

NR LISTED 9/30/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Izard County Courthouse

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Highway 69 (Courthouse Square)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Melbourne

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Izard code: AR 065 zip code: 72556

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Catherine A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

August 8, 1993
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 Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: GOVERNMENT

Sub: Courthouse

Current: GOVERNMENT

Sub: Courthouse

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Art Deco

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Asphalt
walls Stone/Limestone other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1938-1940

Significant Dates: 1938-1940

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Erhart and Eichenbaum

National Youth Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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X 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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>598570</u>	<u>3990800</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the southern edge of State Highway 69 with a perpendicular line formed by the western edge of Spring Street, proceed southerly along the latter line to its intersection with a perpendicular line formed by the northern edge of Court Street; thence proceed westerly along said line to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the eastern edge of Lunen Street; thence proceed northerly along said line to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the southern edge of State Highway 69; thence proceed easterly along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date: 08/11/93

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500

Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock

State: AR

Zip: 72201

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Summary

The IZARD County Courthouse is a two-story gray limestone government building with a full basement. Constructed from 1938-1940 as a N.Y.A. (National Youth Administration) project, the courthouse reflects a very restrained interpretation of the Art Deco style of architecture. Irregular in plan, the courthouse has two two-story wings that flank and project forward of the main two-story courtroom block on the north, and two smaller two-story wings that flank the south end of the main block. As typical of this architectural style, the roofs are flat behind concealing parapets and the ornamentation of the facade is minimal. The interior features marble wainscoting and wood door frames. The courtroom floor slopes from rear to front (as in a theatre) affording all spectators a view of the proceedings; it also contains the original oak bench, jury seats, and spectator's benches constructed by the N.Y.A. The IZARD County Courthouse is located in Melbourne on an elevated square bounded by Main, Spring, Court, and Lunen streets. There is one noncontributing structure on the square: a hexagonal wooden bandstand constructed c. 1952 (over the original town square well). Abutting the south wall of the raised square is a two-story concrete block building that is also non-contributing. On the north lawn of the courthouse square is a contributing object: a marble doughboy memorial statue dating from c. 1930. Another contributing element is the retaining wall around the court square which is constructed of the same rough faced coursed limestone. The courthouse is in excellent condition although certain decorative alterations have been made to the interior.

Elaboration

Constructed from 1938-1940 as a N.Y.A. project, the IZARD County Courthouse is a two-story, rough-faced coursed limestone government building atop a full basement. The courthouse reflects a very restrained interpretation of the Art Deco style as shown in its massing and simple detailing. The main two-story block is flanked by two shorter two-story wings which project forward from the front elevation. The flat roofs are concealed behind parapets.

The front, or northern, elevation is accessed by three concrete steps leading to an entry platform between the two flanking two-story projections. A central double-leaf entrance is slightly recessed behind a monumental restrained Art Deco door surround of dressed limestone. The double entry doors are aluminum-frame replacements. The main building block is divided into five bays. Because of the central entrance, there are four first-story windows and five second-story windows. The windows are framed by simple dressed limestone moldings with plain, recessed panels - also of dressed limestone - extending from the bottom of the second-story windows to the top of the first-story windows and ending with a panel below each of the lower

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windows. The windows are all of the same type - metal frame, casement with a lower awning pane - but differ slightly in configuration. The three central second-story windows are two-pane casements with a fixed transom above and working awning panel below. The two central first-story windows match the upper windows with the exception of not having a fixed transom. The remaining windows in the central block are single pane casements with a lower awning pane.

Both two-story projections have only one window each on the northern facade. These windows are located on the second-story, and like the central first-story windows are two-pane casements with an awning pane below. The windows are framed by simple dressed limestone moldings with panels extending above the window to the top of the parapet, and below the window to the foundation.

The decorative elements on the northern facade are simple and restrained. The inscription "Izard County Courthouse" is centered above the second-story windows in the main block and is carved from dressed limestone in conventional lettering. Also on the main block are very simple stylized geometric floral panels located above each single casement window. Capping the main block is a frieze-band of stylized paterae and mutuels. Both the panels and frieze-band are carved from dressed limestone. The two-story projections also have the same frieze-band and above each window a vertical band carved in a stylized chevron pattern which extends to the top of the parapet.

The eastern elevation is composed of two two-story wings (one to the north and one to the south) which project forward from the main two-story courthouse block. The first floor exhibits eight distinct bays and the second floor has seven. The windows match the transom/casement/awning and casement/awning types previously described, and the doors match the front entry doors. The exception to the window configuration occurs on the first floor of the north projecting wing. This space is occupied by the County Clerk's office and is designed entirely as a vault. The first floor windows on the eastern and southern elevations of the north wing are on the transom/casement type but differ in that they have integrated security bars which give the impression of multi-light windows. The south elevation of the north projecting wing contains three windows on each floor. All of the windows on the eastern elevation have plain dressed limestone lintels and sills, with side trim of dressed limestone blocks of alternating sizes. Other decorative features include the eastern entry which is accessed by six concrete steps leading to an entry platform and the massive door surround of dressed limestone with a center vertical panel carved in a stylized chevron pattern. Centered above the entry at the second-story level is another vertical limestone panel carved in a similar stylized chevron pattern. Above each of the three second-story windows in the main block are limestone panels carved in very simple stylized geometric floral patterns. The remaining decorative feature is a frieze-band of stylized

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paterae and mutuels on the eastern facade of the north wing.

The rear, or southern, elevation has six bays on the first floor and five on the second floor. The windows are of the casement/awning type previously described, with the exception of the two center windows on the first floor - one is a three-light awning window and the other is a three over three-light, double hung window. The window trim matches that on the eastern elevation. Other features of the southern elevation include a barred basement window and doorway (the basement houses the IZARD County Jail); a one-story wood frame lean-to addition on the southwest corner which partially blocks that first floor window; and a large square chimney which vented the original wood furnace heating system.

The western elevation is identical in arrangement to the eastern elevation. The only exception being that the first floor windows on the western and southern elevations of the projecting north wing are of the casement/awning type previously described and do not have the integrated security bars.

The interior floor plan is original and unaltered with a "T" shaped hallway, "Batesville Marble" wainscoting, wood door frames, and the original courtroom furnishings. Modifications include paneling the walls above the wainscoting, paneling the courtroom, and lowering its ceiling to accommodate new central heat and air ductwork.

There are two noncontributing structures on the square: a hexagonal wooden bandstand constructed c. 1952 (located on the northwest corner of the square over the original town square well), and a two-story non-historic concrete block structure abutting the south wall of the raised square. On the north lawn of the court square is a marble doughboy memorial statue dating from c. 1930 that is contributing.

Located in Melbourne on a raised square formed by Main, Spring, Court, and Lunen streets, the IZARD County Courthouse is in excellent condition with virtually no exterior alterations.

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Summary

Criteria A and C, local significance

The IZARD County Courthouse is being nominated under Criteria A and C with local significance; under Criterion A through its association with its builders, the National Youth Administration, and under Criterion C as a fine and intact example of the Art Deco style, an architectural idiom particularly popular with such Depression-era public works organizations, and particularly for county courthouses.

Elaboration

IZARD County, named in honor of Governor George Izard, is located in the north central part of the state and was the thirteenth county to be formed in the territory of Arkansas. Created by an Act of Legislature October 27, 1825, it was formed on territory taken from Independence County.

The first county seat was at the town of Liberty (now Norfolk in Baxter County) and the Jacob Wolf House (still standing) was used as the courthouse. In 1830 the county seat was moved to Athens (near present day Calico Rock) where it remained until 1836 when it was moved further down river to Mt. Olive. The county seat was moved from Mt. Olive to Melbourne on May 10, 1875. At that time a large barn was used as the courthouse until 1878 when a two-story frame structure was erected on the present site. This courthouse stood until April 11, 1889, when it was destroyed by fire, taking with it all county records. Another frame courthouse was constructed in 1890 and stood until 1912 when it was demolished to make way for a two-story brick courthouse. This large classical revival courthouse, designed by architect Clyde A. Ferrell and constructed at a cost of \$50,000, was completed in 1914 and graced the raised town square until the morning of December 5, 1937, when it was destroyed by fire.

The present courthouse was begun in 1938 during the administration of Judge John W. Hammett and completed in 1940, under the administration of Judge C.C. Aylor. Construction of this new, "modern" courthouse cost \$150,000, part paid by the county and the balance by the federal government through the N.Y.A. project. The dedication ceremony on June 13, 1940, was a gala event attended by state and national celebrities and over 3000 spectators.

Designed by the architectural firm of Erhart and Eichenbaum of Little Rock, the new courthouse reflects a restrained interpretation of the Art Deco style typical of the era. The Art Deco influence is seen largely in the massing; the flat roofs behind concealing parapets; and the ornamentation which is minimal and restrained in design. The courthouse is constructed of

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rough faced coursed limestone (Batesville marble) and sits atop a raised square in the center of town. The retaining wall around the square is of the same rough faced coursed limestone.

The IZARD County Courthouse was constructed by young men from the National Youth Administration, one of the public works organizations formed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the 1930's. The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the subsequent advent of such federal public works programs as the National Youth Administration (NYA) brought a new courthouse to Melbourne in 1938. The NYA -- an organization that hired unemployed young men to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The NYA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); others included the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum Bayou. Among its various other projects, the NYA constructed or repaired a number of local public buildings throughout the state, and the IZARD County Courthouse was erected as part of this statewide effort.

The Art Deco style as such certainly appeared in the United States prior to the onset of the Depression, but it became a particular favorite of several of these public works agencies that came into many county seats throughout the state to update and improve the existing courthouse facilities. The WPA became especially well-known in the state for its construction in this style (hence the architectural style known as "WPA Moderne"), though it was by no means the only one. However, the individual designs varied considerably as local materials were always favored due to their lower cost. The IZARD County Courthouse is an especially good example of this phenomenon, as the typically clean lines of the pure Art Deco are here interrupted by the texture of the quarry-faced limestone that forms the majority of the wall surfaces. Due to its status as the best local example of this unique architectural interpretation of this national style, and as the only known remaining public building within the county constructed by the NYA, the IZARD County Courthouse is being nominated under Criteria A and C with local significance.

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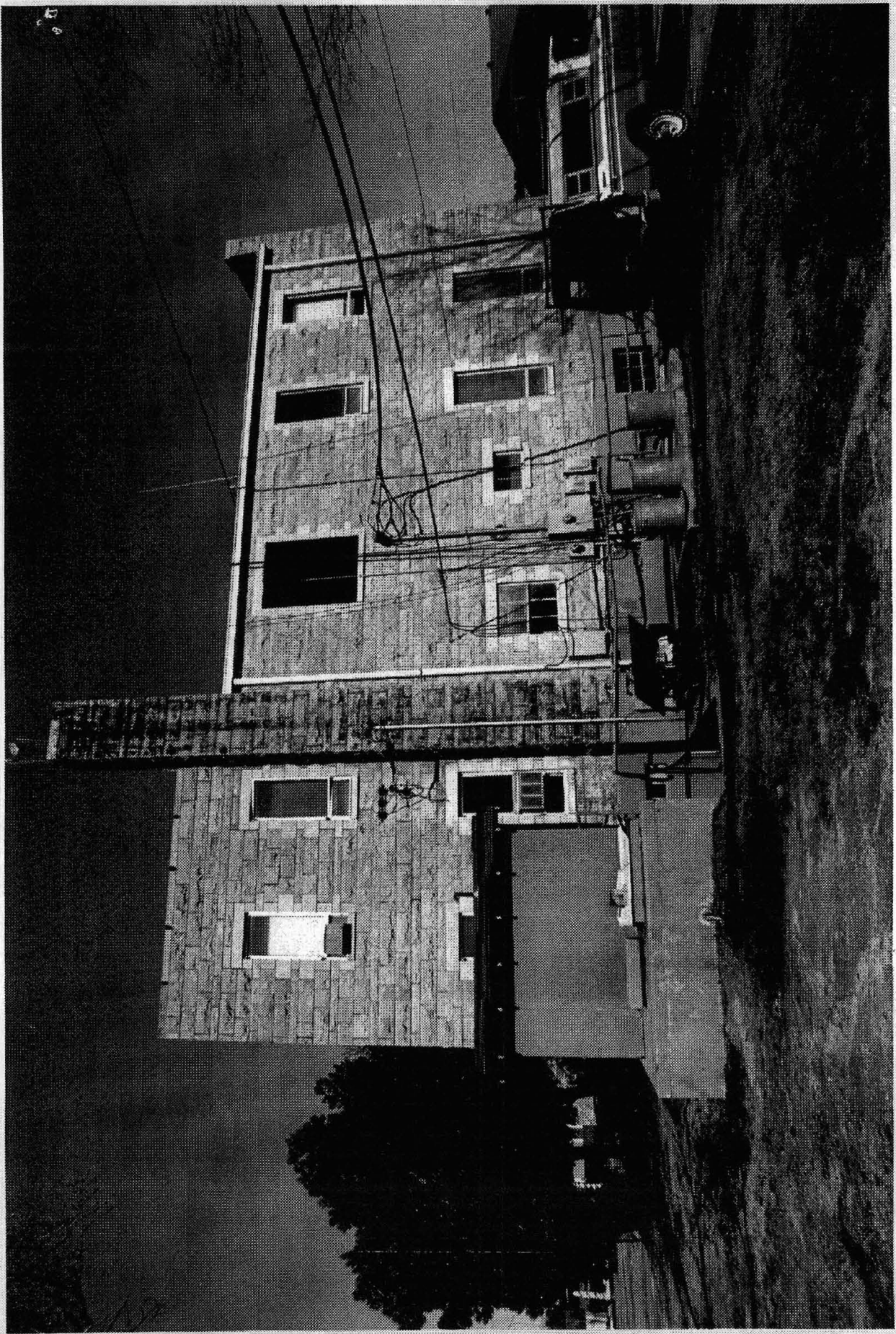
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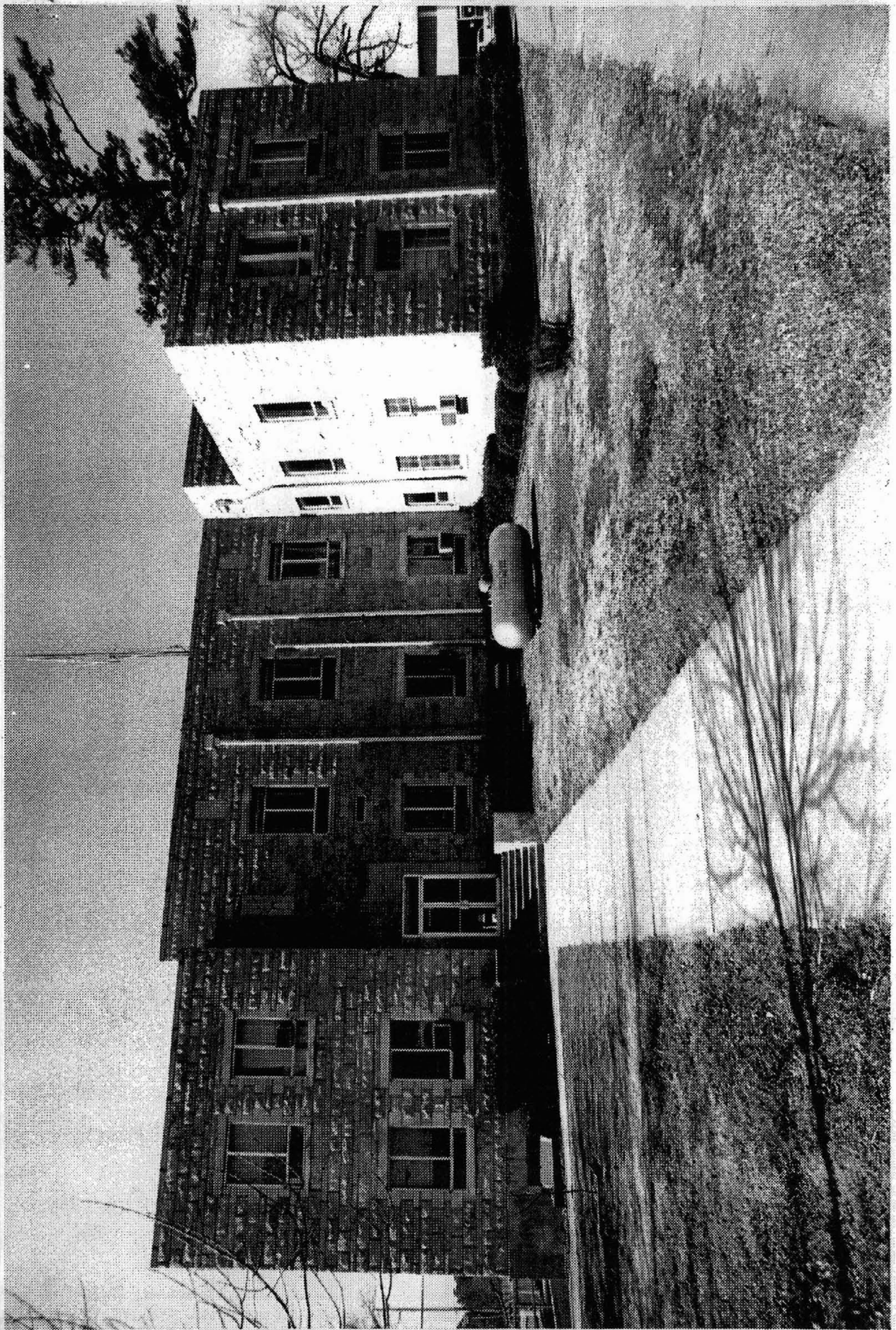
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IZARD Co. COURTHOUSE
MORBOURNE, IZARD Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY T. FERRELLSON
MAY, 1993
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT NHPA
VIEW FROM WEST

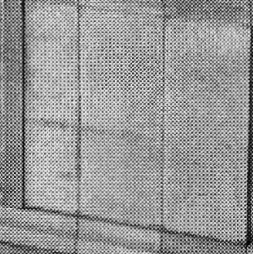
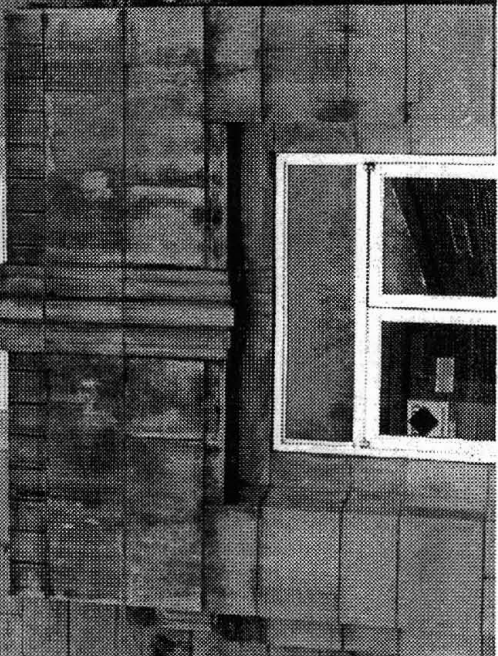
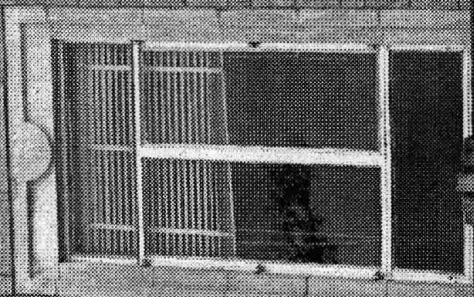
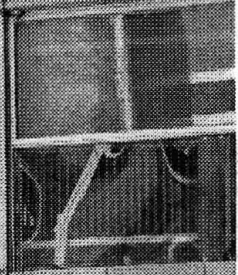
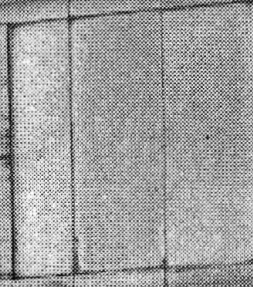
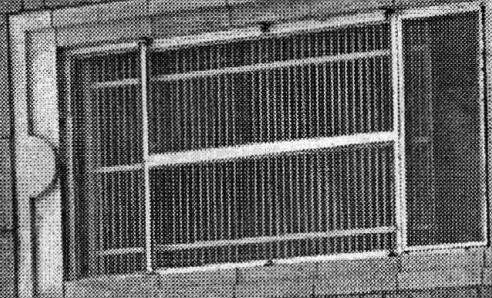


LEWIS Co. Courthouse
MORNING, LEWIS Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY T. FERRELLSON
MAY, 1923
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT NHPP
VIEW FROM SOUTH



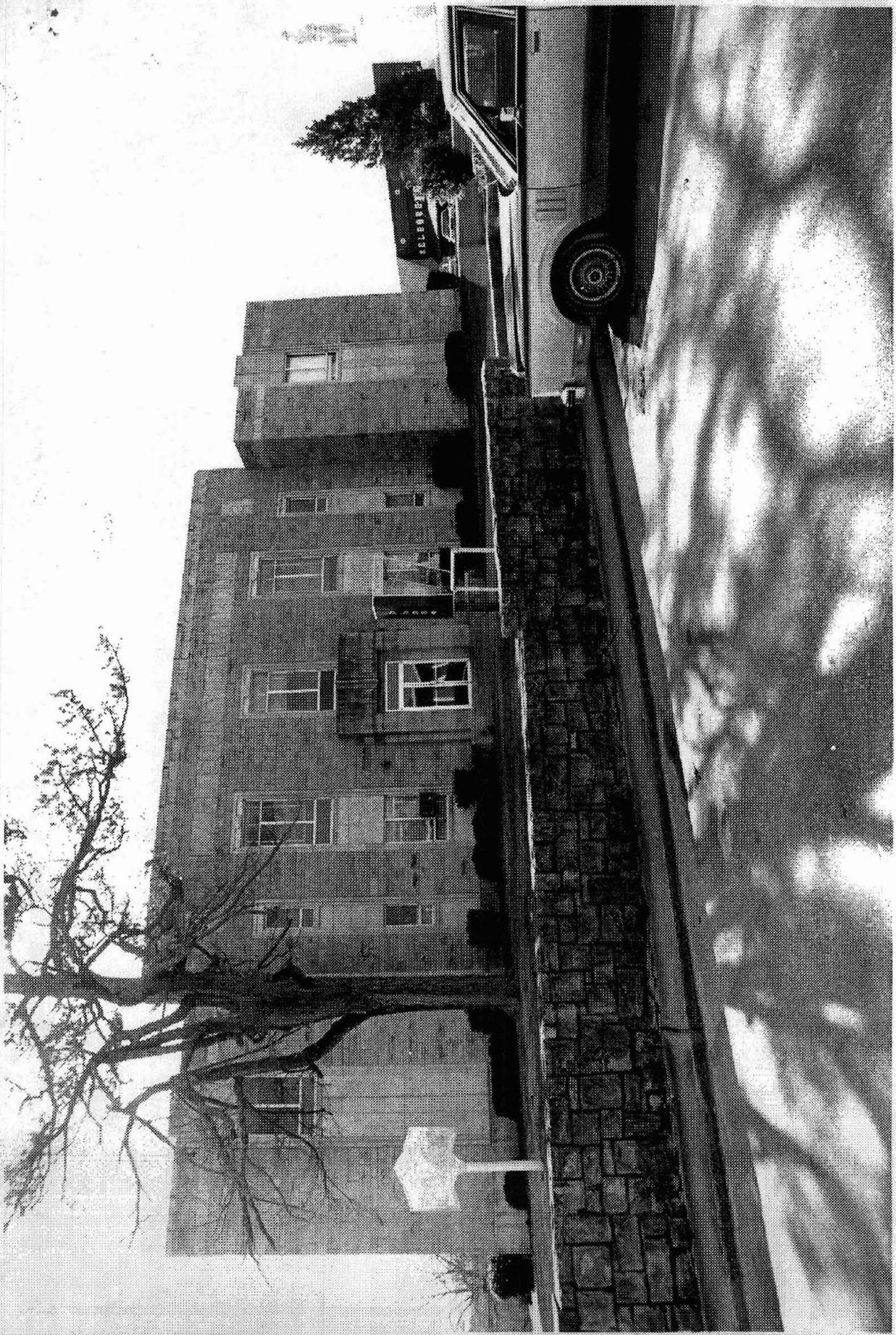
IZARD Co. COURT HOUSE
MILBOURN, IZARD Co., MISSISS
PHOTOGRAPHER BY T. FERRELLSON
May, 1943
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT KHPD
VIEW FROM EAST

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

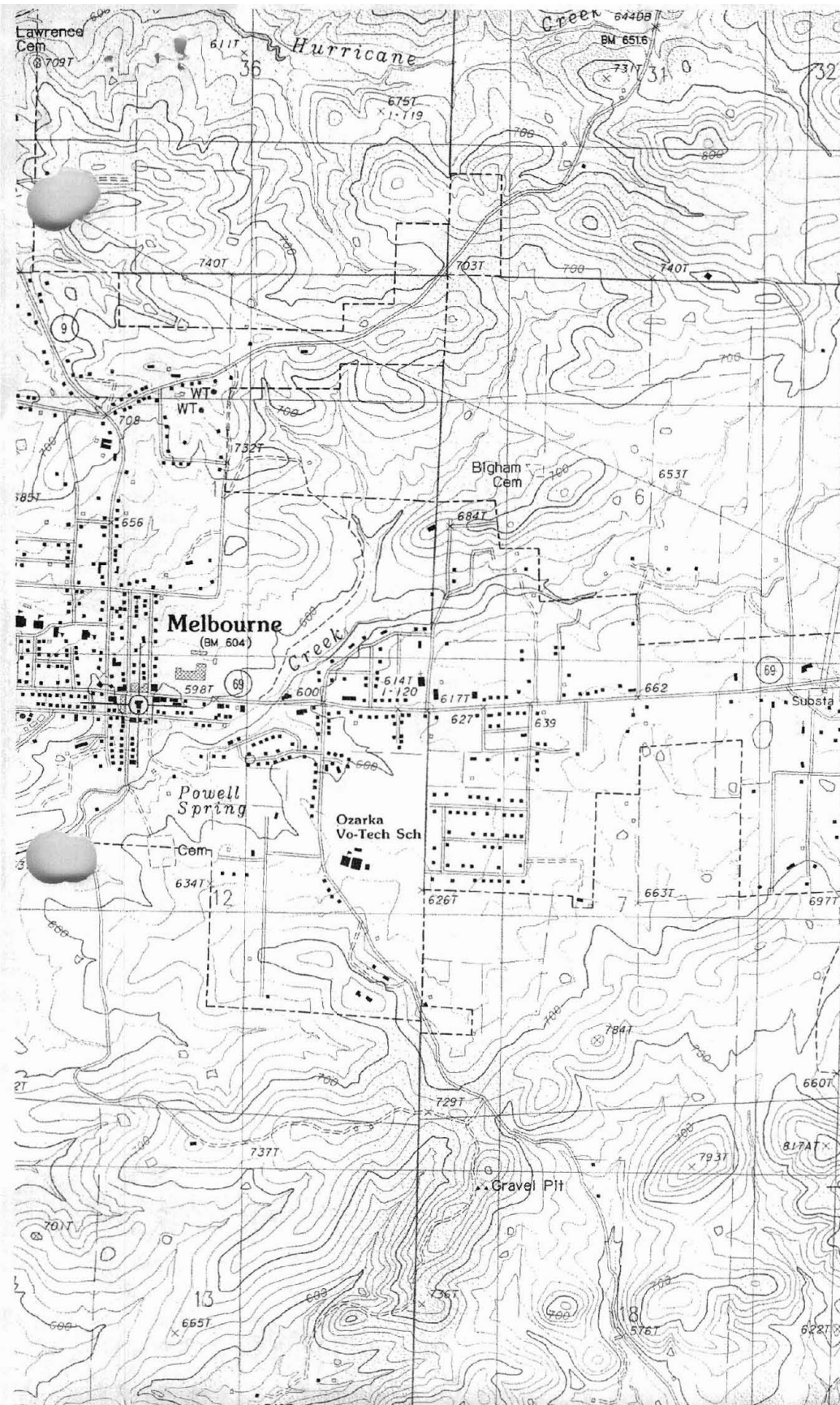


EMMA CO. COURTHOUSE
MEMPHIS, EMMA CO., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY T. FERANSON
MAY, 1993

REMARKS BY FILE WT SHPP
CROSS-UP OF NORTH ENTRANCE



IZARD Co. Courthouse
MORNING, IZARD Co., Arkansas
Photographed by T. Ferguson
May, 1993
DECATIDE ON FILE AT ANPP
VIEW FROM NORTH



T 17 N
T 16 N

3992

3991

3990

2' 30"

LEARD C. COURTHOUSE
MELBOURNE, LEARD
CO., ARKANSAS
15/508570/3990800

