

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

R NPS USE

DEC 29 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

NOV 3 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

John Tilley House

AND/OR COMMON

Tilley-Buchanan House, Cloverdale Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Rhea's Mill Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Prairie Grove

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05COUNTY
WashingtonCODE
143**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

John A. Buchanan

STREET & NUMBER

Rhea's Mill Road

CITY, TOWN

Prairie Grove

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Washington County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

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

In 1855 John Tilley of Washington County, Arkansas, built a four-room brick house on the road between Prairie Grove and Rhea's Mill. This two-storey house, still on its original site, was built on a central hall plan with one room on either side. With the exception of the frame upper half of the hallway's east wall, all of the interior and exterior walls are of brick construction. The lower walls are sixteen inches thick, tapering to eight inches on the second storey.

When originally constructed the house had no porch on its facade, with only a flat stone slab marking the uncovered entry. About 1880 a two-storey porch was added across the facade. This porch featured a railing and decorative shingles at the second-storey line. In 1952 this Victorian era porch was removed and replaced with six square slender columns supporting the porch roof which projects from the front slope of the gable roof.

Sheltered by the two-storey porch is a five-bay-wide facade. Flanking the center entries are paired windows with double-hung sashes. The lower windows have flat arches with radiating voussoirs. The upper windows are shorter and are set in plain frames. Like the lower windows the main entry has a flat arch with radiating voussoirs. Sidelights above panels and a transom surround the single-door entry. The second-storey entry, set in a simple wood frame, was originally a window but enlarged to accommodate a doorway when the first porch was added.

Stacks from the interior chimneys project above the ridge line at the east and west elevations of the house. The corbelling on the east chimney is still in place, but that on the west has been removed. Windows on the rear elevation match those on the facade. The only side window was added in the 1890's to the lower west elevation.

About 1890 the house was enlarged with a two-storey frame addition on the west side of the rear elevation. This clapboard wing with gable roof houses the kitchen and dining room on the first floor and bedrooms on the second floor. This addition, which replaced the separate frame kitchen, gave the house an ell-shape floor plan. The one-storey porch around the south and east elevations of the frame wing was enclosed in 1952. A small porch northwest of the addition was enclosed in 1970.

Projecting from the west elevation of the brick house is a small, shed-roof cellar entry. From this covered entry, steps lead downward to the dirt-floored cellar which lies beneath the west room. Dug by John Tilley, this cellar is original to the house.

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The interior of the Tilley House is relatively simple with wide baseboards and plain moulding around doors and windows. The original plaster is still in place on the brick walls. Pine flooring is used throughout with eight-inch-wide planks in the brick house and six-inch planks in the rear wing.

The Tilley House remains in excellent condition, and has been continually occupied and carefully maintained. Its peaceful rural setting has changed little in the century-and-a-quarter since the house was constructed.

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 checked="" 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 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tilley House, located west of Prairie Grove on Rhea's Mill Road, was constructed about 1855. In comparison with the rest of the state, this area of northwest Arkansas was well-populated in the mid-nineteenth century. The Tilley House is one of several antebellum homes constructed in Washington County; however, the Tilley House is one of the few early brick houses to be built in a rural section of the county.

Before building their brick house, John Tilley and his family lived in a one-and-one-half-storey log house. About 1854 they began construction of their brick home on a site just northeast of the log cabin. When the brick house was completed in 1855, a covered walkway connected it to the log house, which thereafter served as kitchen and dining room. In the 1890's the log house was torn down and a frame wing, housing a kitchen, dining room and additional bedrooms, was added to the rear of the house.

The brick house built by John Tilley was a two-storey structure. Using bricks made about one-half mile southwest of the site, Tilley built walls which were sixteen inches thick on the first storey and half that width on the second storey. Plaster of lime, sand and hog hair covered the interior walls and was done with an egg-shell finish. The tongue-and-grove floors, pegged doors and simple window frames were all made from heart pine.

A native of Tennessee, John Tilley moved to Arkansas about 1845. Tilley was a successful farmer, and by 1860 owned property valued at over twelve thousand dollars. That same year he estimated his personal estate to be worth almost sixteen thousand dollars.

The Civil War brought great upheaval to the Tilley family. The oldest son, John Tilley, Jr., enlisted in the Confederate army and was killed in the Battle of Prairie Grove in 1862. Fought just a few miles east of the Tilley farm, this battle was considered to be a Union victory and led to the Civil War occupation of northwest Arkansas.

Several published memoirs of the Tilley family and their descendants record interesting events which occurred during the occupation. One

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account describes how wheat was hidden in the attic, removed through a hole in the roof, and taken by night to a nearby mill to be ground into flour. Another published story recounts Mrs. Tilley's successful efforts to have some Union troops expelled from her house and reprimanded by their commanding officer.

During the Federal occupation of Washington County, John Tilley and one of his sons fled to Texas. After the Civil War ended, but before he could return home, John Tilley died in Texas. The farm and house passed to his son, Joseph Tilley, who lived and worked there his entire lifetime.

A fourth generation of the Tilley family currently resides in the house built by John Tilley. John Buchanan, a grandson of Joseph Tilley, now owns and occupies the house.

This historic northwest Arkansas residence, architecturally important as an antebellum brick house, is significant as the home of one of the area's most prominent nineteenth century citizens. The Tilley House is an important historic landmark in the Prairie Grove area of Washington County.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, October 13, 1974.

Buchanan, H. E. "The Ante-Bellum Tilley House Near Prairie Grove." Washington County Historical Society Flashback, Vol. 16 (August, 1966).

United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: Population Schedule for Washington County, Arkansas. Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 3,7,5 1,0,0 3,9 8,3 8,4,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

DATE

12-9-75

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

STATE

Arkansas

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 Anne Bartley

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 12-9-75

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11-3-78

DATE

11-3-78

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United States Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the
United States, 1860: Population Schedule for Washington County, Arkansas.
Microfilm, Arkansas History Commission.

Buchanan, John. Interview at Cloverdale Farms, October 27, 1975.