



JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI

RICE HOUSE

MATTHEW C. FIELD

1839 from memoir

“About half a day’s travel [from Independence] brings the Santa Fe bound traders past the flourishing plantation of Farmer Rice, where leisure travellers [variant spelling] often linger to enjoy his sweet bacon, fresh eggs, new milk, and the other nutritious ... luxuries that always appease the appetite....”

***** In 1836 Archibald Rice purchased land along the Blue Ridge about eight miles south of Independence. He immediately built a log house. Eight years later he built the frame house that still stands east of Blue Ridge Boulevard at 66th Street. Archibald encouraged travelers on the Blue Ridge to camp on his property as his family willingly sold meals, fresh produce, and grains to them. After Archibald died in 1849, his son Coffee took over management of the large farm. Coffee discouraged camping on the property due to fear of cholera. As a journalist, Matthew C. Field traveled with traders and pleasure seekers from Independence to Santa Fe in 1839. Later his diary entries and newspaper articles were compiled into a book titled *Matt Field on the Santa Fe Trail*. **Source:** Franzwa, Gregory M. *The Santa Fe Trail Revisited*. St. Louis: Patrice Press, 1989, quote on p. 32.