

Jefferson County  
Pine Bluff  
Prigmore House

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

Listed 4-10-86

## 1. Name

historic Prigmore House

and or common Prigmore-Martin House

## 2. Location

street & number 1104 West 5th Avenue  not for publication

city, town Pine Bluff  vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Jefferson code 069

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Offices

## 4. Owner of Property

name A. W. Nelson, Jr.

street & number 207 Martin St., P. O. Box 5039

city, town Pine Bluff  vicinity of state Arkansas

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number Barraque and Main Streets

city, town Pine Bluff  vicinity of state Arkansas

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date October 10, 1978  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (See Attached)

city, town Little Rock  vicinity of state Arkansas

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

### SUMMARY

Located on the southwest corner of West Fifth Avenue and Cherry Streets in Pine Bluff, the 1873 George W. Prigmore House survives as one of the city's few mid-nineteenth century residential structures. The house reflects the Midwest origin of the builder, George Prigmore. The floor plan has one and one-half rooms arranged on either side of a central hall. Sided with weatherboard, the two story house and its one story ell addition are built of frame construction. Covered by gable roofs, the main block and ell rest on a continuous brick foundation. Only one of the paired central brick chimneys remains in the house. Plain and simple trim work embellish the interior and exterior of the Prigmore House.

### ELABORATION

A full length, one story porch distinguishes the George W. Prigmore House facade (north). The porch displays an unique use of 2' x 4' studs for columns. The columns, supporting a simple two piece frieze and flat roof, sit on wood blocks and display crown moulding for the capitals. A set of three columns support each corner of the porch while a pair of columns are symmetrically placed to emphasize the centered entrance. The entrance reflects the traditional central hall entry. A three lite transom and three pane sidelights over a raised wood panel surround the solid raised-wood four panel door. Single six-over-six double-hung windows flank either side of the entrance. The second story consists of three symmetrically placed six-over-six double-hung windows. The window openings correlate with the first floor fenestration. A simple two piece frieze and corner board trim complete the structure's facade.

Return gables identify the east and west elevations of the Prigmore House. The simple two piece frieze is reiterated along the gables. Paired six-over-six double-hung windows, symmetrically arranged, create additional light for both floors.

The south or rear elevation is characterized by a one story gable roof ell, a partially enclosed L-shaped porch and the second story of the original block. The ell addition, built c. 1879, provided kitchen space. There are two symmetrically spaced six-over-six double-hung windows on the ell's west elevation and the same window type and panes on its south side. The L-shaped porch was probably built at the same time on the east side of the ell and continued onto the southeast portion of the main house. The enclosure of most of the porch took place during a later occupation. With the exception of the west window, removed to accommodate the ell's roof line, the second story fenestration of the house, reiterates the structure's second story facade, thus completing the rear elevation.

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In plan the Prigmore House interior reflects a central hall with one and one-half rooms on each side of the hall. A walnut stairway occupies the central hall along the east wall. The stairway consists of a handsome turned newel post and turned balusters. The second floor consists of three rooms with the central hall. Two rooms are located on the west side while the third room occupies the east. Plain facings surround the doors and windows throughout the house. An early photograph shows a pair of centered brick interior chimneys. Today only the east chimney remains in the structure. The existing fireplace, projecting from the interior wall on the first floor, features an embellished wood mantel. The west chimney and fire place were removed during a more recent time.

In the past year, the Prigmore House was renovated and converted to office space. The project basically required repair and clean-up work. In addition, the owners, upon examining a period photograph, restored the wood louver window shutters and reconstructed the wood picket fence.

## 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates C. 1873 Builder/Architect George W. Prigmore/Unknown (Probably)

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

The George W. Prigmore House, built in 1873, strongly suggests a Midwest interpretation of the I-house not usually found in Arkansas. Unlike the single pile plan found in the state's I-houses, such as the Walker-Stone House (NR-1970), the Moose House (NR-1974) and the Thomas E. Hess Homestead (NR-1983), Prigmore built his house with a one and one-half room deep floor plan. The use of the gable roof over the plan and paired central brick chimneys reflects the influence of Midwest rural architecture.

Stationed in Arkansas during the last couple of years of the Civil War, Captain George W. Prigmore returned to the state after the war and settled in Pine Bluff. Prigmore entered business as a clerk and studied law. In 1868 after gaining admission to the bar association, he became involved in local politics as a Republican and held several government positions. But unlike many Republicans, he apparently gained the respect and confidence of the community as evidenced in his continued election to local offices despite the defeat of the state Republican Party in 1874.

#### ELABORATION

After the Civil War, Pine Bluff, like the rest of Arkansas, struggled to regain the prosperity of its pre-War years. Although the 1860's were lean, the decade of the 1870's brought back prosperity to Pine Bluff. In 1873, the completion to the city of the Little Rock, Pine Bluff and New Orleans Railroad gave Pine Bluff more efficient access to Mississippi River commerce. Pine Bluff became an important railroad center and in turn the commercial wholesale center for Southeast Arkansas. During this period George Prigmore established himself as a respected citizen and politician of the community. Although he owed his initial political success to the Republican Party, Prigmore continued to hold public offices after the party's demise in 1874. He represented the twentieth district in the Arkansas Assembly from 1870-1872. He served as county circuit clerk for four terms, 1872-1880. After a brief absence from politics, Prigmore successfully ran for County Judge 1884-1886. His successful involvement in local politics lasted for twenty years until his death in 1887. Well liked and respected, Prigmore overcame the prevailing prejudice toward the Republican Party. An anti-Republican editor, Colonel John G. Ryan described Prigmore's acceptance in this way, "If the men who went from the North and located in the South after our late terrible war, had been made of like material that entered into the composition of Colonel Prigmore, the cry 'carpetbagger' would never have been heard:..."

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than 1

Quadrangle name Pine Bluff, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 591140 3787330  
Zone Easting Northing

B           
Zone Easting Northing

C         

D         

E         

F         

G         

H         

Verbal boundary description and justification 1104 West 5th Avenue; Lot 2 of Block 9; James Addition; Less and except the South 58 feet of the East 100 feet; 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 Richard E. Taylor; edited by Don Brown AHPP Staff

organization A. W. Nelson, Jr., Architect, P.A. date March 5, 1986

street & number 207 Martin/P. O. Box 5039 telephone (501) 534-8922

city or town Pine Bluff 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Wilson S. Nis

title Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer date 3-5-86

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Item number 9

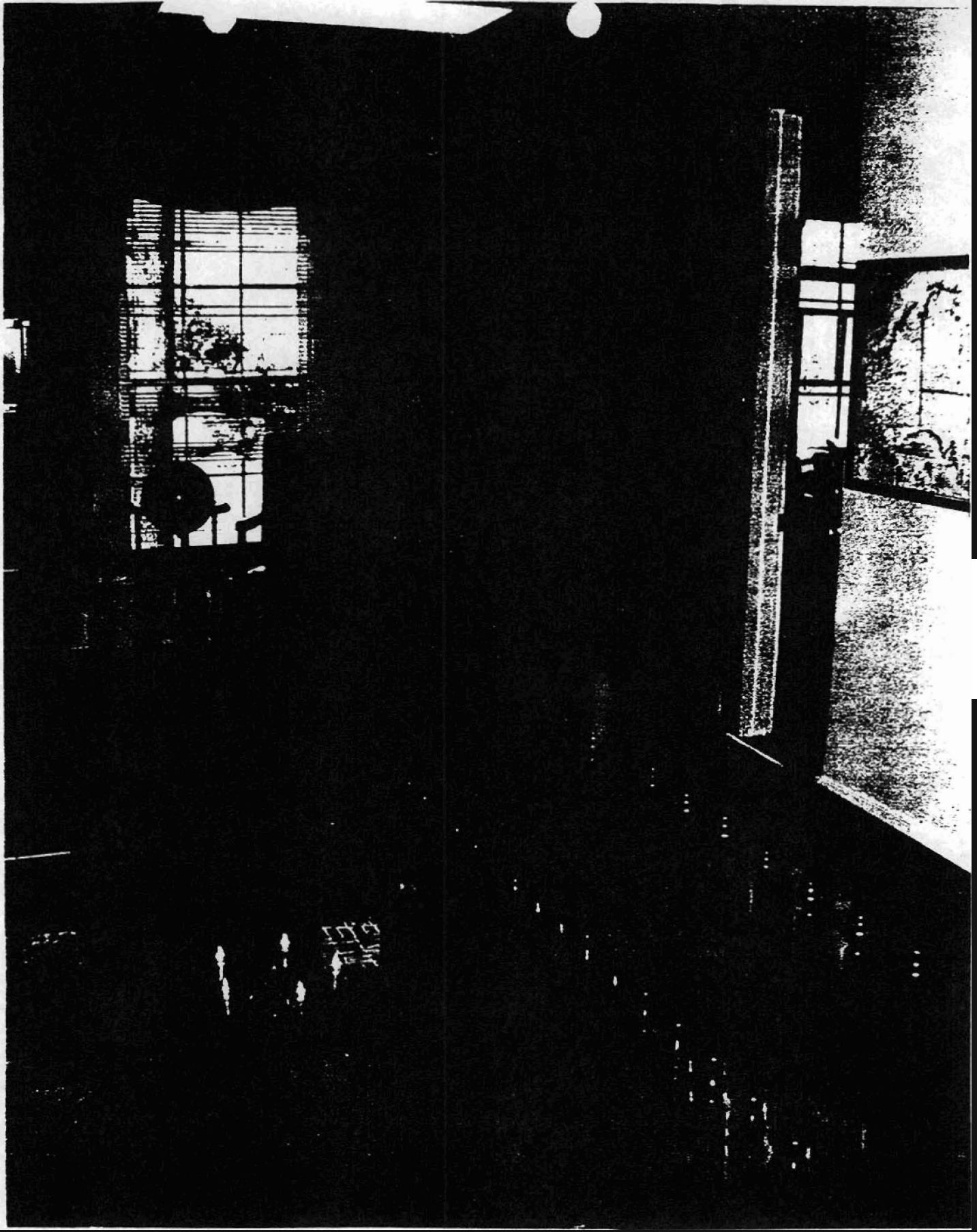
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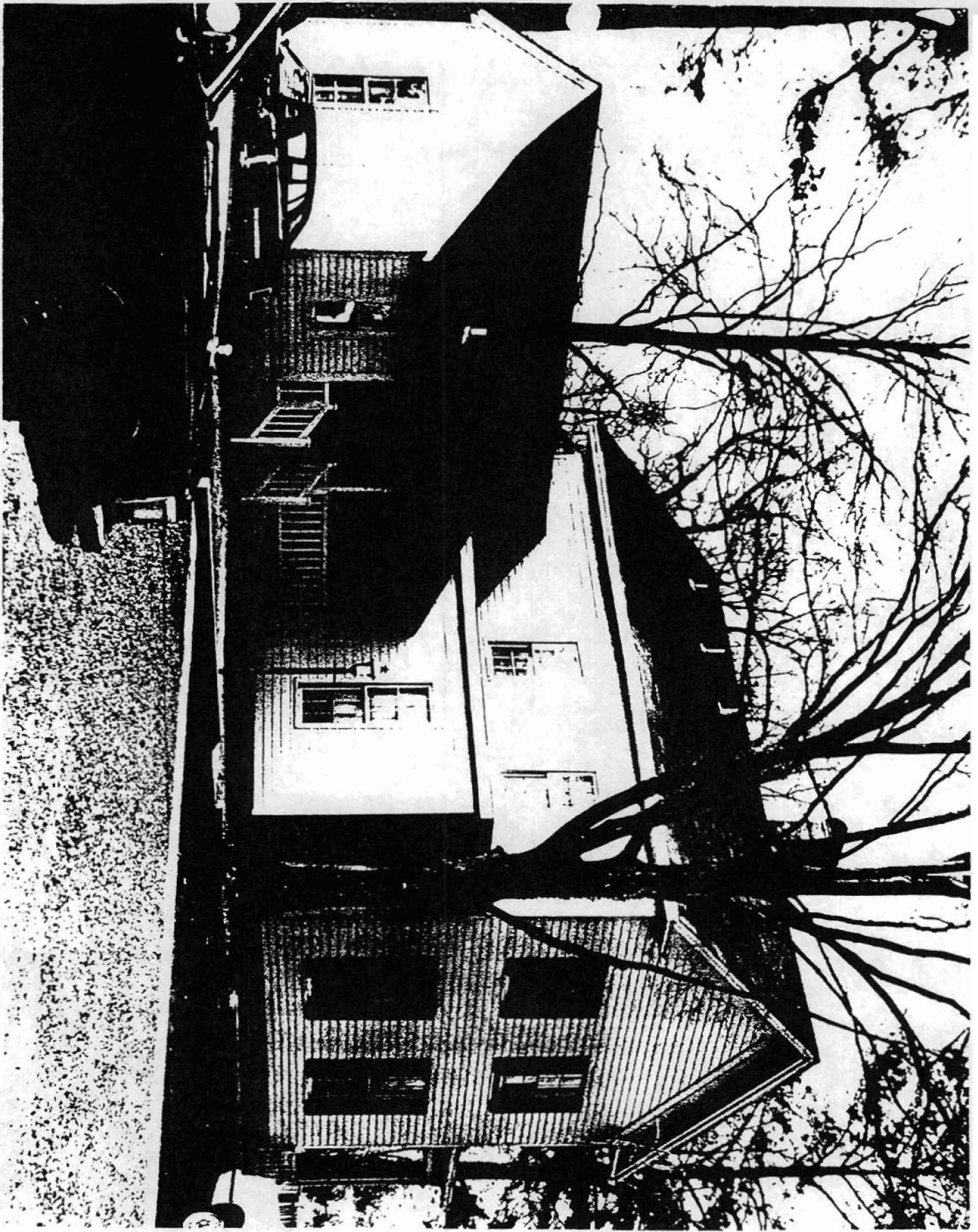
## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Pioneer America, 9 (December, 1977): pp. 115-136.

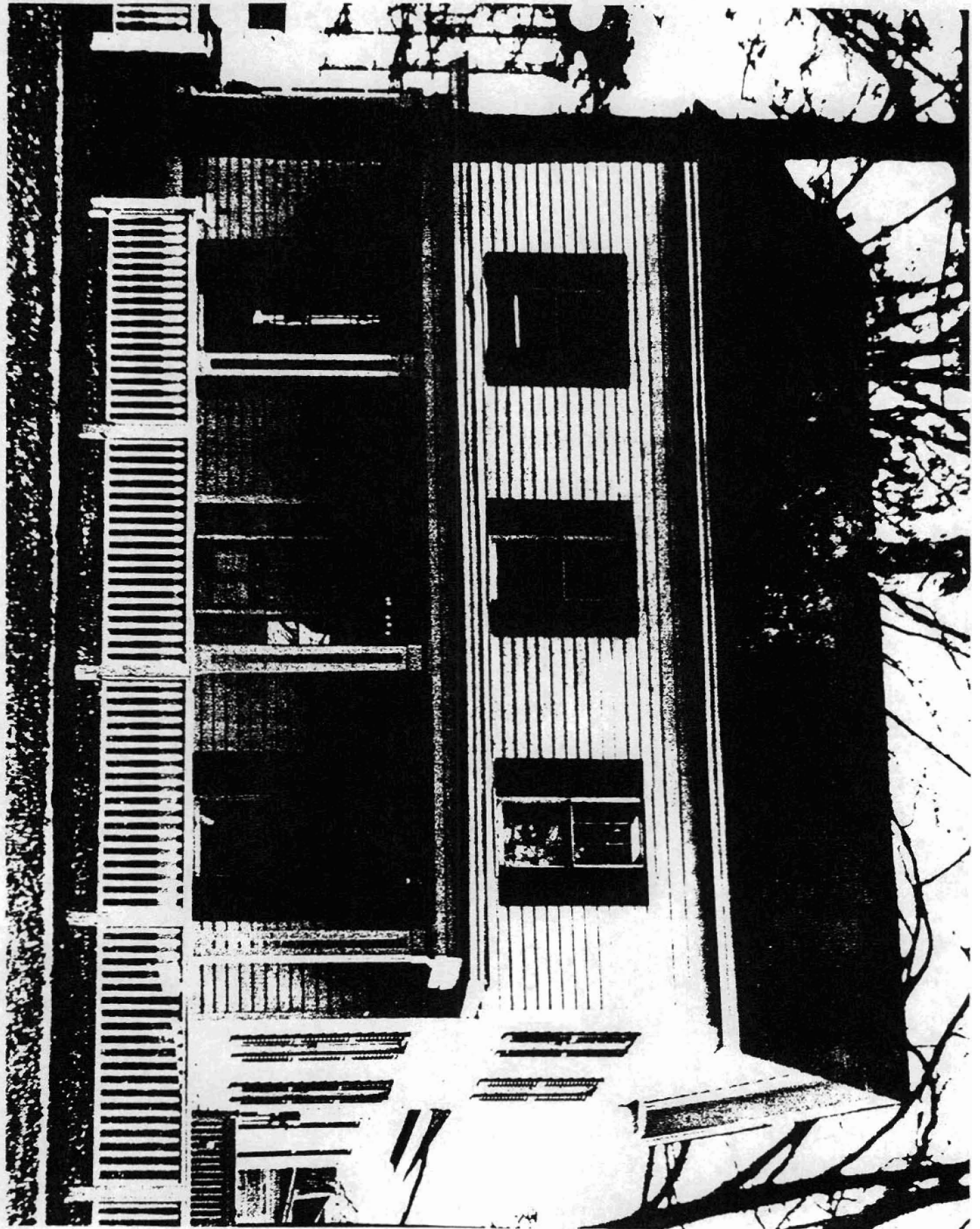
Leslie, James W.. "All Yankees Weren't Carpetbaggers in PB", Pine Bluff,  
Arkansas Commercial, March 14, 1982.

Leslie, James W.. Pine Bluff and Jefferson County: A Pictorial History.  
Norfolk, Virginia: The Donning Company/Publishers, 1981.

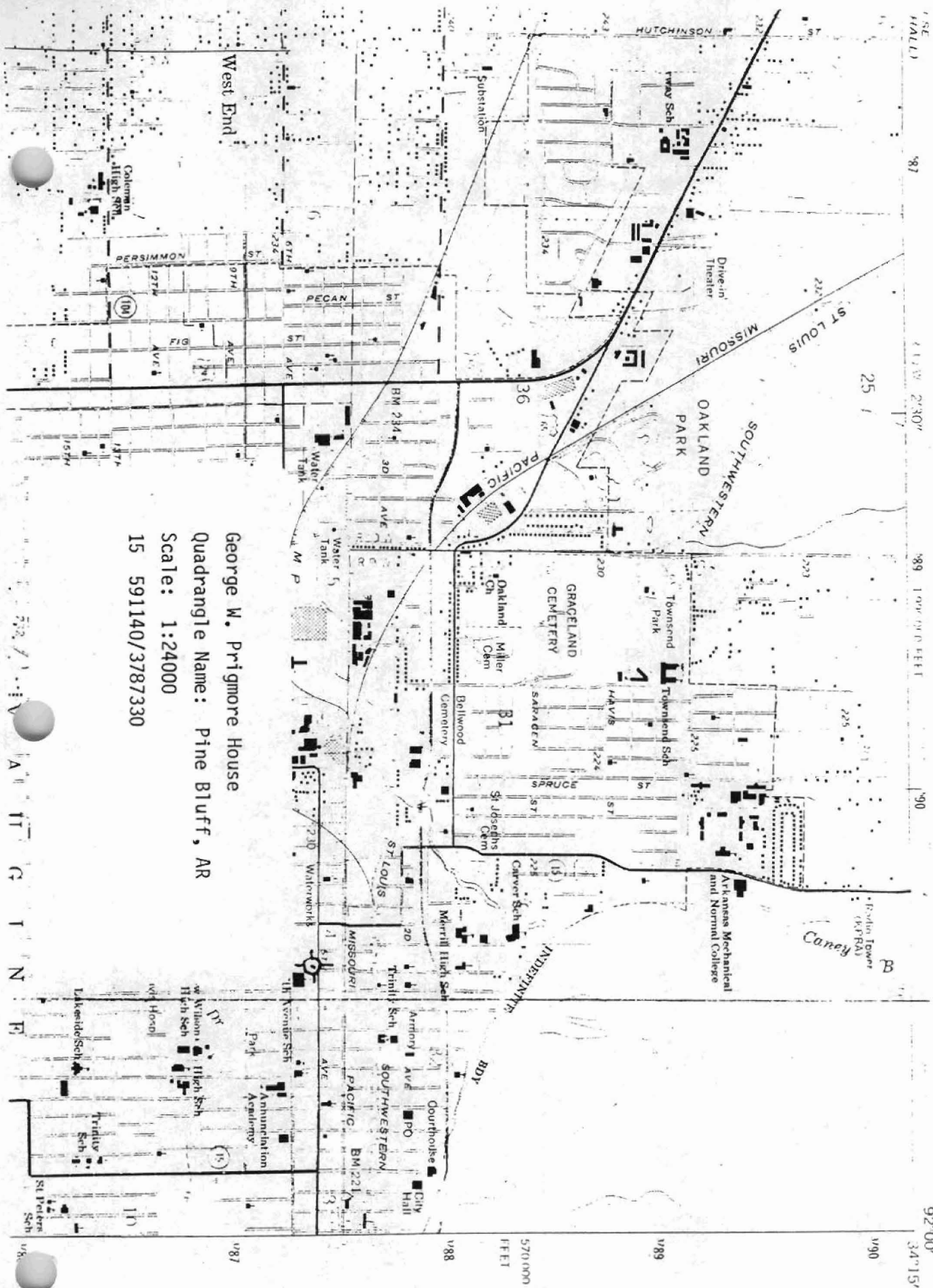








PINE BLUFF QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS-JEFFERSON CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
7532 IV SW  
170B RDY



George W. Prigmore House  
Quadrangle Name: Pine Bluff, AR  
Scale: 1:24000  
15 591140/3787330

AR K A N S A S

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