

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 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 Saddle Store

other names/site number Saddle Store and Gas Station (FU0070)

2. Location

street & number AR Hwy 289

not for publication

city or town Saddle

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Fulton code 049 zip code 72513

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

I, 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.)

Cathie Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

9/28/00
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program/Department of Arkansas Heritage
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

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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

Saddle Store
Name of Property

Fulton County, AR
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
--------------	-----------------	--

2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE
SOCIAL

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Plain/Traditional

foundation CONCRETE
walls WOOD
roof METAL
other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Saddle Store
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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)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1916 to 1950

Significant Dates

1916

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Joe Hatman (builder)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Geography

(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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 1.1 acres.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 622270 4024380
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Beginning at the Southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE ¼ SE ¼) of Section Twenty Nine (29) Township Twenty (20) North of Range Six (6) West of the 5th P.M. in Arkansas, and running thence North 122 feet, thence West to the Mammoth Spring-Ash Flat W.P.A. Road, thence South along the East side of said road to the South line of said forty, thence East to the point of beginning, containing 1.1 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification

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

This boundary contains the store building and its ancillary building, both of which contribute to this nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Bennett/Survey Historian

organization AHPP date September 13, 2000

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9880

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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SUMMARY

The gable-roofed, plain-traditional building is set on a hill on the eastern side of Arkansas Highway 289 in the small town of Saddle, Fulton County. Now abandoned, the building is relatively intact with no additions. Its setting also includes a gable-roofed outbuilding with attached privy, a retaining wall, and an unearthed gasoline tank. The signage on the building proclaims "GULF," "Saddle Store," and includes advertisements for Pepsi and Gold Crown Stamps.

ELABORATION

The building has a rectangular, two-story floor plan, resting on a raised continuous concrete foundation with partial basement. The store is sided by flush horizontal board. The original window openings remain; however, the windows themselves are deteriorated or missing on some elevations. The moderately pitched gable roof is covered by metal roofing material. An interior metal flue pipe pierces the roof near the southeastern corner of the building.

On the building's front (south) elevation, a pair of one-over-one windows flank the double-door front entryway. Access is obtained to the doors via six concrete stairs set into the cast concrete porch. Above, the second story contains two matching pairs of windows. An unearthed metal gas tank is also found near the southwestern corner of this elevation.

The side, or western, elevation contains the entrance to the raise basement. While no windows are found on the first story, the second story is fenestrated by two evenly spaced pairs of windows. The eastern elevation is similar to the western elevation, in that it contains no fenestration on its first story; however, it contains three evenly spaced single double-hung windows on its second story. An exterior staircase leading to a second story door near the southeast corner of the elevation was removed at some point, leaving a section of the wood siding missing. The second story door with a single light over three wood panels remains intact.

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To the north of the store building, is a one-story vernacular ancillary structure. This building is sided with matching horizontal boards, but features a low-pitched gable roof covered with corrugated metal. The gable ends of the building are covered with vertical boards. The building contains only one window on its northern elevation. The southern elevation contains a pair of vertical board doors. A shed-roofed vertical board privy is located on the northwestern corner of the building and is partially hidden by vegetation.

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SUMMARY

The Saddle Store was constructed in 1916, according to present owner James A. Tompkins. Although the stately two-story plain-traditional building is currently vacant, it retains its integrity of setting as it is located prominently next to Hwy 289. The deterioration of the building does not detract from the building's integrity of workmanship or feeling of history. The current owner wishes to stabilize and restore the building. The Saddle Store is the only extant two-story general store located in the small town of Saddle in Fulton County.

ELABORATION

According to Vester Williams in an issue of The Salem Headlight, the town of Saddle was first known in the 1870s as Sharp's Mill. Ephraim Sharp installed the first dam in the area the town grew up around and also ran a gristmill, flourmill, and cotton gin. In 1877 the name was changed to South Fork, because that was the name the local post office adopted. The post office, which was kept in the general store, was closed in 1925. Upon opening again on 20 March 1928, the post office needed a different name from any other office in Arkansas. Hershell Rogers was repairing a saddle at the time the request came in for the new name, and is said to have remarked, "Ah, just name it Saddle; that is the biggest business in this town, anyway." The name stuck. The Saddle Post Office continued service until the mid 1950s.

Either Joe Hatman or a Mr. Benton constructed the Saddle Store Building in 1916. The store has had many owners including Joe Hatman and family; Verny and Mildred Howard; Victoria and Charles Belknap and the Tompkins family. The present owner is James Tompkins. From all indications the Saddle Store remained in continuous business from 1917 until 1988 as a General Store. Even after that time it was used as a Voting Poll, and served as a community meeting place before construction of the new Saddle community building.

Gasoline products were available through Walker Gulf Oil in Mammoth Springs, becoming Bates Oil Company. James A. Tompkins remembers gasoline being sold at the Saddle Store in 1948 - 49 and probably much earlier; the pump was hand-powered a

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“glass measuring bowl” replaced later by a modern pump. There is a 500-gallon storage tank poured inside the front steps, and later a 1000-gallon storage tank installed outside on the front patio.

The Saddle Store was much more than a general store and gas station. It served as an election-polling place, community meeting place, dances were held there upstairs, along with traveling moving picture shows.

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Although fallen into disrepair, the Saddle Store remains a landmark of a community in which there was once also a gristmill, cotton gin, saw mill and another commercial store. The current owner wishes to restore the historic appearance of the building and reopen it as a community building. The Saddle Store is being nominated with local significance to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its stately plain-traditional design. Because of the gas station and the position of the building on State Highway 289, it is also significant for its association with automobile transportation in Arkansas. Thus, it is being nominated under the historic context “Arkansas Highway History and Architecture, 1910-1965.”

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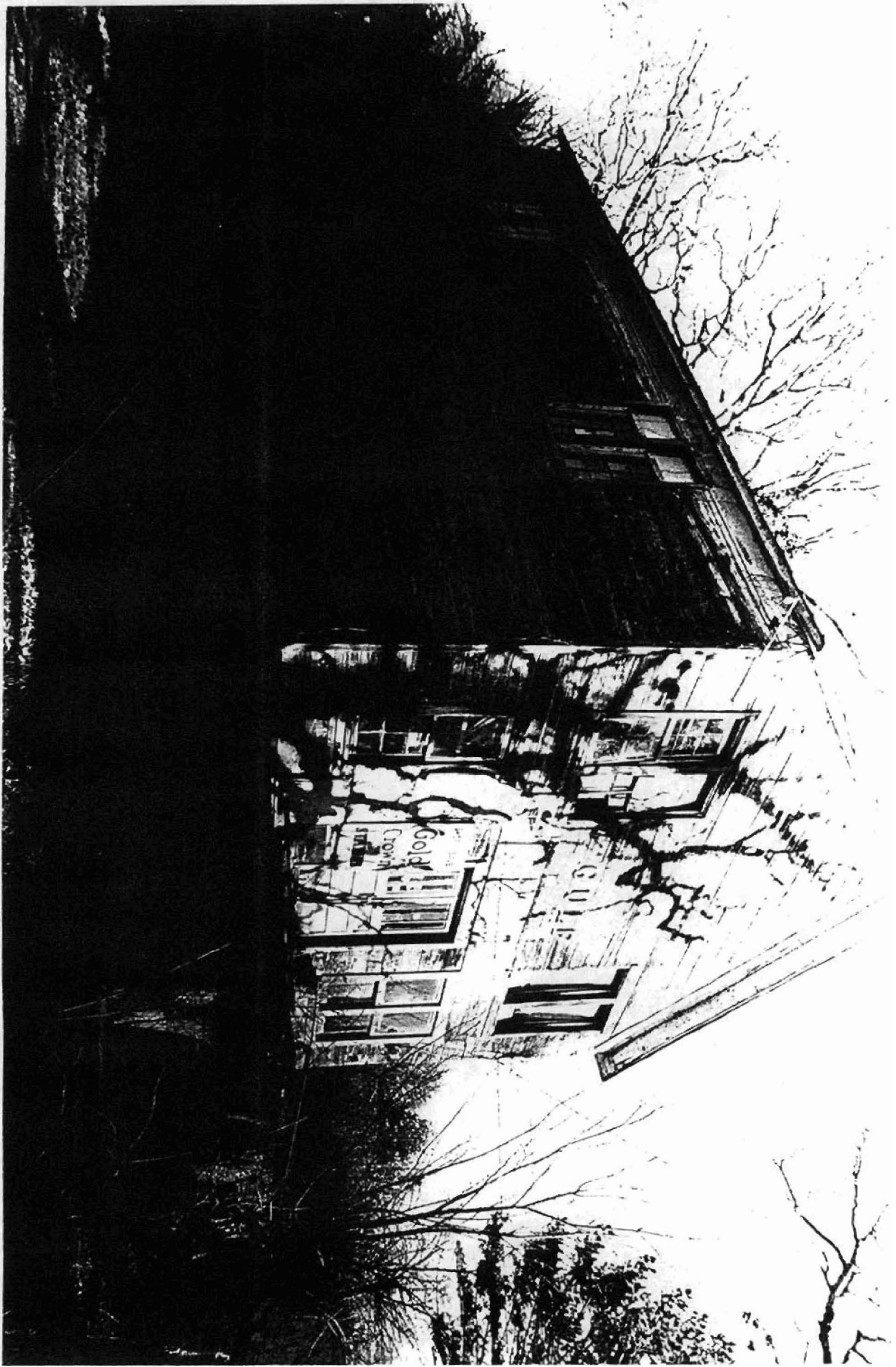
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BIBLIOGRAPHY

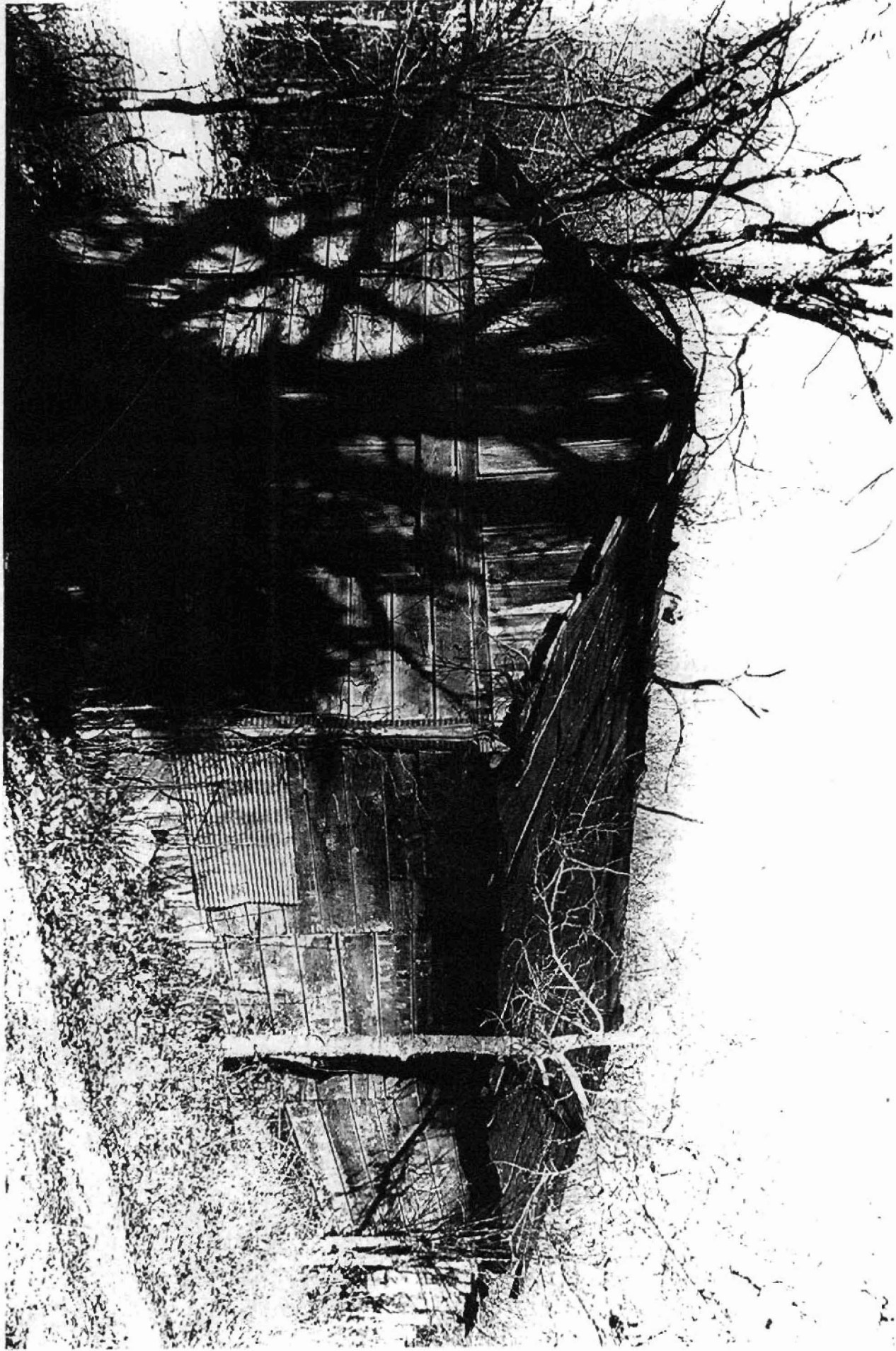
Williams, Vester, "How Saddle Got Its Name," *The Salem Headlight*. 16 February 1967.

Interview with James A. Tompkins, July 2000.



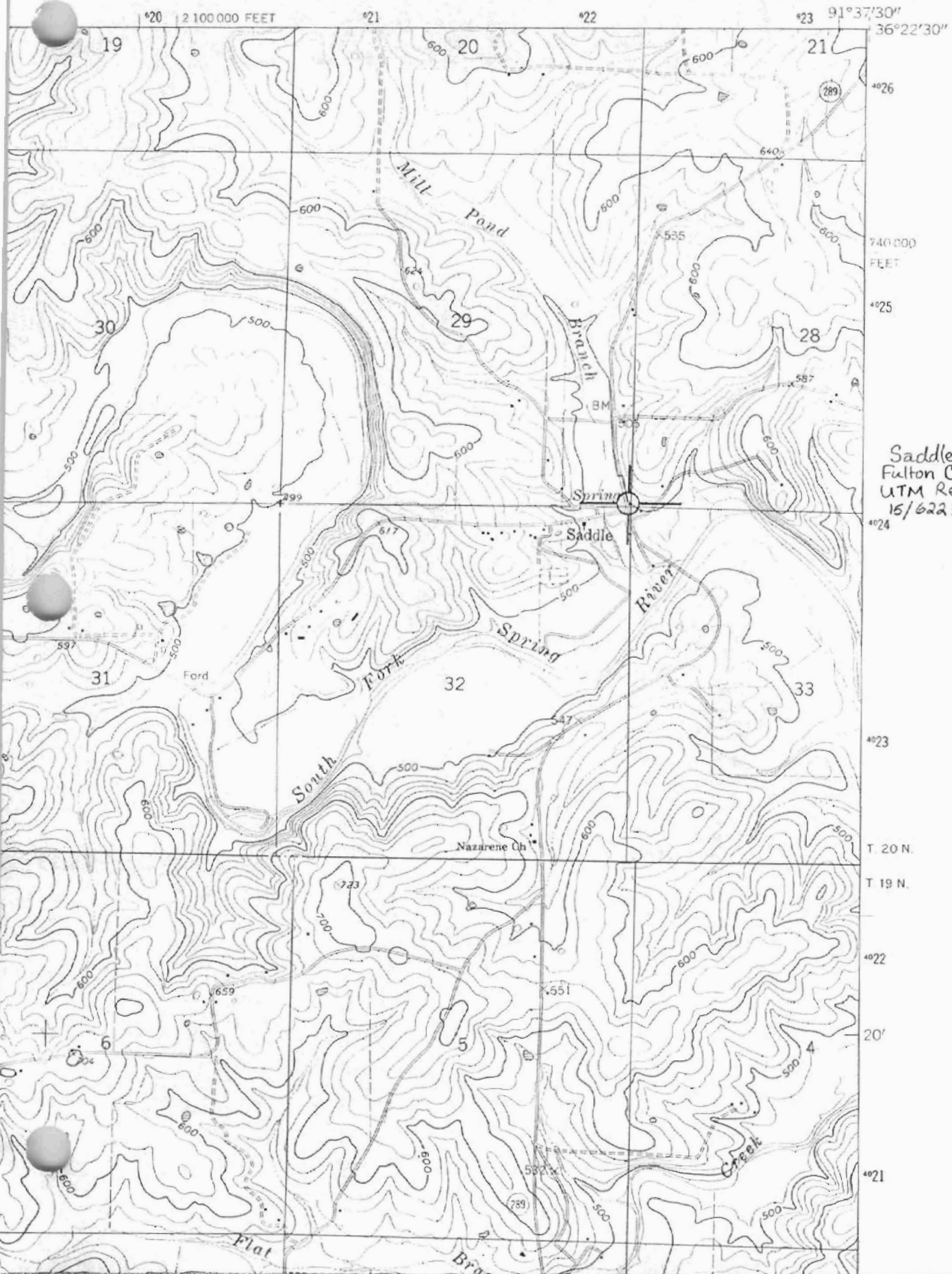






AGNOS QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7856 1 ME
(MAMMOTH SPRING)



Saddle Store
Fulton Co., AR
UTM Reference:
15/622310 / 4024010