

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

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

HISTORIC

Tremonti-Rice House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

8801 East 66th Street

CITY, TOWN

Raytown

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#5 - Hon. Richard Bolling

STATE

Missouri

CODE

29

COUNTY

Jackson

CODE

095

**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

Mrs. Gloria Tremonti

STREET &amp; NUMBER

8801 East 66th Street

CITY, TOWN

Raytown

VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64050

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds, Jackson County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

308 W. Kansas

CITY, TOWN

Independence

STATE

Missouri 64050

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

1. Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue

DATE

1963

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

State Historical Society of Missouri

CITY, TOWN

Columbia

STATE

Missouri 65201

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2. Missouri State Historical Survey  
1978  
Department of Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

state

Missouri 65102

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

south, and 267.58 feet on the west.

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey  
Department of Natural Resources  
Office of Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City

October 21, 1978  
314/751-4096  
Missouri 65102

## 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 Tremonti-Rice House is located on a 3.66 acre lot of which the northern 1.36 portion is being nominated. This lot occupies the southeast corner of East 66th Street and Blue Ridge Cutoff and represents the remaining portion of the original 160 acre tract patented by Archibald Rice in 1844 which fronted the Santa Fe Road. Also on this site, and of primary significance despite alterations, is Aunt Sophia's Cabin.

### TREMONTI-RICE FARMHOUSE

The Tremonti-Rice House faces north and sits well back in a wooded lot fronting East 66th Street. Of frame construction, the one and a half story house rests on a brick foundation, constructed on an ell-plan, capped with a cross gable roof covered with sawn wooden shingles, and sheathed with weatherboards painted white.

### Primary Facade

The primary (north) facade presents a three bayed front. The central bay entrance doors, one above the other, are flanked by sidelights, entablatured on the first story, set in a steeply pitched pediment on the second, which suggests Greek Revival origins for this house, although what are probably the subsequent addition bargeboards on the eaves and raking eaves of the main block, and, in 1931, of bargeboarded dormers on the second story set in the first and third bays add a distinct Carpenter Gothic flavor to the house. The entry door is a four panel single leaf type; side lights feature recessed panels underneath and are flanked by pilasters which support a broad bracketed frieze set beneath a projecting cornice upon which ceiling of the porch directly rests. The entry door is concealed behind a transomed screened door and sheltered by the one story flat roofed porch supported by a pair of octagonal columns, with engaged columns of identical design providing additional support against the wall surface. Capitals are suggested on these columns by small jigsaw brackets, with an outward curl at the top and the columns support a flat porch roof with a broad plain frieze and projecting cornice supported by widely spaced brackets with pendants, paired at the corners, and capped by a wood railing consisting of squat, square corner posts with balusters consisting of short rectangular-shaped boards. The second story door features a large glass light and the architrave of its sidelights is surrounded by what appears to be an elongated corsette or a clipped off hood mold. The raking eaves are decorated by scalloped bargeboards and a small finial caps the gabled peak. Flanking this peak at the ridgeline are small chimneys.

The outer bays on both stories consist of paired windows. Those on the first story are original to the house and are double-hung six-over-six with tall rectangular lights. Their enframements are partially surrounded by the same odd molding noted on the second story door opening, and the plain lug sills are formed from wood boards.

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Above the windows, lining the eaves, are jigsawn vergeboards in a serial arrangement of inverted fleur-de-lis, interrupted by the central bay.

The dormers feature small paired six-over-six, double-hung windows and flaring eaves supported by three braces and lined with bargeboards.

East and West Facades, Main Block. The east facades and west facades of the main block are one bay in width with single windows one above the other, and are identical with the exception of the second story east facade window which is six-over-six light double-hung sash while all of the remaining are eight-over-eight light double-hung sash with tall rectangular panes. Their enframements are identical to those of the outer bay windows and central bay second story door of the primary facade. Scalloped barge boards line the raking eaves, carrying the Carpenter Gothic flavor to these facades.

South Facade, Main Block. The west half of the south facade presents a single window opening identical to those on the west facade and first story of the east facade.

Rear Ell. The rear wing of the L-plan house attaches to the east half of the main block, not quite flush with the east wall of the main block. This wing apparently dates from the same period as the main block, and features like the main block, a brick foundation, weatherboard siding and a sawn wood shingled gable roof. On both the east and west facades, are two dormers filled with paired window openings and decorated with vergeboards. Like the dormers on the primary facade, they are not original. On the ell's east facade are two widely spaced window openings containing eight-over-eight double-hung sash. On the west facade are three six-over-six double-hung windows (four windows if kitchen addition is included) and a door leading from a patio into the dining room.

A kitchen has been attached to the south end of the ell with window openings either paired or single on the east, west and south ends. A doorway, with a bargeboarded protective canopy supported by braces, occurs on the south end above concrete steps which lead to the kitchen. Adjoined to the stairs on the east side are a flight of stairs which lead to the basement and which are housed within a weatherboarded frame structure capped by a wood shingled, shallow pitched gable roof. The kitchen's nearly flat pitched shed roof is bordered by a balustrade of identical period (1931) and design as that above the porch on the primary facade. The south face of the gable of the ell above this kitchen addition presents a door with a large glass panel flanked by six-over-six light double-hung windows.

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Interior. The interior has experienced many changes over the years. The entire first floor rests on a full basement which is not original. The walls of this basement are of random rubble and the floor is concrete. The exposed 1st floor joists consists of milled 2" x 8" joists that are mortised into oak beams.

The floor plan of the main block, which preserves the most original details, is typical of classically derived houses, having a central stair hall flanked on either side by large rooms. The rooms of the ell on both floors have been altered over the years and possess little of their original integrity.

Stair Hall. The stair hall is flanked on either side (east and west) by doors leading to the parlors and by a door to the rear (south) to the left of the stair-case that grants access to the rear ell. The stair is an open well u-shaped two run plan. From the first landing, a short secondary stair leads to the second floor rooms of the ell. The stair's bannister, believed to be original, is slender and rounded, and terminates at the base in a curious, almost mollusk-like, volute that is supported by a thin tapered newell post. The remaining balusters are simple then square wooden members. A sawn decorative molding is applied on the outside string of the staircase. The upper landing offers three doors leading to either of the upstairs bedrooms and the porch balcony.

First Floor, Main Block. The first floor retains the following original features: The enframements around the entry door, the front, (north) parlor windows of both rooms, and the south window of the west parlor feature crossettes, suggesting again, greek-revival origins for the house. Also original are the wide molded baseboards of the first floor.

The hardwood floors, however, are nonoriginal, as is the one remaining fireplace on the west wall of the east parlor. This two tiered fireplace has thick mantels supported by flanking tuscan columns. The second mantel and supporting columns are half the height of the first, and the space between the mantels has been filled by a large mirror. In this parlor, french doors open to the dining room of the rear ell.

The west parlor was converted into a doctor's office which entailed dividing the north quarter of the room with a partition to create a narrow hallway with doors granting access to the remaining larger portion of the room.

First Floor, Rear Ell. The north half of the rear ell consists of a large dining room with a door leading to the kitchen on the south half. A bathroom in the north-east corner of the kitchen is accessible from the dining room.

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Second Floor, Main Block. The upstairs floors appear to be of the original 6" oak boards. The crossetted enframement of the door leading to the porch balcony is also original. The wide baseboards, where not original, duplicate the originals. Both upstairs rooms of the main block are bedrooms.

Second Floor, Rear Ell. The second floor of the rear ell was created in the 1920's to provide additional bedrooms and an upstairs bath. Above both the main block and rear ell second floor rooms is a full attic in which the sawn oak 2" x 4" rafters can be viewed.

ALTERATIONS

Time of Construction - 1930. It is not possible to determine when the Gothic Revival-like decorative features were applied to the house. It is possible to speculate that they were built later than the original Greek Revival farmhouse, but this may not be the case.

The earliest photograph examined, shows the primary facade of the house around 1911-1915. At this time, the porch was supported by four octagonal posts rather than the present two, there were approximately twice as many brackets beneath the porch cornice, and an entirely different railing occurred above the cornice, which was solid and perforated by geometrical designs of a repeated circular form. This same photograph reveals that octagonal pendants, occurring at the eave line on either end of the primary facade, have lost their drops.

The earliest floor plan of the house examined depicted the first floor of the house (as recalled fifty-six years later by Mrs. Mildred Lowe) as it was around 1911-1922. Two rooms (a parlor-bedroom and a living room) divided by a stairhall occurred in the main block while the ell was divided into north and south sections. The north section was partitioned into a living room and a bedroom that had a double door granting passage into the living room of the main block. The south section was partitioned into a kitchen on the east and a bedroom on the west connected by a bath in between. At this time, water was piped into the kitchen and bathroom. A porch, half the width of the ell, with steps leading into a small basement where a carbide generator was kept, attached to the south end of the ell, and a smaller enclosed porch in turn adjoined this porch. The upstairs rooms of the main block were finished at this time (1911-1922), but the second floor was not finished.<sup>1</sup> Sometime during the 1920's, according to the recollections of the present owner, the main stairway was removed and partitions eliminated in the ell area to allow for more serving space during a time when chicken dinners were served in the house.<sup>2</sup>

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The most extensive changes made to the house occurred during the occupancy of Dr. and Mrs. Louis Tremonti. In 1930-31, they undertook extensive remodeling work. A full basement was dug under the house with stone walls to reinforce the original brick foundation, and a concrete floor; the main staircase was restored to its original place; the south porch was enlarged to equal the width of the ell and converted into a spacious kitchen with a bathroom in its northeast corner, while the dining room by this time was no longer divided by a partition. Upstairs, dormers were placed in the north gable slope of the main block to illuminate the two upstairs rooms. Paired dormers constructed on either gable slope of the ell afforded additional space for second floor bedrooms, a bathroom, and linen closet. The bargeboards of all dormers were Dr. Tremonti's design, as apparently were the railings atop the primary facade porch and the south kitchen addition. During their renovation, the Tremontis maintained a sensitivity to the architectural integrity of their home, and whenever it was necessary to replace millwork, the original was duplicated.<sup>3</sup>

AUNT SOPHIA'S CABIN

Aunt Sophia's Cabin, located approximately 75 feet southwest of the Tremonti-Rice House, is a simple log building, square in shape with a large stone chimney on its south end, and shake shingles covering its gable roof. It measures 16'2" on each side and rises in eight courses of logs squared on two sides and joined with half-dovetail notches. Logs, more crudely finished, fill the gable faces and the roof is supported by log poles for rafters. Small window openings, presently boarded up, occur one each on the east and west facades and two smaller window openings flank either side of the chimney. There are centrally positioned door openings on the cabin's east and west facades. The chimney is laid up in undressed slabs of fieldstone in random courses, with crude shoulders beginning at the eaveline. Inside, is a large stone hearth.

Aunt Sophia's Cabin has been altered. At the same time that the Rice House was remodeled, 1930-31, the cabin received a non-professional restoration. A photograph of the cabin taken about 1922 shows the cabin with a badly sagging but massive dressed stone chimney. This chimney is definitely not the one there today. All of the cabin's windows were added by the Tremontis, and numerous logs salvaged from a Cameron, Missouri log cabin<sup>4</sup> were used to replace deteriorated originals, which included all of the logs in the gable faces. Another look at the 1922 photograph suggests that many logs elsewhere were also replaced, as the original logs appear larger in size than the present ones, and more consistent in their notching.

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SITE

The Tremonti-Rice House was originally the nucleus of a working farm. A recent drawing by Mrs. Mildred Lowe shows the house and site as it was during the years when she was growing up there, 1911-1922, when 20 acres of the original 160-acre tract was still intact. The north and east borders of this property were 66th Street and Blue Ridge Road (now Blue Ridge Cut-Off). A driveway cutting east off of Blue Ridge Road separated Aunt Sophia's Cabin and the rest of the farm from the main house, and made a right angle turn northward to connect with 66th Street, thus surrounding the south and east sides of the house (the east leg of this driveway has since become overgrown). In the immediate vicinity of the house were a well and cistern, while beyond the driveway, in addition to Aunt Sophia's Cabin, were found the "cave" (root cellar), garage, three-hole privy, hen house, hog house, barn, hay barn, pond and orchards.

Today, the entire area has become developed and its rural character has vanished. The orchards, pond, barns, hen and hog houses, privy have all disappeared. Still remaining on the property being nominated, but of secondary significance, are the root cellar, with a badly deteriorated entrance housing, a small frame tool shed and a frame double garage. The area between and south of the ell and main block of the house has been converted by the Tremontis into a patio constructed of square flagstones. Near the southwest corner of the patio is a wellhouse with a low pitched wood shingled pyramidal roof. This wellhouse is believed to have been constructed between 1911-1921, and to cover a well of much earlier origin. Dates for the other outbuildings are uncertain, but, with the exception of the root cellar which may approximate the main house in age, were likely erected in this century, possibly since 1930.

The lot, itself, is well shaded in warm months by numerous large trees of a variety of species. A sidewalk leading from the front porch of the main house north to the lot's border with 66th Street is lined on either side by large chains suspended between metal pipes that serve as posts. A fence made of stacked unmortared field-stone borders the north edge of the property, and near where Blue Ridge Cut-Off and 66th Street join is a granite Santa Fe Trail marker placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1913.

GENERAL VICINITY

The area including and around the Tremonti-Rice property is presently zoned for commercial use. An automobile rental agency now occupies one of the three lots owned by Mrs. Tremonti. Across Blue Ridge Cut-Off to the west is an automobile agency and used car lot which is more than an acre in extent, and is adjoined by a shopping center containing seven small shops and a tavern.



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CONDITION AND PRESENT STATUS

The Tremonti-Rice House is in good condition and in need of minor repairs; Aunt Sophia's Cabin is in fair condition. Because of age, health and financial situation, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the present owner to maintain the property. Public acquisition to preserve the home as a museum is being considered, but has not yet been finalized.

FOOTNOTES

1. Mildred Lowe Cole, interview with Roberta Bonnewitz, June 19, 1978 (by telephone), and June 22, 1978 (in person). Included in these interviews are drawings of the floor plan and site plan of house and grounds during the years 1911-1922.
2. Ethylene Ballard Thurston, "Civil War Interrupted Life at Old Rice Place," Kansas City Times, April 7, 1967; Ethylene Ballard Thurston, "Aunt Sophia's Cabin Weathers Span of Years", Jackson County Historical Society, (Spring, 1967), p. 13.
3. Ibid.
4. Thurston, "Civil War Interrupted Life at Old Rice Place," Thurston, "Aunt Sophia's Cabin Weathers Span of Years."

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
100-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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

ca. 1844

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tremonti-Rice House is significant for its architecture; as one of the oldest buildings in Raytown, Missouri; for its associations with one of Jackson County's pioneer families; and for the fact that it rests on property bordering the Santa Fe Trail. Aunt Sophia's Cabin, though altered, may be one of the oldest buildings in Jackson County and one of Missouri's oldest buildings on the Santa Fe Trail that is still preserved.

## TREMONTI-RICE HOUSE

A well-known historic site on the old Road to Santa Fe is the former home of Archibald (Archabald) Rice at 8801 East Sixty-sixth Street, Raytown, Missouri. One hundred and fifty years have passed since he settled there, and many stories and many legends have become imbedded in the local history concerning this home and its owners.

The United States government, in 1808, made a treaty with the Osage Indians and Fort Osage was built for the protection of this tribe. From the fort on the western boundary, these Indians followed a trail to the prairies to hunt the buffalo. It became known as the Osage trail.

William Becknell, an enterprising merchant, used the Osage trail as part of the route to Santa Fe to exchange merchandise in 1822. Other persons also found this trip to Santa Fe to be a profitable business, and the ruts in the trail became harder and deeper.

By 1825 the United States made a treaty with the Osage Indians extending the boundaries of the state of Missouri twenty-four miles further west.<sup>2</sup> Jackson County was organized December 15, 1826, and Independence was chosen the county seat. Sales of public lands were made, and white settlers quickly set to work to construct their homes and conquer the soil.

By 1831 Independence had become the outfitting point on the Santa Fe Road. In that year 130 wagons, 320 men, and 150,000 pounds of freight had gone down the trail to Santa Fe.<sup>3</sup>

Archibald Rice and his family left North Carolina in 1826 and spent the next six years living in Missouri. The family bible states that he came to Jackson County in 1832 and lived on the "little" Blue River for four years.<sup>4</sup> County records verify that statement.

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He had purchased farms in the eastern part of the county near Buckner.<sup>5</sup> After getting the land under cultivation, he set out large orchards which he continued to own until his death.

For some reason, he decided to leave this farm under the supervision of his older son, William, now twenty-two years of age. Perhaps he decided two stops on the Santa Fe Road would provide a better advantage to serve the traffic on the trail, or perhaps it was just an opportunity to obtain another large farm.

The newer farm was in a "lost township," one of several townships not surveyed at the time of the county organization.<sup>6</sup> It was in a prairie not considered prime land. The long tough roots of the prairie grasses were difficult to overturn with the plows, and there was a lack of timber to provide housing, fuel, and fencing.

In spite of these difficulties, there was habitation in the "lost township" south of Fifty-ninth Street in Raytown. The government had passed several acts permitting settlement on public lands.<sup>7</sup>

The first squatter in this area (as far as we can determine) was William Cock (Cox). In his pre-emption claim, he had stated that he had settled here in 1834 or 1835, had a comfortable dwelling, necessary outhouses, and stables. He had twenty-five acres enclosed and in cultivation and a good grist mill.<sup>8</sup>

Perhaps the astute Archibald Rice made a wise decision to become the second squatter and claimed land south and adjacent to William Cock's land. Alexander Chiles, son-in-law of Mr. Rice, appeared as a witness in Clinton, Missouri Land Office on January 22, 1844, and testified that since 1836 Mr. Rice had resided in a dwelling house on the property claimed, had erected three comfortable log cabins for the negroes, and cultivated five or six acres.<sup>9</sup>

Lavender W. Conner, a second son-in-law, testified that Archibald Rice and his family had resided in a dwelling on the southwest quarter of Section Five since 1837, and in that same year he began cultivating the adjacent quarter. By 1838, Rice had the north-west quarter of Section Eight nearly under fence and seeded with crops of corn, wheat, etc.<sup>10</sup>

Matt Fields, a traveling reporter from 1839 to 1841, mentioned a visit to Farmer Rice's abode:<sup>11</sup>

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"About half a day's travel brings the Santa Fe bound traveler past the flourishing plantation of Farmer Rice, where leisure travellers often linger to enjoy his sweet bacon, fresh eggs, new milk, and other nutritious and unsophisticated luxuries that always appease appetite without encumbering digestion."

The Rice farm had become a camping site on the trail. It had space for wagons, springs for watering, and corn and prairie grass for feeding animals.

George Buchanan arrived in Independence on May 7, 1838. In his diary he indicates several reasons travelers might seek to camp far from the county seat.<sup>12</sup>

"Independence is a handsomly situated place about three miles south of the Missouri River and has a population of 350 to 400. Its immediate vicinity is timbered land of good quality, but a few miles south of it sets in a prairie extending with little or partial interruption to Santa Fe and united with the Great American Desert.

...There are numerous groceries in the place to each of which is generally appended the necessary accommodations for carrying on the devious and hell-born modes of gambling which are generally occupied..."

By 1849 the trail was further burdened with outfits eager to find gold in California. Diaries of two groups who had camped on the Rice farm have been found relating their experiences and occupations while waiting for the prairie grasses to grow abundant enough to provide for their stock.

Hugh Morgan Price, his two brothers, Calvin and Franklin, and Joshua Donaldson left Millersburg, Ohio, on March 29, 1849. In Cincinnati they purchased a wagon and harness and four mules. Then, they boarded the steamer, Mary Blane, for Independence, Missouri. Their stay at the Rice home is thus recorded:<sup>13</sup>

"We remained in Independence until 20th April making tent and preparing other necessities for the journey across the plains and mountains. Nothing of great importance during this time.

April 20th moved into the country 2 miles south Independence. Having bought our mules &c the number of mules bought were 5 but finding they were Insufficient I bought a pony of the Indians on Kansas River.

27th April moved out to Mr. Rice's 8 miles from Independence. Here Capt. McCaddon of the Zaneville Company died with the cholera.

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In laying in provisions we determined to lay in nothing but the real substantial of life. Our provisions consisted of 600 lbs. of flour, 440 lbs. bacon, 227 lbs. crackers, 25 lbs. salt for selves and mules.

29th very cool weather, raining nearly every day. 8 miles south of Independence is beautifully interspersed with prairie and timber. Well water with fine springs. Limestone soil.

5th May left Rice's and travelled 4 miles then encamped till Monday morning."

About the same time ten persons, including Amos P. Josselyn, left Zanesville, Ohio, arriving in Independence, Missouri, on April 18, 1849. Their diary account is:<sup>14</sup>

"April 23 - Rain nearly all day which prevented us from moving but being in no hurry put it off until the next day.

April 24 - Left camp 8 o'clock and drove 6 miles and camped three miles S.W. of Independence. Fine day.

April 25 - Left camp at 8 1/2 o'clock and drove to Mr. Rice's (6 miles) where corn was plenty at \$1.25 per bl.

April 26 - Drove back 1 mile to a smith shop and got a tyre cut. Fine day.

April 28 - Hitched up and drove 8 miles to Blue River, before leaving Rice's we bought corn enough to feed our teams for 6 to 7 days thinking that the grass would be good enough for grazing by the time the corn was out. Weather fine."

In March 1849, Archibald Rice and his wife, Sally, began to prepare for his final days by deeding property to their children and by making bequests of division of slaves, furniture, wagons, and animals.<sup>15</sup> With these planned legal transactions taking place in March, it was unlikely that his death on October 14, 1849, age 67, was caused by cholera as some legendary stories relate.

The probate inventory of the Rice property was approximately: Negroes, 11 males, 6 females, 4 children; 3 horses and 17 mules, 9 yoke of oxen, 27 head of sheep, 44 head of cattle, hogs (divided into 9 portions), 1 buggy, 1 wagon, stacks of oats, and a crop of corn in the field, totaling a value of \$10,014.22. A dozen knives and forks were divided between a son, Elihu, and a grandson, Larry Adams.

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Elihu also received a stove and bed. Daughter, Mary Ann, received, in addition to property and livestock, a spinning wheel, a bed-stand, one dish, one pot, and one oven. Elihu (Elihugh) was left the homesite of 160 acres "to exercise no ownership without consent and approval of the mother during her natural lifetime."<sup>16</sup>

Elihugh Rice and Catherine "Kitty" Stoner White were married on November 14, 1850. Elihugh was now a mature man of 26 years and owner of several hundreds of acres of land. Catherine's parents, Samuel and Martha White, lived on a large farm west of the present Lake Jacomo, Jackson County, Missouri. Mr. White had died in 1844. His widow had received as part of his estate a slave woman, Sophia, age 28, value of \$225.00. Family legend states that Sophia was a wedding present to the eighteen year old bride. Sophia was present at all the births of the five children born to Elihugh Coffe and Kitty Stoner Rice within the next eight years.

Sally Rice, wife of Archibald, died August 5, 1852.<sup>17</sup> Elihugh assumed title to the 160-acre homesite, and farmed, in addition, his own 320 acres, assisted by his sons, Samuel White and William. Numerous county records indicate he was forced to work many years to pay debts acquired during the Civil War. Local histories record<sup>18</sup> that he led a moderate life including holding terms as the local road overseer, school board director, and a member of the Southern Methodist Church.

Elihugh's granddaughter, Annie Lane Jackson (born 1882), related stories as told to her concerning the Rice family and these have been frequently retold in the Raytown area:<sup>19</sup>

Before the main house was built, in 1844, the Rice family lived in a two-story, four-room log cabin near 67th and Blue Ridge which was later replaced with an ice house. The ice was cut from a spring-fed pond. A semi-circle of log, slave cabins was near the main house.

Sundays were festive days for family gatherings. Food was carried from Aunt Sophy's Kitchen to the house, rain or shine. Ice cream was often made.

The Rice family fled to Texas during the Civil War period. After their return, Aunt Sophy continued to live with "her" family. As the only remaining Negro in this area, the neighborhood children were suspicious of her and taunted her. Visitors sometimes refused to eat the food she prepared.

As remuneration for her services, Mr. Rice gave her young livestock to raise and sell. She dried apples to sell to special customers.

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Ten years before her death, Sophy White bought a burial plot in Woodlawn Cemetery in Independence, Missouri. She was buried there after her death on March 29, 1896, age 77 years.

In his will, Elihugh Coffe Rice requested that the homesite be sold. Thus, after his death, March 3, 1903, there have been numerous legal transactions concerning this historic site.<sup>20</sup>

Between 1906 and 1922, the land was owned by Judge Joseph M. Lowe and his son, John Roger Lowe. This forty-acre farm was operated in connection with other nearby farms. Mrs. Mildred Lowe Cole<sup>21</sup> calls her grandfather a truly southern gentlemen, with broad-brimmed hat, white goatee, supervising from his rocking chair. He became president of the National Old Trails Association. He recorded his remembrances in the book, The National Old Trails Road, The Great Historic Highway of America.

Judge Lowe and the Missouri chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution formed a movement in 1908 to mark the Santa Fe Trail Across the State.<sup>22</sup> Their goal was successful and dedication of granite markers was made on May 15, 1913.<sup>23</sup> Aunt Sophy's Kitchen was one of these designated locations.

John Roger Lowe was locally known as dealing in livestock and real estate. While living on the former Rice farm, Mrs. Cole remembers a yard with a few locust trees and an orchard of varieties of fruits. Hay, mules, and hogs were important money crops. The old ice-house and the log cabin served as hay barns. Mr. Lowe sold some of the land in 1922 and exchanged some for land in Lee's Summit, Missouri. He was interested in developing the local Laurel Heights subdivision.

After John Roger Lowe disposed of the forty acres (SW 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 5), several of the owners were unsuccessful in retaining the property. Legal transactions concerning the three lots presently owned by Mrs. Tremonti are not clear. Three shops were built on one of the lots and various businesses were conducted there. Many contradictory recollections are obtained now about the former occupants of the residence and the shops and their uses. It is said, for example, that at one time the Rice House was a chicken dinner establishment operated by a Mrs. Paschal and Mrs. Seay. They apparently removed the house's front hall staircase in order to increase accommodations for the diners.<sup>24</sup>

In 1930, Dr. Louis G. Tremonti, a physician, and his wife, Lois Gloria (Hartshorn) Tremonti began to acquire the Rice House and two adjoining lots. A year later they began an extensive and costly remodeling project on the house and Aunt Sophia's Cabin. The House received a new basement, kitchen and additional upstairs rooms

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in the ell made possible by creating dormers. The west front parlor was converted into an office area where Dr. Tremonti could receive patients.

Dr. Tremonti died in 1949,<sup>25</sup> but as of this writing, his wife continues to occupy the house.

The survey of Missouri's historic sites is based on the selection of sites as they relate to theme studies in Missouri history as outlined in "Missouri's State Historic Preservation Plan". The Tremonti-Rice House, therefore, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," and "Exploration and Settlement."

FOOTNOTES

1. W.Z. Hickman, History of Jackson County, Missouri, (Topeka, Cleveland: Historical Publishing Company, 1920), p. 116. Dr. Gregg, author of Commerce of the Prairies (1845)... "was a well-educated man and an efficient surveyor. He explored the country and made maps that were verified in later years. In his work he states that the first attempt to cross the plains to Santa Fe was made by Captain Beckwith or Becknell, and that they started from Franklin, in Howard County, and followed what was known as the Osage Trail."
2. 19th Congress 1st Session House Executive Document No. 1, pp. 89-92 (Serial 131).
3. W.Z. Hickman, History of Jackson County, Missouri, (Topeka, Cleveland: Historical Publishing Company, 1920), p. 115.
4. "Archibald Rice Family Bible," DAR Independence Pioneers Chapter, found in Mid-Continent Library, Independence, Missouri.
5. Land Records, Jackson County, Missouri, Records Office, Jackson County Courthouse, Independence, Missouri, Books: B, p. 205; D, p. 59; E, p. 248.
6. W.Z. Hickman, History of Jackson County, Missouri, (Topeka, Cleveland: Historical Publishing Company, 1920), p. 358.
7. James Redpath, Handbook to Kansas Territory and Rocky Mountain Gold Region, (New York: Colton, 1859, reprint) pp. 161-177--allowed head of household to claim 160 acres if he resided there and cultivated the land.



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8. Pre-emption Claim No. 23603, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. (NW 1/4, Section 5, Township 48, Range 32).
9. Pre-emption Claim No. 23602, dated January 22, 1844. Land Office Clinton, Missouri, affidavit of Alexander Chiles. Speculation on the age of Aunt Sophia's Cabin (or Kitchen) centers around the possibility of it being one of the three log cabins referred to in Chile's testimony. The 1840 census indicates Mr. Rice owned 12 negro males and 8 negro females at that time. His widow, in 1850, owned 16 slaves. It is possible that they may have built more than three slave cabins on this property, and if Sophia's was not among the initial three, it may have been built soon after as additional quarters were required.
10. Pre-emption Claim No. 23600, dated January 22, 1844, Clinton, Missouri, Land Office, affidavit of Lavender W. Conner, (NW 1/4, Section 8, Township 48, Range 32 West).
11. Clyde and Mae Reed Porter, edited by John E. Sunder, Matt Fields on the Santa Fe Trail: (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1960) p. 69. Series of eighty-five articles published in the New Orleans Picayune from December 1839 to October 1841
12. News article, no date, "Recently Found Diary Gives Vivid Picture of Early Independence - Personal Account of George Buchanan, Who Came from Marion, Virginia, to the Town Which Was the Outfitting Point for the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails, Describing a Bright Future for This Section".
13. Hugh Morgan Price, "Diary of a Forty-Niner," loaned by Gordon H. Price.
14. "Journal of Amos P. Josselyn, April 2, 1849, to September 11, 1849, Zanesville, Ohio, to Sacramento, California".
15. Jackson County, Missouri, Recorder's Office, Independence, Missouri, Book 0; p. 470, p. 471, p. 472, p. 474, p. 475, p. 538.
16. Book 0, p. 472, Ibid.
17. "Archibald Rice Family Bible," D.A.R. Independence Pioneers Chapter, found in Mid-Continent Library, Independence, Missouri.
18. Williams & Company Birdsall, The History of Jackson County, Missouri, (Kansas City, Missouri, Union Historical Co., 1881), pp. 991-2.

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19. Barbara Clayton, "Aunt Sophie's Cabin Authentic Landmark in History of Raytown Area," Raytown News, July 19, 1962.
20. Book 242, page 508, Recorder's Office, Independence, Missouri.
21. Interview and Drawing #2, Mrs. Cole - Roberta Bonnewitz, 1978.
22. Kansas City (Mo.) Star, October 27, 1908, "D A R Women Left Work for Men to Finish on the Santa Fe Trail Markers. It's Never Been Done".
23. Itinerary of D.A.R. Trip Down Santa Fe Trail - Vanbrunt papers.
24. Ethylene Ballard Thurston, "Civil War Interrupted Life at Old Rice Place," Kansas City Times, April 7, 1967.
25. Ibid.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Archibald Rice Family Bible, copy of entries, D.A.R. Independence Pioneer Chapter, found in Independence Branch, Mid-Continent Library, Spring and W. 24 Highway, Independence, Mo.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.36 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME "Independence, Mo."

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 371710 43181045

B         

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Tract 1 - the west 266 feet of the North 1/2 of the southwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4 of the southwest 1/4, Section 5, Township 48, Range 32 West, being a rectangular lot measuring 204.4 feet on the north, 287.82 feet on the east, 221.4 feet on the

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. Roberta Bonnewitz, Raytown Historical Society

ORGANIZATION

Friends of Tremonti-Rice Home

DATE

August 9, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

7900 Crescent

TELEPHONE

816/356-5320

CITY OR TOWN

Raytown

STATE

Missouri 64138

## 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Director, Department of Natural Resources and  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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MANUSCRIPTS

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MAPS

Copy of Plat Book showing Original Landowners, Jackson County, Missouri, made by Roberta Bonnewitz and in her home, 9717 Brook Lane, Raytown, Mo.

1843 Surveyor's Map, Jackson County, Missouri, Township 48, Range 32 West, in Jackson County Courthouse, 308 Kansas, Independence, Missouri 64050; Woods, Dean Earl. The Old Santa Fe Trail, From the Missouri River. Kansas City, Missouri: E.L. Mendenhall, Inc., Printers, 1952.

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NEWSPAPERS

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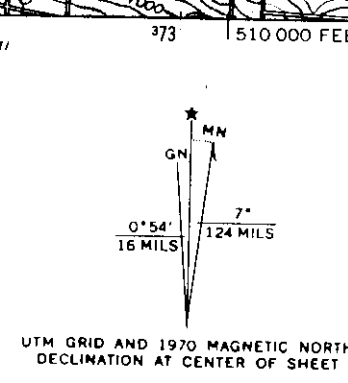
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TREMONTI-RICE HOUSE  
 U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle  
 "Independence, Mo." (1964, Photo revised 1970)  
 Scale: 1:24,000  
 UTM Reference:  
 15/371710/4318045



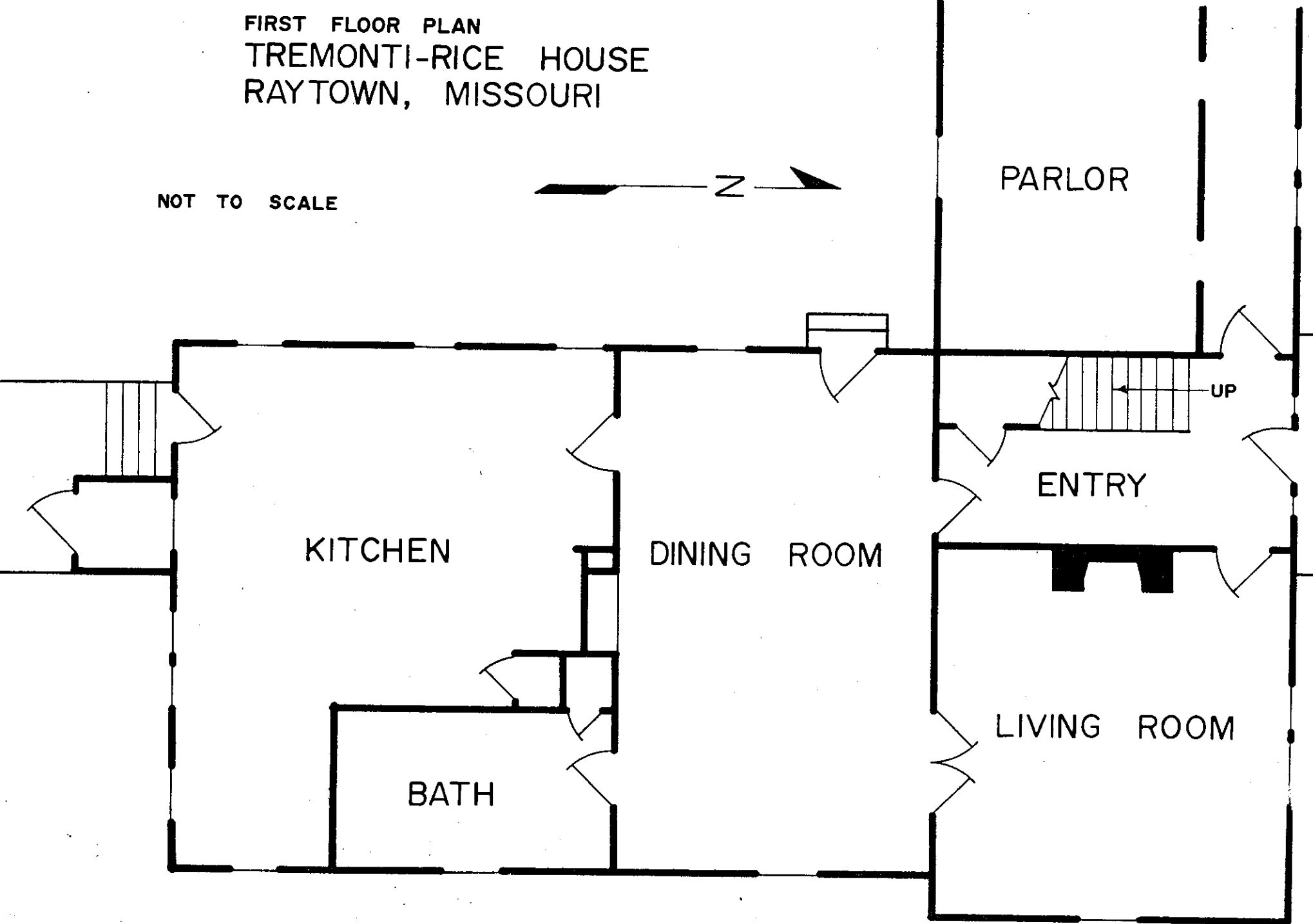
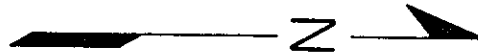
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 t indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
 d dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
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UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

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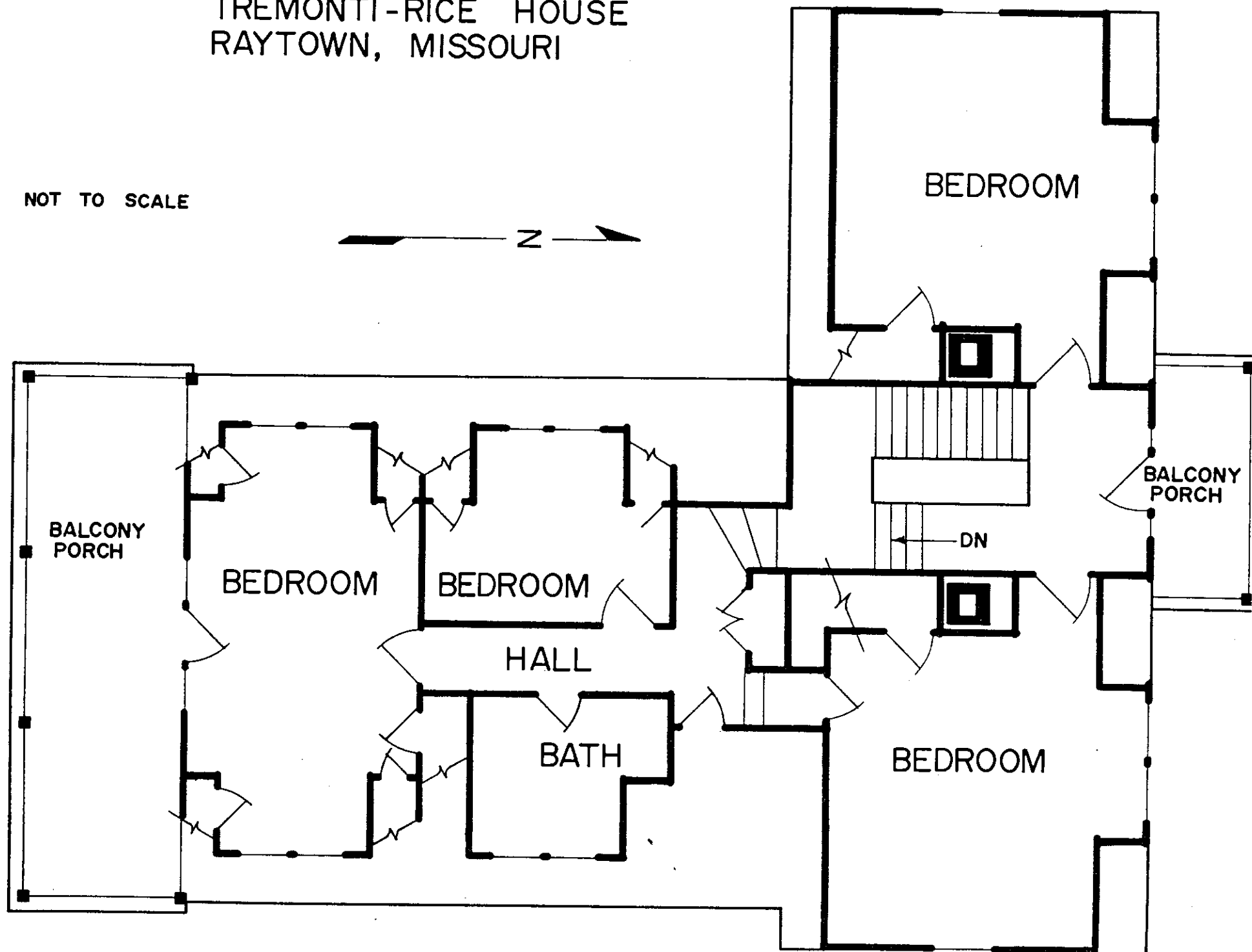
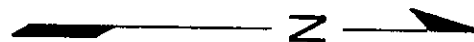
**NOT TO SCALE**





SECOND FLOOR PLAN  
TREMONTI-RICE HOUSE  
RAYTOWN, MISSOURI

NOT TO SCALE



**Photo Log:**

Name of Property: **Rice-Tremonti House**

City or Vicinity: **Raytown**

County: **Jackson County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Whitson Kirk**

Date

Photographed: **Jul. 1978**

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 11. Primary (N) façade, view looking N.

2 of 11. E façade, view looking W.

3 of 11. S façade, view looking N. Note well house on left side of patio.

4 of 11. Detail of primary (N) façade porch, view looking SE.

5 of 11. Interior view of Main stair, view looking S.

6 of 11. Aunt Sophie's Cabin, W (left) and S (right) facades, view looking NE.

7 of 11. Aunt Sophie's Cabin, E (left) and N (right) facades, view looking SW.

8 of 11. Entrance to Root Cellar, view looking NW.

9 of 11. Early view of house, prior to addition of dormers, view looking SE. Note four porch posts, brackets, porch railing and pendants.

10 of 11. This photograph shows kitchen addition and dormers being constructed, view looking NW.

11 of 11. Aunt Sophie's Cabin, view looking NE. Photo shows Aunt Sophie's Cabin before alterations, S end of rear ell appears in left background.



























