Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) 60-87-0100-61 NR 8-28-75

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Joseph Taylor Robinson House

AND/OR COMMON: Foster-Robinson House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 2122 Broadway — __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Little Rock — __VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Arkansas	05	Pulaski	119

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: Robert C. Johnston

STREET & NUMBER: 2122 Broadway

CITY, TOWN: Little Rock — __VICINITY OF — STATE: Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER: Pulaski County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN: Little Rock, — STATE: Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE — __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Foster-Robinson House is a two and one-half storey structure of wood frame and granite construction. Built in 1904 by Henry Howard Foster, a wealthy lumberman, the house presents characteristics of the Stick Style architecture.

The house is of tall proportions with a high steep roof of complex plan and irregular silhouette. The exterior is faced with horizontal olive green clapboards having an overlay of vertical and horizontal cream colored boards. A wide, one storey veranda extends across the facade of the house, supported by three massive square posts of granite. The veranda features flattened ogee arches and ornamental brackets.

The facade of the house is marked by twin gables of which the outside eaves flare wider to the end, making them unique among other eaves on the house. Two identical gabled dormers extend from the north and south sides, the north side also having a gabled bay window projecting from the second floor. Unusual chimneys on the north and south sides are of granite from the ground to the roofline, the rest being of brick.

The only major alterations to the house have been on the south side. A porch was glassed in for a sunporch and a second storey room, originally a sleeping porch was enclosed. The second storey room has been converted to a kitchen area for the apartment located in one section of the second floor. A porch on the northwest corner which contains back stairs to the second floor has been enclosed in wood and windows. Originally it was enclosed in lattice work.

The entry hall is marked by several interesting features. The dominating part is the doorway with sidelights and transom lights of frosted glass with a fern leaf design, surrounding a single frame door inset with glass of the same design. Sliding glass doors leading from the foyer to the music room and dining room are identical in design with the exception of a circular motif in the upper center of the doors. A fireplace to the south of the front door has an impressive mantel of terra cotta with an acorn design.

The outstanding feature of the interior is the woodwork. Foster was able to obtain through his lumber yards, the finest and most unusual cuts of wood which were utilized to call attention to the fine grain of the wood, which is quarter-sawn oak and pine.

The three run oak stairway is ar open well with a half turn at the landing. Impressive urn shaped balasters support curved handrails. The inset under the handrail is of pine. Paneling on the side of the landing adds a rich tone to the foyer. The stairwell terminates at the ground floor with a decorative newel post on one side and a Doric capital column on the other. The entrance to the living room is flanked by oak columns identical

to the one at the base of the stairs. Mrs. Grady Miller, sister-in-law to Mrs. Robinson, remembers that each of the columns is a tree trunk.

The baseboards, cornices, doors and window facings are exemplifications of the superior quality of the wood. The baseboards and cornices are consistently of the same module with the exception of the cornice in the music room which is of the same decorative design as the wainscotting in the library. The library retains the original wallpaper which is a garden scene.

Of exceptional interest is the wood in the sliding door between the living room and dining room, which is refered to as "curly pine". Foster alerted the workers at his lumber yards to watch for pine logs with this special burled effect. Exposed beam ceilings are found in the foyer, living room and dining room.

At one end of the living room is an ingle-nook notable for a large copper cylindrical hood surmounted over a small fireplace. The hood tapers gradually toward the ceiling and is set off with linear brass molding. The house has six fireplaces, three of which originally burned wood and three that burned coal.

The Foster-Robinson House appears much the same today as it did when it was first constructed. It is now owned by State Representative Robert C. Johnston who is active in local historical societies and is maintaining the prestige of the house once lived in by Senator Joseph T. Robinson.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION	
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE	
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE	
__1600-1699	__ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER	
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION	
X1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		__INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1904 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank Gibbs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Foster-Robinson House, located in Little Rock's historic Quapaw Quarter district, was built in 1904 by one of Little Rock's leading businessmen, Harry Howard Foster. He came from a Wisconsin family long identified with the lumber trade and moved to Little Rock in 1901 where he resided until his death in 1915. Harry H. Foster was president of the Wisconsin and Arkansas Lumber Company at Malvern, the Arkansas Land and Lumber Company and the Malvern and Freeo Valley Railroad. His two storey, sixteen room house presented the image of the affluence of Big Business in the early twentieth century. The house was occupied by the widow of Harry H. Foster until 1930 when it was acquired by Senator Joseph T. Robinson and his wife.

Joseph Taylor Robinson was born August 26, 1872, on a farm seven miles from Lonoke. His father, Dr. James Robinson, who was a native of New York, engaged in farming in addition to the medical profession to support his family of twelve. Joe T. Robinson received his education in public schools and at the age of sixteen passed an examination which enabled him to teach in the community. He obtained a degree from the University of Arkansas in 1892.

In 1895 Joe T. Robinson was elected to the State Legislature, receiving the same year, a diploma from the University of Virginia Law School. In 1900 he was a Presidential elector from the sixth Congressional District and in 1902 was elected to the United States House of Representatives. He served ten years in Congress and during this period his political career was launched.

Robinson was elected twenty-third Governor of Arkansas in the 1912 election. Shortly after the gubernatorial inauguration on January 16, 1913, Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas died and the General Assembly elected Governor Robinson to fill the unexpired term as of March 4. He holds the distinction of being the last Senator in American history to be elected by a legislature since the law changed shortly thereafter to provide for election by popular vote.

Joe T. Robinson served as Senator from 1913 to 1937, a period in which he established a strong rapport with Presidents Woodrow Wilson, Warren Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt. President Wilson

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concluded a letter to Robinson by writing, "I regard you as the moral and intellectual leader of the Democratic Senate." On June 10, 1936, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was entertained at a dinner party given in his honor at the Robinson house. He was visiting Little Rock for the official opening of the Arkansas Centennial Celebration. Robinson was instrumental in exposing the corruption in Washington connected with the Teapot Dome and other oil scandals. President Franklin Roosevelt leaned heavily on Senator Robinson to push through Congress legislation concerned with the New Deal.

From 1923 to 1933 Robinson served as the Democratic minority leader and from 1933 to 1937 was the Democratic majority leader. Up until the day before his death he was actively involved in important matters, the last being a measure which would have reconstructed the United States Supreme Court. Robinson was a supporter of the laboring class and working with the government, he tried to remove the obstacle of the government and place all men in equality before the law. Joe T. Robinson was the Democratic party's nominee for Vice-President in 1928, as the running mate of Alfred Smith of New York, the Presidential candidate. Robinson was the only man from Arkansas to ever run for this high office. In 1927 he was appointed a member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution and in 1930 was a Delegate to the London Naval Conference.

The Foster-Robinson House is a significant historical structure because of the statesman it housed. Robinson was politically powerful in a crucial period of American history and his contributions helped the country, among other things, to overcome the economic depression. He realized that Arkansas could not prosper until the nation prospered and he concluded that the nation would expand and progress just in proportion as the other nations prospered. Robinson was an unusual man in that he could hold the respect and esteem of even his adversary and through the force of this strong personality he managed to establish national as well as international prominence.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Democrat. Editorial, August 25, 1968.

Arkansas Gazette. January 26, 1972

Centennial History of Arkansas. Little Rock: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922.

Robinson, E. R. The Heart of the "The Toiler's Martyr". Little Rock: Central Printing Company, 1968.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	15	566030	3842880	B			
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Sandra Taylor, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE: June 10, 1975

STREET & NUMBER: 300 West Markham

TELEPHONE: 371-1639

CITY OR TOWN: Little Rock

STATE: Arkansas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ✓ STATE ____ LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE William E. Henderson *Wm. E. Henderson*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer DATE June 10, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

o 10-301
10-74)

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PROPERTY MAP FORM

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
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Foster-Robinson House

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN: Little Rock ___VICINITY OF

COUNTY: Pulaski

STATE: Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: United States Geological Survey

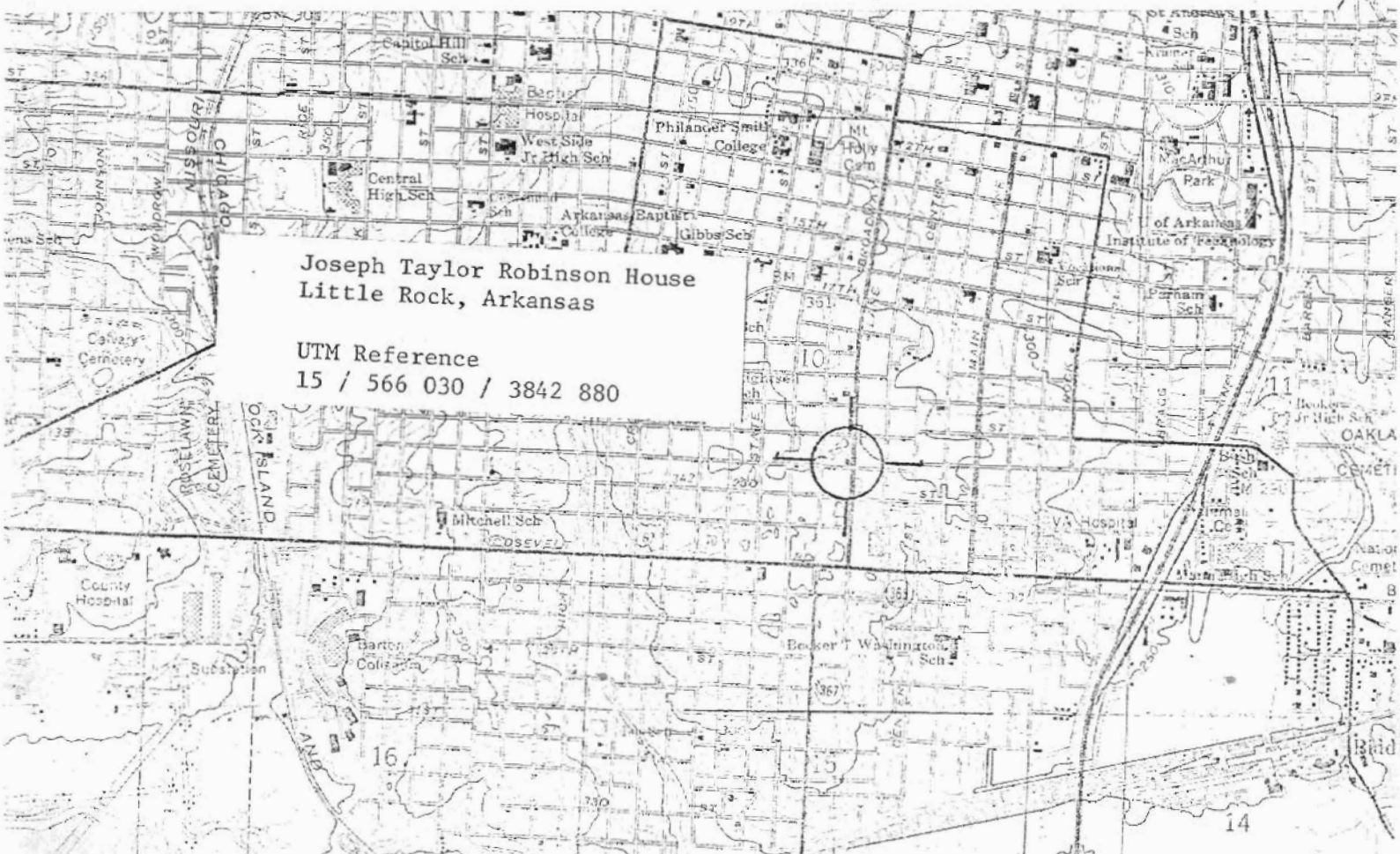
SCALE: 1:2400 DATE: 1961 (photo revised 1970)

REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 2986-75



Form No. 10-301a
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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CITY, TOWN: Little Rock ___VICINITY OF: COUNTY: Pulaski STATE: Arkansas

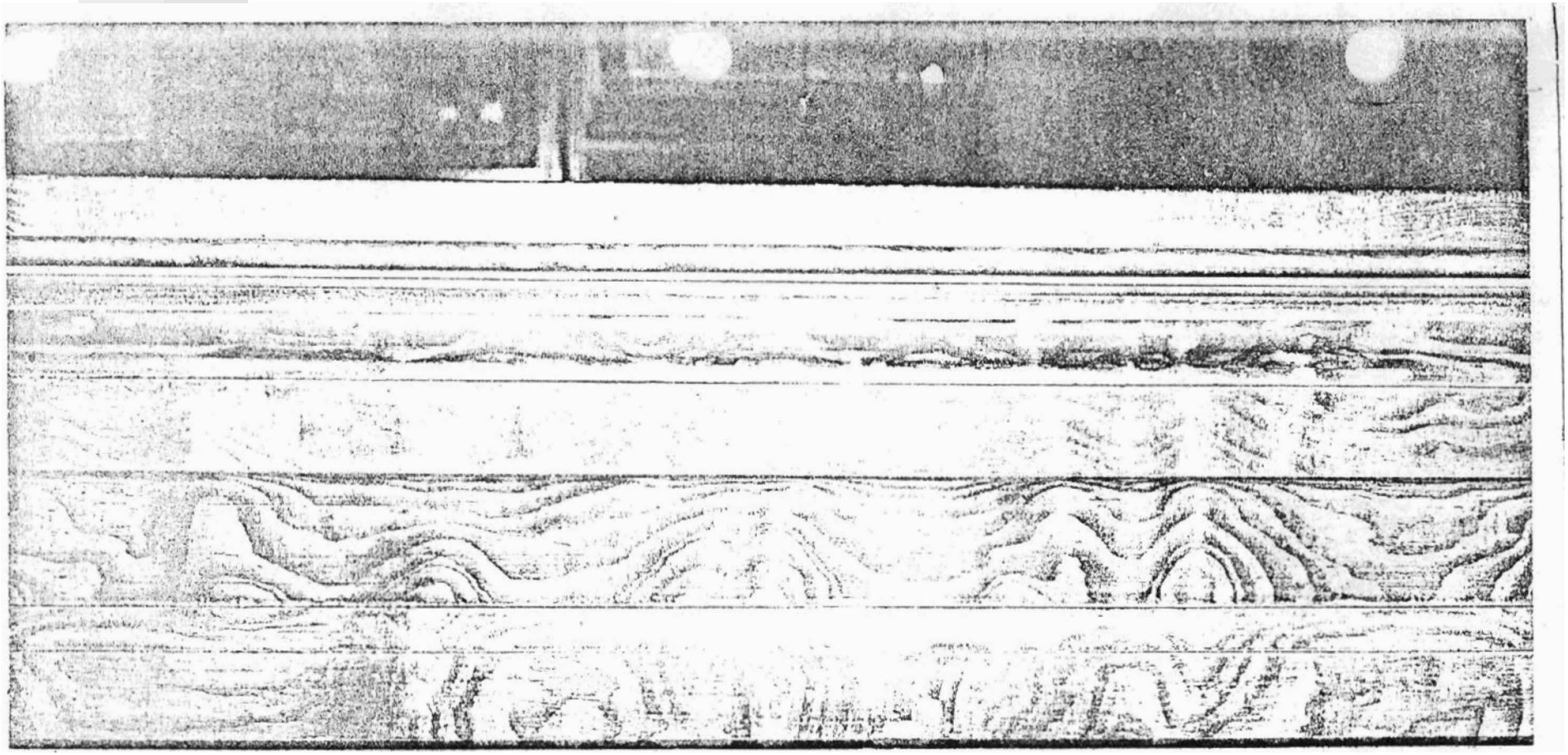
3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Bob Dunn DATE OF PHOTO: 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET	PHOTO NO.
Facade, viewed from the east	1



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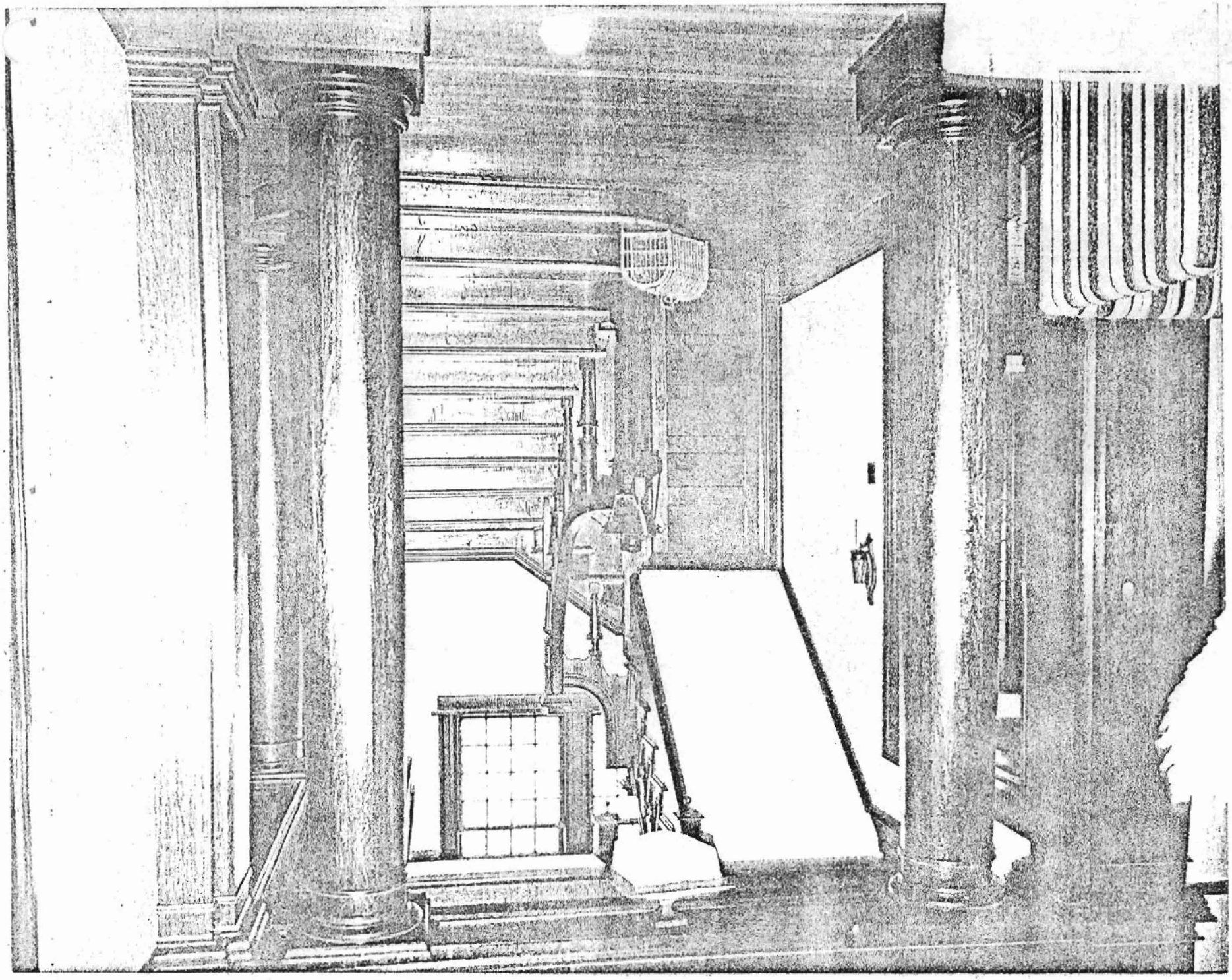
Detail of "curly pine" woodwork

PHOTO NO.
2



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View of entry from parlor

PHOTO NO 3