

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Tankersley-Stewart House

other name/site number N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: E. of County Rd. 27; N. of State Route 352

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Hunt vic. (Spring Hill Community)

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Johnson

code: AR 071

zip code: 72844

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>4</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

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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 _____ 4-6-94
Signature of certifying official 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

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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

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: Domestic _____ Sub: Single Family Dwelling _____

Current : Vacant/Not In Use _____ Sub: _____

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Other: Box-constructed duplex
Greek Revival

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Stone roof Metal
walls Wood other Brick, Stone

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: local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c.1895

Significant Dates: c.1895

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Tankersley,

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:

- 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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Acreage of Property: Approximately one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>444680</u>	<u>3927420</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the eastern edge of County Rd. 27 and a line formed by, yet 20 feet from, the southern elevation of the house, proceed east along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet ten feet from, the eastern elevation of the smokehouse; thence proceed north along said line to its intersection with a line formed by, yet ten feet from, the northern elevation of the storage outbuilding; thence proceed west along said line to its intersection with the eastern edge of County Rd. 27; thence proceed south along the edge of the road to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes the residence, the smokehouse, the storage building the well, and all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/23/94

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. 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 Tankersley-Stewart House is a single-story duple of box construction with a later frame-constructed ell. Both the exterior and the interior are relatively devoid of ornamentation, though the interior does feature an elegant mantelpiece of Greek Revival influence. An associated smokehouse, storage building, and well are included in the nomination. Located north of State Highway 352 in the Spring Hill community, the Tankersley-Stewart House is in deteriorated condition.

Elaboration

Built c. 1895, the Tankersley-Stewart House is a single-story duple of box construction with a later frame-constructed ell (known to have been added prior to 1931). Originally supported by stone piers, the structure now has a semi-continuous stone foundation with some modern concrete blocks. Since the 1940's, the gable roofs have been covered with seamed metal sheets over the original wood shakes or shingles.

The front, or western, elevation is denoted by a full-facade front porch that is created by a shed-roof continuation off of the gable. The porch is supported by four wood box columns with multiple-piece bases and capitals that present a simple, yet dignified appearance. The tongue-and-groove porch flooring is currently in deteriorated condition and has rotted through in some places. Underneath the porch, the white-painted, board-and-batten wall is configured "ABAABA" with "A" being a two-over-two double-hung window and "B" being a single-leaf entry. Unfortunately, the wood doors have been recently damaged by vandals.

Each gable end features a massive central chimney. The northern elevation chimney is constructed of rough-cut fieldstone, while the southern elevation chimney is built of brick on a fieldstone base. Both elevations have a two-over-two window (now boarded over) on each side of the chimney. The board-and-batten wall on these gable ends has been covered with false-bevel novelty siding that apparently was added when the shed-roof bathroom addition was constructed at the southern end of the eastern elevation. The southern elevation of this addition is lighted by a small one-over-one window.

The northern elevation also presents the side gable portion of the three-room ell addition. This is covered with wood weatherboard and contains three small double-hung windows (now boarded over) and a central single-leaf wood entry. An interior brick chimney punctuates the gable roof. The rear, or eastern, elevation of the ell contains only a single-leaf door offset to the north. The southern elevation of the ell features a shed-roof porch that was once screened-

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in along its entire length. Underneath the porch, there are two wood doors allowing access to the ell. The rear or eastern elevation of the bathroom addition contains a small one-over-one double-hung window.

The interior of the house contains only basic door and window moldings but does feature a tall and elegant mantelpiece of restrained Greek Revival influence in the southern room. The northern room mantelpiece is missing.

There are two contributing outbuildings, a smokehouse and a storage building, associated with the residence. The smokehouse is located northeast of the northeast corner of the ell and is of hewn, braced-frame construction with wood weatherboard that is attached with square nails (as is the residence). The gable roof is covered with the same type of metal sheets as the house and features the projecting overhang on the front, or southern, elevation that is characteristic of smokehouses in Arkansas. A central single-leaf wood door on the front elevation is the only interruption on the otherwise blank walls.

The storage building is located just northwest of the northwest corner of the smokehouse and is of the same hewn, braced-frame construction. This building presents a side gable to the south and contains a central single-leaf doorway flanked by two symmetrical six-over-six single-hung windows. There are two similar windows on the rear elevation, which has had an open shed-roof addition attached to it at some point in time. Originally, the building contained a cellar, most probably for the storage of fruits and vegetables. Unfortunately, the storage building is in great disrepair with the floor having fallen through and the door and windows broken and/or missing.

According to local oral tradition, these buildings were extant during the Civil War. The AHPP staff can conclude only that the buildings are of a building type that existed in antebellum Arkansas and that this, coupled with the southern orientation of the outbuildings (as compared to the western front elevation of the house), suggests an earlier date of construction than the residence.

A historic dug well with surrounding concrete work is located just to the north of the ell/duple junction and also contributes to the nomination. At one time, Dr. Tankersley also had an office building on the property; it, however, is no longer extant.

Located just north of Highway 352 in the Spring Hill community (west of Clarksville), the Tankersley-Stewart House is now vacant and in deteriorated condition. A restoration is planned by the owner in the near future, however.

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Summary

The Tankersley-Stewart House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best extant example of a box-constructed, duple farmhouse with contributing outbuildings in the Spring Hill community of Johnson County.

Elaboration

The Spring Hill community west of Clarksville was first settled in the 1840's by Lewis Hardgraves, who received a government land grant that was signed by President James K. Polk on June 1, 1848. Other settlers arrived in the area, which was named for its abundance of springs. The community did not really coalesce, however, until after the Civil War when a school (first through eighth grades) was constructed in 1871. And, according to a history of the Spring Hill community written by Ruth Stewart, the first church was not built until 1892 when Dr. Oliver D. Tankersley and his wife, Sarah, donated ten acres to the Methodist Episcopal Church, South for that purpose.

Little is known about Dr. Oliver D. Tankersley. According to the *History of Johnson County* by Ella Langford, Tankersley was a young physician in the county prior to the 1860's and served with the medical department of the Confederate Army. Langford also noted that his home was on Horsehead Creek, which is near the Tankersley-Stewart House, but that he moved to Clarksville in 1890. Deed records reveal that he purchased the subject property in 1895. These same records indicate that the patent for this property was first filed in 1840, and that at least four other people had owned the property before Tankersley. According to Ruth Stewart, the house was constructed for Dr. Tankersley by his brother.

The property passed from the Tankersleys in 1902, and nothing is known of the succeeding owners until 1931 when Edward W. Stewart and his wife, Ruth, purchased the property, which then consisted of 94 3/4 acres. The house and land is now owned by their daughter, Eddie Ruth Stewart Ewing.

The Tankersley-Stewart House is reflective of a building technique that was common in rural Arkansas during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Box construction could be utilized for a variety of house plans and had the advantage of being quick and economical to build. Although these houses are utilitarian by nature, the Tankersley-Stewart House presents a dignified appearance that - with its massive end chimneys and box column-supported, full-facade front porch - is reminiscent of the earlier Greek Revival style.

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Under Criterion C, the Tankersley-Stewart House is locally significant as the best example in the Spring Hill community of a box-constructed duplex with contributing outbuildings.

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Bibliography

Deed Records. Supplied by Eddie Ruth Stewart Ewing, July 1993.

Langford, Ella Molloy. *History of Johnson County: The First Hundred Years*. Clarksville, Arkansas: Sallis, Threadgill & Sallis, Printers, 1921. (Fourth reprint by Johnson County Historical Society, 1992).

Mitchell, Steve; Brown, Donald R.; Swanda, Michael L. "Board Shanty: Box Construction in White County, Arkansas." *Pioneer America Society Transactions*. Volume X, 1987. pp. 9-16.

Stewart, Ruth Phillips. "Some Early History of Spring Hill Community, The Progress of Years, Our Spring Hill Community Now February 1962."

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas. Chicago and Nashville: The Southern Publishing Co., 1891.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

7255 II SW
(HUNT)

93° 37' 30"
35° 30'

444000m E.

446

Tankersley-Stewart
House

Hunt vic.

Spring Hill

Co. Ark.

Johnson Co., Ark.

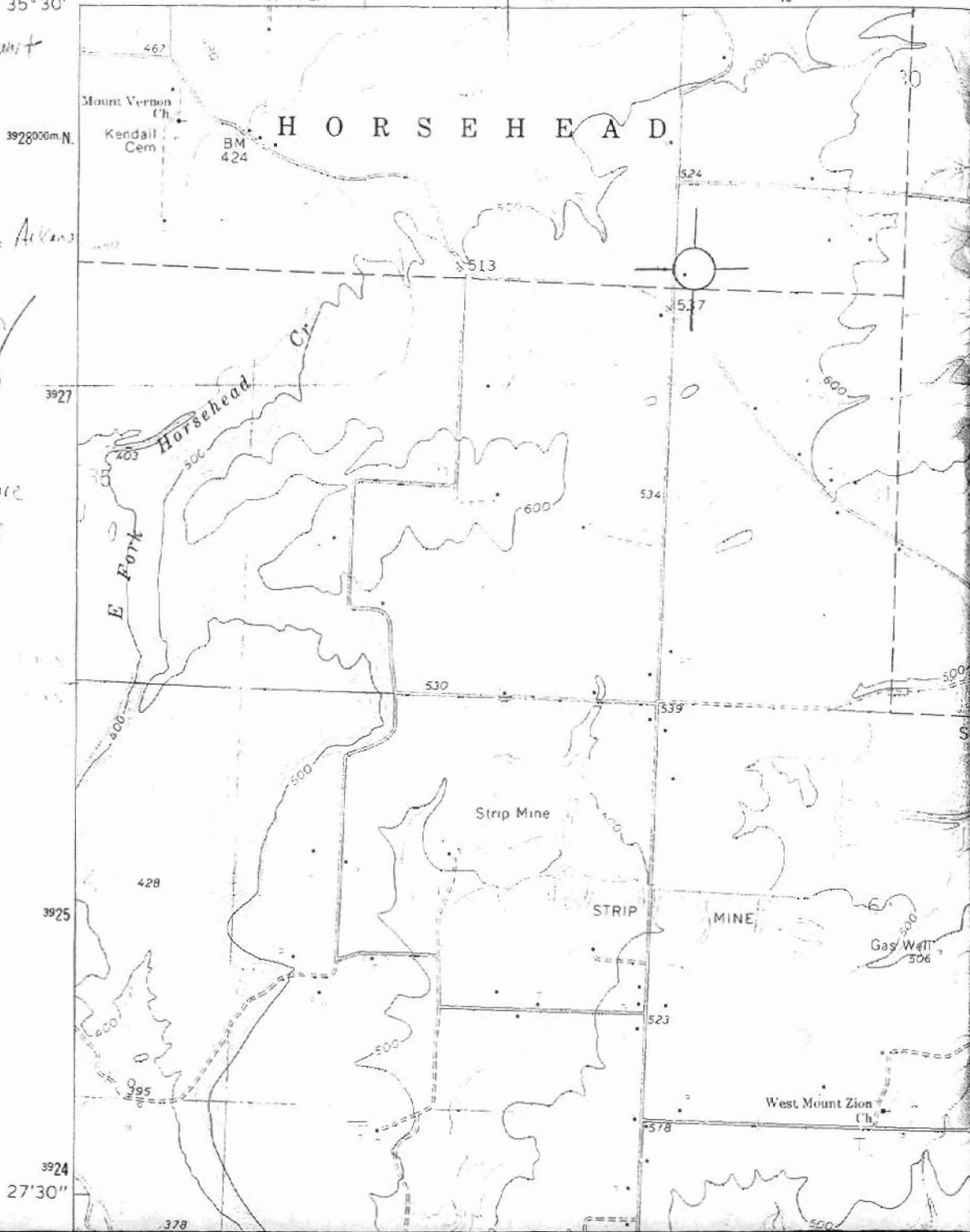
UTM:

15/444680

3927420

Note:

Outbuildings are
closer to the
house





Tankersley-Stewart House
Johnson Co., Arkansas
Photograph by James Zolner
Feb. 1941
Negative on file at AHP
View from the west



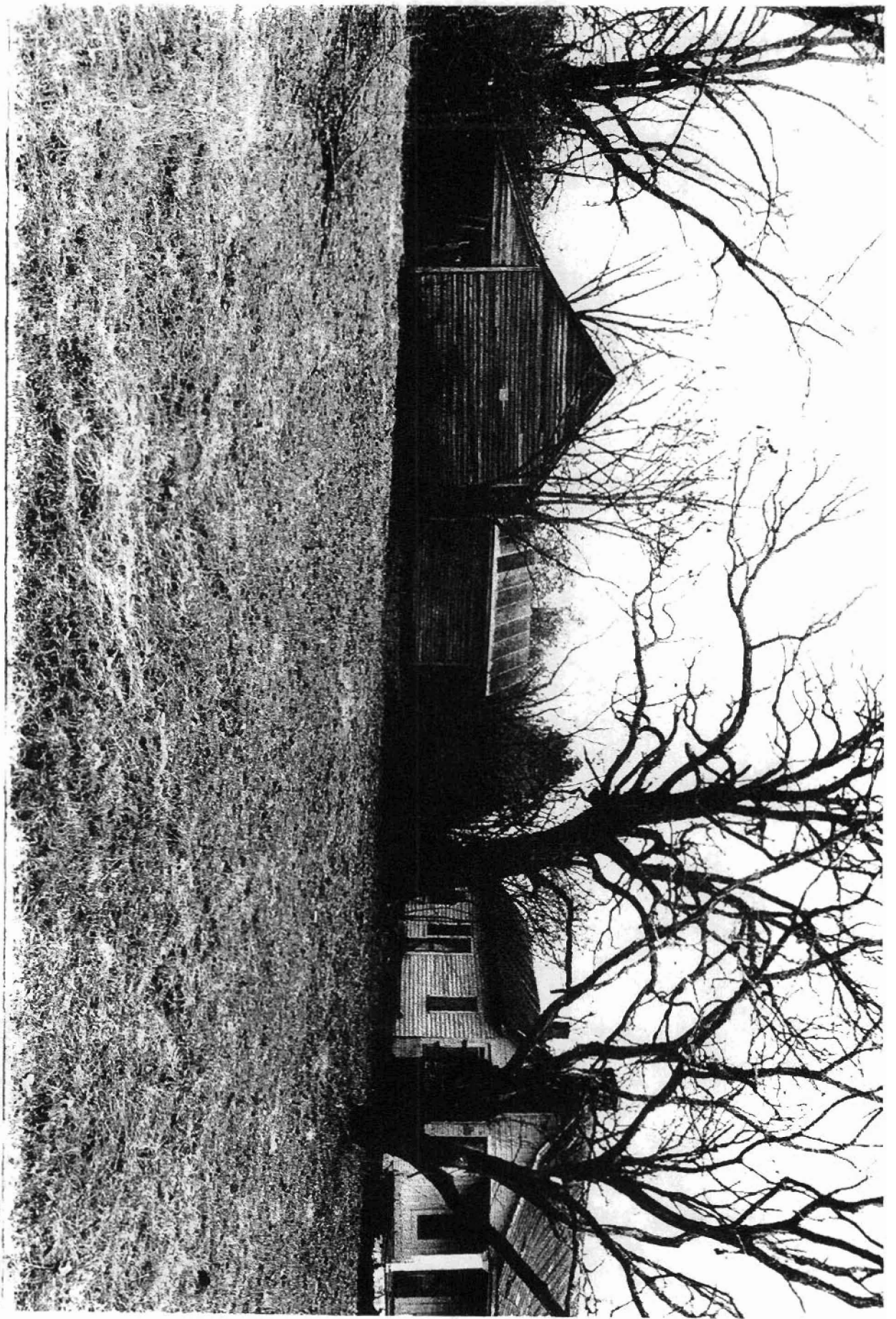
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To the Hon. Sec.
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~~Director~~ 1923
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194
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in New York

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To the Hon. Sec.
Flourish by
Director 1923
Negative on 1
in New York



Lankersley - Stewart + Tex
Johnson Co. Arkansas
Photograph of station
February 1994
Negative of car. A-1
View from the south



University - Stewart House
Johnson Co. A. W. W. W.
Photograph by Pacific 201
February 1994
Museum on 7th and A.H.H.
View from the West



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Johnson Co., Arkansas

Photograph by Patrick Zolner

February 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

View of rear ell from the south
