

01-46-2090-61

*Listed in the N.R. 6-8-82*

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received \_\_\_\_\_  
date entered \_\_\_\_\_

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic R.E. Lee House  
and/or common Howard House

**2. Location**

street & number 1302 West Second Avenue N/A not for publication  
city, town Pine Bluff N/A vicinity of congressional district Fourth  
state Arkansas code 05 county Jefferson code 069

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. and Mrs George Howard III  
street & number 1302 West Second Avenue  
city, town Pine Bluff N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse  
street & number Barraque Street  
city, town Pine Bluff state Arkansas

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

1. Jefferson County Survey  
2. "A future for Jefferson's Past" has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
prepared by Southeast Arkansas Regional Planning Commission  
date 1. January 1980, 2. June 1980  federal  state  county  local  
depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	( rear porch)		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Built in 1893, the R.E. Lee House is located just one block north of the railroad tracks that were so important to the commercial, industrial and physical development of Pine Bluff toward the turn-of-century. It is set back from the street occupying a richly landscaped corner lot defined by a low wrought iron perimeter fence also dating to the Victorian era. Raised slightly above grade on a brick foundation wall, the two and one-half story wood frame house capped by a hip roof with cross gables is greatly enriched by its three-story hexagonal tower and one-story Eastlake inspired wrap-around porch. These two elements together with the building's consistently fine decorative woodwork and graceful asymmetrical proportions effectively portray the Queen Anne style of architecture.

Many of the house's architecturally rich features are exhibited on its principal (north) facade. Only on this side of the building, a wainscot of diagonal boards appears at the base of the house's horizontal weatherboard faced exterior wall. Two projecting elements--the gable-roofed northwest bay and the lofty tower that rises from the northeast corner of the building--dominate this elevation, vesting it with a distinctly vertical orientation. In fact, the actual entrance to the building, through a paneled door with large oval light and transom, appears diminutive set back between the projecting bay and the tower.

Though its first level is barely distinguishable from the mass of the house, the tower is articulated in three stages. The profile of its second floor is emphasized with cornice mouldings and corner boards that visually embrace the three exposed sides of the hexagon that comprises the tower. Each side is pierced by a rectangular one-over-one light rectangular double hung window framed by vertical beaded boards. An Imbricated shingled hip roof mediates between the second stage of the tower and its more slender third level. Extending beyond the walls of the tower, this roof element rests on the classically articulated cornice that enriches the entire building uniting its varied and distinctive formal components. Wood shakes face the third stage of the tower which terminates in a lofty bell-cast hexagonal roof. Pressed metal shingles enhance the tower roof. Further embellishment is provided by the nine-light cathedral glass windows that appear in each side of the tower top.

Equally as rich as the design of the principal facade's tower is the articulation of its northwest projecting bay. The soffits of its cross gable roof overhang slightly terminating at the building's cornice. The gable end is faced with weatherboard radiating from the center line of the gable in a diagonal pattern. At the center of this bay the facade projects once again forming a rectilinear window bay with one-over-one light rectangular windows on both the first and second floors. The wall surface surrounding the second story window is articulated in the same fashion as the second story windows of the tower with beaded vertical boards, corner boards, and cornice moulding while the frames of the first floor window are enriched by beaded corner blocks at the wainscot level. An overhanging gable following the roof line caps the window bay. The pediment it forms is enriched with a small wood fan decoration.

The verticality of the principal elevation's tower and projecting bay is offset and their fluent wood decoration is complemented by the one-story porch that stretches across the front of the house. The porch is sheltered by its overhanging hip roof with cornice. Its Eastlake influenced design is distinguished by turned columns that

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rest on and terminate in square piers, these columns' spindled brackets, and a spindled frieze. The entrance to the porch, approached by a range of steps (cast in concrete c. 1950s), is accentuated by an arch created by two large brackets and the jig-saw cut curvilinear details that articulate the center point of this arch. An identically designed arch frames the second floor balcony that is situated directly above, but set back from, the first floor porch entrance. The balcony repeats the detail of the columns and spindled frieze that distinguish the porch.

The first floor porch wraps around, following the half-hexagon form of the tower, to enhance the Lee House east elevation with an additional range of steps offering secondary access. The center bay of this facade projects under one of the house's cross gables. Here too the facade projects again to form a window bay capped by a gable, fitted with an attic vent, that is framed by the larger roof gable. The articulation of these windows, however, differs from that of the front windows. A pair of double-hung one-over-one light windows in simple surrounds appears in the second floor but an elaborate window featuring three sets of casements under an eight-light transom pierces the first floor facade. A decorative oval beveled-glass window that lights the interior stairhall penetrates the east elevation immediately to the north of the center bay. Beyond the center bay, first and second floor porches complete the east elevation and wrap-around to the rear south of the house. This south portion of the building terminates in a hip roof of shallower pitch and lower height than the hip roof covering the front of the house although interior ceiling heights remain constant. Although the first floor of the rear porch is currently undergoing rehabilitation, the second floor porch, covered by the house's overhanging hip roof, displays the same turned columns with bracketed spindles that appear on the front porch. Instead of the spindled frieze that enriches the front porch and balcony, ranges of wood shakes, like those that face the third story of the tower, complete the east porch facade.

The west side of the Lee House is similar to the delineation of the east facade in that it too features a projecting beyond the eaves of the larger roof element. Pairs of rectangular double-hung windows pierce the center bay at both the first and second floor levels. Additional windows of like detail appear along the rest of the facade. These west windows are the only openings on the building that have shutters, which are probably not original to the building. The cornice moulding and overhanging cornice that cap the entire building extend back along the lower roof of the building's wing where the rebuilt first floor porch is visible on the rear extreme of the west elevation. The house's two chimneys are also evident from the west, one corbel capped chimney rising from the north ridge of the cross-gable, the other penetrating the hip roof of the south wing.

Only the rear elevation of the Lee House appears to have undergone any alteration. Architectural evidence suggests that the porches that appear on both the first and second stories extended the entire length of the south elevation. However, the southwest corner of the second floor has been closed in. This change seems to date to the 1910s-20s. The craftsmanship of the enclosure is quite sensitive, with continuation of the building's cornice moulding and weatherboard facing. The first floor rear porch is now covered with concrete and resting upon a concrete block foundation. This part of the building, now supported on plain wood posts, is currently being restored.

The interior of the R. E. Lee House does not display the same quality nor quantity of finish

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crafted woodwork that so enlivens the exterior, appearing rather plain in comparison. It is designed on a central plan radiating around an entrance foyer that contains the stairway. Pocket doors separate the foyer and the front parlor from the rooms to the rear of the house. The integrity of the original plan remains unaltered as do original ceiling heights and mantels. The house's wood floors, however, have been covered with carpet.

An architecturally undistinguished one-story wood frame structure occupies the extreme southwest corner of the property. This outbuilding once provided servants quarters for the Lee House.



## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1893 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

An outstanding example of the Queen Anne style, the R.E. Lee House is an important representative of the physical development of Pine Bluff which remains a significant architectural feature of the cityscape. The house was built for retailer R.E. Lee on land owned by his wife's grandmother Virginia Jones in 1883 at the beginning of the era of Pine Bluff's greatest industrial, commercial and economic development as the city became a major center for cotton production. During this period Pine Bluff's prominent citizens constructed their houses south of the railroad tracks that were so closely related to the city's growth. The Lee House is of especial significance to the physical development of Pine Bluff as one of the first houses built to the north of the tracks at this early 1893 date. With only minor, inconspicuous alteration to its rear facade, the Lee House stands among the purest, if not one of the best, examples of the Queen Anne style in the city. Its impressive asymmetrical proportions, its beautifully detailed tower and its finely crafted decorative woodwork--especially its Eastlake influenced front porch and balcony with their profuse spindle work and jig-saw cut features, offer outstanding treatment of essential components of the style. The survival of the integrity of the Queen Anne esthetic in the Robert E. Lee House is also noteworthy in the context of the architectural history of Pine Bluff. Many of the city's late nineteenth-century residential buildings have undergone alterations that either Classicize or compromise their original Queen Anne designs rendering the R.E. Lee House an especially precious architectural resource. The house was occupied by members of the Lee family until the death of R.E. Lee's son Collier Lee in 1972. Presently, the house is owned by George Howard Jr., the first black appointed to the Supreme Court of Arkansas, and to be appointed to a Federal judgeship in Arkansas.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Jefferson County Land Records, Deed Book 22, p.37 and Deed Book 432, p.448
2. Pine Bluff Commercial, 30 November 1949.
3. Pine Bluff Press-Eagle, 13 June 1893.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Pine Bluff Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A 

115	5910	61010	317	817	71010
Zone	Easting	Northing			

B 

Zone	Easting	Northing			

C 

Zone	Easting	Northing			

D 

Zone	Easting	Northing			

E 

Zone	Easting	Northing			

F 

Zone	Easting	Northing			

G 

Zone	Easting	Northing			

H 

Zone	Easting	Northing			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 1, Block 15, Dorris Addition East of Brumps Bayou, Pine Bluff,  
Jefferson County, Arkansas

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 21 November 1980

street & number Suite 500 Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas

## 12. 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Wilson J. Hiles

title SHPO

date 3-5-82

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

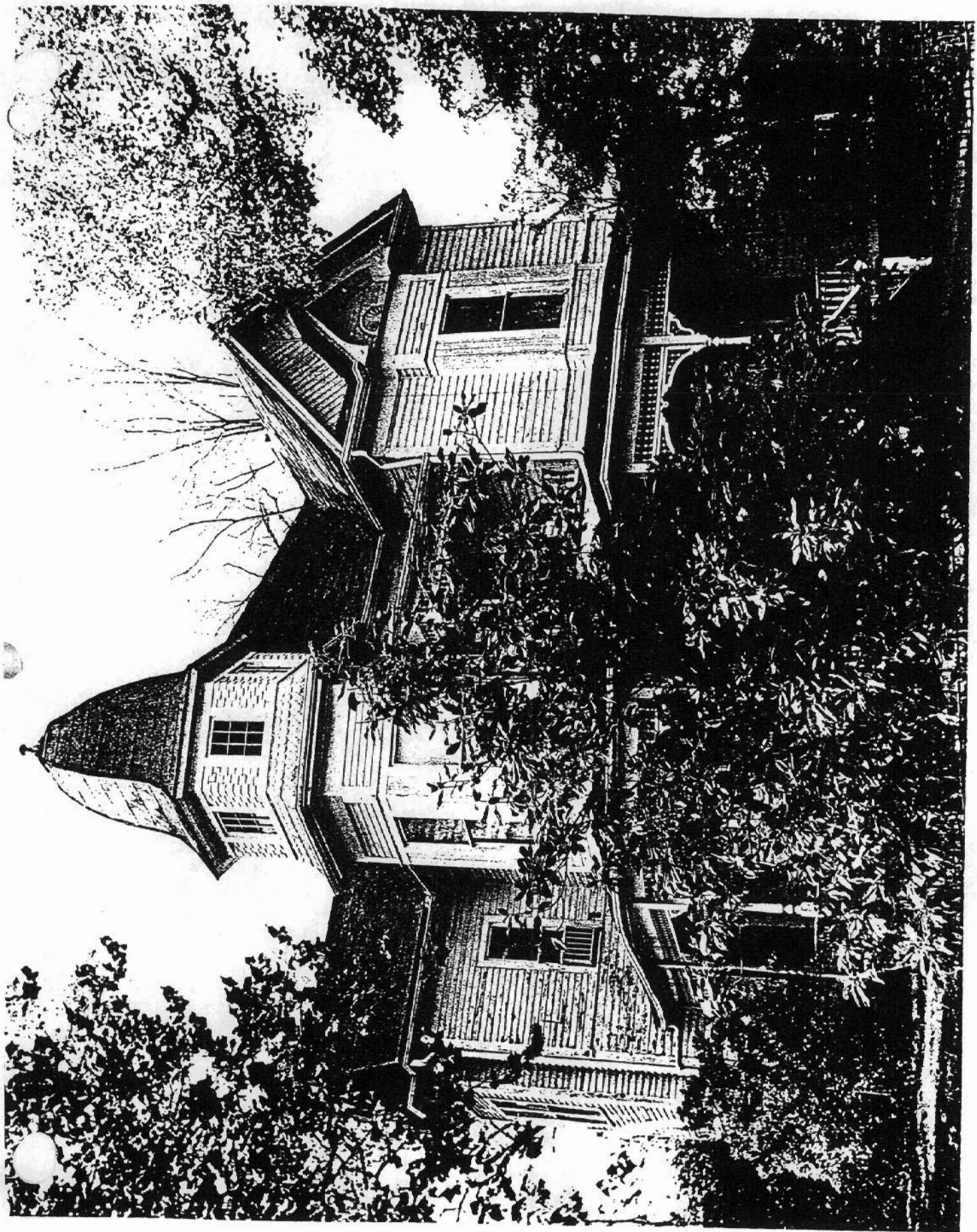
date

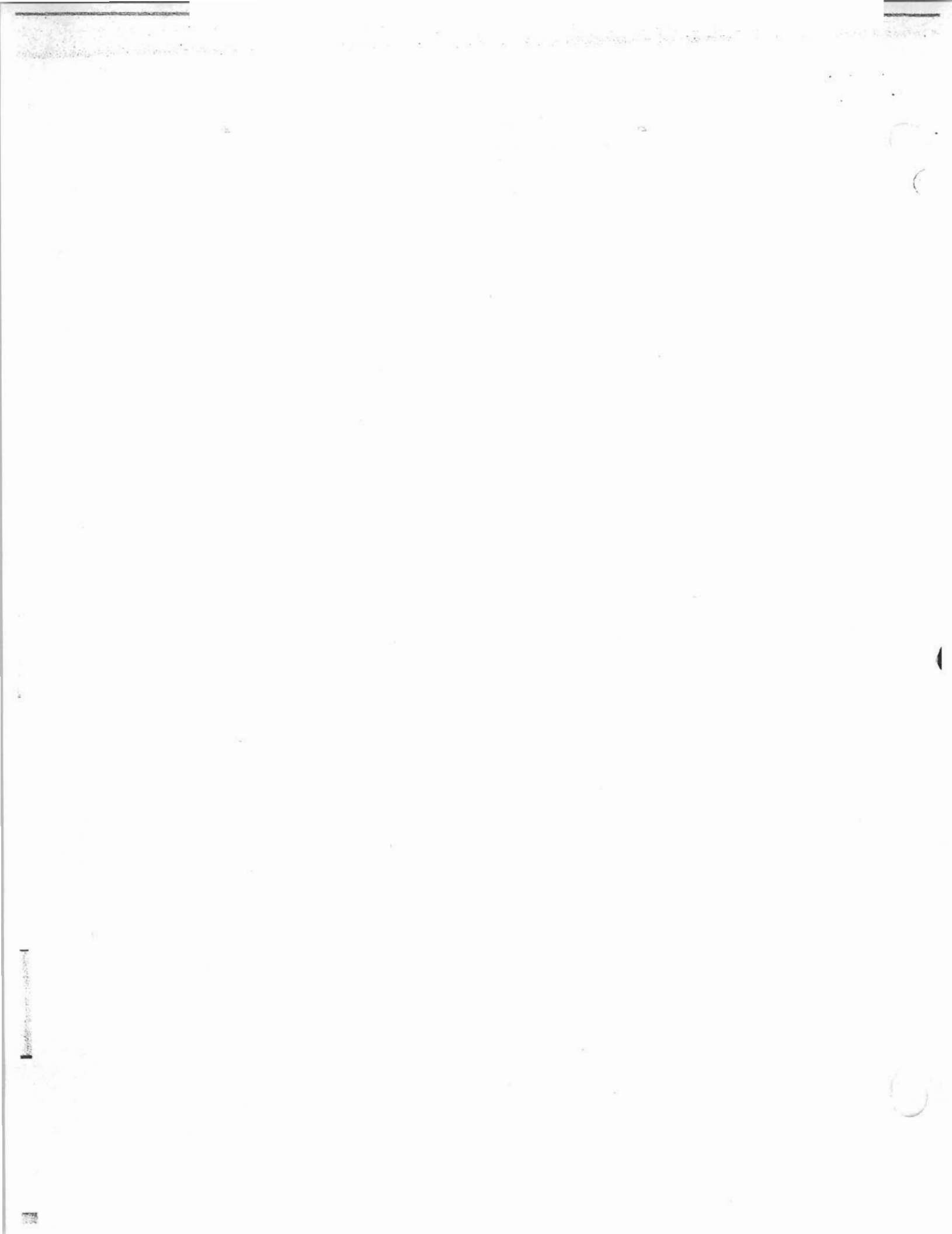
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

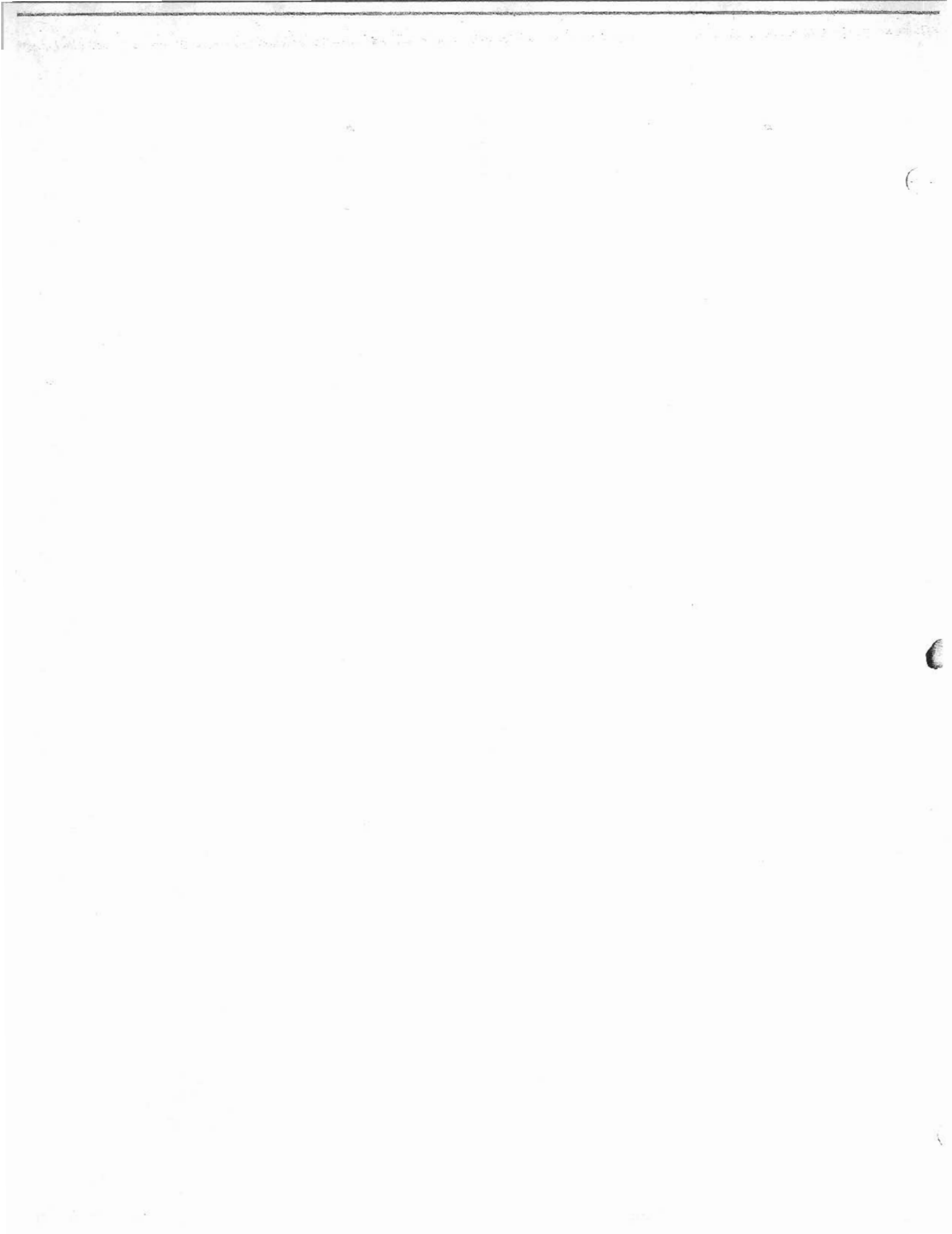


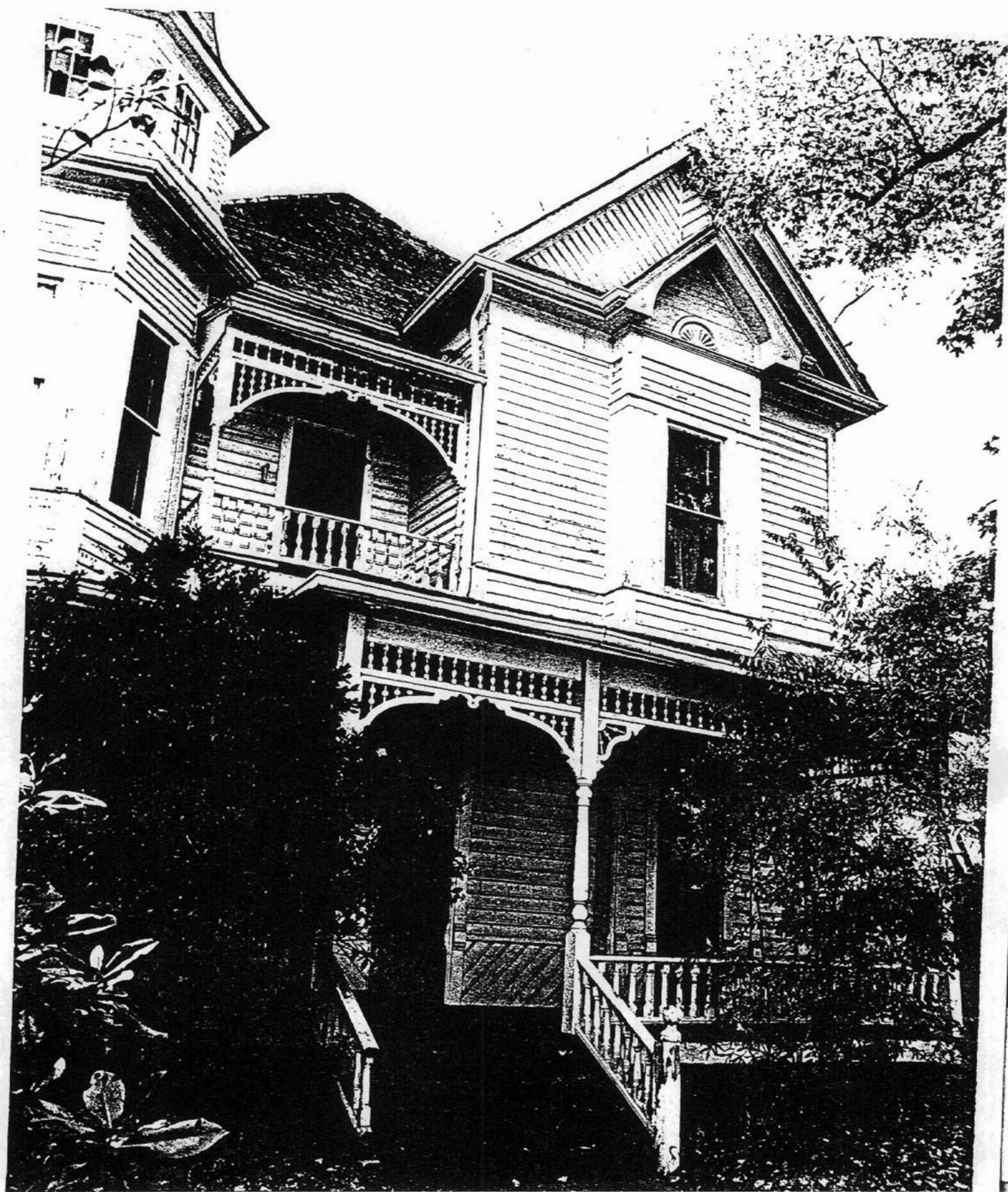


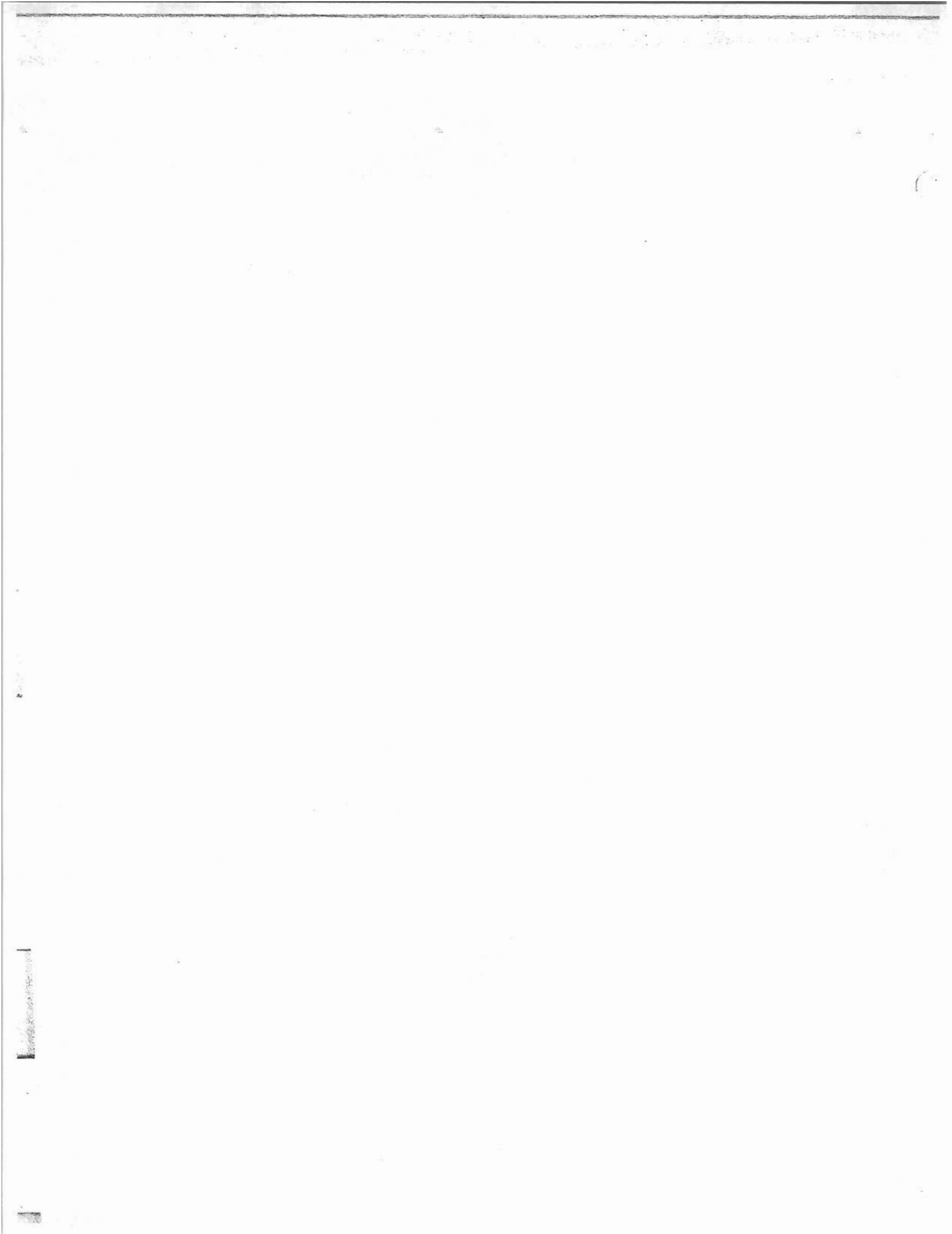


Robert E. Lee House  
Pine Bluff, Arkansas  
North Elevation taken from northeast  
Bob Dunn, Photographer  
May, 1981  
Negative at Arkansas Historic Preservation  
Program  
Number 2 of 8

627 1 11 1981









PINE BLUFF QUADRANGLE  
 ARKANSAS-JEFFERSON CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

R 10 W. 2'30"

589 1 990 000 FEET

STUTTGART 35 MI.  
 5.2 MI. TO JUNG. U.S. 79 AND ARK. 15

92°00'  
 34°15'



Robert E. Lee House  
 Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas  
 UTM Reference: 15 590600/3787700

