

NR 6/5/91

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gibson-Burnham House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1326 Cherry Street

not for publication N/A

city, town Pine Bluff

vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Jefferson

code AR 069

zip code 71611

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Cathryn B. Boyd

4-23-91

Signature of certifying official
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Gibson-Burnham House is a two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival style structure with an irregular plan and roofline. The house features a full-width, single-story front porch supported by six non-fluted columns with Ionic capitals, three classic palladian windows in the gable ends, a dentil course underneath the cornice, and a three-sided, two-story bay projection.

Elaboration

Constructed in 1904, the Gibson-Burnham House is a two-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival style wood-frame house with an irregular plan and roofline. Composition shingles cover the deck-on-hipped roof with three projecting gables, while a metal hipped roof shields the single-story front porch. The wood-frame walls are clad with novelty siding and rest on a continuous brick foundation, which originally consisted of brick piers only. A single brick chimney pierces the southwest corner of the flat metal deck which is adorned with metal cresting.

The eastern or front elevation features a full-width, single-story front porch. The porch originally wrapped around the southern end of the house, but that area was enclosed flush with the main wall of the house in 1943. The porch is supported by six non-fluted columns with Ionic capitals and features a projecting cornice over a dentil course. A three-sided two-story bay projection extends at the northern end of the eastern elevation, and the porch is offset and extended approximately three feet to accommodate the bay projection. The first-story is lighted by seven one-over-one double-hung windows. The bay projection contains one window per side. Two windows are located on each side of the door at uneven distances, and the remaining window is positioned near the southern end of the enclosed section. The detailed oak door features a single large pane of glass along with a transom also containing a single pane. Decorative crowns adorn the front door and all of the eastern elevation windows with the exception of the southern end window in the enclosed section.

The second-story contains five identical one-over-one, double-hung windows with three in the bay projection and two in the main block. The second-story also features an identical entablature with dentilling underneath the cornice which circumscribes the entire house. The bay projection is covered by a gable end with a projecting cornice. A classic palladian window is centered in the pediment and consists of four triangular panes in the arch over louvered vents flanked by one-over-one windows. The pediment likewise features a dentil course underneath the projecting cornice.

The southern elevation reveals the enclosed section of the original wrap-around front porch. This section presents two evenly spaced one-over-one double-hung windows to the southern

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view with one identical window facing west. The second-story portion above the enclosed section features a standard one-over-one window with a single-pane, diamond-shaped window to the west. A gable bay projects from the center of the southern elevation approximately two feet from the main block of the building. The bay contains four symmetrical one-over-one double-hung windows arranged two per story. A pediment with palladian window and dentil course identical to the eastern elevation pediment covers the bay.

To the west of the projecting gable was originally a two-story screened sleeping porch topped by a flat roof. The screened section was bordered to the west by a blank section approximately four feet in width. The first-story of the screened porch provided a doorway for entry. A wide frieze board separated the two stories, and only the upper half of the upper-story was screened. The entire section has since been enclosed and covered with novelty siding to match the rest of the house. The first-story section still contains a door, and two small one-over-one double-hung windows have been added to the east of the door. The second-story is now lighted by a regular-sized one-over-one window and a smaller one-over-one window to the east.

The western elevation of the former sleeping porch section is fenestrated by a second-story one-over-one double-hung window and a recent three-sided bay window added to the first-story. This section is inset six inches from the rest of the western elevation which consists of a gable end to the north. This gable end contains two different-sized one-over-one double-hung windows near the center of the western elevation. The more elongated size is positioned in the second-story, and the smaller window is located directly below. The gable end is roofed by a pediment identical to the eastern and southern elevations.

The view of the northern elevation is normally obscured by foliage and the proximity of an adjacent structure. This elevation consists of three stepped bays receding to the west. The eastern bay contains two one-over-one double-hung windows centrally placed with one above the other. The middle section contains only a first-story one-over-one window, and the western bay mimics the arrangement of the eastern bay.

Much of the original Colonial Revival interior trim remains. Noteworthy items include a quarter-sawn oak staircase which was a prize winner at the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. The original owner and builder, John Wilson Gibson, purchased it at the fair and had it shipped to Pine Bluff. It is probable that the staircase was purchased before the house was built due to the integral effect of the staircase and the interior. An elaborate mirrored mantelpiece featuring wood detail carving and flanking columns accentuates the living room. The original bathroom, located on the second-floor, remains virtually unaltered, and the original decorative crowns of doorways and windows abound.

In 1943 the house was leased to the government and converted into four apartments, which

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entailed the addition of three bathrooms and two bedrooms. One bedroom was created by enclosing the southern-facing portion of the wrap-around porch. The open hallway above the foyer was enclosed to make the other bedroom. Unfortunately, this addition concealed the downstairs' view of the oak staircase. Moreover, a doorway was added to the front porch to provide access to the staircase and the upstairs apartments. This involved altering the staircase from an ell at the bottom to a straight staircase. In 1957 the house was restored to a one-family dwelling. Among other things, the front doorway addition was filled and the staircase reconstructed to its original form.

There are no outbuildings associated with the structure.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1**Summary**

Criterion C, local significance

The Gibson-Burnham House is being nominated for listing in the National Register under Criterion C with local significance as one of the finest examples of Colonial Revival architecture in the area.

Elaboration

The Gibson-Burnham House at 1326 Cherry Street was built in 1904 by John Wilson Gibson, a cotton buyer and plantation owner. This structure is an excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture in Pine Bluff.

Tradition holds that Joseph Bonne was the first to settle at the site of what is now known as Pine Bluff. Bonne, son of a Frenchman and a Quapaw woman, had been an interpreter for the 1818 Quapaw Cession at St. Louis in which that tribe signed away all of their lands except for 1,500,000 acres in Southeast Arkansas. In the fall of 1819 he built a log cabin on the south bank of the Arkansas River for his wife and several small children. Bonne's crudely constructed home on the pine-covered bluff became the focal point of the area, and he often fed and housed travellers for a modest sum. Although most visitors to Bonne's home were just passing through, a small settlement slowly grew up around his cabin/trading post. In 1829, the territorial governor of Arkansas, John Pope, approved an act of legislation which established Jefferson County from portions of Pulaski and Arkansas counties. The act also provided that the "temporary seat of justice for the County of Jefferson shall be at the house of Joseph Bone [sic]." Ten years after the establishment of Jefferson County, an order incorporating the Town of Pine Bluff was signed by Creed Taylor, the justice of the peace.

The arrival of steamboats on the Arkansas River in the early 1820's greatly facilitated the migration to frontier Arkansas; however, the population of Pine Bluff grew very slowly until the decade preceding the American Civil War. A large immigration of families from Tennessee, Kentucky, and the other states of the Deep South came to Central Arkansas to claim land. A significant number of German Jews also arrived in the county to become farmers and merchants. The farming of cotton became the primary occupation of the population as well as the chief industry of Pine Bluff. The town became a thriving river port as steamboats were stopping in increased numbers to transport the ever-growing cargoes of cotton.

Pine Bluff experienced its golden era of growth from 1880 to the turn of the century. Agriculture was still important; however, it was the railroad that brought increased progress and prosperity to Pine Bluff, which became a city of the first class in 1885 by attaining a population of 5,000. The city now possessed electric lights, a water and sewer system, and

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two franchised telephone companies. By 1902, electric streetcars were in operation.

It was during this period that John Wilson Gibson established his home in the expanding city. Gibson owned a 3,000 acre plantation at Horseshoe Lake near Sherrill. He started farming cotton on a large scale in 1882 when he married Melvina Adeline Lawrence and acquired 600 acres. At various times Gibson was a cotton buyer, and his wife supervised the plantation operation to a great extent. In 1900 Gibson purchased the block of land bordered by Cherry Street, 14th Avenue, Linden Street, and 13th Avenue. After deciding to build a new house in town, the Gibson family attended the St. Louis World's Fair in 1904. Mr. Gibson evidently greatly admired a prize-winning quarter-sawn oak staircase, for he purchased the staircase and had it shipped to Pine Bluff. Their new house was constructed shortly thereafter and designed around the prize-winning staircase. At that time, Cherry Street was impassable for anything except for the electric street cars which operated out to 26th Avenue. One could travel by buggy or wagon on 14th Avenue over to Olive Street, which was their only access to downtown Pine Bluff.

John Gibson continued to oversee his plantation and would live during the week at the Horseshoe Lake plantation. On weekends he travelled to Pine Bluff by train, which entailed changing trains at Altheimer. These arrangements continued until his death in 1926.

The house was leased to the government in 1943, and the house was converted into four apartments with the family occupying one of the downstairs apartments. Although the lease ended in 1948, the family continued to rent the apartments until 1957 when the house was restored to a single-family dwelling. The house is currently owned by William E. Burnham, Jr., grandson of John Wilson Gibson.

The Gibson-Burnham House well represents the era in which it was built. There are no other circa 1904 or older houses in the immediate area with the exception of the considerably altered house at 1400 Cherry Street. The house is well-maintained and, with the exception of the sensitively executed enclosure of the wrap-around porch to the south, retains its original 1904 exterior appearance. The Gibson-Burnham House is significant under Criterion C as one of the best examples of Colonial Revival architecture in Pine Bluff.

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Bibliography

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Central Arkansas: History of Jefferson County. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889. pp. 128-130.

Leslie, James W. *Pine Bluff & Jefferson County, a pictorial history.* Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company/Publishers, 1981.

Personal Interview with William E. Burnham, Jr., 02/20/91.

Workers of the Writers' Program. *The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas*, with new introduction by Elliot West. Lawrence, Kansas: The University Press of Kansas, 1987. pp. 189-195.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1904

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

- Primary location of additional data:
- State historic preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one

UTM References

A

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5	9	10	8	16	10
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3	7	8	6	3	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

South 87½ feet of East 40 feet of Lot 6 and South 87½ feet of Lots 7 and 8 of Block 3, Portis Addition to City of Pine Bluff

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick Zollner/National Register Historian date 4/10/91
 organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program telephone (501) 324-9346
 street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300 state Arkansas zip code 72201
 city or town Little Rock

Gibson-Burnham House
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Jefferson County
15/590860/3786300
Pine Bluff Quadrangle

1:24000

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

7652 1/4 SW
(ROB ROY)

52 1
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2

35

6

7

589 1990 000 FEET R. 9 W. 590

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5.2 MI. TO JUNC. U.S. 79 AND ARK. 15

92°00' 34'15"



3790

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T. 5 S.

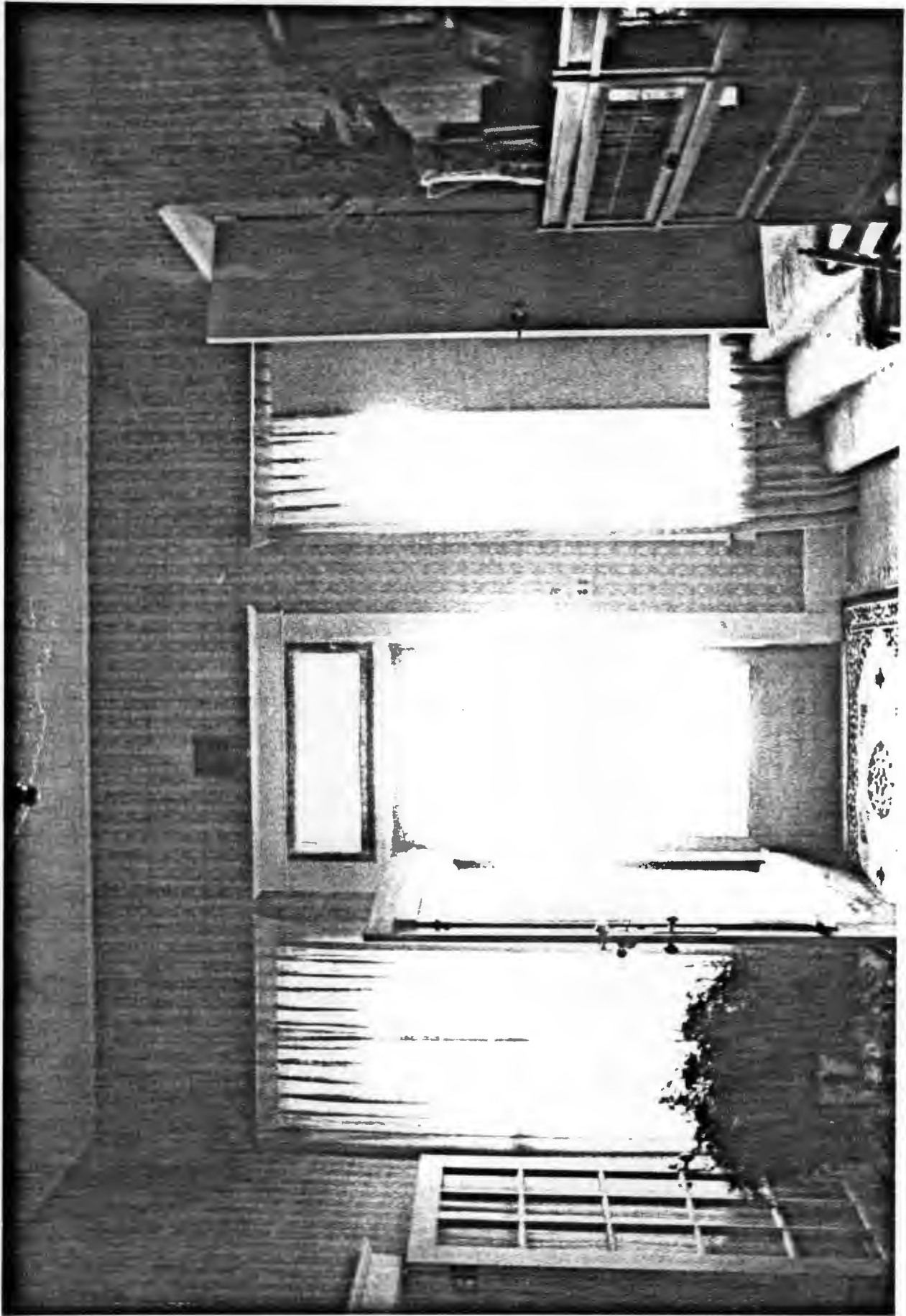
3788

GLENLAKE 7.9 MI.
GOULD 33 MI.

3787

T. 6 S.

10

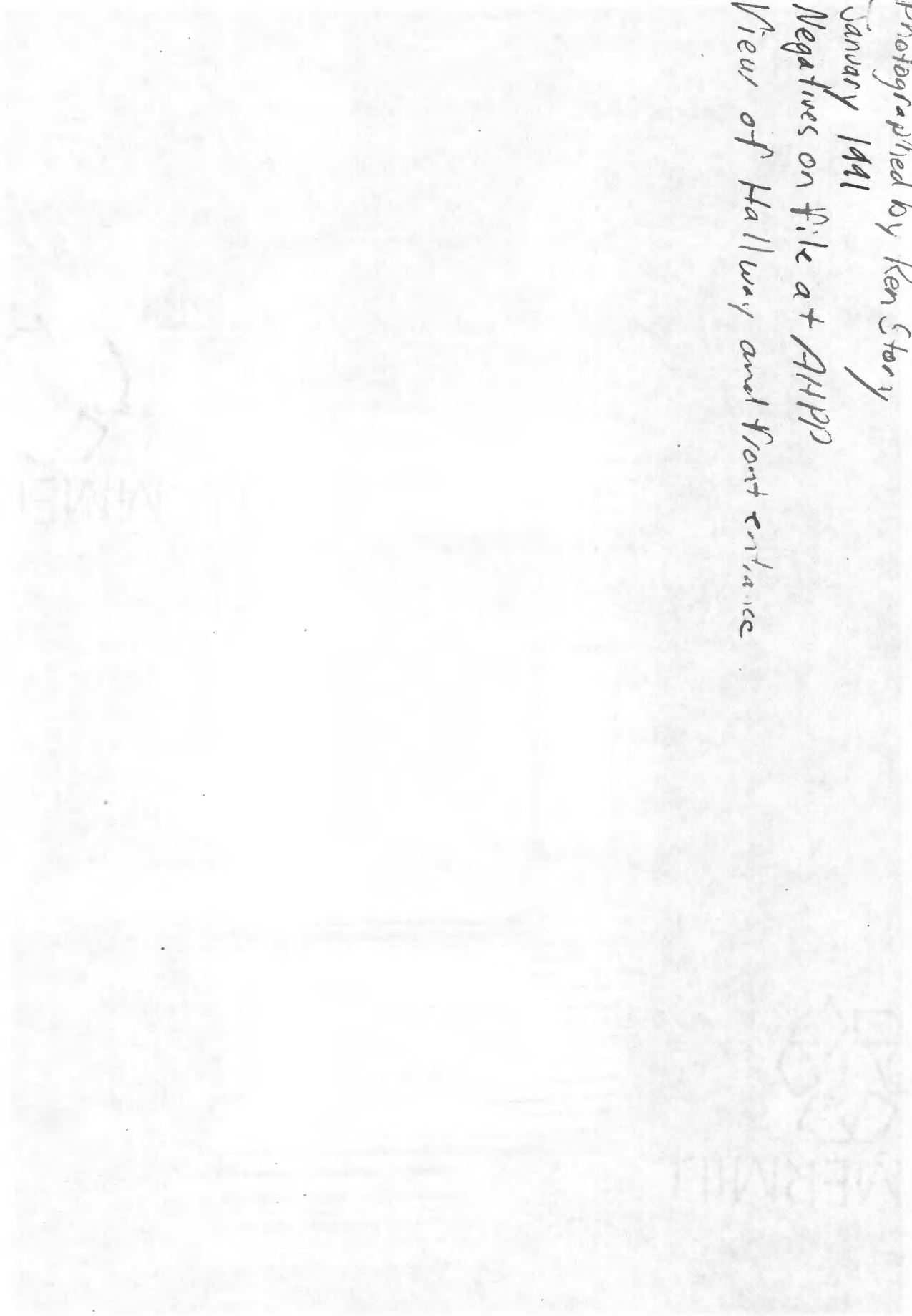


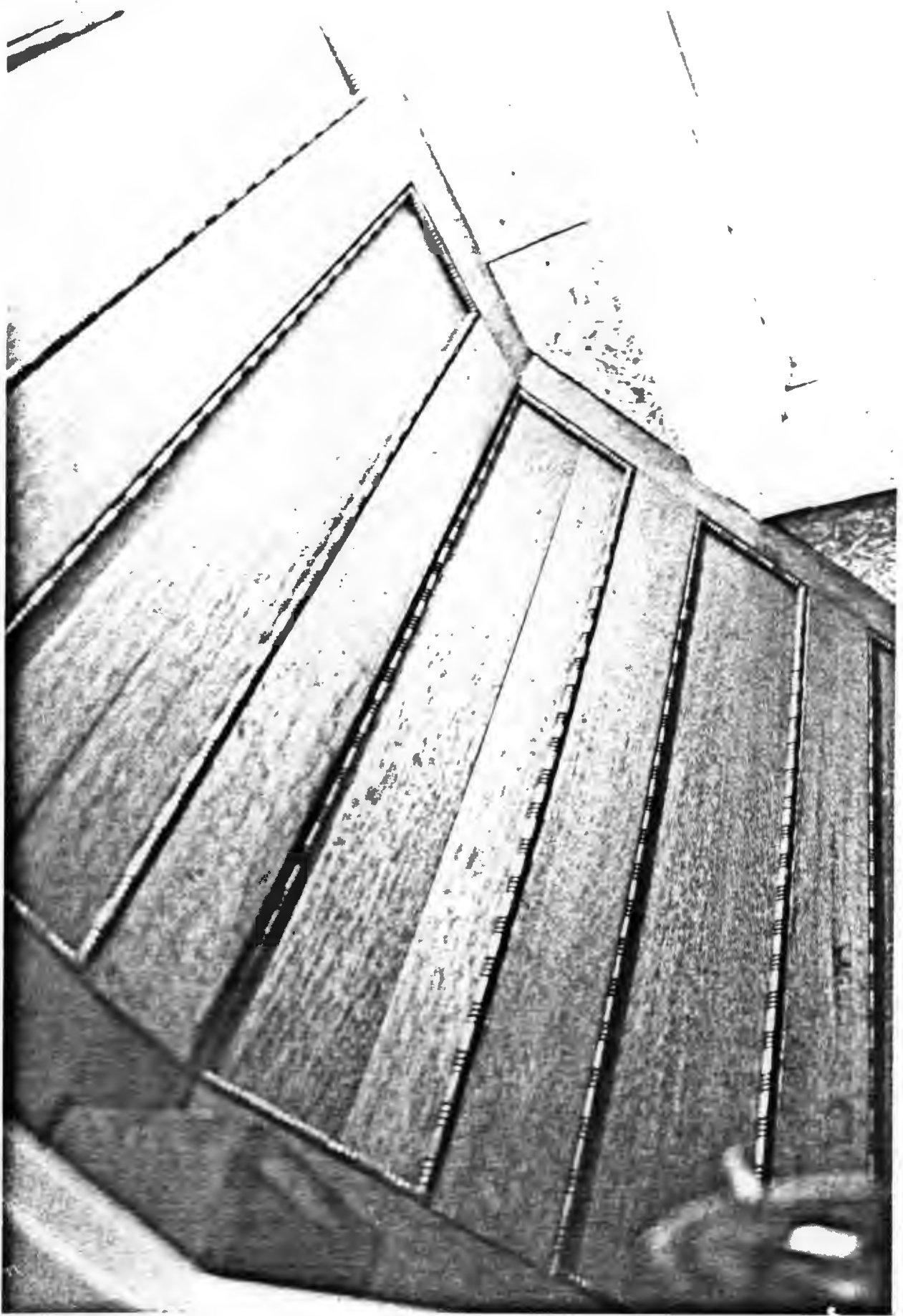
2005 - Durward House
Pin 1011, A, 1000

Photographed by Ken Story
January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP

View of Hallway and front entrance





1529 GURMAN'S HOUSE
D. Hoff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Slay

January 1941

Negatives on file at AAPP

View of staircase



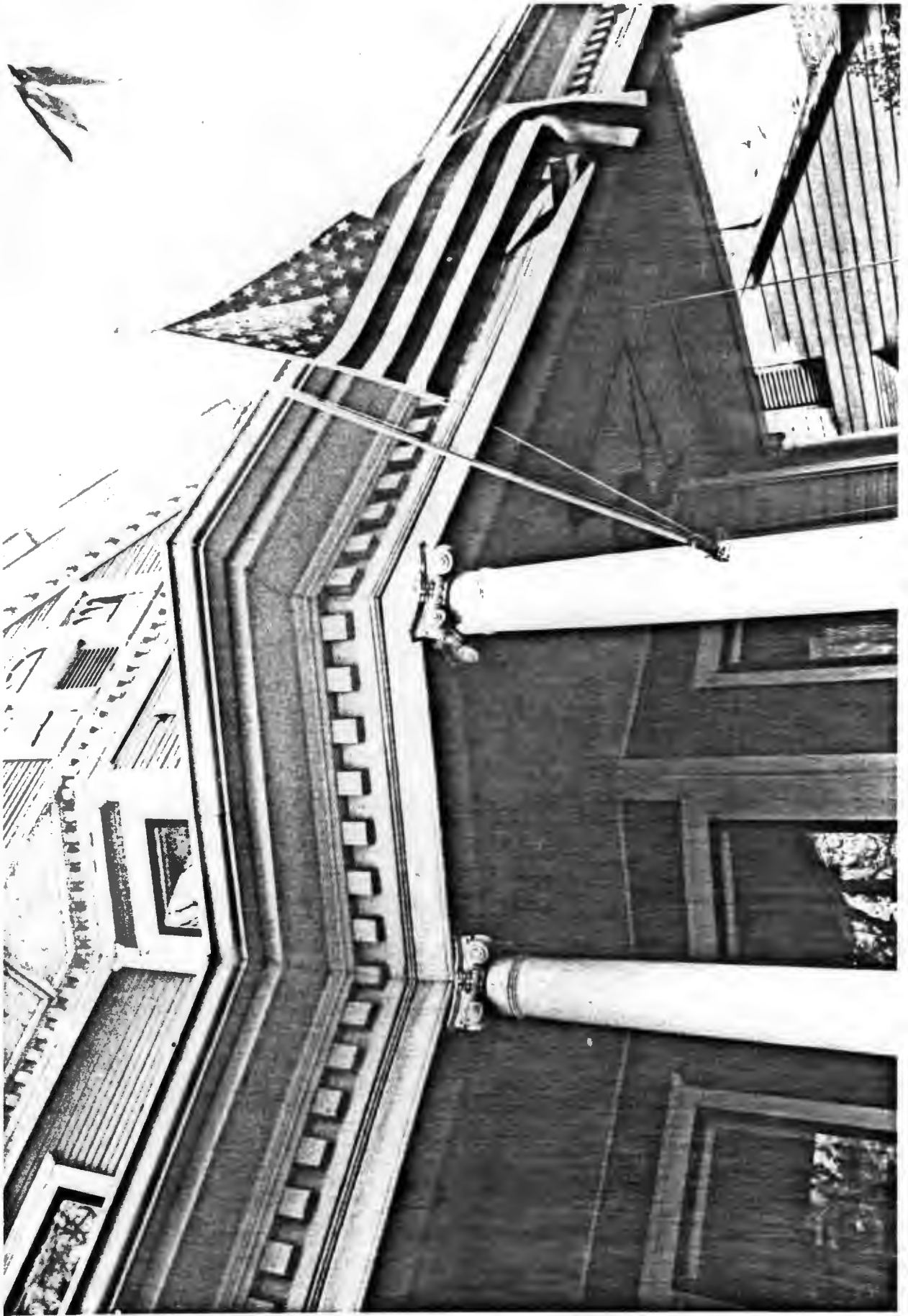
FAMMERS



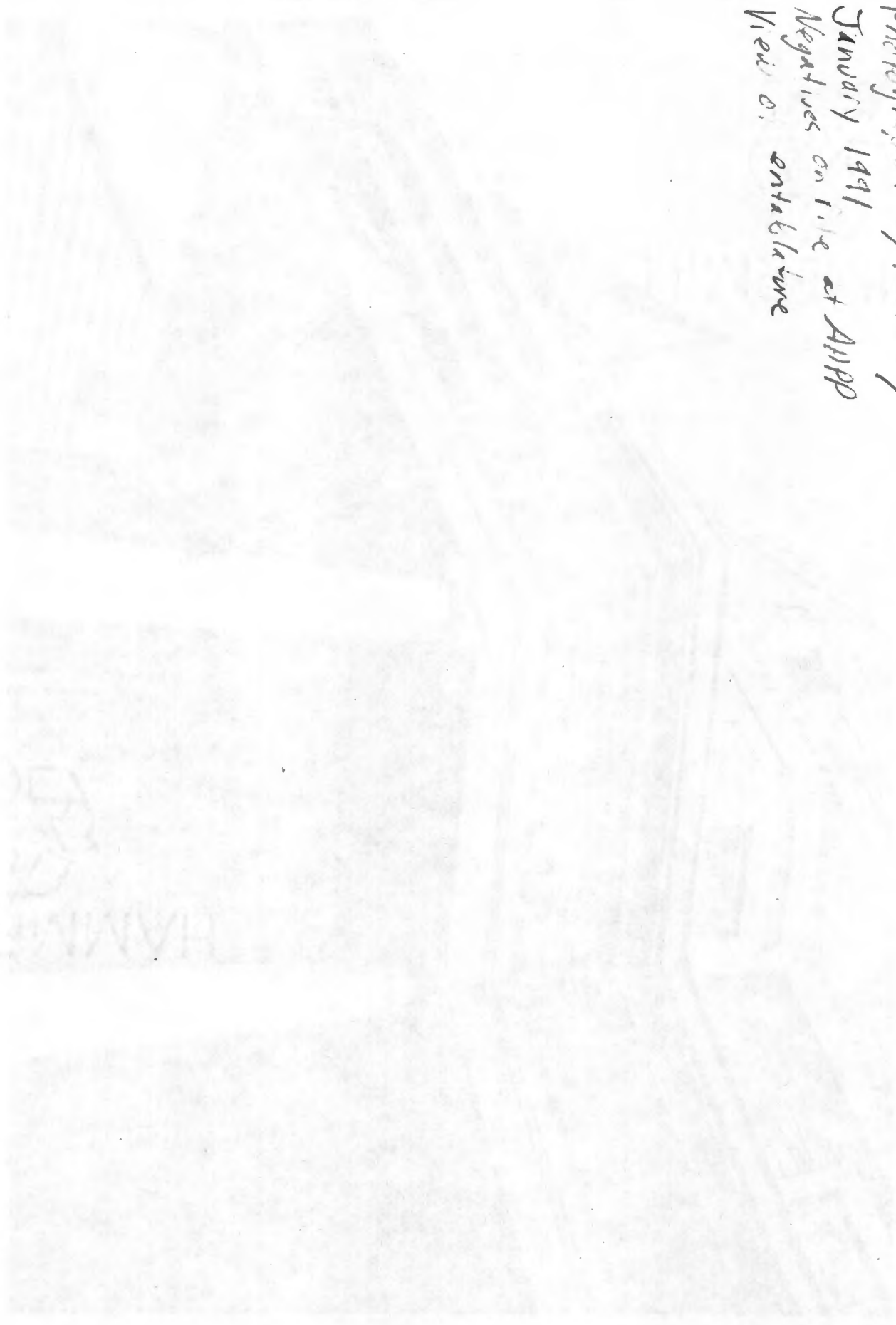
Johnson Burinam House
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Photographed by Ken Story
January 1991
Negatives on file at AHP
View from the northeast



Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Photographed by Ken Stary
January 1991
Negatives on file at AHPD
View of bedroom



1150a Barnburn House
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Photographed by Ken Story
January 1991
Negatives on file at AHP
View on online





Miss Burnham House
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPD
View from the southeast



2110 - Kaminum House
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHP

View from the Southeast



Five F, Arkansas
Photographed by Ken Story
January 1991
Negatives on file at AHP
View from South St



as of 1941
Pine Bluff, Arkansas
Photographed by Ken Story
January 1941
Negatives on file at AHP
View of Mount Pelee



William - Swimming House
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

Photographed by Ken Story

January 1991

Negatives on file at AHPP
View from the east

