

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR 6/10/05

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Tucker School
other names/site number Site #JE0576

2. Location

street & number Vandalsen Drive not for publication
city or town Tucker vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Jefferson code 069 zip code 72168

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant

nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments)

Casimir Maddox 4/25/05
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

Tucker School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN
MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD

roof ASPHALT
other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

Period of Significance

c.1915-1955

Significant Dates

c.1915-1955

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository: _____

Tucker School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 1.25 acres.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u> Zone	<u>595945</u> Easting	<u>3810742</u> Northing	3	<u> </u> Zone	<u> </u> Easting	<u> </u> Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date January 20, 2005
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Adams Enterprises, Inc.
street & number 511 E. Homan Street telephone
city or town England state AR zip code 72046

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Park Service

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SUMMARY

The Tucker School is a one-story, wood-framed school built c.1915 in the Community of Tucker, which is located approximately twenty miles north of Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas. The building rests on a foundation of brick piers, and is sheathed in weatherboard. The roof, which is a combination of a gable and hipped roof, is covered with asphalt shingles.

ELABORATION

The Tucker School is located in the community of Tucker, approximately twenty miles north of Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas. The one-story, wood-framed structure was built c.1915 and contains four classrooms. It is located on Vandalsen Drive one block west of Arkansas Highway 15. A separate cafeteria building was also located on the property southwest of the school, but only the concrete foundation remains today.

The school sits on a brick pier foundation. The walls are sheathed in weatherboard and the roof, which is partially gabled and partially hipped, is covered in asphalt shingles. One brick chimney pierces the roof in the center of the building. Most of the large original windows remain, although they have been boarded up. A small porch in the center of the west façade shelters the building's main entrance while a second entrance is located on the building's east side.

Front/West Façade

The front façade of the building can be divided in half around a central entrance. The left half of the façade has a gable front roof, and projects outward from the main façade. It is fenestrated by a pair of windows that is boarded up. Above the windows, in the gable peak, are two square, louvered attic vents.

The building's central entrance, which is the main entrance, is sheltered by a porch. The porch's roof is a continuation of the front façade's gable roof, and is supported by a wood column at the corner. A concrete sidewalk leads to the entrance from Vandalsen Drive, and a sidewalk also branches off to the south leading to the foundation of the cafeteria building. The entrance consists of a pair of wood doors with a single diamond-shaped window towards the top of each. In the roof's main gable peak, which is located above the main entrance, there is a rectangular, louvered attic vent. Decorative gingerbread work is located in the peak in front of the vent.

There is no fenestration on the right half of the façade.

Side/South Façade

The south façade of the building, towards the west end, is fenestrated by a pair of windows followed by a single window followed by another pair of windows. Although all of the windows towards the west end are boarded up, they are visible on the inside and are double-hung, wood-framed, two-over-two windows.

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Another group of boarded up windows, likely a group of five, is located towards the eastern end of the façade.

Rear/East Façade

The rear façade's fenestration is symmetrically oriented around the central entrance. The rear entrance door is a wood-panel door. On either side of the entrance are two evenly-spaced windows that are double-hung, wood-framed, two-over-two windows. As on the front façade, a rectangular, louvered attic vent, is located in the roof's main gable peak

Side/North Façade

The north façade of the building is fenestrated by two sets of windows. The eastern set of windows is composed of at least four wood-framed, double-hung, two-over-two windows, although all of the windows in the group are boarded-up. The western set of windows is composed of eight wood-framed, double-hung, two-over-two windows. All of the windows except the fifth from the left are boarded-up.

Interior

The interior layout of the building consists of a central hallway that runs almost the entire length of the building with the classrooms opening up off of the hallway. The classroom on the north side of the building is the largest and has a stage area at the eastern end, and it also appears that the room may have had a movable partition wall in the center. The other rooms on the south side of the building are smaller classrooms.

The interior finishes of the building, consist of hardwood floors, and beadboard paneling on approximately the lower third of the walls. The rest of the walls and ceilings are finished in painted wood paneling with raised boards covering the seams between the panels. A water fountain, which appears to be original to the building, is located on the hallway's south wall just inside the front door.

Integrity

Overall, the Tucker School has excellent integrity. It appears that very little of the building has been modified so that it retains its original interior and exterior finishes as well as its original plan. Although most of the windows have been boarded up, the original windows do remain and are visible from the inside of the building. Since the late 1800s when Tucker was established as a cotton plantation community, it has been a small rural community, and the current setting of the Tucker School still reflects its early twentieth-century appearance as a small plantation community.

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SUMMARY

The Tucker School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with education in the Tucker area and Jefferson County. The Tucker School is the last remaining school building in Tucker, and is a good example of an early twentieth century school building.

ELABORATION

The Tucker community was named after John Woodfin Tucker, who came to Jefferson County in 1867 or 1868 and settled on Plum Bayou. In the vicinity of his house, Tucker also constructed a frame warehouse or commissary building. However, when the Cotton Belt line was constructed through the area c.1887, he moved the building to the small settlement at the rail line, which became known as Tucker when the post office was established. The Tucker community has always been tied to the Tucker plantation, and has been an agricultural community focused on cotton production in the area.

The Tucker School was built c.1915 to serve the white students in the Tucker community. Tucker did have a Rosenwald School (built 1925) and shop building (built 1929) to serve the area's African-American students. However, those buildings, which were located where the community park is now, were closed after the 1968-1969 school year, and were vandalized and demolished c.1972.

Although the Tucker School had four classrooms, only two teachers were employed at the school. A principal also served the school and Mildred Blair was one of the principals.

It is likely that the building was used by the community for more than just a school. The fact that the school features an auditorium space indicates that it may have also been used as a community center. Some educators, including Samuel Smith, who worked on school designs for the Rosenwald Fund, felt that, "the best modern school is one which is designed to serve the entire community for twelve months in the year...whenever possible a good auditorium, large enough to seat the entire community, should be erected in connection with every community school. If there are not sufficient funds for an auditorium, two adjoining classrooms with movable partitions may be made to serve this purpose." The Tucker School was not large enough for a separate auditorium, but appeared to have adjacent classrooms with a movable partition.

It is unknown when the building was last used as a school, but the topographic map of the area indicates that the building was being used as a church by 1963. It is believed that the school closed just prior to being used as a church. Currently, the building is vacant and has been for several years.

Schools along with churches were often the centerpieces of a community, and it was no exception in Tucker. Located in the heart of the Tucker Plantation complex, the Tucker School was the center of life in this

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community not only while it was a school, but for several years after. Although it is currently vacant, the Tucker School is a rare and tangible reminder of early twentieth century education in Tucker.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tucker School is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its association with education in the Tucker area and Jefferson County. The Tucker School is the last remaining school building in Tucker, and is a good example of an early twentieth century school building.

Tucker School

Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Information on Tucker, Arkansas, compiled by Everett Tucker, Jr., May 1977. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

Evans, Lucreasia A. Interview with the author. 15 April 2005.

Tucker School
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From the Vandalsen Drive and Arkansas Highway 15 intersection, proceed westerly along the north side of Vandalsen Drive for 250 feet to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning proceed westerly along the north side of Vandalsen Drive for 145 feet, thence proceed northerly along the east side of Vandalsen Drive for 390 feet, thence proceed easterly along the southern edge of Vandalsen Drive for 145 feet, thence proceed southerly for 390 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Tucker School.

TUCKER SCHOOL

TUCKER, JEFFERSON
COUNTY, AR

UTM:
15/595145 3810742

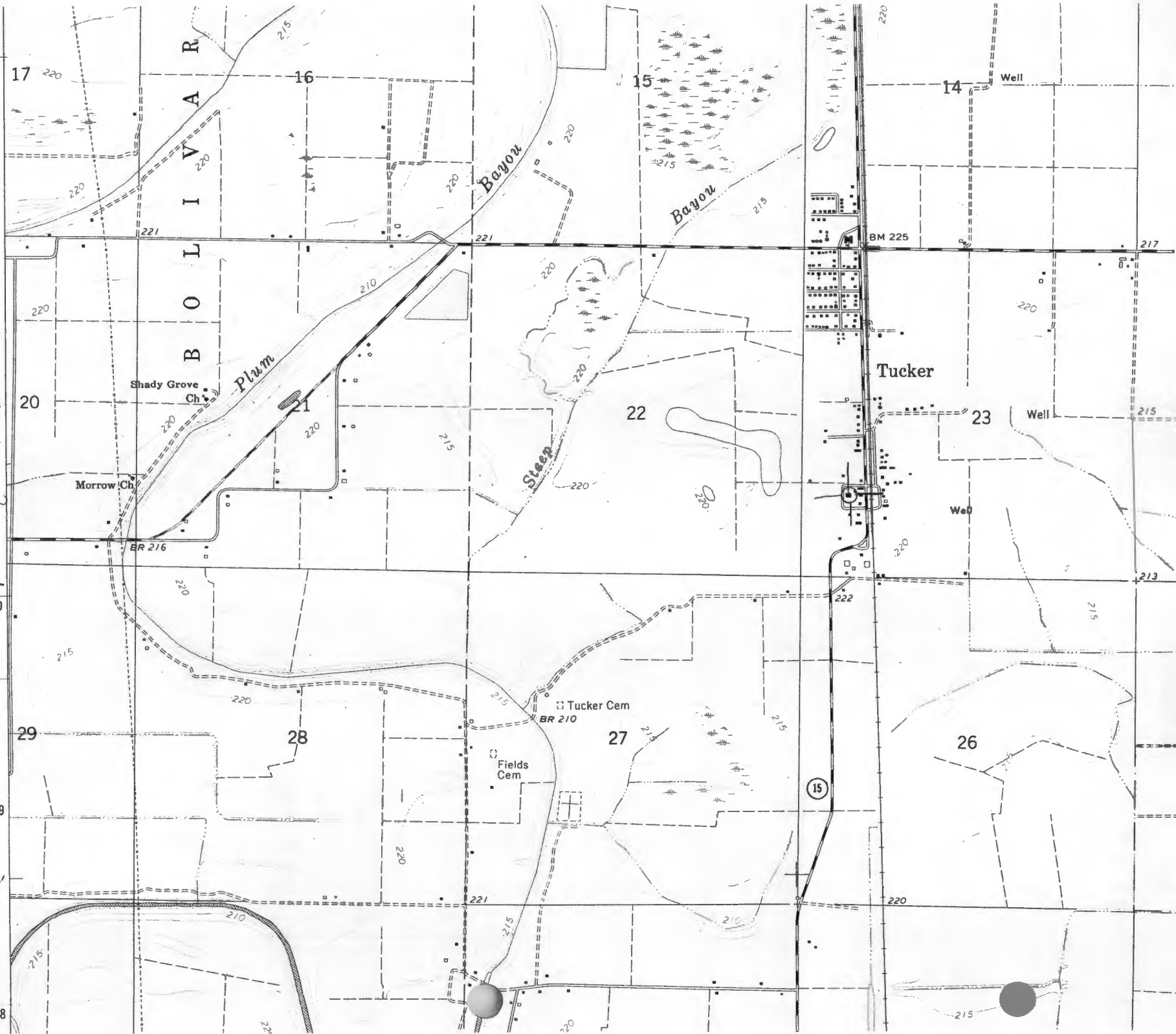
75521 NE
(WRIGHT)

3810

3809

25'

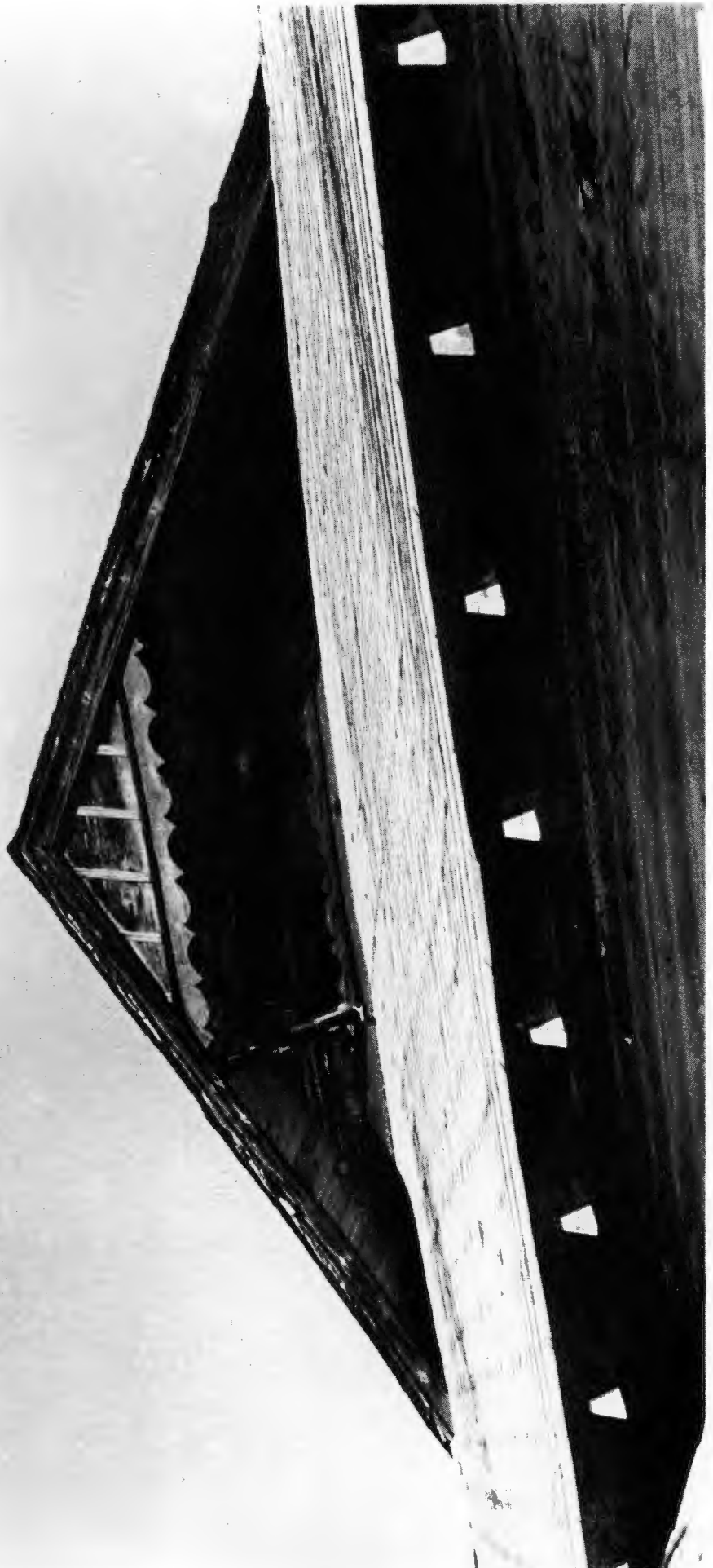
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