

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

7.17
JUL 17 1978

DATE ENTERED

DEC 5 1978

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

HISTORIC

Ritchey, Mathew H., House

AND/OR COMMON

"Mansion House," Belle Starr House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Mill Street

—NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Newtonia

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#7 - Hon. Gene Taylor

STATE

Missouri 64853

CODE

29

COUNTY

Newton

CODE

145

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

Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Darch

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 44

CITY, TOWN

Newtonia

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Missouri 64853

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Recorder of Deeds
Newton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Neosho

STATE

Missouri 64850

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

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mathew H. Ritchey House, Mill Street, Newtonia, Missouri, is an L-shaped, seven-room (including bath) residence in a classically derived style. A rear (south) wing, with an east extension, is attached along the west half of the south facade of the main (north) portion. Both sections are two stories in height. A one-story portico dominates the center bay of the primary (north) facade.

EXTERIOR

MAIN (NORTH) PORTION

The rectangular-plan main portion measures 50 feet by 20 feet. Approximately 2,000 square feet of living space is available.

Wall construction materials include red brick laid in common bond. Three layers thick, the outer bricks are kiln fired, while soft, sun-baked bricks comprise the inner layer.¹ The foundation is of cut sandstone blocks. Asphalt shingles cover the roof.

Most of the six window openings of the first story are rectangular in shape and are filled by six-over-six light, double-hung sash; the only exception is the easternmost opening on the south facade which has a two-over-two light, double-hung sash. Identical two-over-two light, double-hung sash fill each of the six, second-story window openings. All windows are trimmed by stone lintels and lugsills.

Entrances are located in the center bays of the primary (north) facade and the rear (south) facade. The north entrance is filled by double-leaf, five-panel, pine doors framed by a five-light transom above and a wood and glass (a three-over-two light, double-hung sash) panel along each side. Plain wood panels cover the exterior face of each door. A stone lintel, reinforced with steel, caps the opening. Double-leaf screen doors complete the opening. Also opening into the first-floor center hall, the rear (south) entrance is filled by a single-leaf, pine door taken from the Newton County Jail.² A four-light transom is directly above. The only second-story doorway is centered over the north entrance; it provides access to the balcony of the north entrance portico (described below) from the second-floor center hall. A single-leaf, pine door pierced by an oval light fills this opening. Across the upper edge is a stone lintel. A screen/storm door is flush with the wall surface.

A one-story portico spans the center bay of the primary (north) facade protecting the north entrance. Its floor is of cut sandstone blocks matching those of the foundation. Four, Tuscan columns and two, square pilasters of wood support the flat roof. A wrought iron railing with square, wood corner posts and pilasters surrounds the outer edge of the roof forming a balcony.

The medium-pitched gable roof has its center ridge parallel to the north and south facades.

A single-stack, brick chimney is centered on each end (east and west) facade. Flush with the exterior wall surface, both straddle the center ridge of the roof. Ornamentation is limited to the cap, consisting of three alternately projected and recessed courses.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Prominent builder/ owner

SPECIFIC DATES 1840 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mathew H. Ritchey (builder)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mathew H. Ritchey House, Newtonia, is one of the oldest residential buildings still remaining in southwest Missouri. Built in 1840 as the home of M.H. Ritchey (farmer, miller, merchant, and politician), the residence was the scene of three Civil War skirmishes; it is one of the few structures to survive the conflict in Newtonia and the disastrous fire of 1868 which swept the town. The house is probably most well known as the setting for one of Belle Starr's youthful adventures.

It is purported that the Ritchey House is one of the oldest surviving houses in southwest Missouri.¹ Other claims for this distinction include a home in Stark City (several rooms in a rambling structure date from the 1820's) and the Kendrick House (built ca. 1850), just north of Carthage.²

M.H. Ritchey's home was truly a mansion for those frontier times.³ The construction took four years and required a total cash outlay of \$400.00.⁴

Slaves brought from Tennessee molded the bricks and hand whittled the lathe. The doors are sturdy pine slabs and the floors, five brick thick in places, rest upon hewn logs, supported by great slabs of limestone deep underground. The house has five great fireplaces and that it might have been built to please a woman seems evident in the no less than two great storage closets that are a part of every room. Each room is built to stand as proud and independently as the man who ordered its building. Each room would stand unharmed if all the adjacent rooms were destroyed.⁵

Perhaps it is this sturdiness of construction that insured the house's survival, particularly in Newtonia where few early buildings remain. One of the few structures in town of brick and stone,⁶ the Ritchey House received only minor damage (cannonball holes in the walls) during the Civil War and escaped the fire that swept the town in 1868, claiming most of the other buildings which were standing after the war.⁷

Previous owners

A chronology of ownership includes:

1. Mathew Harvey Ritchey (builder) -- 1840-1889

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Britton, Wiley. The Civil War on the Border. Vol. I. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1899, pp. 355-363.
2. . The Civil War on the Border. Vol. II. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1899, pp. 506-511.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 4 1/2 to 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME "Newtonia" QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES			QUADRANGLE SCALE		
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A 1,5	3,9,4 5,8,0	4,0 8,1 7,4,0	B		
C			D		
E			F		
G			H		

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Block 42, Town of Newtonia, Mo. except the East 254 1/2 feet and except Ritchey Burial Lot of Graveyard, Newton County, Missouri.

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. Nancy B. Breme, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Office of Historic Preservation, Dept. of Nat. Resources

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 176

CITY OR TOWN

Jefferson City

DATE

December 13, 1977

TELEPHONE

314/751-4096

STATE

Missouri 65102

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

Robert S. Dornseid

TITLE

Director, Department of Natural Resources, and
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 17, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Minty

DATE

12/5/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

for CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Bill Behovich

DATE

Dec 2, 1978

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-
2. Missouri State Historical Survey
1976-1977 state
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

ITEM NUMBER 11 PAGE 1

2. Larry A. James (researcher)
Newton County Bicentennial Commission
504 Joy
Neosho, Missouri 64850
September 22, 1975
816/451-3517
3. Mr. James M. Denny (state contact person)
Office of Historic Preservation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102
May 9, 1978
314/751-4096

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Decorative details include the stone lintels and lugsills, the wrought iron "1840's" attached to each gable end apex, and the wood eave trim. A partial cornice with evenly spaced rectangular blocks ornamenting the frieze spans the primary (north) facade; raking cornices trim each gable end.

REAR (SOUTH) WING

The dimensions of the rear wing are 20' x 20'. There is approximately 800 square feet of living space. An attached porch measures 10 feet by 20 feet.

Construction materials include cut sandstone blocks (foundations), red brick laid in common bond (first-story walls), dark wood shingles (second-story walls), and asphalt shingles (roof covering).

All windows are rectangular in shape. Each is filled by a two-over-two light, double-hung sash. The first-story window openings have stone lintel and lugsill trim.

The only entrance is on the east facade. Positioned at the north end of the wall, the doorway gives access to the first-floor kitchen. It is filled by a single-leaf, pine door.

The one-story porch is attached to the east facade. Square timbers provide support for the roof and second-story east extension above. Screening fills the spaces between the timbers.

A medium-pitched gable roof with its center ridge running in a north-south direction covers this section of the house.

The rear wing is serviced by one, single-stack, brick chimney. Centered on the south facade, it is flush with the wall surface and straddles the center ridge of the roof. Its design is similar to those of the main (north) portion.

Stone lintels and lugsills (first-story windows) and a raking cornice (wood painted white) on the south facade are the only ornamentation.

EAST EXTENSION

The rectangular, second-story east extension measures 10 feet wide and 20 feet long; it provides an additional 200 square feet of living space.

The walls are sheathed in dark wood shingles. The roof has an asphalt-shingle covering.

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All windows are six-light casement sash. They occur in groups of three (south facade) and nine (east facade) sash.

There is no access from the exterior.

A shed roof, sloping in an easterly direction, covers this section of the house.

No chimneys service the east extension.

There are no decorative features.

INTERIOR

MAIN (NORTH) PORTION

The first floor is composed of two parlors separated by a center hall running in a north-south direction.

Brick walls sheathed with painted (white in color) plaster occur throughout. Exceptions include the west parlor where the plaster has been stripped from the wall surface above the red pine wainscot (original to the house); rose-colored, patterned wallpaper is used in the hall. Wide, tongue-and-groove, pine flooring is found in all rooms; the boards are laid parallel to the north and south walls. Ceilings are plaster-over-lathe. Centered along the east and west walls of the east and west parlors respectively are fireplaces. The east parlor fireplace has a metal mantel (not original) and a cut stone hearth; an original red pine mantel frames the west parlor fireplace opening. Classic-style woodwork is of red pine. Bookcases are to either side of the east parlor fireplace; only one is original.

An L-shaped stairway is in the southwest corner of the center hall and extends northward along the west wall. Of wood construction, it provides access to the second floor.

Two bedrooms and a center hall occupy the second floor. Their arrangement is identical to that of the first floor.

The brick walls are finished with plaster. Paint and flowered wallpaper cover the plaster in the east and west bedrooms respectively; the hall is also wallpapered in a paper identical to that of the first-floor hall. Pine, tongue-and-groove flooring, laid parallel to the east and west walls, occurs in all rooms; ceilings are of plaster-over-lathe. As on the first floor, fireplaces are centered on the east and west

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walls of the east and west bedrooms respectively; while retaining its original mantel, the west bedroom fireplace has lost its fieldstone hearth. Woodwork is of a Classic-style design similar to that of the first floor. Closets flank both sides of each bedroom fireplace with the exception of that to the north of the west bedroom fireplace which has been removed.

All trim and flooring has been painted black in the east bedroom (nicknamed the "Black Room" from its use as a hospital during the Civil War and later painted or stained black or other dark color to cover the blood stains).

Access to the attic is by way of an opening (not original) in the second-floor center hall.

REAR (SOUTH) WING

The kitchen (once the formal dining room) occupies the first floor of the rear wing.

Finishing treatments of this room include brick walls faced with plaster, plaster-over-lathe ceilings, and narrow oak flooring covered by carpeting. The rear (south) wall is dominated by a fireplace (centered) and an enclosed stairway (southeast corner) to the second-floor bedroom above. The stair enclosure is of hand-split lathe and encases an L-shaped staircase.

The second-floor bedroom is a step lower than the bedrooms of the main (north) portion.

A wainscot of horizontal boards is below plaster walls painted (north wall) and/or wallpapered (all remaining walls). The ceiling is of plaster-over-lathe. A floor of pine boards is laid parallel to the east and west walls of the room. Unlike other upper-story rooms, there is no fireplace or closet.

EAST EXTENSION

The second-floor east extension is divided into a front (north) hall area and a rear (south) bathroom.

Walls are of vertical pine boards; the floor covering is linoleum.

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ALTERATIONS

When constructed in 1840, the Ritchey House consisted of the main (north) portion and the first story of the rear (south) wing. The second story of the rear wing was added some time later (ca. 1880's).³ Dates for the addition of the east extension (originally a summer bedroom and later converted to the present hall and bathroom) and the porch below are not known.⁴ The north entrance portico was added in the 1950's.⁵

Restoration of the house was begun in ca. 1950 and continues today. Much of the original integrity has been maintained despite various alterations. Changes and repairs include:

1. after 1865:
 - a. house tied together by M.H. Ritchey⁶
2. 1880's:
 - a. enclosed stairway in the kitchen added to provide access to the new upper story of the rear wing.⁷
3. 1920's:
 - a. narrow oak floor laid in the kitchen⁸
4. ca. 1940's:
 - a. some interior woodwork removed and burned for heat⁹
5. 1950's:
 - a. west parlor:
 1. one closet at the side of the fireplace removed
 2. plaster stripped from the walls above the wainscot¹⁰
6. prior to 1961:
 - a. some window sash replaced¹¹
7. after 1961:
 - a. steel beam added to the north entrance lintel
 - b. roof covering replaced with asphalt shingles
 - c. new electrical system installed
 - d. new plumbing system installed
 - e. walls of some rooms replastered
 - f. walls of the center halls (first and second floors) repapered with wallpaper similar to earlier papers used
 - g. rear half of the first-floor center hall's flooring replaced
 - h. east parlor:
 1. flooring (damaged by termites) replaced with the present pine boards
 2. closet to the south of the fireplace removed and replaced by a bookcase

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- i. second closet at the side of the west parlor fireplace removed
- j. opening in the second-floor center hall added to provide access to the attic
- k. west bedroom:
 - 1. closet to the north of the fireplace removed
 - 2. walls repapered with wallpaper similar to earlier papers used¹²
- 8. 1963:
 - a. west facade of the main (north) portion stabilized
 - b. first-story northern opening on the west wall of the rear (south) wing altered from a doorway to a window
 - c. bannister of the stairway (first-floor center hall) replaced, including a walnut cap
 - d. ceilings of the center halls (first and second floors) replaced
 - e. original west parlor floor, burned by the fireplace, replaced with the present pine boards
 - f. chair rail removed from the west bedroom
 - g. summer bedroom¹³ of the east extension converted to a bath and hall area
- 9. unknown:
 - a. rear (south) entrance door replaced with one taken from the Newton County Jail
 - b. first-floor center hall:
 - 1. portions of the chair rail replaced
 - 2. replacement door inserted in the opening in the side wall of the staircase
 - c. east parlor:
 - 1. metal mantel added to the fireplace opening
 - 2. doors of the original bookcase to the north of the fireplace removed
 - d. formal dining room converted to the kitchen.¹⁴

Property changes or repairs (maintenance) include the removal of the separate rock and wood summer kitchen, (prior to 1957)¹⁵ and the restoration of the Ritchey family and slave cemeteries.¹⁶

CONDITION

The Ritchey House is in excellent condition.

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SITE

The Mathew H. Ritchey House, which faces north onto Mill Street, is located approximately one and a half blocks north of Highway 86 in Newtonia, a small rural community dominated by twentieth-century residential buildings. The house is partially isolated from neighboring homes, being set on a nearly five-acre tract of land. An open field overlooks the property from the north.

Property features include: outbuildings of wood construction (not contemporary with the home) to the south and southwest; a well next to the house, south of the rear wing; a U-shaped, gravel driveway west of the house; a brick walk extending from the main (north) entrance to Mill Street; a wrought iron fence across the front limit of the property; and a stone patio at the rear of the house, abutting the south facade of the main (north) portion and the east facade of the rear (south) wing. A natural spring marks the west boundary of the property. At the northwest corner of the tract is the Ritchey family cemetery; obelisk tombstones mark the graves of Polly, M.H., and Mary E. Ritchey. A wrought iron fence encloses the graveyard. Just beyond the west fence are other tombstones marking the graves of the slaves of the Ritchey family.

PRESENT STATUS

The continued existence of the house is assured through sympathetic ownership. Restoration begun by previous owners (Ralph and Louise Murphy) is being continued by Robert and Margaret Darch, the present owners.

In the future, the Darchs want to return the kitchen to its original use as a formal dining room; they hope to build a separate kitchen off the rear (south) wall of the rear wing.¹⁷

FOOTNOTES

1. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977; and statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal correspondence, February 23, 1978.
2. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.
3. Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3.
4. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.

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5. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal correspondence, February 23, 1978; Neosho (Missouri) Daily Democrat, May 27, 1952, p. 5; and Joplin (Missouri) Globe, October 2, 1960, p. 8B. (Each newspaper article is accompanied by a photograph of the house: the former is copied from a postcard having a Newtonia postmark with a December 24, 1914 date (no portico), while the latter photo is contemporary with the article's text (portico in place).)
6. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.
7. Ibid.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal correspondence, February 23, 1978.
11. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.
12. Ibid.; statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal correspondence, February 23, 1978; Neosho (Missouri) Daily Democrat, May 27, 1952, p. 5; Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3; and an unidentified newspaper article supplied to the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, by Larry A. James, Newton County Bicentennial Commission. (The former newspaper article states "...that it (the house) might have been built to please a woman seems evident in the no less than two great storage closets that are a part of every room." Photographs accompanying the latter two articles show the closet in question (Item h) in place. Mrs. Darch, in her letter of February 23, 1978, confirms the after 1961 date; she and her husband removed the closet, replacing it with a bookcase.)
13. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977; statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal correspondence, February 23, 1978; and Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3. (A photograph accompanying the newspaper article shows a doorway rather than a window at the location in question in Item b.)
14. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977; and statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal correspondence, February 23, 1978.

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15. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977; and Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3. (The newspaper article does not give a date for the summer kitchen's removal, but merely mentions that such a structure was removed prior to this writing.)
16. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.
17. Ibid.

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2. Mary Eliza Clark Ritchey (widow of M.H. Ritchey) -- 1889-1895
3. Margaret Eliza Ritchey Graves (daughter of M.H. Ritchey) -- 1895-1937
4. Mildred Graves Sanders (granddaughter-in-law of M.H. Ritchey) -- 1937-1948
5. A.T. Irwin -- 1948-1950
6. Ralph and Louise Murphy -- 1950-1961
7. Robert R. and Margaret Ann Darch -- 1961-present.⁸

Most prominent of the previous owners is Mathew H. Ritchey, born February 7, 1813 in Overton County, Tennessee.⁹ He was married on May 10, 1835 to Mary ("Polly") King,¹⁰ who died on November 10, 1855 at the age of 37.¹¹ This union produced ten children: James Madison, Nancy J., Mary E., Martha Elizabeth, Christopher Columbus, Amanda M., Amelia (Amillia) A., Miranda Susan (M. Sue), Margaret E., and Sanford H.¹² A second marriage was to the widow Mary Eliza Clark¹³ (born January 3, 1819 and died January 18, (19), 1895¹⁴ in 1856,¹⁵ by whom Ritchey had three more children (John C., Julia A., and Charles G.).¹⁶ Mathew Ritchey died on August 18, 1889.¹⁷

One of the very earliest settlers of Newton County,¹⁸ Ritchey located in 1832 on land where the present town of Ritchey, Missouri, now stands.¹⁹ He would by 1888 become one of the best known citizens of southwest Missouri.²⁰ Even while politically active, Ritchey was continually engaged in agricultural, mercantile, and milling pursuits;²¹ he accumulated 1,000 acres of land and a large amount of town property in Ritchey and Newtonia.²²

Ritchey's many activities included:

1. constable, his jurisdiction extending over an area of 30 square miles (1836)²³
2. county judge, elected for several terms²⁴
3. State Representative, twice elected²⁵
4. State Senator, serving several terms²⁶
5. member of the state convention of 1860 (1861), called to determine the question of Missouri's secession from the Union; Ritchey voted for the Union amidst much opposition²⁷
6. U.S. Army Assistant Paymaster during the Civil War, appointed by Governor Gamble at the rank of major²⁸
7. captain in State Militia²⁹
8. member of the Missouri Constitutional Convention of 1865³⁰
9. laid out and built the town of Newtonia (1854); active in the establishment of Newton College³¹
10. founder of the town of Ritchey (1870); laid out town (1871) and in the company of his son, Capt. J.M. Ritchey, constructed the mill and dam, the hotel and store, and other buildings³²

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11. member of the masonic fraternity, charter member of Newton Lodge No. 175 at Newtonia; changed membership to assist as a charter member in organizing Ritchey Lodge No. 530³³
12. member of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, joined in 1840; held position of ruling elder for over twenty years.³⁴

Battle(s) of Newtonia

Newtonia was the center of heavy fighting throughout the Civil War, M.H. Ritchey's stone mill (across the road from his home) being the base for food supplies and nearby Granby a source of lead for bullets.³⁵ Federal forces had a fort at Newtonia with the commanding officer usually making his headquarters at the Ritchey House.³⁶ As a result, the town passed back and forth between northern and southern control.³⁶ Officers staying at the Ritchey home include Generals Sterling Price and Joseph O. Shelby of the Confederate army and Generals John M. Schofield and Samuel Curtis, Lt. Colonel Thomas T. Crittenden, and Major Edwin B. Eno of the Union forces.³⁷

Colonel M.H. Ritchie (Ritchey), a prominent Union man of Newtonia, had a farm that joined the town limits on the southwest, south of the Neosho road. His dwelling-house, stone barn, and barn lots were adjoining the town. On the north side of his farm there was a stone fence that extended from his home to a quarter of a mile or upward along the Neosho road. His barn lot, of about two acres, was also enclosed with a stone fence. This lot was west of north of his house. The south-side stone fence of it and the farm fence made a lane of fifty to sixty feet wide, and some two hundred yards long.³⁸

Behind these stone fences, Confederate troops awaited advancing Union soldiers in the early hours of September 30, 1862.³⁹ Following a day's skirmishing, the southern forces were still in Newtonia.⁴⁰

On October 4, 1862,⁴¹ Union soldiers again advanced on Newtonia, assuming the Confederate army would think its position a strong one on account of the shelter offered by the stone fences in and near town in the event of a federal assault.⁴² Early on, however, the rebel forces had resolved not to fight; they retreated with few shots being fired and abandoned Newtonia.⁴³

When the Federal troops passed through Newtonia they saw on every hand the effects of the Federal artillery, on September 30th and on the morning of October 4th. There were dead horses all through town, torn by shells, and there were cannonball holes through Colonel Ritchie's (Ritchey's) house and barn, through the college buildings, and through other buildings in town.⁴⁴

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Southern troops on retreat from Kansas to Arkansas, and pursued at some distance by federal soldiers, camped south of Newtonia on October 28, 1864.⁴⁵ Here the northern army caught up with the Confederate forces. A yellow flag soon waved over "a fine brick structure (the Ritchey House) used as a hospital" to protect it from the shells of the enemy (federal troops).⁴⁶ Afterwards, the Confederate army continued its march south to Arkansas.⁴⁷ Some historians have called this engagement the last battle of the Trans-Mississippi Department.⁴⁸

Belle Starr Legend

The story of Belle Starr (born Myra Belle Shirley) at the Ritchey House is one of the most hotly contested stories of her life. It first appeared in a Richard K. Fox publication,⁴⁹ was later used by S.W. Harman (friend of Judge Issac C. Parker of the United States Criminal Court at Fort Smith, Arkansas)⁵⁰ in his Hell on the Border; He Hanged Eighty-eight Men (1898),⁵¹ and more recently repeated by Missouri novelist Homer Croy in his biography of Cole Younger (Last of the Great Outlaws) in 1956.⁵²

Early versions of Belle's stay in Newtonia take this form.

On her sixteenth birthday, February 3, 1862, as Belle, returning from a scout, was riding through the village of Newtonia, in the eastern part of Newton County, Missouri, thirty-five miles, as the crow flies, from her home town, Carthage, she was intercepted by a Major Enos (Eno) who, with a troop of cavalry was stationed in the village and who had his headquarters at the house of Judge M.H. Ritchery (Ritchey).

On the day of Belle Shirley's capture, as noted above, Major Enos had sent a detachment of cavalry to Carthage for the purpose of capturing her brother, Captain Shirley, who was known to be on a visit to his home. Belle, or Myra, as she was then called, had ridden into that section of the country for the purpose of obtaining information that might be of value to her people, and having discovered that men had been sent to capture her brother, was on the point of hastening to warn him, when she was arrested and detained. She had been in the habit of riding where she pleased, and as scarce any Union soldier would think of molesting a woman, especially when the woman chanced to be a

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beautiful and buxom girl, her plans had not, hitherto, been disarranged. It happened that Major Enos, who had resided in Carthage, was acquainted with both her and her brother, as children, and this was why he had ordered her arrest; he rightly surmising that she was about to go to her brother's assistance. The girl was taken to the chamber of the Ritchey home and guarded by the major himself, who laughed at her annoyance. This served to anger her and she gave expression to her rage in loud and deep curses. Then she would sit at the piano and rattle off some wild selection in full keeping with her fury; the next instant she would spring to her feet, stamp the floor and berate the major and his acts with all the ability and profanity of an experienced trooper, while the tears of mortification rolled down her cheeks, her terrible passion only increased by the laughter and taunts of her captor. At last believing his men to have had plenty of time to reach Carthage ahead of her, Major Enos said: "Well, Myra, you can go now. My men will have your brother under a arrest before you can reach him."

With eagerness trembling in every lineament, she sprang to the door, rushed down the stairway and out to a clump of cherry bushes where she cut several long sprouts for use as riding whips. The judge's daughter, now Mrs. Graves, accompanied her. "I'll beat them yet," said the girl, as with tearful eyes she swallowed a great lump in her throat. Her horse stood just where her captors had left it; vaulting into the saddle, she sped away, plying the cherry sprouts with vigor. A short distance from the house she deserted the traveled road and, leaping fences and ditches without ceremony, struck a bee line in the direction of Carthage. She was a beautiful sight as she rode away through the fields; her lithe figure clad in a closely fitting jacket, erect as an arrow, her hair unconfined by her broad-brimmed, feather-decked sombrero, but falling freely and flung to the breeze, and her right hand plying the whip at almost every leap of her fiery steed. The Major seized a field glass and ascending to the chamber watched her course across the great stretch of level country.

"Well, I'll be d___," he ejaculated, admiringly, "she's a born guerilla. If she doesn't reach Carthage ahead of my troopers, I'm a fool."

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learned also that the Richey house was being used as headquarters for Major Eno and his officers, that enlisted men were using the stone barn and the stone mill as barracks; in addition, some of the men were encamped in the town of Newtonia. Belle smiled brightly; it was interesting to know such things, she said. The next morning she came down to breakfast early and again was pleasant and agreeable and most appreciative of the hospitality that had been extended to her. After breakfast she said she would have to get home as fast as she could so that her parents would not worry about her. Her horse was saddled and brought.

"I want to get some switches for my horse," said Belle. With Mr. Richey's daughter she went to a clump of cherry bushes and cut off two or three. Then she walked slowly back to her horse, mounted the horse block, got into her side-saddle and rode briskly off in the direction of Carthage. She had gone only two or three miles when hell struck the Richey House. The cutting of the cherry switches had been a signal to Confederate lookouts who had been watching and who reported to their officers. A fusillade was launched against the house. It was such a spirited attack that Major Eno and his officers had to leave and could no longer use the house as officers' headquarters. It was quite a little victory for Belle.⁵⁴

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 Mathew H. Ritchey House is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places as an example of the themes of "Architecture," "Military Affairs," and "Society."

FOOTNOTES

1. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.
2. Ibid.
3. Joplin (Missouri) Globe, October 2, 1960, p. 8B; and Neosho (Missouri) Miner & Mechanic and Graphic, July 28, 1961, p. 3.

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4. Ibid.; unidentified newspaper article supplied to the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, by Larry A. James, Newton County Bicentennial Commission; Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3; Neosho (Missouri) Daily Democrat, May 27, 1952, p. 5; and statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.
5. Neosho (Missouri) Daily Democrat, May 27, 1952, p. 5.
6. Statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.
7. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888) (Cassville, Missouri: McDonald County Historical Society, April 1972), pp. 327-328.
8. Statement by Robert R. Darch, personal interview by Larry A. James, September 27, 1975; and Neosho (Missouri) Daily Democrat, May 27, 1952, p. 5.
9. Data derived from the inscription on the tombstone of M.H. Ritchey in the Ritchey family cemetery, Newtonia, Missouri; Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3; Michael K. McGrath, Official Directory of Missouri For 1881 (St. Louis: John J. Daly & Co., Stationers and Printers, 1881), p. 161; Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 398; Walter Brickford Davis and Daniel S. Durrie, An Illustrated History of Missouri (St. Louis: A.J. Hall and Company, 1876), pp. 575-576; and Larry A. James (comp.), Pioneer Families of Newton County, Missouri: Being a history of those families who came to Newton County before 1850 (Neosho, Missouri: Newton County Bicentennial Committee, 1975), pp. 52-53.
10. Davis and Durrie, pp. 575-576; Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 398; and James, p. 53.
11. Ibid.; data derived from the inscription on the tombstone of Polly Ritchey in the Ritchey family cemetery, Newtonia, Missouri; and Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3.
12. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 398; and James, p. 53.

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28. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 398; Davis and Durrie, pp. 575-576; McGrath, p. 161; statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977; and Wiley Britton, The Civil War on the Border, Vol. I (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1899), p. 355.
29. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 398.
30. Jackson, pp. 406-407.
31. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), pp. 327, 398.
32. Ibid., pp. 323, 398; and Dorothy J. Caldwell (ed.), Missouri State Historic Sites Catalogue (Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963), p. 115.
33. David and Durrie, pp. 575-576; and Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 398.
34. Ibid.
35. Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3; Neosho (Missouri) Miner & Mechanic and Graphic, July 28, 1961, p. 3; and John N. Edwards, Shelby and His Men: or The War in the West (Cincinnati: Miami Printing and Publishing Co., 1867), p. 86.
36. Unidentified newspaper article supplied to the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, by Larry A. James, Newton County Bicentennial Commission.
37. Ibid.; Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3; Joplin (Missouri) Globe, October 2, 1960, p. 8B; Neosho (Missouri) Miner & Mechanic and Graphic, July 28, 1961, p. 3; and Caldwell, p. 115.
38. Britton, Vol. I, p. 355.
39. Britton, Vol. I, pp. 355-356; and Edwards, p. 87.

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13. Ibid.; and Davis and Durrie, pp. 575-576.
14. James, p. 53; and data derived from the inscription on the tombstone of Mary E. Ritchey in the Ritchey family cemetery, Newtonia, Missouri.
15. Davis and Durrie, pp. 575-576.
16. James, p. 53; and Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Section of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 398.
17. Data derived from the inscription on the tombstone of M.H. Ritchey in the Ritchey family cemetery, Newtonia, Missouri.
18. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 398.
19. Ibid.; Davis and Durrie, pp. 575-576; William Rufus Jackson, Missouri Democracy; A History of the Party and Its Representative Members - Past and Present, Vol. III (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Inc., 1935), pp. 406-407; Joplin (Missouri) Globe, October 2, 1960, p. 8B; and statement by Mrs. Robert R. Darch, personal interview, March 16, 1977.
20. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), pp. 398-399.
21. Ibid., p. 398; McGrath, p. 161; and Davis and Durrie, pp. 575-576.
22. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888), p. 399.
23. Ibid., p. 398.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.; McGrath, p. 161; and Davis and Durrie, pp. 575-576.
26. Ibid.
27. Ibid.; and Jackson, pp. 406-407.

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40. Britton, Vol. I, pp. 356-361; and Edwards, pp. 87-89. (Accounts of this confrontation do not completely agree. While there are differences in naming the participating officers, companies, divisions, etc., it is the bias of the authors that becomes quite evident. Britton has the Union forces finally driving the Confederate soldiers back into Newtonia; Edwards gives the "victory" to the Confederate army who retained control of Newtonia.)
41. Britton, Vol. I, p. 362; and Edwards, p. 89.
42. Britton, Vol. I. p. 362.
43. Ibid.; and Edwards, pp. 89-90. (The conflict here centers around whether the federal forces pursued the retreating Confederate army. Britton claims the northern soldiers followed, keeping up a running fight nearly all day with no important result. Edwards, on the other hand, has most of the rebel forces retreating with no federal pursuit.)
44. Britton, Vol. I, p. 363.
45. Edwards, p. 455; and Wiley Britton, The Civil War on the Border, Vol. II (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1899), p. 507.
46. Edwards, p. 456.
47. Britton, Vol. II, p. 511; and Edwards, p. 459. (These sources again disagree with each other with regard to the condition of the Confederate army as it resumed its march southward. Britton has the Confederate troops retreating from the battlefield without victory, while Edwards describes the triumphant rebel army's return from the scene of its last glorious victory.)
48. Edwards, p. 457; and Joplin (Missouri) Globe, October 2, 1960, p. 8B.
49. Homer Croy, Last of the Great Outlaws (New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 1956), p. 50.
50. S.W. Harman, Hell on the Border; He Hanged Eighty-eight Men (Fort Smith, Arkansas: The Phoenix Publishing Company, 1898), title page and dedication.
51. Croy, p. 50; and Harman, pp. 560-562.
52. Croy, pp. 51-53.

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- 53. Harman, pp. 560-562.
- 54. Croy, pp. 51-53.

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3. Caldwell, Dorothy J. (ed.), Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue. Columbia, Missouri: State Historical Society of Missouri, 1963, p. 115.
4. Croy, Homer. Last of the Great Outlaws. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 1956, pp. 49-63.
5. Darch, Robert R. Personal interview by Larry A. James. September 27, 1975.
6. Darch, Mrs. Robert R. Personal correspondence. February 23, 1978.
7. Darch, Mrs. Robert R. Personal interview. March 16, 1977.
8. Data derived from the inscriptions on the tombstones of M.H. Ritchey, Polly Ritchey, and Mary E. Ritchey in the Ritchey family cemetery, Newtonia, Missouri.
9. Davis, Walter Bickford, and Daniel S. Durrie. An Illustrated History of Missouri. St. Louis: A.J. Hall and Company, 1876, pp. 575-576.
10. Edwards, John N. Shelby and His Men: or, The War in the West. Cincinnati: Miami Printing and Publishing Co., 1867, pp. 85-90. 455-460.
11. Harman, S.W. Hell on the Border; He Hanged Eighty-eight Men. Fort Smith, Arkansas: The Phoenix Publishing Company, 1898, pp. 557-611.
12. Jackson, William Rufus. Missouri Democracy; A History of the Party and Its Representative Members - Past and Present. Vol. III. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Inc., 1935, pp. 406-407.
13. James, Larry A. (comp.). Pioneer Families of Newton County, Missouri: Being a history of those families who came to Newton County before 1850. Neosho, Missouri: Newton County Bicentennial Committee, 1975, pp. 36, 52-53.
14. Joplin (Missouri) Globe, October 2, 1960, p. 8B.
15. McGrath, Michael K. Official Directory of Missouri For 1881. St. Louis: John J. Daly & Co., Stationers and Printers, 1881, p. 161.
16. Missouri: A Guide to the "Show-Me" State. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, Inc., 1941, pp. 505-506.

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17. Neosho (Missouri) Daily Democrat, May 27, 1952, p. 5.
18. Neosho (Missouri) Miner & Mechanic and Graphic, July 28, 1961, p. 3.
19. Reprint (of) McDonald and Newton County Sections of Goodspeed's Newton, Lawrence, Barry and McDonald Counties History (1888). Cassville, Missouri: McDonald County Historical Society, April 1972, pp. 322-330, 398-400.
20. Springfield (Missouri) News & Leader, January 13, 1957, p. D3.
21. Unidentified newspaper article supplied to the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, by Larry A. James, Newton County Bicentennial Commission.

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The Major was right; when his detachment of cavalry galloped leisurely into Carthage that evening they were greeted by a slip of a girl mounted on a freshly groomed horse. She dropped a courtesy and asked: "Looking for Capt. Shirley? He isn't here -- left half an hour ago -- had business up Spring River. 'Spect he's in Lawrence county by this time."⁵³

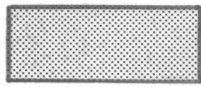
Homer Croy, writing about Belle's Newtonia adventure some twenty years ago, recounts the story as passed down through the Ritchey family. Mrs. Mildred Graves Sanders, M.H. Ritchey's granddaughter-in-law related the following story to Mrs. Louise Brock Murphy (with her husband a past owner of the house), who was interviewed by Croy. Local tradition seems to favor this version.

Mr. Richey (Ritchey) was a Union man and was in the habit of sheltering Union soldiers and sympathizers. One evening in February 1863 Richey and his family were surprised to see a girl of about fifteen ride up in front of the house and calmly dismount at the horse block. She tied her horse, and started for the door. By this time the house was agoggle. A young and unaccompanied girl!

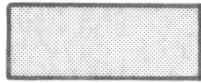
"My name is Myra Belle Shirley and I live in Carthage," she said smoothly. "I've been visiting friends and got lost on my way back. Can I stay overnight?" Of course she could stay overnight, said unsuspecting Mr. Richey.

She was taken up to what was called the "black bedroom," this because everything in it was painted that color. She had supper with the Richeys, talking pleasantly with them. The Ritchey family knew the Shirley family in Carthage, but did not like them. However, they liked Belle, who was making herself so agreeable. All eyes were on her as she chatted, girl-like, about nothing. One of the guests staying in the house was Major Edwin B. Eno, of the 8th Missouri Militia, a cavalry regiment. This meant that he was a Union man.

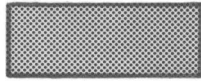
After supper the people went into the parlor where there was a square rosewood piano. Belle obligingly sat down and played. Everybody thought this was delightful. After the music she again talked pleasantly, now and then asking a question. The sum and substance of these questions had to do with the Union troops and how many were there. She



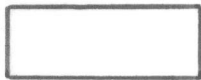
1840



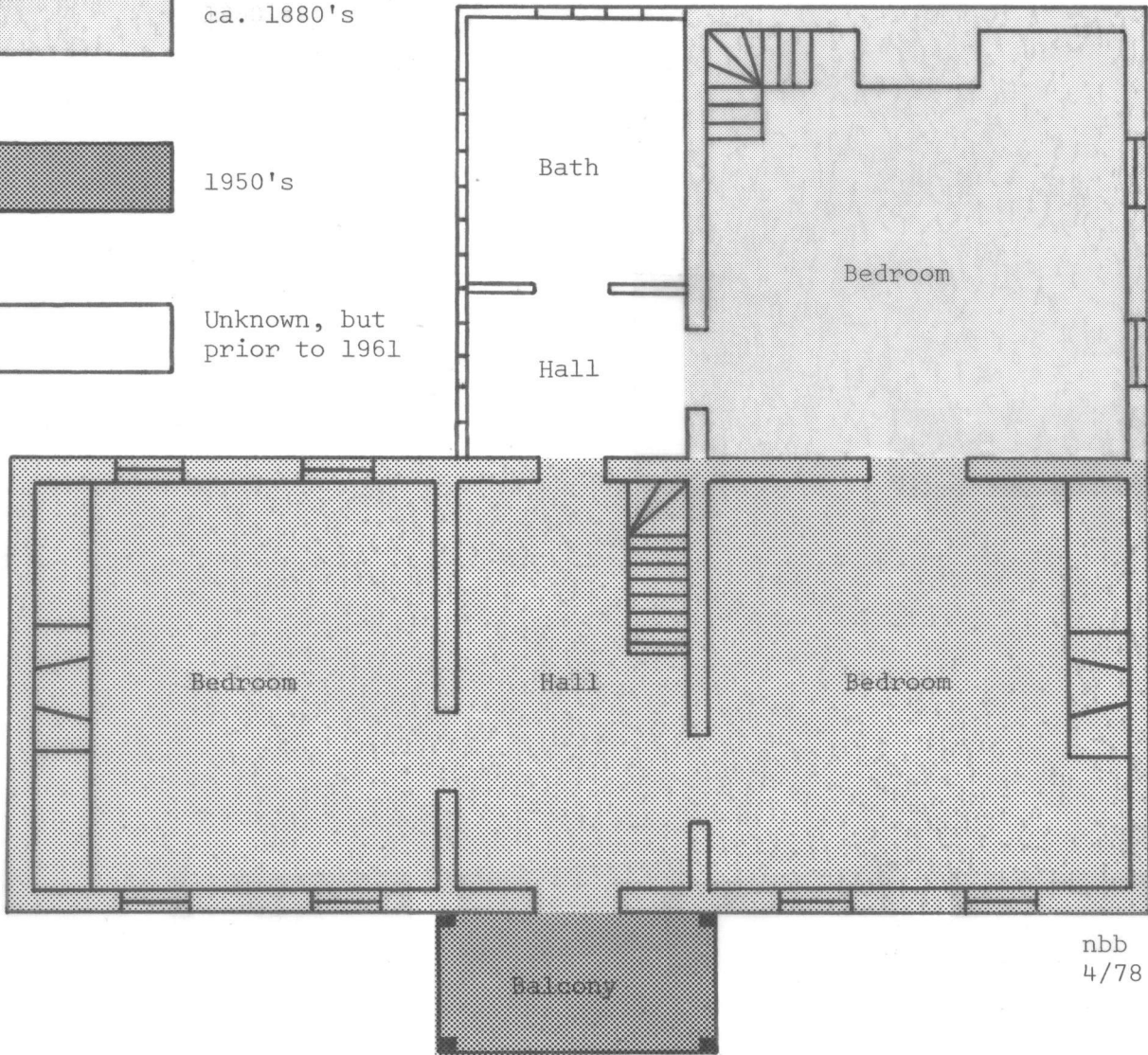
ca. 1880's



1950's



Unknown, but prior to 1961



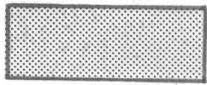
nbb
4/78

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 Second Floor Plan
 (shading denotes chronology
 of construction)

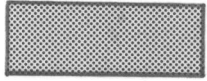
Not to Scale



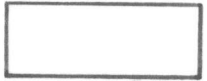
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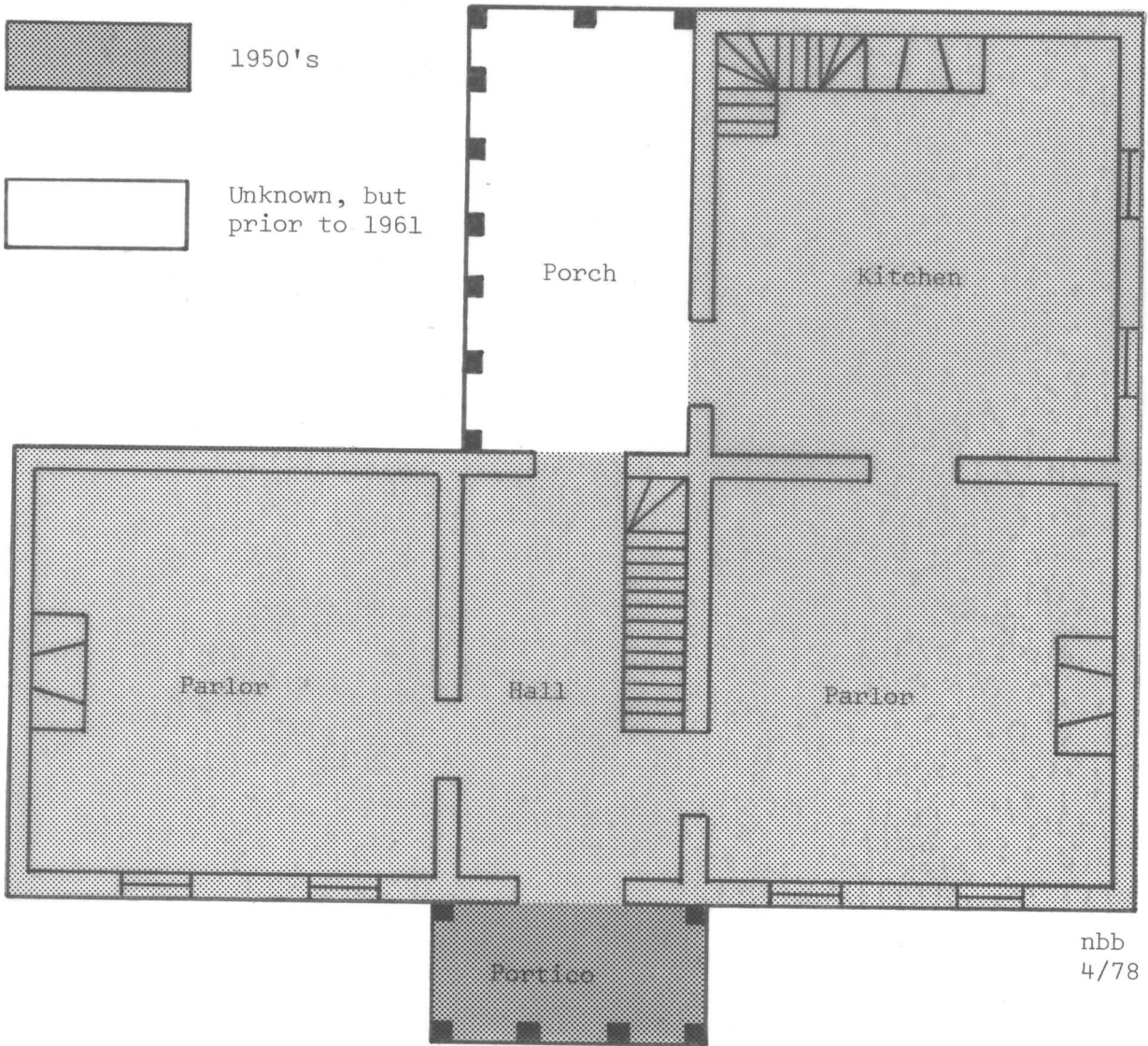
1840



1950's



Unknown, but prior to 1961



nbb
4/78

RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE
 First Floor Plan
 (shading denotes chronology
 of construction)

Not to Scale



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Property Ritchey, Mathew H., House 7 8003399
State Missouri Working Number 7.17.78.3618

TECHNICAL

Photos 10
Maps 1, 27. Plans

CONTROL

OK pl
7.19.78

Rambling nomination - but significant as the home of Mathew Ritchey, local leader - judge, member of the state legislature etc. The house also played a small role in local skirmishes during the Civil War - Although its significance, at this time, cannot be based on any association with Belle Starr.

HISTORIAN

Accept
w. R. Luce
11.28.78

- Messine - much ado about nothing - No architectural statement of significance beyond statement of local associations, ^{as discussed} may counteract lack of arch. significance

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept
Braham
9.29.78
11.28.78

With Luce's opinion

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

not a good nomination
but of historical significance in local
context, see Ray's remarks

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Labovich
12/1/78

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____ Send-back _____ Entered DEC 5 1978
Federal Register Entry 2-6-79 Re-submit _____
INT:2106-74



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE
Newtonia, Missouri

DEC 5 1978 #18

photographer: Frederick J. Breme
March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

North (primary) facade; view looking south-southwest.

JUL 17 1978



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE

#2

Newtonia, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme

March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Northeast corner; view looking southwest with the north facade on the right and the east facade on the left.

JUL 17 1978

DEC 5 1978



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE

#3

Newtonia, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme

March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

View looking north-northwest with the rear (south) facade of the main portion

in the right background and the rear wing in the left foreground.

DEC 5 1978

JUL 17 1978



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE

#4

Newtonia, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme

March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

South facade of the rear wing; view looking north-northwest. A portion of the wing's east facade is at the far right.

DEC 5 1978

JUL 17 1978



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE

#5

Newtonia, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme

March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Depart-

ment of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Southwest corner; view looking northeast
with the rear wing in the right fore-
ground and the main (north) portion in
the left background.

DEC 5 1978

JUL 17 1978



DEC 5 1978

RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE #6
Newtonia, Missouri JUL 17 1978

photographer: Frederick J. Breme

March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Detail of the cornice above a second-story window of the north facade; view looking south-southwest.



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE
Newtonia, Missouri

#7

photographer: Frederick J. Breme
March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Interior view of the first-floor center hall looking southwest towards the staircase to the second-floor bedrooms.

DEC 5 1978

JUL 17 1978



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE
Newtonia, Missouri

#8

photographer: Frederick J. Breme
March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Interior view of the south (rear) wall of the first-floor kitchen (originally the formal dining room). A rear stairway to the second floor of the south wing is behind the door to the left of the fireplace.

JUL 17 1978

DEC 5 1978



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE #9
Newtonia, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme
March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Second-floor interior view showing the west wall of the west bedroom. The fireplace mantel is original.

DEC 5 1978

JUL 17 1978



RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE

#10

Newtonia, Missouri

photographer: Frederick J. Breme

March 16, 1977

Office of Historic Preservation, Depart-

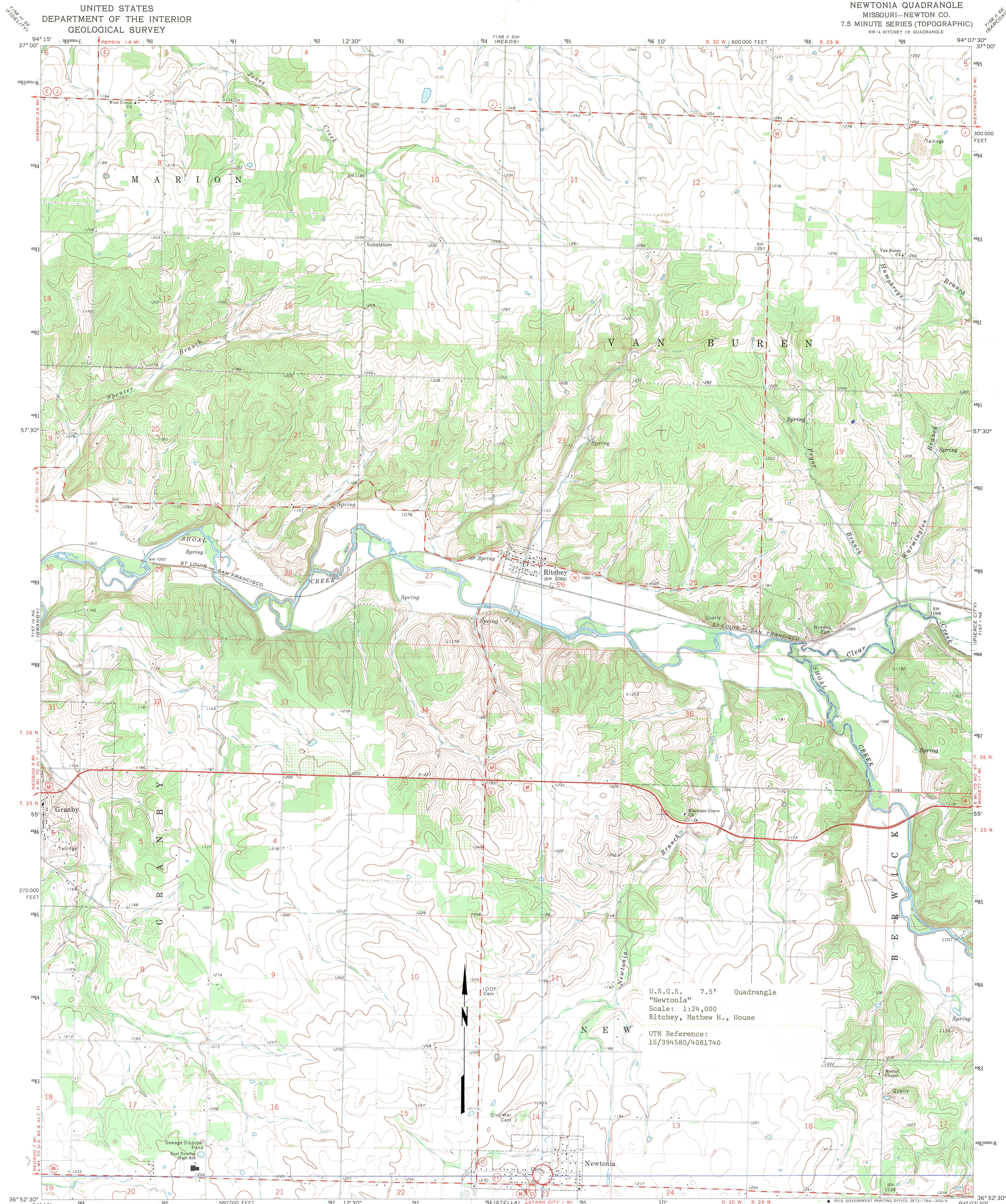
ment of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 176,

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

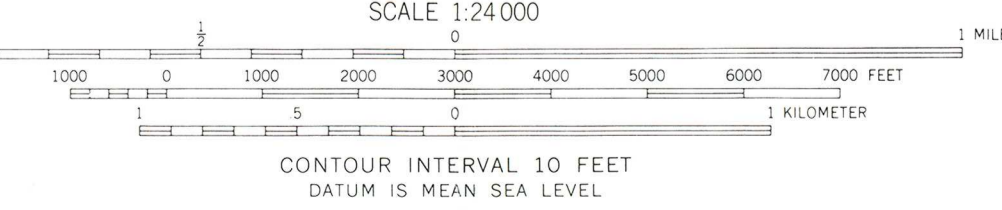
Ritchey family cemetery; view looking
northwest. The three tombstones in the
southeast corner (left foreground) mark
the graves of Mary E., M.H., and Polly
Ritchey (left to right).

DEC 5 1978

JUL 17 1978



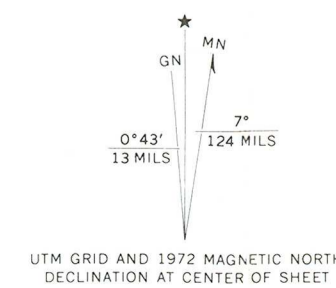
U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
"Newtonia"
Scale: 1:24,000
Ritchey, Mathew H., House
UTM Reference:
15/394580/4081740



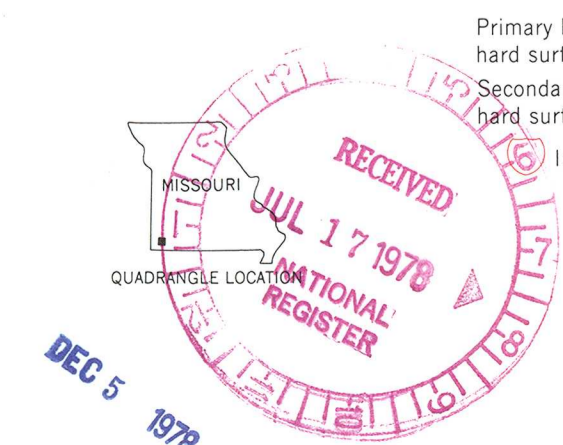
CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, hard surface
Secondary highway, hard surface
Unimproved road
Interstate Route
U.S. Route
State Route
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface

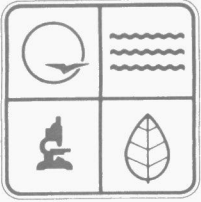
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1972
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Missouri coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal 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



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND BY THE MISSOURI GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROLLA, MISSOURI 65401
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



NEWTONIA, MO.
NW/4 RITCHEY 15' QUADRANGLE
N3652.5-W9407.5/7.5
1972
AMS 7151 1 NW-SERIES V879



July 10, 1978



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

P.O. Box 176 Jefferson City, Missouri 65101 (314) 751-4422

Dr. William J. Murtagh
Keeper of the National Register
Department of the Interior
Office of Archeology & Historic Preservation
Heritage Conservation & Recreation Service
18th and C Streets, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20240

Dear Bill:

Please find enclosed one (1) completed National Register Inventory-Nomination Form for:

RITCHEY, MATHEW H., HOUSE

and related data approved by Missouri's review board, the Missouri Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. This form is signed by Robert S. Townsend, State Historic Preservation Officer, and this site is thereby formally nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Orval L. Henderson, Jr.
Orval L. Henderson, Jr.
Program Director

OLH:jk

Enclosure: as stated

cc: Milton Perry

Joseph P. Teasdale Governor
Carolyn Ashford Director

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE MISSOURI

Date Entered DEC 5 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Pelster House-Barn	New Haven vicinity Franklin County
Long, William, Log House	Crestwood St. Louis County
Ritchey, Mathew H., House	Newtonia Newton County

Also Notified

Honorable John C. Danforth
Honorable Thomas F. Eagleton
Honorable Richard H. Ichord
Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
Honorable Gene Taylor

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Fred A. Lafser
State Department of Natural Resources
1001 SW. Blvd.
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Ritchey, Mathew H., House
 ② OTHER NAMES: Mansion House; Belle Starr House
 ③ date of entry: DEC 5 1978
 ④ county code: 145

⑤ LOCATION street & number: Mill St.
 city / town: Newtonia
 vicinity of: _____
 state: MO
 county: Newton
 ⑥ NPS REGION: MW

⑦ OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name) _____
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR: _____

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL
 ⑩ FUNDED? YES NO
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 7th
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION: STATE FEDERAL
 if state who prepared form? Nancy B. Breme

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME _____ NO
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME _____ NO
 ⑮ ACREAGE: _____
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION: excellent good fair
 deteriorated ruins unexposed unexcavated
 altered unaltered reconstructed excavated
 original site moved unknown

⑰ features: INTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-4 NOT APPLICABLE-7
 EXTERIOR SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-5 NOT APPLICABLE-8
 ENVIRONS SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3 NOT INTACT-0 UNKNOWN-6 NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS: YES - Restricted YES - Unrestricted No Access Unknown
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE: YES NO
 ⑳ SAVED? YES
 IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

㉑ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY - prehistoric-2	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE - 6	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT - 26	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCH. - 15	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW - 16	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS / GOVT. - 21	<input type="checkbox"/> RECREATION - 28
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY - historic-1	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS - 7	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION - 12	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE - 17	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY - 18	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION - 22	<input type="checkbox"/> SETTLEMENT - 29
<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE - 3	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION - 8	<input type="checkbox"/> HEALTH - 27	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL - 13	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC - 19	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE - 23	<input type="checkbox"/> URBAN PLANNING - 31
<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE - 4	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS - 9	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION - 14	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY - 20	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / CULTURAL - 30	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN - 24	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> ART - 5	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION - 10			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION - 25		

㉒ CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only'

㉓ functions: WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: _____
 CURRENTLY: _____
 ㉔ dates of initial construction: _____
 major alterations: _____
 historic events: _____
 ㉕ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: _____

㉖ architectural style(s): _____
 ㉗ architect: _____
 ㉘ master builder: _____
 ㉙ engineer: _____

㉚ landscape architect / garden designer: _____
 ㉛ interior decorator: _____
 ㉜ artist: _____
 ㉝ artisan: _____
 ㉞ builder / contractor: _____

㉟ NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL:
 EVENTS:
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊱ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP