

REACH

Researching Early Arkansas
Cultural Heritage

Dalton

ELEVEN

Rice-Upshaw House ca. 1828

FORD

CREEK

*William Looney Tavern
ca. 1833*

The Rice-Upshaw House
The William Looney Tavern

REACH (Researching Early Arkansas Cultural Heritage) is a multidisciplinary historic preservation project undertaken by Black River Technical College. The centerpiece of **REACH**—two early log structures: the Rice-Upshaw House and the William Looney Tavern constructed during Arkansas' Territorial era in ca. 1828 and 1833, respectively. Standing about a mile apart on opposite sides of the Eleven Point River on their original sites near Dalton in Randolph County, the structures have been restored to an 1840s interpretive era by craftsmen who used to the maximum extent possible pioneering building processes and tools. The physical restoration was guided throughout by extensive historical, architectural, and archeological research. While many questions remain, discoveries include the realization that the Rice-Upshaw structure was originally a one-story trade center, possibly a loom house, used by its builder, Reuben Rice. Also now accepted is the fact that the William Looney Tavern never served as a residence for its builder, but rather for other possible uses, including his extensive business enterprises. Among these were, it is believed, a tavern or inn, and quite possibly, a distillery.



Black River Technical College Foundation

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