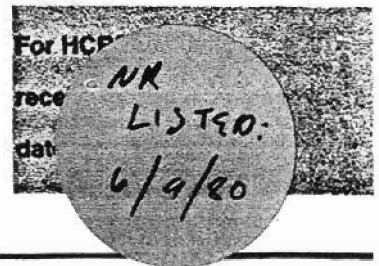


22-02-M35-61

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Garvin Cavaness House

and/or common Drew County Historical Museum

2. Location

street & number 404 South Main St. (corner of South Main and and West College) not for publication

city, town Monticello vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Arkansas code 05 county Drew code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Drew County Historical Society

street & number P. O. Box 564

city, town Monticello vicinity of state Arkansas 71655

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Drew County Courthouse

street & number South Main Street

city, town Monticello state Arkansas 71655

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Ark. Historic Preservation Program
Continental Bldg., Little Rock, AR has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970, 1972 federal state county local

depository for survey records Ark. Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Prominently situated on a large, generously planted corner site, the Garvin Cavaness House exerts a monumental presence in the residential neighborhood south of Monticello's town square. Although construction of the two-and-one-half-story structure with basement began in 1906, the house was not completed until 1916. Designed and, in part, built by Cavaness himself, the house is constructed of concrete blocks made on site from a hand-poured mold. This unusual use of material in the structure and fenestration of a residential building and the fabrication of decorative details in concrete establish the unique character of the house.

The principal (east) elevation of the Cavaness House is dominated by its five-bay, two-story portico. This dominant feature of the building, supported on concrete Ionic columns that taper upwards in three stages and carry an unembellished entablature with a band of dentiling below its small box cornice, vests the house with a Classical monumentality. While the five-bay front elevation is symmetrically delineated, a strong focus on the central bay is created. Here, a range of steps leads up to the portico (the first floor of the building is raised approximately three feet above grade and the water-table line of the foundation is articulated) and the finely crafted entrance. This element is composed of one central door surrounded by ornate sidelights and surmounted by an elaborately designed fanlight, all made of bevel-edged, transparent leaded glass. A large, concrete Roman arch with articulated keystone and molding encircles the fanlight, further accentuating the central entrance theme. The two end bays of the principal elevation are set back from the three predominant central bays and each has an additional door equipped with secondary stairs leading to the grounds.

A series of hipped roofs composed of tin shingles cap the building. The roof of the principal elevation is penetrated by three gable-roofed dormers. Each dormer has one round window with a five-pointed star design and the central dormer, which is slightly larger than the two that flank it, is set upon a range of four small square windows whose wood framing forms a cross-like design.

The north and south side elevations are virtually the same. Both are essentially symmetrical, three-bay arrangements with central hipped-roofed bays projecting slightly. This formal arrangement may reflect the fact that Cavaness constructed the rear of the building first, then built forward. Each of the side elevations is enriched by the portico which wraps around to distinguish the easterly half of these secondary facades.

Unlike the other three sides of the building, the rear (west) elevation of the Cavaness House is L-shaped in plan and asymmetrical. Its northern bay extends forward, penetrated by two windows on each floor and distinguished by a two-story porch, the first floor of which has been screened. This porch is also supported by concrete columns, but these, unlike the outstanding portico columns, are quite slender and unembellished. In contrast, the south bay of the rear elevation which was once characterized by a two-story porch has been enclosed with tin siding. What were once supporting members of the porch appear as pilasters in the applied wall. An enclosed metal staircase leads down from the second floor porch. While alterations to the exterior of the building are limited to such enclosing of pre-existing porches, the visual accessibility of the rear elevation is somewhat

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

DATE ENTERED _____

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

obscured by the placement of log structures on the grounds of the house. (These structures function in conjunction with the adaptive reuse of the house as the Drew County Museum).

The interior of the building was not completed contemporary with the exterior. During the 1920s, the house was divided into apartments, and subsequent owners have made additional surface changes. Only the plan of the second floor reflects the intended original scheme of central stairhall flanked by dwelling rooms. Major interior alterations include: the construction of a kitchen and a bathroom in the enclosed portion of the upstairs back porch; the removal of the original staircase in the central hallway and the subsequent construction of a narrow staircase in one of the south rooms; the lowering of the ceilings in some first floor rooms; and the addition of two bathrooms downstairs. The house was originally steam-heated by a coal furnace in the basement. The three existing fireplaces therefore, have been installed in recent years. The decorative ceiling moulding and elaborate broken pediment in the parlor are likewise the work of recent owners. Fortunately the original pressed tin ceilings survive in two of the upstairs bedrooms in stark contrast with the rest of the much altered and greatly evolved interior.

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 1906 - 1916

Builder/Architect

Garvin Cavaness - Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built by Garvin Cavaness as a residence for himself and his wife, both of whom were descendants of families deeply involved in the early development of Monticello and of Drew County, the Cavaness House stands as an unusual interpretation of the essentially Classically inspired architecture of the first years of the twentieth century. Both its physical characteristics and the circumstances of its construction contribute to the significance of the house. According to Monticello folklore several cars on the Iron Mountain Railroad line derailed outside the city in 1906. Cavaness, somewhat of a ne'er-do-well despite his prominent lineage, contracted to clean up the wreckage -- a task which involved removing cement that had spilled from the derailed cars. Reputedly, it is this cement that was used to make the concrete used in the construction of the Cavaness House. Cavaness' clever use of the found material produced an outstanding structure that incorporates elements of both the Classical and the Colonial Revival styles. The building's acute symmetry and monumental proportions together with its great portico with Ionic columns and simple dentiled entablature reflect an interest in Classicism. Its hipped roofs, gabled dormers, and beautifully articulated entrance with exquisite leaded-glass fanlight respond to the dictates of Colonial Revival design. This unusual use of concrete block in residential design at so early a date in southeastern Arkansas to create a well-conceived "high style" profile out of rugged building fabric vests the Cavaness house with a unique character.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of South Arkansas, Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.
Louise S. Godwin, local historian, interview, February 19, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Monticello, south

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>115</u>	<u>611201810</u>	<u>31721081010</u>			
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D		
E				F		
G				H		

Verbal boundary description and justification

Part of Block 201: property runs approximately 175 ft. south and west from the corner of South Main and West College St. Monticello, Arkansas

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 Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian

organization Ark. Historic Preservation Program date

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone 501/371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer date March 18, 1980

For HCRS 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

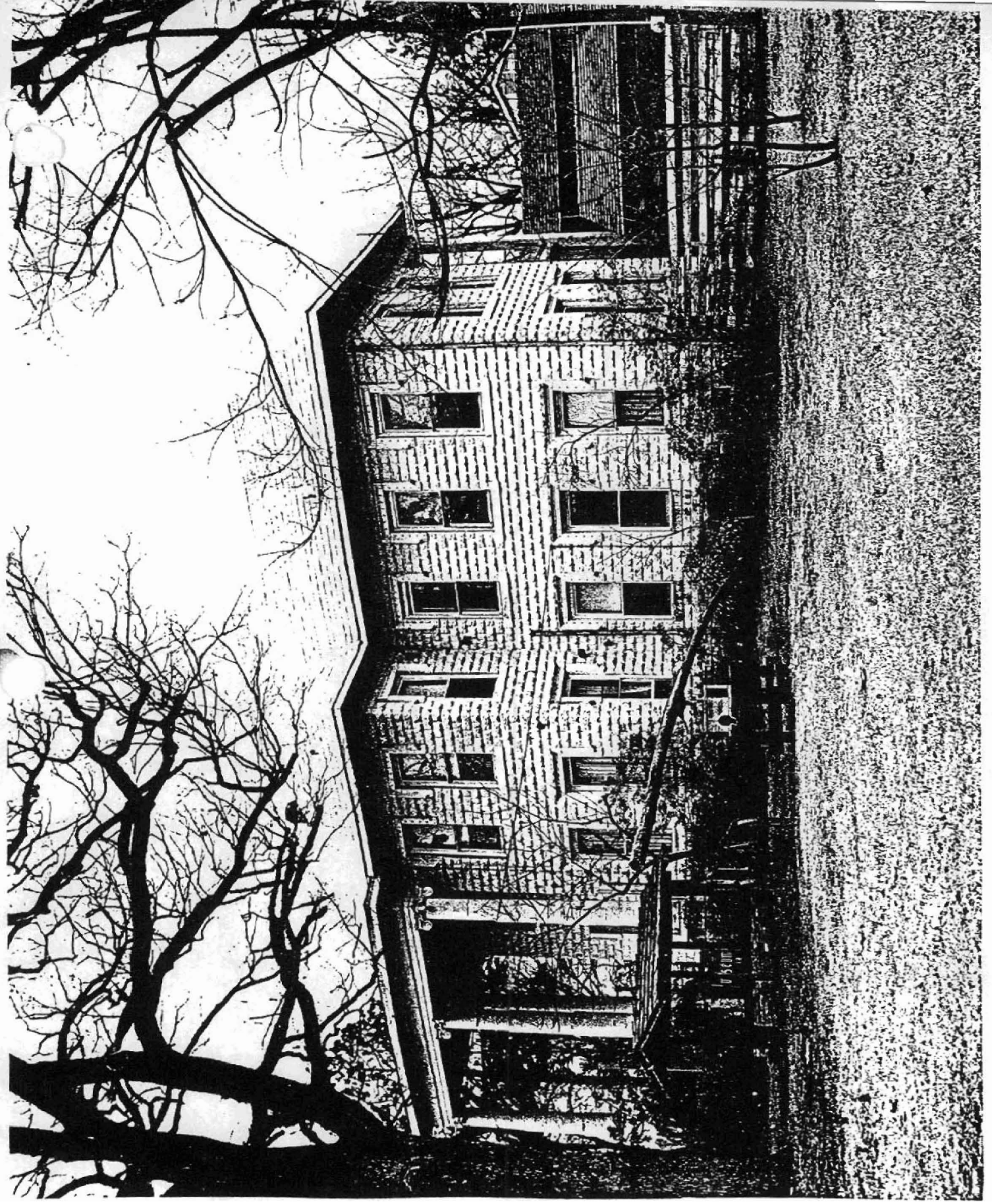


GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
East elevation from east

1 of 7

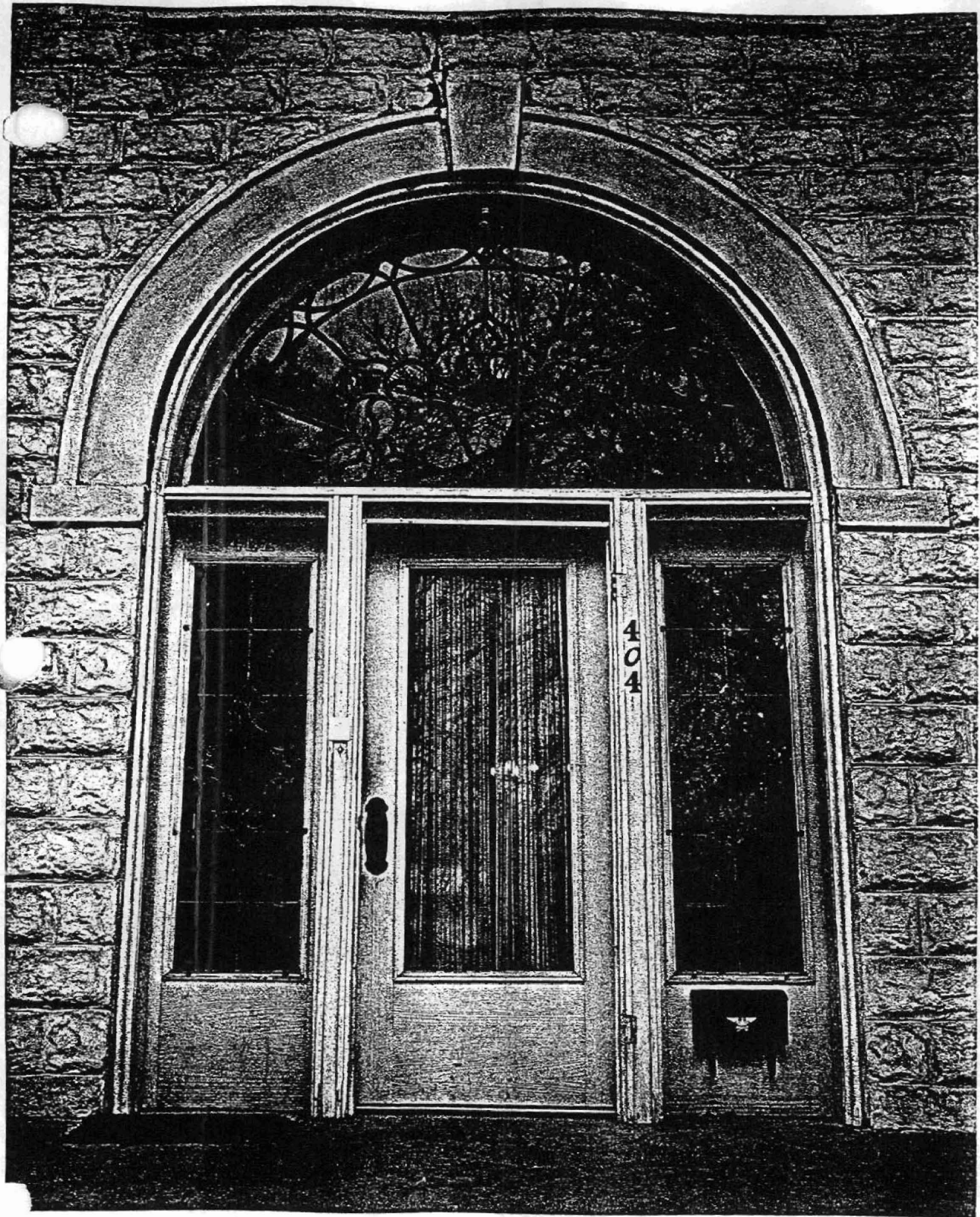


GARVIN CAVENESS HOUSE

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
North elevation from northwest

4 of 7

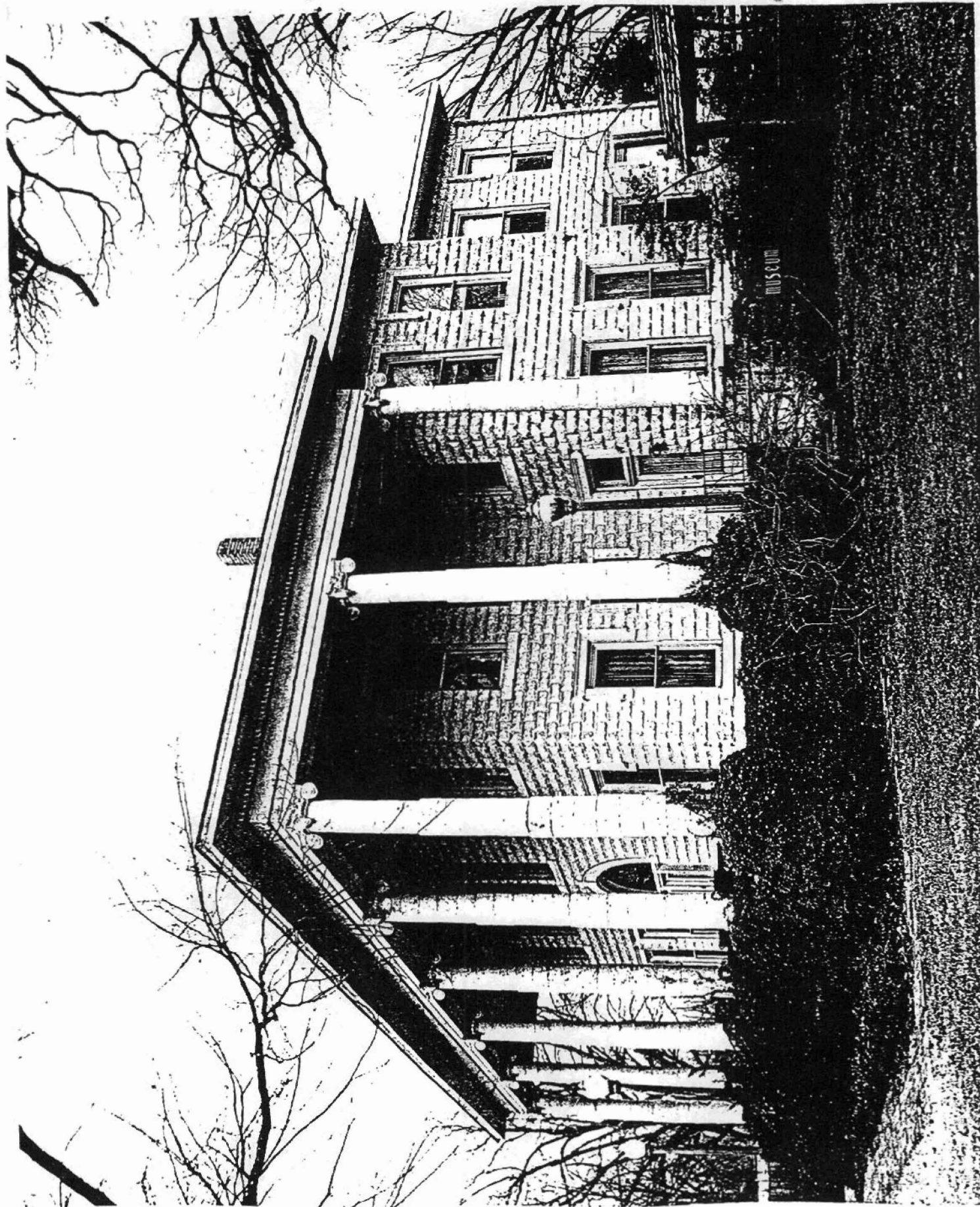


GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Detail of main entry from east

2 of 7



MUSEUM

11

GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
East and west elevations from northeast



GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

*
Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
West elevation from west

5 of 7



GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
South elevation from southeast

6 of 7



GARVIN CAVANESS HOUSE

404 South Main
Monticello, Drew County, Arkansas

Robert Dunn, February 19, 1980
Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program
Detail of portico from south

7 of 7