

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

historic name: The Woman's Community Club Band Shell

other name/site number: N/A CE0057

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2. Location

street & number: NE Corner of Spring Park

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Heber Springs

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Cleburne code: AR 023 zip code: 72543

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3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Structure

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

N/A

Other Description: Rustic_____

Materials: foundation Stone_____ roof Concrete & Asphalt
walls Stone_____ other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local_____.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C_____

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A_____

Areas of Significance: Architecture_____

Period(s) of Significance: 1933_____

Significant Dates: N/A_____

Significant Person(s): N/A_____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

Architect/Builder: King, Leo - Builder_____

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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X See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Table with 4 columns: A, B, C, D. Row 1: 15, 588360, 3927940, B. Row 2: C, D.

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of a line formed by, yet 15 feet from, the front, or southwestern elevation of the bandshell and a line formed by, yet 15 feet from, the southeastern elevation, proceed northeast along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet 15 feet from, the rear, or northeastern elevation; thence proceed northwest along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet 15 feet from, the northwestern elevation of the bandshell; thence proceed southwest along said line to its intersection with the line formed by, yet 15 feet from, the front elevation; thence proceed southeast along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes the historic band shell with attached stage, but excludes the other structures located in Spring Park.

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 06/21/94

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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Summary

Erected in 1933, the Woman's Community Club Band Shell is constructed of native stone and concrete and is located at the northeast corner of Spring Park in Heber Springs.

Elaboration

The Woman's Community Club Band Shell was built in 1933 at the northeast corner of Spring Park in Heber Springs. A continuous stone foundation supports the rectangular-plan structure which is constructed of rough-cut, non-coursed native fieldstone and covered with a concrete half-dome and an asphalt-covered flat roof behind a parapet. Although the band shell exhibits no clear architectural style, the use of native stone as a building material reflects the Rustic idiom that was popularized by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930's.

The band shell is oriented at an angle in the park, and the front elevation faces southwest. The interior of the half dome is covered with smooth concrete and contains a single-leaf door on each side from which to enter/exit into the dressing rooms. On either side of the half dome, rock pilasters define the dressing-room bays. Both bays have a segmental-arched window opening in the center that is now boarded over. In front of the half dome is a T-shaped concrete stage with concrete steps at each terminus. The "spandrel" areas on each side are utilized for flower beds with a curved stone wall enclosing the beds and creating a half circle.

The two side elevations are outlined with corner pilasters but are not fenestrated. The rear, or northeast, elevation contains a single-leaf entrance with half sidelights to each dressing room. The sidelights are covered with wood, and the doors, like the stage doors, are nonhistoric. The eastern entry has been modified for wheelchair access.

The interior of the dressing rooms was not viewed. Although there are no other site features directly associated with the band shell, Spring Park contains seven springs with pavilions, park benches, rest rooms, and a new amphitheater.

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Summary

The Woman's Community Club Band Shell is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a stone and concrete band shell in Heber Springs and Cleburne County.

Elaboration

The area now occupied by the town of Heber Springs was first settled in 1835 by John Magness, who homesteaded a 40-acre tract on which free-flowing sulphur springs were located. The Magness property was located near an inverted cone mountain, called Tonawanda by the Indians, but known as Sugar Loaf Mountain by the white settlers. In 1837 Magness sold his land to John T. Jones, Richard B. Lee, Richard D. C. Collins, and William McKim who intended to capitalize on the springs by developing a resort community. Responding to a proposal by Jones, the General Assembly of the state of Arkansas approved an act in 1838 to incorporate the White Sulphur Springs Company. Governor James Sevier Conway signed the act which recognized the group's desire to improve the land "for the purpose of making it a convenient and healthy resort for the good citizens of Arkansas."

The land and springs, however, remained undeveloped. Jones secured sole ownership of the land through a series of transactions and purchased an additional 50 acres west of the original site. Jones, who had entered politics and was serving as circuit judge, sold the entire tract to Max Frauenthal in 1881, with the exception of one acre in the vicinity of the springs. Frauenthal was a prosperous Jewish merchant with holdings in nearby Conway and in Memphis, Tennessee. A month after purchasing the property, he organized the Sugar Loaf Springs Company and sold stock to ten shareholders. The new company, which was more interested in establishing a town than building a resort, did set aside four city blocks (ten acres), which they designated as Spring Park.

The town of Sugar Loaf Springs grew quickly based on the healing reputation of the mineral waters and achieved the distinction of being incorporated in the same year it was founded. When the townspeople submitted their request for a post office however, the name "Sugar Loaf" was rejected because there was already another post office in the state by that name. The town fathers instead chose to honor Dr. Heber Jones of Memphis, the son of the long-time owner of the town site, John T. Jones. Like many other towns in Arkansas, the separate names of the post office, Heber, and the town, Sugar Loaf, were used interchangeably until 1910 when the names of both institutions were officially changed to Heber Springs.

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Spring Park, of course, became the principal attraction of the new town. An 1886 booklet entitled, *The Famous Health Resort of Sugar Loaf Springs and Cleburne County*, the author described the springs in relation to their location in the park:

These [the springs] are found in the spring park, which corners upon the hotel lawn. The first reached are five in number, White Sulphur, Arsenic, Chalybeate, Iron and Freestone, being all found in a few steps of each other; then the Red Sulphur, Saltpetre, Powder and Eye Springs, only a few yards from the first, and then comes the best and last, the Black Sulphur, making ten in all.

The benefit from partaking of these waters was ". . . a sure cure for dyspepsia, headache, biliousness and hundreds of other ailments." Today, only seven of the springs are recognized and maintained (absent the Chalybeate, Freestone, and Saltpetre springs).

In 1892, a visitor to the town wrote:

Nestled at the foot of the Ozark mountains, in the Little Red River valley, it is a surprise to the traveler who has made a day's drive from the railroad through a thinly settled country. The town is thirty miles from the nearest railroad point, but during the ten years of existence its population has reached 500 and is continually increasing . The most peculiar features of the town are its mineral springs, which have attracted no small amount of attention in the State [sic], though unknown outside of Arkansas.

Though it would be another sixteen years before the Missouri & North Arkansas railroad connected Heber Springs with the rest of the world, the town grew steadily around the tourism industry associated with the sulphur springs. The various hotels became centers of social life, and the activities conducted there were reported with great frequency in the local newspaper, *The Jacksonian*. The summer months were the most popular among the tourists, who would usually stay for weeks at a time to drink and enjoy the medicinal waters.

Spring Park was initially developed solely in regards to the springs. At first, the springs were directed into gum logs, but concrete curbs sheltered by wood-shingled pavilions were erected shortly thereafter. Otherwise, the park contained only a few benches, a couple of latticed arbors, and an entertainment pavilion that was used for a variety of purposes. By the early 1930's, the Woman's Community Club, which was established in Heber Springs in 1921, decided that a purpose-built band shell was needed to replace the old entertainment pavilion that had been torn down. A group of women travelled to Little Rock to examine a band shell

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in one of the city parks. Money was raised through the usual means of donations, selling pies, etc. Leo King was chosen to build the new rock and concrete structure which was completed in June 1933. At the dedication ceremony, the new band shell was christened by Mrs. J. L. Mullins' daughter, Julia, who broke a bottle of sulphur water against the wall.

Today, the Woman's Community Club Band Shell still stands although the Woman's Community Club no longer exists. This band shell is a good example of a public building type that was never numerous in Arkansas, and it is unquestionably the best example in Heber Springs and Cleburne County. For these reasons, the Woman's Community Club Band Shell is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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Bibliography

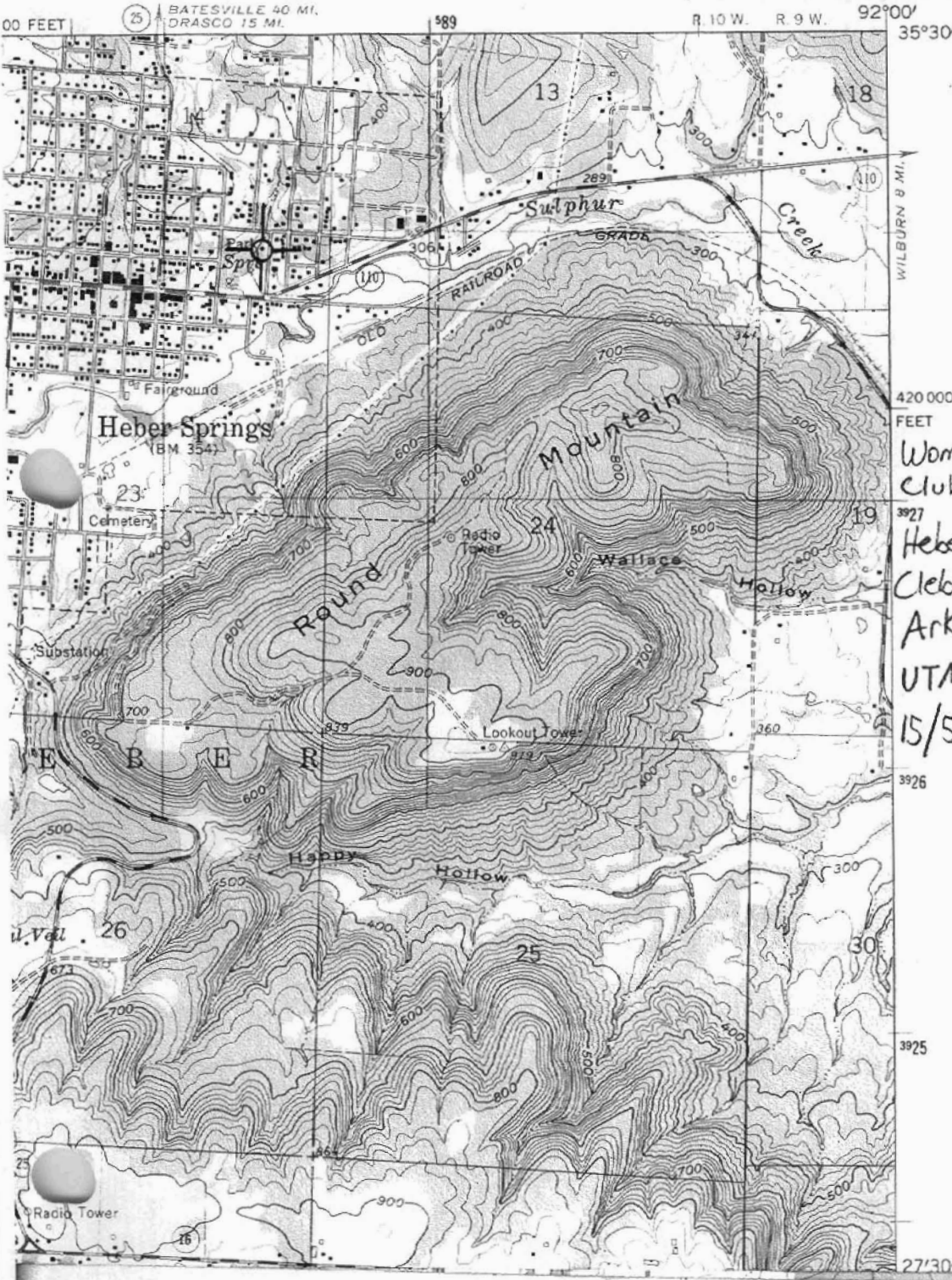
Berry, Evalena. *Sugar Loaf Springs: Heber's Elegant Watering Place*. Conway, Arkansas: River Road Press, 1985.

Berry, Evalena. *Time and the River: A History of Cleburne County*. Little Rock, Arkansas: Rose Publishing Co., 1982.

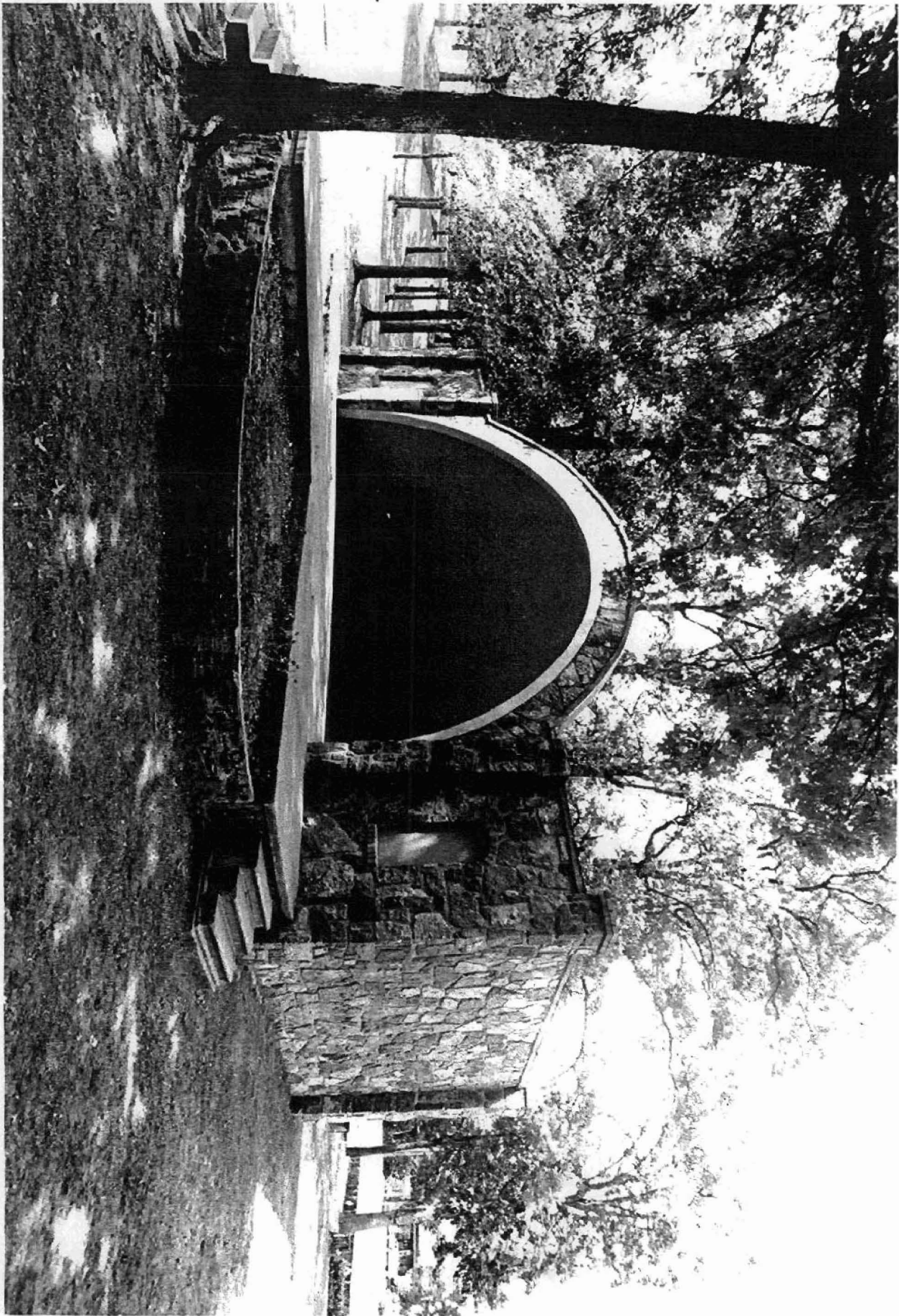
Interview by telephone with Charlsie Little, Cleburne County Historical Society, May 5, 1994.

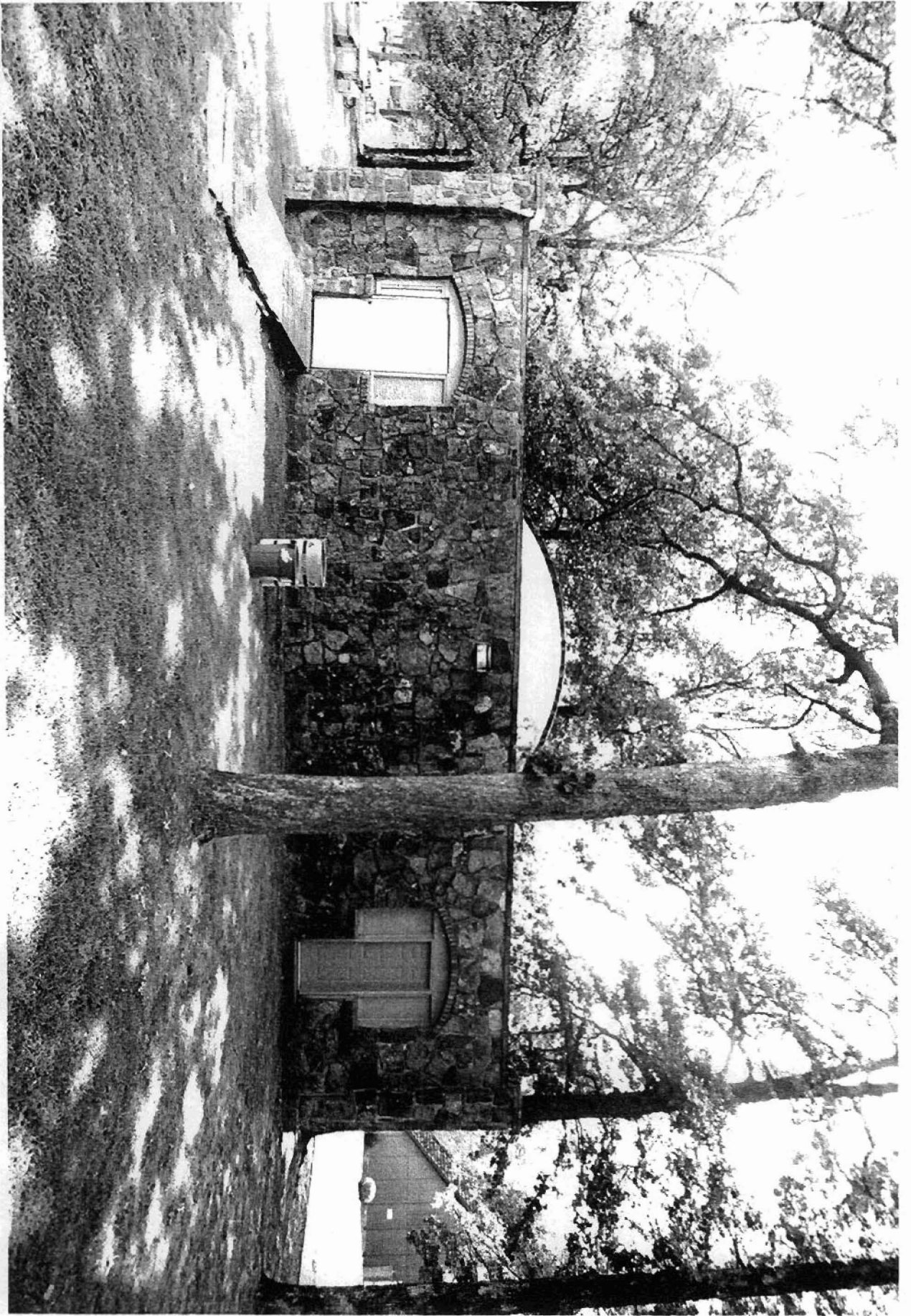
HEBER SPRINGS QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-CLEBURNE CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

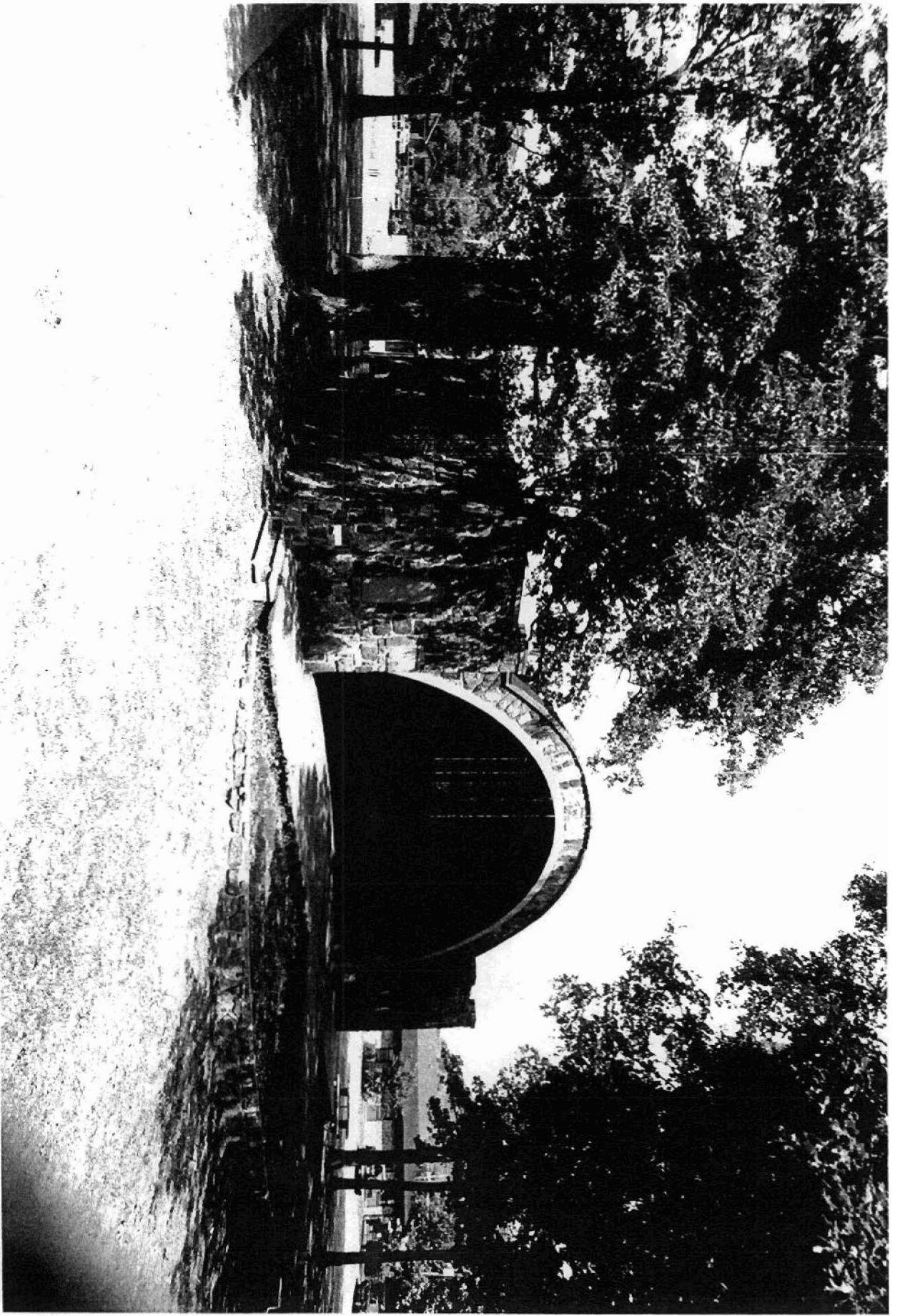
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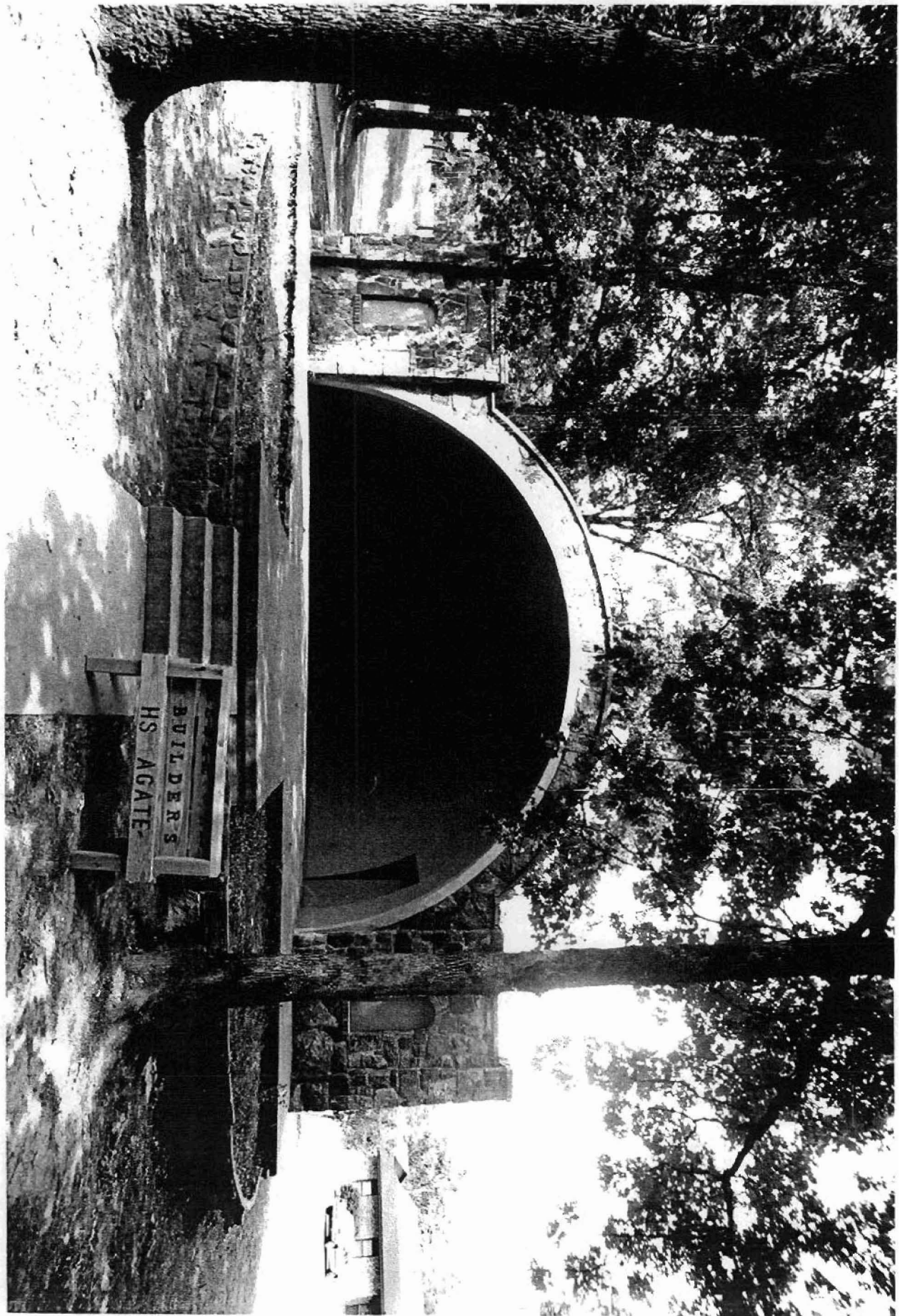


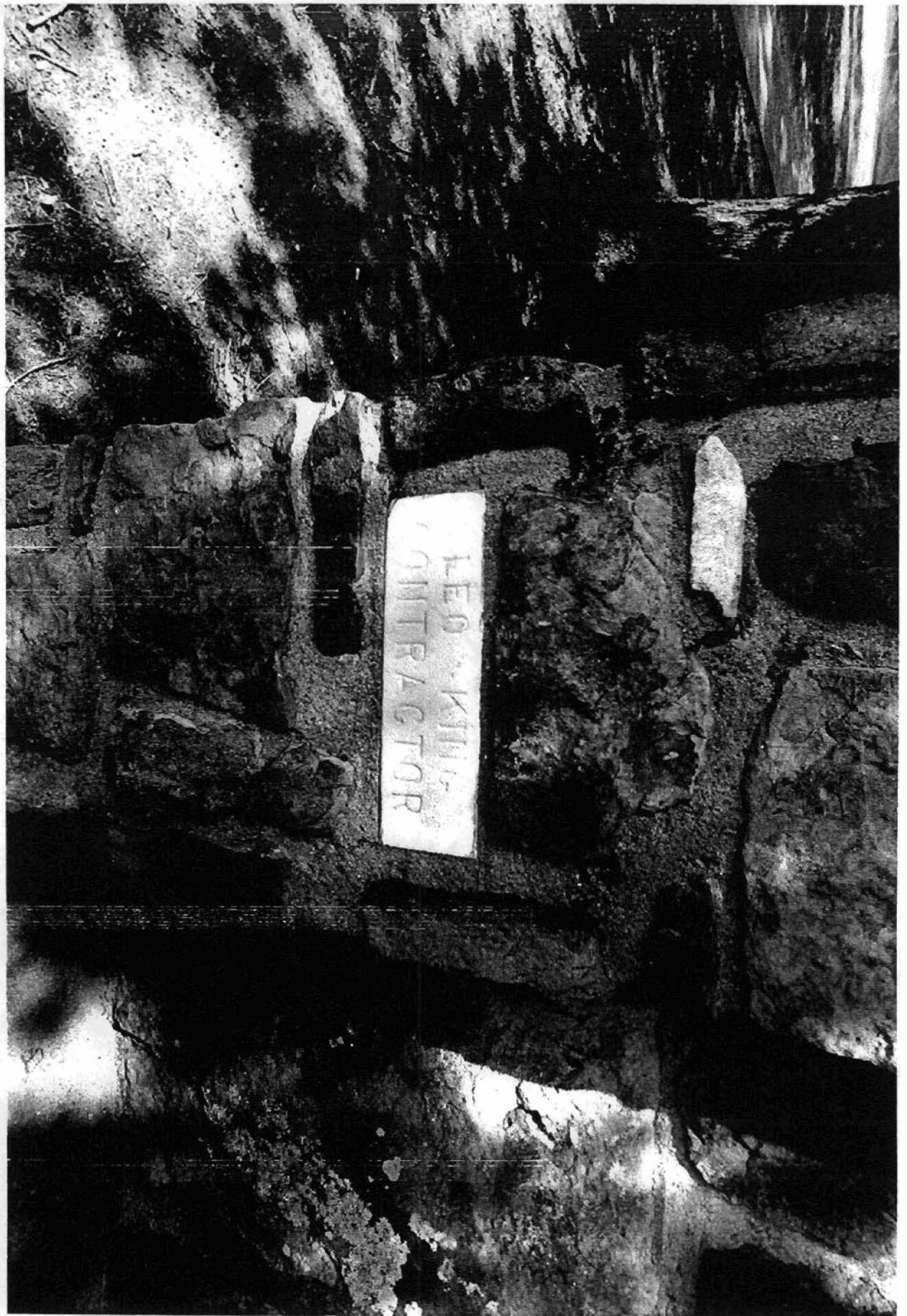
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FEET
Woman's Community
Club Band Shell
3927
Heber Springs,
Cleburne Co.
Arkansas
UTM:
15/588360/3927940











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THE WOMAN'S

COMMUNITY CLUB

JUNE 1933

