

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Listed
10-9-2009

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 Hardy Cemetery
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 722 AR Hwy 225 E not for publication
city or town Centerville vicinity
state AR code AR county Faulkner code 045 zip code 72166

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.)
Cacher Macebo 8/21/09
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
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 _____

Hardy Cemetery

Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR

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

	buildings
1	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)

FUNERARY/CEMETERY

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/CEMETERY

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

VERNACULAR

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls Concrete

roof

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 figure of historical 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

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1939-1945

Significant Dates

1939-1945

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Dr. Henry Baxton Hardy

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

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Hardy Cemetery

Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR

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

	buildings
1	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)

FUNERARY/CEMETERY

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

FUNERARY/CEMETERY

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation

walls Concrete

roof

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 moved from its original location.
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

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1939-1945

Significant Dates

1939-1945

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Dr. Henry Baxton Hardy

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):

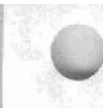
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
Previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering

Primary location of additional data:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Record #



Hardy Cemetery

Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 568150 3901917
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
4
Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

From a point of beginning at the northwest corner of the cemetery proceed east 99.43 feet, thence south 188.6 feet, thence west 118.36 feet, thence north 166.84 feet to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holly Hope/ Special Projects Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 08/21/09
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501 324-9880
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 Will Glenn
street & number 722 Hwy 225E telephone 501 314-9174
city or town Greenbrier state AR zip code 72829

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

The Hardy Cemetery is located at 722 AR Hwy 225 E on private property in Centerville. The cemetery contains six concrete barrel-vaulted above-ground tombs. The three-acre site is east of the highway and is accessed by a short dirt driveway lined on either side by rows of cedar trees. The cemetery is bounded by barbed wire on the north, west and south sides. The east boundary of the cemetery is marked by a row of cedar trees, beyond which is an open field. No other graves besides those of the Hardy family are in the grounds. There is no signage marking the cemetery's location.

The earliest burial is that of Mrs. Cora Hardy in 1939 and the latest is Dr. Henry Hardy's in 1945.

ELABORATION

The Hardy Cemetery is the resting place of Dr. Henry Baxton Hardy, his first wife Cora Moore Hardy and their son Marco Hardy. The family is interred in three of six concrete barrel-vaulted tombs arranged in a row north to south. Removable concrete lids were slid onto the top of the tombs by a movable metal hoist, which remains in the cemetery. Metal tracks for the hoist remain on the east and west sides of the tombs as do metal elbow brackets for lifting the lids. The tombs are roughly in the center of the cemetery. Cedar trees surround the tombs.

Dr. Hardy and his wife are buried in the two northern tombs and their graves are designated by granite block markers engraved with primrose flowers symbolic of eternal

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love, youth, hope and sadness. Their son, Wilbur Marco Hardy died in 1940, and is buried adjacent to Dr. Hardy. His grave is marked with a granite block with primrose symbol as well. A third tomb the same size as the Hardy's is unmarked and contains no coffin. To the south of these are two taller empty tombs that share a single box. This was to be the burial site of the Hardy's daughter, Neppie, and her husband; however, after the second marriage of Dr. Hardy to Daisy Thompson, Neppie and the remaining children, Orlin, Linnie, Heber, Tressie and Gay opted to be buried elsewhere. Prior to the estrangement of the family Neppie had requested that she and her husband have tombs raised higher from the ground, thus the reason for the difference in size. The only decorative treatment on the tombs is that on the block markers; otherwise, they display a spare, utilitarian configuration.

The cemetery has become overgrown in recent years but interested neighbors and the current landowner, Will Glenn, have worked to clean out the grounds, preventing further deterioration and loss of integrity. The tombs are in good shape despite the encroachment of trees between the graves.

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SUMMARY

The Hardy Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register under Criteria B and C, Criterion Consideration C and D with local significance, for its association with Dr. Henry Baxton Hardy and as an example of a rural family cemetery, which exhibits vernacular funerary architecture. Dr. Hardy served the community of Centerville in Faulkner County as a doctor and ran a general store with his clinic and office in the back on Arkansas Highway 225 E, then known as the "Hardy Highway." Dr. Hardy also served as a state Representative and state Senator. He was instrumental in the formation of the Centerville Community Service Center, a cooperative New Deal project started in 1937 to aid the farmers of Centerville and surrounding areas through self-help. The formation of this project was primarily facilitated and organized by Dr. Hardy and erected on property he donated for the purpose. The service center was considered unique within a Farm Security Administration region that encompassed Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, as the first such cooperative venture of its kind. Newspaper articles of the late 1930s stated that it was indeed a distinctive program throughout the nation.

Besides his interest in the service center, Dr. Hardy was an enthusiastic supporter of the Centerville community and worked in many areas to bring improved services to the residents and the Centerville school complex. Dr. Hardy's time was spent traveling between Little Rock and Centerville during the years he served in the General Assembly but his home, community store and practice were in Centerville, as was the service

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center, inspired by his desire to help the community during the Great Depression. There are three buildings that remain in Centerville that were associated with the service center and Dr. Hardy; however, two have been remodeled to the extent that they no longer convey their historic appearance and the third is a ruin. For this reason the Hardy Cemetery is being presented as a link to the various contributions of Dr. Henry B. Hardy to the community of Centerville and to the state through his efforts to organize the Centerville Community Service Center.

ELABORATION

The Hardy Cemetery in Centerville, Faulkner County, was intended to be a family cemetery for Dr. Henry Baxton Hardy, his wife Cora and their seven children, Neppie, Orlin, Linnie, Heber, Tressie, Marco and Gay. Due to a rift in the family at the time of his remarriage in 1941, only the doctor, Cora and their son Marco, who died in 1940, are interred in the concrete tombs on the grounds.

Centerville lies ten miles east of Greenbrier and approximately one and a half miles east of Woolly Hollow State Park, originally known as Centerville Park. In the early 19th century the area was settled by farming families who raised cotton and cattle and it remains primarily an agricultural community into the 21st century. There is no commercial center in Centerville and it is marked by a small church and residences separated by undeveloped acreage or open fields. Centerville began as a typical rural agricultural settlement but it became the center of a Depression-era cooperative project that positively impacted the strenuous lives of the farming families in the area. This vital

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venture was conceived and primarily organized by Dr. Henry Baxton Hardy of Centerville.

Dr. Hardy was born near Quitman, north of Centerville, in 1873. After attending a common school he then enrolled in a traveling normal school at Greenbrier for a period of thirty days, which qualified him for a third grade teacher's certificate. In 1894 he was married to Cora Moore of Conway. Although he had completed his thirty day's education in Greenbrier he went back to school for the first year of his marriage then began teaching school and farming. By 1901 he had moved to Little Rock to attend medical school at the University of Arkansas Medical Department. After his first year of school he received a license in Conway to practice medicine. Dr. Hardy continued his education by alternating one year of practice then one year of school until he graduated in 1911. Hardy returned to Faulkner County to serve as the area's physician. His medical office was situated in the back of his general store in Centerville. He also constructed his family's home in the community across the highway from his store at 731 AR 225 W.

Dr. Hardy's service in the state legislature included terms in the House in 1917, 1923 and 1941 and Senate terms in 1927, 1929, 1935, 1937 and 1943. In 1916 Dr. Hardy ran for the state legislature for the first time. He served his first term in the lower house in 1917 and again in 1918. During the 1935 session he served on the Senate Budget Committee, Public Health and Practice of Medicine Committee and Public Charities Committee. At that session he introduced the Old Age Pension Bill, the Free Text Book

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Bill and a bill to strengthen the income tax law. In the 1937 Senate Session he served on the following committees: Apportionment, Journal, Memorials, Public Health, Public Printing and Public Roads. In the 1937 session he introduced Senate Bills 58, 139, 277, 343 and 413.¹

Dr. Hardy's platform throughout his political career was that of economy in state expenditures, aid to the elderly and "unemployables," better rural schools and improved rural and community roads. Dr. Hardy brought his concern for the farm family to bear by obtaining basic services and amenities for the community of Centerville. The first telephones in the area were installed by the doctor for his home and office. He knew that the installation of more telephones within the community could improve his service and save lives, which inspired him to organize a cooperative company at \$1 a share. The money was used to buy phones for dispersal throughout the area. Hardy also arranged for rural mail service to Centerville; an improvement over the three-day a week service residents originally endured. In 1922 Dr. Hardy hosted the Conway Radio Laboratories at his home for a radio demonstration. The laboratory set up its instruments on his front porch and picked up musical programs from Georgia, Kentucky and Missouri for an audience of some 200 people.²

¹ Dallas Herndon, *Arkansas History Commission Biographical Memoranda Arkansas General Assembly*, Dallas T. Herndon Papers, Arkansas History Commission: Little Rock, AR, np.

² Alta Maxwell Huff, "Scattergood of Arkansas," newspaper article provided by Glenna Shumate, Greenbrier, AR; "Dr. H.B. Hardy, Ex-State Senator, Has Done Much for His Homefolks," Circa 1939 newspaper article provided by Glenna Shumate, Greenbrier, AR.; "Please Vote for Dr. Henry B. Hardy," (1942), Information provided by Mrs. Bracey Harvey, Greenbrier, AR, 2009; Jenny Oliver, "Yesterdays," *The Log Cabin Democrat*, (July 31, 1997).

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Through Dr. Hardy's efforts the 1914 Centerville School was expanded in 1927 when he applied for a revolving loan from the state for the construction of a high school, a Smith-Hughes Building, a home economics building, science and commercial building, community auditorium, gymnasium and teacherage. Because of his work for the school, which was a centerpiece of the community, Dr. Hardy was elected to the school board. In 1939 Hardy dedicated 40 acres of his land to the construction of a dirt runway. Although he did not own an airplane his ambition was to acquire one. The runway was utilized by pilots from Texas and barnstormers but he envisioned the growth of air travel among rural communities as a dominant form of transportation. His hope was that Centerville would be at the forefront of such a movement. An airport was never built there and the runway has returned to nature but it remains an open field as it was when it was constructed.³

Dr. Hardy's early occupation as a farmer enabled him to have empathy for his neighbors as he entered the medical field. On his rounds he witnessed firsthand the conditions that rural families endured during the Great Depression and in everyday life, so he began in 1935 to form a plan to improve the lives of the farming community through a local cooperative venture. At this point in the Depression President Roosevelt had steered his New Deal program away from a policy of financial aid to one of work relief. Hardy was thinking along those lines himself as he began to set up the Centerville Community Service Center.

³ Mrs. T.C. Huff, "Centerville -- A Progressive Rural Village," *The Log Cabin Democrat*, (March 21, 1940); Huff, "Scattergood of Arkansas."

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On his visits to the homes of local farmers he noted that many families had uncomfortable mattresses of straw or grass rather than cotton even though they were surrounded by area fields full of the crop. He also noticed that they had trouble repairing or tuning equipment when needed because there was no blacksmith in the area. Rather than set up a welfare system of handouts he hit upon the idea of a self-help system whereby the farmers would pay a small fee and participate in a collective work center repairing and producing equipment and goods themselves. Individuals were provided with material and assistance through their membership dues and from funds received from the sale of some products from the center.

The first public meeting to discuss the formation of the service center on three acres of land donated by Dr. Hardy was held in the spring of 1935 at Hardy's store in Centerville. At the beginning of 1936 Dr. Hardy and a group of supporters from Centerville submitted a petition to the Faulkner County Circuit Court to incorporate the Centerville Community Service Center. The project was initially hindered by a couple of obstacles. Inferior roads leading to the center needed to be addressed as did the lack of electricity. A frequent plank in Dr. Hardy's platform was the need for better rural roads. Soon after discussion of the service center began Faulkner County received \$32,000 to construct eight miles of the "Hardy Highway," which would be Arkansas Highway 225 today but was originally a farm-to-market road. By 1937 *The Log Cabin Democrat* reported that graveling of the highway by the Works Progress Administration would continue northeast from Hardy's store to "Lon Shaw's place."

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Centerville and adjacent McGintytown received electricity in 1937 via a rural electrification line. The new line, which served 60 customers, was brought from Greenbrier to Dr. Hardy's general store, from there to Centerville School and then to McNew's Store about 10 miles away. While no documentation has been found to link Hardy with these events it seems likely that his position as state Senator at the time was influential in obtaining such amenities. The work center's future being dependent on good roads and electricity makes it probable as well. Newspaper articles from the period also infer as much. Oral interviews with residents of Centerville who were familiar with Dr. Hardy and his work convey the popular opinion that he was instrumental in the modernization of Centerville through his political service.⁴

The mission of the center as stated in the articles of incorporation was "to promote the employment, education and general welfare of its members, its participants and its community by cooperation with the United States Resettlement Administration in the acquisition of equipment for, and instruction and employment in the following lines of co-operative work: 1. Blacksmithing; 2. Woodshop work; 3. Tannery and Leathershop work; 4. Hatchery; 5. Sewings and Domestic Arts; and 6. Threshing." The petition was granted by Faulkner County Judge William J. Waggoner in January 1936, and the center was incorporated as a benevolent association sponsored by the Resettlement Administration. The rural rehabilitation division of the RA also loaned the project

⁴"\$32,000 Granted 'Hardy' Road; 65 Rebuilding Ok'd," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (August 8, 1935); "Celebration Big Success," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (January 7, 1937);

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\$10,146 for a period of twelve years at four per cent interest on funds utilized for construction of buildings and three per cent on funds for equipment

Dr. Hardy initially had another thought on the configuration of the service center, which was to form a tourist resort and community center but A.M. Rogers, state director of the Resettlement Administration, persuaded him to implement the service center. With that formation in mind Dr. Hardy brought in 250 farm families to contribute dues of twenty-five cents and labor and materials to construct five buildings. Several officers were appointed to carry out the duties of administration at the work center. Dr. Hardy served as a director along with Clive Flowers, C.F. Lester, Clarence Hinkle and E.C. Adkins. It has also been recorded that Dr. Hardy served as secretary-treasurer. John Melton Blessing served as president of the corporation.⁵

After the loan from the RA was deposited in the bank, plans for the service center were publicized. It was hailed as the first of its kind in the nation and within a Farm Security Administration region that included Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana. Other cooperative ventures such as Lake Dick in Altheimer (NR 07/03/1975) and Plum Bayou in Wright (NR 06/05/1975), were formed around relocated farm families who either worked a plot of land loaned them from the federal government or jointly worked land with other families while laboring at cooperative tasks for wages. The Centerville Community Service Center was utilized by local low-income farmers (low-income

"First Building of Centerville Project Nearing Completion," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (October 28, 1937).

⁵ "Centerville," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (April 11, 1935); Burney Lightle, "Dr. Henry Braxton Hardy and the Centerville Work Center, 1935-1941," *Faulkner Facts and Fiddlings*, (Summer

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meaning those who farmed less than 500 acres) who lived within a ten-mile radius. Anyone who wanted to use the amenities at the center paid a membership fee of 25 cents and daily fees to use buildings and equipment. In contrast to the 1936 Resettlement Administration (later known as the Farm Security Administration) program of moving farmers off overworked land or out of tenancy situations and into a cooperative community, service center members remained on their farms and were responsible for their own repairs and individual needs. The service center saved them money by providing equipment and education and allowed them to contribute to the economy by staying productive.⁶

Five buildings arranged in a semi-circle fronting AR 225 (then the Hardy Highway) across the highway and southwest of Dr. Hardy's store, comprised the service center complex. The largest at 40-by-90 feet was the blacksmith and woodworking shop. A mattress factory and sewing room measuring 24-by-40 feet was also used as an administration building for community gatherings. A chicken hatchery, canning kitchen and a storage building were built for the center as well. Lumber was provided by community members and cut by a portable sawmill on site. Stone was quarried from the area and skilled and unskilled labor was hired to erect the buildings. Construction on the

1971), 52; "Centerville Community Project Ok'd," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (January 9, 1936).

⁶ Ethel Goodstein, "Lake Dick," National Register Nomination, November 21, 1980, On file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR; Dianna Kirk, "Plum Bayou," National Register Nomination, September 10, 1974, On file at Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, AR.; "Will Establish Service Center," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (July 15, 1937); "Centerville Service Center Operations Are Begun; Employ 15 Men," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*,(July 22, 1937).

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blacksmith and woodwork shop was completed in the fall of 1937 but it took two years for completion of the complex. During that time Dr. Hardy and other officers from the center held a series of meetings throughout Faulkner County to make known the work of the Centerville Community Service Center. Operations began in July 1937, while construction continued. It was alternately reported in *The Log Cabin Democrat* that an existing canning kitchen was to be utilized in the service center and in later editions that the canning kitchen was to be new construction. Interviews with former Centerville resident Fred McNew confirmed that a new canning kitchen was built for the service center.⁷

Four adult educators were paid by the Works Projects Administration to provide instruction on training days scheduled three days a week. E.C. Atkins and H.L. Jolly taught members how to use tools while Miss Aspa Smith taught mattress making and performed bookkeeping duties. A second woman was added to the pool of instructors by 1939. Attendants were available for assistance around the clock. Dr. Hardy's son, Orlin served as manager in 1939. The members provided the labor and materials. By February 1938, it was reported that the service center was in operation. In June 1938, a large celebration at the Service Center was held to mark the full completion of the buildings. Such was the excitement over it that participants were bused in to partake in free entertainment and lunches with cold drinks while they viewed the buildings and the \$4,500 worth of machinery and tools for the use of the members. The Centerville

⁷ Lightle, 54-55; "Centerville Service Center Operations Are Begun," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (July 22, 1937).

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correspondent for *The Log Cabin Democrat* stated ... "we believe that everyone who joins will receive in return many times the cost of membership."⁸

Members utilizing the center would pay 10 cents a day for hand tools, 20 to 40 cents for power tools and five cents per day for the forge. To create a mattress a member would schedule an appointment and provide the cotton lint and ticking. Cotton could also be obtained from the E.L. McNew cotton gin at Lake Bennett (now part of Woolly Hollow State Park). Sewing machines, a "cotton-stuffing" machine, frames, tables and a small cotton gin in the mattress factory were made available for production. The woodworking shop held a rip saw, joiner machine, band saw, wood and metal turning lathes, milling machines and mortising machines. The blacksmithing area offered two forges, acetylene tubes and hand tools. By spring of 1938, the chicken hatchery was up and running incubating eggs from local hen houses.

Every Tuesday and Thursday farmers could bring eggs to the 10,000-egg capacity incubator. A second incubator was added but there was still a waiting list. With the help of the instructors members could build furniture, repair shoes, make quilts and mattresses, sharpen tools, can produce or do carpentry work at the service center. The center also produced rubber-tired wagons from cast-off axles, auto frames and tires. Most of the material in the wagons was purchased at junkyards and they were sold by the

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co-op for \$50.00 through a dealer. Dr. Hardy worked in the blacksmith shop with four other men, each receiving wages for their work.⁹

By 1937, the rules restricting membership to local residents were changed to allow any low-income farmer within Faulkner County to join and by 1939 the membership fee had been raised. The Service Center lost money until the year 1941, but it continued in operation until the effects of World War II began to be felt. Eventually, Dr. Hardy was voted off the board by the membership so he instituted his own work center based in his store. Former Centerville resident Ben McNew recalled that he hired employees to do auto repair, blacksmithing, corn grinding and general repairs as well as sheep shearing. McNew stated that the original Centerville Community Service Center closed down in the early-to-mid-1940s. After the beginning of WWII defense industries in Jacksonville and Maumelle ran buses into Centerville to take employees to work. New occupations in military support and production improved the economy and fewer farmers using equipment that needed repairs translated to fewer members for the service center. The property was sold to an individual after the doors were closed. It is known that the blacksmithing/woodworking shop burned approximately ten years ago but the fate of the mattress factory, canning kitchen, and storage building is not known. The hatchery

⁹ Richard and Louise McCue, "The 'Havenots' Become the 'Haves,'" *Arkansas Gazette Sunday Magazine Section*, (January 22, 1939), 2; "Centerville," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (February 17, 1938); "Centerville," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (June 23, 1938).

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remains on the site but it has had a large rear addition and a second story appended to it so it does not retain sufficient historic integrity to convey its original use.¹⁰

In 1938, Dr. Hardy withdrew his candidacy from the Senate race because his wife Cora had become critically ill. Cora passed away in October of 1939, after suffering from diabetes for some years. Prior to her death Dr. Hardy had chosen a high point on his land to build a family cemetery and he and neighbor Nathan Pate were in the process of constructing the concrete tombs when she died. This necessitated her burial in another cemetery until the Hardy Cemetery was completed. In 1940, the Hardy's son, Marco was killed in an accident and he was buried next to his mother. The next year, Dr. Hardy was remarried to Daisy Thompson from Centerville. Daisy worked for Dr. Hardy in the apothecary of his store and had kept house for him and helped with the children since she was in her early twenties. She also served as the secretary of the Home Demonstration Club in Centerville. Dr. Hardy had built a house for Daisy south of the cemetery but she moved into his home on the west side of 225 after their marriage. Dr. Hardy passed away of a heart attack January 3, 1945, and he was interred in the Hardy Cemetery. Ill feelings among the Hardy's surviving children over their father's remarriage resulted in no other family members being buried in the Hardy cemetery. Daisy moved back to the house

⁹ McCue, "The 'Havenots', 2; Fred McNew, Little Rock, Telephone interview with author, May 25, 2009; Lightle, 55; "Centerville," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (February 17, 1938).

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behind the cemetery after Dr. Hardy's death and was remarried in later years to Joe Atkinson of Centerville. Upon her death in 1958, she was buried at the McNew Cemetery in Centerville on McNew Cemetery Road.¹¹

The Hardy Cemetery, located on AR Highway 225 E in the Faulkner County community of Centerville, remains a small burial ground for the Hardy family. The five concrete tombs and metal hoisting apparatus are the only resources in the boundaries of the cemetery. Although Dr. Hardy was a prominent citizen and known statewide for his service in the General Assembly, he chose a vernacular concrete tomb with barrel vaulted lid for his grave. The only landscaping is cedar trees; there is no decorative fencing. No sign marks the cemetery's location. Interviews with former residents of Centerville reveal that such a choice for his resting place would have been typical of the doctor. His main concern was that his neighbors and fellow Arkansans were reasonably comfortable, not that any monuments be erected to him. Dr. Hardy was a well-respected citizen of Centerville and worked hard to bring improvements to the lives of the rural farm families in the area through provision of basic services and by instituting the Centerville Community Service Center so that they could help themselves.

If one were to drive through Centerville today there would be no sign that marks it as a destination, nor an indication that there had once been a vital New Deal project that

¹⁰ Lightle, 56; *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (June 23, 1938); Ben McNew, Conway, AR, e-mail information, May 15, 2009.

¹¹ "Senator Hardy Withdraws His Candidacy," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (June 9, 1938); Bertha Pate Warren, Conway, AR, Telephone interview with author, May 28, 2009; "Centerville," *The Log Cabin Democrat*, (January 12, 1939).

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served the residents - residents that participated in singings and celebrations, attended a large school complex, worshipped in the Methodist Church, worked in local cotton gins and shopped in the two general stores. Dr. Hardy was a part of this vitality and the reason for much of it.

The Hardy Cemetery is the only resource that remains in Centerville that retains sufficient historic integrity and thus imparts the story of the Centerville Community Service Center and Dr. Hardy's role in it. Dr. Hardy's house still stands west of the cemetery on AR 225 but its appearance today is vastly different from its historic configuration. Originally a small wood-veneered Craftsman house with centered, gabled front porch and clipped-gable roof, it is now sheathed in vertical wood paneling and random-coursed rock veneer and the gabled porch is gone. The Hardy Store at 728 AR 225 E, across the road from Hardy's house, was sold after his death and passed to various Centerville individuals through the 1950s. In circa 1954, the store building burned but another commercial structure was built in its place. The only service center structure remaining on site is the chicken hatchery. The small stone building was altered with the addition of a two-story wing to the rear, circa 1990s. Vinyl windows that do not fit the original openings were added and a modern paneled door was installed. Daisy's home is a ruin with only the stone chimney standing among the concrete foundation and piles of wood.

¹¹ "Senator Hardy Withdraws His Candidacy," *The Log Cabin Democrat Weekly Edition*, (June 9, 1938); Bertha Pate Warren, Conway, AR, Telephone interview with author, May 28, 2009; "Centerville," *The Log Cabin Democrat*, (January 12, 1939).

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The Hardy Cemetery remains historically intact and the grounds are undisturbed. The road leading to the cemetery from the highway is still a dirt path lined with cedar trees. The tombs display the minimal needs of Dr. Hardy and are emblematic of his personality and consideration.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hardy Cemetery is being nominated to the National Register under Criteria B and C, Criterion Consideration C and D with local significance, for its example of utilitarian vernacular funerary architecture and for its association with Dr. Henry Baxton Hardy.

Centerville was a rural farming community and the landscape of the area today remains evocative of that use although most residents work in larger towns nearby. Cotton fields have been largely replaced with cattle farms. The Centerville school complex now consists of a small home economics building and a storm shelter. Various remains of decorative stone planters and sidewalks from the campus are visible through the vegetation. The Centerville Methodist Church remains an intact example of a Mixed Masonry Craftsman building. On Blythe Road northwest of the cemetery, foundations from CCC Camp Halsey are hidden in the woods. Although the Centerville Community Service Center is essentially a site, the Hardy Cemetery continues to pass on the story of the New Deal project and Centerville's most prominent citizen who earned it the designation of "progressive rural community."

Hardy Cemetery

Name of Property

Faulkner Co., AR

County and State

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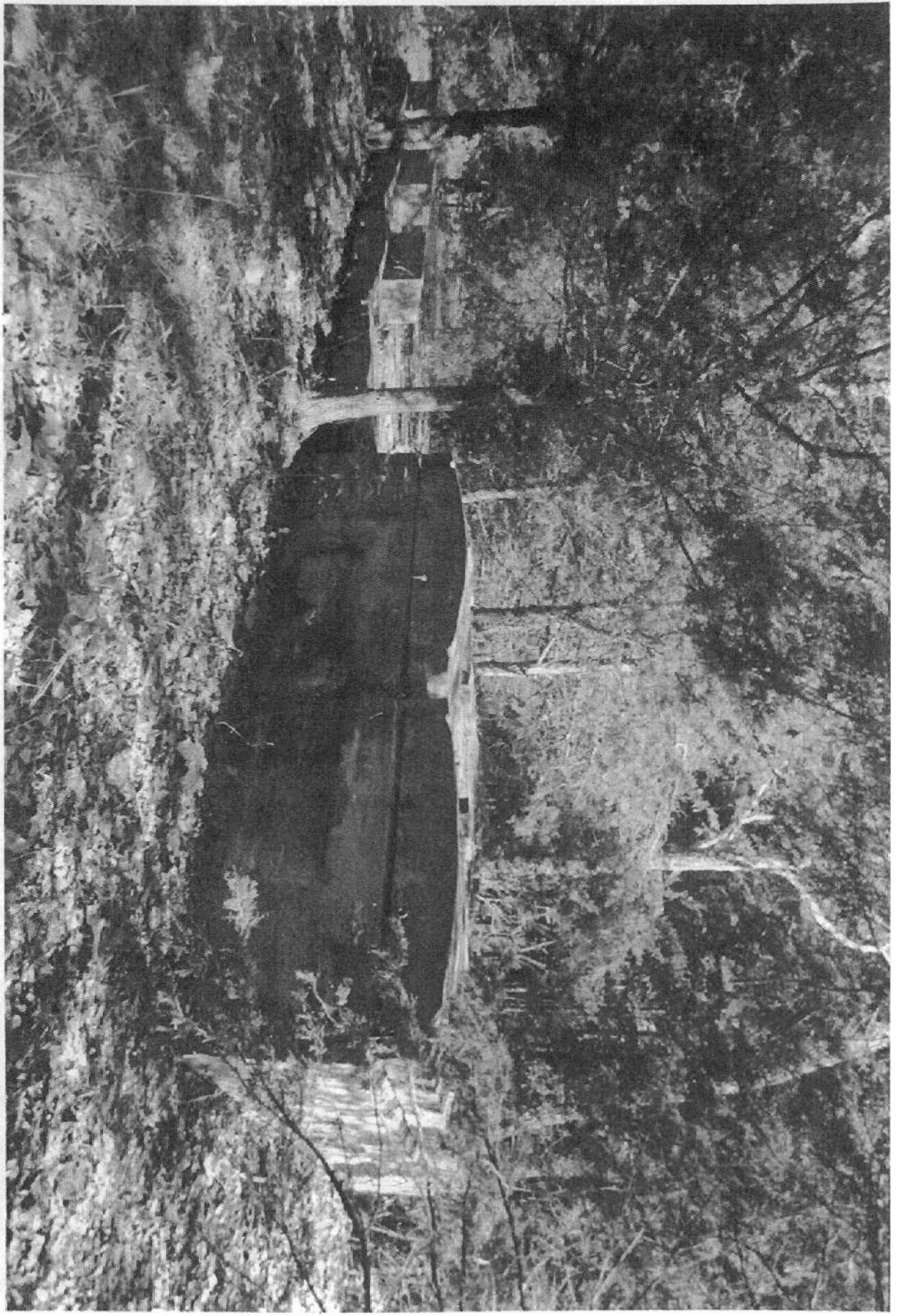
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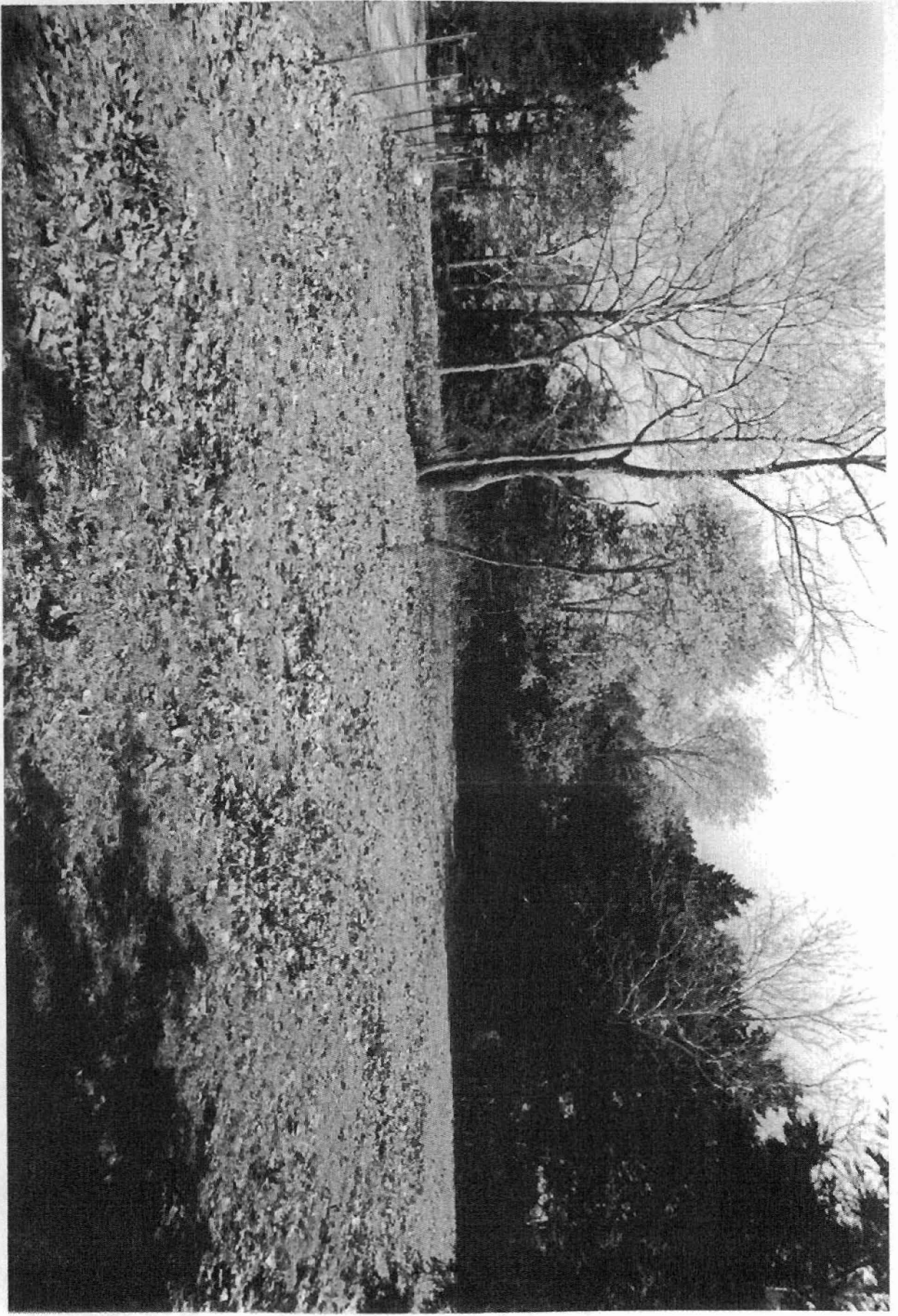
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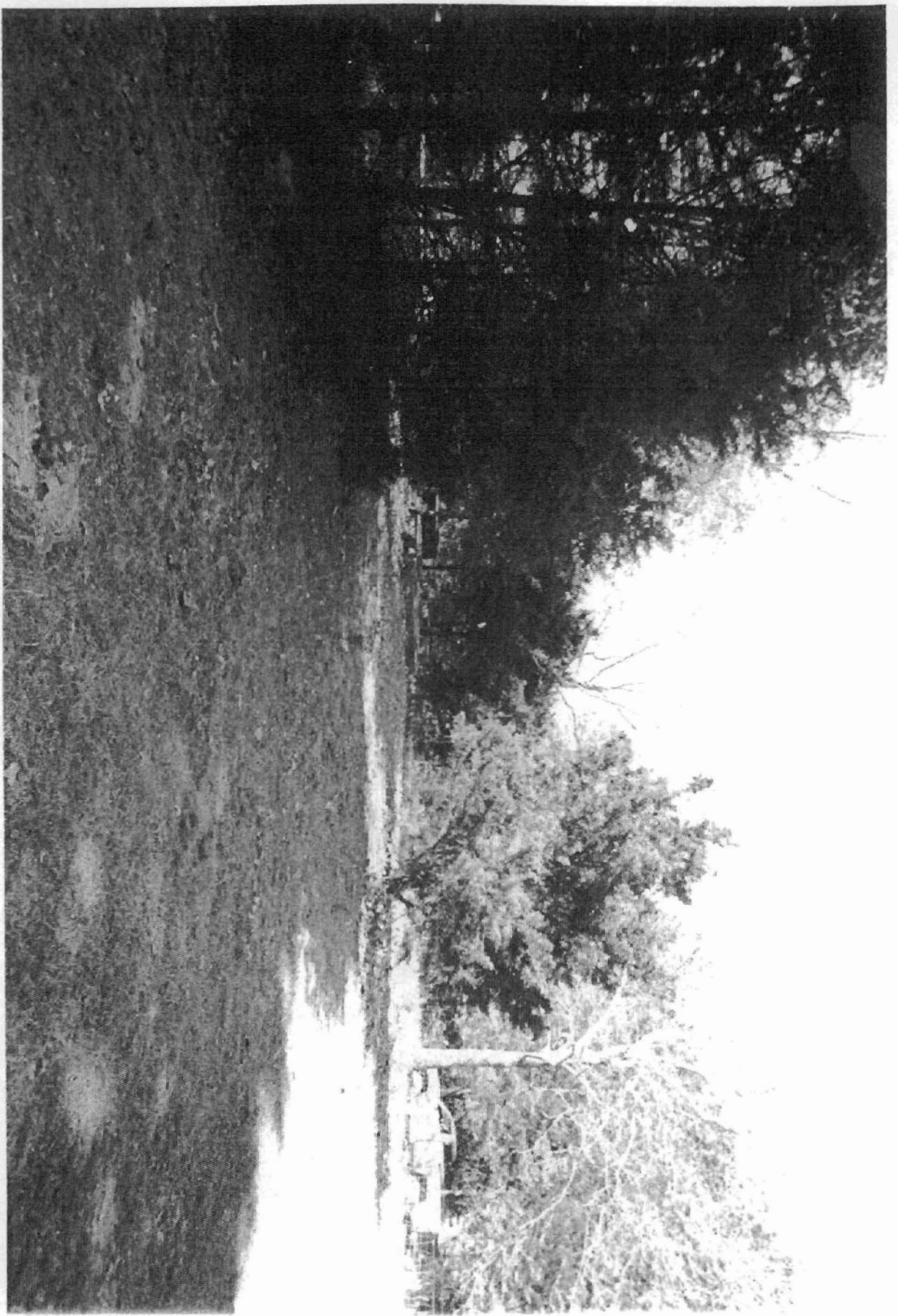
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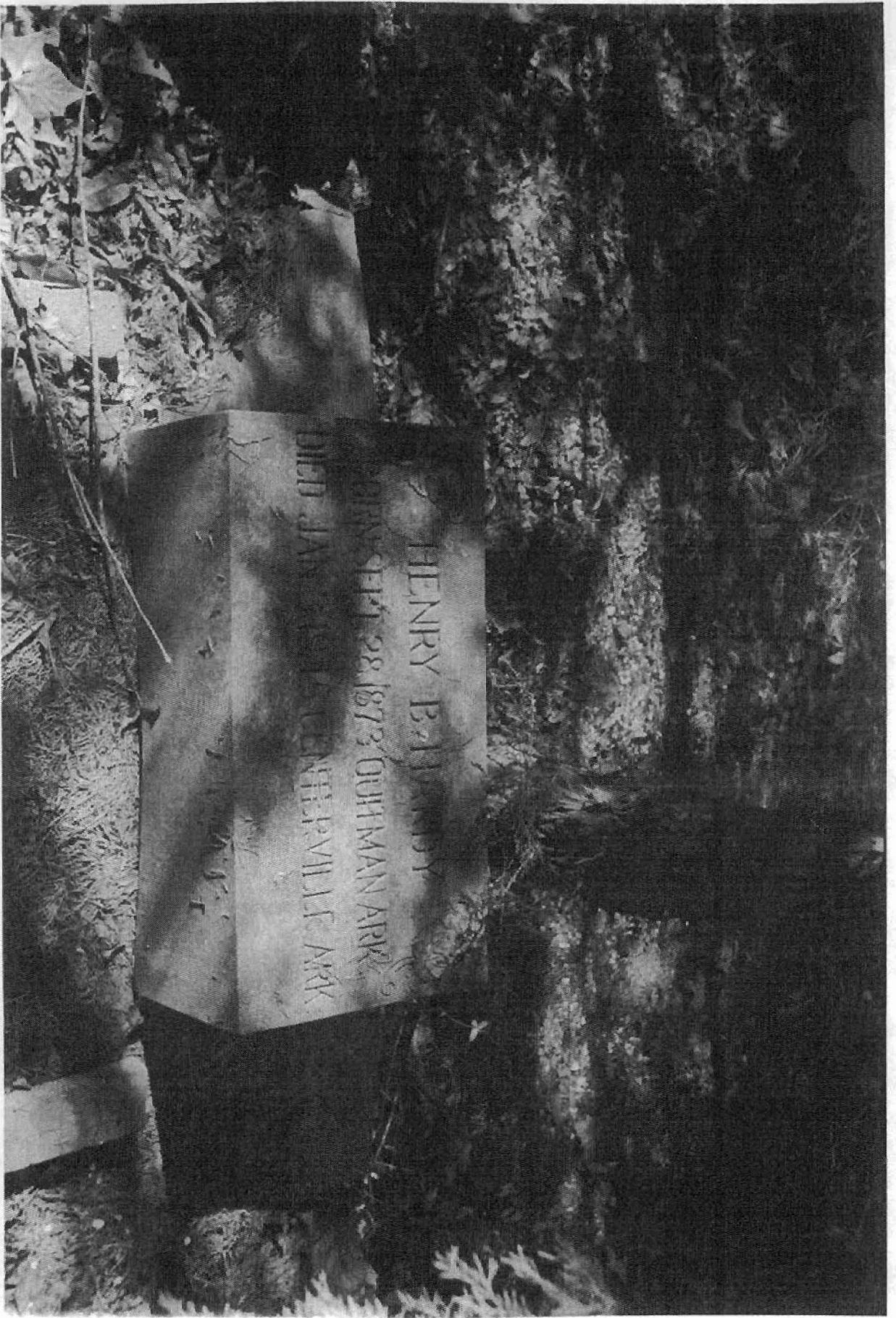




CP
CORIA MOORE HARDY *CP*
BORN FEB. 20, 1876, EDWARDS, ARK.
DIED OCT. 24, 1939, CENTREVILLE, ARK.

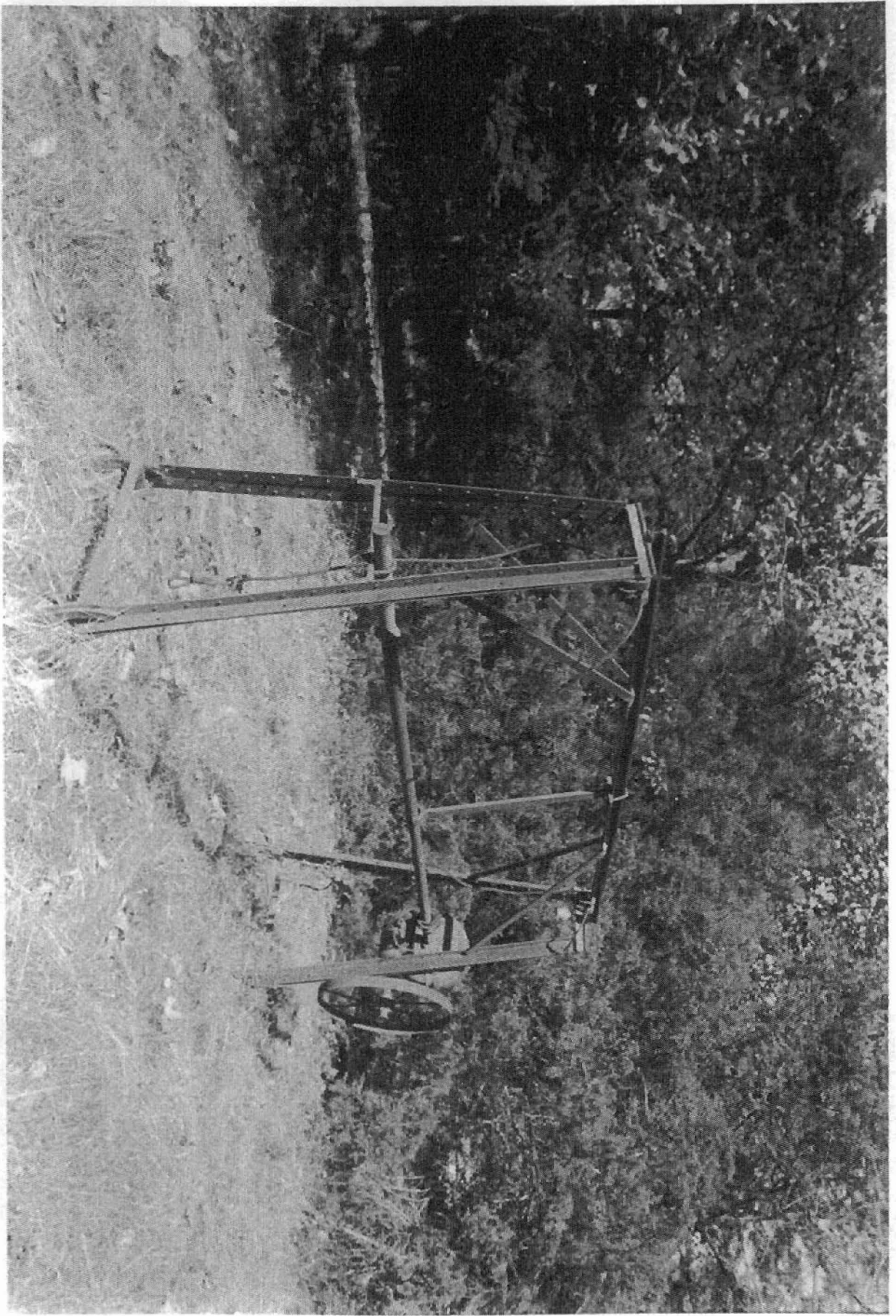


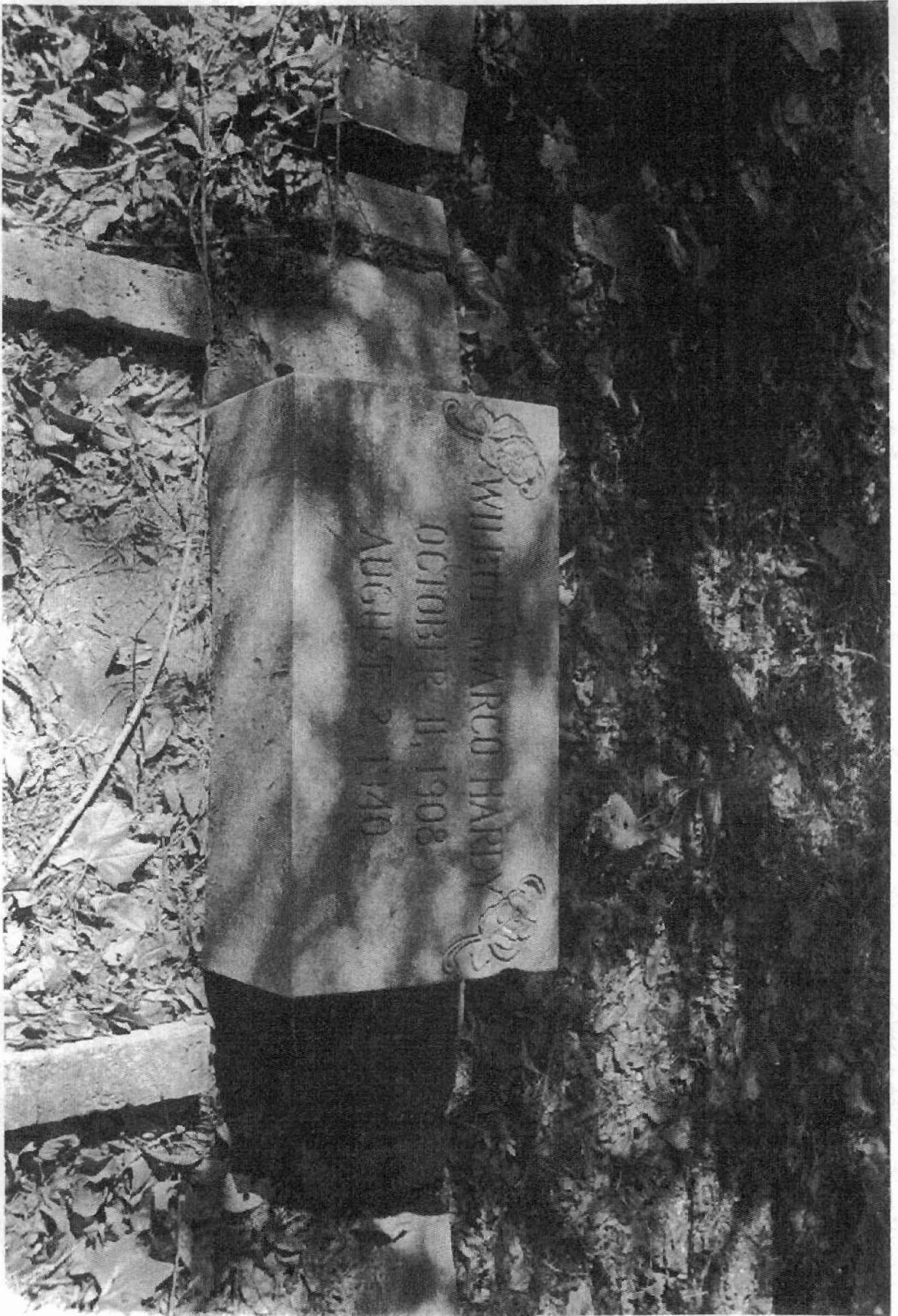




HENRY BALDWIN
BORN SEP 28 1873 GOSHMAN ARK
DIED JAN 21 1917 CENTREVILLE ARK





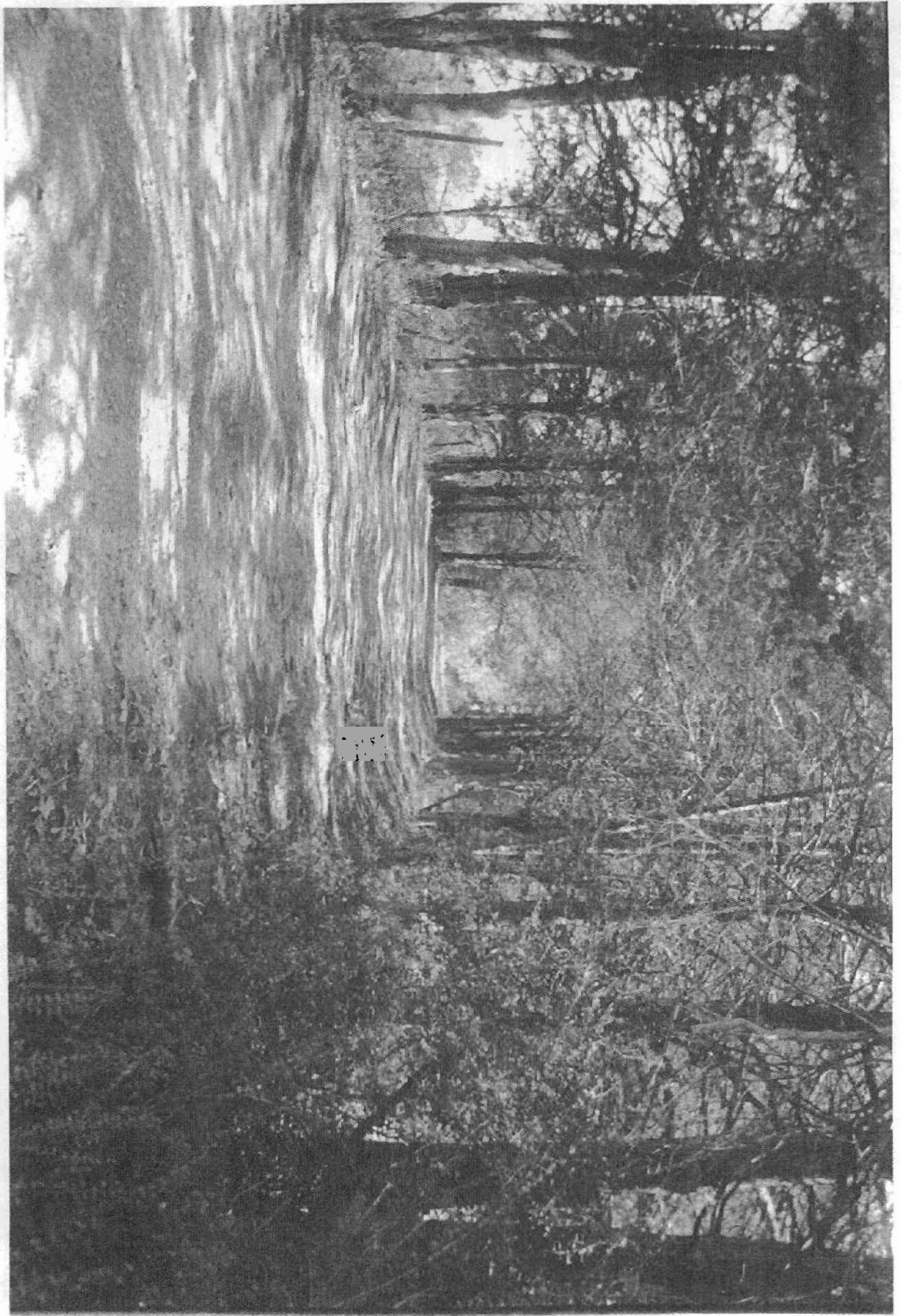


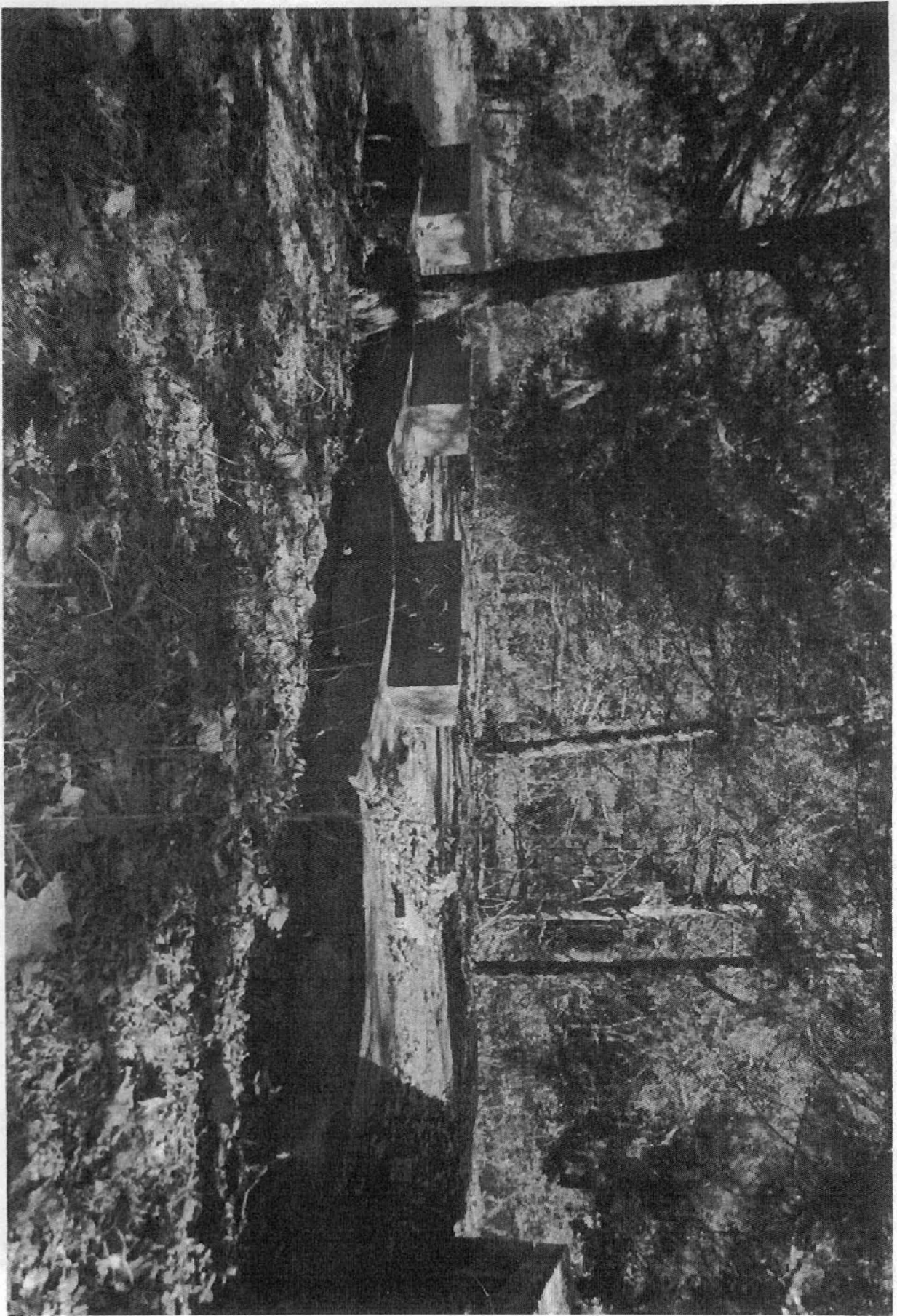
WILBUR HAROLD HARDY

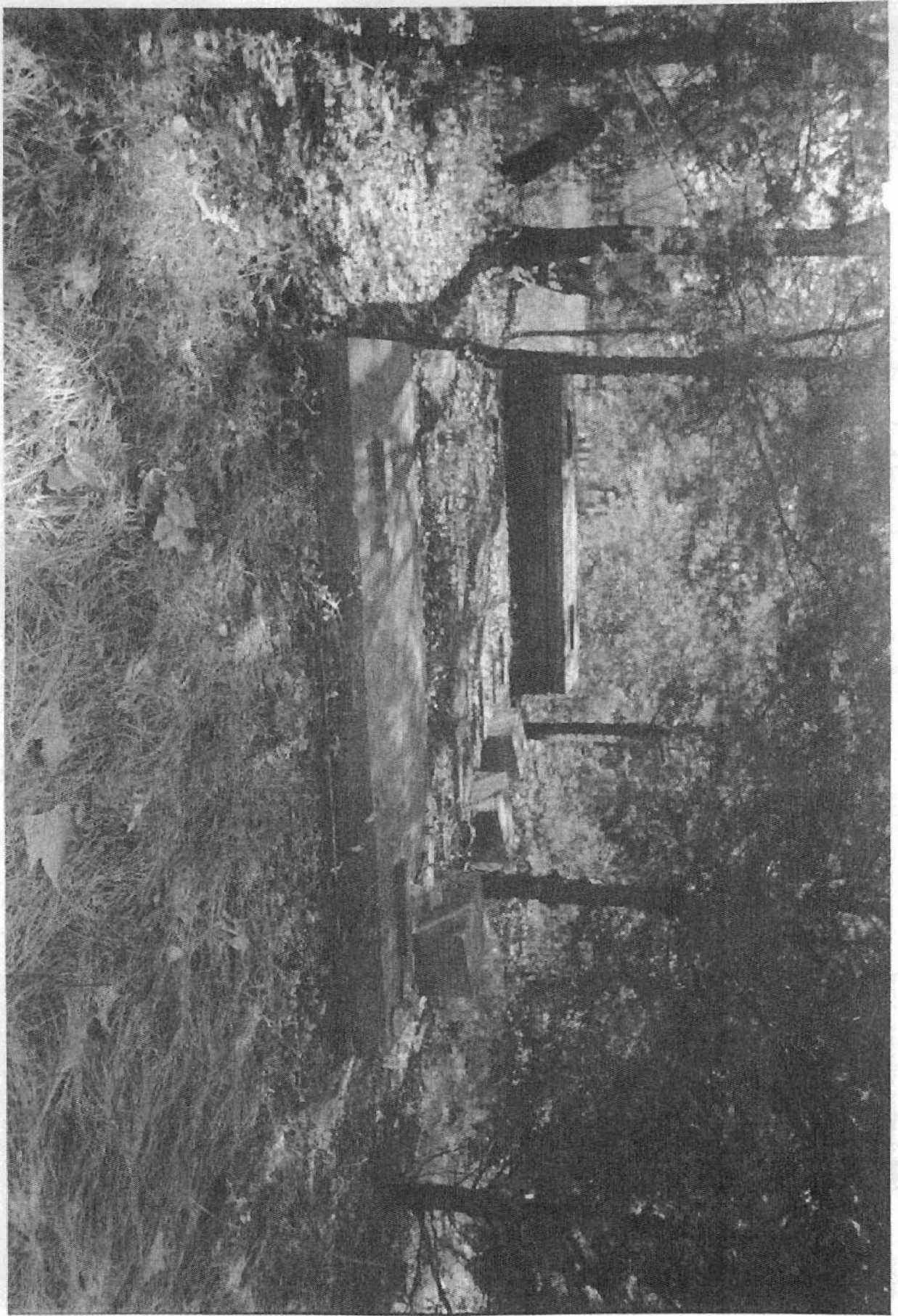
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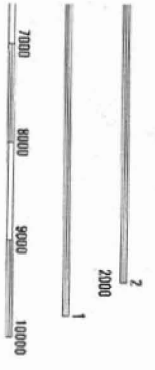
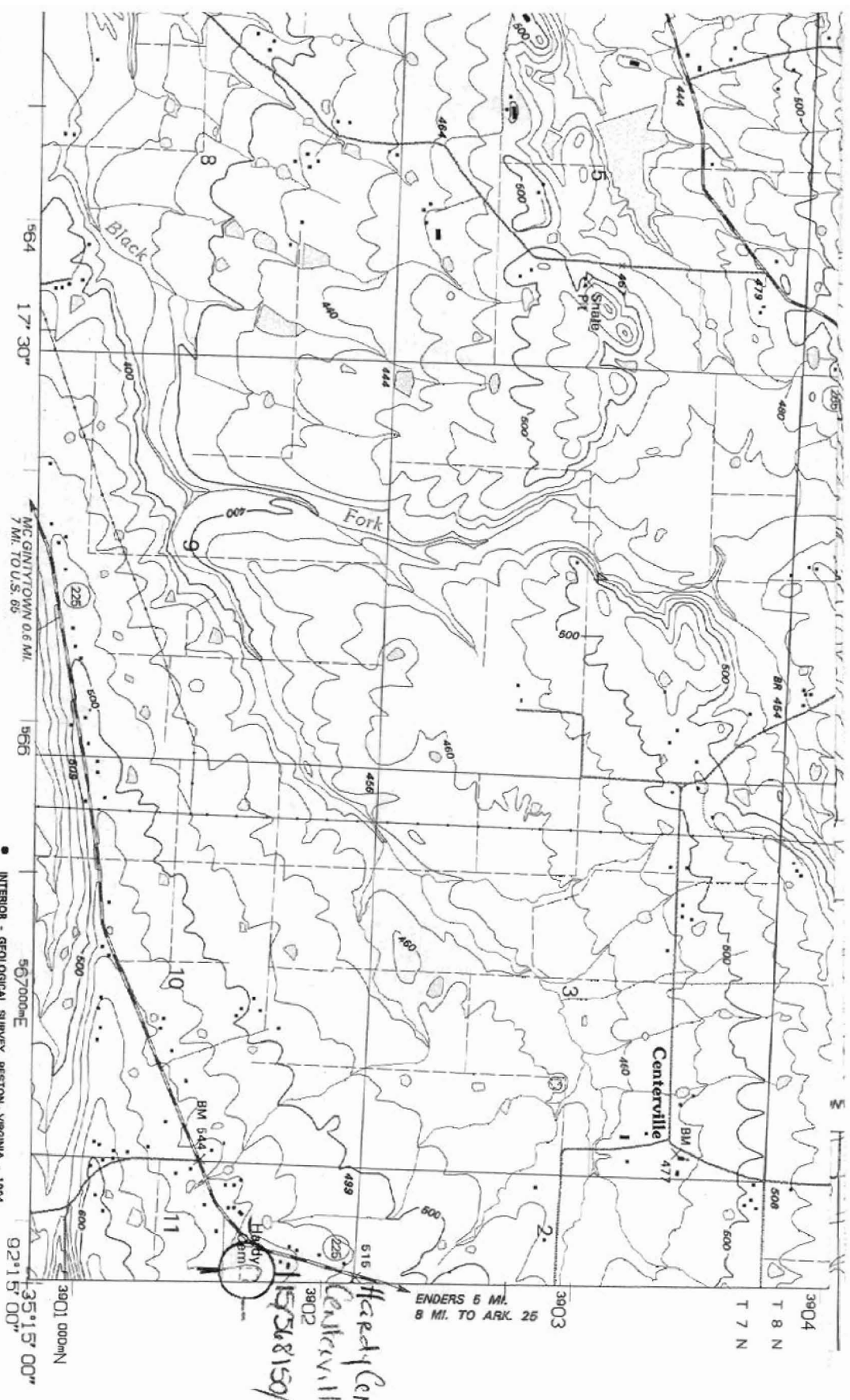
AUGUST 2, 1940











QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Bee Branch
		2	2 Morganton
		3	3 Quitman
4		4	4 Damascus
		5	5 Barney
		6	6 Greenbrier
6	7	7	7 Holland
		8	8 Enola

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway hard surface
- Secondary highway hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U.S. Route
- State Route

1929

Y STANDARDS
225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
CK, ANSAS 72204
N REQUEST

ADJOINING 7.5' QUADRANGLE NAMES

GUY, ARK.
35092-C3-TF-024

1994

DMA 7554 IV SE - SERIES V884

Handwritten notes:
McGinty Cemetery
Centerville, Fork
3802
1558159/570917

ENDERS 5 MI.
8 MI. TO ARK. 25