

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Rice-Upshaw House  
other names/site number RA0091

### 2. Location

street & number Arkansas Highway 93 two miles south of Dalton  not for publication  
city or town Dalton  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Randolph code 121 zip code 72455

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination   
request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic  
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets   
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  
 nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Cathie Matthews 8/19/04  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See Continuation sheet for additional  
comments.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

Rice-Upshaw House  
Name of Property

Randolph County, Arkansas  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Plain-Traditional

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls WOOD- log

WOOD- weatherboard

roof METAL

other

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [x] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
[x] C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- [] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
[] B removed from its original location.
[] C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
[] D a cemetery.
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
[] F a commemorative property
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Circa 1826-1954

Significant Dates

1826
Circa 1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Reuben Rice

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- [] preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
[] previously listed in the National Register
[] Previously determined eligible by the National Register
[] designated a National Historic Landmark
[] recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
[] recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[] Other State Agency
[] Federal Agency
[] Local Government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

Rice-Upshaw House  
Name of Property

Randolph County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 668584 4031656  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

From the center line of Arkansas Highway 93, proceed 80 feet southwesterly to the point of beginning. From that point proceed southwesterly 150 feet, thence proceed northwesterly 150 feet, thence proceed northeasterly 150 feet, thence proceed southeasterly 150 feet to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes all historic resources that retain integrity.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Zac Cothren  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 7/19/04  
street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9880  
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

Located southeast of the small town of Dalton, Randolph County, Arkansas, the Rice-Upshaw House is a one and one-half story single-pen "hall and parlor" log house built less than one mile east of the Eleven Point River on a small creek known locally as Upshaw Creek. The house rests on a stone-pier foundation that has been repaired numerous times, yet retains the majority of the original quarried stone materials. The house is constructed using half-dovetail notching with half-hewn red oak, white oak, maple, elm, and walnut logs. The exterior walls are currently sheathed in shiplap siding. A cut stone chimney rises up on the east side of the house. The chimney has been reconfigured from its original appearance, but retains its original location and uses cut stone salvaged from the previous chimney. A corrugated-metal gable-roof shelters the house.

### ELABORATION

The Rice-Upshaw House is a one and one-half story "hall and parlor" log house built c. 1826 less than one mile east of the Eleven Point River on a small creek known locally as Upshaw Creek. The house is constructed using half-dovetail notching with half-hewn red oak, white oak, maple, elm, and walnut logs.

The home was "updated" in the 1920s and it is unclear exactly which elevation would have been considered the front of the house, but it is speculated that it was either the east or north elevation. The exterior walls are currently sheathed in shiplap siding that was probably added during the 1920s remodel. A cut stone chimney rises up on the east side of the house and was reconfigured in the 1920s when windows were added to each side of the fireplace. The chimney remains in its original location and was constructed using salvaged cut-stone from the original chimney construction. Wood shingles were replaced with corrugated-metal atop the gable-roof most likely during the same remodel. Other changes include the enclosure of a porch along the north elevation in the 1920s creating a bathroom and kitchen. The south porch had already been partially enclosed by 1900, but an additional section of the porch was enclosed in the 1920s. The remaining windows in the house are wood-frame, double-hung, three-over-one windows. All windows are currently covered with corrugated metal to prevent vandalism. The size of the window openings were increased during the remodel. One original window opening remains in the west gable end, but it now houses a louvered vent instead of a window.

### East Elevation

The east side, possibly front façade, of the house faces Arkansas Highway 93 and is the view of the home seen by motorists traveling the area. The south portion of the elevation is open and makes up part of the south-side porch. The east elevation is dominated by an imposing, centrally located cut-stone chimney that rises above the ridge of the gable end along the exterior of the house. The chimney is flanked on each side by a three-over-one window that is presently covered with corrugated metal. The windows were either added during the 1920s remodel or were greatly enlarged. The northern portion of the east elevation was created when the north facing porch was enclosed in the 1920s. The porch enclosure is fenestrated by a single-leaf entryway followed by a three-over-one window, both of which are covered with corrugated metal.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

### North Elevation

The north elevation, which at one time may have been considered the front of the home, has been more heavily altered than the other elevations. In the 1920s the entire north porch was enclosed creating a bathroom and kitchen. Porches were often enclosed on early log buildings to provide additional indoor living area as the family grew or as additional space was needed to accommodate "modern" conveniences. A pair of three-over-one windows followed by a pair of smaller three-over-one windows are the only fenestrations on the north elevation. Both pairs of windows are covered.

### West Elevation

The west elevation faces open fields that extend to the Eleven Point River approximately a mile away. The north portion of the west elevation consists of the 1920s porch enclosure. The porch enclosure is fenestrated by a small covered three-over-one window. The center portion of the elevation is part of the original log construction. It is fenestrated by a three-over-one window. The last remaining original window opening is located in the gable-end above the newer three-over-one window. Although the opening is still there, the window has been replaced by a louvered vent. The southern portion of the elevation is formed by an enclosure of the south porch which was partially enclosed before 1900.

### South Elevation

The western portion of the south elevation is made up of a pre-1900 enclosed porch that makes up approximately half of the overall length of the elevation. The porch was enclosed before 1900, but the enclosure was extended further east during the 1920s remodel. The enclosure is fenestrated by a pair of three-over-one windows. Entry into the enclosure is through a door located on the east side of the enclosure. The remainder of the south elevation is made up of the unenclosed section of the porch. The porch is sheltered under the main roof of the house. The porch's roof is supported by four wood posts. A doorway located on the porch leads into the main room of the house.

### Interior

An interior log wall divides the house's first floor into a hall and parlor. The walls of the larger "hall" are covered with beaded board that was added during the 1920 remodel. The ceiling is made up of the exposed second-floor joists. A fire box with a plaster surround and simple mantle remain in the parlor. Some components may be original, but have probably been altered.

The walls of smaller parlor section are covered with gypsum. The room is partitioned to enclose an original tight-winder closet-staircase that leads to the upper floor. The original handrail remains at the top of the stairs. The loft area is undivided with logs, plates, rafter joists, and rafters left fully exposed. A spinning loom remains attached to the exposed rafters.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Three additional rooms were added to the house by enclosing porches. The entire north-side porch was enclosed creating two additional rooms. The two rooms have gypsum covered walls and were used as a bathroom and kitchen. Approximately half of the south-side porch was enclosed creating a single additional room. The interior wall of the enclosure is an exposed log wall that was once an exterior wall.

### Outbuilding

One outbuilding located adjacent to the west side of the house is being included in the nomination. The outbuilding most likely served as a smokehouse and is constructed of logs. It is covered with a metal gable roof. The building is beginning to lean and is deteriorated, yet it retains sufficient integrity and is a contributing resource.

### INTEGRITY

Although the Rice-Upshaw House is definitely showing signs of age it possesses a high degree of integrity. The most significant change to the property over the years is the full enclosure of the north porch and partial enclosure of the south porch. The north porch enclosure dates to the 1920s while the south porch was enclosed before 1900. The house was sided before 1900, but probably received its current wall treatment in the 1920s. Even with the alterations, the original construction and plan of the c.1826 "hall and parlor" style house are very evident, especially on the interior of the house. The setting remains rural and one can easily imagine how the area would have looked when it was originally settled. The Rice-Upshaw house is one of the two oldest remaining standing buildings in Arkansas, and a rare surviving example of a building from Arkansas's territorial period.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

### SUMMARY

The Rice-Upshaw House, located in Dalton, Randolph County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** as an outstanding example of an early nineteenth century log dwelling. Constructed c.1826, the Rice-Upshaw house is one of the two oldest remaining standing buildings in Arkansas, and a rare surviving example of a building from Arkansas's territorial period. Reuben Rice came to Arkansas from Hawkins County, Tennessee, in 1812 to join other members of his extended family that had settled in the area in 1802. As a result of the homes early date and the family's role in early settlement, it is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with exploration and settlement in Randolph County.

### ELABORATION

Although permanent settlement did not occur in the Randolph County area until the early nineteenth century, exploration in the area began in the sixteenth century. Nineteenth century settlers uncovered coins and other artifacts associated with an expedition of Spanish explorers led by Hernando De Soto that passed through the area in 1541. By the 1600s, French explorers were passing through the area, including Marquette in 1673, LaSalle in 1682, and DeTonti in 1686. Some Native American occupation occurred in the 1700s, primarily by bands of Osage, Shawnee, and Delaware, but their occupation was transitory in nature.<sup>1</sup>

In 1819, the Arkansas Territory was formed and approximately two-thirds of the northern part of the state was part of Lawrence County of the Missouri Territory, including present day Randolph County. Lawrence County was divided several times to form other counties in the area, and Randolph County was created on October 29, 1835, and comprised the area's oldest settlements. Arkansas would become a state the following year.<sup>2</sup>

Early land records indicate that by the late 1700s and early 1800s several Frenchmen had settled in the area. Randolph County possessed several features that made it attractive to early settlers. The county has many streams and rivers that could provide water, and they were the way that many of the early settlers arrived in the area. The old animal and Native American trace that entered Randolph County where the Missouri state line crossed the Current River and ran along the Ozarks foothills also made travel in the area easier than in other parts of the state. The trace was known by a number of names, including the Southwest Trail, the Watchitoches Trail, and the National Road. In addition, by 1803, William Hicks was operating a ferry on the

<sup>1</sup> Joan Gould (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004*. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2004, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, pp. 1-2.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Current River where the Southwest Trail crossed it. (It would later be known by the Arkansas Road or Arkansas Trace by some of the early government surveyors in the area.)<sup>3</sup>

By 1803, immigrants started pouring into the area mainly from Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia. The immigrants accessed the area via the many waterways in the area. The earliest river transportation in the area was on canoes, flatboats, or keelboats. It would not be until 1829 that steamboats came to the area with the arrival of the *Laurel* on the Black River. Many of the early towns in the Randolph County area came about as a direct result of river travel, including Lawrence (later Davidsonville) and Bettis Bluff (later Pocahontas) on the Black River, and Biggers on the Current River.<sup>4</sup>

William Looney arrived in Randolph County from Tennessee with three of his slaves in 1802. In 1803 he returned to Tennessee and enticed his cousins, Coleman and Fielding Stubblefield, to return with him to the Eleven Point River in Arkansas. By 1812 a wagon train arrived from Tennessee, bringing members of the Rice, Stubblefield and Looney family, all of which was part of William Looney's extended family. Life was not easy for the early settlers of the area. In order to get supplies in the earliest days of settlement, William had to travel to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, a trip that required two weeks to complete.<sup>5</sup>

Included in the wagon train from Tennessee was Reuben Rice, his wife and several children. Reuben Rice chose his home site approximately one mile east of the Eleven Point River along a small creek presently known as Upshaw Creek. He would eventually receive land patents totaling over 450 acres of land. His home was located on the opposite side of the river from William Looney and nearly a mile away; however, a fording point near the Looney's house made contact with other family members more accessible.<sup>6</sup>

Reuben was apparently illiterate having signed his name with an (X) on legal documents, yet he was commissioned as an elections judge for the 1825, 1827 and 1829 elections for Davidson Township. The years he served in that capacity the elections were held in his home. There is also a distinct possibility that the house which stands today may have been used as a polling place for territorial elections.<sup>7</sup>

Rice built the current house on the property c.1826. A recent dendrochronology study of the house, conducted by the University of Arkansas, determined that the logs were cut between June 1826 and April 1827 from trees that began growing between 1700 and 1751. Logs were normally allowed to season for

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p. 2.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*, p. 3.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p. 5-6.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p. 9.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid*.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

several months. Therefore, the house could have been built in late 1826, but was most likely built in 1827 or as late as 1828.<sup>8</sup>

After Reuben's death, his son Thomas Blackman Rice and his wife Nancy Stubblefield Rice moved into the home. Their daughter Lydia married Andrew Jackson Upshaw and continued to live in the home which had become known as "Old Monarch."<sup>9</sup>

While in her seventies, Lydia's daughter-in-law, Melissa Upshaw, wrote a book titled *Lydia of the Valley*, that recorded stories told to her of the people who had made the house their home. The book mentions specific features of the property, many of which no longer exist. One feature specifically mentioned is a springhouse and detached kitchen, which could easily be the outbuilding that remains standing to the west of the house.<sup>10</sup>

The house has been owned by Rice and Upshaw family members for almost 180 years. The house remains in the Upshaw family today and is now owned by Dorothy Jean Upshaw.

Today, the Rice-Upshaw House represents an important tangible link to the early history of Arkansas and Randolph County. Constructed c.1826, the Rice-Upshaw House is an outstanding example of an early nineteenth century log dwelling. The Rice-Upshaw house is one of the two oldest remaining standing buildings in Arkansas, and a rare surviving example of a building from Arkansas's territorial period.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rice-Upshaw House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **statewide significance** as an excellent example of an early nineteenth century log dwelling. Constructed c.1826, the Rice-Upshaw house is one of the two oldest remaining standing buildings in Arkansas, and a rare surviving example of a building from Arkansas's territorial period. Reuben Rice came to Arkansas from Hawkins County, Tennessee, in 1812 to join other members of his extended family that had settled in the area in 1802. As a result of the homes early date and the family's role in early settlement, it is also being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with exploration and settlement in Randolph County.

<sup>8</sup> David Stahle. *Tree-Ring Dating of the Rice-Upshaw House, Randolph County, Arkansas*. January 2004. Found in: Joan Gould (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004*. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2004.

<sup>9</sup> Gould (ed.), pp. 10.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, p. 10.

Rice-Upshaw House

Name of Property

Randolph County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

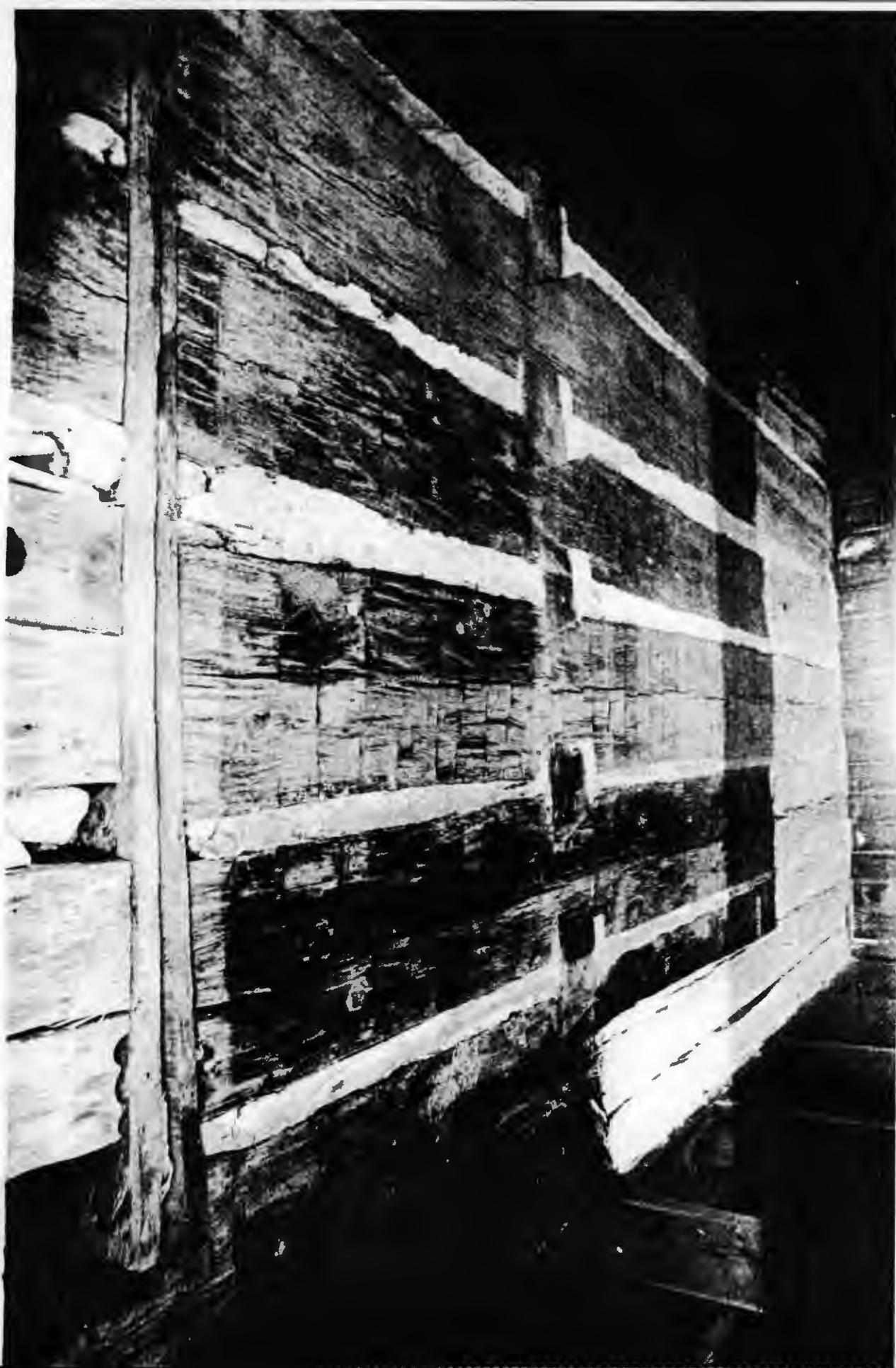
Gould, Joan (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004*. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2004.

Stahle, David. *Tree-Ring Dating of the Looney-French House, Randolph County, Arkansas*. January 2004. Found in: Joan Gould (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004*. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 2004.





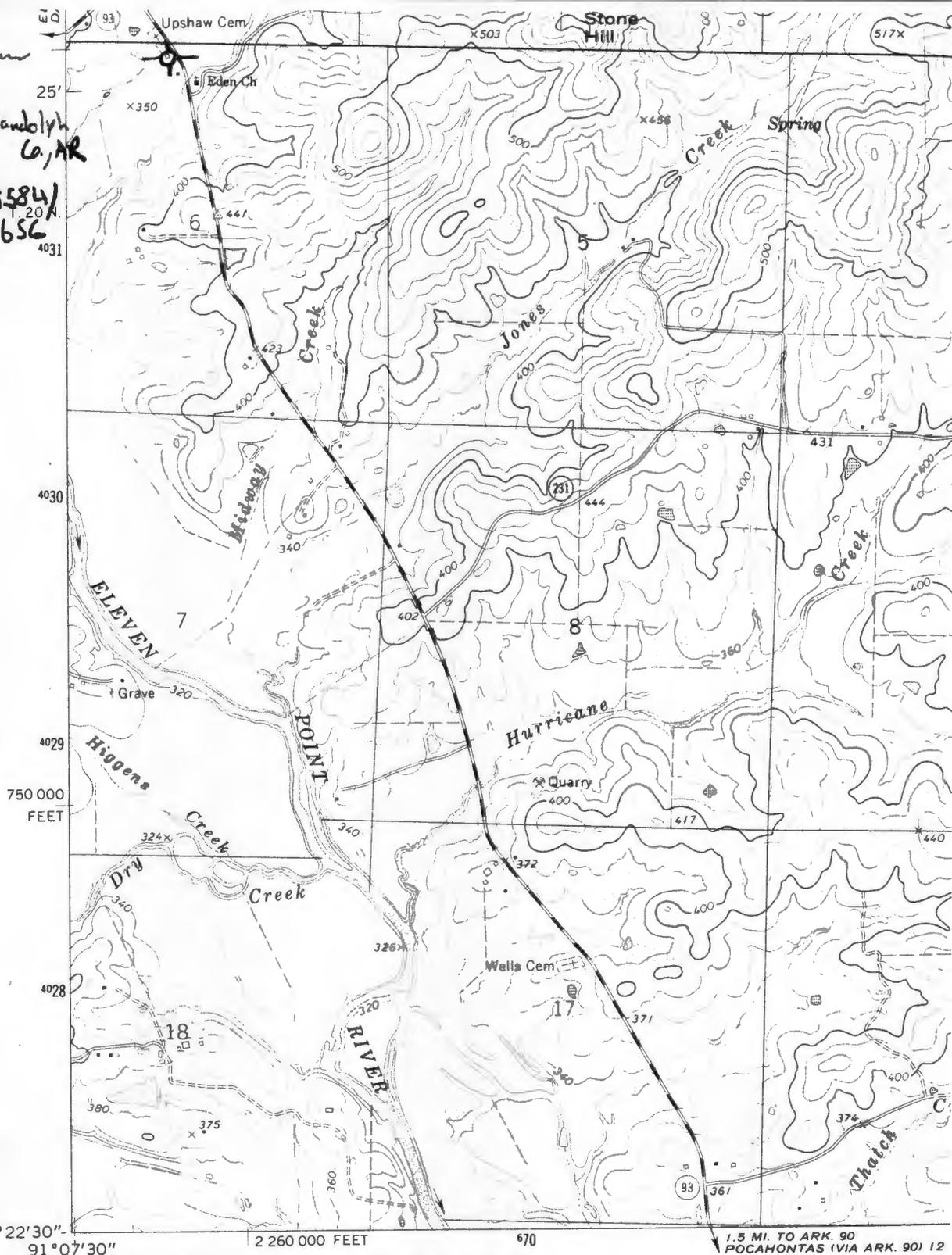






Rice - Upshaw  
House  
Dalton Vic, Randolph  
Co, AR

UTM: 15/68584/  
20 N  
4031656  
4031



(RAVENDEN SPRINGS)  
7756' SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1967

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 4 meters south and  
11 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs taken 1980. Map edited 1981. This information not field checked



UTM GRID AND 1981 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET