

NR listed 9/05/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Blessing Farmstead

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number East off of Highway 107

not for publication N/A

city, town Barney

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Faulkner

code AR 045

zip code 72047

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

private

public-local

public-State

public-Federal

Category of Property

building(s)

district

site

structure

object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

2

_____ buildings

1

_____ sites

3

_____ structures

_____ objects

_____ Total

of related multiple property listing: _____

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Cathryn H. Buford
Signature of certifying official

7-21-90
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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Processing

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: dogtrot

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Log

Weatherboard

roof Metal

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
ARCHEOLOGY/Historic-Non-aboriginal
AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1900
1872-1940
1872-1940

Significant Dates

N/A
N/A
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

European

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Andrew Jackson Blessing

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Approximately 6

UTM References

A 15 569000 3901080
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource which retains its integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Angela Albright, National Register Assistant
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date July 8, 1990
street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501)371-2763
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Summary

The Blessing House is a gable roof, vernacular dogtrot of log and frame construction. Included in the nomination are such associated buildings and landscape features as a storm cellar, a forge, three wells, an historic road and a garden.

Elaboration

The Blessing House is a good example, and the only one in the Barney vicinity, of a vernacular log dogtrot. It is located just east of Highway 107, and is approximately ten miles east of Greenbrier along the East Fork of Cadron Creek.

Even though the Blessing House was built c. 1872, and is currently unoccupied, it remains in good condition. One pen, the original building, is of log construction, and the later second pen is of frame construction, while the foundation consists of stone piers. The same stone is used in the two exterior stone chimneys on each end of the house. They are in remarkably good condition considering they are merely stacked rock with some clay filler and no mortar. The walls of the early pen still consist of logs, while the later frame pen is covered with weatherboard. The gable roof over the house is metal and the evidence of the later addition of the frame pen is visible in the break in the roof line. A porch extends across the entire front of the house and is covered by a shed roof. The porch roof is supported by eight simple, wooden posts. A rear shed projection on the northeastern corner of the house was the kitchen at one time. All the windows are double-hung, with four-over-four and six-over-six pane arrangements. The fireplace in the eastern log pen has an unusually large box and stone lintel. The fireplace at the opposite end of the house also has a large stone lintel, but is nearly covered by a wooden mantel. On the corners of the mantel are some unusual wooden ornamentation in a stair-step pattern. A small loft, used for the children's bedroom, is found above the eastern log pen. A small set of stairs in the southeastern corner of the pen leads to this loft. The first two steps are visible from the downstairs, but the rest of the staircase is enclosed and not visible because of a door shutting off the upstairs from the downstairs. Approximately half way up, the stairs turn ninety degrees and open into the loft. Wooden supports are spaced evenly across the loft floor beneath the ridge.

Approximately sixty yards northwest of the house is a rectangular stone building of cut-stone masonry construction. Though it was originally built as an above-ground storm cellar, it was used later as a smokehouse. It is of frame construction and has cut-stone walls with a continuous stone foundation. The stone is sandstone rock that was found on the farmstead. The building was constructed c. 1935 and was probably influenced by W. P. A. work being done in nearby Woolly Hollow State Park. Mr. Elin Merriman, presently

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residing in Conway, did the rock work, and Mr. J. M. Blessing, then owner of the house, did the carpentry work. An exterior cut-stone chimney stands at the northern elevation of the smokehouse.

Three wells are found throughout the farmstead. The well that was once found in front of the smokehouse has been filled in for safety reasons. The second well is found just a few feet directly in front of the house. The third well is located approximately fifty yards northeast of the house. At least one of the wells is over eighty feet deep.

East of the house is a stone forge where Mr. Blessing did his own smithing. He probably forged such things as hinges, horseshoes, nails, etc. for use on the farm. Further east, near the well, is an outbuilding now sheathed with corrugated metal, but which retains its historic flooring.

Across the road to the southwest is a man-made pond. It was created for raising livestock; however, it is not historic.

Running from east to west in front of the house is a road that was an active road at one time. It divides the house and outbuildings from the fields, garden, and livestock area.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1**Summary**

The Blessing House is an excellent example of the vernacular house type known as the dogtrot. The single log pen remains remarkably intact and the whole house displays the typical evolution of the single pen home to the double pen dogtrot. For this reason, and because it is the only house of its type remaining in the area, it is being nominated under criterion C. Because the house, pond, garden area, forge, wells, and two outbuildings remain, this site is likely to yield valuable information concerning commercial and subsistence farming on the rural farmstead in Faulkner County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries; therefore, the Blessing House is also being nominated under criterion D with local significance.

Elaboration

Andrew Jackson Blessing and his wife Martha Selby came to Faulkner County, Arkansas from what is now Jackson County, Alabama in 1865. They had seven children, one of whom was Jonah. They originally settled a few miles northwest of the present site, but moved to Barney in 1872, upon completion of the log cabin. They were some of the first residents in the area and had to clear the land in order to farm it. Andrew Jackson Blessing was probably a carpenter as well as a farmer, as the top of the log walls have been found to be perfectly level. Also, he did his own smithing. Since the origination of the Blessing farmstead, row crops such as corn, cotton, and sorghum have been grown; livestock such as cattle, horses, and chickens were also raised. A garden area indicates that many vegetables were grown for the subsistence of the family. Jonah Blessing, father of J. Milton Blessing, assumed responsibility for the farmstead, and later passed it on to his son J. Milton, who owned it until recently. Mr. Carroll Winter is now the owner of the house and surrounding acreage.

The original town of Barney was named after Barney Heffington, who in 1902 operated the only store and the post office. The post office was short lived and mail was then delivered by rural routes. It was a thriving community with a two-teacher, eight grade school, two churches, and a store. In 1915 a tornado swept away every building--the store, the school, and the two churches. One congregation still exists at Crossroads after having re-established its congregation in the 1930's and 1940's. The Blessing house and surrounding farmstead are the only remains of the town of Barney in existence today.

Archeological information could supply valuable information regarding farming practices, both commercial and subsistence, in rural Faulkner County in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The presence of the forge could yield such information as to the types of tools and equipment used on the farm and the tools and methods for making and repairing these tools and equipment. Knowledge of commercial trading, transportation, and the community of Barney, could be furnished by the existing road. The outbuildings, like the forge, are likely to afford information on the types of tools and equipment used on the farm, but also might suggest the type of livestock or crops raised on the farm and in the surrounding fields. Archeological findings in the area surrounding the house, particularly the wells or privy (if one existed), could document the lifestyle of the Blessing family and other families in rural Faulkner County. Wells and privies often provide artifacts such as plates, toys, utensils, etc. that indicate the economic and social status of the people that once lived there.

The Blessing House and its surrounding farmstead is significant because it is architecturally an excellent example of a typical vernacular house type no longer existing in the area, its archeological potential is valuable, and it is the only structure remaining in what was once a thriving community along the East Fork of Cadron Creek.

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Bibliography

The History of Faulkner County Arkansas, Alex McPherson, 1927: Conway Times Plant.

Faulkner County: Its Land and People, p. 285, Jessie T. Harrison, 1986: Faulkner County Historical Society.

Faulkner County, Arkansas, Robert L. Gatewood, 1964.

The Moser Farmstead, Independent but not Isolated: the Archeology of a Late Nineteenth Century Ozark Farmstead, Leslie C. Stewart-Abernathy, 1986: Arkansas Archeological Survey Research Series No. 26.

Document written by the Faulkner County Historical Society.

Interview with Mr. Don Blessing (nephew of J. Milton Blessing).

Interview with Mr. Randall Blessing (son of J. Milton Blessing).

Interview with Mr. Sherman Blessing (brother of J. Milton Blessing).

Interview with Mrs. Theda Anhalt (distant relative of J. Milton Blessing).

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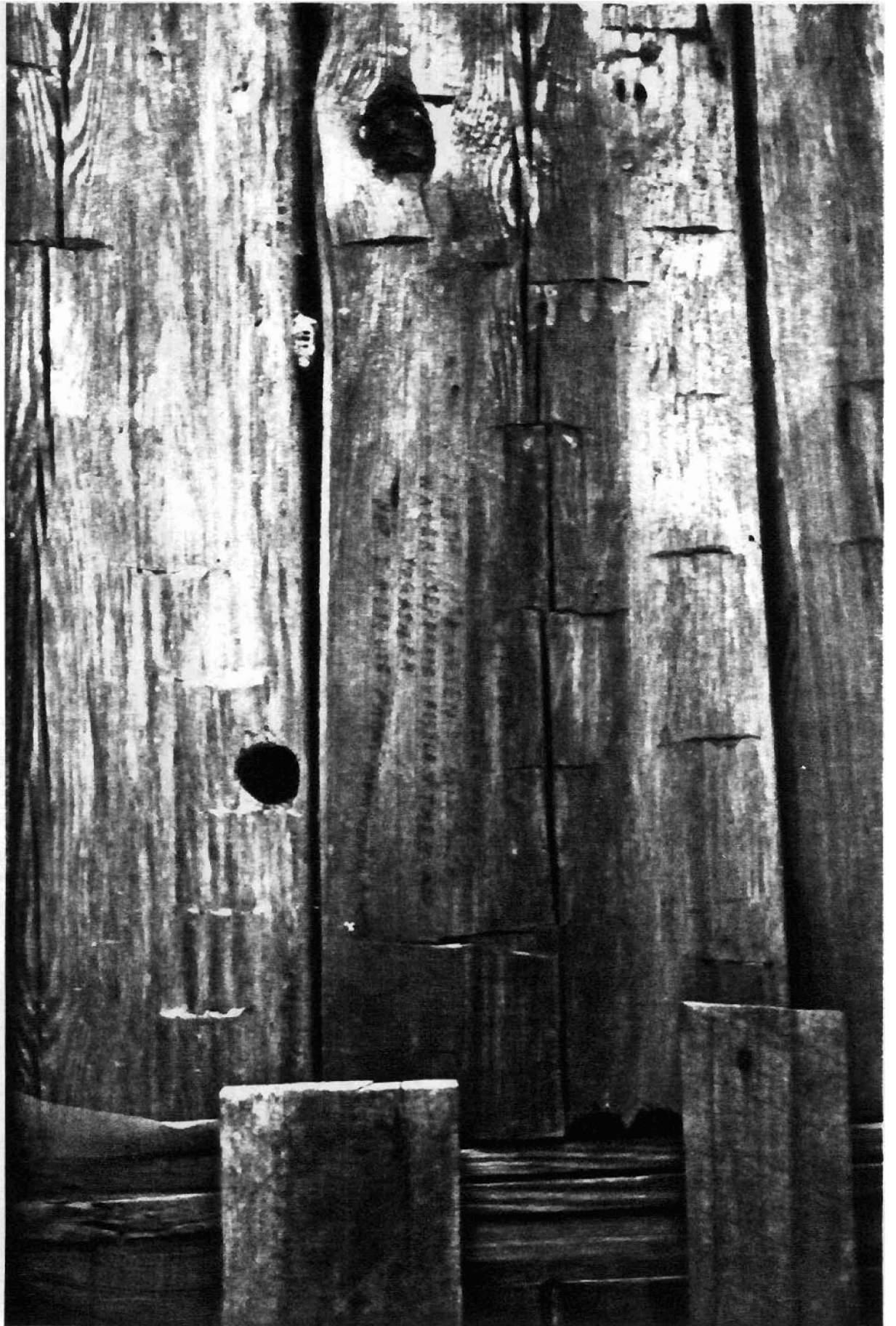
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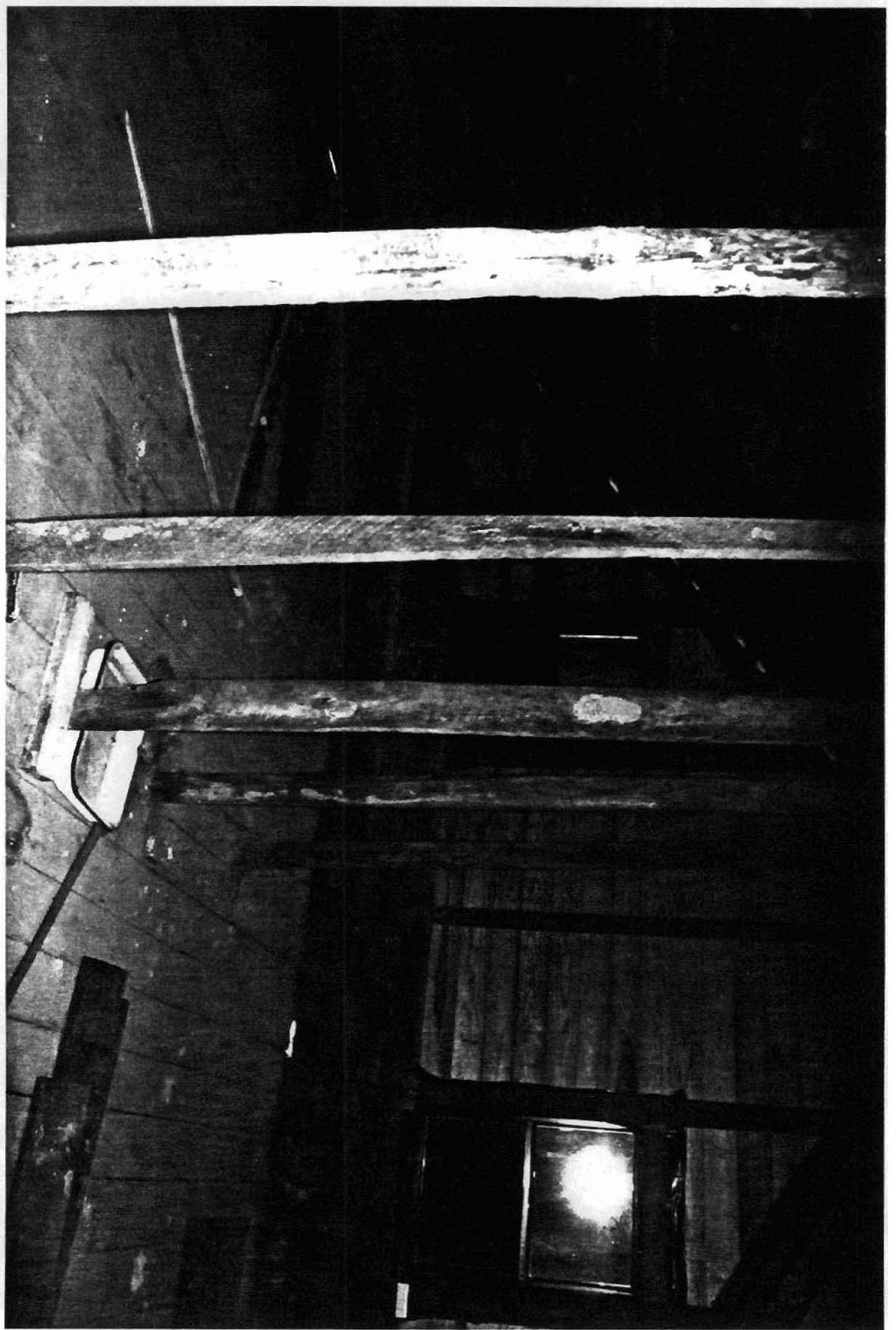
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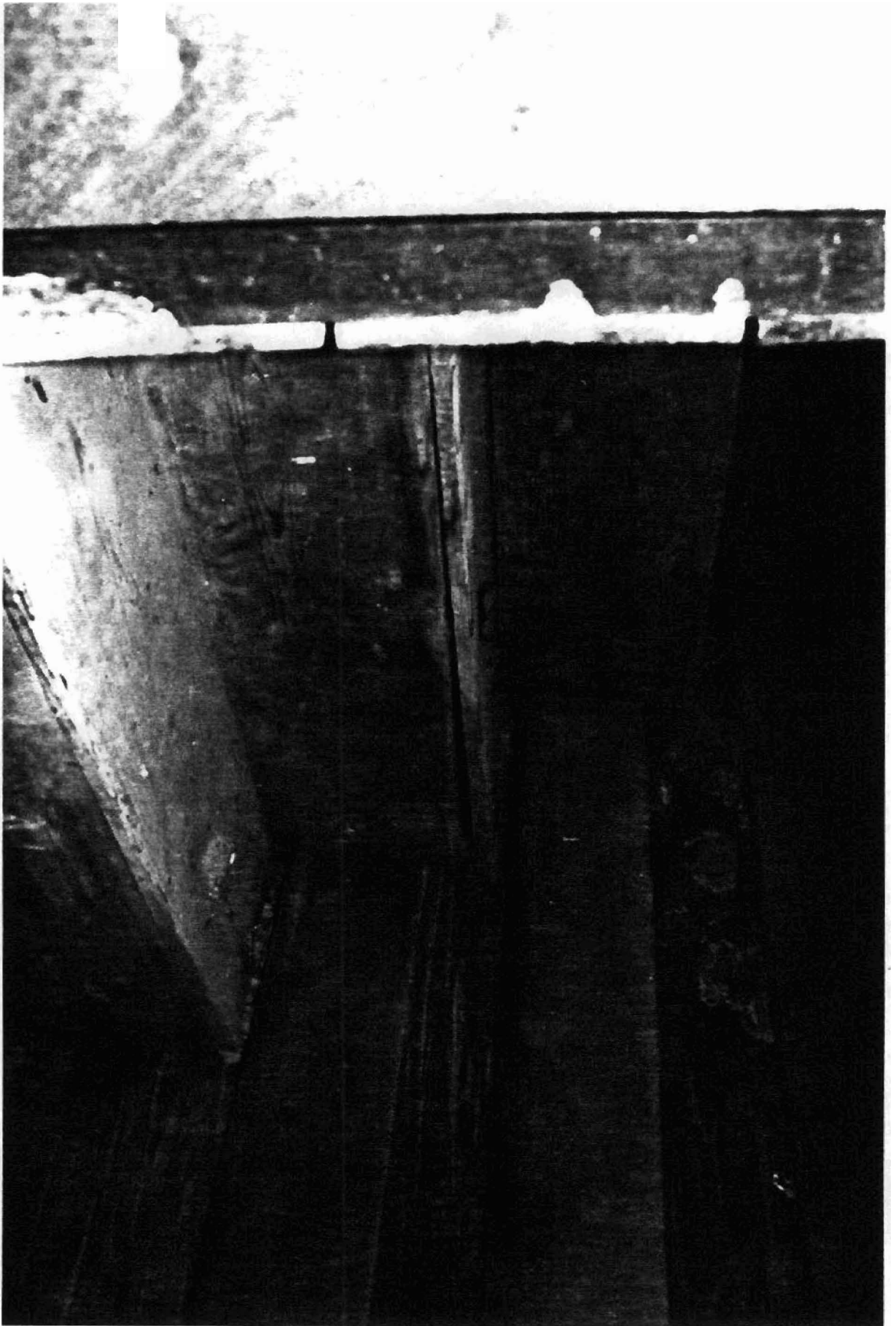
Beginning at Bench Mark #415, proceed southerly along the eastern edge of County Road #168 to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line skirting the southern edge of the livestock pond; thence proceed easterly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the eastern edge of the associated garden; thence proceed northerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern elevation of the associated smokehouse; thence proceed westerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line that runs along the eastern edge of County Road #168 below Bench Mark #415; thence proceed southerly along said line to the point of beginning.

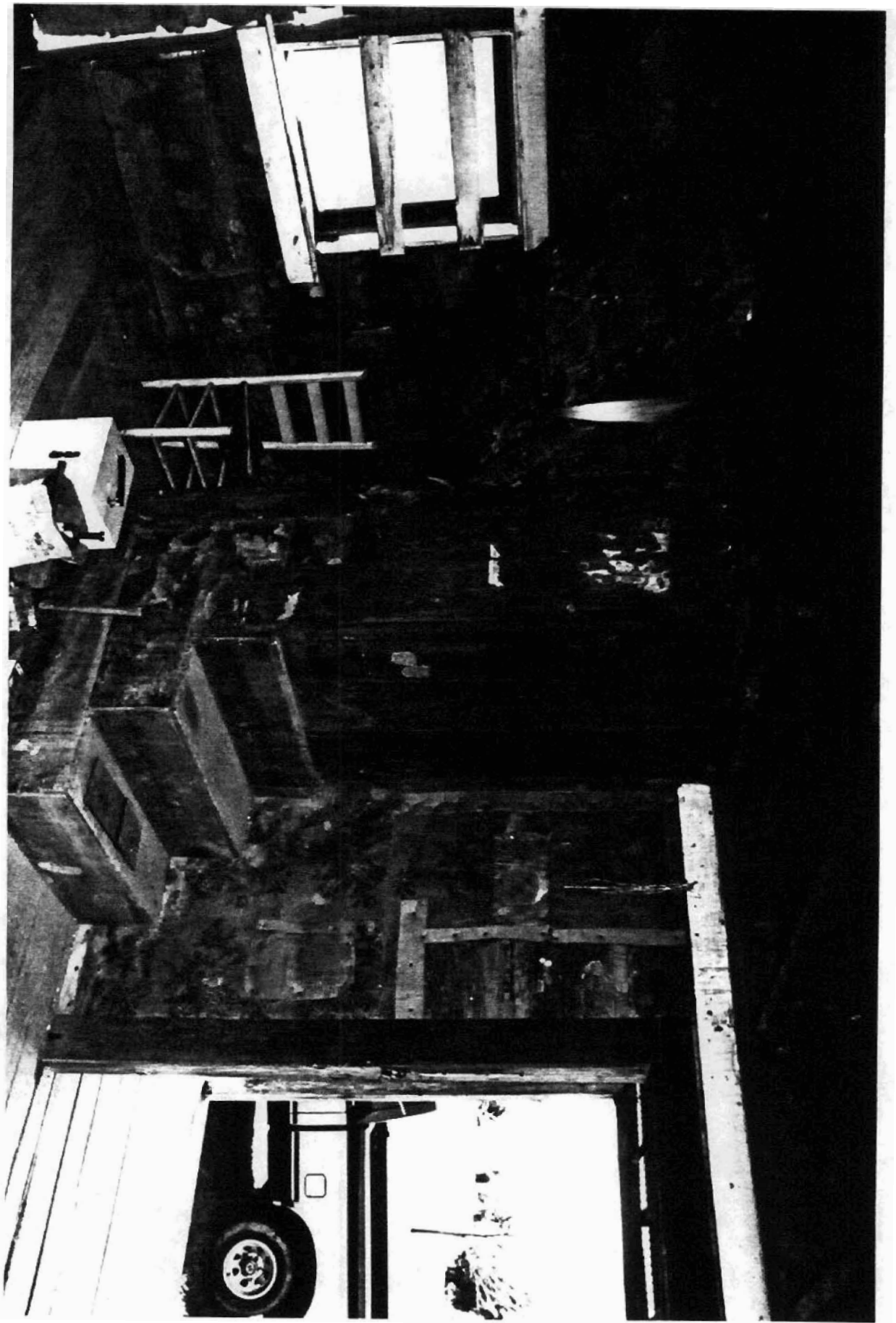


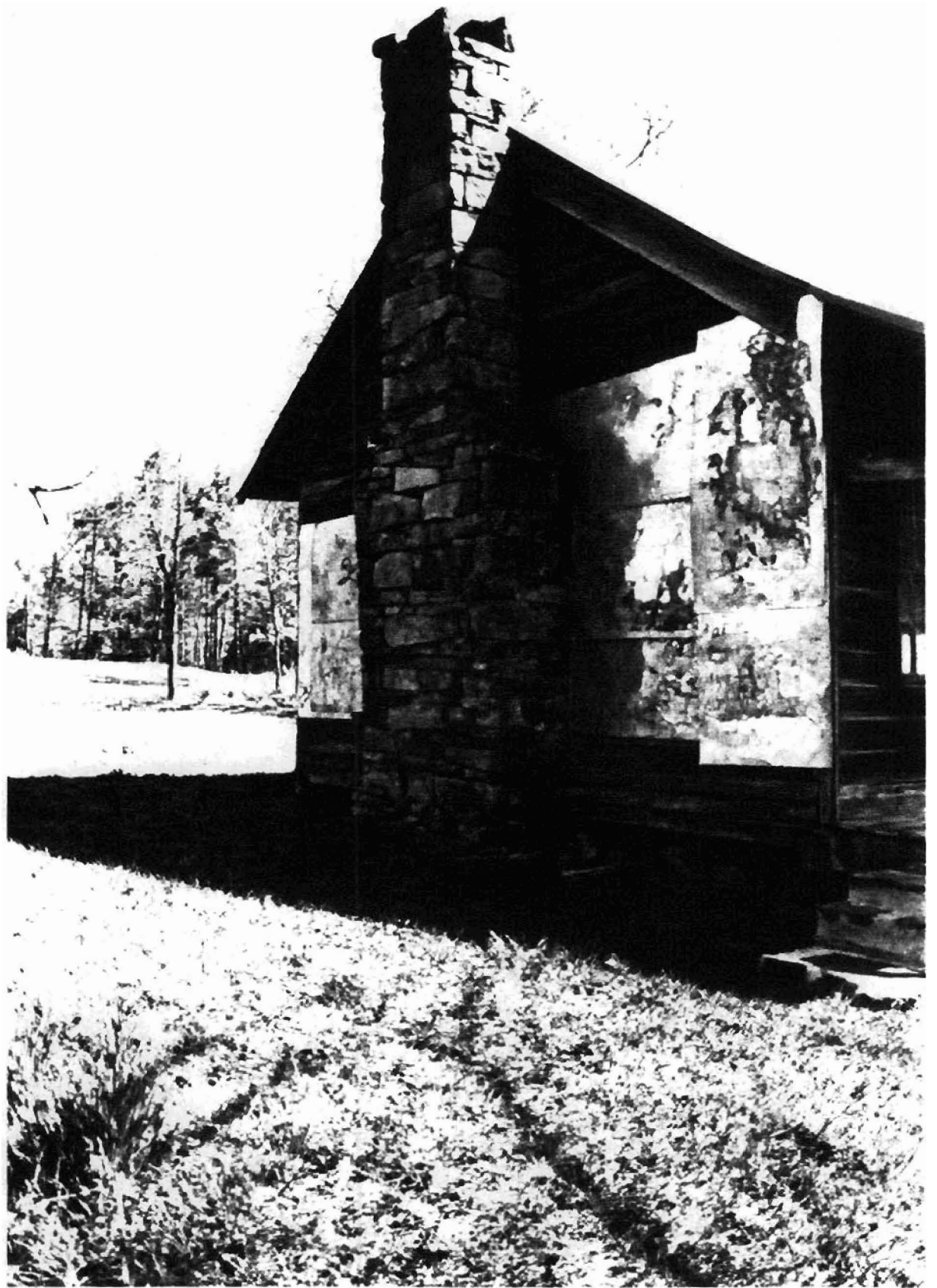


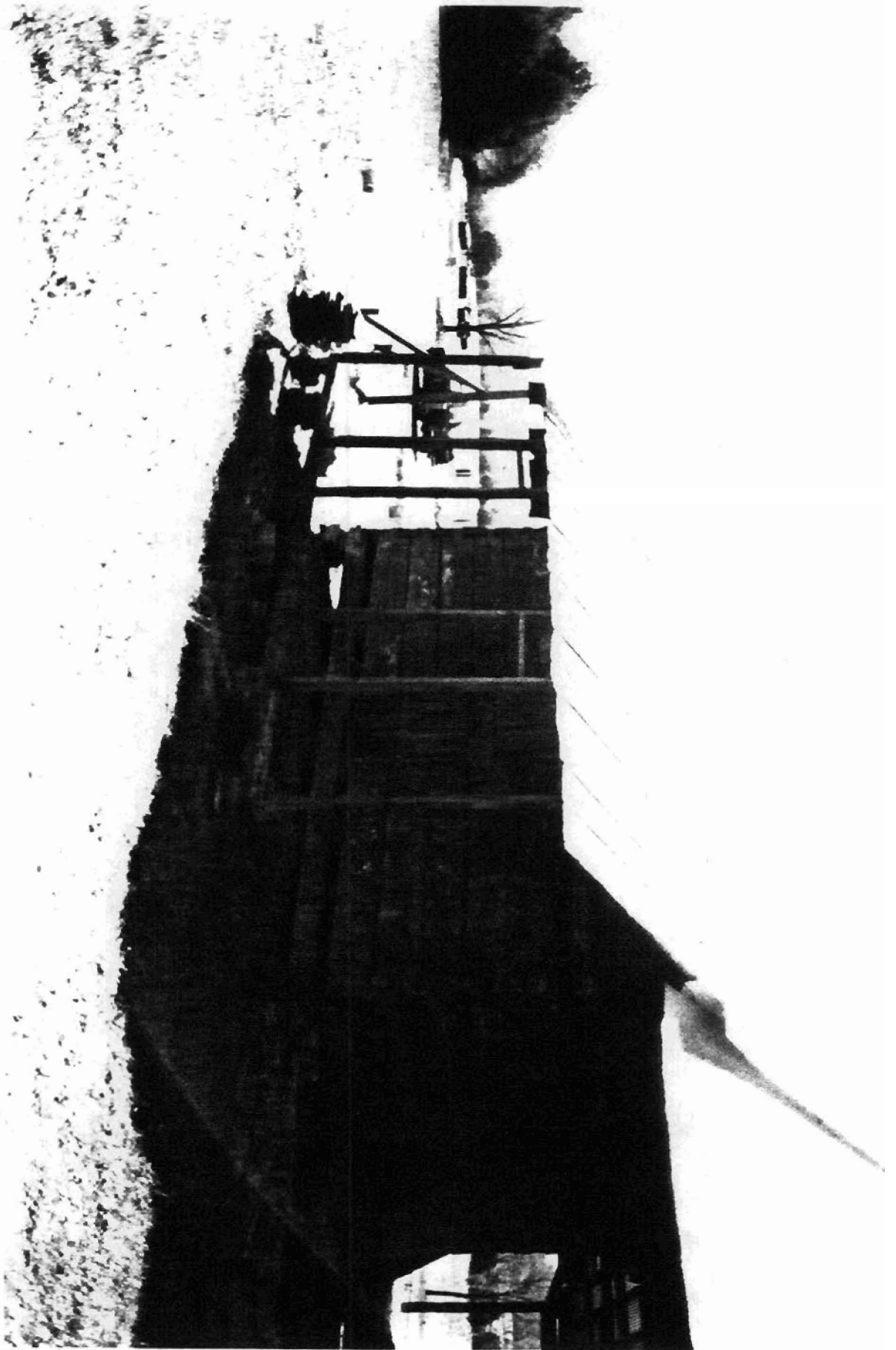


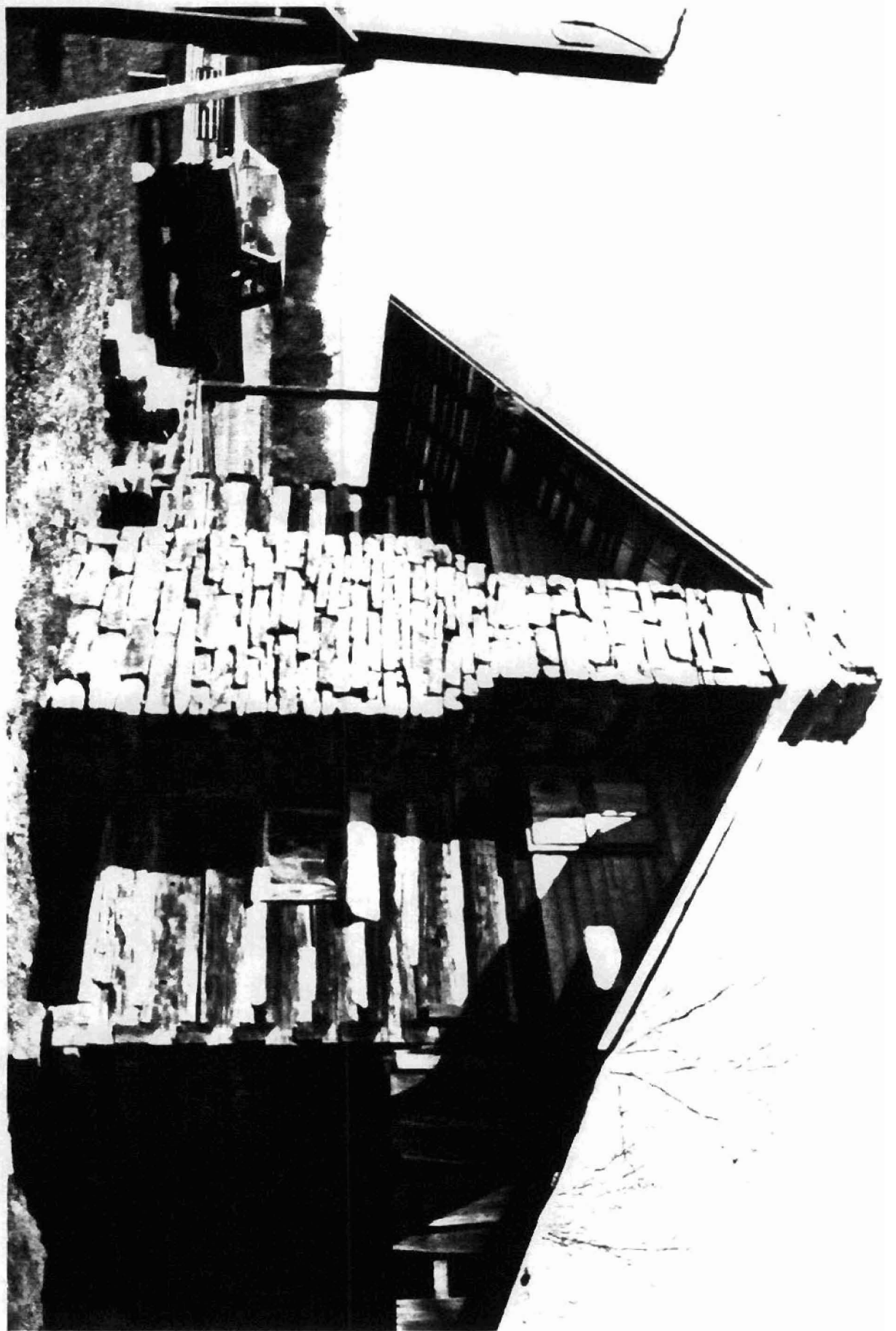


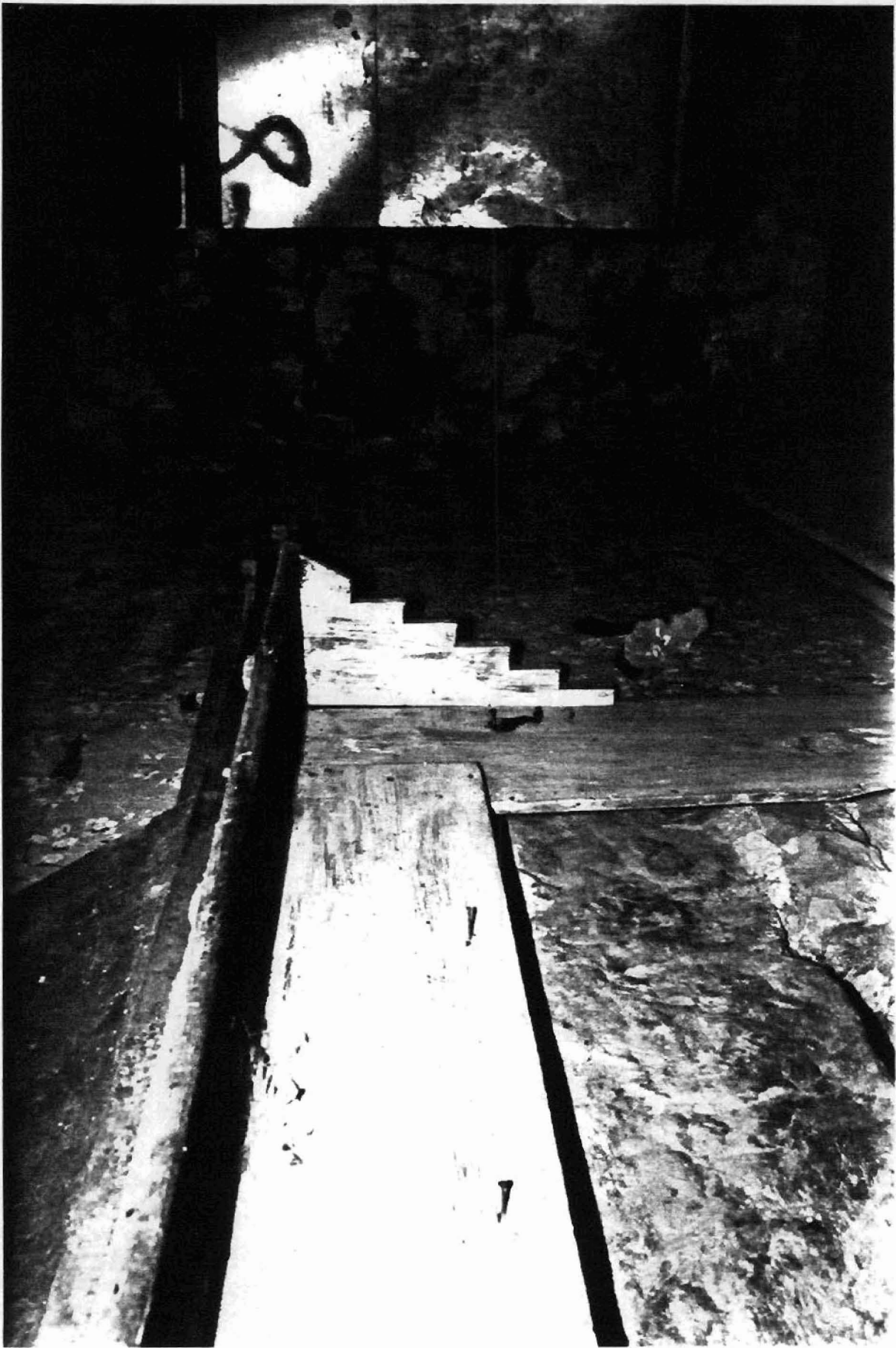


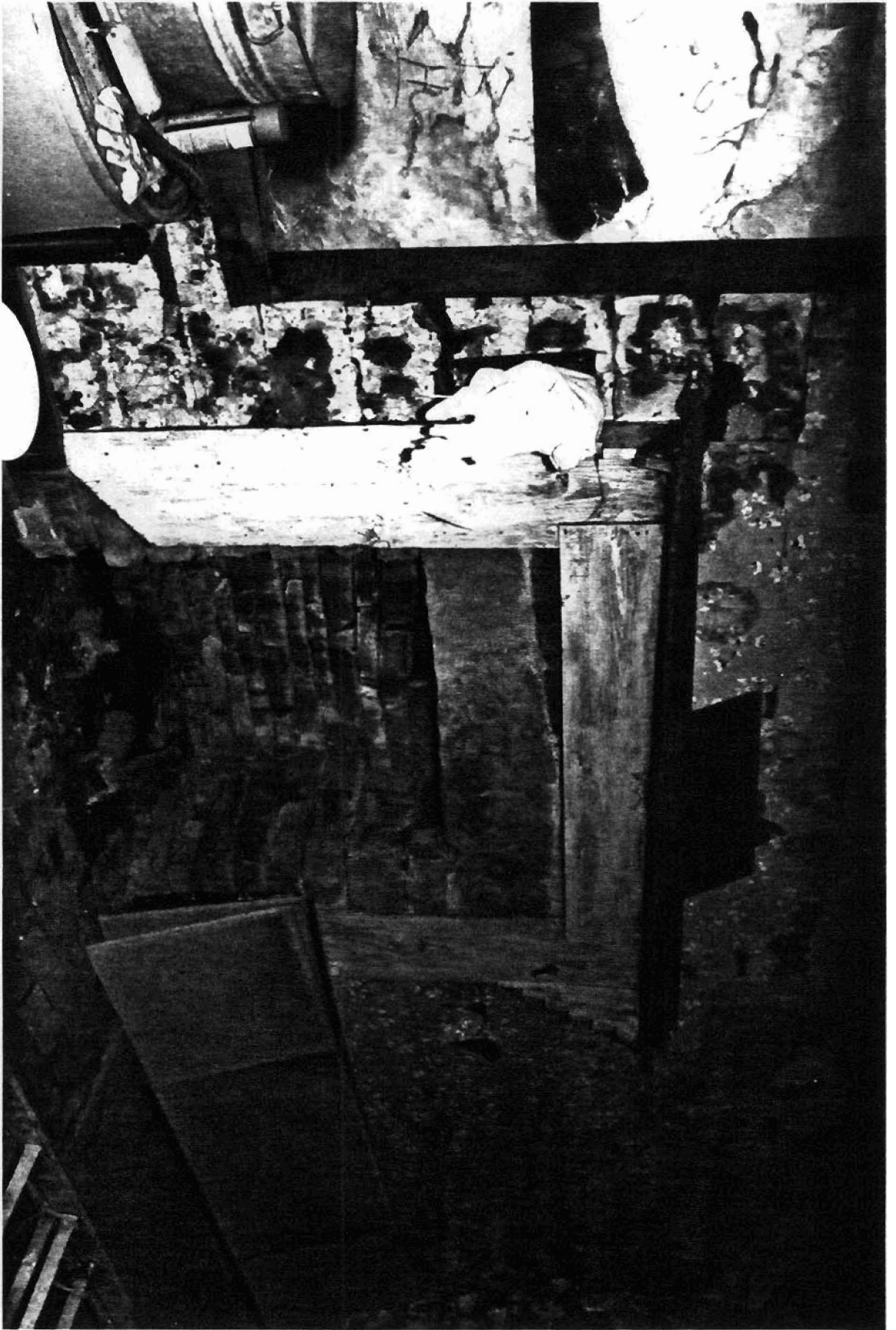




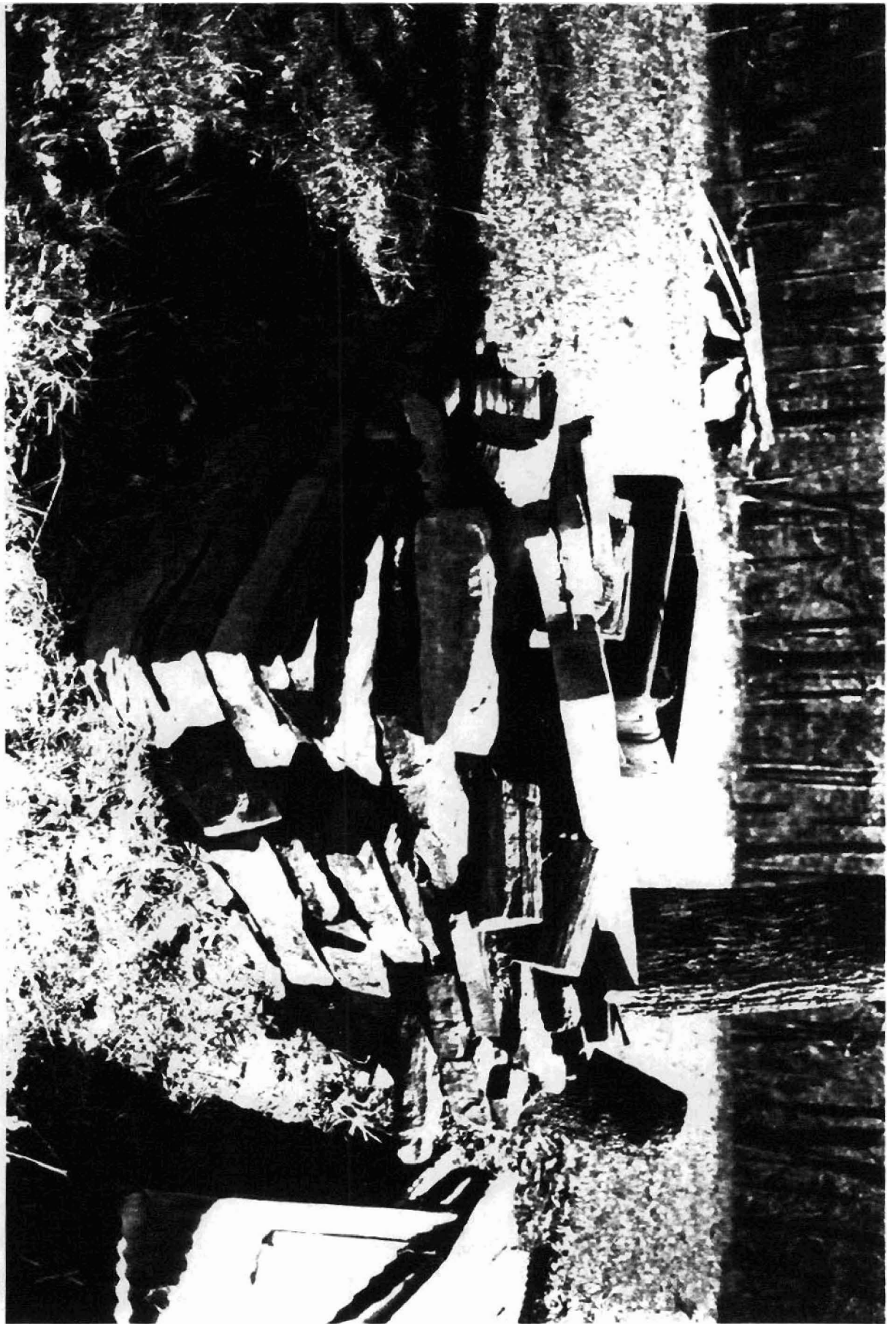




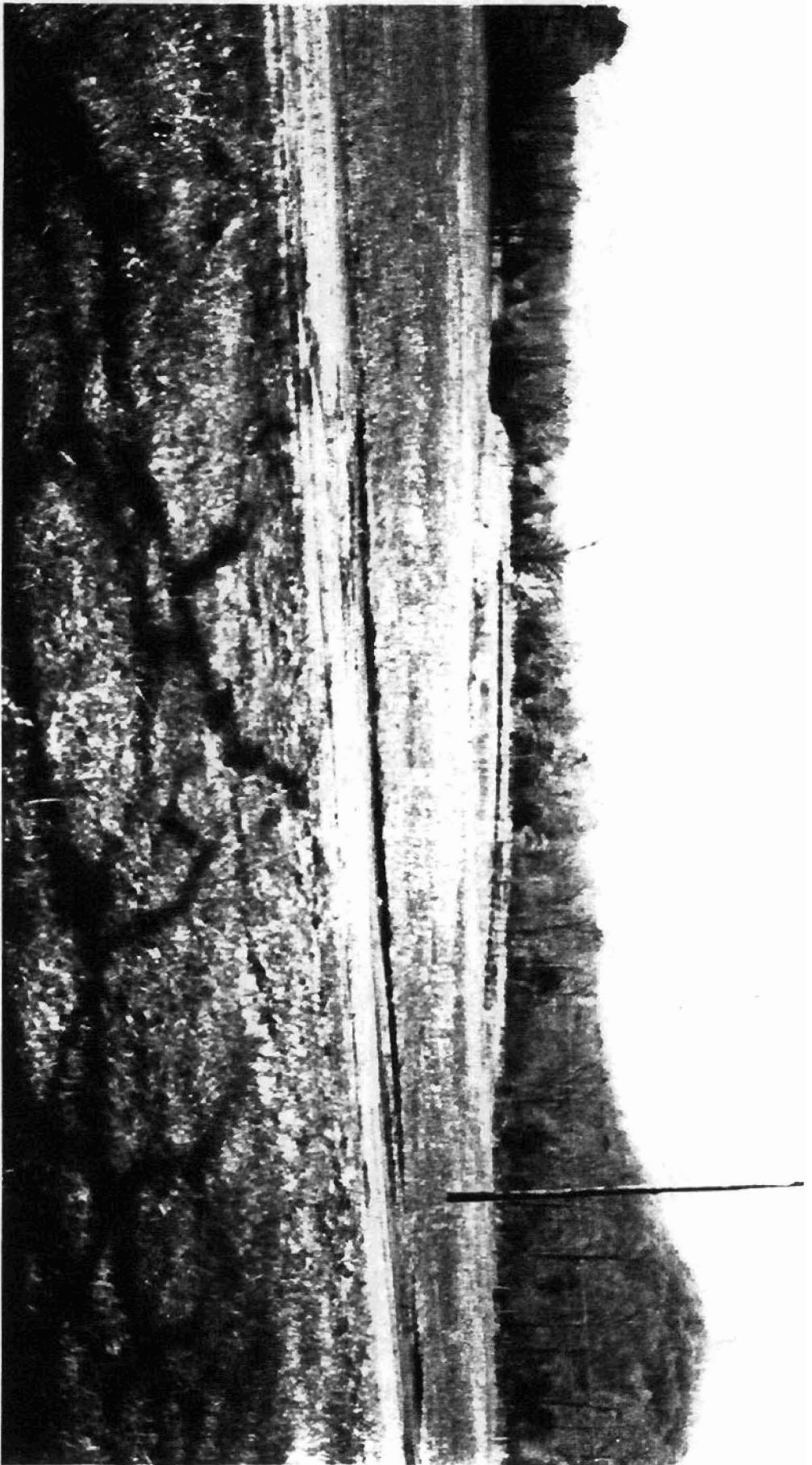








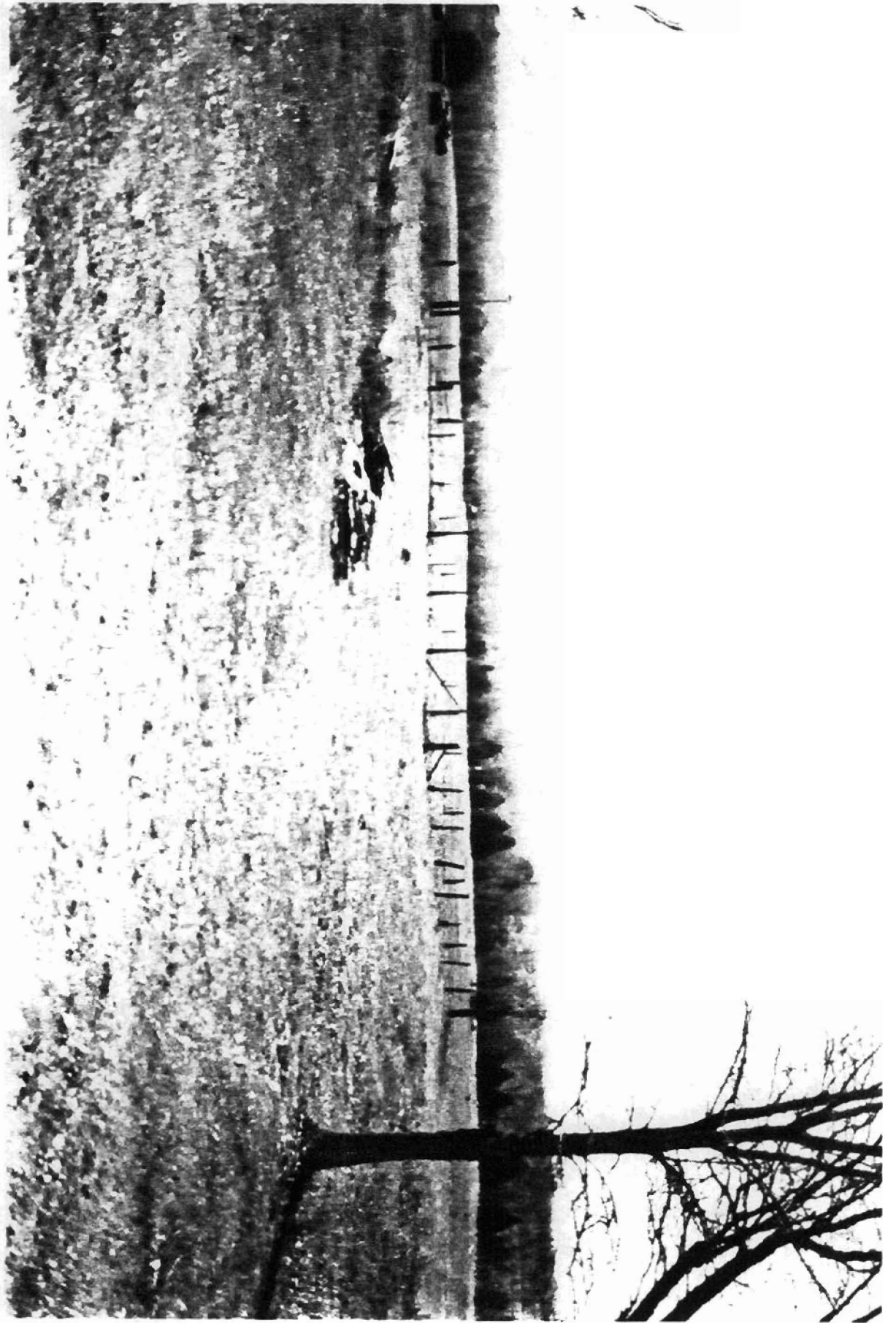




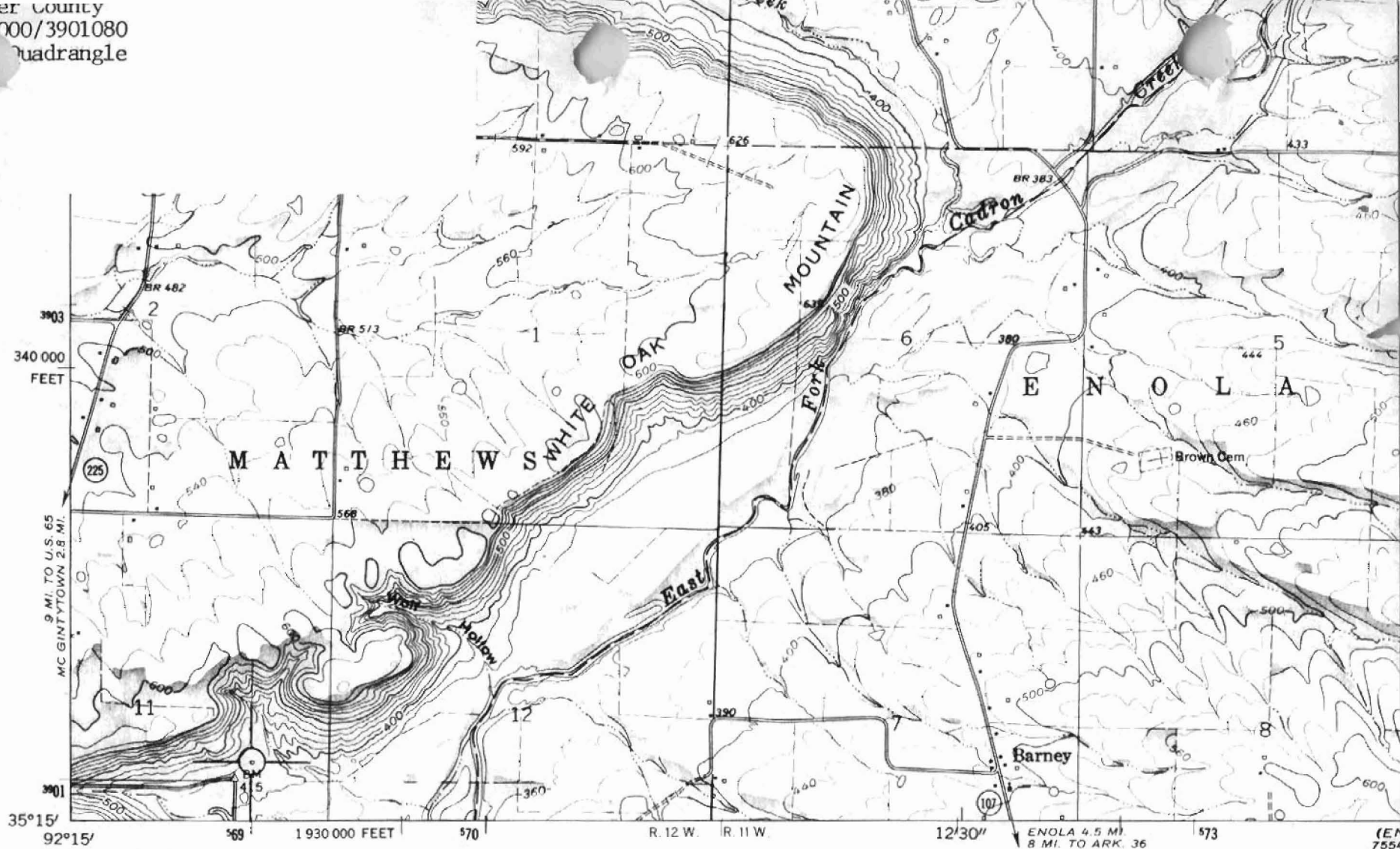






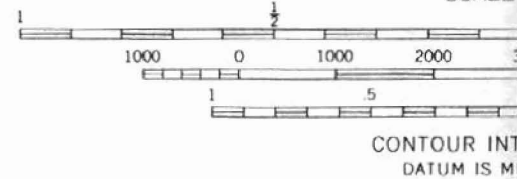
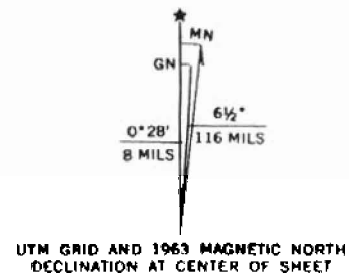


Franklin County
 15/562000/3901080
 Barney Quadrangle
 1:24,000



(CONWAY 1:62 5000)
 7554 III

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1963
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, north zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 15, shown in blue
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



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