

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

Situated in a rural area near Rushville, Missouri, the Enoch Madison Fenton, Edward Jackson Fenton House is a two story rectangular building of frame construction. The frame Greek Revival one and a half story house is of a type common in many areas of the United States, but unique in Northwest Missouri. The building being nominated is bold in silhouette, broad in proportions and simplified in detail which is traditional in this style of house in Missouri.

The Fenton House is fifty feet long by thirty-four feet wide in the main five bay structure. There is a one story addition on the north which measures twenty feet long by seventeen feet wide. There is an ell shaped addition on the west which was added about 1940 that measures twenty-six feet by eleven feet with a small porch measuring six feet by nine feet added on the north side of the house. An alteration was made on the east facade of the second floor which changed the porch and opened a second floor doorway upstairs.

The windows are nine-over-six pane on the first floor and vary from four-over-four to six-over-six on the second floor. The lintels are narrow with very small wood lugsills. There is a five pane transom above the double entrance doors on the east facade. There are five single stack fireplace chimneys, flush with the gables. The gable roof had wood shingles, but is covered with asbestos shingles at the present time.

The central entrance hall is flanked by double rooms which are of equal size, the fireplaces with circa 1850 mantels are centered in the north and south walls. Floor to ceiling cabinets of tongue and groove construction flank the double entrance doors and are an obvious alteration. The northwest room has a floor to ceiling closet which matches the rest of the woodwork in the house. The two south rooms have exterior doors on the south facade that were part of the original construction. The one story room on the north has a matching fireplace on the north wall. There is a porch on the east side of this room and the roof line indicates it was part of the original house. There are two stair wells in the house, one in the central hall and one in the northeast room off the central hall.

The ceilings in the house are nine feet on the first floor and six feet on the second floor. The walls are seven inches thick and window casings have a five inch inset. The original floors throughout the house vary from three inches to seven inches in width.

The entire house rests on a limestone foundation that varies from twelve to thirty-six inches in width. There is a basement under the two south rooms which is reached by an exterior stairwell on the west side of the house. Structurally the house has been altered by a gabled wall dormer in the east facade of the second floor, an ell addition on the northwest corner of the building and a porch on the east facade. The structural integrity of the original exterior and interior is not affected by these alterations.

Also, on the property is a root cellar with an entrance shed made of wood planks located about thirty feet to the west of the house. A board and batten smokehouse or shed near the northwest corner of the house is used as a storage shed today. The remnant of an orchard is located to the west of the house and lies within the property being nominated.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration-settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates circa 1850 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fenton Homeplace is significant as an unusual story and a half frame constructed Greek Revival Ante-bellum residence, and as the home of the Fentons, a locally prominent family.

In form the Fenton homeplace is more characteristic of Federal Style houses being built three decades earlier, especially in its story and a half double pile form with two end chimneys (not connected by parapets) at either end, and its double leaf entry doors. There are no other known examples of this house type from so late a period surviving in Missouri, although a few of brick and in one instance, stone, survive from ca. 1820 and these are in a simplified federal style whereas the one under consideration is in the Greek Revival mode and it should be given the period. As such, it is an odd and important survival.

There are two handwritten notes in the family Bible which concern the house. The first written by Mrs. E.J. Fenton: "The old Fenton home built in 1850 -- completely built of walnut logs." The second written by Mrs. Forest (Mary Ruth Fenton) Thomas:

"The andirons were bought by Thomas H. Irvine at the Henry Clay sale...brought to his home in 1865. Grandma bought them at Irvine's sale...They were kept in our old home for 64 years, the old home that was built in 1850."

Thomas Irvine is listed in the 1850 census as being a native of Kentucky aged 37 with a child of one who was born in Kentucky. By the 1860 census, he is listed as a farmer with \$23,200 in real estate and \$6,325 in personal property. There are no Irvines buried in the nearby cemeteries, and the family is not listed in the 1880 census. Knowing that he sold at least the one piece of land to Fenton in 1865, it may be safe to guess that the Irvine family moved west after the Civil War.

After moving to the farm Matt Fenton became a horse breeder, raising Saddlebred horses. The Fenton horses brought home many ribbons from local county fairs. Each summer the yard around the home was the site of a picnic which people from miles around attended. Horsemanship skills were shown off and games on horseback, such as a form of jousting, were played. The Fenton family was also proud of its draft mule teams.

Enoch Fenton's son, Edward Jackson was born in this house in 1870, and lived there until his death in 1960. He not only farmed, but was also a major breeder of foxhounds. Mrs. Thomas has in the house two loving cups won by Edward Jackson Fenton which were awarded to Fenton's dogs in 1908 and 1912 by the Missouri Valley Fox Hunt Association. Matt Fenton died when Edward Jackson was only ten years old and he became responsible for the operation of the farm. During Edward Jackson's lifetime the family holdings were increased to all of Section seven. Thomas Fenton Thomas, the son of Edward Jackson's daughter Mary Ruth (Mrs. Forest Thomas) lives on the farm and the acreage is farmed by Jarry Thomas, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Fenton Thomas.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Abstract of Thomas Farm. In possession of Thomas Fenton Thomas.
2. Fenton Family Bible in possession of Thomas Fenton Thomas.
3. Globe, Atchison, Kansas, February 24, 1952.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property App. one and one quarter acres.

Quadrangle name "DeKalb, Mo."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>5</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

An area surrounding and centered upon the house 252 (two hundred and fifty-two) feet east to west by 221 (two hundred and twenty-one) feet north to south, defined by a woven fence all of which is in the northwest quarter of Section 7 (Seven) Township 55 (Fifty-five)

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	<u>1. Thomas W. Carneal, Associate Professor</u>		
organization	<u>Northwest Missouri State University</u>	date	<u>August 14, 1980</u>
street & number	<u>306 Colden Hall</u>	telephone	<u>816/582-7141 ext. 1289</u>
city or town	<u>Maryville</u>	state	<u>Missouri 64468</u>

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Signed
title Director, Department of Natural Resources and
State Historic Preservation Officer date 16 Feb 82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

For HCRS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

date entered

FENTON, ENOCH MADISON HOUSE/FENTON EDWARD JACKSON HOUSE

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

4. History of Buchanan County: 1881. St. Joseph, MO; Union Historical Co., 1881.
5. Interview with Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fenton Thomas, Rushville, MO.
6. Scrapbook in possession of Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Fenton Thomas, Rushville, MO.
7. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Seventh Census of the United States: 1850. Manuscript.
8. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Eighth Census of the United States: 1860. Manuscript.
9. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Ninth Census of the United States: 1870. Manuscript.
10. U.S. Bureau of the Census. Tenth Census of the United States: 1880. Manuscript.

Item number 10

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north Range 36 (thirty-six) West.

Item number 11

Page 1

2. Nancy Sandehn, Research Consultant
Northwest Missouri Historical Inventory
Box 43
St. Joseph

August, 1980
816/279-3558
Missouri 64501

3. James M. Denny, Section Chief, Nominations-Survey
Reviewer and State Contact Person
Department of Natural Resources
Historic Preservation Program
P.O. Box 176

September 5, 1980
314/751-4096

Jefferson City

Missouri 65102

5882 LINE
(ATCHISON NE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

95°00'
39°37'30"

1318000E 571400N

LAKE

B N

Radio Towers

U.S.G.S. 7.5'
DeKalb, Mo.
Scale: 1:24,000

Quadrangle
(1961-photo-
revised 1978)

Fenton House
Rushville, Missouri

UTM REFERENCE:
15/330410/4384420

ATCHISON 0211 9.5 MI.
RUSHVILLE 3.8 MI.

4386000N

4385

RUSHVILLE 1.5 MI.

35'

4383

R
U
S
H
V
I
L
L
E

Creek

Quarry

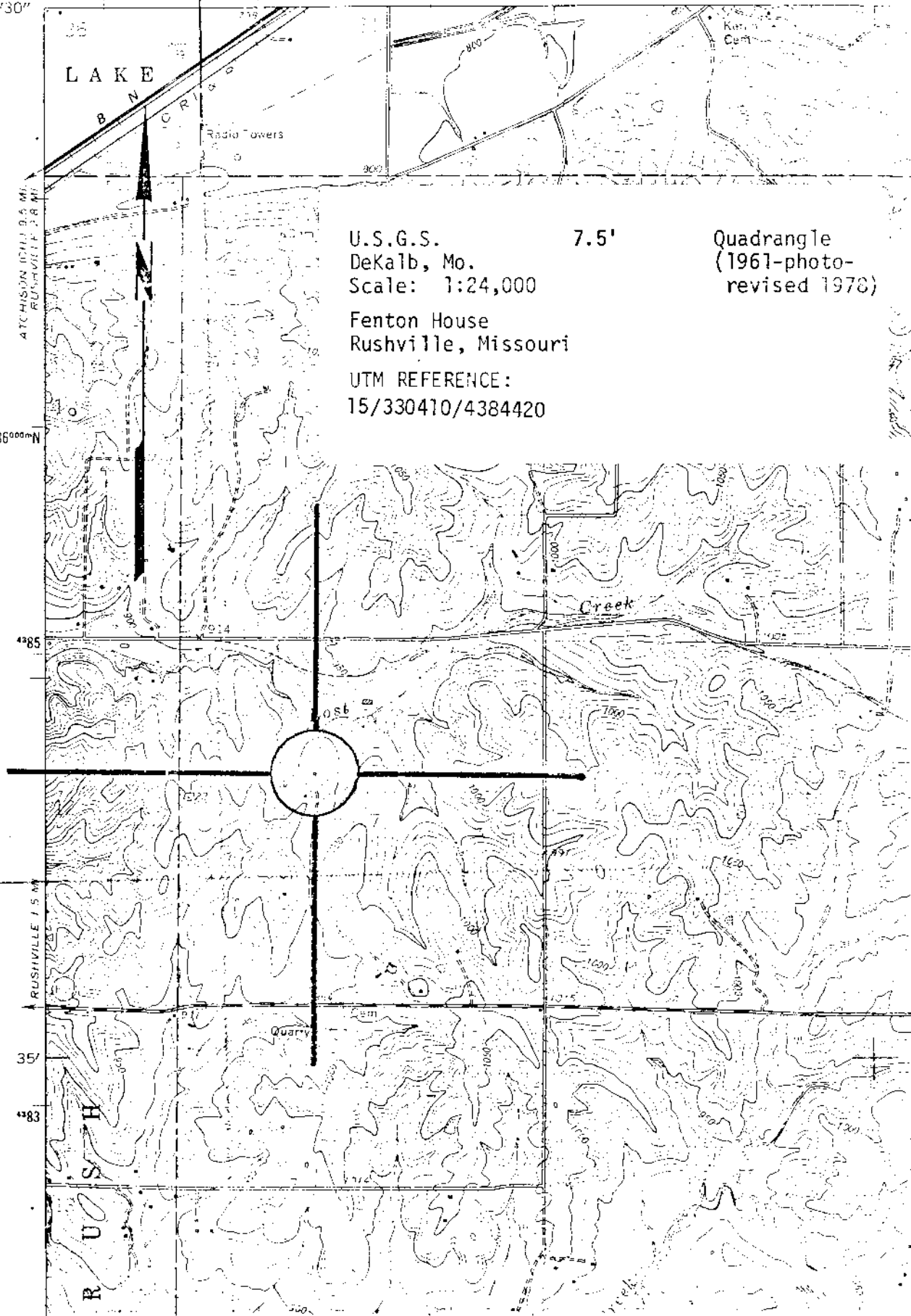


Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Fenton, Enoch Madison, House**

City or Vicinity: **Rushville**

County: **Buchanan County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Tom Carneal**

Date

Photographed: **Aug. 1980**

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

- 1 of 15. NE.
- 2 of 15. SE.
- 3 of 15. SW.
- 4 of 15. E.
- 5 of 15. E.
- 6 of 15. W.
- 7 of 15. Interior.
- 8 of 15. Interior.
- 9 of 15. Interior.
- 10 of 15. Interior.
- 11 of 15. Interior.
- 12 of 15. Interior.
- 13 of 15. NE.
- 14 of 15. S.
- 15 of 15. SE.





























