

NR listed
10-10-85

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

CG0013

1. Name

historic Berger-Graham House

and/or common Berger-Graham-Hampton House

2. Location

street & number 1327 South Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Jonesboro

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

code 05

county Craighead

code 031

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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. Larry R. Hampton

street & number 308 Jefferson

city, town Jonesboro

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas 72401

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Craighead County Courthouse

street & number South Main Street

city, town Jonesboro

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Inventory has this property been determined eligible? N/A yes ___ no

date September 1971 ___ federal state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town

state

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

Imposingly sited on an ample corner lot, the Berger-Graham House, constructed in 1904, demonstrates the synthesis of two subtle influences - the Richardsonian Romanesque and the Classical Revival. This massive brick residence possesses an interesting roof configuration composed of a central hip with cross gables and dormers, a broad round-arched recessed entry that dominates the front facade and restrained classical detailing.

ELABORATION

Occupying a large corner lot, the Berger-Graham House sits on a hill which is the highest location in Jonesboro. The east and south boundaries of the property are delineated by a cement retaining wall scored to resemble stone block. The north property line is marked by a fence and several trees.

The foundation is brick, covered with plaster scored to resemble stone and topped by a molded brick water table. Of load bearing brick construction, the house has walls eighteen inches thick. The prominent elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Classical Revival styles are concentrated on the front elevation. Entrance to the house is reached via a flight of five steps on the right (north) side of the elevation. These steps are enclosed by low walls, capped with large smooth-dressed stones which project from the stone foundation of the open front porch. The porch is surrounded by an iron railing that matches a round arched vent grille to the left of the porch and two rectan vent grilles on the south facade. The gentle curve of the projecting porch, as well as the retaining wall of the east elevation, echo the broad round arch of the main entry. This broad arch penetrating the main body of the house is detailed with radiating brick voussiors with drip course terminating on rectangular smooth-dressed impost. To the left of the entrance, the elliptical arch above the first floor window is similarly detailed. Directly behind the entry arch is an oak wainscoted vestibule recessed into the main body of the structure. The vestibule features a central full-glazed door with a transom and sidelights which together create a broad round arch. The transom and sidelights originally contained three of the five stained glass windows in the front facade. The other two were located in the elliptical arch windows of the first floor and in the tympanum of the front gable. As far as can be distinguished from photographs, these two windows were miniature versions of the design in the three windows forming the arch around the door. Above the entry arch, four horizontal courses of brick project to create a stepped stringcourse. At the second floor of the principal facade, immediately above the brick work is a window matched symmetrically to the south in size and shape. Both of these windows have an upper sash of leaded glass in an elongated diamond pattern with the bottom sash being a single fixed pane. The surrounds of these windows, like all windows in the house, are comprised of smooth-dressed stone sills with plain wood mouldings on sides and top. The front gable contains an elliptical arched window set in a triangular field of aggregated mortar. To the left of the gable is a hipped dormer penetrating the slate roof. The roof ridges of this dormer, like the other ridges of the structure, are capped with terra cotta tiles. The dormer has one multi-paned window that is top-hinged to open inward for ventilation. On each side of this window are fluted pilasters.

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 1904

Builder Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Berger-Graham House, one of the few remaining outstanding residential structures located on Jonesboro's Main Street, illustrates the subtle influence of the Romanesque style of architecture. Built in 1904 by Marcus Berger, who was a prominent merchant, the stylish house was a wedding present to his son Joseph. Joseph married Essie Blass who was the daughter of Gus Blass, the Jewish merchant who founded Blass Department Store in Little Rock. The Bergers lived in the house from their marriage in 1904 until 1909 when they moved to Little Rock. The house was sold to H. W. Graham who was president of the Southern Mercantile Company in Jonesboro and the Arkansas Grocer Company in Blytheville. Although Graham suffered a financial setback in the early 1920's, he was able to keep the house turning it into a boarding house and tearoom known as the Homestead Inn. The Graham family occupied the house for over thirty years. Incorporating mass, volume and restrained decoration which draws somewhat upon elements of the Richardsonian and free-classical styles, the Berger-Graham House is distinctive among residential structures in the Jonesboro area. Its detailing, design, and fine craftsmanship are a significant reminder of Jonesboro's architectural heritage.

ELABORATION

Marcus Berger was a native of Hungary. Following his move to the United States at the age of twenty-one, Berger established successful businesses in St. Louis, Missouri, and Greenville, Illinois. He moved to Jonesboro in 1883, where a year earlier he had set up a branch of the Marcus Berger and Company, a grocery wholesale house. It later developed into one of the largest mercantile businesses in northeastern Arkansas.

Berger was among the first Jewish merchants to bring his family to Jonesboro and he encouraged others to follow his example. He worked successfully to construct the city's first synagogue, Temple Israel. He was a major mover in the development of Jonesboro's built environment, erecting over seventy commercial buildings in his lifetime. Berger also established the American Trust Bank and was a major stockholder in the Bank of Jonesboro. Assisting Marcus with the business was his son Joseph who, after Marcus' death in 1906, took over the family holding. Joseph closed the family business in 1909 and he and his wife Essie moved to Little Rock to live with her family. In Little Rock he put together a number of successful companies.

W. H. Graham, who bought Joseph Berger's impressive residence, began his successful Southern Mercantile Company in 1903. The business was a wholesale fruit and produce company. He is perhaps best remembered as a cotton buyer, serving as a partner in the cotton brokerage firm of Graham and Hambrook. After a slack in his cotton market investments after World War I, he was forced to file bankruptcy. He did manage, however, to keep the house which he continued to occupy until his death.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Jonesboro, 1983, 7.5'

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	7	0	7	2	8	0	3	9	6	7	1	8	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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 Larry Hampton and Elvis Meilke, edited by the AHPP staff

organization _____ date August 8, 1985

street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state AR, 72201

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

title Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer

date

8-27-85

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

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The north facade of the structure is divided mid-way by a gabled projection which contains the main and attic staircases. Within the foundation of this elevation, are the four single sash, two-paned, straight-topped windows with stone sills of the basement. To the left of the projection the first floor contains one large, one-over-one, double-hung window which is matched in width directly above by a second floor window. To the right of the projection the rear section contains a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows on each floor; these being narrower than those to the left. The gabled extension features two straight-topped, one-over-one, double-hung windows which mark the landings of the interior staircase between the first and second floors. The largest of these has a transom. The small, fixed, single sash window marks a small closet over which the attic stairs ascend. The upper-most, one-over-one, double-hung windows define the attic staircase landing. The gable of the projection is similar to the one on the principal facade with the aggregated tympanum. A small unembellished chimney breaks through the roof line to the right of the gable.

The back or west facade of the house originally had a one-story flat-roofed kitchen extension. The most visible change to this facade is the addition of a brick second floor above this kitchen in the 1920's. Later the exterior wooden staircase was built. This addition is currently being removed and the kitchen returned to its original appearance. On the first floor, to the left is a paneled door with four glazed upper panels. This door leads to the basement. Centered in each of the three walls of the kitchen is one straight-topped, one-over-one, double-hung window with smooth-dressed stone lug sills. On the second floor level, obscured by the addition are two straight-topped windows on either side of the doorway. A small unembellished chimney breaks through the roof line in the center of the elevation of the main body of the house.

The south elevation has a retaining wall for the gently sloping lot. All windows on this side, like the rest of the house are straight-topped, one-over-one, double-hung with smooth-dressed stone sills. The largest of these windows is at the front corner, which begins a graduation in size to smaller windows at the back. These are matched identically on the second floor. Visible to the left corner of the elevation is a frame sunroom resting on brick piers with three pairs of six-over-six double-hung windows. Tucked within a recess of the main structure, this sunroom originally was a back porch, three feet narrower than present, enclosed with lattice-work. A paneled door with transom, inside the sunroom, allowing rear entry to the house through the kitchen. One of the three windows of the kitchen which was described earlier is also inside the sunroom. These are not visible. Above the sunroom, the addition over the kitchen can be seen. Above the dentilled cornice a hipped dormer with terra cotta ridge and hip caps and slate cheeks projects from the side of the main roof. It contains two multi-paned windows that are framed on each side by fluted wood pilasters, identical to the ones of the principal facade. The dormer is balanced to the right by a massive unembellished internal chimney that breaks through the slate roof and towers above the hipped roof line. In the foundation of this elevation, centered below the middle windows of the first and second floors, are two vent grilles with wrought iron.

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Though the house was converted into a boarding house in the 1920's and apartments in the 1960's, much of its original interior fabric remains intact, most notably in the entry hall. Incorporating the Romanesque influence, the entry features an arch that rests on Doric columns and divides the entrance area from the stairwell. Smooth oak tapered pilasters decorate the wall beside the columns, all of which rest on square oak paneled pedestals, the right one being encircled by the three rounded platform steps of the staircase. Behind the arch, the lavish oak staircase begins with five wide platform steps leading to a quarter-landing. Four steps to the left lead to another quarter-landing and turning to the left again, continue to the second floor. The turned, spindled balustrade begins with a curve on the second floor and is intersected by three recessed panel newel posts topped with a carved finial; one on the second floor landing and one each on the two quarter-landings. A turned and carved pendant under the second story newel post matches the finials. Massive paneled wainscotting is featured under the staircase and above the eight-foot doorways. One and one half inch wide quartersawn oak floors are throughout the first and second floors.

Today in the northwest corner of the property there stands a shed which was originally a barn for the property. It's appearance was later altered to provide an apartment. Opposite the barn in the southwest corner was a vegetable garden, now the site of a duplex built about 1925. The property also contained a two room servants' quarters about forty feet from the northwest corner of the house. Today a cement foundation marks the site as a garage was built there later and has since been removed. Early yucca plants, circa 1914, rose of sharon, and roses still grow on the lawn.

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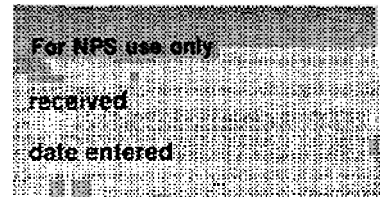
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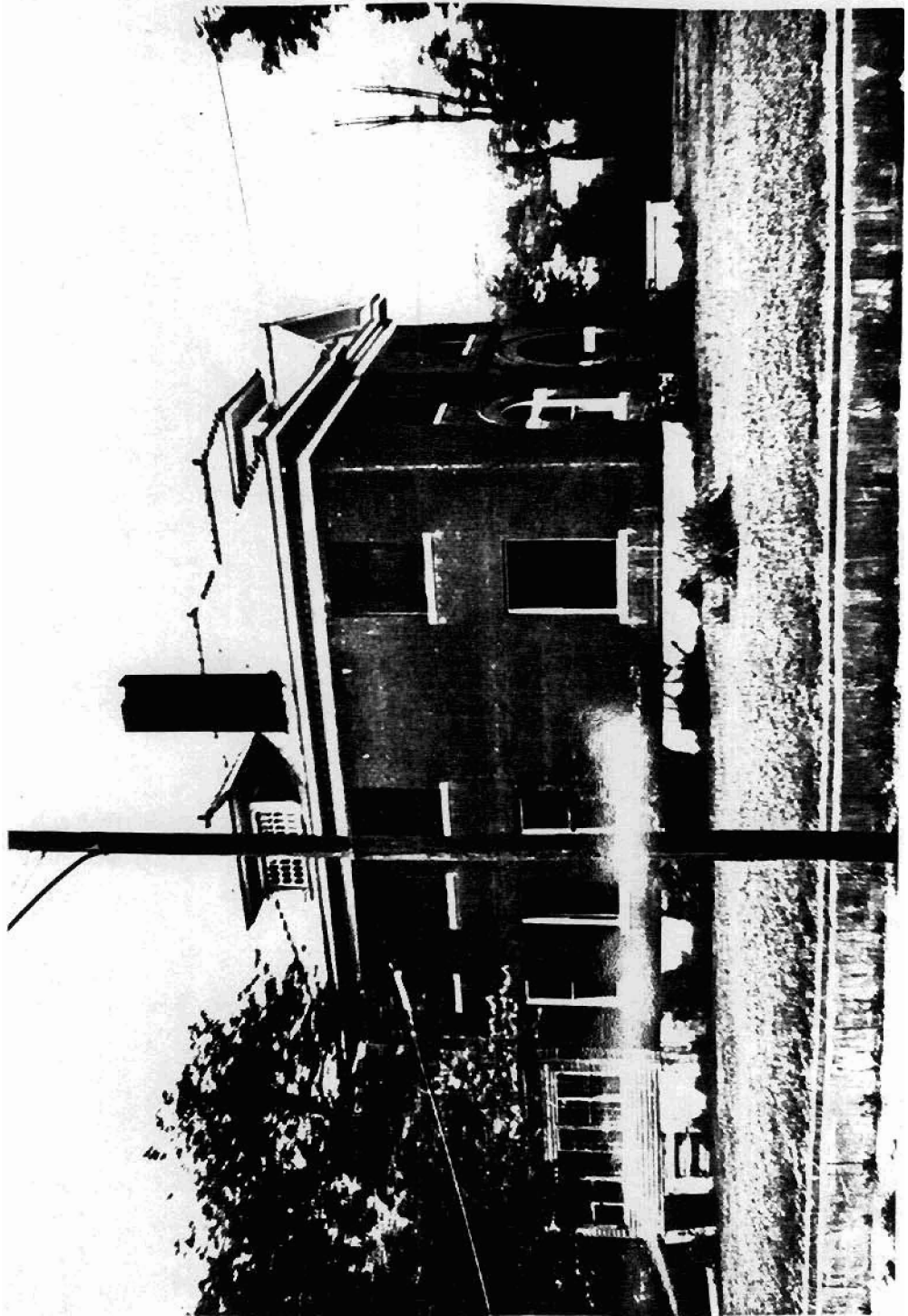
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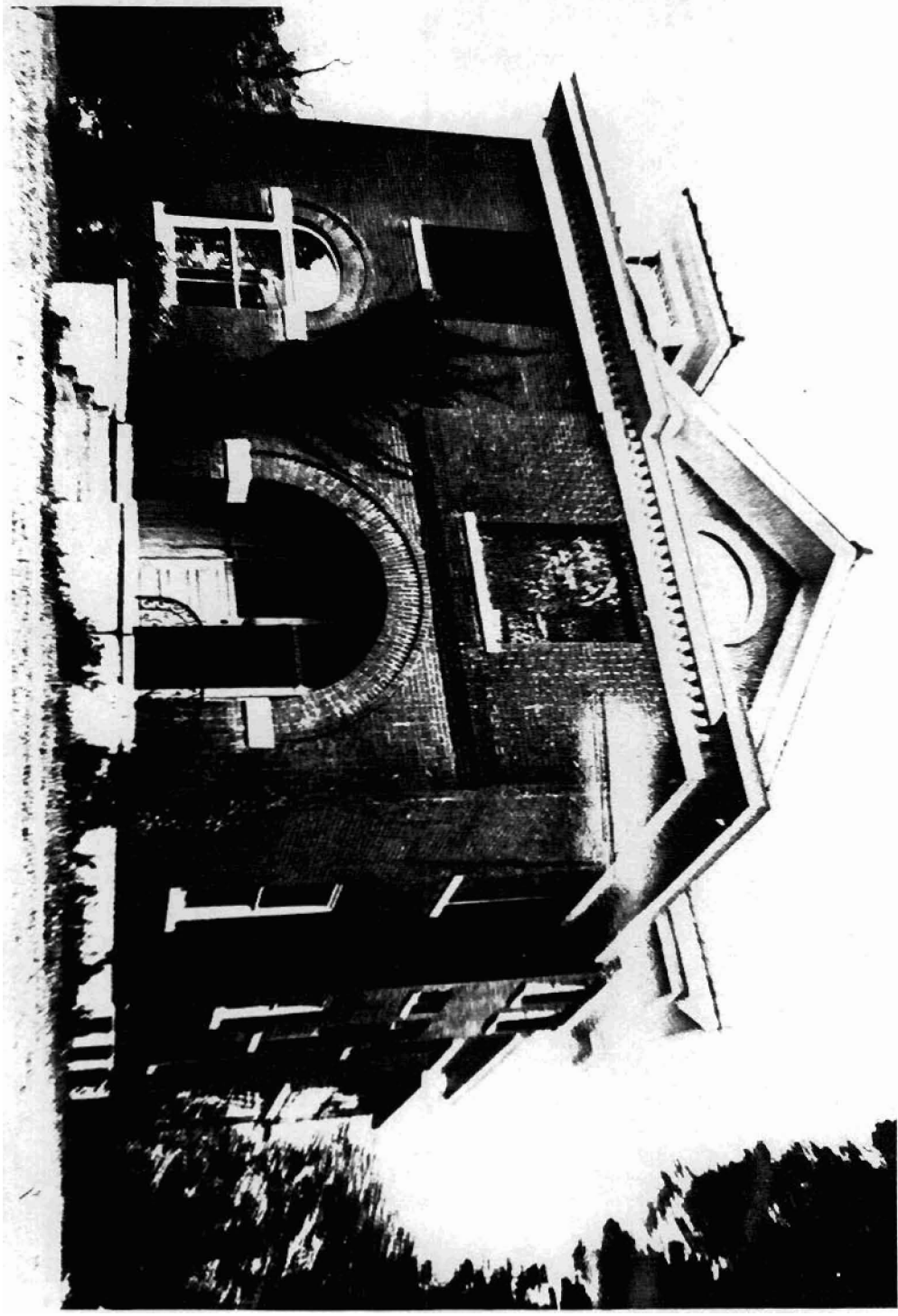
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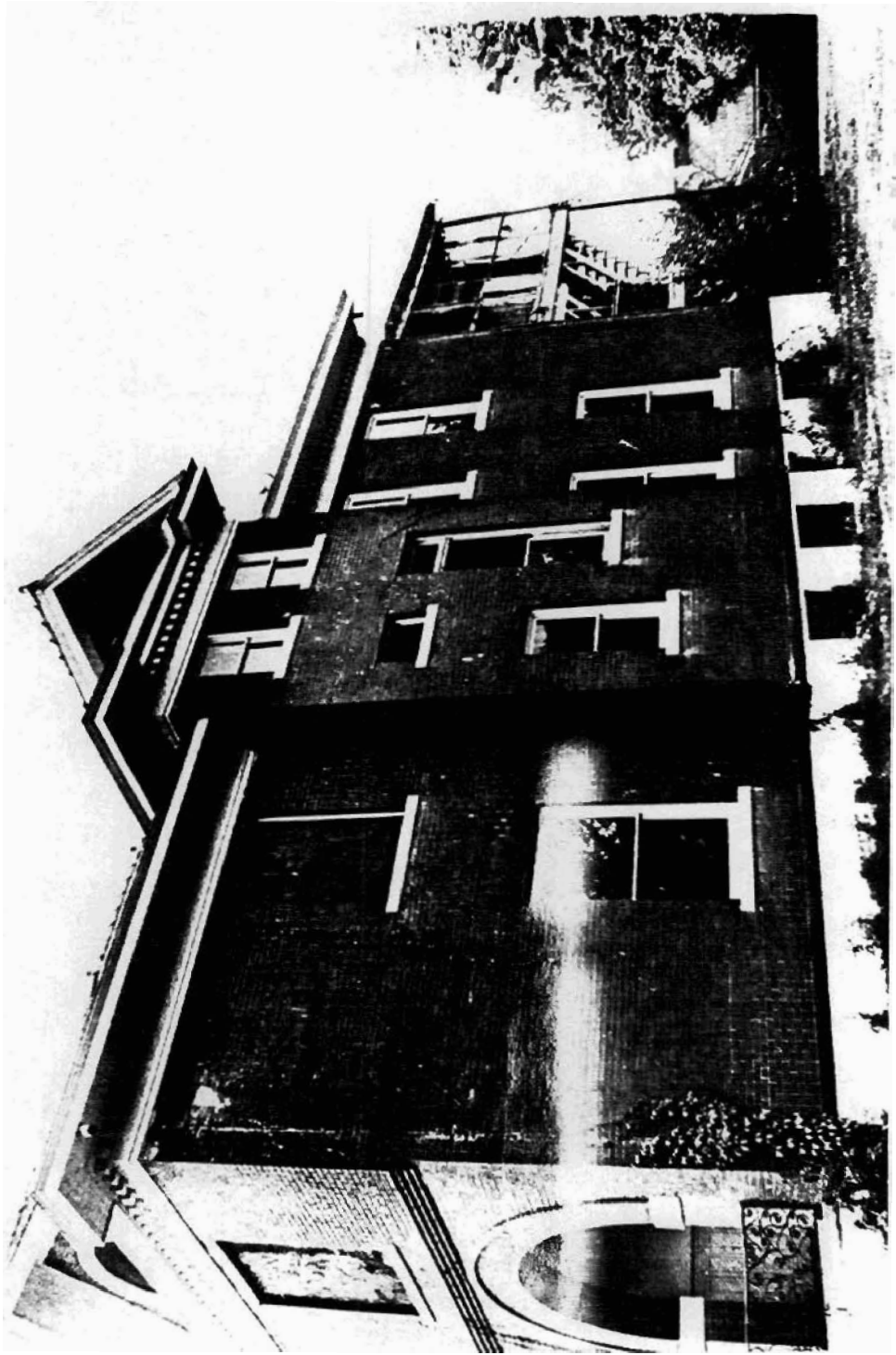
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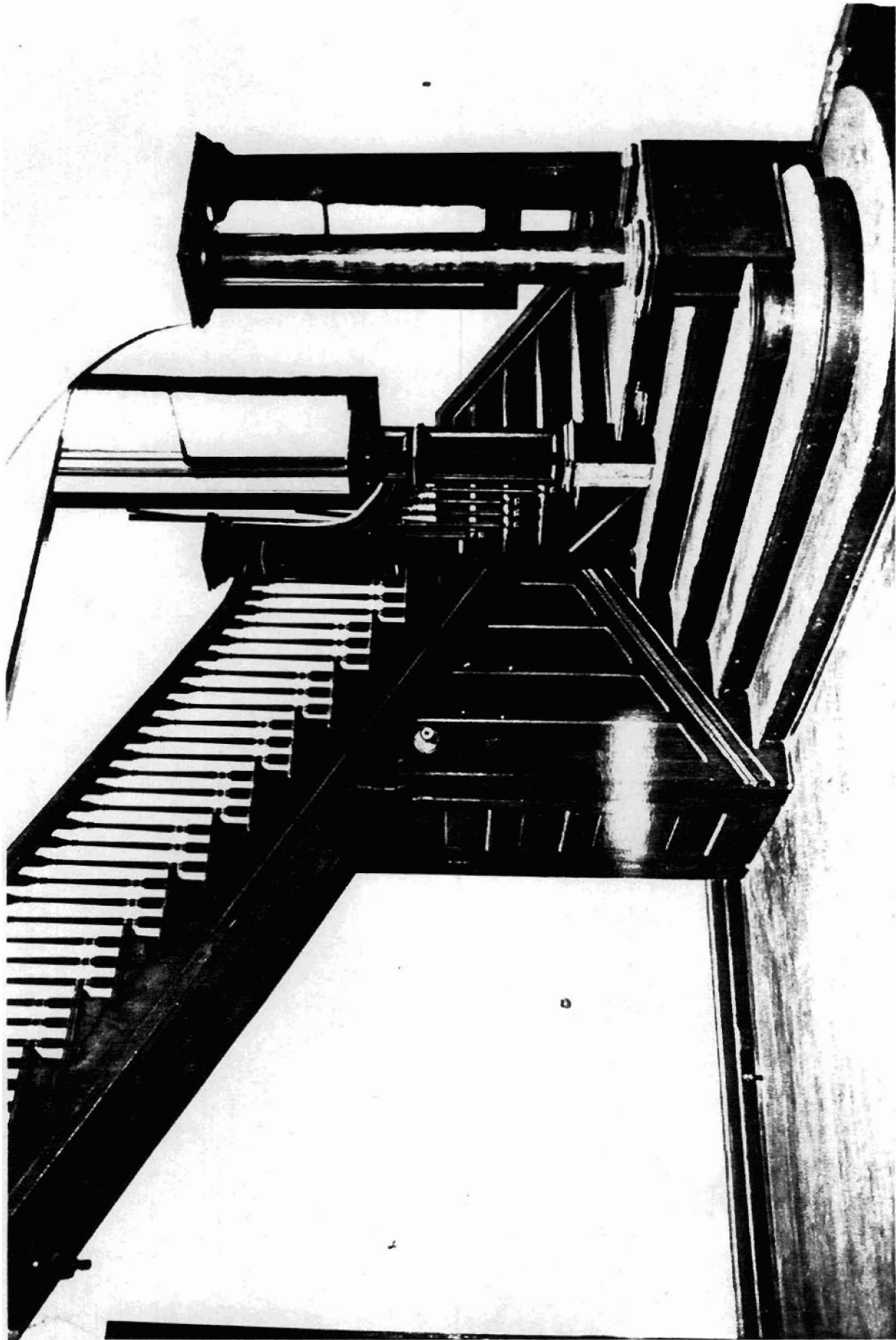
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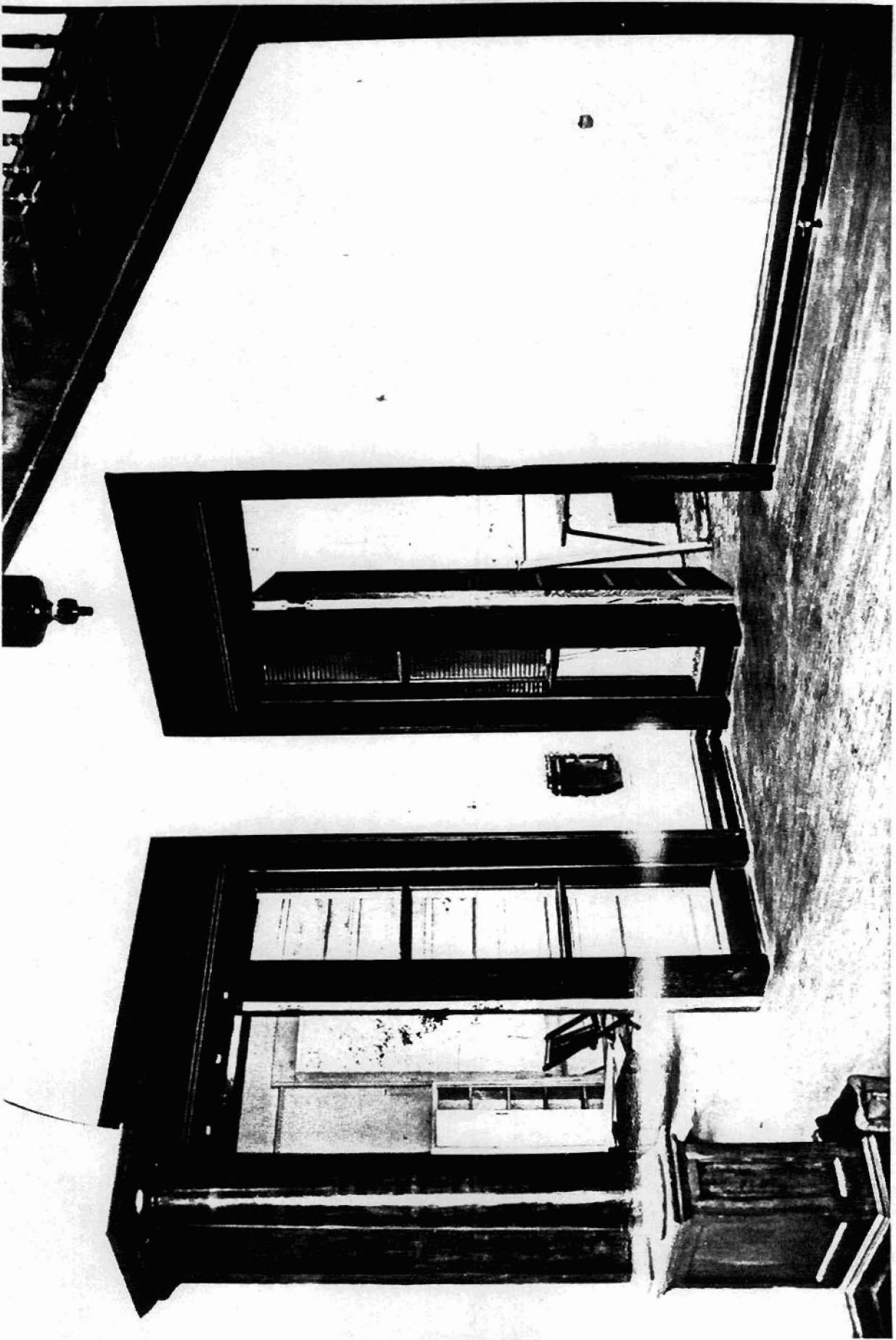
The South Half of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3 of Block 51 of Nilson's Subdivision of Lots Nos. 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 49, 50 and 51 of Knight's Second Addition to the town (now city) of Jonesboro, Arkansas, (excepting therefrom the West 60 feet of said South Half of Lot 2 and all of Lot 3 aforesaid) according to the plat and Survey thereof, being a part of the Northwest Quarter of Section 19, Township 14 North, Range 4 East.

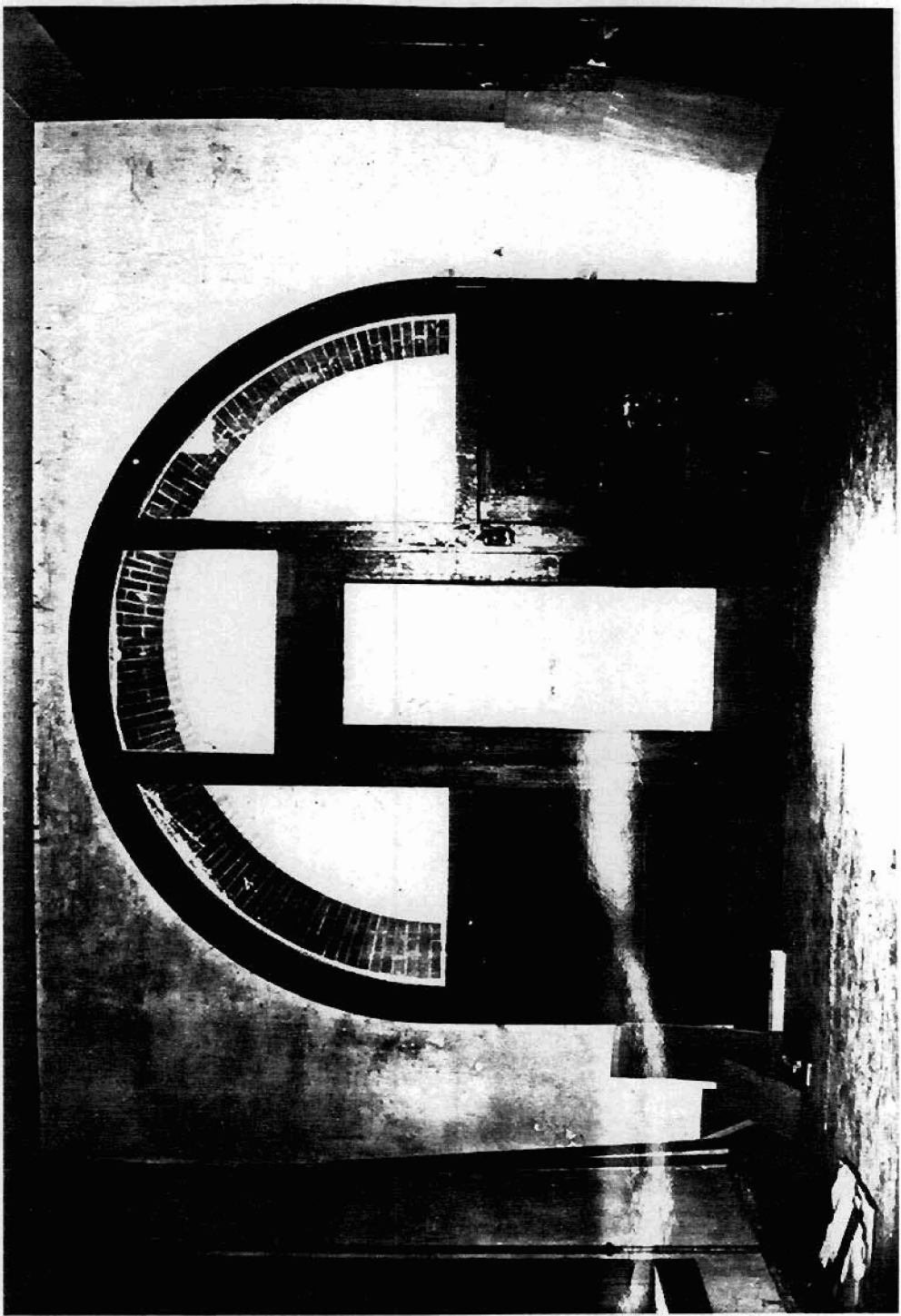














Berger-Graham House
Jonesboro, Graighead County
Quadrangle Name: Jonesboro
Scale: 1:24000
UTM Reference Zone 15
EASTING 707280
NORTHING 3967180

3965

3965

3964

47° 30'

3962