

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Crawford, W. D., House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: E. of County Rd. 27, approx. 1 mi. N. of jct. w/ CR 98

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Cisco Community

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Carroll code: AR 015 zip code: 72638

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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.

Catherine H. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

10-14-92
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

5. National Park Service Certification

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

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic
Education

Sub: Single Dwelling
School

Current : Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Limestone roof Asphalt
walls Limestone other Wood

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: B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Education

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1900 - c. 1910

Significant Dates: c. 1900

Significant Person(s): Crawford, W. D.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Crawford, W. D.
Leach, Tillman

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:

- 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: 7 1/4

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>455450</u>	<u>4026370</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Part of the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 23, Township 20 North, Range 24 West, described as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner thereof, and run thence East 46 rods; thence South 356.09 feet; thence West 46 rods; thence North 356.09 feet to the place of beginning, containing 7 1/4 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary represents the remaining portion of W. D. Crawford's original 160 acre farm that has not been subdivided and includes his residence/academy, the only building associated with Crawford that is extant.

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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: 10/14/92

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

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1**Summary**

The W. D. Crawford House is a two-story, stone-constructed building erected c. 1900 as a combination residence/academy. As such, its plan and construction deviated somewhat from the conventional Ozark vernacular idiom. Constructed of rough-cut, rubble-finished limestone, the square-plan house is covered by a composition-shingled, pyramid roof with a small cupola at the peak. Two interior brick chimneys also protrude from the roofline. The house is supported by a continuous stone foundation. A partial basement, constructed to gain access to a spring, extends across the eastern portion of the house. A rectangular, stone patio on the eastern end of the southern elevation forms the roof of the spring house, which is accessed by a conventional single-leaf door. The interior of the house is divided by a single-story, load-bearing stone wall. Interior detail is minimal and consists primarily of simple, Plain Traditional door and window moldings. The Crawford house, located in rural Carroll County at the southwest base of Pilot Knob Mountain, is in excellent condition and has not been altered significantly since its construction.

Elaboration

The W. D. Crawford House is a two-story building erected c. 1900 as a combination residence/academy. As such, its plan and construction deviated somewhat from the conventional Ozark vernacular idiom. Constructed of rough-cut, rubble-finished limestone, the square-plan house is covered by a composition-shingled, pyramid roof with a small cupola at the peak. The cupola serves as a shield for four louvered attic vents. Two interior brick chimneys also protrude from the roofline. A continuous stone foundation, of three-foot thickness, supports this conglomeration. A partial basement, constructed to gain access to a spring, extends across the eastern portion of the house. The spring house is located underneath a rectangular, stone patio on the eastern end of the southern elevation. A conventional single-leaf wood door permits access to the spring house, and a central stone walkway divides a deep pool of water, for dipping buckets of water, and a shallow pool, for storing milk crocks. A cellar for food storage was located at the end of the walk.

A full-facade, single-story porch accents the front, or western, elevation. The wood-frame porch, which has been recently reconstructed, is supported by seven chamfered posts that are connected by a simple stick balustrade. A single-leaf door is placed in the center of the elevation and is recessed slightly due to the two-foot thick wall. Two two-over-two, double-hung windows are symmetrically placed to either side of the doorway. Fenestration on the second story is identical to that of the first floor, including a single-leaf door that opens onto the porch roof. From a close examination of the eave and frieze board on this elevation, it appears that the house never contained a two-story porch.

The northern and southern elevations are almost identical in fenestration. Six symmetrically placed two-over-two, double-hung windows, arrange with three windows on each story, composes the northern elevation. The southern elevation differs in fenestration only by the presence of an oversize window on the western end of the first story. A single-pane, stationary window now occupies the opening; the historic window sash configuration is unknown. A water table encircles the structure and serves as the sill for the first-story windows. The second story is defined by a similar belt course that protrudes from the wall, but does not serve as the window sill for the second-story windows.

At some point historically, the rear, or eastern, elevation has been altered by the addition of both a two-story

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and a single-story wood frame addition. Neither addition covers the entire facade, and both the first and second story windows on the original structure are exposed at the northern end of this elevation.

The interior of the house is divided by a single-story, load-bearing stone wall in the center of the house. Other first-floor partition walls are of both frame and stone construction. The interior partition walls of the second story are of frame construction only. The second-story joists are said to rest on beams held by iron hooks rather than being imbedded in the walls. According to local tradition, this was done by Crawford so that in event of a fire, the weight of the falling timbers would not pull the exterior walls inward as they fell. Most of the doors and windows that are placed into the plastered, stone walls are inset with the sides sloping inward to the wood facings. The framing on these doors and windows are usually crowned by a substantial wooden lintel. The door facings of the wood, non-load bearing walls are of simple, Plain Traditional construction. A staircase with a simple, stick banister is located in the central hallway, which is adorned with vertical wood wainscoting. A fireplace is located in the corner of the front southern room and features a polished stone for a mantel that was cracked shortly after construction when someone threw a dipper of water on it while hot. The only major alteration to the interior has been the opening of a doorway between the middle room on the south side and the kitchen by previous owners in 1969.

The property being nominated is located at the southwest base of Pilot Knob Mountain in rural Carroll County and consists of 7 1/4 acres out of the original 160 acre farm. There are no historical outbuildings associated with this property, and there is only one modern intrusion, a barn which is noncontributing to the nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Summary**

The Crawford House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example in the Cisco community of a native stone-constructed, two-story residence. The Crawford House is also significant for its association with Professor W. D. Crawford, a noted educator who operated an academy at the house for four years before establishing a Normal School at Green Forest.

Elaboration

Located near the present-day community of Cisco, the Crawford House was part of a community known as Braswell Springs when it was constructed 1900-1901. Approximately four miles east of Berryville, Braswell Springs was named in honor of Samuel and Phoebe Braswell, who were probably the first settlers in that area of Carroll County. The area did not become a true community until the arrival of the St. Louis & North Arkansas Railroad in 1901. Because of the concentration of harvestable trees in the area, a railroad siding was established and named Braswell Switch by railroad officials. Cedar posts, cordwood, firewood, crossties, and lumber were shipped in great quantities from the new railroad stop.

In 1903, Ike Norton opened a general store at Braswell Switch and applied for a post office for the growing community, which he named "Cisco". Norton was successful in his endeavor to obtain a post office and change the name of the community as attested by the July 25, 1903 edition of the *Green Forest Tribune*:

Cisco is the name of the new post office that has been established at Braswell Switch, five miles west of Green Forest with Isaac Norton as postmaster. We understand the railroad company will change the name of the station from Braswell Switch to Cisco. This is destined to become quite a little town. There is already one store there and a great deal of cordwood is being shipped from this point.

Norton's lone store was soon augmented by another general store, a couple of sawmills, several grist mills, and a blacksmith shop. The fledgling community was, however, distinguished from similar towns by the presence of an academy established by W. D. Crawford in the combination residence/academy he had built in 1900-1901. According to local tradition, Crawford designed the structure, which was constructed by a local builder, Tillman Leach. The stone used in the construction was quarried from Pilot Knob, an adjacent mountain that was named by W. D. Crawford.

Usually known by local residents as "Professor Crawford," W. D. Crawford was born on October 31, 1865 in Adair County, Missouri. He received a degree in education from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana and a law degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1889. Crawford operated an academy in his home from 1900 until 1904 when his Ozark Normal School in Green Forest was completed. The bricks for the new two-story school building were fired locally under Crawford's supervision. The new building contained a partially aboveground basement, an office, music room, and four classrooms on the first floor, and an assembly hall, science room, mathematics room, and library on the second floor. The dedication ceremony for the Ozark Normal School was held on September 4, 1904, and classes started the next day. The first graduation was held in August of the following year.

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The Normal School was not supported by tax dollars; students either worked for their tuition or paid "in kind." In 1906, the Green Forest public school burned, and Crawford accepted the public school students and completed their term of instruction at no charge. Editorials in the *Green Forest Weekly Tribune* commended his actions and noted that the Normal School's daily attendance was about 200 students. Unfortunately, the Ozark Normal School soon suffered the same fate as the Green Forest Public School and burned during the 1907 school term. Nevertheless, twenty-two students (about evenly divided between the teacher's course and the commercial course) attended graduation exercises held in May.

Crawford continued to be active in the education field. After the Normal School burned, he taught at the nearest rural school, "Union" District 79, which was located approximately a mile north of his house. Crawford was also employed (exact dates unknown) as principal of the Berryville Special District, which had been organized in 1895. Crawford was responsible for establishing the curriculum for grades one through eight. By 1910, he had revised and expanded the curriculum to include four years of high school credit. The next year the Berryville Special District received certification from the State Board of Education for the first time.

Despite his prominence as an educator, Crawford had always wanted to be a farmer, and there is evidence that he engaged in this pursuit on a part-time basis. Around 1912, Crawford boasted the "longest row of peach trees in the world" based on 1200 trees that he had planted in a spiral row on Pilot Knob Mountain. He also planted several hundred fruit trees and grape vines on his 160 acre farm. Crawford is also known to have dealt in real estate as testified by the Crawford Addition to the town of Berryville.

After a lifetime of work in education that included teaching fifty-one school terms, W. D. Crawford died at the house he had built as a combination residence/academy on January 11, 1952. The property remained in the family until 1968.

Because W. D. Crawford played an important role during the formative years of the education field not only in his small, home community of Cisco, but in the larger towns of Green Forest and Berryville, the Crawford House is being nominated under Criterion B with local significance for its association with "Professor Crawford."

Although relatively plain and unornamented, the Crawford House is also significant under Criterion C as the best example in the area of a native-stone constructed Plain Traditional building. The square plan with pyramid roof is an unusual form in rural vernacular construction and reflects the consideration given in the design for the dual nature of the house as both a residence and an academy.

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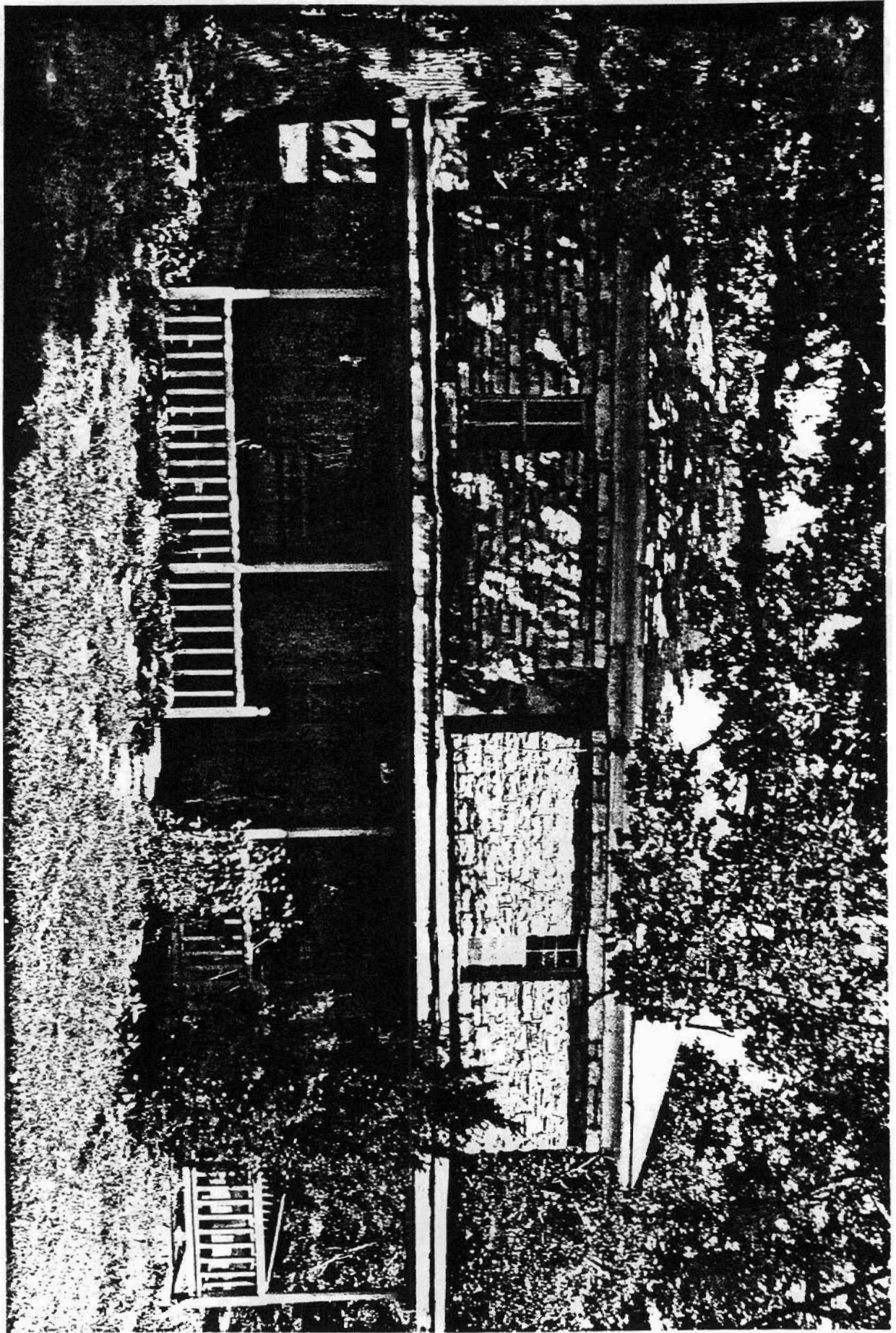
Bibliography

Information supplied by Pam Jackson, November 1991.

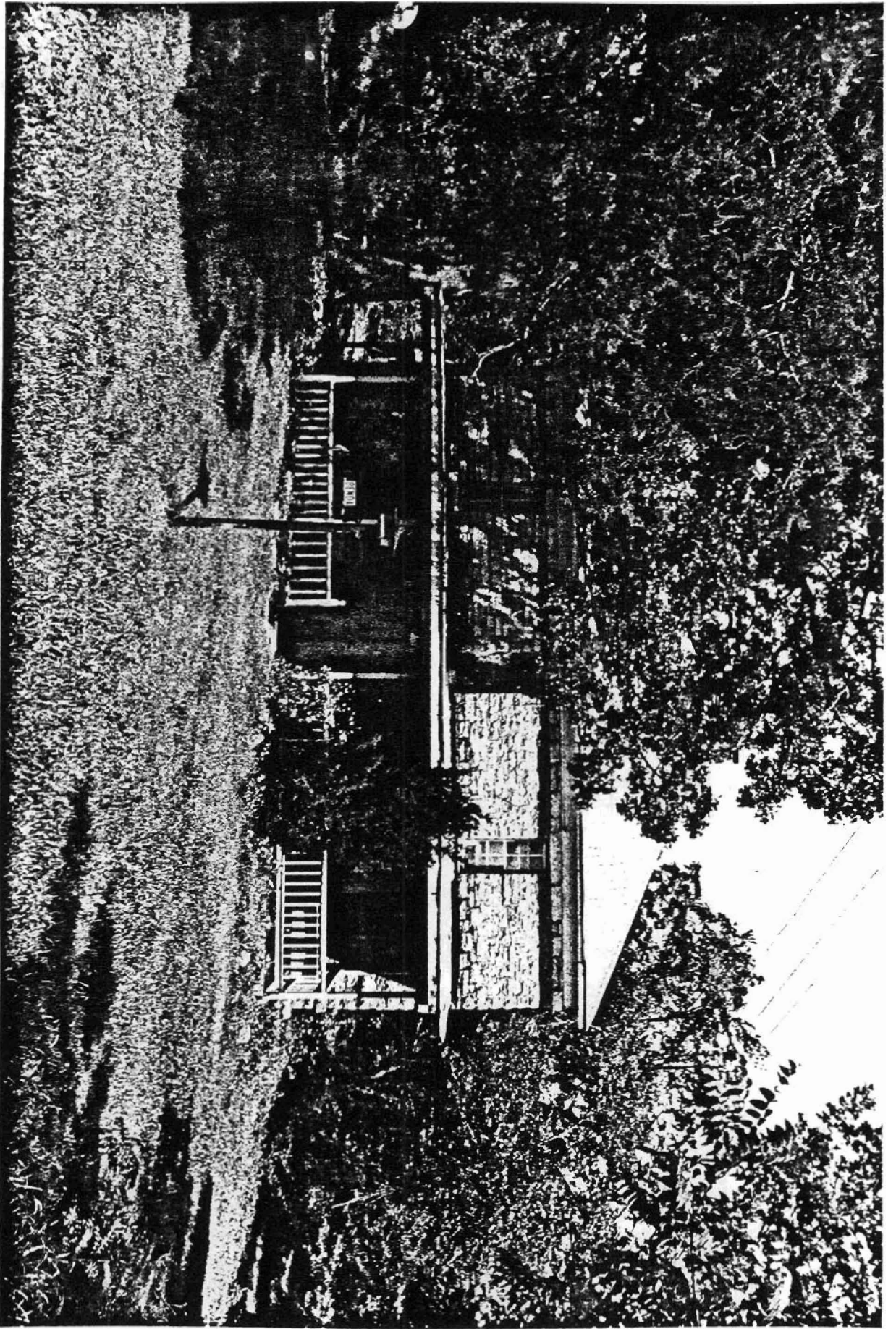
Lair, Jim. *An Outlanders History of Carroll County, Arkansas*. The Carroll County Historical and Genealogical Society, 1983. pp. 157, 160, 197-198.

Smith, George F. "Crawford's Boarding School at Cisco." *Carroll County Historical Quarterly*. (issue unknown).

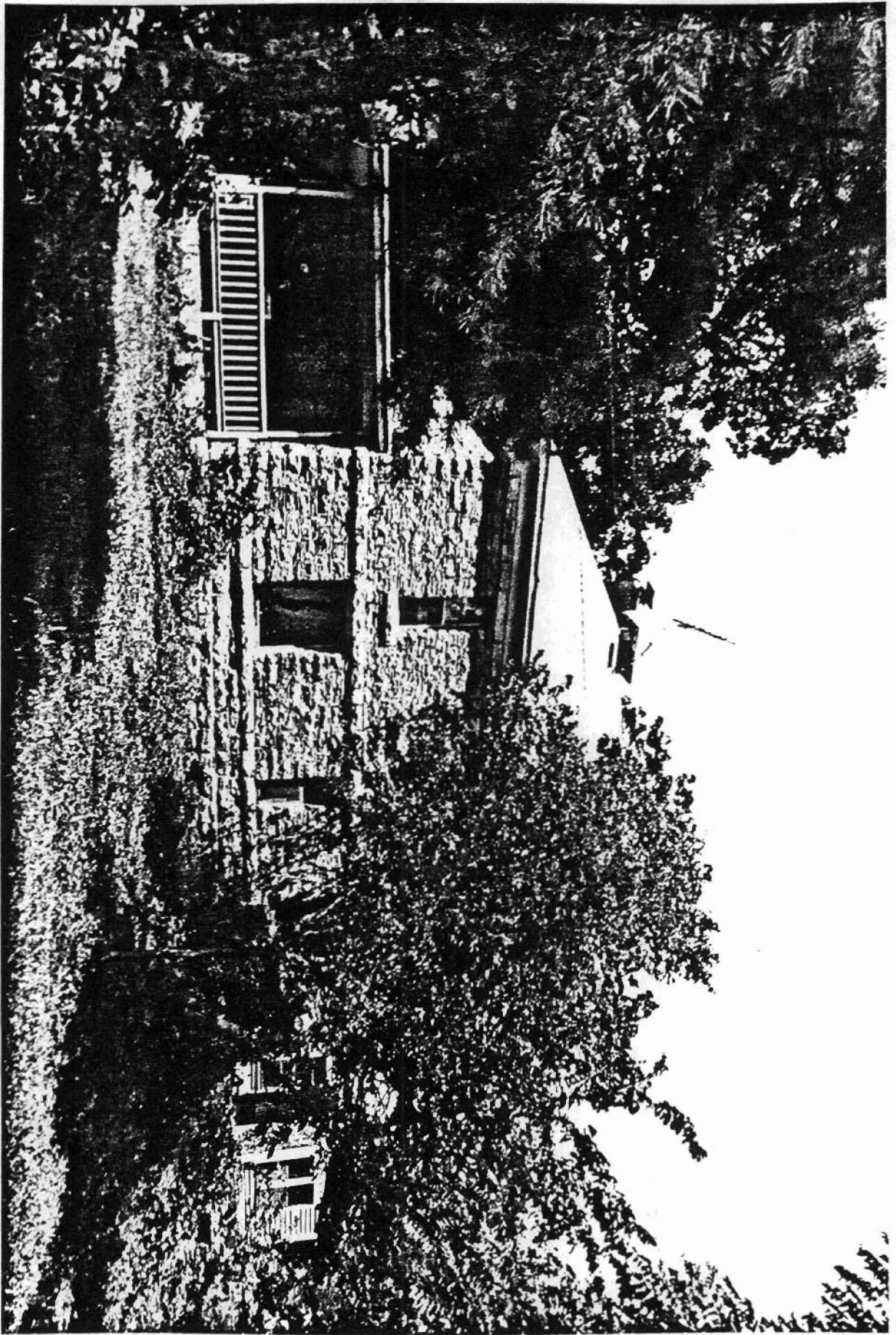
Smith, George F. "W. D. Crawford of Cisco, Carroll County, Arkansas." *Carroll County Historically Quarterly*. Summer 1977. pp. 18-22.



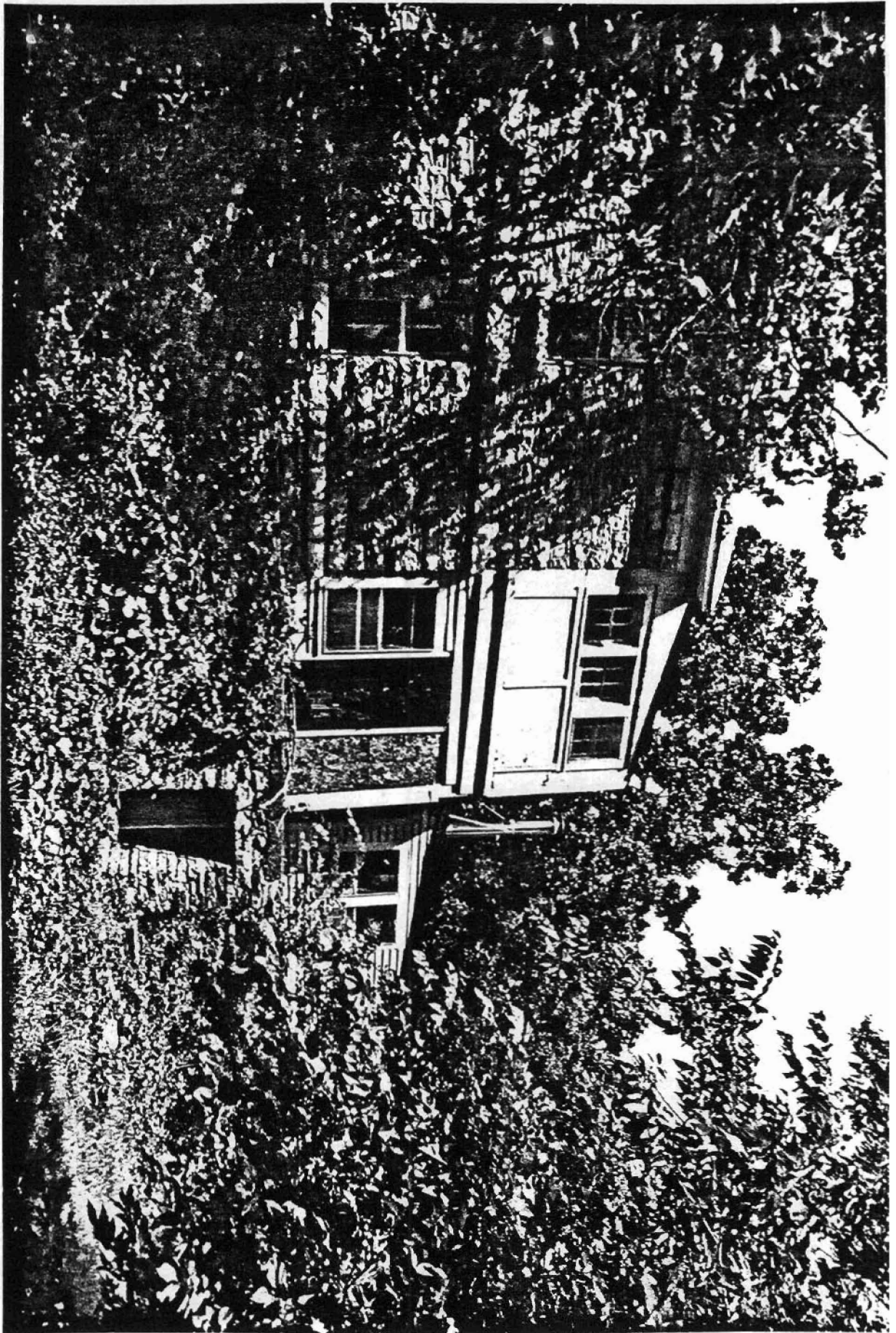
Crawford, W. D., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolher
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the west



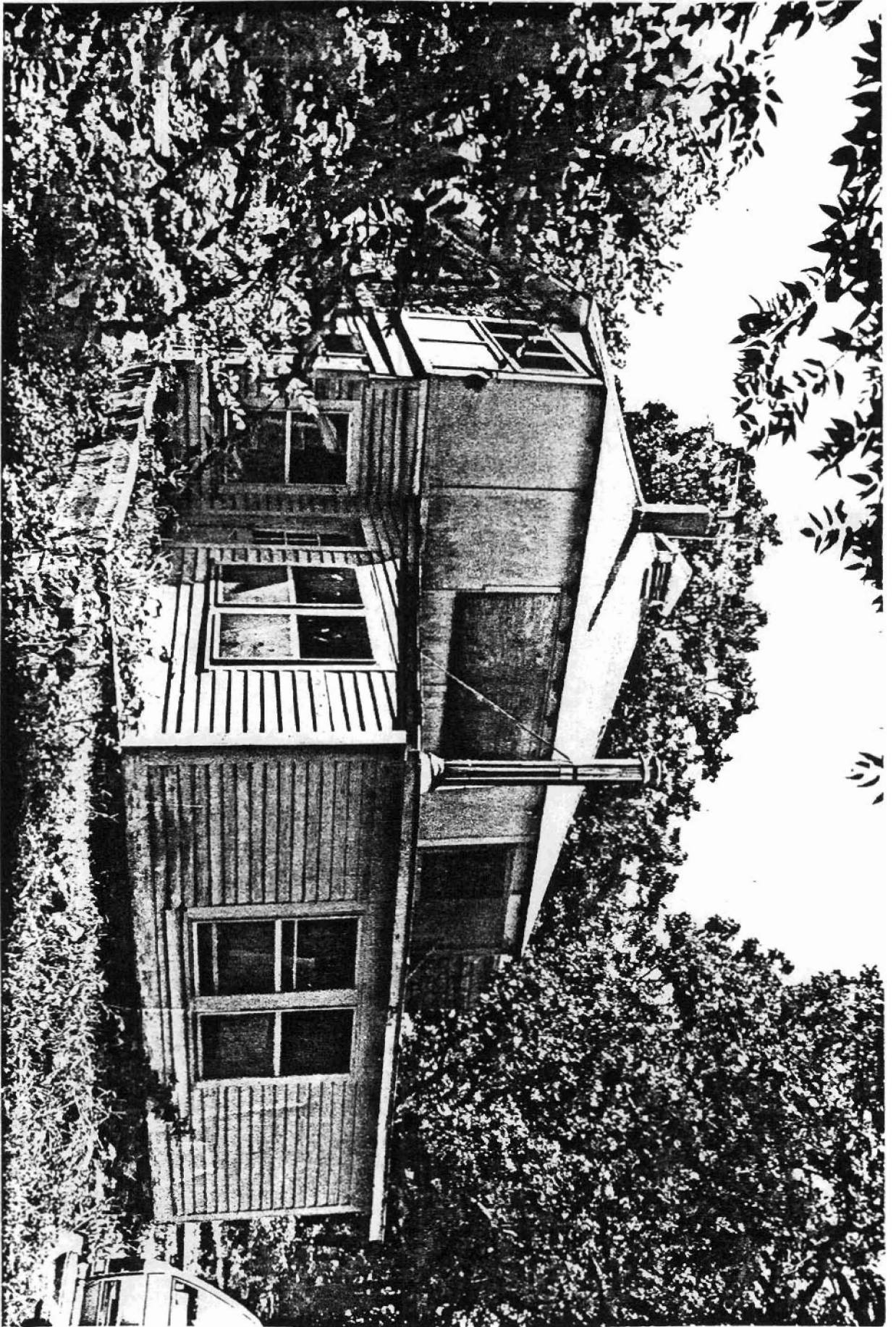
Crawford, W. D., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zoller
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the west



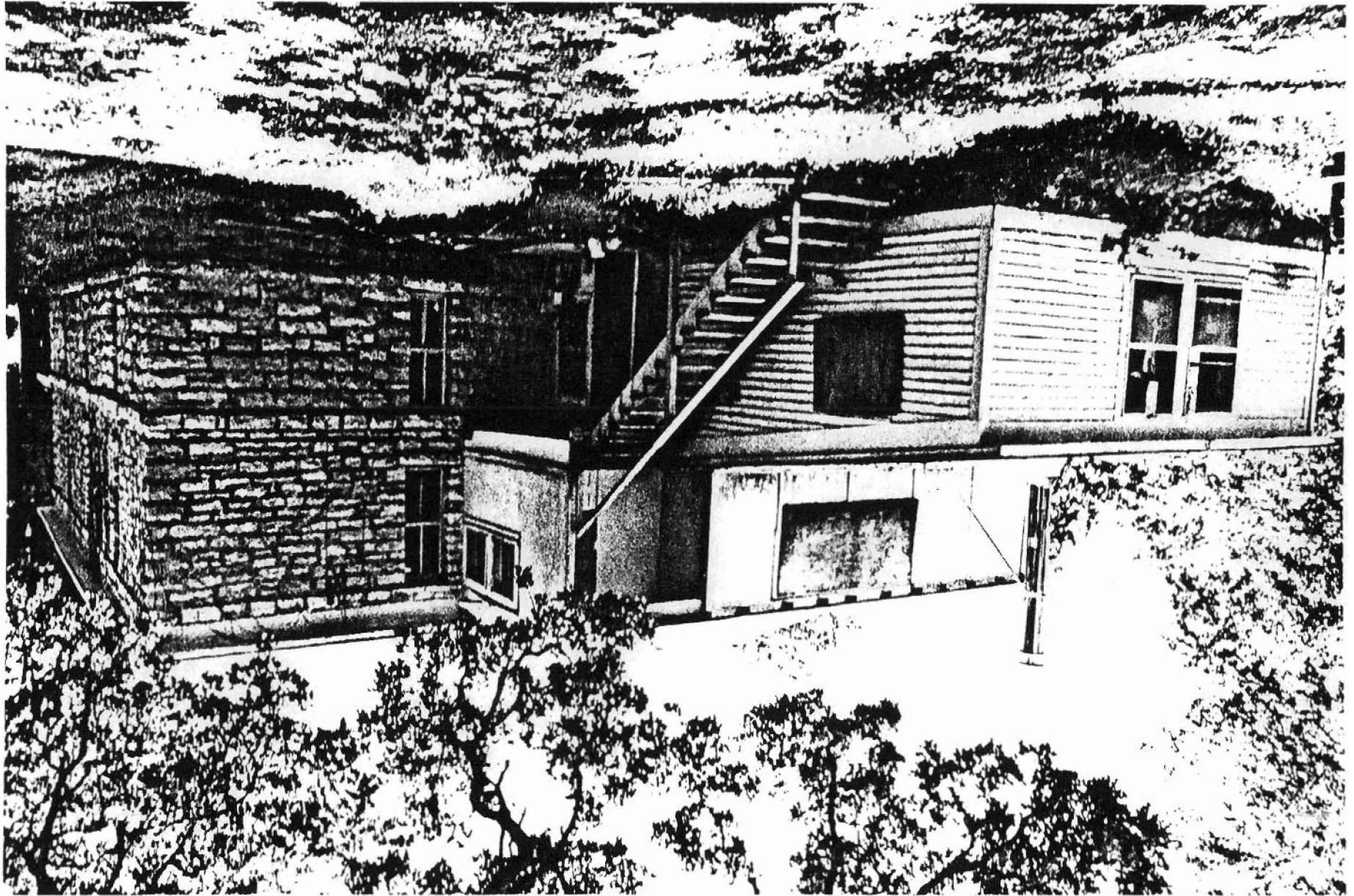
Crawford, W. D., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolner
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View of the western end of
the southern elevation



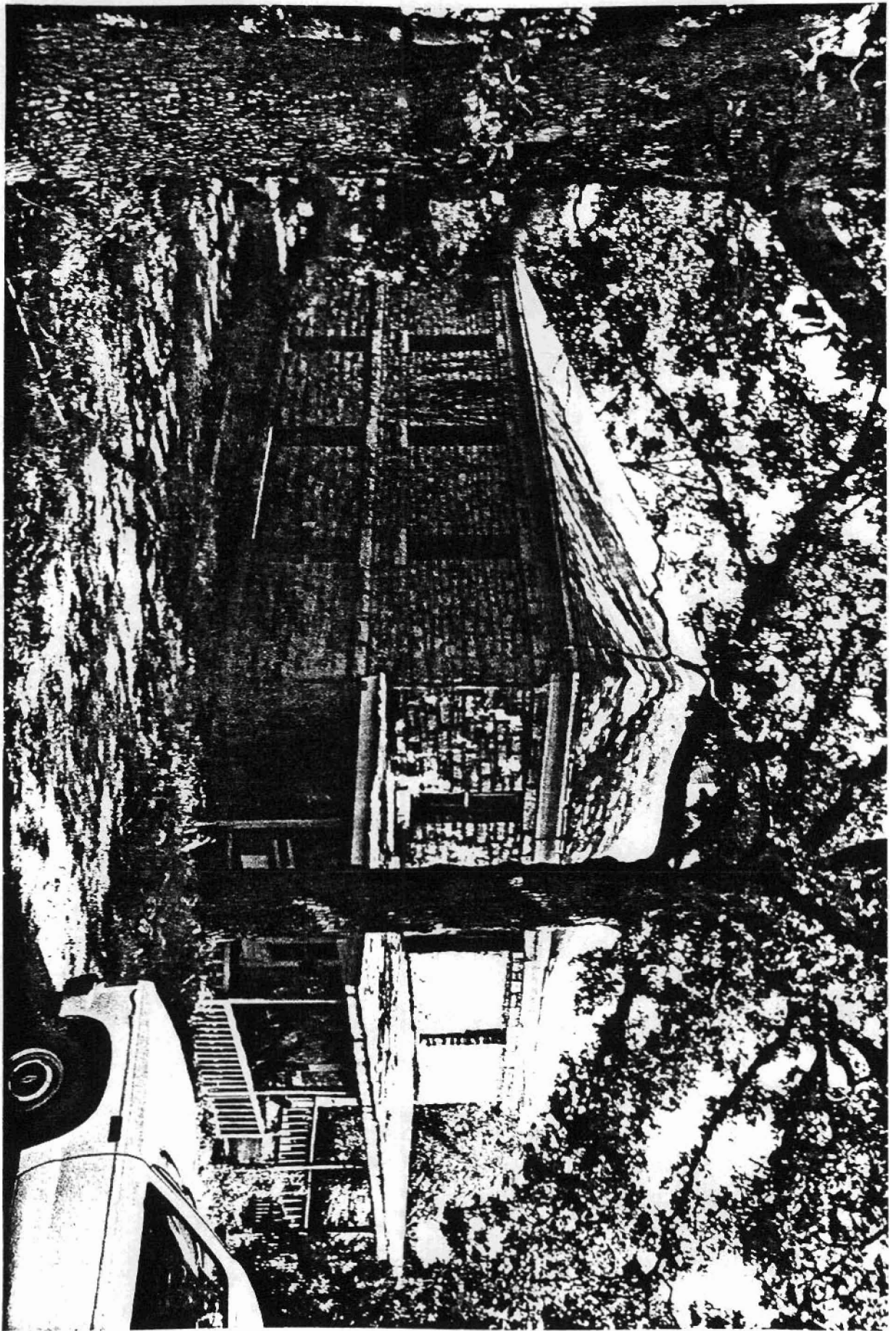
Crawford, W. D., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollner
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View of the eastern end of
the southern elevation



Carroll, W. O., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollner
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the southeast

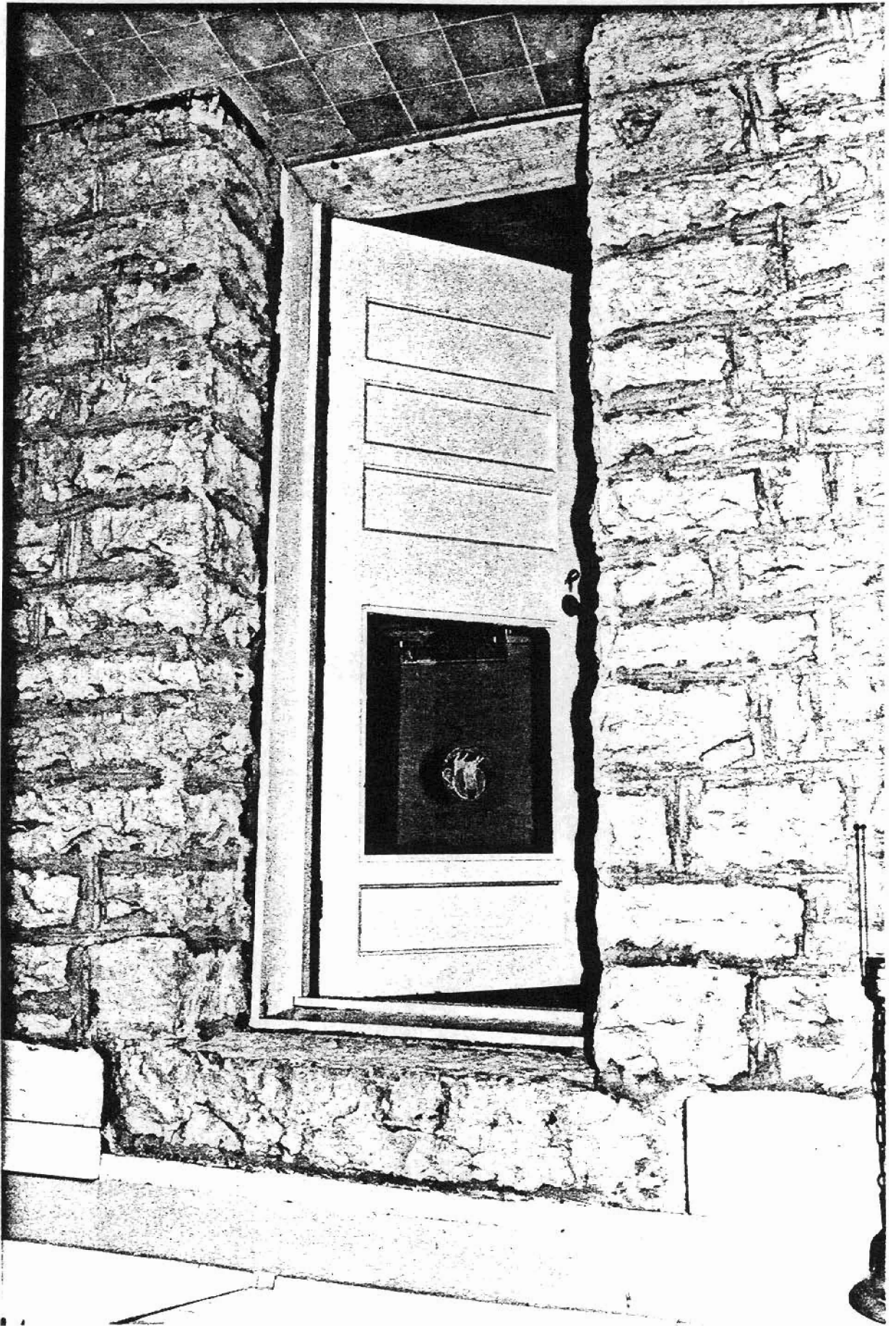


Crawford, W. D., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolher
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the northeast

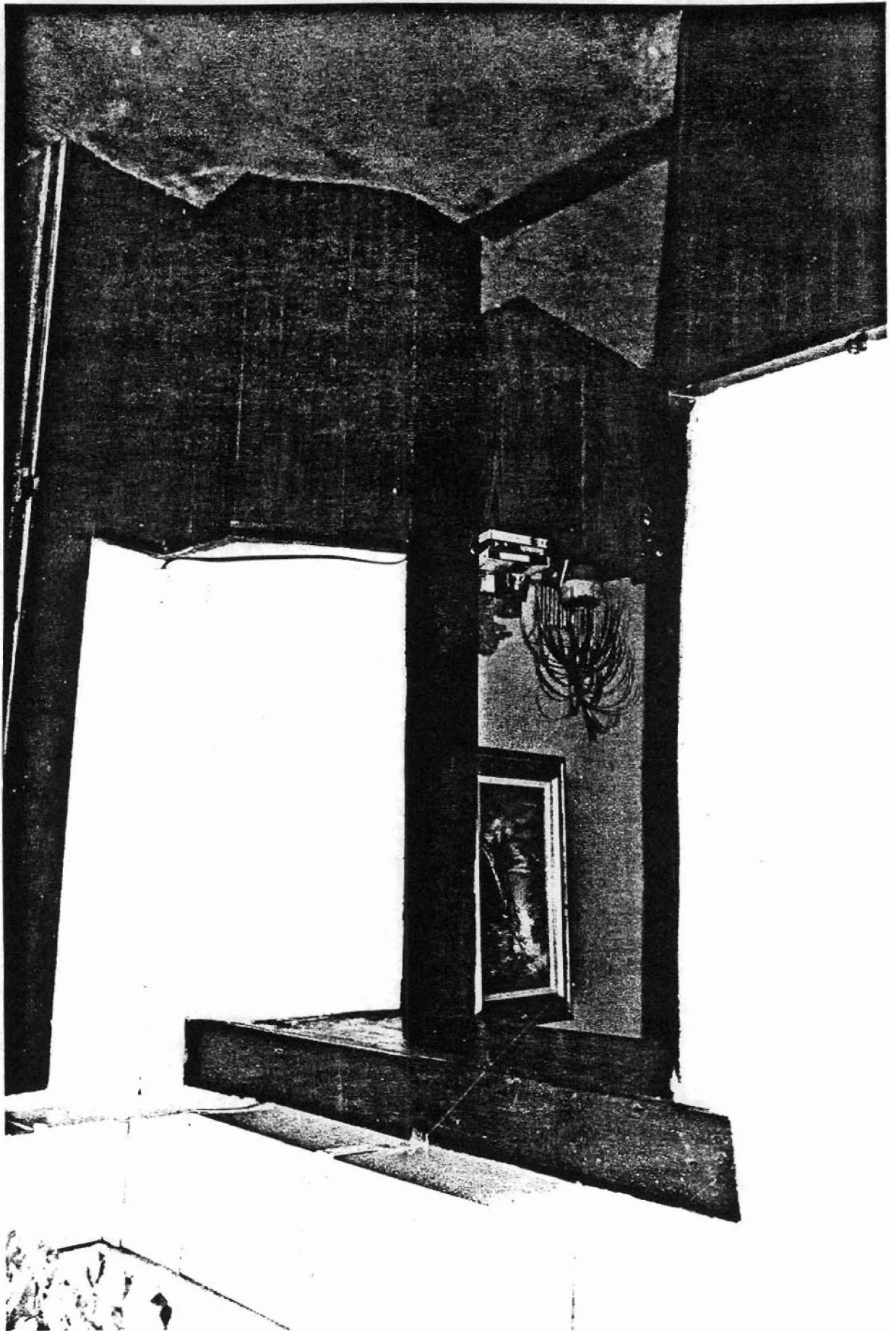


Crawford, W. D., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolher
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the northwest

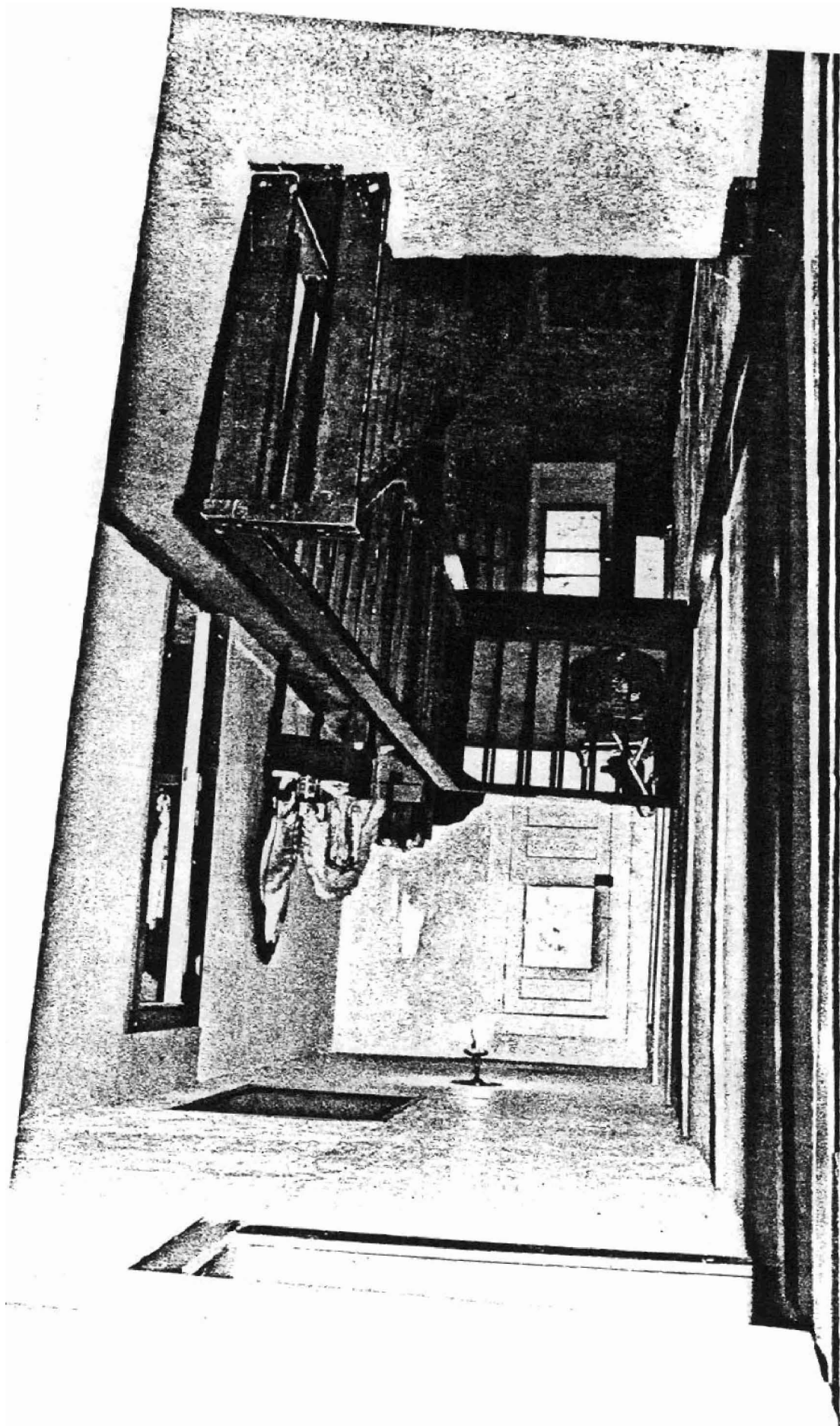




Crawford, W. D., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolher
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View of second-story doorway
at rear of house



Crawford, W. S., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zollner
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View of interior doorway leading
into the southern front room.



Crawford, W. D., House
Carroll Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolner
August 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View of staircase from the
rear of the second story

