

NR 5-3-76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dearing House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Highway 122

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Newark

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Arkansas

05

Independence

063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Lena Dearing Shipman (Mrs. E. E. Shipman)

STREET & NUMBER

Route 1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Newark

VICINITY OF

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Independence County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Batesville

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE 1901

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The T.H. Dearing House originated c. 1890 as a one-storey frame house in Akron, Arkansas. In 1901 the house was moved about five miles to its present site. In 1914 a second storey was added which was architecturally in keeping with the original section. Dated photographs show that the first storey has remained unaltered since its construction. The exterior of the two-storey structure has remained virtually unchanged since 1914.

The Dearing House is a two-storey, Victorian-style residence. The ell-shape of the two-storey section is modified by one-storey porches and projections on the south and west elevations. The basic floor plan has a central hall with four rooms on the south and two rooms on the north. The four room, second-storey addition lies above the east rooms.

The house is sheathed in narrow clapboard with narrow vertical boards at each corner and a wide baseboard over the upper portion of the stone foundation. Windows on the first storey are long and narrow with four-light double-hung sashes and a simple cornice. Upstairs windows are two-light sash with cornices identical to the lower window cornices.

The most interesting features of the house are the open porches on the east (front) and south elevations. Decorative woodwork cut in intricate patterns gives the porches their distinctive appearance. Trim on the two first-storey porches is identical. Square posts with a turned section in the middle divide the porches into bays. Handrails rest above jigsaw-cut balusters. Brackets on the porch posts are cut in a sunburst-like pattern and terminate in miniature pendants. Spindles in each porch bay are set between a scroll pattern above and a serrated pattern beneath. Though similar, the second-storey porch is less intricately trimmed than the first-storey porches.

Other interesting features include the two-storey bay on the facade and the patterned woodwork set into the east and southeast gable ends. The multi-gable roof is capped with cresting.

Because it has been continually occupied by members of the family, the Dearing House has been well cared for and remains in excellent condition. The house rests on a spacious tree-shaded site, an appropriate setting for the community's most architecturally interesting structure.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
— HISTORIC	— ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	— COMMUNITY PLANNING	— LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	— RELIGION	
— 0-1499	— ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	— CONSERVATION	— LAW	— SCIENCE	
— 1500-1599	— AGRICULTURE	— ECONOMICS	— LITERATURE	— SCULPTURE	
— 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	— EDUCATION	— MILITARY	— SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
— 1700-1799	— ART	— ENGINEERING	— MUSIC	— THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	— EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	— PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
— 1900-	— COMMUNICATIONS	— INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	— OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		— INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1854 a post office was established at Big Bottom in Independence County, Arkansas. As a commercial port on the White River and a stagecoach stop between Jacksonport and Batesville, the community grew into a small but relatively important commercial center. Its name was later changed to Akron.

When the railroad passed north of Akron through the Newark community, the decline of the earlier settlement began. After reaching its peak population in the 1880's the community began to diminish in size and commercial importance. Around the turn of the century several fires destroyed most of its business district, thus hastening Akron's demise.

Today the only physical remains at the site of the old Akron community consist of the cemetery, which overlooks the White River; however, one structure originally located in Akron, but since moved, is still standing. The T.H. Dearing House, built in Akron about 1890, was moved to Newark in 1901. This house symbolizes the general movement from river ports to railroad depots which occurred often in late nineteenth-century Arkansas. Moreover, the Dearing House is tangible evidence of Newark's ties to Akron.

The Dearing House was built by Thomas Hindman Dearing as a residence for his large family. Though the exact construction date is not known, descendants of the builder concur that it was probably constructed about 1890. In 1901 Dearing moved both his family and his house to the nearby community of Newark.

Dearing was a farmer who was active in Independence County politics. From 1894 to 1898 he served as circuit clerk for Independence County, and in 1911 he was appointed sergeant-at-arms for Arkansas' 38th General Assembly. The house he built for his eight children is now owned by his youngest daughter, Mrs. Lena Dearing Shipman.

The Dearing House is a white-frame, Victorian-style structure which, in 1914, was enlarged by the addition of a second storey. Several features give the house its distinctive appearance; these include the ornately trimmed porches on the east and south elevations, a two-storey bay on the east facade, metal cresting on the roof and decorative woodwork set into the gable ends. Besides being the most architecturally significant structure in the Newark community, the Dearing House is also one of the oldest still standing.

Architecturally, the Dearing House is one of the most important Victorian-style structures in Independence County. Built by a farmer and politician,

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

the house typifies the tastes of such a man at the turn of the century. Moving the house from a declining to a growing community represented the shift in population brought about by the railroad. The Dearing House, as the last surviving structure from Old Akron, is a continual reminder of Newark's heritage from the older community.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Dearing House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Newark

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

COUNTY

Independence

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk

DATE OF PHOTO 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

East facade and South elevation, viewed from the Southeast

PHOTO NO

1

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Arkansas Gazette, April 1, 1938.

McGinnis, A.C. "First Post Offices of Big Bottoms." Independence County Chronicle, Vol. II (January, 1961).

Shipman, Lena Dearing. Interview at Dearing House, September 5, 1975.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 5	6, 4, 1, 1, 6, 0	3, 9, 5, 1, 8, 8, 0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dianna Kirk, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

12-9-75

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

(501)-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

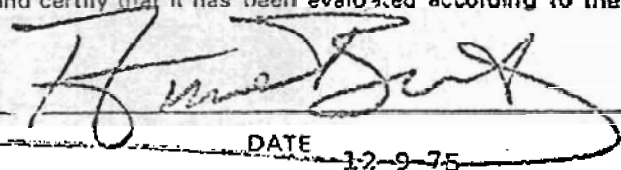
NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE Anne Bartley



TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

12-9-75

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

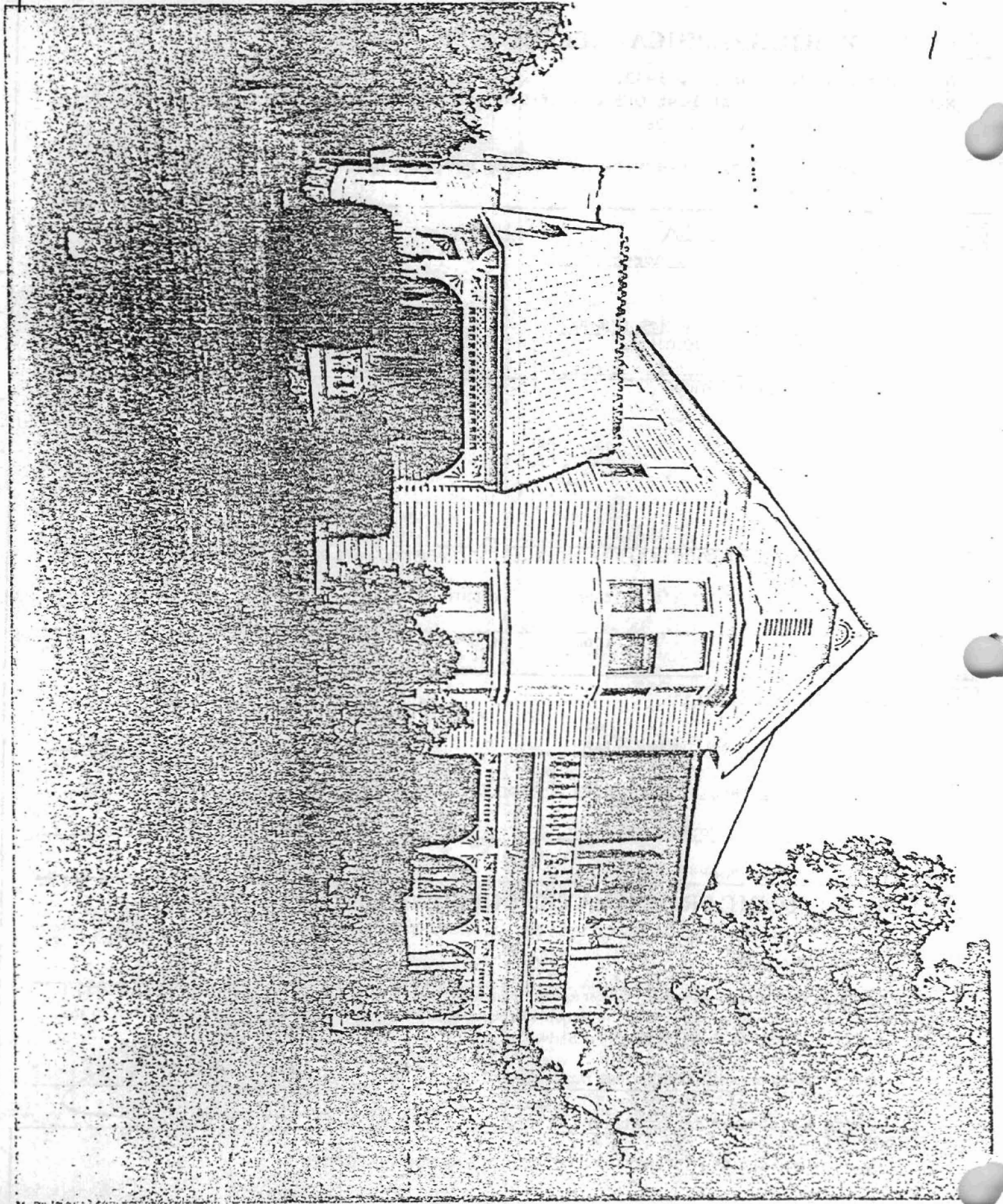
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC Dearing House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Newark VICINITY OF STATE Arkansas COUNTY Independence

3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk DATE OF PHOTO 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO.
c. 1910 photograph of house, East facade 2

m No. 10-301a
v. 10-74)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC Dearing House
AND/OR COMMON

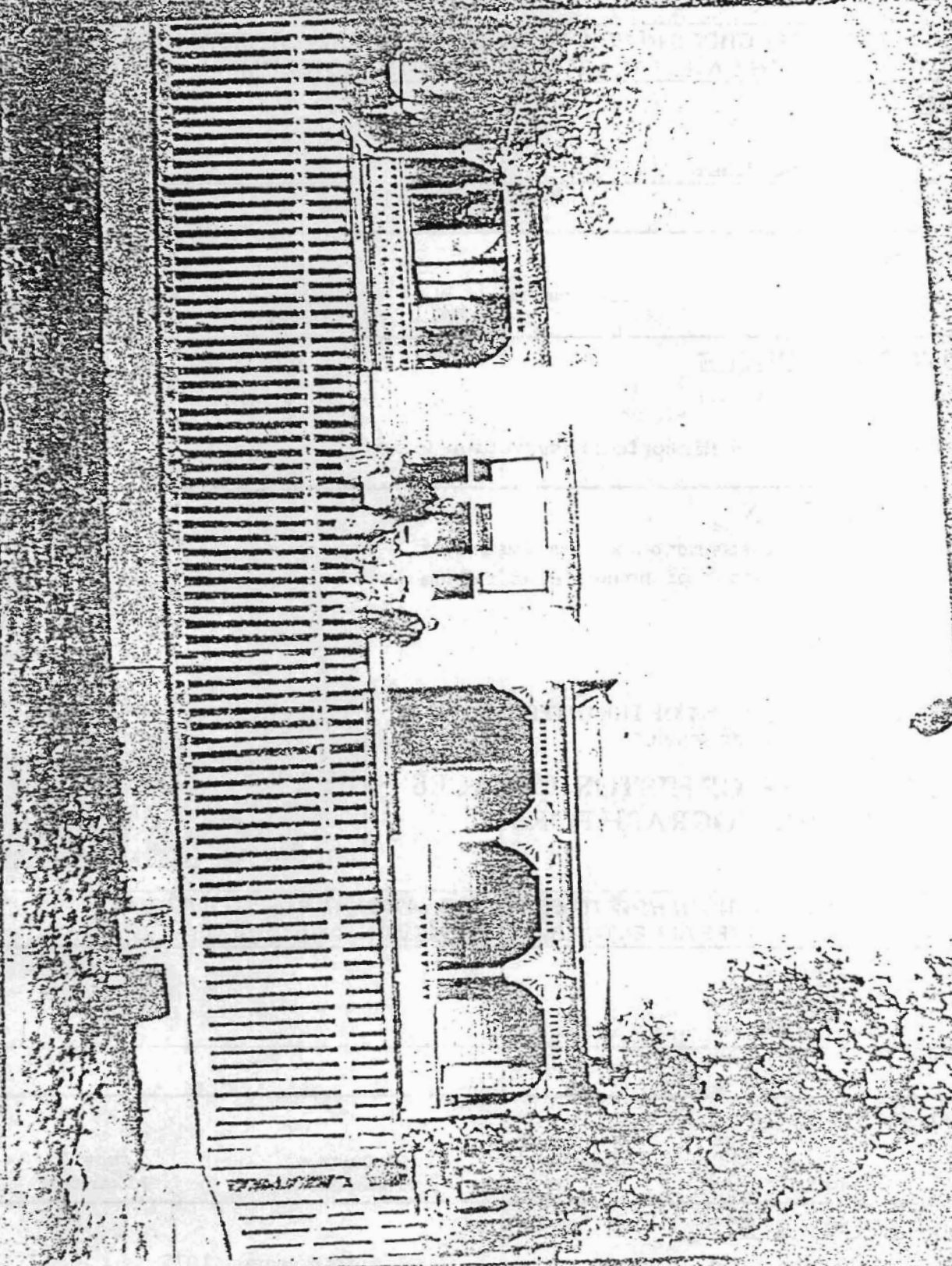
2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN Newark VICINITY OF COUNTY Independence STATE Arkansas

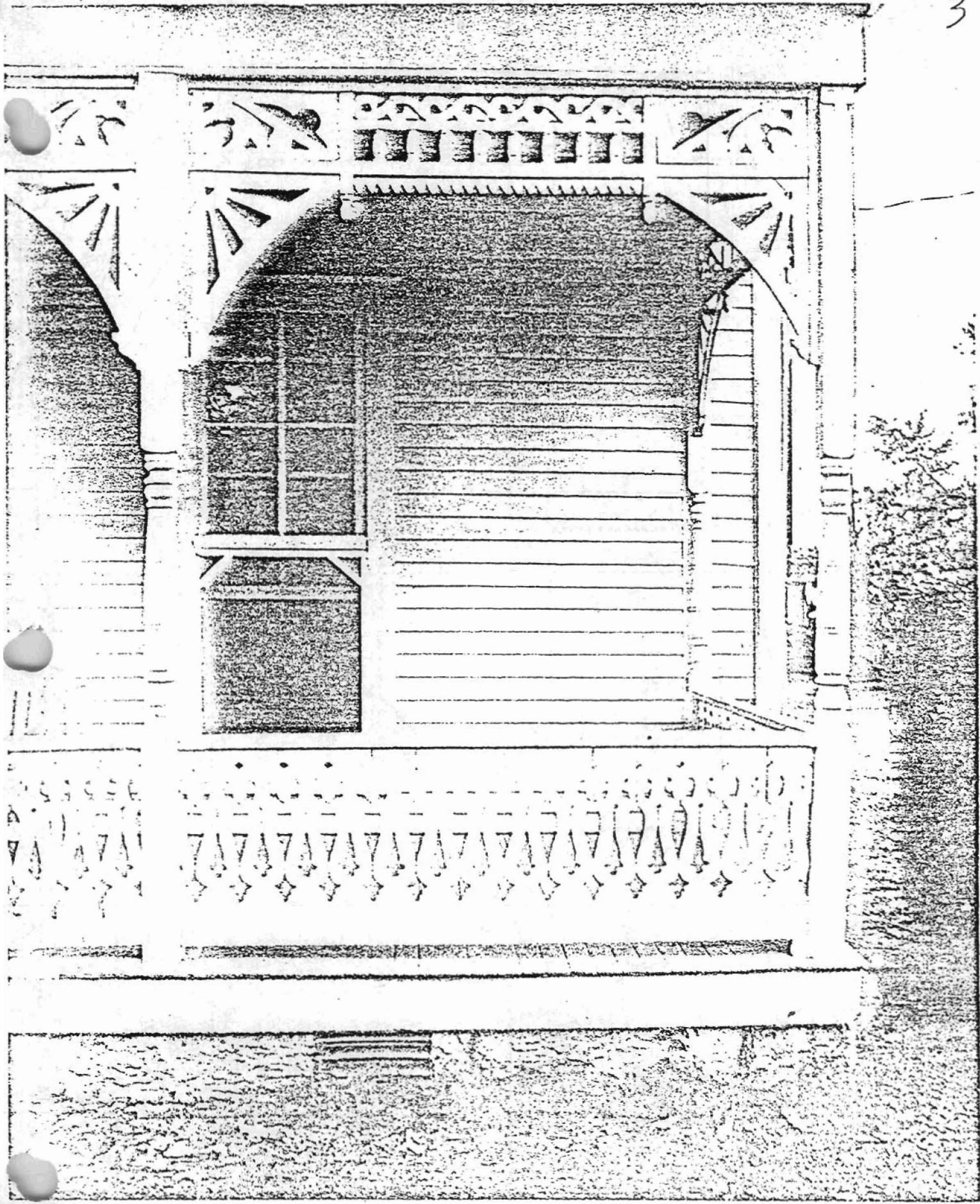
3 PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT Dianna Kirk DATE OF PHOTO 1975
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

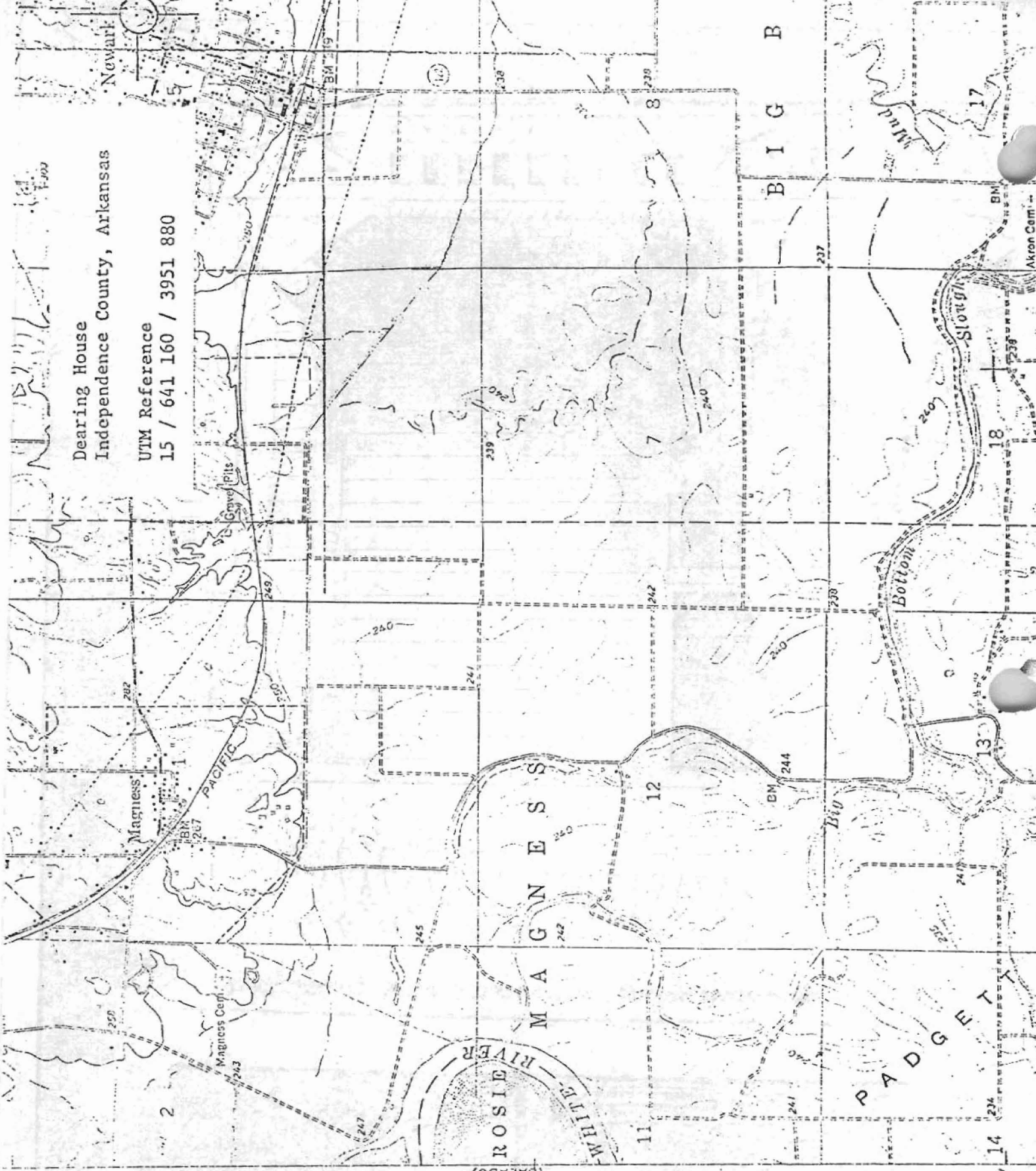
4 IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET PHOTO NO.
Porch detail, Northeast corner 3

2

2







Dearing House
Independence County, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15 / 641 160 / 3951 880

Newark

ROSIE RIVER
WILHELM RIVER
(SALACO)

MAGNESS

B I G B

P A D G E T

Bottom

Stough

Akron Cem.

1230'

40'