

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 Shelton-Rich Farmstead

other names/site number n.a.

2. Location

street & number Rt. 3 off Highway 23 between Caulksville & Ozark not for publication

city, town Webb City vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Franklin code 047 zip code 72949

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
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of related multiple property listing:

n.a.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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 A. Buford
Signature of certifying official

10-10-89
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
Funerary: cemetery
Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural field
Agriculture/Subsistence: animal facility
Agriculture/Subsistence: fishing grounds

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Folk Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: brownstone
walls wood: weatherboard
wood: log
roof wood: shingle; asphalt
other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

B. 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)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture
Archeology: historic-non-aboriginal

1880-1936

1880

Cultural Affiliation
European

Significant Person

n.a.

Architect/Builder

n.a.

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

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 80 acres

UTM References

A 15 | 42,19,0,0 | 3,91,96,6,5
 Zone Easting Northing

C 15 | 42,22,9,0 | 3,91,88,2,0

B 15 | 42,23,2,0 | 3,91,96,1,0
 Zone Easting Northing

D 15 | 42,18,8,0 | 3,91,88,4,5

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The West half of the Northwest quarter of Section Thirty-Four (34), Township Nine (9) North, Range Twenty-Seven (27) West.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuilding, well, fields, pastures, ponds, forest and cemetery that have historically been part of the Shelton-Rich Farm and that maintain historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Ann Anderson, Historian/Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date October 10, 1989

street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

THE SHELTON-RICH FARMSTEAD Webb City, Franklin County c. 1880

DESCRIPTION. The Shelton-Rich Farmstead log house is a Midland Tradition two-story log house, with two rooms on each floor, which was "improved" in later years with a weatherboard sheathing on the exterior. An outbuilding and a well (a later addition) are also extant on the site. The site, objects and log house remain virtually undisturbed and have been meticulously maintained by the same family since 1936.

LABORATION. Today, the house resembles a frame house, but closer examination of the structure reveals the single-pen log construction. The front of the house faces west. A stacked fieldstone (dry mortar) foundation supports the structure between piers of larger, quarried stones. The original pen had two four-over-four sash windows with one hinged front door between them. A one-room addition to the south improved the home in later years. The foundation stones and timbers evidence the addition to the south, where a division in the porch foundation is obvious.

The house, constructed from stacked, hand-planked oak logs and joined at the corners with square or half-dovetailed notches, is characteristic of the Midland building tradition. Broad-axe markings are obvious on timbers that span the foundation piers and in the exposed rafter plate in the second story. Later improvements included sheathing much of the exterior in hand-planed boards (c. 1880).

The house has a side-gable roof covered originally with wood shingles. The wood shingles are extant under a later covering of asphalt shingles. A front shed-porch with seven Craftsman columns (some chamfered) added before 1936 shelters the main entrance. The west elevation (front) today has three, four-over-four, double-hung windows, two which flank the door opening into the north room and one next to the door opening into the south room.

Both the north and south elevations have matching exterior-end, quarried stone chimneys, which render the house symmetrical in appearance when viewed from the east and west elevations. Both chimneys corbel at the shoulders and have wider bases of the same massive stone.

A shed-room (the "lean-to" on the original log house) with a door opening and stone steps on its east wall (back) and another door opening onto a recessed back porch from the south wall of the shed improved the east elevation (back). Fieldstone steps approach the recessed back porch on the east elevation. The interior is sheathed in hand-planed boards.

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The Shelton-Rich Farmstead - Description (Part 7) - 2

The north elevation differs in symmetry from the south elevation because of the shed addition, which has one, four-over-four, double-hung window central on the north wall of the shed. This is the only window on the first floor of the north elevation. Two four-pane, sliding windows (sliding horizontally into the wall) flank the chimney on the second floor of the north elevation. The south elevation has four, four-over-four, double-hung windows placed symmetrically alongside its chimney, two on the first floor and two on the second floor.

The main entrance today is in the south addition of the west elevation, opening into a kitchen. There is no hall between the two main rooms of the house, but a door now penetrates the original structural wall, creating a passage. The interior log walls, sheathed in hand-milled boards, are either unfinished or varnished in places except for the exterior wall of the original structure. With the addition of the south room, the original exterior wall became an interior wall, and traces of white paint with accents of red are noticeable. A trap door leading to a crawl space in the gable revealed an original stationary gable window trimmed in red oxide paint. The original fascia board of the exterior wall is also painted red and remains exposed in the second floor. The exterior weatherboard on the south elevation of the original pen was loosened and reapplied to achieve a flush board interior wall for cosmetic reasons. The white paint bears evidence of this improvement as well as weathering indications (i.e., the portion of the weatherboards that formerly overlapped were not as weathered nor were they painted white).

A former stairwell opening is evident in the ceiling of the north room, suggesting the position of the original stairway to the sleeping loft. The present owner, Edna Rich Coble, confirmed that her father removed this stair to the barn and closed the opening in the ceiling when he created the opening between the two rooms on the first floor.

A narrow, steep, enclosed stair, typical of later Midland houses (earlier houses had crude ladders), remains in the northeast corner of the south room. Machine-milled planks applied vertically enclose the stairwell and create a closet under the stair; smooth, worn, handcrafted "button" hardware secure the doors of the closet.

The stairway leads to two rooms on the second floor. The original rafter plate and hand-hewn logs with broad-axe markings, chinked with mortar and cement, are exposed. The planked logs of the second story reveal the structural walls of the original single-pen house and its board-enclosed gables (later improvement).

The outbuilding north of the house is crudely built, covered with a corrugated sheet metal roof and sided with vertical weatherboards (board and batten). The crude weatherboard doors have large, rusted hinges. The outbuilding has a quarried stone foundation and an earth floor.

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This double-pen outbuilding originally served as a combination chicken coop/hog pen, though it now serves as a storage facility. Judging from their construction, both pens were built by 1900, if not earlier.

Several site features original to the farmhouse survive on the site and are therefore included within the boundary. The well, located to the north of the house, is approximately eight inches in diameter, and has a log hoist. The long, galvanized bucket and rope are secured against theft in the outbuilding. Further to the north is the ruins of the large, original wood frame barn which sheltered the horses and livestock. To the north and east, a crude log-and-wire fence separates the house from the pasture. A fieldstone fence wall remains in the pasture behind the house (to the east), the original purpose of which was to form a stone pen to prevent the hogs from foraging in the planted areas. Approximately fifty yards to the southwest of the house is the original Shelton family cemetery, which contains several graves, marked and unmarked, and is reputed to contain also the unmarked grave of a former slave. Finally, approximately one-thousand yards to the south is the pond which was created by the Rich family (c. 1936) as a private fish storage pond when they acquired the property.

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Summary. The Shelton/Rich Farmstead is a fine example of a Midland Tradition log house, typical of pre-railroad folk houses built in Arkansas. The house is intact and few alterations have been made which might affect its integrity. The site of the house is significant also due to the fact that it has survived from c. 1880 as an undisturbed farmstead with outbuildings and contributing objects that have the potential to reveal additional information about historic Franklin County inhabitants.

Elaboration. The Shelton-Rich Farmstead is an intact farm that has remained relatively unaltered over the years. Located in rural Webb City, Arkansas (Franklin County), the property was originally part of a land grant to the State of Arkansas for use in the construction of a railroad line between Little Rock and Fort Smith, a branch of the Cairo and Fulton Railroad (Congressional Grant, February 9, 1853 - Kirby's Digest Statutes of Arkansas, p. 186). On January 10, 1880, the Little Rock & Fort Smith Railroad sold the site (160 acres comprising the northwest quarter of section 34), excluding a strip of land 200-feet wide along the rail lines, to William Martin Shelton, who probably built the log house. William Martin Shelton was born July 27, 1847 in Jackson County, Alabama. In 1866 he married Martha Adeline Shelton (born in Jackson County, Alabama on January 16, 1847). They were the parents of three children (Florence, Dora and one unknown). Martha Shelton died in Webb City, Arkansas on September 4, 1910; William died in Webb City on January 12, 1918.

Shelton also purchased 40 acres, described as the southwest quarter (40 acres) of the southwest quarter of Section 34 from the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad for \$40. Shelton's total land holdings in 1880 were 200 acres valued at \$640. Tax records reveal

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The Shelton-Rich Farmstead - Significance (Part 8) - 2

that William Shelton's property, which consisted of separate parcels comprising 200 acres, assessed for \$250 in 1879. The northwest quarter was probably developed with one or more structures in 1880, after the sale to Mr. Shelton, since the taxes jumped from \$250 to \$640 for the same acreage. The construction date of the log house is therefore set at 1880.

The west half of the northwest quarter of section 34 changed ownership six times between 1880 and 1887. The List of Persons and Personal Property Assessed for Taxation in Middle Township (Tax records, Franklin County Courthouse, Ozark, Arkansas) reveals that William Shelton owned livestock and other personal property on which he paid taxes as early as 1873, although he did not acquire his property in Webb City until January, 1880 by warranty deed (Abstract, p. 19: Little Rock & Ft. Smith Railroad, by Joseph H. Converse, Pres., Charles W. Huntington and W.D. Slack to William Shelton). In 1879, Shelton owned personal property assessed as follows: two horses @ \$50; eleven cattle @ \$5; two mules @ \$50; 15 hogs @ \$15; value of all other personal property--\$60; total valuation of personal property--\$230. By 1883, Mr. Shelton's personal property had increased and assessed at \$462.

A warranty deed bearing the date December 28, 1917, suggests that William Shelton divided into halves his 160-acre plot described as the northwest quarter of section 34 and legally transferred the western 80 acres to his daughter, Dora Shelton Holcombe. The value of the east half (80 acres), which he retained in his name, was \$300 and the value of the west half (80 acres with a house and ancillary buildings) was \$600, according to county tax records.

Dora Shelton Holcombe retained ownership of the property until 1932, when she sold 80 acres to her sister, Florence LaRue Shelton Casey, and her husband, L.B. (Louis Bertie) Casey (family history compiled by Alvin Harold Casey, Stillwater, Oklahoma). In 1933, the Casey's sold 79 acres to David A. and Maud Miller and retained a one-acre plot near the highway, on which stood a two-room house, barn and garden. The Miller's sold the same 79 acres to James F. Rich in 1936. The warranty deed conveying the property from the Casey's to the Miller's, describes the property as having "one acre on which stands a two-roomed box house, including barn and garden." This additional acre with house, barn and garden was quit-claimed to James Miller in 1936 along with the 79 additional acres of farm land. According to Edna Rich Coble, her father and mother paid \$175 for this additional acre, and the house served as a temporary home for the family until the Shelton farmhouse (a short distance up the road) was altered to meet the family's needs.

The 80-acre farmstead (the west half of the northwest quarter of section 34) assessed for \$350 in 1936, when the James F. and Toka J. Rich took possession. According to the present owner, Edna Rich Coble, daughter of James and Toka Rich, the only change made in the house after 1936 was the installation of a "convenience" door between the two rooms, both upstairs and downstairs. Therefore, the expansion from a single-pen house to a two-room house and the extension of the sleeping loft to a full second-story occurred sometime

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before 1936.

The Shelton-Rich Log House is a classic example of American folk dwellings that grew and changed with the families they sheltered. Built c. 1880, just after the advent of the railroad in this section of Arkansas, the house and outbuilding survive as fine examples of fast-disappearing architectural resources from that era.

The house and farmstead, which continues to include all of the property associated with it originally, is also significant for its potential to reveal further information regarding early European settlers of this part of rural western Arkansas and their means of agricultural production and survival (prehistoric archeological survey work has been conducted in the general vicinity of the Shelton-Rich farmstead, and several sites were identified south of the Arkansas River within a few miles, but there are no visible indications that such settlement occurred on the property included within the later historic farm). The original deed and tax information for Shelton's livestock holdings, and later for his occupancy of the farmstead, support the argument that this site was used for both planting and pasture land prior to and after the acquisition of the land by the family of the current owners in 1936 (James F. and Toka J. Rich were farmers who raised hogs, chickens and most of their own fruits and vegetables, as had the owners before them. They also maintained a lake stocked with fish for both human consumption and fertilization); the well, outbuilding, ruined barn (on a completely undisturbed site), early stone fences, and cemetery are extant, visible historic resources on the site which attest to both the continuous use of the site as a working farm between 1880 and 1940, and to the variety of agricultural pursuits which the farm supported (livestock, agricultural cultivation, fish breeding and harvesting, etc.). As such they support the notion that this farmstead contains archeological evidence which could prove valuable to furthering our knowledge about local farming methods and practices (including the extent to which post-Civil War, manufactured farming tools were being used); the question of whether such farms operated on a subsistence or a capitalistic economy; the subdivision of the land by virtue of agricultural function and appropriateness; and the changing agricultural uses of the land over time, especially in light of other historical information we know about the period.

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The Shelton-Rich Farmstead - Bibliography (Part 9) - 1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Shelton-Rich Farmstead

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Coble, Edna Rich and Omer L. Interview with Mary Ann Anderson August 9, 1988.

Dictionary of Architecture and Construction, Edited by Cyril M. Harris. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1975.

Harris, R. Cole. "The Simplification of Europe Overseas," Annals of the Association of American Geographers 67 (1977):467-83 (as quoted in Jordan's American Log Buildings--see individual entry).

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Upton, Del and John Michael Vlach. Common Places--Readings in Vernacular Architecture, The University of Georgia Press, 1986.

Wright, Martin. "The Log Cabin in the South." M.A. thesis, Louisiana State University, 1950. (Quoted in Jordan's American Log Buildings--see individual entry).

Zelinsky, Wilbur. The Cultural Geography of the United States, Englewood Cliffs, N.J.: Prentice-Hall, 1973, as quoted by Terry G. Jordan in American Log Buildings, The University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill and London, 1985.

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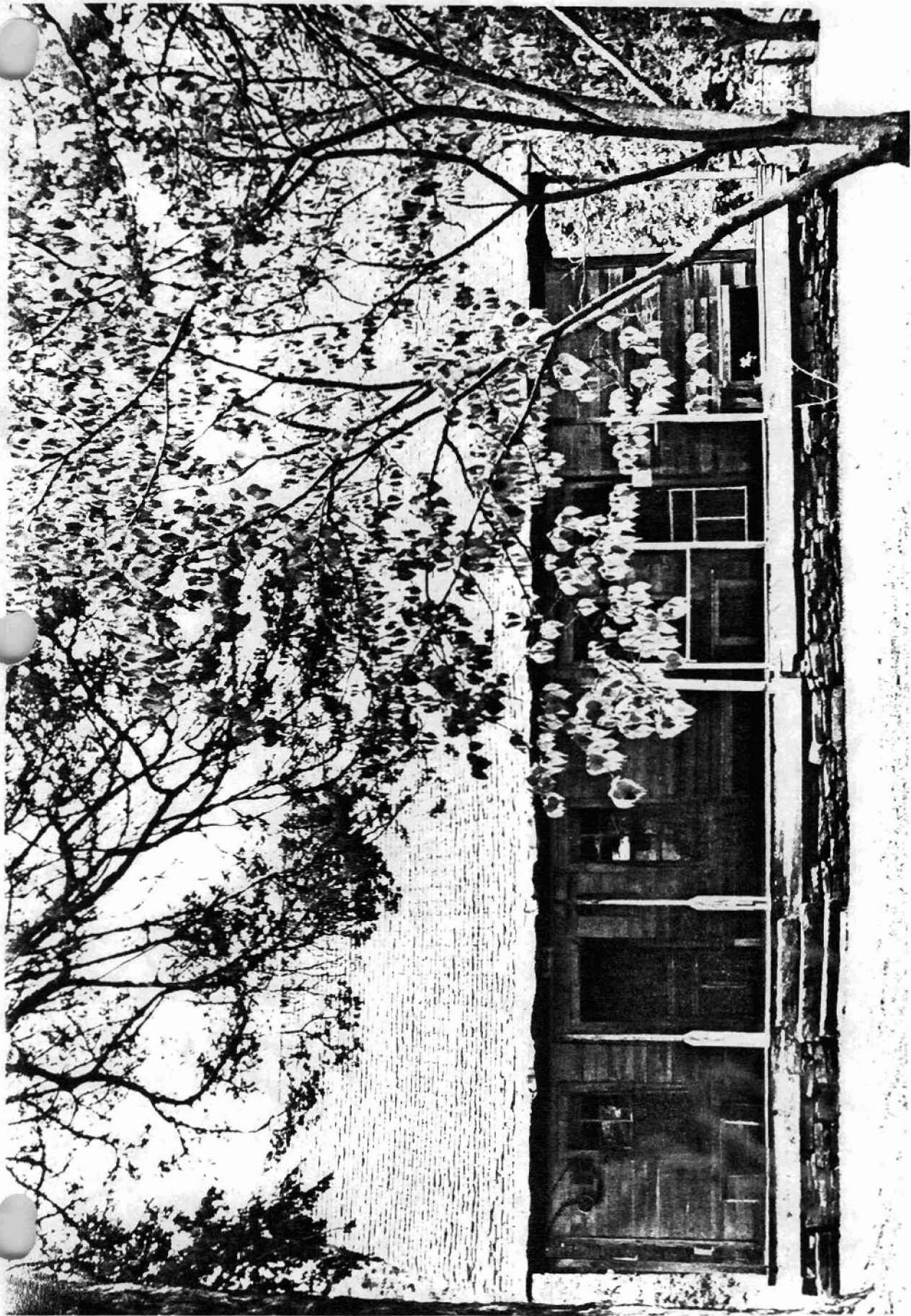
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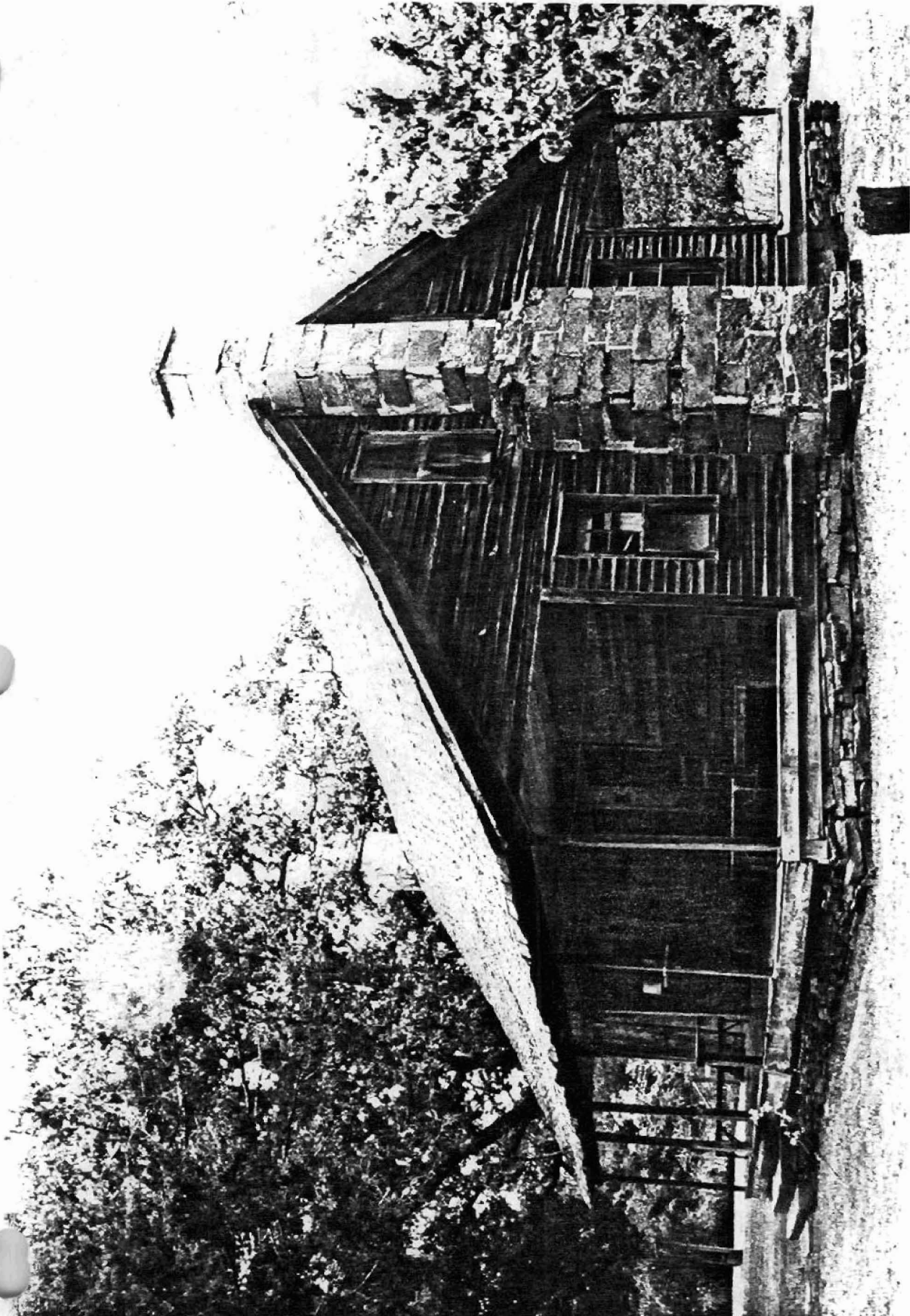
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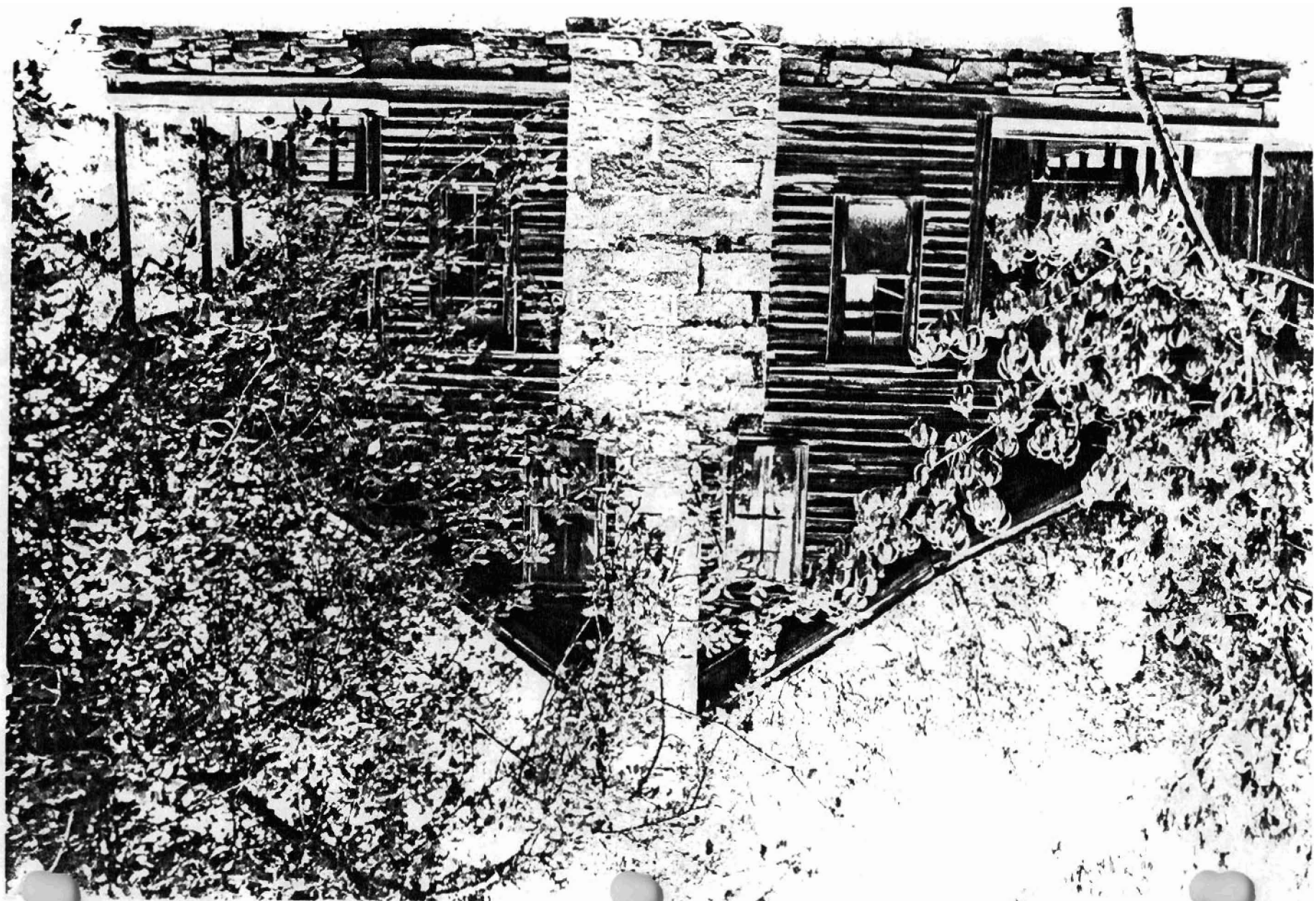
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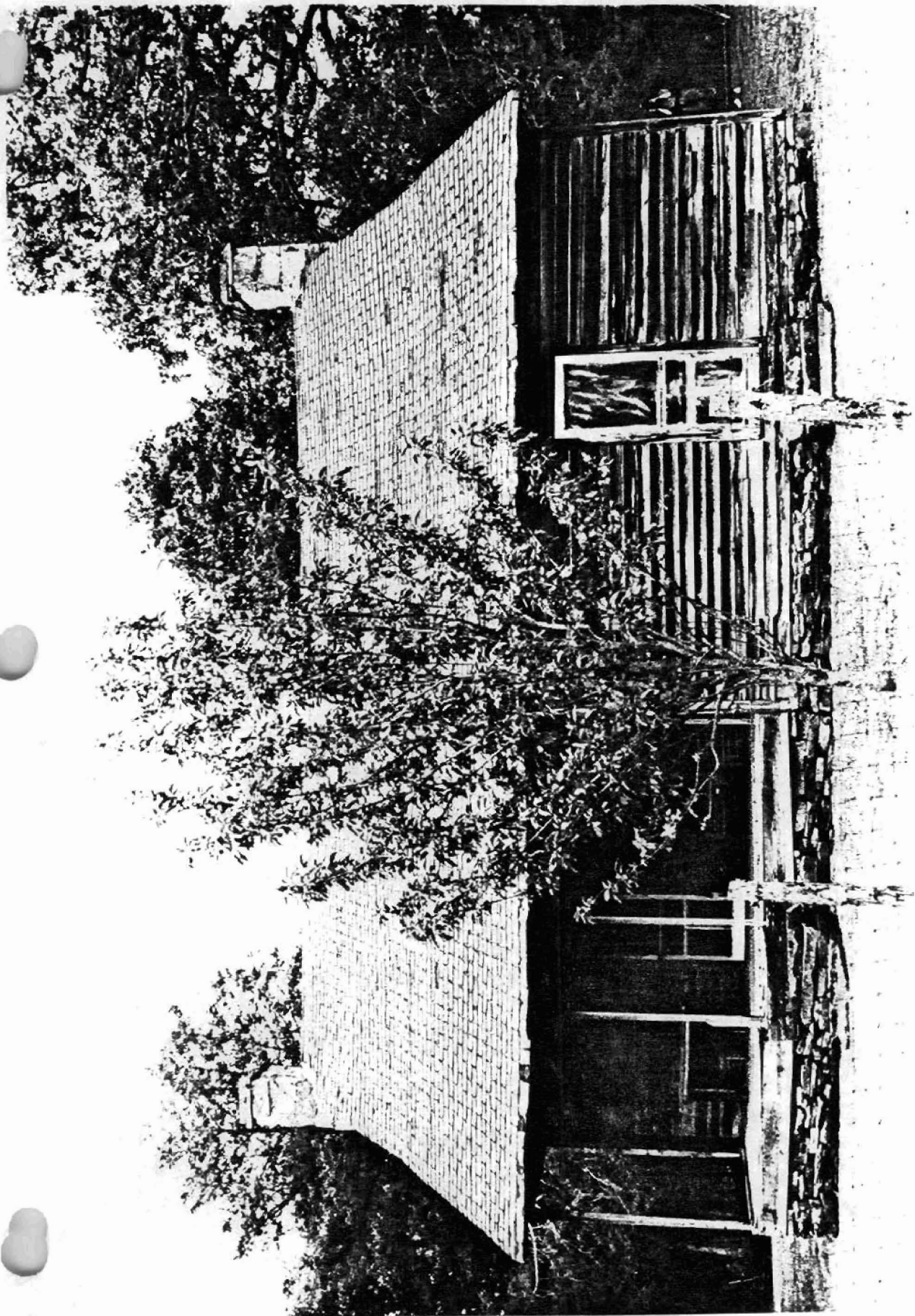
Verbal Boundary Description (con't)

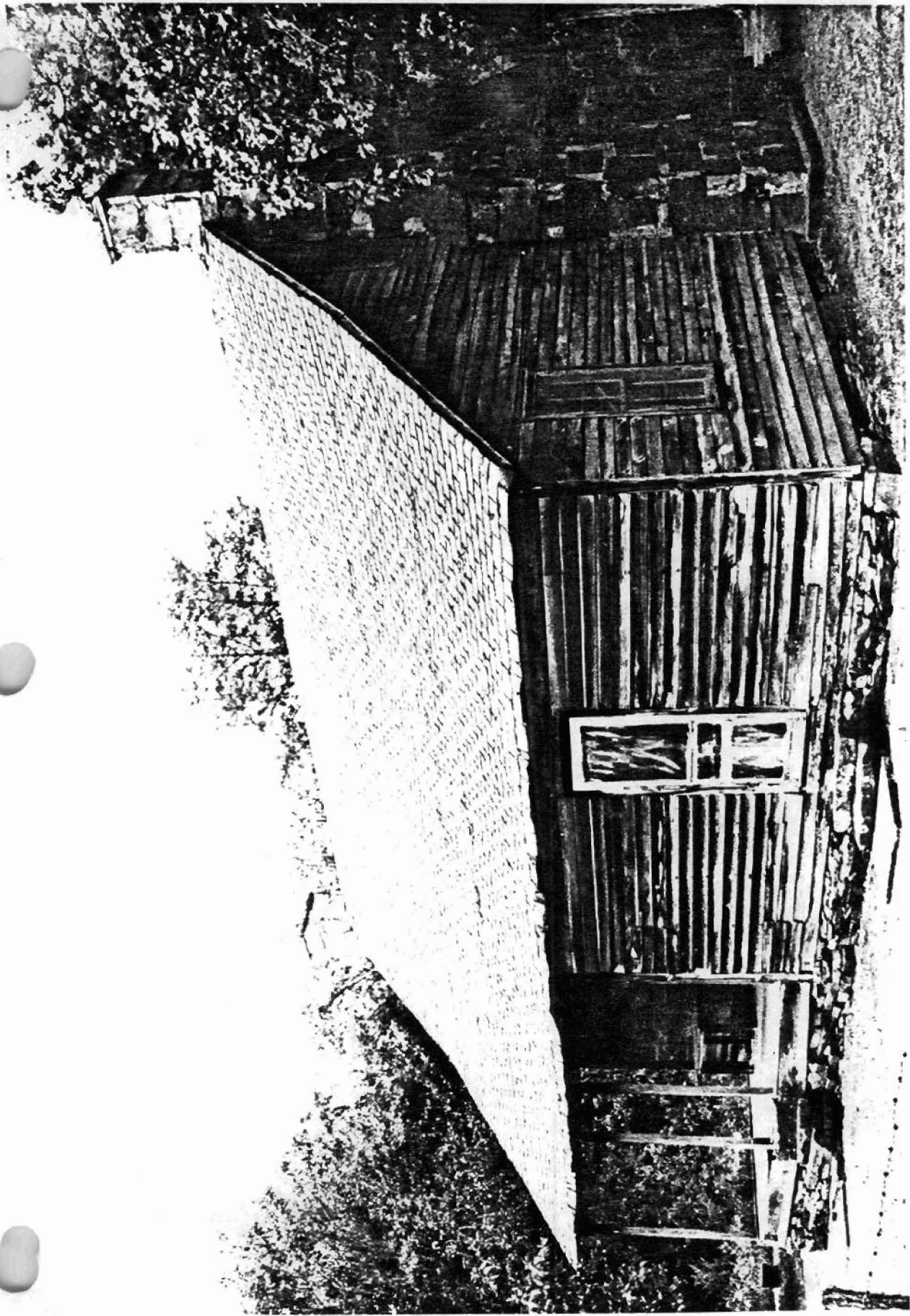
Starting at the point formed by the intersection of the southern edge of County Road 47 with the western edge of the Shelton-Rich Farmstead driveway, proceed westerly along County Road 47 for a distance of 750 feet to the intersection with a perpendicular line which follows the western boundary line of Section 34. **Thence proceed southerly along the section line** for a distance of 2,600 feet to the intersection with a perpendicular line which corresponds to the southern boundary of the northwest quarter of Section 34 (and which also parallels County Road 47). Thence proceed easterly for a distance of 1,350 feet to the intersection with a perpendicular line which parallels the western boundary of Section 34. Thence proceed northerly for a distance of 2,600 feet to the intersection with a perpendicular line which parallels the southern boundary of the northwest quarter of Section 34 and which forms the southern edge of County Road 47 just to the west. Thence proceed westerly along this line and the southern edge of County Road 47 for a distance of 600 feet to point of beginning, comprising in all a total of 80 acres.



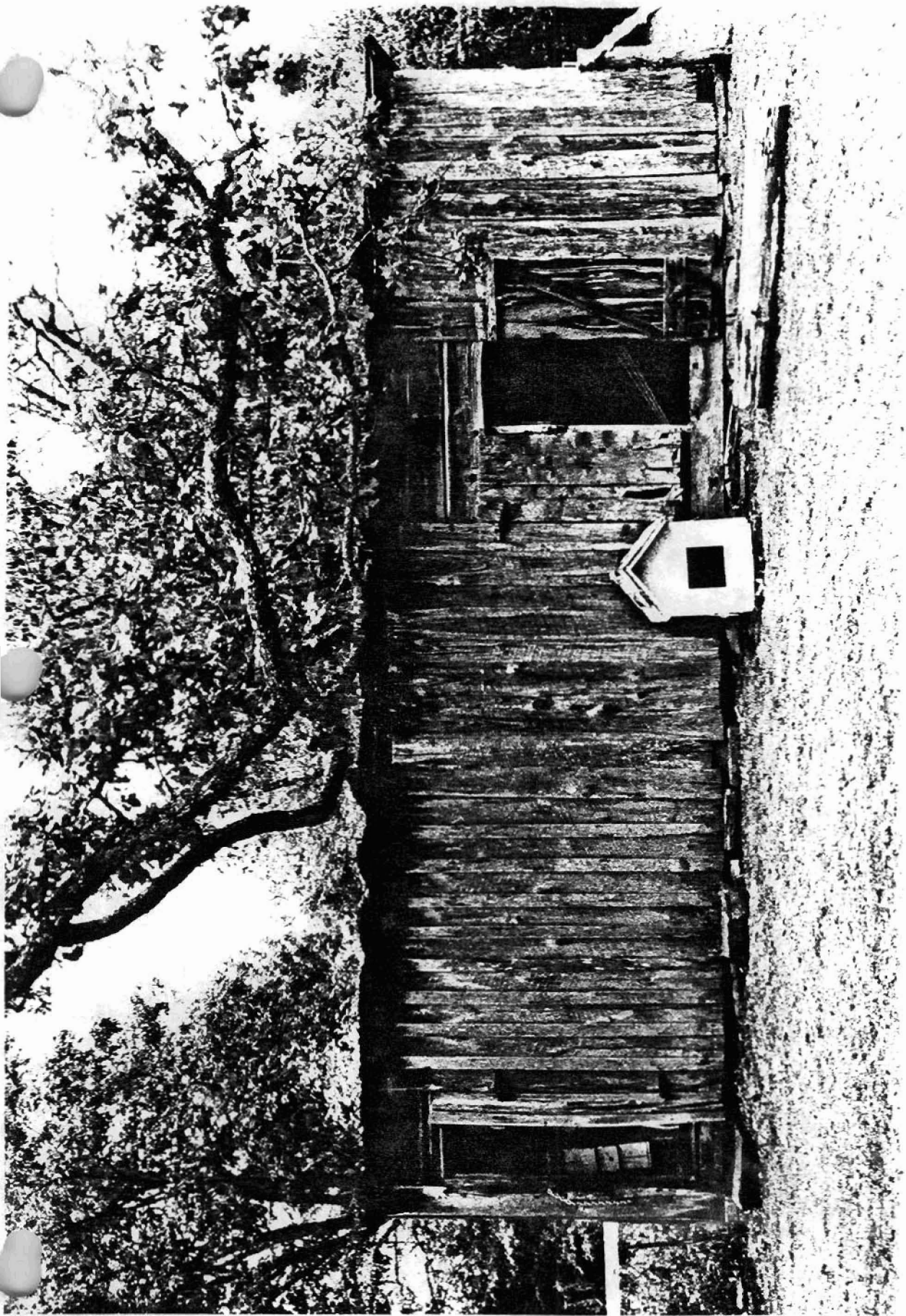


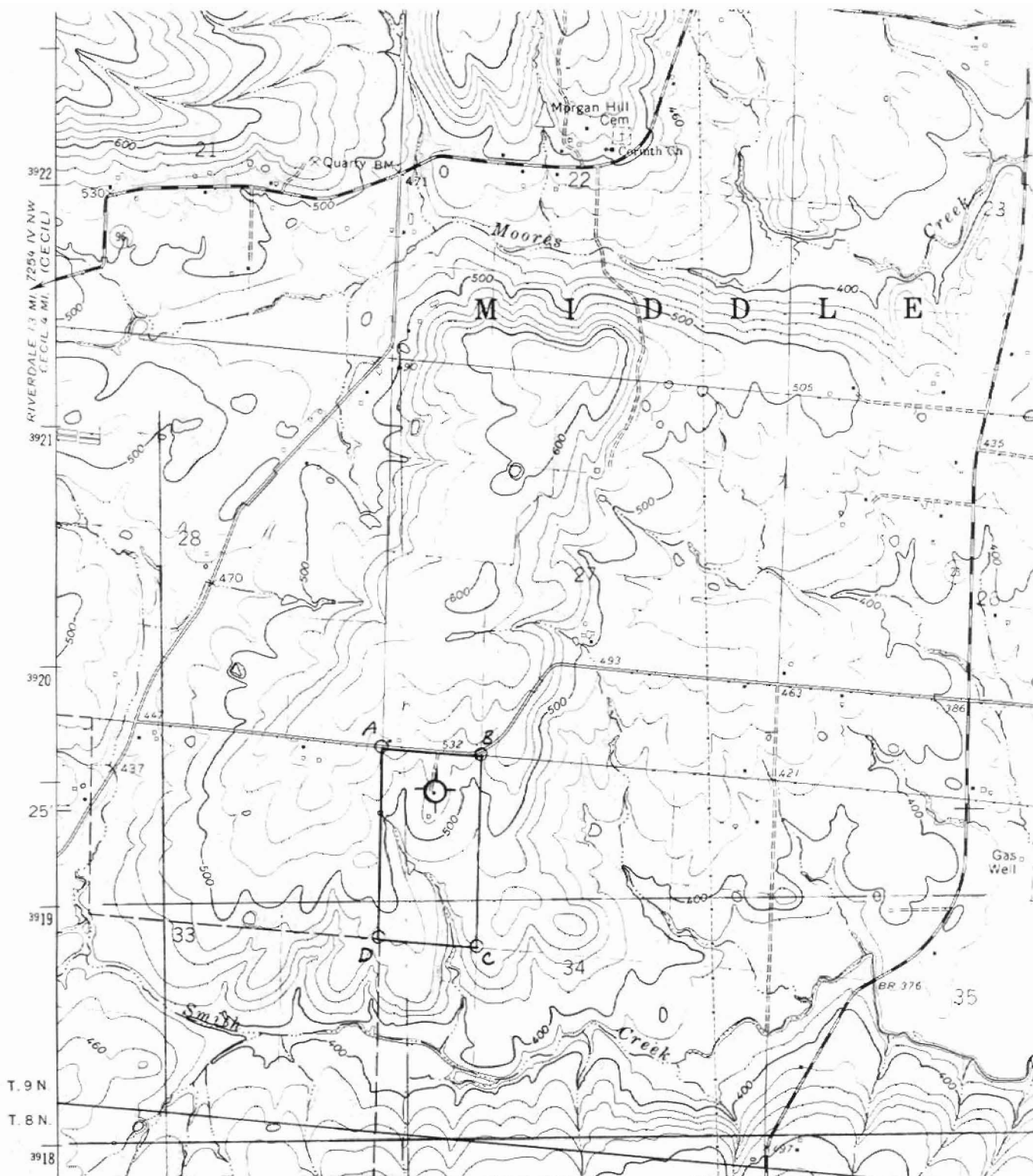












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 Webb City, Arkansas
 Franklin County
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 B: 15/422320/3919610
 C: 15/422290/3918820
 D: 15/421880/3918845
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