

Listed in the N.R.  
10-04-84

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 Dr. Robert George Williams House

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Corner of Highways 8 and 209

N/A not for publication

city, town Parkdale N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Ashley code 003

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bawcom

street & number P. O. Box 95

city, town Parkdale N/A vicinity of state Arkansas 71661

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Ashley County Courthouse

street & number Jefferson Street

city, town Hamburg state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
title Survey of Ashley County has this property been determined eligible? yes no N/A

date 1982 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas

## 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

#### SUMMARY

Constructed in 1903 for Dr. Robert George Williams, this two-and-a-half story frame residence was substantially altered in 1917. Originally a modest gable-roofed structure with simple detailing, the house was dramatically changed in appearance to reflect the popular Colonial Revival style. The Williams House remains as one of Parkdale's most impressive residences.

#### ELABORATION

Occupying a larger corner lot, the Williams House was, when constructed in 1903, a modest two-and-a-half story residence with a simple entrance and front porch. In 1917 additions were made and the house remodeled. The house has always had novelty siding and rests upon brick piers. Original vertical wood slats between the piers have been replaced by brick. In 1917, two gabled additions were added to both side and the rear elevation. A two-story flat-roofed three-sided portico was added to the front that greatly altered the exterior appearance. Seven fluted Doric columns support the portico that extends into a porte cochere on the east elevation. The second floor of the porch has a railing of decoratively sawn slats. When remodeled, the entrance was changed to include single-light sidelights that rest on wood panels. The door has a single-light upper sash and paneled bottom, with a three-light transom above. Windows on the front elevation are large one-over-one double-hung. A large window is located to the right of the entrance and a grouping of three windows are centered on the second floor. Doors in the south sides of the two side additions provide access to the three-sided front porch. The gable end of the front facade is pierced by a pair of fixed windows.

The west elevation features the continuation of the front portico to the right of the gabled addition and a one-story shed-roofed porch to the left. The side of the front projection reveals three small fixed windows at different levels that illuminate the interior stair. Windows in the west addition include two fixed with multi-paned borders on the first floor and a band of four-over-one double-hung on the second floor.

The east side elevation differs from the west. Extending from the south corner is a one-story continuation of the front portico that functions as a porte cochere for which the continuous railing of the porch forms as a balustrade. Second floor windows are four-over-one double-hung, while those in the first floor of the addition are four-over-four vertical lights. Three smaller one-over-one windows are located on the north third of the first floor.

A two story water tower with a low-pitched pyramid roof dominates the rear elevation. The second floor, on either side of the tower, is devoted to sleeping porches.

The interior features an irregular plan with spacious rooms. The living room is located inside the front entrance and is dominated by the impressive stair that

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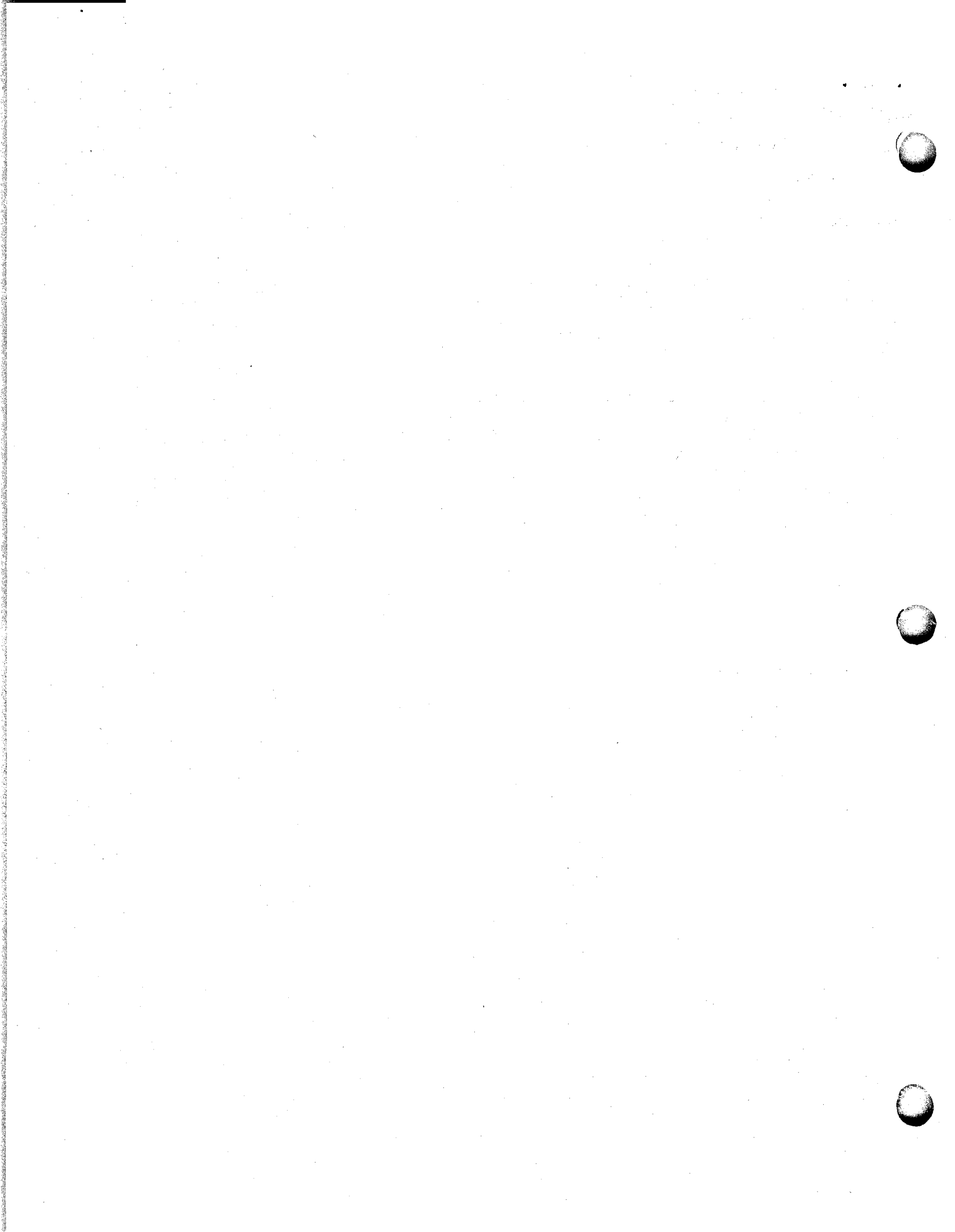
Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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rises along the west wall. Four windows are positioned at different levels of the stair. The living room also features a fireplace with a striking mirrored mantelpiece. Multi-paned double-doors lead from the living room to the dining room has a beamed ceiling and its east wall is devoted to a grouping of three windows.

The ancillary structures on the Williams House property included the two-story tank house connected to the house, a two room servant's house, and a garage that was originally used as a barn. Some of the smaller structures behind the house included a cistern house, a smoke house, a canning house, a privy, and a Delco house which contained a generator that supplied the Williams House with electricity before the community of Parkdale. The tank house and the garage are the only ancillary structures still in existence.



# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1903 Builder/Architect Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SUMMARY

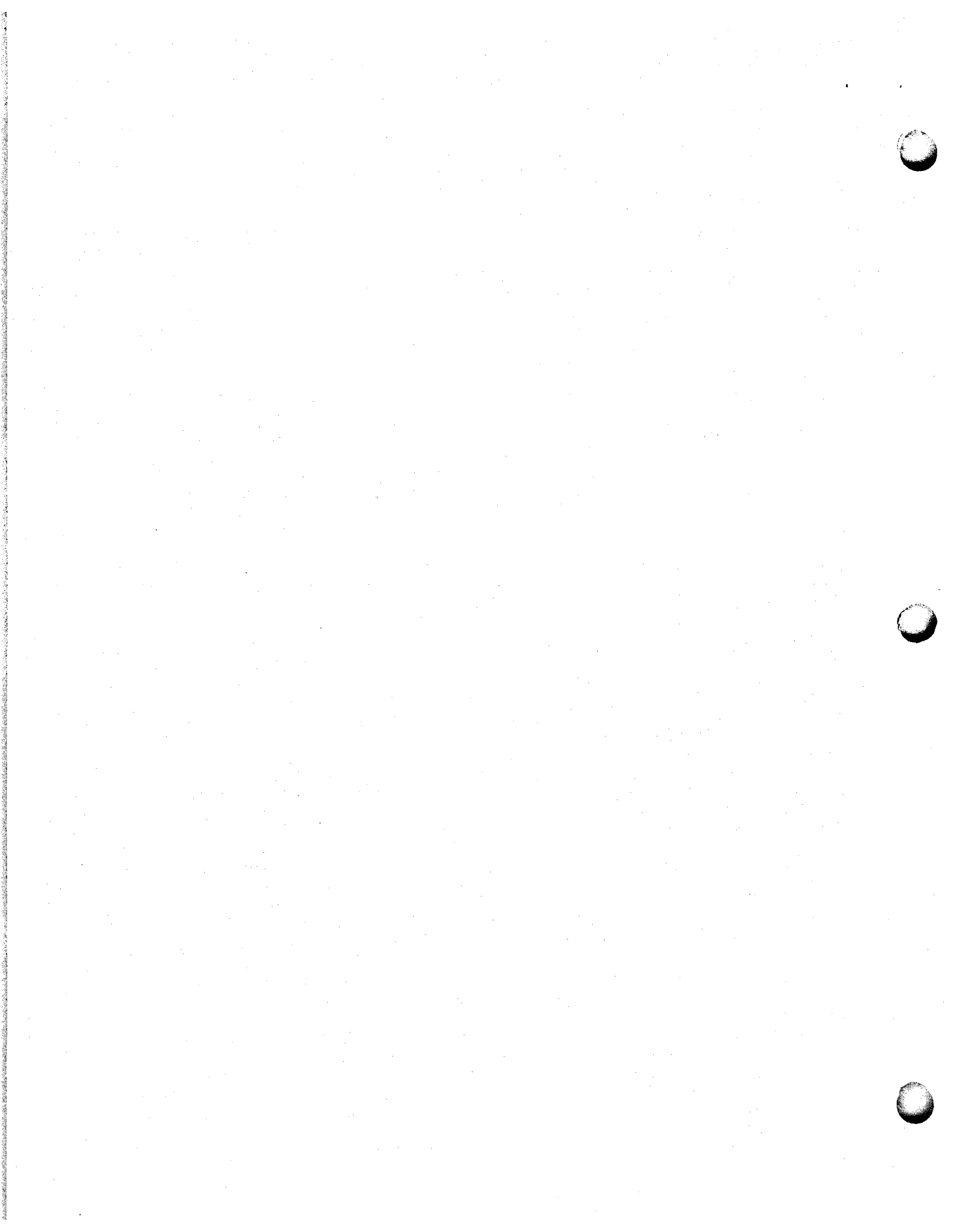
The Williams House was constructed in 1903 as the home of Dr. Robert George Williams - a prominent citizen of Parkdale and Ashley County. Dr. Williams was influential in the medical, educational, and financial development of the area. He was founder and President of the Parkdale Bank, President of the Parkdale School Board, and he also maintained a local medical practice for over 30 years. The house is a good example of the evolution of a house in a rural community. It remains one of the most significant structures in Parkdale. Dr. Williams was responsible for the major remodeling to the exterior in 1917, and the changes have remained intact to the present. The house remained in the Williams Family until the 1970's, and continues to be a tribute to the contributions of that family to the Parkdale area.

### ELABORATION

Robert George Williams was born in 1863 in Jones, Louisiana about 12 miles south of Parkdale. His parents were John G. Williams, a local owner of farm and timber land, and Eliza Jones Williams. Robert Williams attended high school in Hamburg, Arkansas, and later taught school in Texas. He attended Tulane University and the University at Louisville where he received his medical degree in 1895. He completed his internship at the New Orleans Polyclinic in 1901, and moved shortly afterwards to Parkdale where he began his medical practice. Dr. Williams was responsible for the formation of the Parkdale Bank in 1910, and served as its president for many years. He also served as president of the Parkdale School Board, and was instrumental in funding and constructing the Parkdale High School in 1909.

After Dr. Williams died in 1945, his son, James A. Williams, and James' wife Dorothy, took over the house. James went on to take over the presidency of the Parkdale Bank, as well as the president's position of the Parkdale School Board. Dr. Williams' other son, Robert Williams, Jr., became a Navy doctor, and later became widely known for his research concerning the various uses of bone marrow. James and Dorothy Williams lived in the Williams House until they retired in 1975 and sold the bank to Gus Pugh of Portland, and sold the house to the present owners - Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Bawcom.

The 1917 alterations that Dr. Williams made included adding the columns, the half plate glass entrance door with sidelights and transoms, the porte cochere, the portico, and the extension of the west and north



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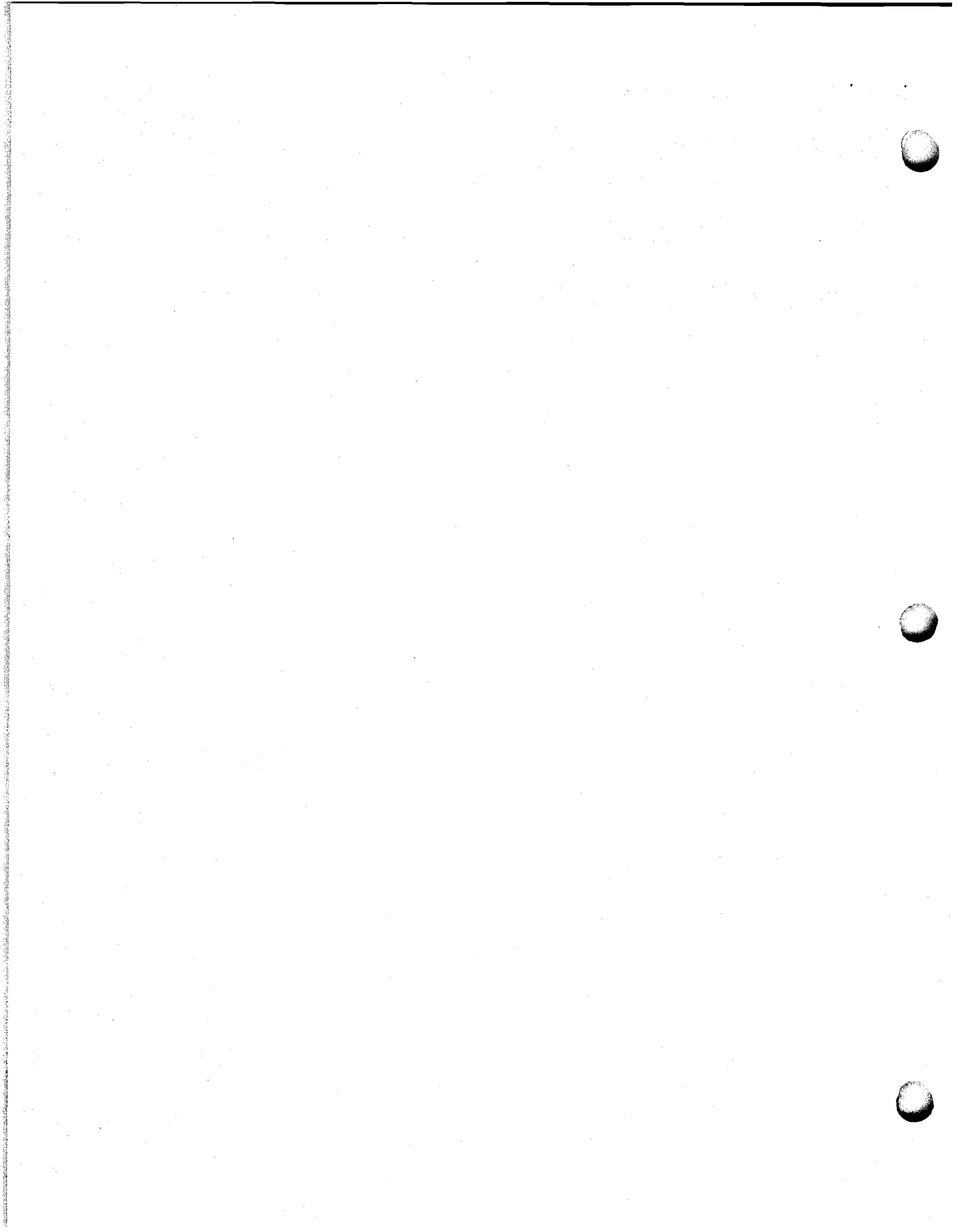
data entered

Continuation sheet

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sides of the house. The house has remained basically unchanged since these alterations were completed.





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Mrs. Robert Williams Holderness (daughter of Robert George Williams)  
Riley Manor, Little Rock, AR  
Interviewed 31 July 1983.

October 83 - Mrs. Holderness and Robert Holderness, grandson of Dr. Williams, were guest  
in our home and discussed all changes.

James Williams - Grandson of Dr. Williams

Edwin Gregory of Parkdale, AR (Knows complete history of the house)

Lottie Hawkins of Parkdale, AR

Johnny Files of Parkdale, AR

Mrs. Robert Radford of Parkdale, AR

Dorothy Williams (daughter-in-law of Dr. Williams) of Fayetteville, AR

Mrs. Robert Williams Holderness  
Riley Manor, Little Rock, Ar.  
2nd Interview: 16 February 1984.



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than an acre

Quadrangle name Wilmot, Ark.-La Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

15	635380	3665480
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

All of Block 6 of the T. R. Richardson Survey to the Town of Parkdale, Arkansas

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nora Bawcom, Interior Designer/ Jeff Lewellen, Intern AHPP.

organization Decorating Den

date March 6, 1984

street & number P. O. Box 95

telephone 501-473-5196

city or town Parkdale

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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Wilson Stiles*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8-31-84

For NPS use only

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

date

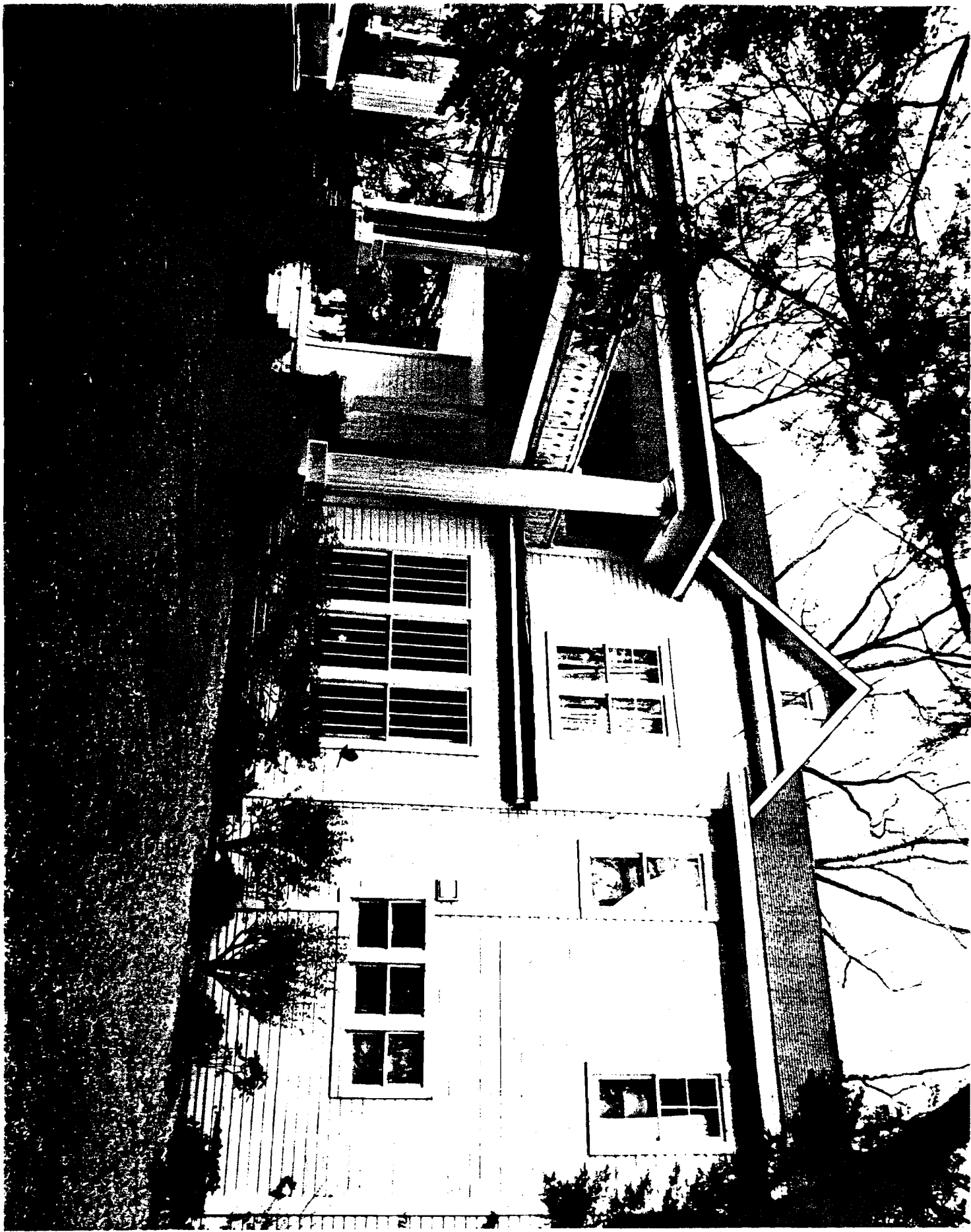
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

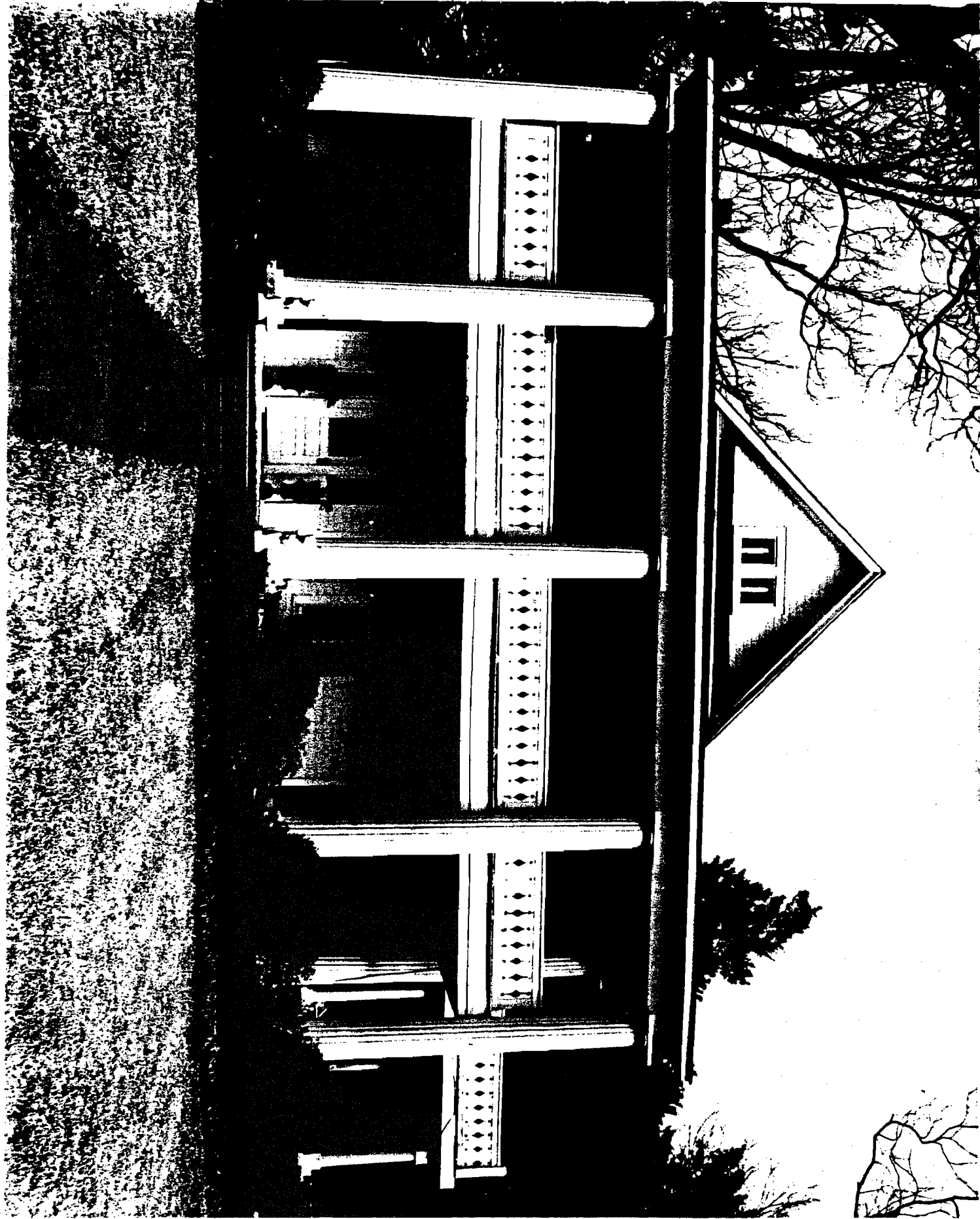
Chief of Registration





Dr. Robert George Williams House  
Parkdale  
Ashley Co., Ark.  
Photographed by Nora Bawcom  
1983  
Negative filed with owner  
Viewed from the East

*East side*



Dr. Robert George Williams House  
Parkdale  
Ashley Co., Ark.  
Photographed by Nora Bawcom  
Negative filed with owner  
Viewed from the South

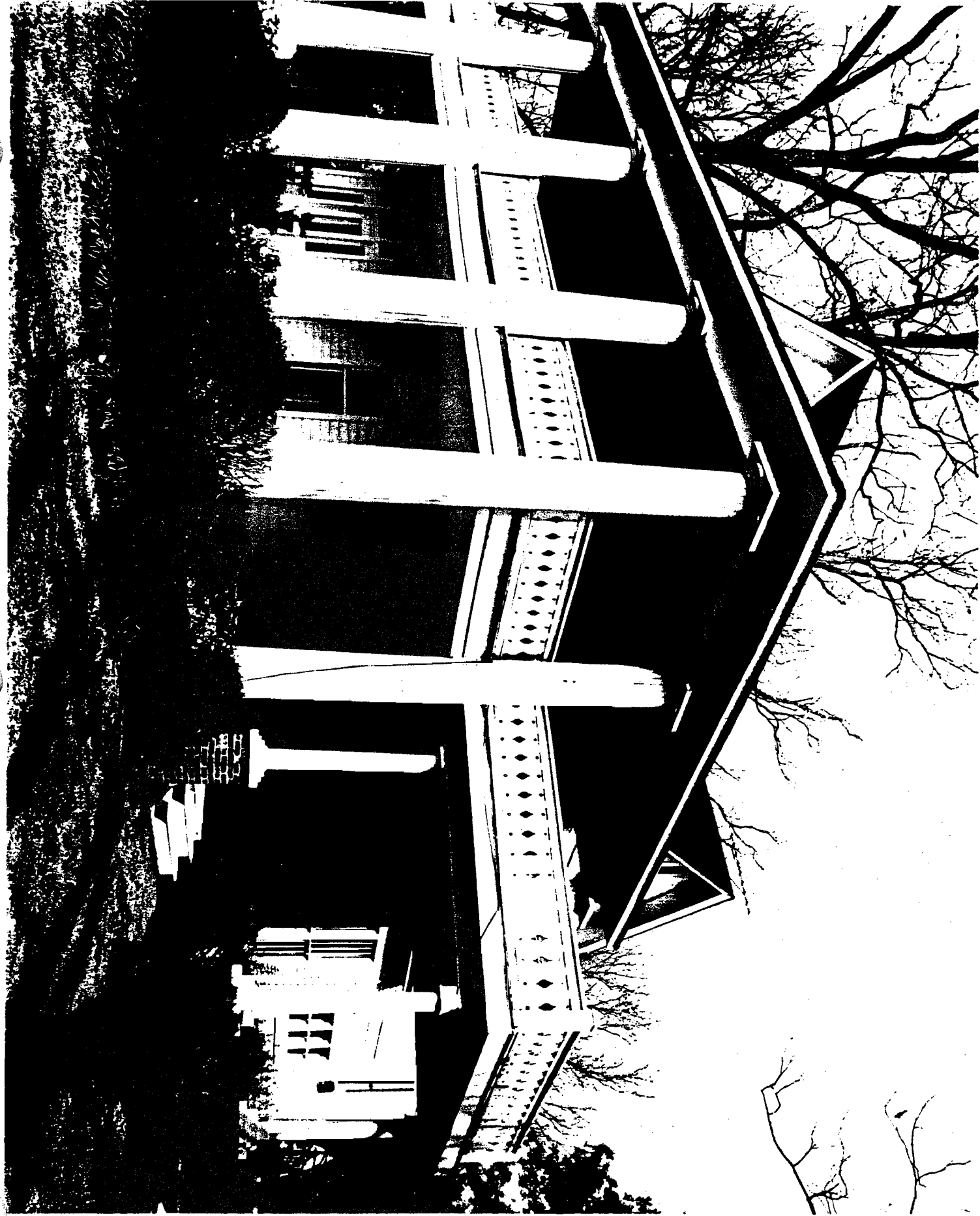




Dr. Robert George Williams Ho  
Parkdale  
Ashley Co, Ark.  
Photographed by Nora Bawcom  
Negative filed with owner  
Viewed from the Southwest



Dr. Robert George Williams House  
Parkdale  
Ashley Co., Ark.  
Photographed by Nora Bawcom  
Negative filed with owner  
1983  
Viewed from the South

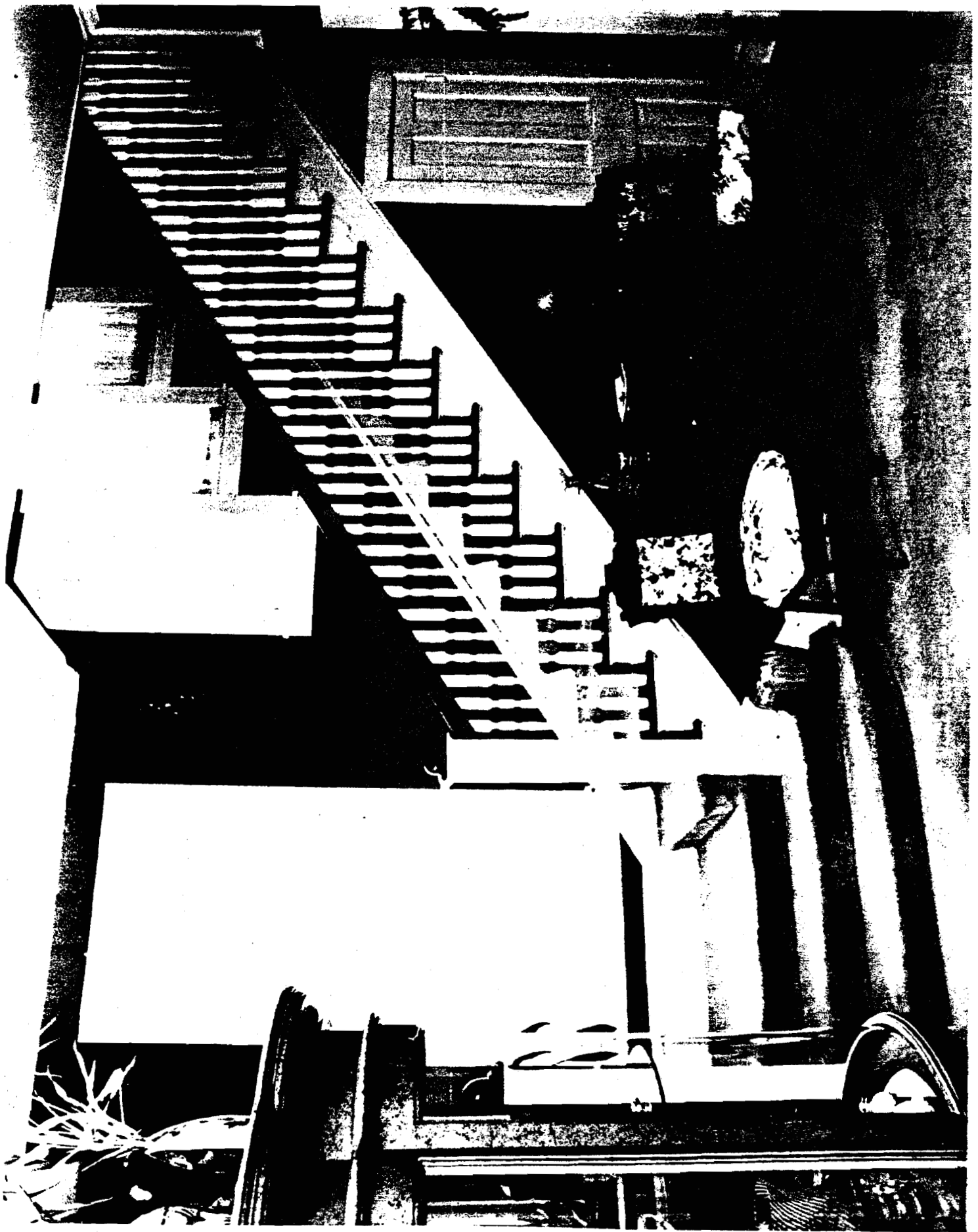


Dr. Robert George Williams House  
Parkdale  
Ashley Co., Ark.  
Photographed by Nora Bawcom  
Negative with owner  
1983  
Viewed from the Southeast



Dr. Robert George Williams House  
Parkdale  
Ashley Co., Ark.  
Photographed by Nora Bawcom  
Negative filed with owner  
1983  
Viewed from the North





Williams House  
Parkdale, AR  
Ashley County  
Alice Jones, photographer  
December, 1983  
Interior



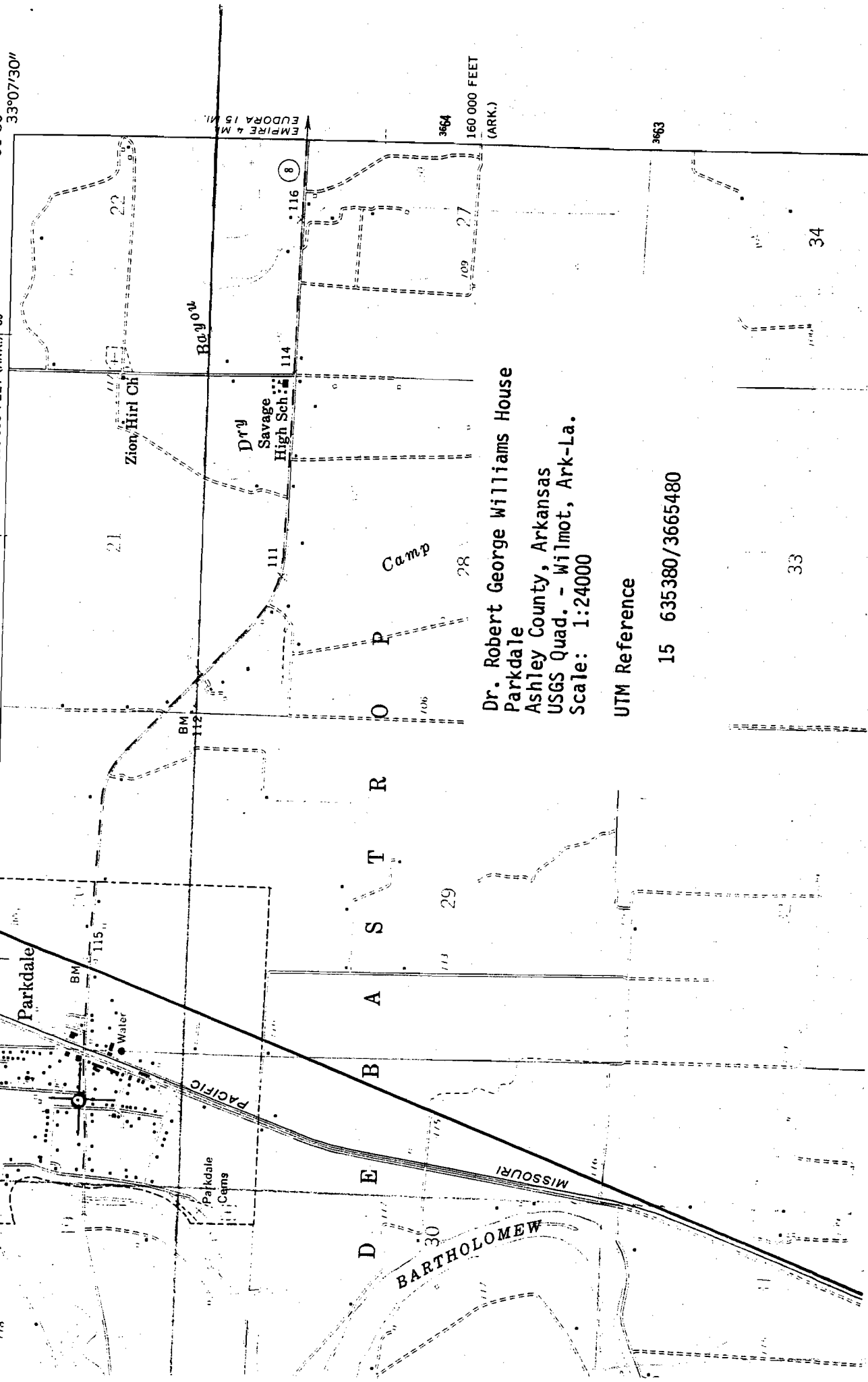
I

Williams House  
Parkdale, AR  
Ashley County  
Alice Jones, photographer  
December, 1983  
Interior

WILMOT QUADRANGLE  
 ARKANSAS—LOUISIANA  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

750 11  
 EUDORA 1-63500

2 11 NE  
 TLAND J R J W  
 178  
 835  
 82°30' 4 1/2 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
 837  
 2 150 000 FEET (ARK.) 839  
 91°30'  
 33°07'30"



Dr. Robert George Williams House  
 Parkdale  
 Ashley County, Arkansas  
 USGS Quad. - Wilmot, Ark-La.  
 Scale: 1:24000

UTM Reference

15 635380/3665480

33

34

363

364

160 000 FEET (ARK.)

EMPIRE & M. I.

