-like corbelling. The double door entries on both the first and second stories have transoms.

The north half of the lower facade and the facade on the one storey addition are quite similar and appear to be original. Both feature double door entries set between very tall and wide window openings. Sometime before 1900 a one storey porch across the entire facade replaced the original two storey porch.

The interior of the Yoes Building is divided into four main sections. The original building was intended to house a mercantile store on the north half of the first floor, hotel offices and facilities on the south half of the first floor, and hotel rooms on the entire second floor. The one storey addition, which once housed a saloon, is now empty.

The mercantile section of the building still contains many original furnishings, including the merchandise shelves built in St. Louis and shipped by rail to Chester in 1887. The hotel lobby and office spaces are now occupied by the Chester Post Office. The second storey hotel rooms, once furnished with marble topped tables and walnut furniture, are now empty.

The Yoes Building is being gradually restored to its original appearance by the present owner. After furnishing the store with authentic pieces from late nineteenth century general stores, Colonel Ramey plans to open Yoes Store to the public. The Yoes Building is in very good condition and has changed little during this century.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

P		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
STORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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 1887

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Chester, Arkansas was a railroad boom town established in the late nineteenth century. As a division point on the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad, Chester quickly grew from a single small store to a bustling business community. As the era of rail supremacy gave way to the gasoline engine, many Arkansas railroad communities, such as Newport and Morrilton, were able to change with the times; however, other towns, like Chester, declined as the importance of the railroads declined. Reaching its peak population in the 1890's, Chester is now home to less than a hundred people. Only one structure, the Jacob Yoes Building, remains as a symbol of Chester's boom town days.

In 1882 the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad completed the track running south from Fayetteville past a point near Captain James C. Wright's cabin in the valley of Howard's Fork Creek. The next year Captain Wright built a small frame store near the tracks, thus establishing the first business enterprise in Chester. The town was named in 1883 for the Iowa hometown of one of the locomotive engineers.

During the 1880's and 1890's Chester grew rapidly. A number of frame structures were built to house the new businesses attracted to the growing community. An 1893 business directory lists several businesses in the town, including mercantile stores, barber shops, a meat market, a blacksmith shop, and three carpenters. Chester also had doctors, drugstores, hotels, and saloons, along with churches and a combination school and Masonic Lodge hall. In 1887 the railroad built a two storey depot, water tower, and round house.

Of the many commercial structures built during Chester's boom town days, only one remains. Destructive fires in 1908 and 1936 destroyed all the early frame buildings. Other than the railroad track, the Jacob Yoes Building, a brick structure built in 1887, is the only visible link with Chester's more prosperous past.

The two storey Yoes Building was built by Colonel Jacob Yoes to house both a hotel and mercantile store. The entire second floor was devoted to guest rooms. The lower storey was divided with the hotel lobby, dining room, and kitchen in the south half and the mercantile store in the north half. Probably within a decade of the original construction a one storey addition

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE one

was made across the north elevation of the store. Butler's Saloon was housed in this early addition.

Jacob Yoes was a minister's son who grew up on a farm in Washington County, Arkansas. Born in 1839, he received little formal education, and left home at age seventeen to work in lead mines in Missouri. Unlike most Arkansans, Yoes fought with the Union Army during the Civil War. In 1862 he enlisted in Company D, first Arkansas Cavalry, USA. In 1863 Yoes was shot and captured by the Confederates, but was later freed in a prisoner exchange. Though later known as "Colonel" Yoes, the title was honorary and unrelated to his military record.

After the war Yoes served as Washington County Sheriff from 1865 to 1868, when he was elected to the Arkansas legislature. His business interests in Crawford County expanded in 1887 when he built the large brick store and hotel at Chester. In 1890 the store was operated by Yoes' son, William, with his niece, Abigail Yoes, managing the hotel.

The Yoes Building is an excellent example of commercial architecture in late nineteenth century Arkansas. The two storey red brick building has segmental arched windows with cast stone sills. The facade features cast iron window and door heads, and brickwork panels and corbelling at the roofline.

This architecturally significant building is also historically important. It is the only structure remaining from the decade when Chester was established, and it represents the community's origin and complete dependence on the railroad. Though once at the center of a bustling railroad town, the Yoes Building now seems almost out of place in the quiet rural community. Its constant presence is a continual reminder of Chester's past.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas State Gazetter and Business Directory, 1892-1893. Vol. III.

Detroit: R. L. Polk and Company, 1893.

Goodspeed Publishing Company. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northwest Arkansas. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.

Ramey, Weldon O. Personal interview at Yoes Building, Chester, Arkansas.
January 23, 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 5 39 37 6 0 3 9 4 8 7 8 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
D

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

3-11-75

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 X

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE William E. Henderson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

3-11-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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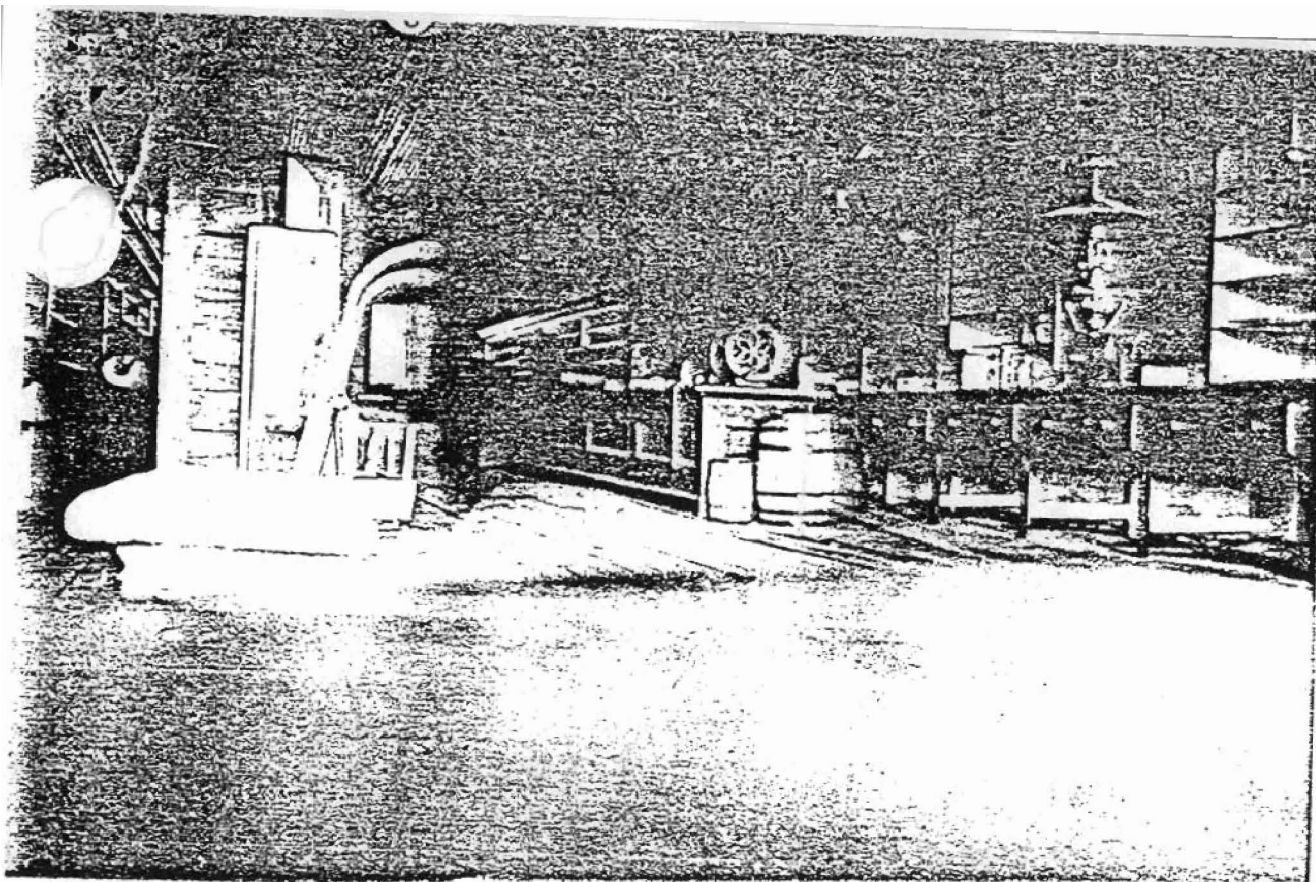
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 47

Smith, Ora. "Chester, Arkansas." The Heritage, VII (October, 1963), pp.7-11.



3-301a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
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1 NAME

HISTORIC

Colonel Jacob Yoes Building

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY/TOWN

Chester

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

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

interior of mercantile store

PHOTO NO.

3

RECEIVED

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

NAME

HISTORIC Colonel Jacob Yoes Building

AND/OR COMMON

LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Chester

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Crawford

STATE Arkansas

MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE United States Geological Survey

SCALE 1:24000

DATE 1969

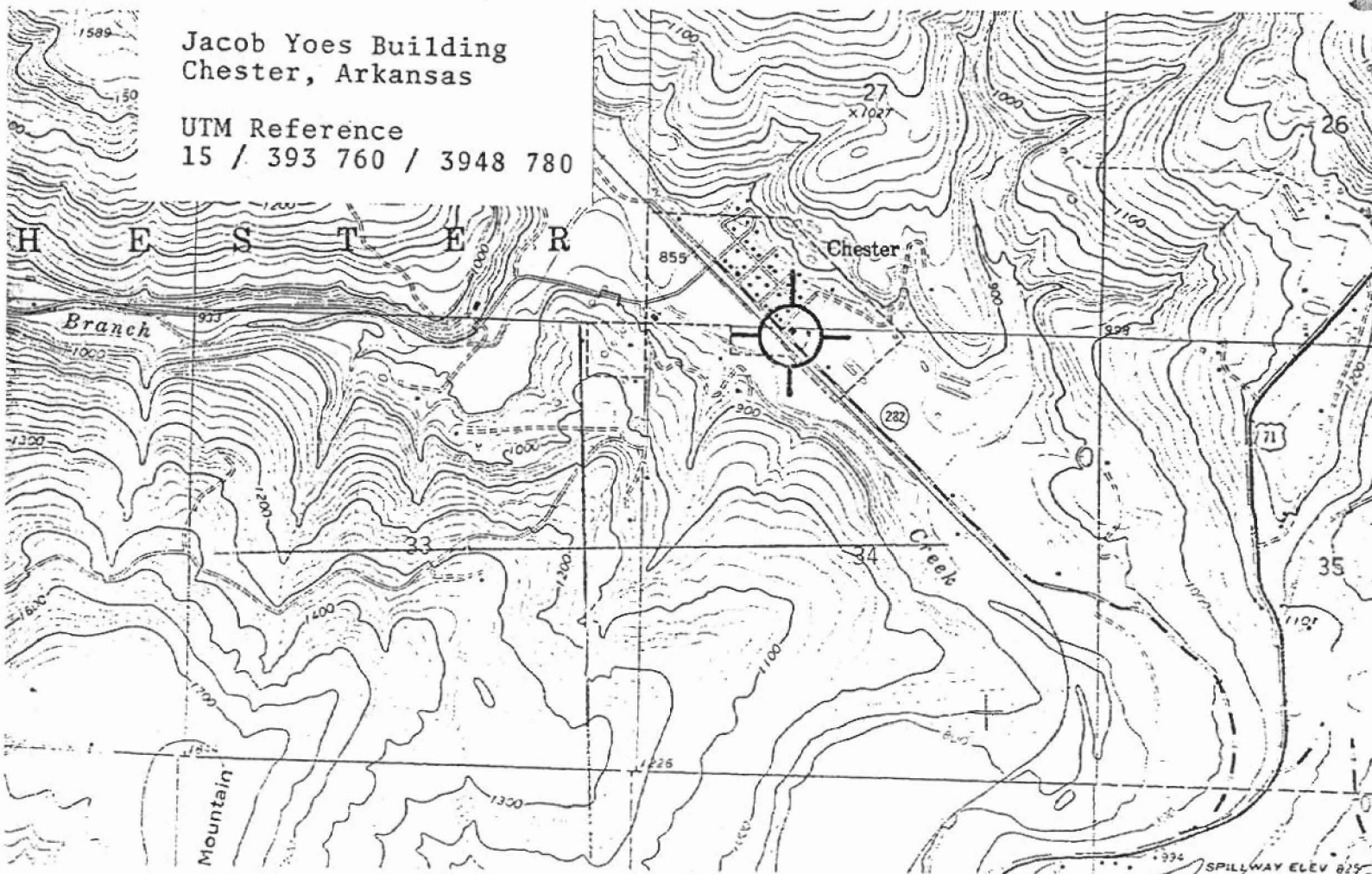
REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

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

Jacob Yoes Building
Chester, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15 / 393 760 / 3948 780





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

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AND/OR COMMON

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CITY, TOWN Chester VICINITY OF COUNTY Crawford STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

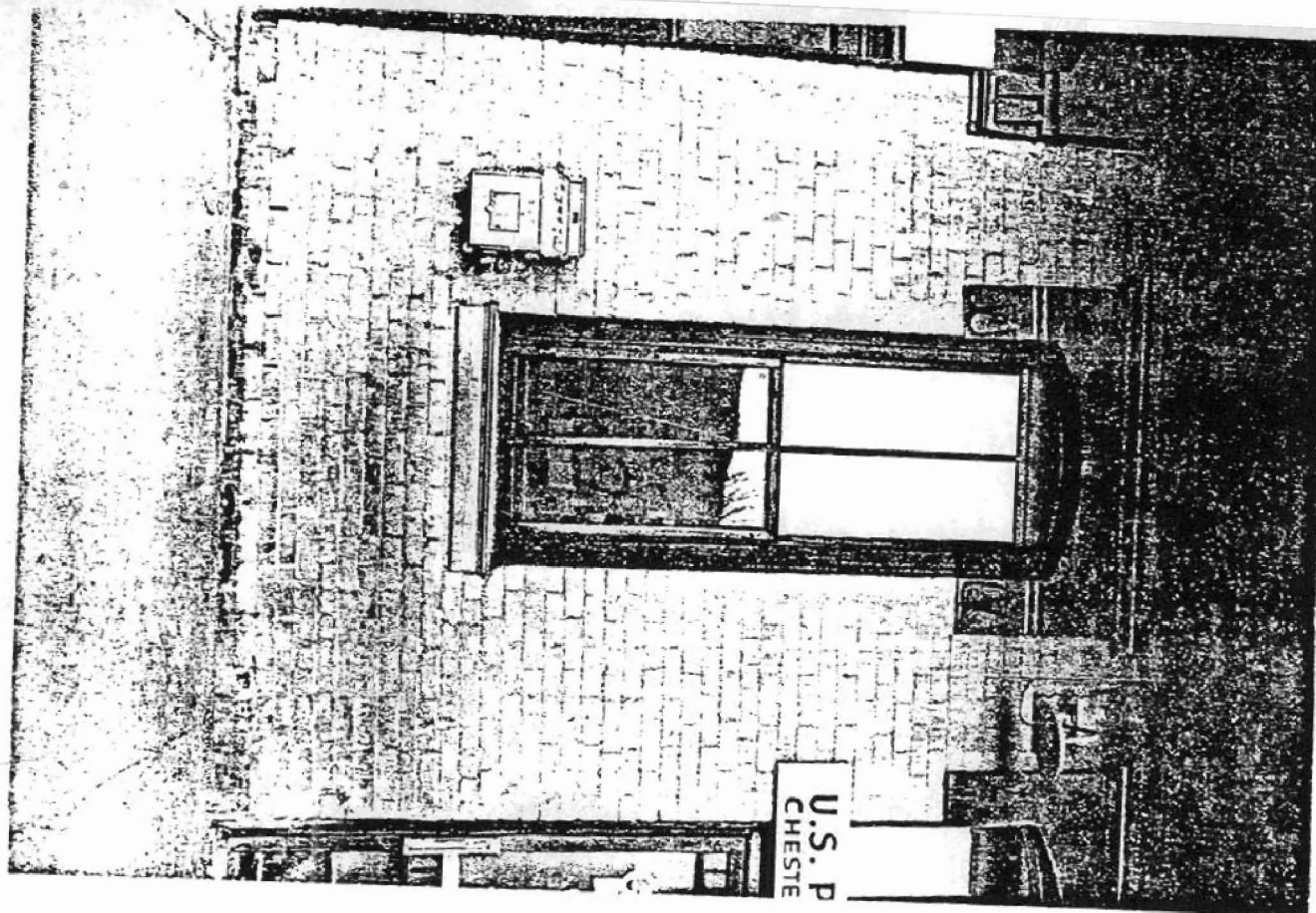
DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO



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Chester

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COUNTY

Crawford

STATE

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detail of iron window and door heads, west elevation

PHOTO NO.

2