

NR listed 9/21/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: New Hope Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery; Historic Section

other name/site number: CH0059

2. Location

street & number: St. Marys Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Lake Village

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Chicot

code: AR 017

zip code: 71653

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Site

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	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: Historic and Architectural Resources Associated With The Ethnic and Racial Minority Settlement of the Arkansas Delta

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Boyd _____ 8-3-72
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification
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I, hereby certify that this property is:

- _____ entered in the National Register _____
_____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ See continuation sheet.
- _____ determined not eligible for the _____
National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

Current: FUNERARY Sub: Cemetery

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

N/A

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation N/A roof N/A
walls N/A other N/A

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: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): D

Areas of Significance: ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1870-1930

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

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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See "Historic and Architectural Resources Associated With The Ethnic and Racial Minority Settlement of the Arkansas Delta" Multiple Property Documentation Form, Section H.

Interview with Ms. Leola Chapman of Lake Village, Arkansas, conducted by Lynne Braddock on July 6, 1992.

___ 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:

- 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

A	<u>15</u>	<u>659460</u>	<u>3689000</u>	B	___	___	___
C	___	___	___	D	___	___	___

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the northern edge of St. Marys Street formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the eastern boundary of the cemetery (a point located approximately 200 feet east of the intersection of the northern edge of St. Marys Street with the eastern edge of Commerce Street), proceed northerly along the latter line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with the southern edge of Beadel Street; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 50 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the eastern elevation of the modern church building; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 125 feet to its intersection with a roughly perpendicular line running along the southern elevation of the modern church building; thence proceed westerly along said line for approximately 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line

running parallel to the eastern edge of Commerce Street; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 75 feet to its intersection with the northern edge of St. Marys Street; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 150 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the oldest section of the cemetery that retains sufficient concentration of known historic burials to be eligible.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: August 3, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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

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National Park Service

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Description

The cemetery at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church is sited just to the east and south of the modern church building and contains a number of historic burials directly associated with the black community in Lake Village. The historic grave markers, as is typical of historic black cemeteries, are largely simple and unadorned, though headstones erected by black fraternal organizations tend to be more elaborate. The historic section of the cemetery -- largely located to the east of the church building, though some burials are also located to the south -- contains a total of 46 marked burials, and an as yet undetermined number of unmarked burials located throughout the portion included within the boundary. Virtually all of the markers date from the first quarter of the twentieth century, with only one head stone featuring an earlier date (the earliest death date is 1896). There are no known non-historic burials included within this boundary, and therefore no known non-contributing resources.

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Summary

Criterion A, local significance

The historic section of the cemetery at the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church is eligible under Criterion A as the only extant historic resource directly associated with the historic black community within Lake Village, Arkansas during the period of significance.

Elaboration

As noted in the associated historic context *Minority Settlement in the Mississippi River Counties of the Arkansas Delta, 1870-1930*, Chicot County contained the largest percentage of black population in the entire state up until the end of World War I and the northern migration that saw the relocation of large portions of the black population from throughout the former slave states to the northern urban centers. This high percentage of black residents in the county was solely due to the prevalence of the cotton growing industry within that dominated its economy both before and after the Civil War. Chicot County, like all of the counties bordering the Mississippi, boasted of some of the finest arable land in the entire nation, due to its abundance of alluvial flood plain (accounting for over four-fifths of the total land area within its borders). The richness of the soil, combined with the high temperatures that prevail in this part of the state, provided some of the best cotton-growing land in the entire nation -- as of 1890 making Chicot County the most productive cotton-growing county per acre in the entire nation with the sole exception of East Carroll Parish in Louisiana -- in spite of the fact that the farmers did little to replenish the soil's nutrients and that each cotton crop extracts a relatively high percentage of those nutrients during its growing cycle. Naturally, the local black population -- working as slaves -- was instrumental to the success of this economy prior to the Civil War; however, due to the prevalence of the tenant farming system after the war (as noted in the above-referenced historic context), they remained instrumental in this slightly-revised version of the plantation economy throughout its tenure in the South. The veracity of this statement was especially accurate for Chicot County, the percentage of the black population of which grew from seventy-five per cent in 1890 to eighty-seven per cent just ten years later, in 1900.

Lake Village was actually the third county seat in Chicot County, established as such in 1857 (incorporated in 1860) after the first county seat at Columbia was washed away by the Mississippi River and the second, temporary county seat at Masona, at the head of Bayou Macon, was relocated to this site. Though the railroad did not arrive until after 1890, the central location of the community within the county and its accessibility via the Mississippi River and Lake Chicot elevated it in importance as a local governmental, commercial and transportation hub. Many wealthy plantation owners that owned considerable amounts of property throughout

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the county retained residences here for social and business purposes, usually maintaining small "urban farmsteads," as they have come to be known, complete with a host of servants that maintained the property and oversaw the daily routines of cooking, cleaning, entertaining, etc. Given the abundance of negro residents within the county, these "domestics" were almost always black.

It was largely this population of blacks living and working within the community of Lake Village that attended the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church, which has been on this site since 1860, though it was originally built upon private land as a plantation church, which was by far the norm throughout Arkansas plantations. As the community of Lake Village grew, particularly after the Civil War, this church became the central church for Lake Village's black community, and its cemetery the principal burial site for its deceased. The church continued to serve this racial community throughout the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, and it continues to serve an almost exclusively black congregation today. However, due to the high concentration of burials within the surrounding cemetery, few new burials occur here today.¹

The historic section of the New Hope Missionary Baptist Church cemetery is the extant historic resource most directly associated with Lake Village's historic black community, and, in fact, the *only* known such resource; as such, it is associated with the historic context *Minority Settlement in the Mississippi River Counties of the Arkansas Delta, 1870-1930*. As a property directly associated with one of the minorities identified in that context, it qualifies as one of the property types so defined. Furthermore, apart from the above-referenced oral history, virtually no documentation of that community and its history has survived from which to gain further information. Finally, the afore-mentioned history of that community -- considered in concert with the above-referenced associated historic context -- easily reveals its considerable impact

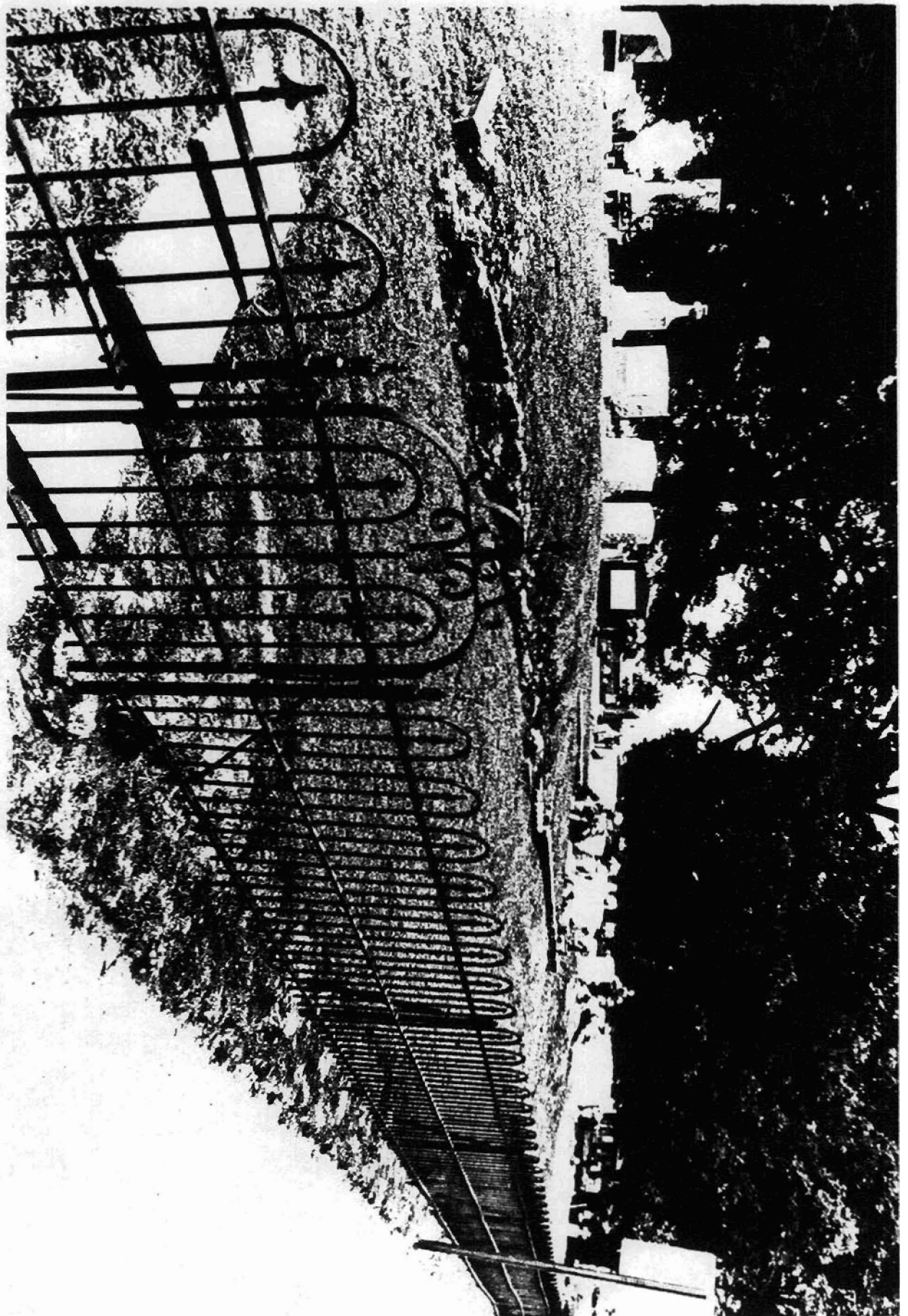
¹In fact, interviews with local black residents have revealed that attempts to inter deceased members of the congregation in the 1960's in plots between the marked plots were completely thwarted by the fact that every open space was actually occupied by an earlier unmarked burial. Furthermore, an interview with a senior citizen member of the congregation revealed that virtually all of the extant markers were placed over graves dug in the early twentieth century, and that prior to that virtually all the earlier graves were marked with simple, wooden head markers that have long since deteriorated and/or been removed. Thus, though the number of unmarked burials is currently unknown, it is known that the cemetery contains far more historic burials than the extant head markers reveal, and that therefore it retains considerable -- though as-yet unexplored -- potential to reveal significant archeological information. However, further testing will be required.

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upon the local economy of Lake Village and Chicot County during the historic period. As such, though its status as a cemetery does qualify it as a Criteria Consideration, it is eligible under Criterion A through its direct association with this community and this congregation.





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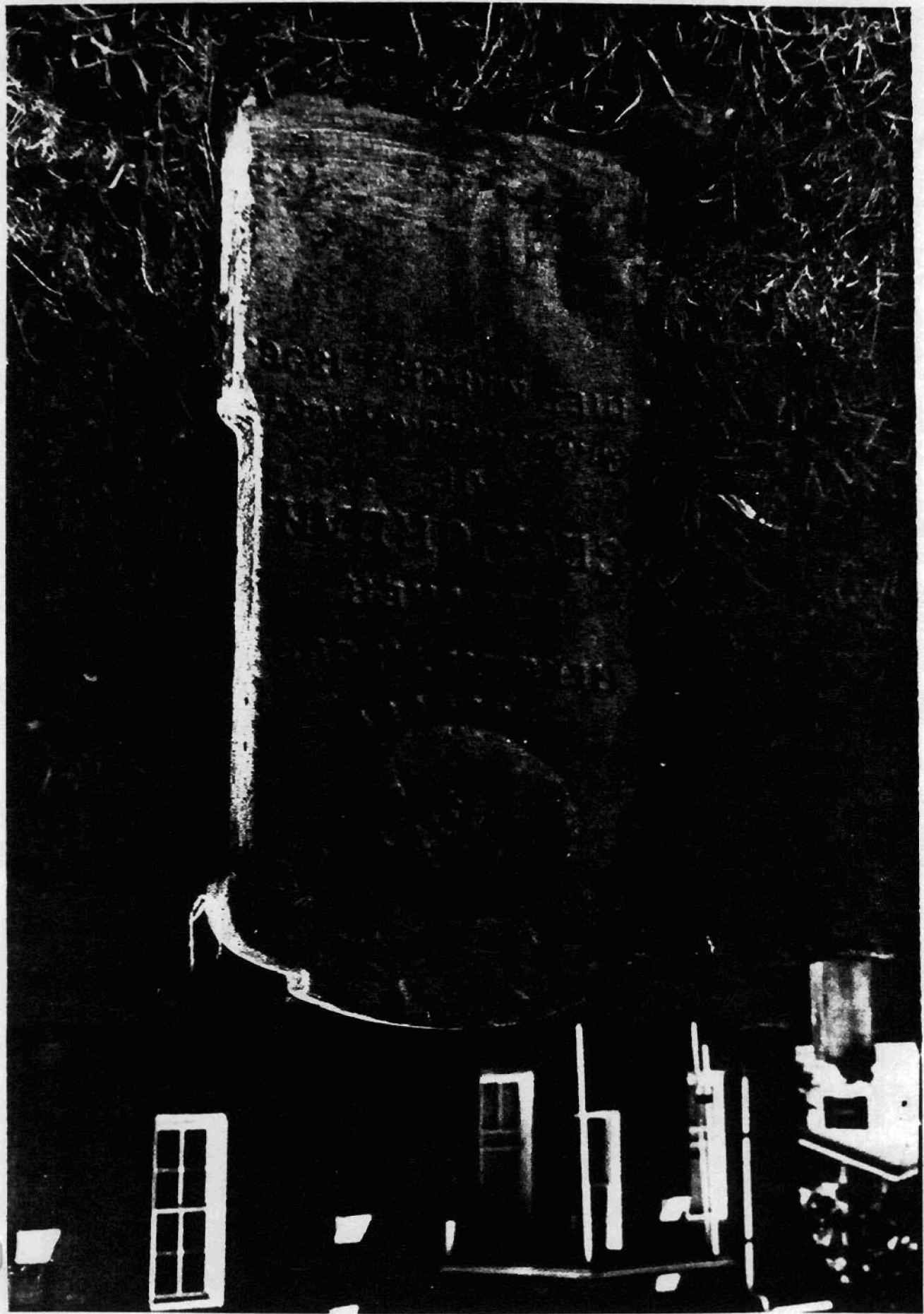


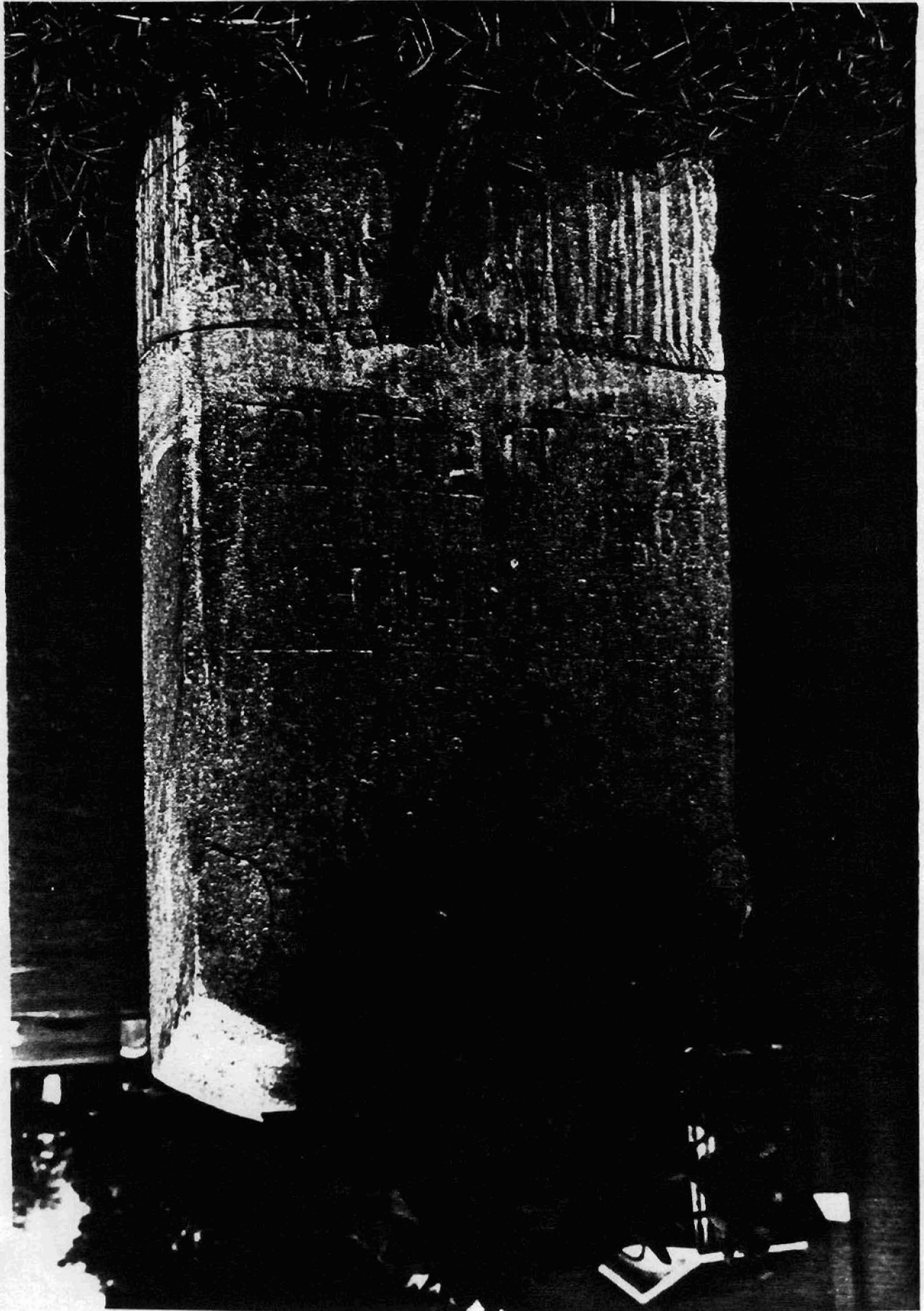
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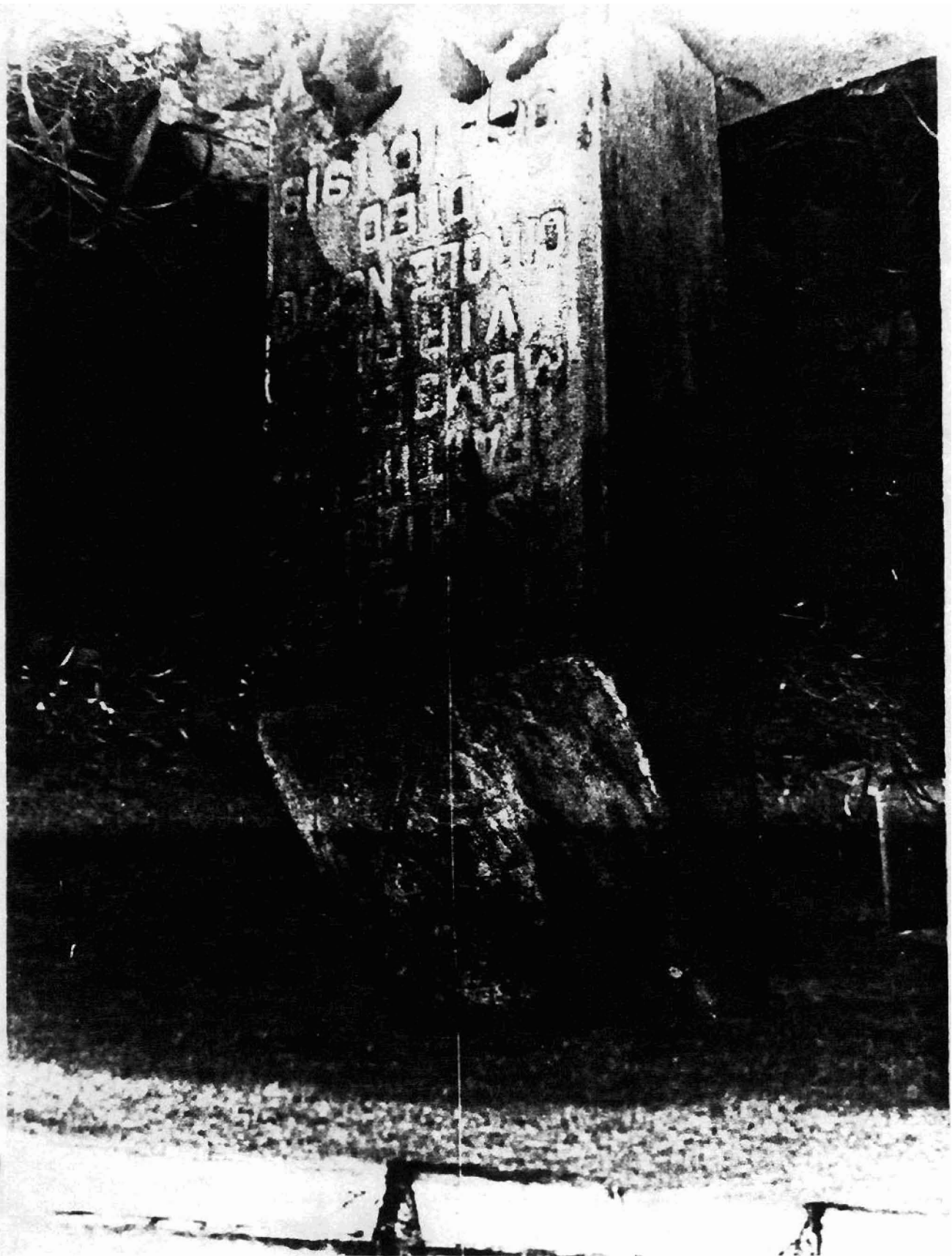






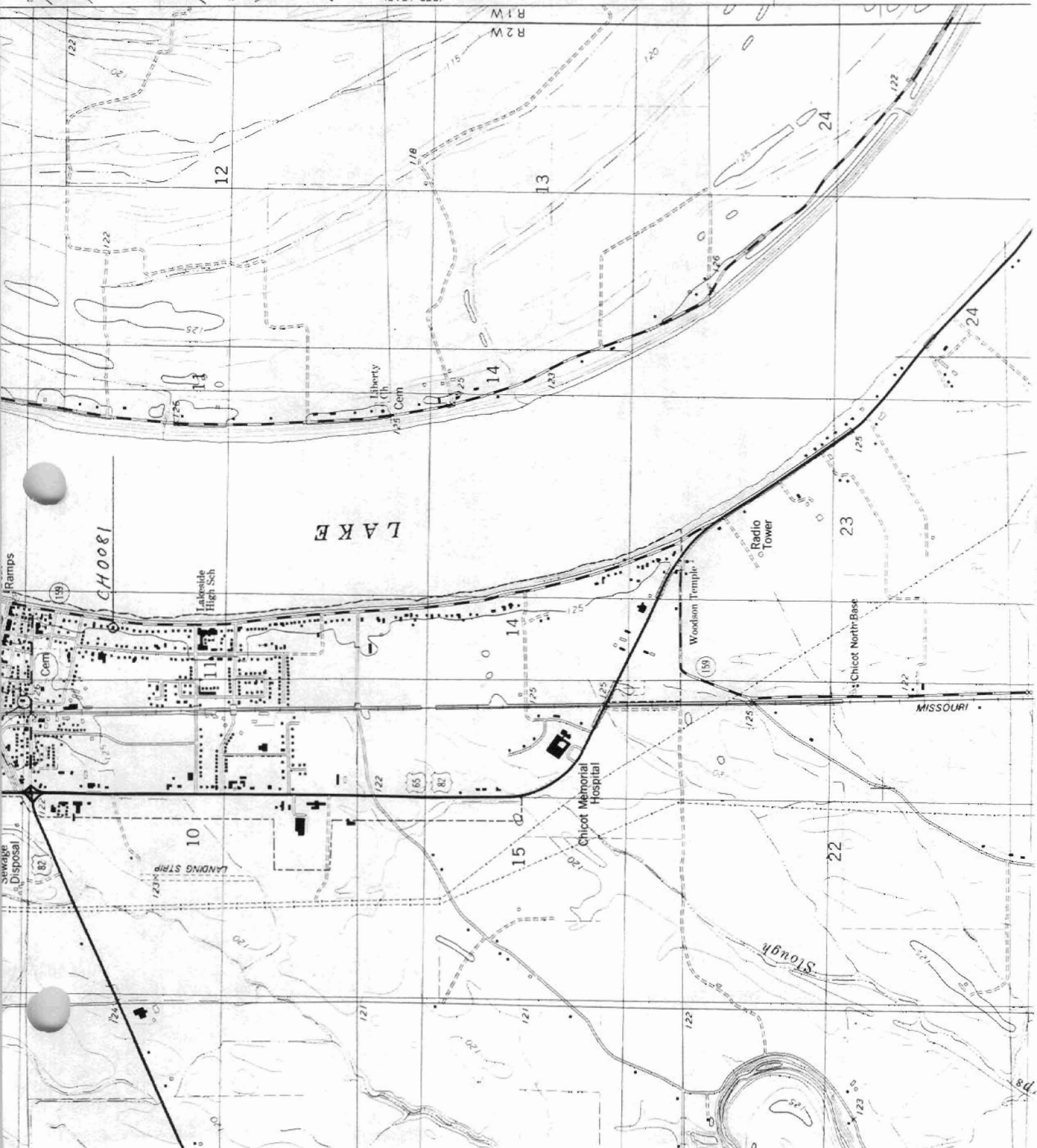






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CH0055
15/659460/3689140
New Home
1000 sq ft
Cinder Concrete
Historic Section
CH0059
15/659460/3689000
3988
SAM EASTMAN
HOUSE
CH0081
15/659920/3689560
LAKE VILLAGE,
CHICOT CO.,
ARKANSAS
(RED LEAF
7750 | SW



Ramps

Sewage Disposal

CH0081

Lakeside High Sch

LAKE

65

82

Chicot Memorial Hospital

Woodson Temple

Radio Tower

Chicot North Base

MISSOURI

Slough

R1 W
R2 W

78