

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

**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 CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD S. MCKENNON HOUSE  
AND/OR COMMON BASHAM HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER 215 NORTH CENTRAL

CITY, TOWN

CLARKSVILLE

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
THIRD

STATE

ARKANSAS

CODE

05

COUNTY

JOHNSON

CODE

071

**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 ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME EDWARD AND DAVID BASHAM

STREET & NUMBER 301 NORTH CENTRAL

CITY, TOWN

CLARKSVILLE

VICINITY OF

STATE  
ARKANSAS

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, JOHNSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER COURTHOUSE SQUARE

CITY, TOWN

CLARKSVILLE

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

The Captain Archibald S. McKennon House is a two-storey, red, common-bond brick building possessing the lightness and delicacy that are suggestive of the Adam Style. The two-storey, flat-roof hexastyle portico has a light and airy effect created by the wide spacing of the tapered, square columns. The columns are made of solid pine timber.

The house was built according to an L-shaped plan, with the main section being rectilinear and boxlike. The house rests on a stacked sandstone foundation. A medium gable roof, having boxed cornice with half-return, covers the main two-storey section. Decorative brackets are spaced along the eaves of the portico. Dual chimney stacks, linked at the base, straddle the ridge of the roof on its north and south ends. Verges are closed on the medium gable roof of the rear wing.

Typical of the Adam Style are the double doorways that are centered on the upper and lower levels of the facade. Each has half-round fanlights and flanking sidelights. The upper-level entry opens out onto a balcony with delicate balusters and turned corner-posts.

Four large semicircular-arch double-hung windows, together with the lower entry, are evenly spaced out along the downstairs level of the facade. Smaller windows of the same kind, together with the upper entry, form exactly the same pattern on the upper level of the facade. Three of the same type windows are evenly spaced along the north elevation of the rear wing of the house. All of the semicircular-arch windows have slender glazing bars, brickwork hood-molding and hand-quarried, native stone lugsills.

The doorway downstairs opens into a large foyer; this pattern is repeated on the upper floor. The downstairs foyer has a staircase replete with two flights of stairs, landing, and balustrade.

Original hand-made pine boards were used for flooring; the boards vary from four and one-half to six inches in width. Walls are extremely thick--up to 15 inches in the front rooms. There are four fire places, two on each floor.

The only major changes to the house occurred in 1934 with the enclosure of the rear-wing porch and the addition of a small frame kitchen centered on the west elevation of the main, two-storey section of the house. The roof of the kitchen is lean-to style. The kitchen abuts the enclosed porch and, together with the porch, forms an L-shape addition to the main body of the house.

The McKennon House is a well-preserved example of a historically significant architecture--an example of which Arkansas can be proud.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD HISTORIC 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899 1900-	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE <input type="checkbox"/> ART <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE <input type="checkbox"/> LAW <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Captain Archibald S. McKennon House was built in 1868 in Adam-like style, the duplicate to the home of McKennon's business associate, Major Lorenzo N. Swaggerty. The Swaggerty House was razed in 1970 for a parking lot, but the McKennon home has remained as an expression of architectural magnificence. The significance of the house is further emphasized by the state, local and national prominence that McKennon gained in governmental affairs.

Born near Pulaski, Tennessee, McKennon moved to Arkansas when a child and lived there until the outbreak of the Civil War. During the hostility, McKennon served as a captain in the Confederate Army; he was captured at the siege of Port Hudson and imprisoned at Johnson's Island.

At the close of the war McKennon returned to Arkansas and engaged in a mercantile business at Clarksville. After eight years as a merchant he was able to build his two-storey red-brick home on a block of land purchased from the estate of Redmond Rogers, an early pioneer in Johnson County. The bricks that were used in building the house came from the B. E. Hershey brick plant one block north of the house site.

The house was built with the qualities of lightness and delicacy that characterize the Adam Style. The two-storey, flat-roof, hexastyle portico was given a light and airy effect by the wide spacing of the tapered square columns. (The columns are solid pine, each having been hewn in one piece from a pine log.) Typical of the Adam style, the doorways have semicircular fanlights and flanking sidelights.

While a merchant in Clarksville, McKennon began the study of law and, after being admitted to the bar, became one of the leading lawyers in the state. He served for two terms as prosecuting attorney for the Fifth Judicial District and was elected to a term in the Senate of the Arkansas General Assembly in 1877.

During President Cleveland's administration McKennon was appointed to the Dawes Commission to negotiate with the Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole Indian tribes. The original commission consisted of McKennon, Henry L. Dawes, and Meredith H. Kidd; the objective was to induce these Indians, to whom the Dawes Act did not apply, to take their lands in severalty, abolish their tribal governments, and come under state and Federal law.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

McKennon moved to McAlester, Oklahoma to serve on the commission, and, after its work was completed in 1905, he was retained as attorney for the Seminole Indians of Oklahoma. He died at age 79 in 1920.

The McKennon House has had many owners since Captain McKennon and his family first made it their residence. Dr. E. W. Adams bought the house from McKennon, and in 1905 Samuel Laser purchased it from Dr. Adams. John Basham bought the property in 1933 renting it out as apartments for several years. In 1946 John Basham's sons, David and Edward Basham, acquired the residence, and they presently rent out the home.

The house is in an excellent state of preservation, a first-rate example of a significant architectural style which has occurred in Arkansas. It also stands as another accomplishment of Captain A. S. McKennon, a very notable Arkansan.



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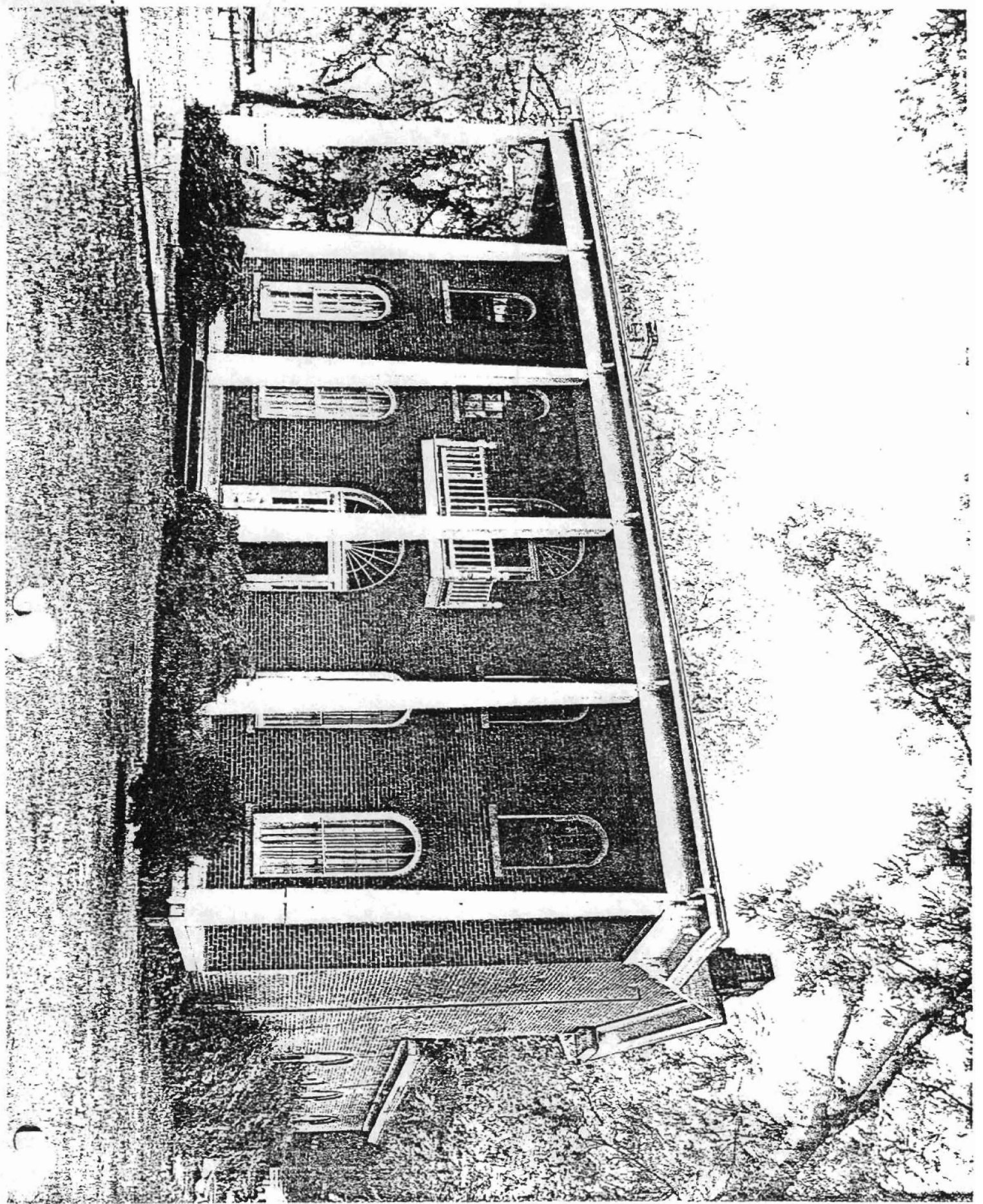
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Southeast Times Record. Fort Smith , August 31, 1972.

The Graphic. Clarksville , August 31, 1972.

The Search-Light. Little Rock , October 1905.



Captain Archibald S. McKennon  
Clarksville, Ark.  
First Great Grand

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

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD S. MCKENNON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

BASHAM HOUSE

### 2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

CLARKSVILLE

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
JOHNSON

STATE  
ARKANSAS

### 3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

BOB DUNN

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

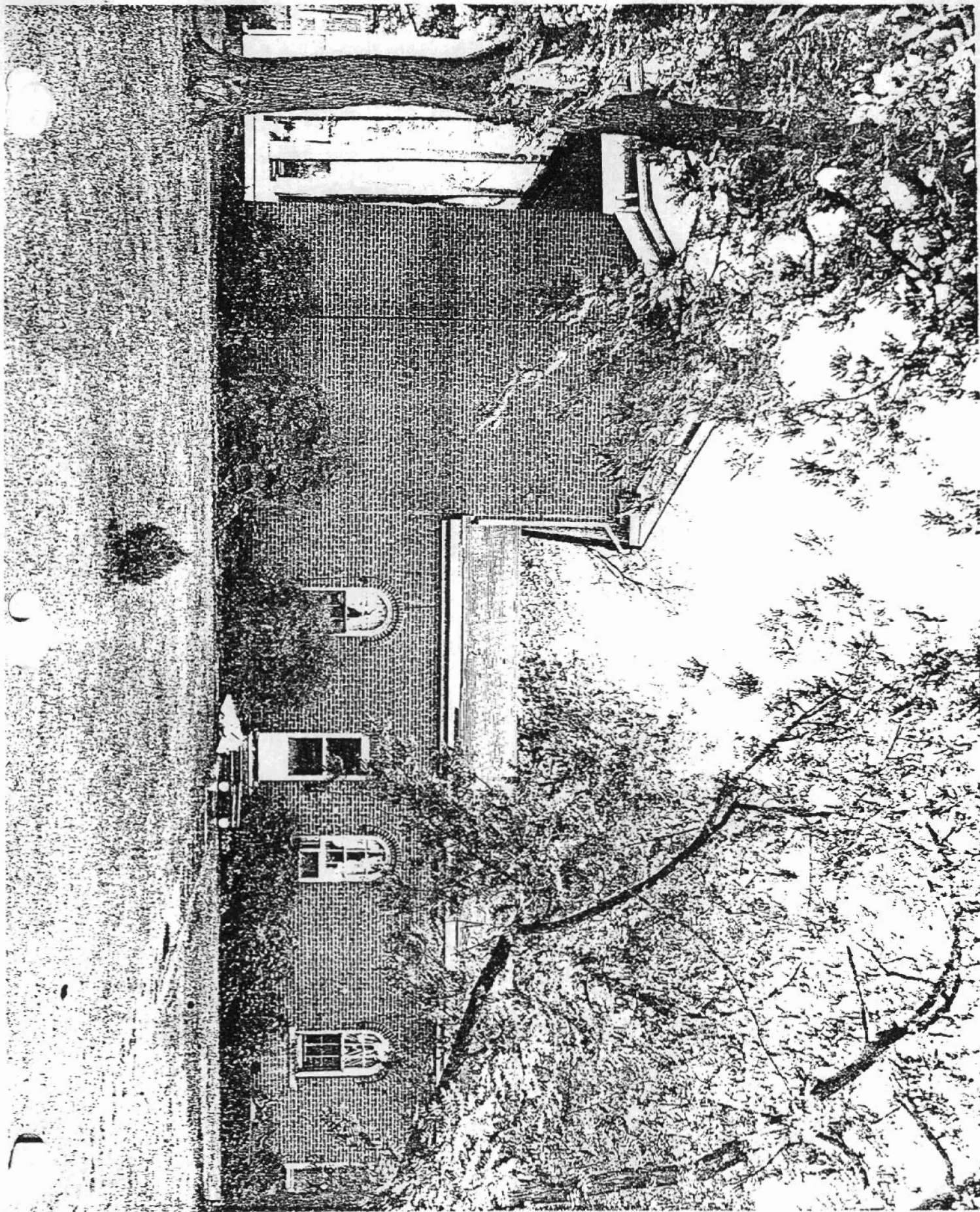
### 4 IDENTIFICATION

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

EAST (FRONT) FACADE

PHOTO NO

1



10-74

Captain Archibald S. McKennon House  
Clarksville, Mo.  
North elevation

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1 NAME

HISTORIC CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD S. MCKENNON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON BASHAM HOUSE

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN CALARKSVILLE VICINITY OF COUNTY JOHNSON STATE ARKANSAS

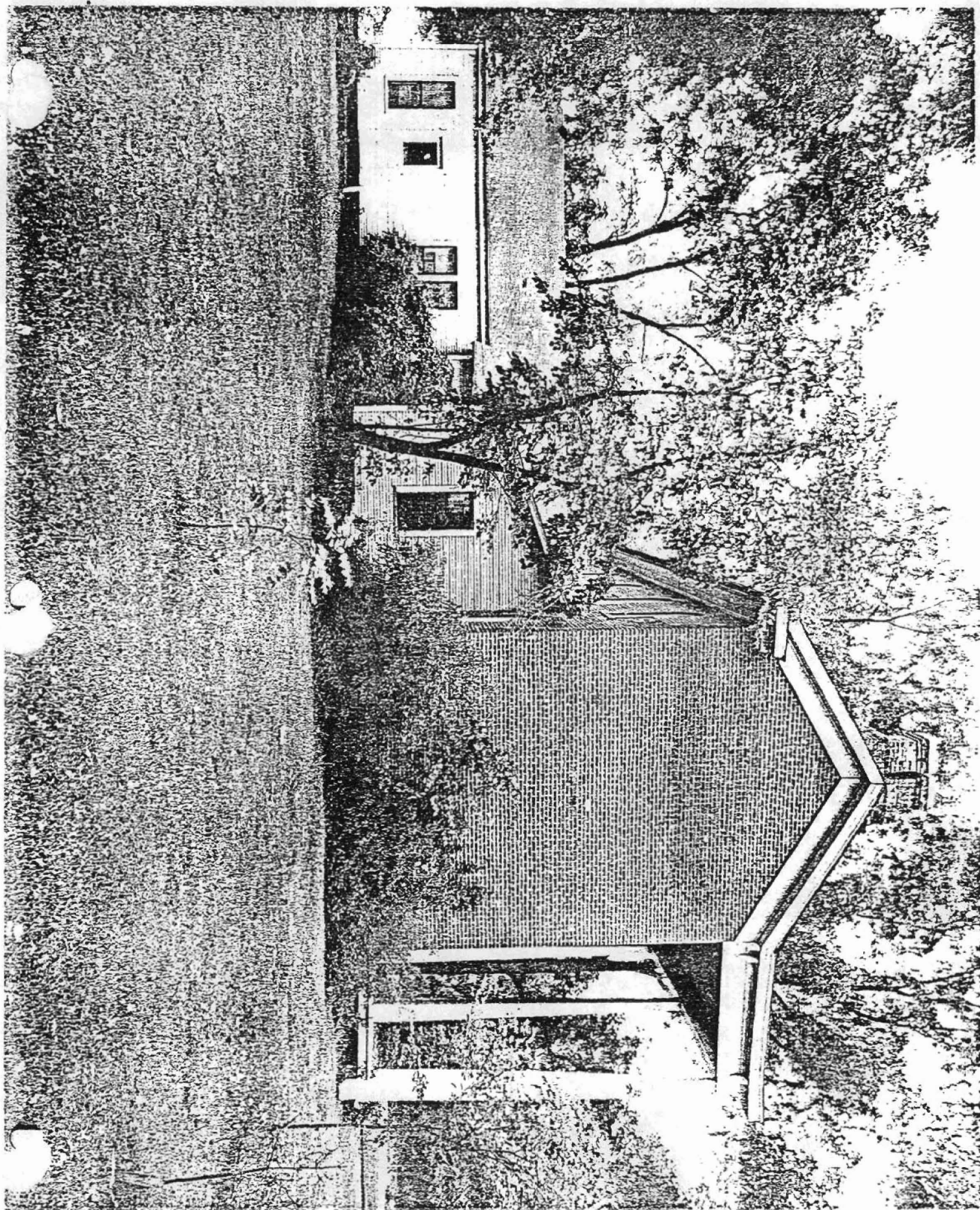
3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT BOB DUNN DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET  
NORTH ELEVATION PHOTO NO 3



*Captain Archibald S. McKennon*  
*Clarksville, Ark*  
*South Arkansas*

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1 NAME

HISTORIC

CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD S. MCKENNON HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

BASHAM HOUSE

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

CLARKSVILLE

\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE  
ARKANSAS

COUNTY  
JOHNSON

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

BOB DUNN

DATE OF PHOTO

1975

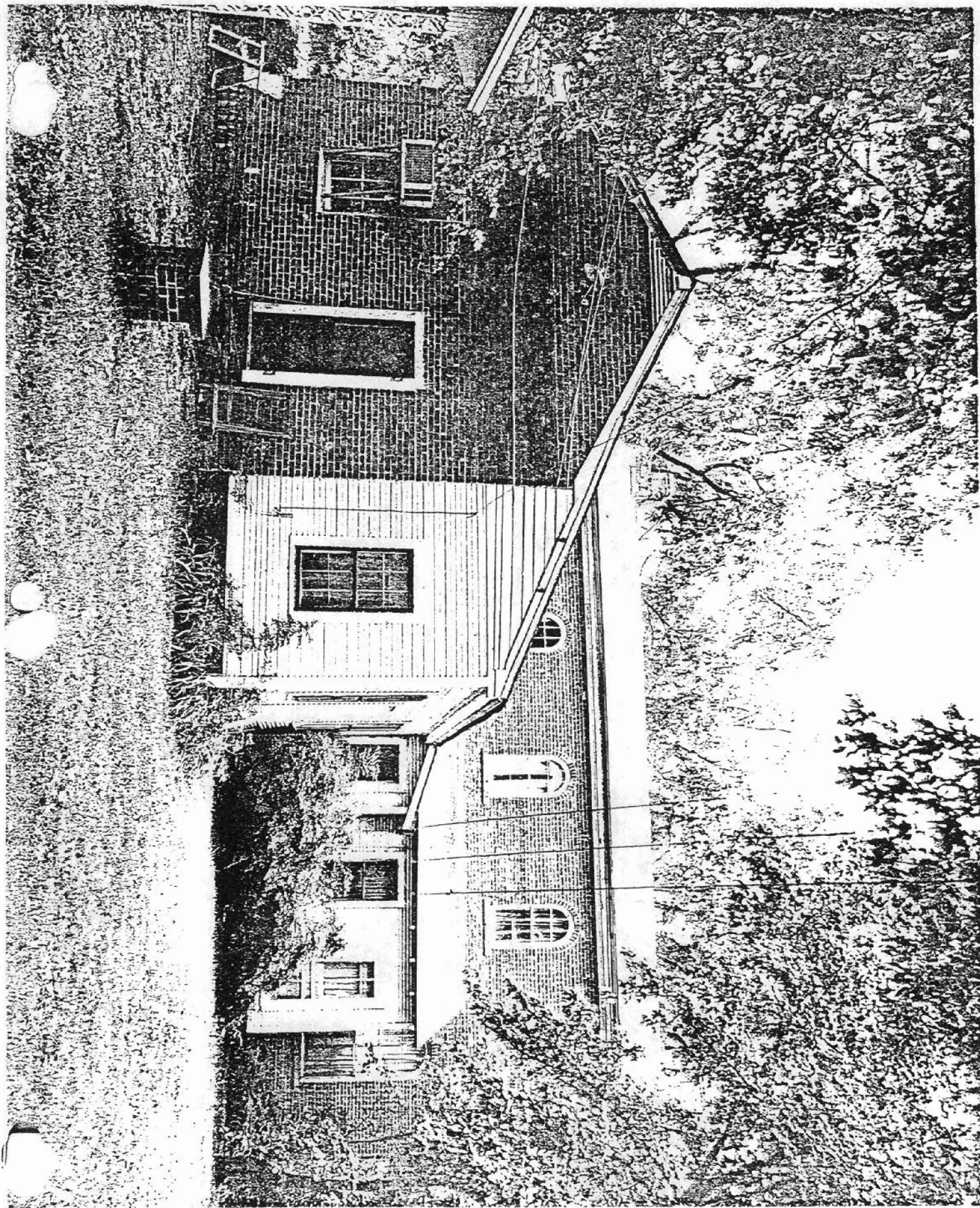
NEGATIVE FILED AT

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

4 IDENTIFICATION

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

PHOTO NO.  
2



*Captain Archibald S. W. Mckennon House  
Clarksville, Mo.  
West elevation*

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**1 NAME**

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AND/OR COMMON BASHAM HOUSE

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN CLARKSVILLE VICINITY OF COUNTY JOHNSON STATE ARKANSAS

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT BOB DUNN DATE OF PHOTO 1975

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**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET WEST ELEVATION PHOTO NO 4

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS  
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES  
2. NORTH ARROW  
3. UTM REFERENCES

## REQUIREMENTS

SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1962

SOURCE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

## MAP REFERENCE

CITY/TOWN CLARKSVILLE  
COUNTY JOHNSON  
STATE ARKANSAS

## LOCATION

BASHAM HOUSE  
AND/OR COMMON

## NAME

HISTORIC CAPTAIN ARCHIBALD S. MCKENNON HOUSE

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

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

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No. 10-301  
10-74

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Basham House  
Clarksville, Ar  
UTM Reference:  
15/457790/3925380

