

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR 5/22/09

# 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 Rector Waterworks Building

other names/site number Rector Jail, Site #CY0084

### 2. Location

street & number 703 South Main Street  not for publication

city or town Rector  vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Clay code 021 zip code 72461

### 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.)

*Catherine Malottus*

3/17/09

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:

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rector Waterworks Building  
Name of Property

Clay 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.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls 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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
INDUSTRY
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

c.1915-1953

Significant Dates

c.1915

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions.

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):

- Criteria for previous documentation on file (NPS).

Primary location of additional data:

- Criteria for primary location of additional data.

Name of repository:

Rector Waterworks Building  
Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acres of Property** Less than one.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 743231 4016249  
Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
4 \_\_\_\_\_

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 December 17, 2008  
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 City of Rector  
street & number 409 S. Stewart telephone (870) 595-3035  
city or town Rector state AR zip code 72461

**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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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

### SUMMARY

Located at 703 South Main Street in Rector, Clay County, Arkansas, the Rector Waterworks Building is a small brick building built on a continuous concrete foundation. The building has a flat roof, although it does have a false gable on the front façade. The building is also an unusual industrial example of the Classical Revival style, exhibiting a classical pediment, arched windows, and brick pilasters.

### ELABORATION

The Rector Waterworks Building, which is located at 703 South Main Street in Rector, Clay County, Arkansas, is a brick building on a continuous concrete foundation. The building is topped by a flat roof, although a gabled pediment is located on the front façade. The building is fenestrated with wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows, although most have been boarded up for security. With its classical pediment, arched windows on the front façade, and brick pilasters, the building is an unusual application of the Classical Revival style to an industrial building.

The building is located south of the downtown commercial area of Rector, in an area that has historically been mostly an industrial area. Today, the area still reflects its industrial roots. Located on Main Street, in between the commercial core of Rector and U.S. 49, the main highway through Rector, the Rector Waterworks Building is an attractive gateway to the city.

#### *Front/West Façade*

The front façade of the Rector Waterworks Building is by far the most impressive and most elaborate. The façade is symmetrically arranged around the building's main entrance, which consists of two wood doors with two horizontal panels in the bottom half and a boarded-up window in the top half. The entrance is sheltered by a covered porch. The porch is fronted by a wood gable with horizontal wood siding. The porch is supported by square brick columns that flare out at the top and bottom.

The central entrance is flanked on each side by a brick pilaster with corbelled brick top and bottom followed by a pair of arched wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows. (The window openings to the right of the entrance have been partially bricked up.) The windows have cast concrete windowsills. At the front corners of the building are more brick pilasters with corbelled brick tops and bottoms.

The front façade is also topped by a full-width gabled pediment. The main body of the pediment is brick that is surrounded by a projecting cast concrete frame. The concrete frame is supported by the front façade's pilasters.

#### *Side/North Façade*

On the right side of the north façade is the north side of the front façade's brick pilaster, which projects from the façade. To the left of the pilaster are two boarded-up windows with cast concrete sills and lintels. Immediately to the left of the left window is the former location of an entrance. Although the entrance has

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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been boarded up, the cast-concrete lintel remains. The entire façade is capped by a projecting, flat, cast-concrete cornice.

### *Rear/East Façade*

The rear façade of the building is symmetrically arranged around a central projecting brick chimney. To the right of the chimney are two wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows that are partially boarded up. Both of the windows have cast-concrete sills and lintels. To the left of the chimney is a wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two window that is partially boarded up followed by a shorter window that is covered with iron bars. (This window has been partially bricked up and shortened – the original cast-concrete sill remains in the wall.) Both window openings have cast-concrete sills and lintels. The entire façade is also capped by a projecting, flat, cast-concrete cornice.

### *Side/South Façade*

The south side of the building is devoid of fenestration, although one window has been bricked up, and the original cast-concrete sill and lintel remain in the wall. As on the north façade, at the west side of the south façade is the south side of the front façade's brick pilaster, which projects from the façade. Again, the entire façade is capped by a projecting, flat, cast-concrete cornice.

### **Integrity**

The Rector Waterworks Building retains good integrity. The most significant changes to the building have centered around the building's windows, which have been either boarded up or bricked up. However, in the cases where the windows have been bricked up, the windows remain in place. The building still retains those qualities that make it a good example of the Classical Revival style, notably the gabled pediment, brick pilasters, and arched windows on the front façade. The setting around the building also reflects its historic period. Rector has remained a small town and the area around the Rector Waterworks Building still reflects the area's industrial beginnings.

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### SUMMARY

The Rector Waterworks Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent and unusual example of an industrial building built in the Classical Revival style. The classical pediment, brick pilasters, and arched windows on the front façade are hallmarks of the style, which was most popular during the first decades of the twentieth century. Mainly an architectural style used for domestic or civic buildings, it was rarely used for industrial facilities meaning that the Rector Waterworks Building is a significant example of the style.

The Rector Waterworks Building is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of infrastructure and services for the people of Rector in the early 1900s. Prior to the construction of the Rector Waterworks Building and the rest of the water system Rector had no water facilities. The development of the system and the construction of the Rector Waterworks Building meant that the residents of Rector could utilize and enjoy an unlimited supply of clean and safe drinking water, an important necessity in everyday life.

### ELABORATION

Settlement began in the area that became Clay County in 1832 with the arrival of John J. Griffin, who settled along the Black River. Although few people came to the area before 1850, from 1850 until the outbreak of the Civil War settlement in the area increased tremendously. By the early 1870s, the population of the area was sufficient for the establishment of Clay County on March 24, 1873. Although it was originally called Clayton County, the name was changed to Clay County by an act of the General Assembly on December 6, 1875. The portion of the county comprising the eastern district was taken from Greene County while the western district was taken from Randolph County.<sup>1</sup>

Clay County's first county seat was established at Corning and court began on May 16, 1873. However, in 1874 the idea of moving the county seat to Boydsville, a more central location, was looked at, and after receiving a majority vote, the county seat was moved. (Because there was so much resistance to it, it was again voted on in 1877, but the result was the same.)<sup>2</sup>

Although Boydsville was more centrally located, the people in the western part of the county found it hard to reach Boydsville. As a result, consideration was given to dividing the county into two districts and having two county seats. The legislature approved an act on February 23, 1881, that divided Clay County into two districts with county seats at Corning and Boydsville. (Today, the western district county seat remains at Corning, although the eastern district seat was relocated to Piggott in 1891.)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, pp. 191-192.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 192.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

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The City of Rector grew out of two communities established in the 1840s, Scatterville and Oak Bluff. Apparently, Scatterville always remained a small community – it never had a post office – but Oak Bluff was large enough to have a post office by 1877. However, settlement patterns changed greatly in the area, as they did in many areas of Arkansas, with the arrival of the railroad in the second half of the nineteenth century.<sup>4</sup>

In 1882, the St. Louis Southwestern Railroad built a line down the east side of Crowley's Ridge to Paragould, which caused the businesses in Scatterville and Oak Bluff to move closer to the railroad line. (In fact, J. M. Copeland built the first building, which served as a house, store, and station, on the site of Rector in 1881, apparently in anticipation of the railroad's arrival.)<sup>5</sup>

Once the railroad arrived, it did not take long for Rector to develop. Rector was named for Arkansas's eighth governor, Henry Massey Rector, and had grown enough to be incorporated on September 13, 1887. Just two years later, Rector could boast that it had "seven general stores, three drug stores, one grocery, two (temperance) saloons, one hardware and grocery, one harness and saddlery store, some work-shops, a photograph gallery, one stave factory, two sawmills, two cotton gins, with grist-mills attached, one livery stable, two hotels, one meat market, a millinery store, post office, four church organizations – Baptist, Cumberland Presbyterian, Methodist Episcopal, South, and Methodist Protestant; two church edifices, a lodge each of Masons, Odd Fellows and Knights of Honor, a public schoolhouse, two select or private schools, four physicians, and a population of 700 or over." In addition, the *Clay County Record*, a seven-column weekly newspaper published at Rector, was established in January 1889, by its present proprietor, Mr. Taylor. This journal also has at heart the welfare of the community, and enjoys a liberal circulation."<sup>6</sup>

As was common in many towns during their early years, the city of Rector did not have many services during its early years. The December 1908 Sanborn map indicated that there were no water facilities and that wells provided the water supply. The town also had no fire department, fire apparatus or fire alarm system. Furthermore, the streets were not paved, although there were electric public lights. The March 1915 Sanborn map indicated that nothing had changed by that time.<sup>7</sup>

Between March 1915 and April 1928 a lot of work was done to bring city services to Rector's residents. According to the Sanborn map, Rector could now boast 1½ miles of paving and a volunteer fire department

<sup>4</sup> Baker, Russell Pierce. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988, pp. 162, 186.

<sup>5</sup> Information on the City of Rector and the Waterworks Building, courtesy of Cyndi Corkran in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

<sup>6</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 195.

<sup>7</sup> Sanborn maps for Rector: December 1908 and March 1915.



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with one chief and five men. In addition, the department had "2 hose reels, 500 ft. - 2 ½" hose on each, drawn by [a] paid drayman. Fire alarm by electric siren, located above telephone office, also by telephone."<sup>8</sup>

However, probably the most significant and most extensive infrastructure improvement that came to Rector was the development of the waterworks. The 1928 Sanborn map gave a detailed description of the new facilities:

Waterworks owned by City. Source: 2 well 10" by 274 ft. deep. System: gravity. Pumps: two Gould triplex pumps, 8" x 10", each driven by 32 H.P. oil engine. Gravity tank capacity 75,000 gallons, elevated 120 ft. above ground on steel tower elevated 160 ft. above business section. Railroad water tank can be used in emergency. 20 miles of 4"-6" & 8" water pipe. 55 double hydr's [hydrants]. Average daily consumption 200,000 gallons. Domestic and fire pressure at corner Main and 4<sup>th</sup> St. 72 lbs.<sup>9</sup>

In addition to the pumps, pipe, and water tower, the waterworks consisted of the building that housed the pumps, which was built at the southeast corner of Main and 7<sup>th</sup> streets. Although in 1908 the area around Main and 7<sup>th</sup> was occupied mainly by residences, by 1915 the area's character had changed to a more industrial nature. The site of the waterworks building was occupied by a shingle pile and two hoop sheds connected with the Rector Planing Mills Company Lumber Yard located on the west side of Main Street and the Rector Bottling Works was located south of the site. The area would become even more industrial by 1928 with the construction of the G. H. Harding & Company Cotton Gin on the northeast corner of Main and 7<sup>th</sup> streets.<sup>10</sup>

The building that was constructed to house the pumps was elaborately detailed, especially for a small community like Rector. While most communities would have built a strictly utilitarian building for their waterworks, Rector looked to the Classical Revival style for inspiration. The design for the building employed brick pilasters across the front façade, arched windows, and a front-facing gabled pediment, an uncommon feature on Classical Revival buildings. The building also used cast concrete, a relatively new building material in the early twentieth century, for the foundation, windowsills and lintels, cornice and pediment surround.

Sometime after 1937, in addition to housing the city's water pumps, the Rector Waterworks Building started to be used as the city's jail. It was apparently the city's first jail, since the Sanborn maps do not show the

<sup>8</sup> Sanborn map for Rector: April 1928.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Sanborn maps for Rector: December 1908, March 1915, and April 1928.

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location of another jail or of a police department or city hall.<sup>11</sup> In order to accommodate the jail, it necessitated modifying some of the building's windows by shortening them and putting iron bars over the window on the rear façade on the south end. The building's stout construction, with brick walls and concrete floor, would have meant that it would have been a good building for a jail. Even so, the building was used as a jail for at most less than fifteen years.

Approximately 1953 the building began to be used mainly for storage, and it was at the same time that the windows on the front façade and the door on the north side were bricked in. Today, the building remains vacant, although the city has plans to renovate the building for use as a visitor's center, chamber of commerce office and community development office.<sup>12</sup>

The Rector Waterworks Building remains today an excellent example of the Classical Revival style in Rector and an unusual example of the style applied to an industrial building. The construction of a water system in Rector in the first part of the twentieth century would have been a significant change in life in Rector. The construction of a waterworks allowed the residents to have safe, dependable drinking water along with water for fire protection. As a result, the building is also an important and significant part of the efforts to bring city services to the City of Rector in the first part of the twentieth century.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rector Waterworks Building is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C** as an excellent and unusual example of an industrial building built in the Classical Revival style. The classical pediment, brick pilasters, and arched windows on the front façade are hallmarks of the style, which was most popular during the first decades of the twentieth century. Mainly an architectural style used for domestic or civic buildings, it was rarely used for industrial facilities meaning that the Rector Waterworks Building is a significant example of the style.

The Rector Waterworks Building is also being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its associations with the development of infrastructure and services for the people of Rector in the early 1900s. Prior to the construction of the Rector Waterworks Building and the rest of the water system Rector had no water facilities. The development of the system and the construction of the Rector Waterworks Building meant that the residents of Rector could utilize and enjoy an unlimited supply of clean and safe drinking water, an important necessity in everyday life.

<sup>11</sup> Sanborn maps for Rector: August 1937.

<sup>12</sup> Information on the City of Rector and the Waterworks Building, courtesy of Cyndi Corkran in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Rector Waterworks Building

Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Baker, Russell Pierce. *From Memdag to Norsk: A Historical Directory of Arkansas Post Offices, 1832-1971*. Hot Springs, AR: Arkansas Genealogical Society, 1988.

*Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

Information on the City of Rector and the Waterworks Building, courtesy of Cyndi Corkran in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Sanborn maps for Rector: December 1908, March 1915, April 1928, and August 1937.

Rector Waterworks Building

Name of Property

Clay County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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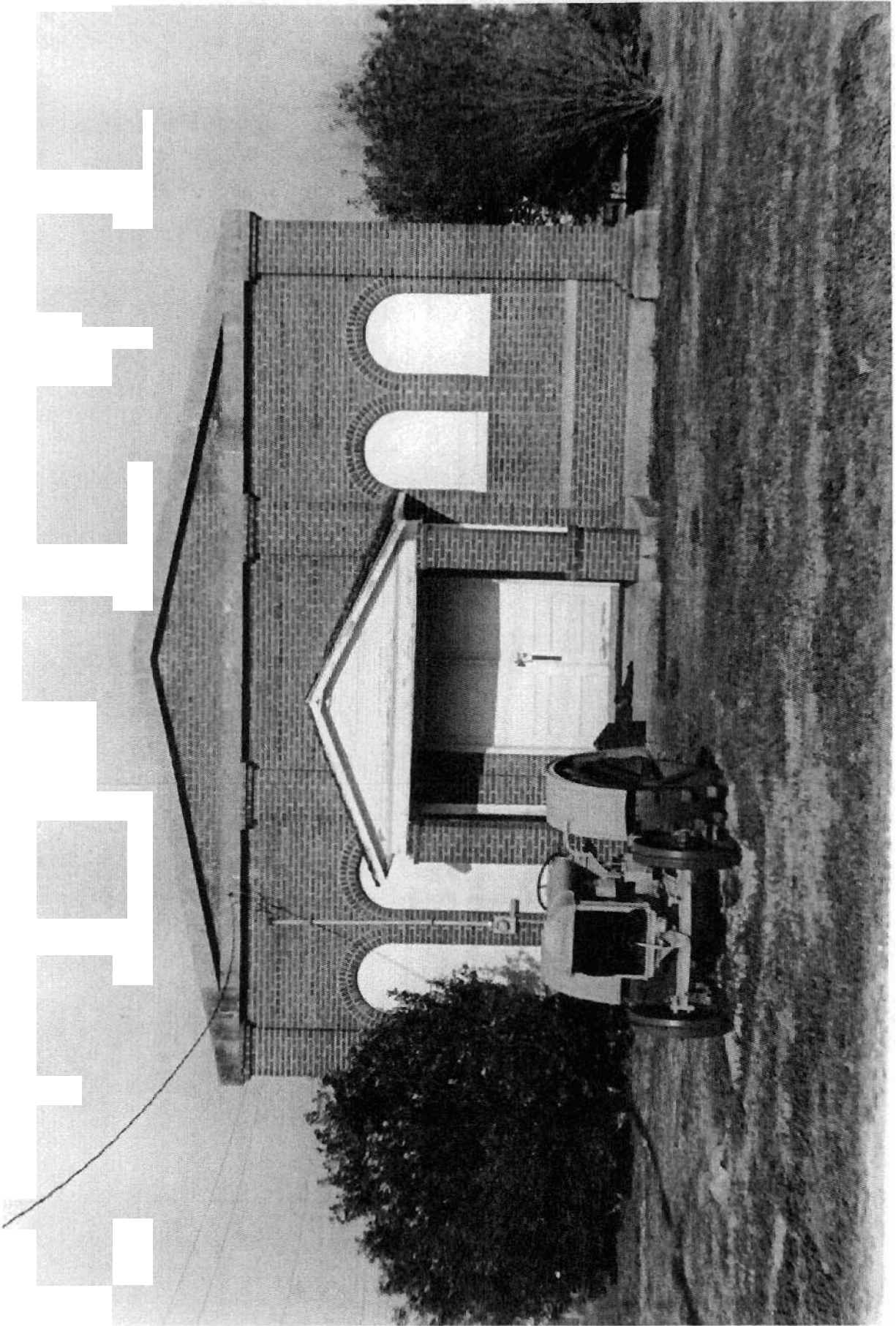
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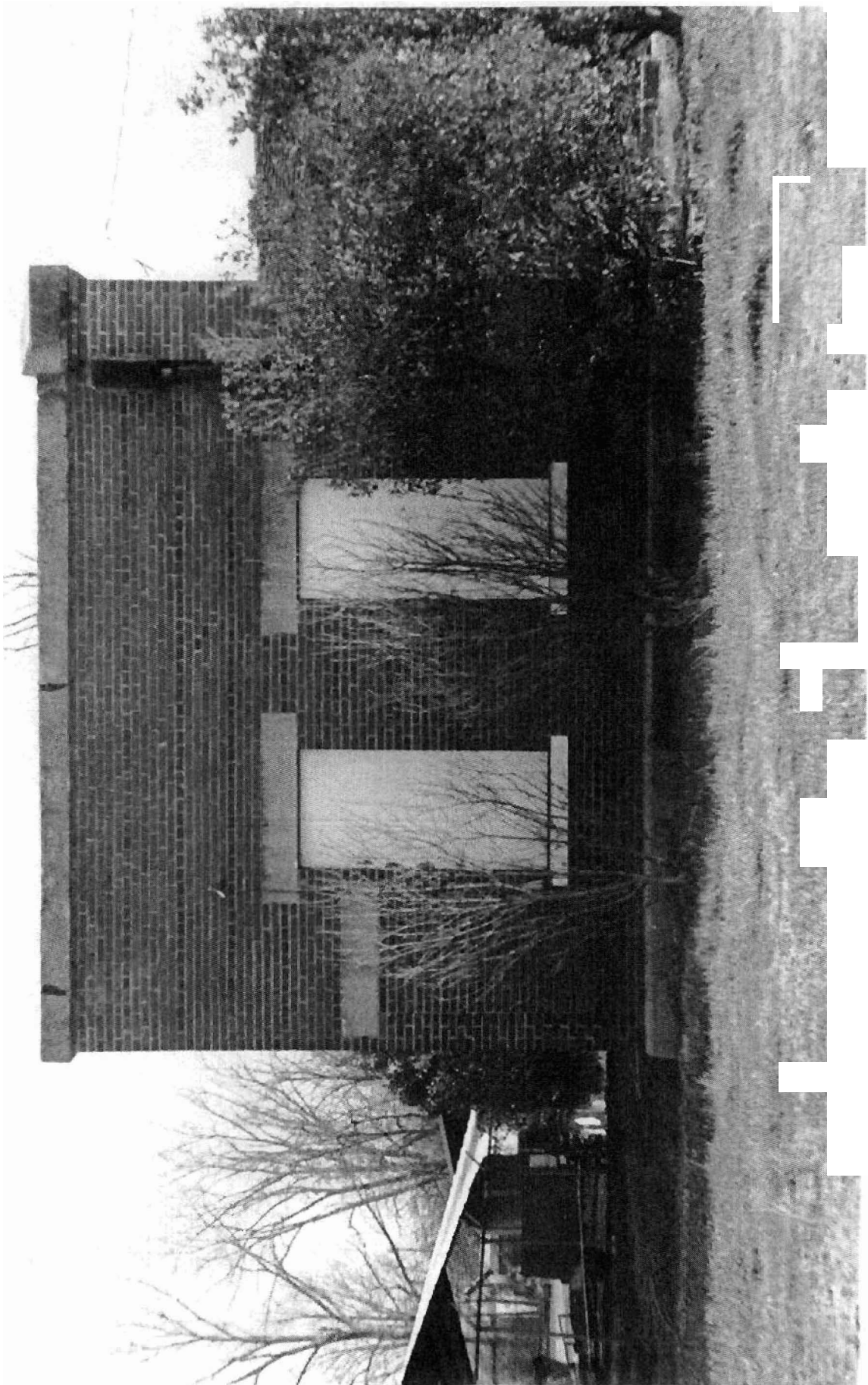
### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

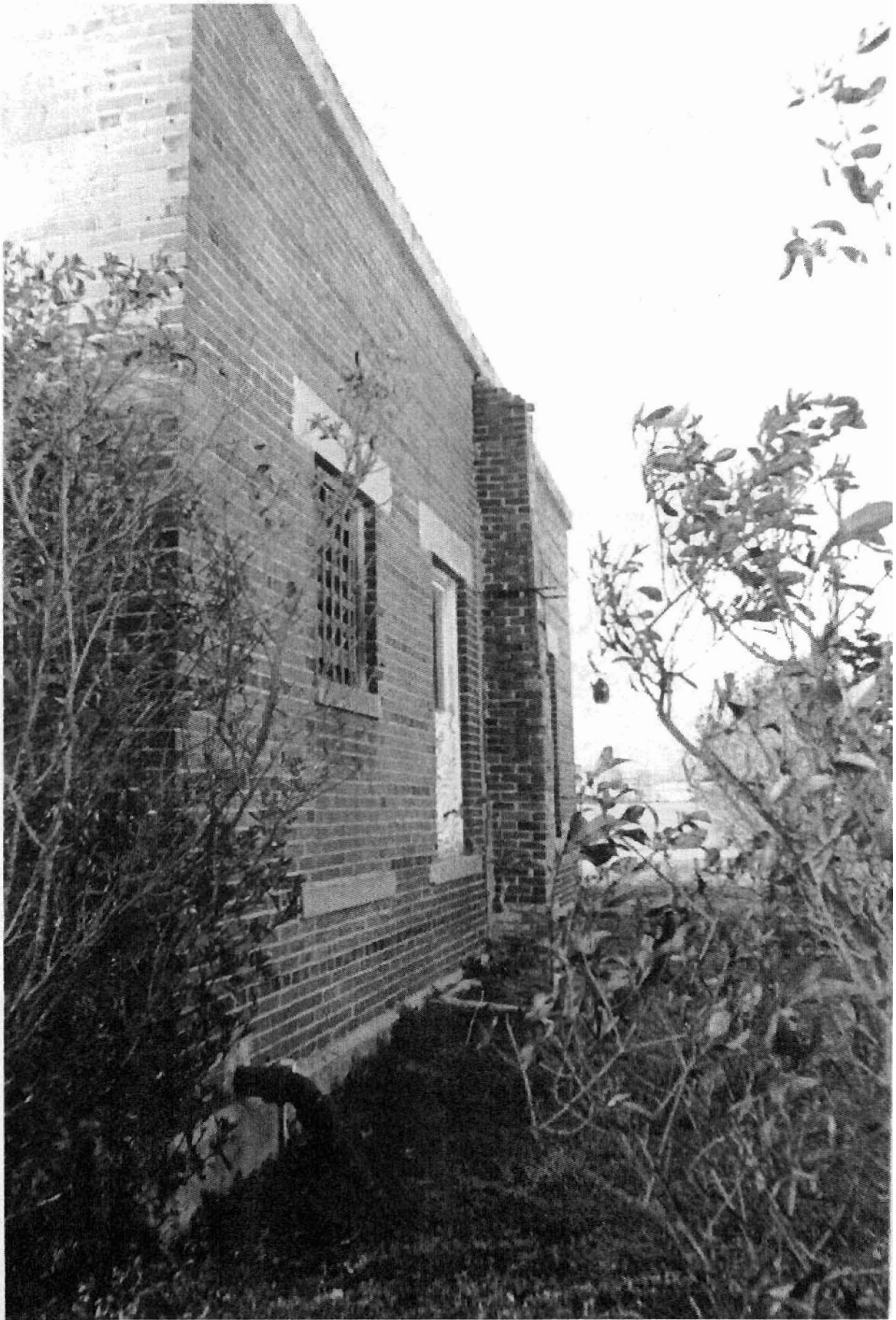
From the southeast corner of Main and 7<sup>th</sup> streets, proceed easterly along the south edge of 7<sup>th</sup> Street for 90 feet, thence proceed southerly perpendicular to Main Street for 130 feet, thence proceed westerly perpendicular to Main Street to the east edge of Main Street, thence proceed northerly for 90 feet along the east edge of Main Street to the point of beginning.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses all of the land historically associated with the Rector Waterworks Building.

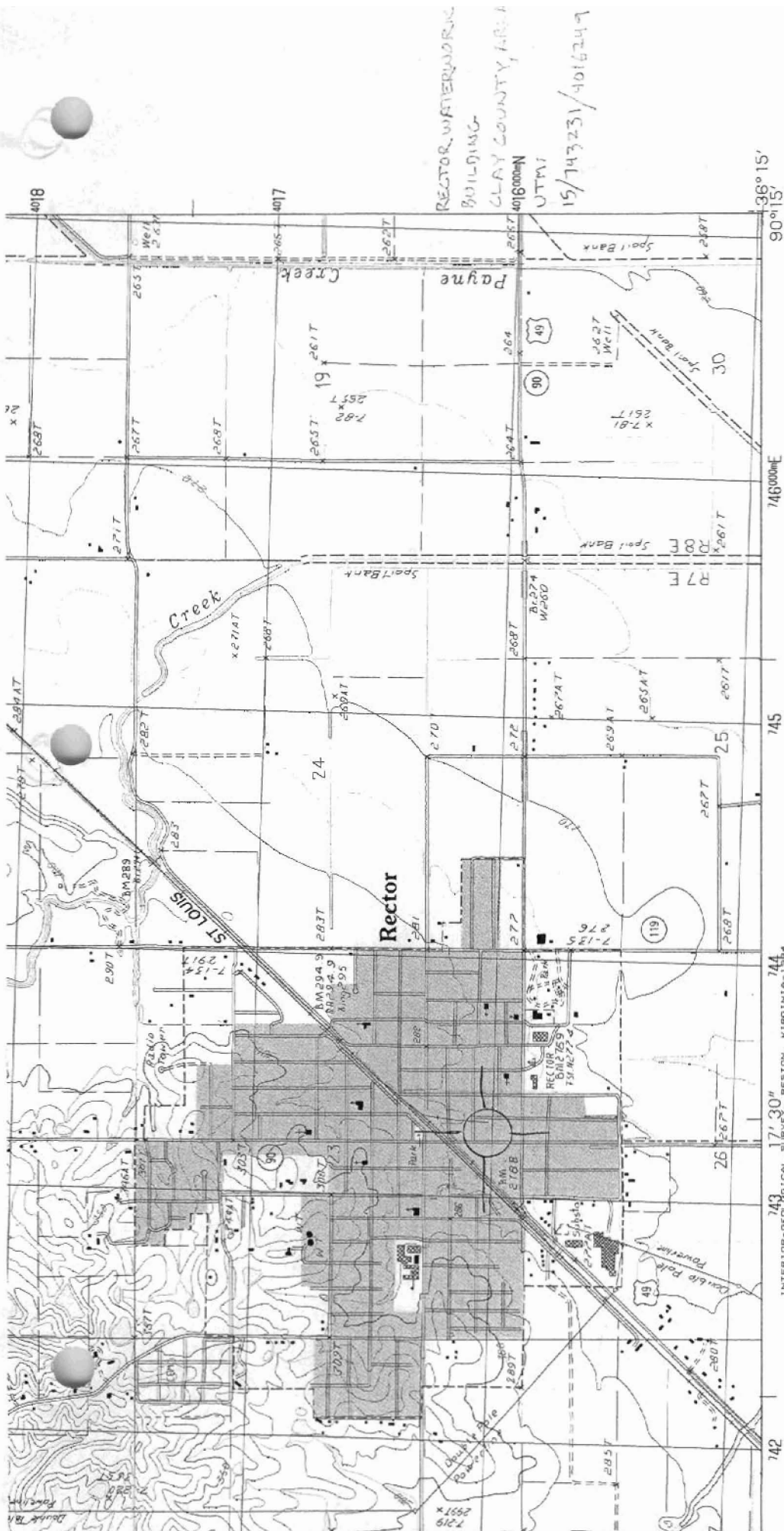












4 000 6000 7000 8000 9000 10000  
 10000 20000  
 INTERIOR-GEODISICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1984  
 743 17' 30" 744  
 742 745 746  
 36° 15' 90° 15'

ROAD LEGEND

- Improved Road . . . . .
- Unimproved Road . . . . .
- Trail . . . . .
- Interstate Route [Symbol] U.S. Route [Symbol] State Route [Symbol]



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
McDougal	Pollard	Piggott	Boydsville	Greenway	Marmaduke	Mounds	Senath

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

RECTOR, ARKANSAS  
 PROVISIONAL EDITION 1984

36090-C-3-TF-024

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 ION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204

20'