

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 6/01/05

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a) Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name McGehee, Dr. E. P., Infirmary

other names/site number Museum of Chicot County Arkansas (MOCCA), Site #CH0168

2. Location

street & number 614 South Cokley Street not for publication

city or town Lake Village vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Chicot code 017 zip code 71653

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Cathie Mallett 3/18/05
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:)	_____	_____

McGehee, Dr. E. P., Infirmary
Name of Property

Chicot County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

HEALTH CARE/hospital

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain Traditional

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls ASBESTOS

BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B. removed from its original location.
- C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance

1910-1955

Significant Dates

1910-1955

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Dr. Edward Pelham McGehee

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Museum of Chicot County, Arkansas

McGehee, Dr. E. P., Infirmary
Name of Property

Chicot County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

.. Acreage of Property Less than one.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>659651</u>	<u>3688835</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date November 8, 2004
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Chicot County
street & number 108 Main Street telephone
city or town Lake Village state AR zip code 71653

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

.. **Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Located in a wooden frame house at 614 South Cokley Street in Lake Village, the Dr. E. P. McGehee Infirmary opened in 1910. As Dr. McGehee's practice grew, he added three new wings across the front façade, built another building on the rear of the first building to serve as an African-American medical ward, and moved at least one other house onto the lot for use as nurses' apartments and offices. This conglomeration of buildings was connected around a small courtyard. Sometime after the 1927 flood, all of the buildings except the original house were sheathed in buff brick. The original house was also sheathed in asbestos siding prior to 1947. Dr. McGehee also added several flat-roofed additions to the rear of the infirmary and installed two skylights.

ELABORATION

The property located at 614 South Cokley Street in Lake Village is an eclectic conglomeration of buildings in various architectural styles connected for the purpose of serving as the Dr. E. P. McGehee Infirmary. The styles of architecture represented include Plain Traditional, Colonial Revival and Craftsman. The infirmary was opened in 1910 in a Victorian-era house originally located on the site. The other buildings were built on the site or moved to the site at various times from as early as the 1920s until the 1940s. The fenestration is composed of a variety of styles of double-hung and stationary wood-framed windows. The buildings rest on continuous foundations except the original house, and the entire roof is covered with composition shingles.

Front/East Façade

The front, or eastern elevation, is made up of three buff-brick hospital wings built on the site in the Colonial Revival style. The roofs of this portion of the building are gable-on-hip with a projecting gable in the center. The symmetrical façade is punctuated by the ox-eye window found in each of the three stuccoed gable ends of the southeast entry porch, the projecting gable end, and the northeastern entry porch. Beneath both gabled porches are a set of double leaf glass doors framed in metal and capped by a six-light transom. The fenestration of this elevation is one-over-one, double-hung, wood windows.

Side/South Façade

The southern elevation is composed of the rest of the front wing, the original infirmary building, and the southern side of the African-American medical ward connected to the original infirmary by a hyphen. The original wood-frame infirmary building is capped by a hipped roof, while the buff-brick African-American medical ward is topped by a gable-on-hip roof similar to the front elevation. Fenestration on this elevation is composed of one-over-one windows for the front wing, two-over-two windows on the original building, and paired two-over-two windows on the southwestern building and its hyphen.

Rear/West Façade

The rear, or western elevation, is composed of the African-American medical ward to the south, a flat-roofed addition to the original frame building (used as the surgery room), a flat-roofed addition to the north (used as the emergency room) and a series of concrete ramps covered with metal awnings connects the emergency

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room to the surgery. Most of the windows on the rear elevation are covered with plywood. The African-American medical ward contains three entryways: two on either end of its western elevation and another on its northern elevation. The surgery room is sheathed in asbestos siding and is fenestrated by three oversized stationary windows; a western elevation window is in-filled with glass blocks.

Side/North Façade

The northern elevation is made of the flat-roofed emergency room, a two-story Craftsman-styled house, and another small flat-roofed addition to the front wing façade. The Craftsman-styled portion of the infirmary was moved to its present location sometime between the 1920s and 1940s. The fenestration of this two-story building is single Craftsman-styled nine-over-one windows, some of which are hidden from view by metal awnings. The single-story, flat-roofed addition is fenestrated by wide stationary windows.

Integrity

Although the building has had several additions to it, and other portions moved to the site, it all occurred prior to Dr. McGehee's death in 1950, and helps to illustrate the growth and evolution of the infirmary over time. Besides the modernization of the kitchen facilities and the removal of most of the interior equipment and furniture the interior remains intact. Interestingly, the original front entryway with sidelights and transoms remains behind the present front façade. In addition, Lake Village has remained a small town, and the setting around the infirmary reflects the setting that would have been found during its period of significance.

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SUMMARY

The Dr. E. P. McGehee Infirmary located at 614 Cokley Street in Lake Village is an eclectic conglomeration of buildings in various architectural styles joined and modified to form a larger building. The McGehee Infirmary is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criteria A and B** with **local significance**. The infirmary is significant for its associations with the life of Dr. E. P. McGehee, as well as a significant reminder of early medical practices in the early part of the twentieth century.

ELABORATION

Historically, Chicot County's primary commercial activity was agriculture, both before and after the Civil War. Like all of the counties bordering the Mississippi, Chicot County 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.

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. Although 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.

Edward Pelham McGehee was born in Leighton, Alabama, January 21, 1869, to Thomas and Mary McGehee. E. P. McGehee began his college career by attending the Southern University of Greensboro, Alabama, for one year. He then decided to enter the medical profession and became a student at Vanderbilt University in 1892. McGehee finished his medical studies at the University of Mobile, Alabama, in 1894 and his first practice was in Leighton, Alabama.

In 1899, Dr. McGehee left Alabama and after he almost drowned when a steamboat sank in the Mississippi River, he made his way to Lake Village and set up a medical practice in a rented office in the Tushek Building (NR listed 8/5/93). Dr. McGehee soon became the local surgeon for the Missouri Pacific Railroad. In 1904 he married Sue Gordon McMurray, daughter of Captain James McMurray who served in the Quartermaster Corps. of the Confederate Army and Minnie Martin Craig McMurray, herself a daughter of Silas Craig. In 1910, he purchased a Victorian-era house on South Cokley Street and opened the Dr. E. P. McGehee Infirmary. The town of Lake Village had a population of 1,047 people at the time.

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Dr. McGehee and his wife lived in the infirmary until they built their own house across the street. Dr. and Mrs. McGehee had one son and two daughters. The son became a physician and the daughters both married physicians. The McGehee girls assisted in the infirmary by folding bandages and, oral history states, they even used their father's old sterilizer to can tomatoes.

Over a period of several years, the infirmary was expanded by moving houses next to the original Victorian house. These buildings were positioned around a small courtyard and altered for hospital use through the installation of skylights, and the rearranging of rooms for offices and patient bedrooms. One residence moved to the lot was a two-story Craftsman-styled house.

Dr. McGehee used the second story as apartments for his nurses. After the 1927 flood, Dr. McGehee had most of the buildings covered in the same color of buff brick. Although the family home was only across the street, Dr. E. P. McGehee also kept an apartment in the infirmary so he could rest between surgeries. His apartment, with armoire and liquor cabinet, are still intact.

The infirmary became one of the leading medical institutions in the state because of his hard work. Dr. McGehee made surgery his specialty and reportedly in the first sixteen years performed 3,600 major operations. The infirmary became known as the "Mayo Clinic of the South" because he installed air-conditioning and kept abreast of new surgical techniques. The X-ray lab he had installed was one of the first in the state of Arkansas.

Dr. E. P. McGehee served as president of the Lake Village School Board for eight years, served as secretary-treasurer of the Arkansas Medical Society, kept memberships in many medical societies and was noted to have trained many aspiring young doctors in surgical techniques.

Dr. McGehee died of cancer at the age of 81 in 1950. The Dr. McGehee Infirmary served as a hospital from 1910 until the new Lake Village Hospital opened in 1967. The north end of the building continued to serve as a clinic until 1973.

The infirmary is now used as the Museum of Chicot County, Arkansas. On display in the museum is assorted medical equipment used by Dr. McGehee, including scalpels, stethoscopes, an ether mask, a sterilizer and lamp, ultraviolet light generator, and examination and surgery tables. The museum also displays other materials related to historic events in Chicot County, including the Italian migration, high school memorabilia, and Civil War and WW II memorabilia.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. E. P. McGehee Infirmary located at 614 Cokley Street in Lake Village is an eclectic conglomeration of buildings in various architectural styles joined and modified to form a larger building. The McGehee Infirmary is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criteria A and B** with **local significance**. The infirmary is significant for its associations with the life of Dr. E. P. McGehee, as well as a significant reminder of early medical practices in the early part of the twentieth century.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Herndon, Dallas T. *Annals of Arkansas*. Little Rock: The Historical Records Association, 1947. Vol. I, pp. 498-499. Vol. II, p. 667.

Information provided by Dorothy Douglas, 1998.

Information provided by Virginia Eakins, 2004.

McGehee, Dr. E. P., Infirmary

Name of Property

Chicot County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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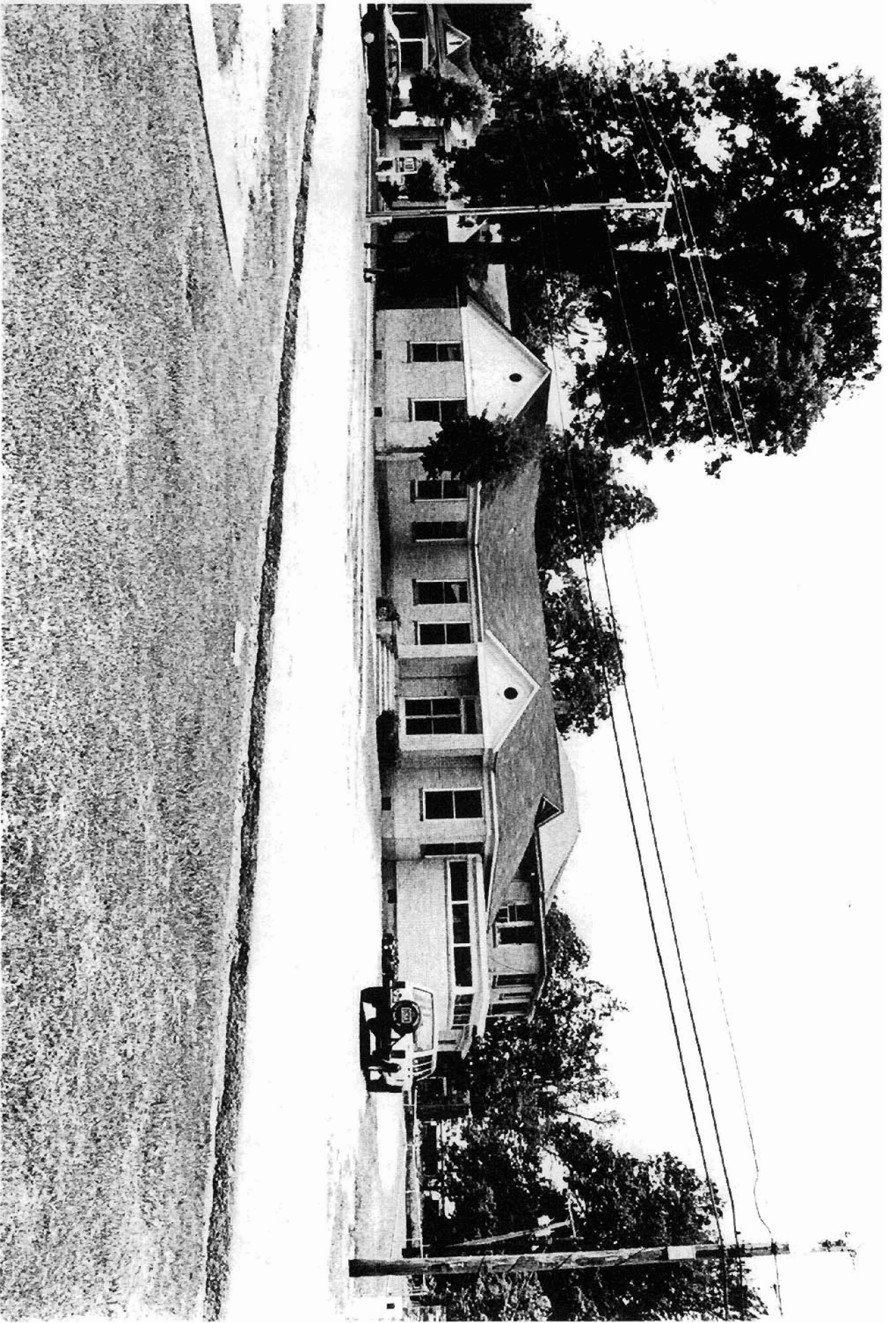
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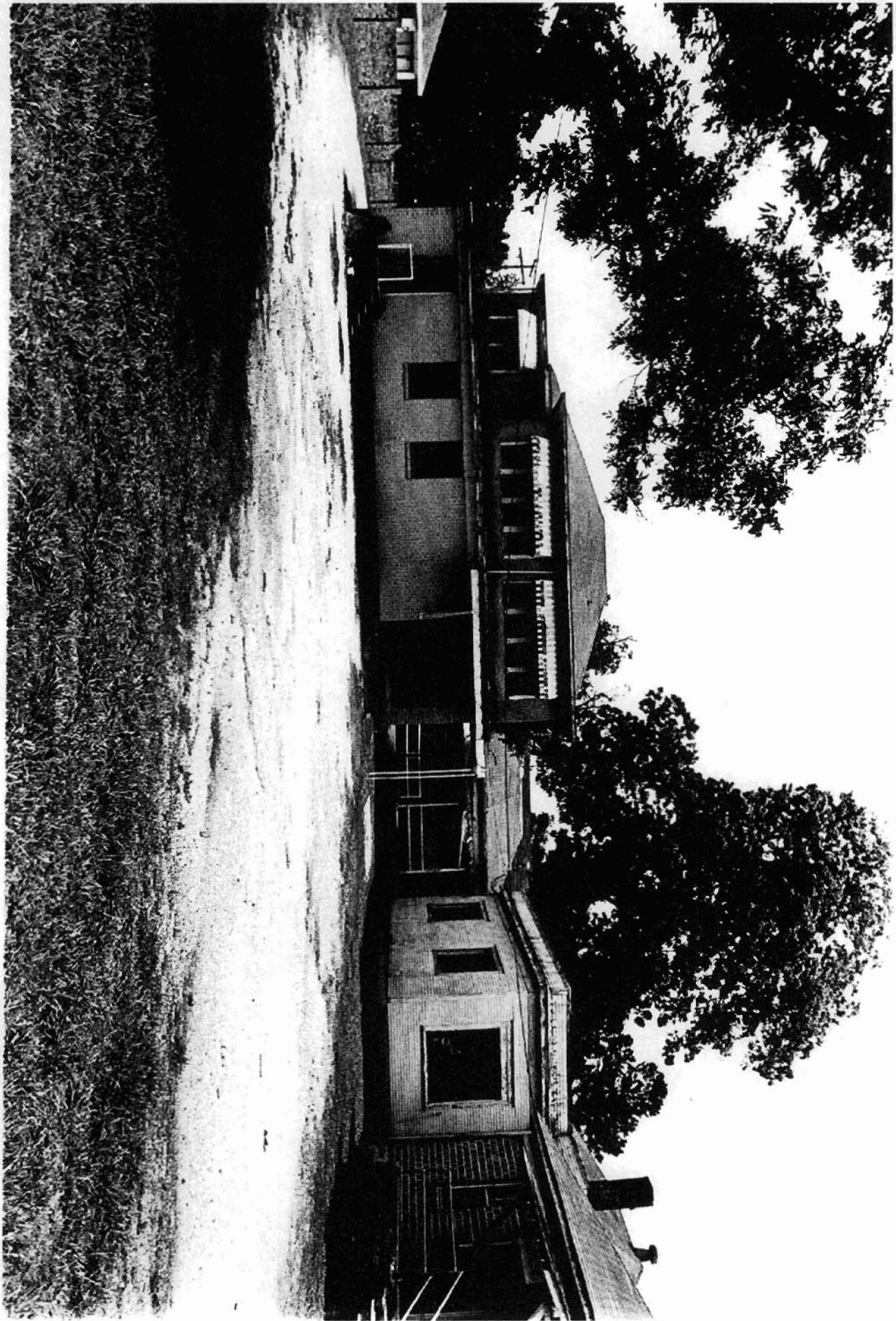
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lot 4, Block 1 of the D. H. Reynolds Plat of the Town of Lake Village.

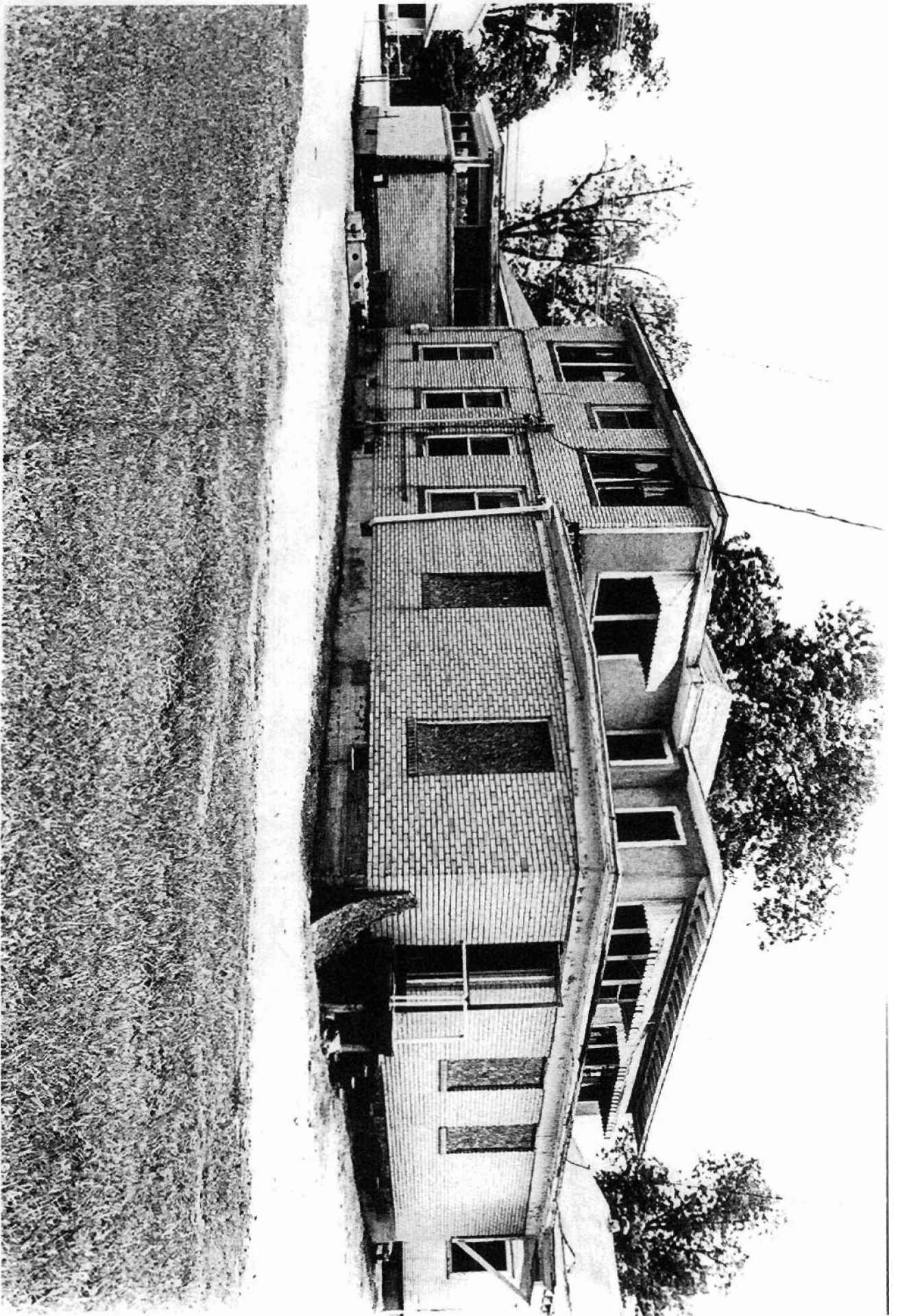
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Dr. E. P. McGehee Infirmary.











3989
 M'GENEE, DR. E. P.,
 INFIRMARY
 LAKE VILLAGE, CHI
 COUNTY, AR
 UTM:
 15/659651/365883
 3988
 (RED LEAF)
 7750 1 SW
 R 2 W
 R 1 W
 3986
 3985
 17'30"