

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Rector Log Barn

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Located on County Road 218, 1.23 miles northwest of State Highway 9

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Melbourne

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Izard

code: AR 065

zip code: 72556

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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**  
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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.

Cathryn A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

4-13-93  
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**  
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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: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Sub: Storage

Current: AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Sub: Storage

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification:

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Wood/log roof Metal  
walls Wood/log other Corrugated metal sheathing

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: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1855

Significant Dates: c. 1855

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Rector, Joseph William  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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:

- X 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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Acreeage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>595820</u>	<u>3994570</u>	B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>

   See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description:    See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the western edge of County Road 218 formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the barn's southern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the south thereof (located approximately 1.23 miles northwest of its intersection with the western edge of State Highway 9), proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the barn's western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the barn's northern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with the western edge of County Road 218; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:    See continuation sheet.

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

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: April 9, 1993

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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National Park Service

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## Summary

The Rector Log Barn, located north of Melbourne on a local road that runs west from State Highway 9, is a two-story, wood log and frame barn that features a gable roof and original half-dovetail notched log walls. Constructed c. 1855 and designed in the Plain Traditional style, the exterior appearance of the Rector Log Barn has been changed somewhat with the more recent addition of single-story, wood frame sheds around all four sides, giving it the overall appearance of having a gable-on-hip roof; however, this was done to protect the log construction within, and the quality and integrity of the original log structure remains.

## Elaboration

The Rector Log Barn, located north of Melbourne on a local road that runs west from State Highway 9, is a two-story, wood log and frame barn that features a gable roof and original half-dovetail notched log walls. Constructed c. 1855 and designed in the Plain Traditional style, the exterior appearance of the Rector Log Barn has been changed somewhat with the more recent addition of single-story, wood frame sheds around all four sides, giving it the overall appearance of having a gable-on-hip roof; however, this was done to protect the log construction within, and the quality and integrity of the original log structure remains.

The log core of the barn is two stories in height and covered with a corrugated metal, gable roof. Its rectangular plan was originally augmented with a log-construction ramp that allowed access to the second story; however, due to deterioration, this ramp has largely been removed. The logs on the long side of the structure are approximately 24 feet in length and connected to the perpendicular logs of the shorter side with half-dovetail notching. The logs that stretched across the width of the barn at the second story level -- serving as the joists for the second story floor -- were smaller than the wall logs and spaced approximately 1 1/2 feet apart on center. Some appear to have been left largely round with only the top side hewn to form the flat surface that supported the wooden plank floor, while others appear to have been split in half lengthwise to form purlins. Though the roof has been replaced as recently as 1986, the new rafters were cut to fit into the original notches in the plate and the original slope of the roof has been preserved.

The later wood frame sheds that surround the barn are probably historic, as they were existing when the current owners bought the property in 1945. They have been rebuilt at least once since that time due to advanced deterioration and they continue to protect the log structure within from the elements.

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Due to the loss of all the other buildings and structures associated with the original Rector Plantation on the adjacent site this is the only building being included in the nomination.



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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Summary**

Criterion C, local significance

The Rector Log Barn is locally significant under Criterion C as the only known antebellum log barn in the Melbourne vicinity. Its original two story, pine and oak log core, complete with half-dovetail notching and other design features original to the barn, remains significant for the high quality of its intact historic log construction in spite of the later, visually-incompatible additions.

**Elaboration**

Joseph William Rector came to Arkansas from Wayne County, Kentucky. Descended from German immigrants that first settled along the Rappahannock River in northern Virginia, he was born on December 3, 1826, the seventh of nine children born to Samuel Rector and Ruth Simpson Rector on their farm in the part of Wayne County that became known as Rector's Flat. In 1850, at the age of twenty-four Joseph William married nineteen-year-old Ann E. Cooper and resided in a house on his father's land that he shared with both his new wife and his father-in-law. Their first child, James Marshall Rector, was born on May 29, 1951.

Both the Rector and Cooper families owned slaves, and the local sentiments regarding the institution of slavery in Wayne County -- located in southern central Kentucky, near the Tennessee border -- were decidedly mixed. The families' concern regarding the future of slaveholding in their home state may well have influenced them to move to IZARD County, Arkansas, which they did in the spring of 1852, bringing along a small number of slaves.

Joseph William Rector purchased a large, wooded tract of land north of the settlement of Mill Creek (now known as Melbourne) upon his arrival, and after some preliminary clearing of land and the erection of temporary shelters the families set to the task of clearing land and cutting trees for the construction of permanent buildings. The first permanent structures were undoubtedly residential in nature and included both the main residence for the family and slave residences. The outbuildings were probably built soon thereafter, and thus the attributed construction date of 1855 for the log barn seems plausible.

Joseph William and his family planted the majority of his land with cotton, as it was the principal cash crop of the south during the period just before the Civil War, though he must have also planted a large enough subsistence crop to feed his growing family as well as his livestock. He prospered during the years before the onset of the war, as the IZARD County tax records of 1860 listed his property holdings as 865 acres of land valued at \$2,595, eight young slaves valued at \$4,800, and livestock, for a total property assessment of \$7,105. Though he lost



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all but his land during the war (he enlisted in the Confederate infantry, and like many slaveowners, he lost both his slaves and virtually all of his livestock during the conflict), he successfully rebuilt his farming enterprise afterward, and continued to farm until he divided his 800 acres between two of his sons in 1885 and moved with his wife to Palo Pinto County, Texas, where they both lived for the rest of their lives.

Family history maintains that slaves helped to build the pine and oak log barn and that it remains the only extant structure built with slave labor in the county. Joseph William Rector chose the site near the bottom of a hill, adjacent to a small creek and one of the natural springs on the property. The wooden planks that form the second-story floor feature long, narrow sawn slits that, according to the local oral tradition, allowed the wheat grains to pass through during the threshing process to be collected, winnowed, and then sold or stored; however, several questions remain regarding this purported use, and so the barn's original function is not certain. The barn was also used for hay storage, as it is today, though there is no record that it was ever used as a livestock shelter.

The wall logs of the Rector Log Barn are half-dovetail notched and hewn evenly on both sides to form log "planks." The first two logs at the bottom of the structure are oak, while all the logs above are pine (the use of pine for log structures was relatively common in IZARD County during the antebellum period, largely due to their availability and the abundance of large, virgin growth timber that could be hewn into usable logs). The wall logs above the second floor appear to be hewn only on the sides, while the logs on the first story (which may well be later replacements) are hewn on four sides, and thus fit together more closely. There is no indication that the logs were ever chinked, which would not be surprising for an agricultural outbuilding that probably served as a shelter for feed storage. Its full two-story log construction remains largely intact, the only alteration having been the removal of the original log ramp that provided access to the second story. As such, the Rector Log Barn is locally eligible under Criterion C as the best known example of a two-story, antebellum log outbuilding that survives in Melbourne and IZARD County.

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### Bibliography

Goodspeeds' *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Northeast Arkansas*, (Chicago, Nashville and St. Louis, 1889).

Rector, Ruth Yingling and Verlene Lawrence, *Old Slave Barn*, unpublished manuscript in personal collection of Ms. Verlene Lawrence, Melbourne, Arkansas.

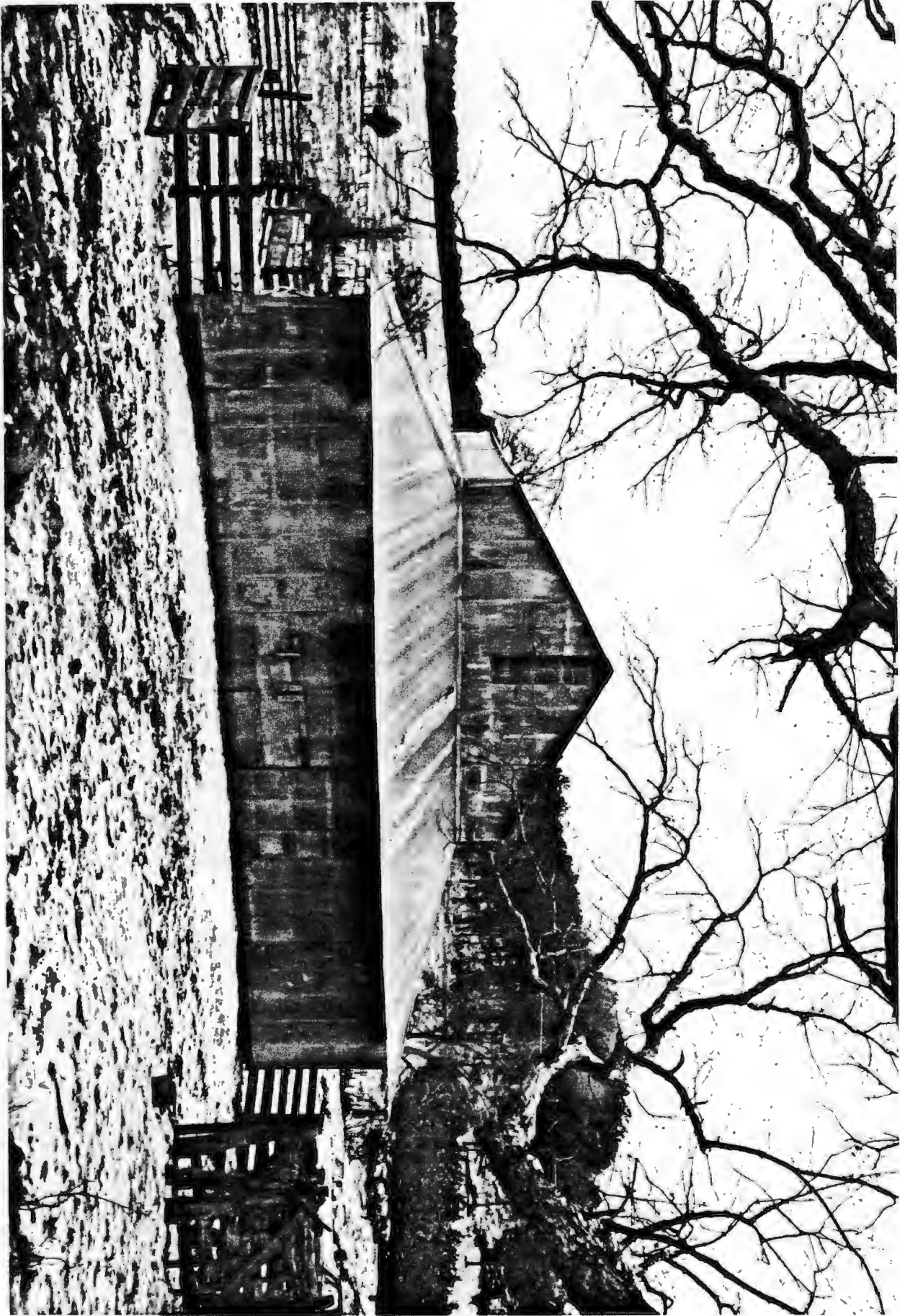
MELBOURNE QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS-IZARD CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

596 597 55' 598 2030000 FEET R 9 W 800 R 8 W 91° 52' 30" 36° 07' 30"



3988  
650000 FEET  
3987  
3996  
3995  
3994

RECTOR LOG BARN  
MELBOURNE VIC,  
IZARD Co.,  
ARKANSAS  
15/595820/3994570



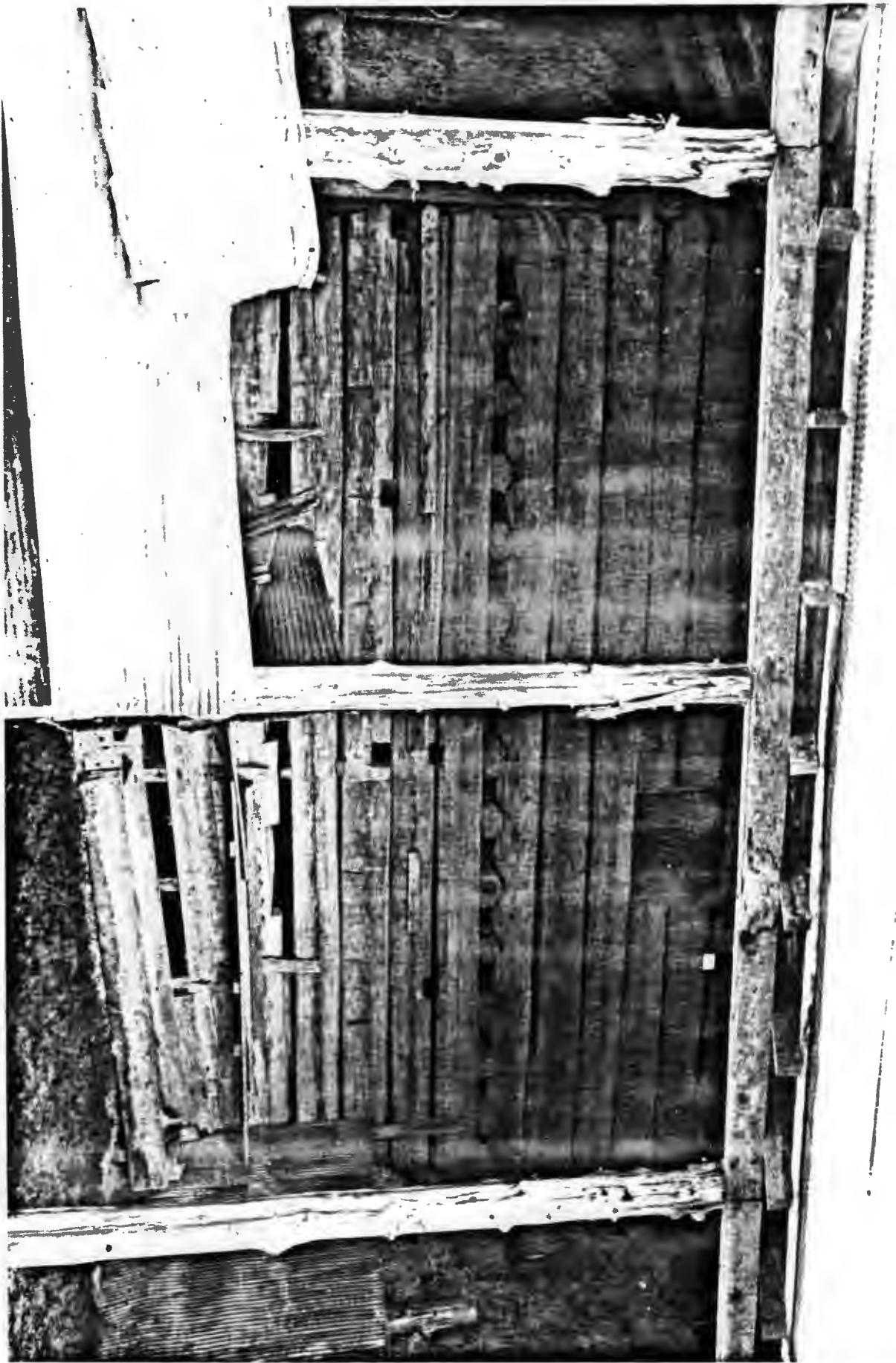
PECTOR & OS BARN  
MELBOURNE VIC, 12ARD CO. ARKENSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. STORY  
FEBRUARY, 1993  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT A&P  
VIEW FROM EAST





BECTOR LOS BARRN  
MELBOURNE VIC, 12 ARMS CO., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPLED BY R. STORY  
FEBRUARY, 1913  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AMHP  
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST





FLECTOR & OR BARN  
MELBOURNE VIC, 12ARD C. INKUSSES  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY A STORY  
FEBRUARY, 1993  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AMP  
VIEW OF SOUTHERN WALL



RECTOR LOS BARN  
MELBOURNE, VIC, LAND CO., KIRKENS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY H. STORY  
FEBRUARY, 1993  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AMPP  
DETAIL OF LOS WALK



SECTION 406 BARN  
MELBOURNE VIC. 12 AND Co. AIRMAILS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY S. LLOYD  
FEBRUARY, 1993  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT MMP  
MURKIN DETAIL







BEETLE LUG NAIL  
WELLSBORNE VIC, IZARD CO, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY K. BERRY  
FEBRUARY, 1993  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
FLOOR DETAIL



SECTION 206 S. 101N  
WILLBOURNE VIC, BARD CO, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY H. STORY  
FEBRUARY, 1993  
NEGATIVE ON TILE AT AHPP  
DETAIL OF EASTERN WALL