

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Morris House

Other names/site number: Site #LN0247

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 16284 Highway 89

City or town: Lonoke State: AR County: Lonoke

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

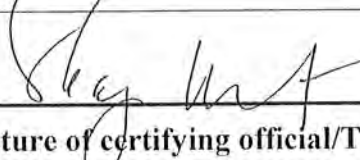
I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  A   B   X  C   D

 <hr/> <b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	<u>4-3-19</u> <hr/> <b>Date</b>
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In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/> <b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<hr/> <b>Date</b>
<hr/> <b>Title :</b>	<hr/> <b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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**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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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>          </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Mid-Century Modern

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, BRICK, GLASS, ASPHALT

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Morris House is a large-scale Mid-Century Modern house located at 16284 Highway 89 to the northwest of Lonoke. The house is located on a large three-acre lot and sits back on the lot away from Highway 89. The Morris House is built on a continuous cast-concrete foundation and has walls that are sided in brick and vertical wood board. The house is topped by a gable-on-hip roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. The house is one story tall and long and linear in plan, measuring approximately 150 feet north to south, and approximately 50 feet east to west at its widest point. The house is fenestrated by several bands of continuous windows in various combinations of stationary and jalousie windows.

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### Narrative Description

The Morris House is a large, one-story, Mid-Century Modern house located at 16284 Highway 89 to the northwest of Lonoke. The house is located on a large, flat, three-acre lot and sits back on the lot away from Highway 89. The Morris House is built on a continuous cast-concrete foundation and has walls that are sided in brick and vertical wood board. The house is topped by a gable-on-hip roof that is covered in asphalt shingles. In the middle of the house, the house bumps up around the chimney providing a taller vaulted ceiling in the family room and

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clerestory windows provide additional light. The house is long and linear in plan, measuring approximately 150 feet north to south, and approximately 50 feet east to west at its widest point. The house is fenestrated by several bands of continuous windows in various combinations of stationary and jalousie windows with the larger windows on the front of the house and smaller windows located across parts of the back.

### ***Front/East Façade***

The east façade of the house has a central entrance that is approached by a brick sidewalk from the circle drive. The brick sidewalk has a brick wall with an Oriental-inspired lantern on the left. There are also lights with metal louvered covers evenly-spaced along the bottom of the wall to light the sidewalk. To the right of the sidewalk is an original koi pond, which has been filled in and now contains grass. The entrance has a replacement door with recessed panels and a leaded-glass window in the center of the upper half of the door. The door is flanked on each side by single-pane, textured-glass sidelights. Also in the center of the façade is the clerestory for the family room. The east side of the clerestory is fenestrated by ten stationary, single-pane windows.

The south half of the east façade is fenestrated by a bank of 22 windows with a projecting brick sill under them. Beginning at the north end of the bank of windows, the second, eleventh, fourteenth, and nineteenth windows are twelve-pane jalousie windows. In addition, the sixth, seventh, and twenty-second windows are narrow, rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows. The rest of the windows are rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows.

The north part of the façade has a small section of blank brick wall to the right of the entrance, followed by a bank of fifteen windows that has a projecting brick sill underneath. Beginning at the south end of the bank of windows, the first, fifth, tenth, and thirteenth windows are twelve-pane jalousie windows. The rest of the windows are rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows.

To the north of the north bank of windows is a carport, which is followed by a short section of blank brick wall.

### ***Side/South Façade***

Beginning at the east end of the south façade, the façade is fenestrated by a bank of four windows with a projecting brick sill under them. The center two windows are rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows, while the outer two windows are narrow, rectangular, single-pane stationary windows. To the left of the east bank of windows, the façade projects out with a section of solid brick wall.

The west third of the façade is fenestrated by a bank of four windows set high in the façade just under the eaves with a projecting brick sill under them. The center two windows are rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows, while the outer two windows are square, single-pane, stationary windows.

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The south façade of the family room extension on the rear is divided into three bays that are divided by brick pilasters. The eastern bay, which is under the eaves is sided in vertical wood-board siding and is devoid of fenestration. The central bay is fenestrated by a central, stationary, single-pane window that is flanked on each side by a single-pane, narrow, stationary window. There is vertical wood-board siding below the window and diagonal weatherboard siding above the windows. The western bay is fenestrated by a pair of narrow, rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows. There is vertical wood-board siding below the windows and diagonal weatherboard siding above the windows.

The south end of the clerestory is sided in diagonal weatherboard siding and is fenestrated by single-pane, stationary, clerestory windows along the roofline.

### ***Rear/West Façade***

The south section of the rear façade is fenestrated by a bank of twenty windows set high in the façade just under the eaves with a projecting brick sill under them. The window at the south end is a square, single-pane, stationary window and the rest of the bank is comprised of rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows.

The central section of the rear façade projects out and is comprised of the family room section of the house. This part of the façade is symmetrical and the central section of the façade is a projecting blank brick wall. To the right of the brick wall is a bank of three, stationary, single-pane windows, although the center windows was a twelve-pane jalousie window. The wall below the windows is vertical wood-board siding. To the left of the brick wall is a bank of three windows with a central twelve-pane jalousie window flanked by stationary, single-pane windows. The wall below the windows is vertical wood-board siding.

The south half of the north section of the rear façade is fenestrated by a bank of windows set high in the façade just under the eaves with a projecting brick sill under them. The bank is comprised of rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows. To the north of the brick section of the façade, the façade is sided in T-111 siding and contains a bank of ten rectangular, sliding windows with screens organized in five pairs. The bank of windows is followed by a metal screen door and then a small section of blank wall sided in T-111 siding. The north end of the façade is recessed and is a blank brick wall.

### ***Side/North Façade***

The north façade of the main part of the house is the north end of the carport and is devoid of fenestration.

The north façade of the family room extension on the rear is divided into three bays that are divided by brick pilasters. The eastern bay, which is under the eaves has an entrance into the family room with a wood door and a metal screen door. The central bay is fenestrated by a central, stationary, single-pane window that is flanked on each by a single-pane, narrow, stationary window. There is vertical wood-board siding below the window and diagonal weatherboard siding above the windows. The western bay is fenestrated by a pair of narrow,

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rectangular, single-pane, stationary windows. There is vertical wood-board siding below the windows and diagonal weatherboard siding above the windows.

The north end of the clerestory is sided in diagonal weatherboard siding and is fenestrated by single-pane, stationary, clerestory windows along the roofline.

### ***Interior***

The interior layout of the house has the public areas towards the center of the house with the bedrooms in the south part of the house and utility spaces located towards the north end of the house. Floors in the house are currently exposed concrete in many areas, which were originally carpeted, along with terrazzo in many of the areas in the center of the house, including the kitchen, hallway, and family room. Ceiling heights in the house are relatively low in most areas, and most areas also have wooden soffits. The family room, on the other hand, has vaulted cathedral ceilings with exposed wood beams and wood screens near the central hallway and front entrance.

The house was designed with many built-in features, which remain throughout. Built-in closets and cabinets in many rooms are original to the house. The master bedroom also features a built-in bed frame and upholstered bench. The bedrooms also feature built-in drawers in the closets and built-in desks/vanities. The family room also has a built-in sound system with a foldout record player among other features.

Although one bathroom has been gutted, the other bathrooms also retain much of their original features and finishes, including vanities, tile floors and tile wainscoting, and bathtubs.

### ***Integrity***

The Morris House retains remarkable integrity from the time of its construction in 1963. Changes to the exterior of the house have been minimal, and include the replacement of a couple of windows on the rear of the house. The interior of the house also retains remarkable integrity, retaining the original plan, and many built-in features, including closets, cabinets, benches, desks/vanities, and the original sound system with record player. Although the current owners are in the process of working on the house after it had been vacant for about a year, they plan on retaining and restoring the original features of the house. With respect to the setting of the Morris House, even though other houses have been built in the vicinity since it was built, they don't really impact the Morris House's setting. The large lot that the Morris House sits on allows for the open setting to remain around the house, reflecting the setting of the house when it was built.

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### 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.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1963  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1963  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Fred Perkins, Architect  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Morris House, located at 16284 Highway 89, in Lonoke, Lonoke County, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **local significance** for its importance as a good residential example of the Mid-Century Modern style of architecture. Designed in 1962 and built in 1963 and designed by the architect Fred Perkins, the Morris House represented a departure from the style of homes that were being built in Lonoke during the early 1960s. Referred to as the Contemporary style in McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses* the Morris House exhibits many of the characteristics of the style, including wide overhangs, contrasting wall materials and textures, and unusual window shapes and placements.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY**

Lonoke County, which is located in Central Arkansas, was created on April 16, 1873, with land taken from Pulaski and Prairie counties. It was named for the "lone oak" tree that stood at the site of the Town of Lonoke, the county seat.<sup>1</sup> The earliest settlement in the area that is now Lonoke County occurred beginning in the 1820s. Early settlements in Lonoke County included the Eagle settlement and Old Austin, both located in the northwestern part of the county near the Moss Prairie.<sup>2</sup>

The city of Lonoke was surveyed and laid out in August 1869 near the county's geographical center. By the 1880s, the area south of the railroad line was known as Hick's & Reynold's Survey and the area north of the railroad line was known as Wright's Survey, and they were both named after the town's original proprietors. Within ten years, Lonoke had a population of 659, and had become a commercial center for the area. By 1889, Lonoke had "one bank, ten general stores, six grocery stores, three drug stores, one hardware store, a harness and saddle store, two meat markets, three livery stables, two hotels, two boarding houses, a furniture store, four blacksmith and wood shops...a boot and shoe shop, two millinery stores, a lumber yard, a weekly newspaper – the *Lonoke Weekly Democrat* – restaurants, feed stores, brick kilns, and other miscellaneous enterprises."<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Information on Lonoke County found at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~arlonoke/>.

<sup>2</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas*. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889, p. 577.

<sup>3</sup> *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas*. p. 584.

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By the early twentieth century, Lonoke had grown from 858 people in 1890 to 951 people in 1900 and 1,547 people in 1910. However, the population then stayed relatively stable between 1,500 and 1,700 people until it jumped again in 1960 to 2,359 people, 3,140 people in 1970, and 4,128 people in 1980. The growth of Lonoke during the mid-century period was likely connected to the completion of I-40 east of Little Rock, and the fact that Lonoke started to attract residents leaving the Little Rock area. The growth of Lonoke brought new construction to the area as more people moved to the community, and it was during this period that William Henry Morris and Mayme McCrary Morris built a house northwest of town on Highway 89.<sup>4</sup>

William Henry Morris was born on January 18, 1918, and married Mayme McCrary Morris on December 29, 1940. Mayme McCrary Morris was born on January 20, 1918. Morris and his wife, Mayme, had four children, Bill, Pat, Linda, and Jimmy Don.<sup>5</sup> Morris' family were farmers and in the 1940s, he took over the operation of his father's farm in Lonoke. The farm was sizable, encompassing approximately 1,000 acres, and it included the land that had formerly been occupied by Eberts Field. The Morrises raised rice, soybeans, and some cattle on the farm.<sup>6</sup> In the early 1960s, the Morrises decided to build a new house to the northwest of Lonoke on Highway 89. The Morrises hired Little Rock architect Fred Perkins to design the house, although it is not known how they became acquainted with Perkins' work.

Fred Perkins, the architect of the Morris House, was born on July 8, 1938, in Carlisle, Arkansas. Like his later employer Dan Cowling, he originally attended college at Arkansas Polytechnic College in Russellville for two years, but transferred in 1958 to the University of Arkansas to study architecture under esteemed Arkansas architect, E. Fay Jones. Jones focused heavily on the works of Frank Lloyd Wright and Wright's Organic Architecture, which Jones saw as being the superior approach to design. This early influence from Jones likely explains the existence of so many Wrightian details and elements in the buildings that Perkins produced. Over summer breaks during college, Perkins would come back to Little Rock and work for Morris Smith and later Dan Cowling. It was because of the relationships that he formed during this time that he went to work for Cowling & Roark once he graduated in 1962. The Morris House was Perkins' first design. Although Perkins did design some residences, during his time with Cowling & Roark, Perkins found a bit of a niche in church design, having designed at least three churches in the central Arkansas area by 1966. The sanctuary at St. Luke's United Methodist on West 32<sup>nd</sup> Street in Little Rock was his first ecclesiastical design.<sup>7</sup>

When Cowling and Roark parted ways, Perkins decided to stay with Roark when he opened his new firm at 713 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Little Rock. Perkins would eventually become Roark's first named partner at the new firm. The firm continued to grow over the years and new partners were added. Over the years, Perkins designed several other churches around Arkansas.

<sup>4</sup> Cunning, Charles William. "Lonoke (Lonoke County)." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=928#>.

<sup>5</sup> Information on William Henry Morris and Mayme McCrary Morris from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>6</sup> Henderson, Linda (daughter of William Henry and Mayme Morris). Telephone conversation with the author. 25 September 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Toms, Mason. Sandwiching in History Tour, St. Luke's United Methodist Church. 4 January 2019. Information in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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According to Perkins, he must have “designed around 200 churches in the state,” including Faith United Methodist Church on Markham, Jacksonville First Presbyterian Church, Henderson United Methodist Church, the eastern section of Central Church of Christ, Hunter United Methodist Church, and St. James United Methodist Church at 321 Pleasant Valley Drive.<sup>8</sup>

The use of the Mid-Century Modern style for the Morris House was not an unusual choice, since it was a style that was gaining popularity for modern buildings after World War II. The AIA reported in the early 1960s that a shift was occurring where people were starting to embrace modern architecture, especially for business buildings, but still even to a certain degree for homes. The book *Mid-Century Architecture in America* states:

No sooner has America embraced the new architecture than it has blossomed out into richness and inventiveness that must, in retrospect, astound even its most daring prophets. It's stark, bare, and square austerity, largely a gesture of protest against over-decorative eclecticism, has given way to a less self-conscious expression.

Taking up the fundamental tenets of the earlier “modern,” a new modified modern with three basic characteristics has developed. These characteristics are:

First, a totally new emphasis on the interior spaces of a building in terms of their usefulness, comfort, and beauty and their inter-relationship. In the past, rooms within a building were rigid compartments. Interior spaces are more flexible and sometimes can be divided at will. They open and flow into one another in a dynamic rather than static relationship.

Second, there is a new indoor-outdoor relationship. The use (some complain the overuse) of glass has made it possible to bring nature's plants and greenery into the building, and extend the building out into nature. Planted plazas, interior courts, and terraces have brought nature even into our urban working environment.

Third, our buildings appear lighter, often buoyant. Skyscrapers soar effortlessly into the air. Other buildings rest lightly on the ground as though to disturb it as little as possible. Even where they hug the earth and adapt to its contours, they avoid being massive and ponderous.<sup>9</sup>

The Morris House reflects these characteristics of the style, especially the usefulness and inter-relationship of the interior spaces and the indoor-outdoor relationship, which is best manifested in the large amount of windows on the east side of the house. Furthermore, *Mid-Century*

<sup>8</sup> Toms, Mason. Sandwiching in History Tour, St. Luke's United Methodist Church. 4 January 2019. Information in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

<sup>9</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961. pp. 21-22.

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*Architecture in America* states that all of the AIA award-winning houses "...share an emphatic withdrawal from the bustle of the street and from ostentation as well." "If one word were to summarize the aspiration of American architecture at mid-century, that word would be 'liveability.'"<sup>10</sup> Although the Morris House does withdraw from the ostentation of the period's architecture, it is somewhat unusual in that the large bank of windows doesn't face away from the street. Rather, the bank of windows faces to the east, facing directly towards Highway 89. The only way that it really withdraws from the street is in the fact that it sits back from the street.

The Morris House also perfectly illustrates the description of the style in McAlester and McAlester's *A Field Guide to American Houses*, which they call "contemporary." They describe the style by saying:

This style was the favorite for architect-designed houses built during the period from about 1950 to 1970. It occurs in two distinctive subtypes based on roof shapes: flat or gabled. The flat-roofed subtype is a derivation of the earlier International Style and houses of this subtype are sometimes referred to as American International. They resemble the International in having flat roofs and no decorative detailing, but lack the stark white stucco wall surfaces, which are usually replaced by various combinations of wood, brick, or stone. Landscaping and integration into the landscape are also stressed, unlike the pristine white International house that was meant to be set upon the landscape as a piece of sculpture.

The gabled subtype is more strongly influenced by the earlier modernism of the Craftsman and Prairie styles. It features overhanging eaves, frequently with exposed roof beams. Heavy piers may support gables. As in the flat-roofed subtypes, various combinations of wood, brick, and stone wall cladding are used and traditional detailing is absent. Both subtypes are most commonly one-story forms although two-story versions are not infrequent.<sup>11</sup>

However, the use of the Mid-Century Modern style in Lonoke was unusual. Many homes built in the community during the period were small Ranch-style houses or houses with Colonial Revival tendencies, with very few high-style examples of Mid-Century Modern homes built. It is known that another architect, F. Eugene Withrow, designed one other similar style house in Lonoke, the Richard and Johnnie Carolyn Bransford House at 217 West Academy Street, which was built in 1965. Although the Bransford House does have similar detailing to the Morris House, the form of the two houses are very different. Unlike the Morris House, the Bransford House is a much more compact, L-shaped design that was governed by a smaller city lot.

<sup>10</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 22.

<sup>11</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, p. 482.

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The Morris House remained in the Morris family from the time of its construction in 1962 until c.2016. Henry Morris died in 1975 and Mayme Morris died in 2015. After Mayme's death, the house was vacant and bank owned for a short period of time until the current owners bought the house in 2017. The current owners are in the process of repairing and restoring the house's original features.

The Morris House represents an outstanding example of the Mid-Century Modern style of architecture in Lonoke and an excellent example of Perkins' work. The interrelation between indoors and outdoors, the lack of ornamentation, and the use of windows to allow privacy were hallmarks of the style. The house that Perkins designed really exhibits the characteristics of the style, and is an excellent example of the style. The Morris House also remains an excellent residential design of the architect Fred Perkins.

### **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY**

The design of the Morris House is an excellent representation of the shift in residential design that was occurring across the country after World War II. The decorative pre-war revival styles, which were all the rage, were being pushed to the side by more functional and livable residential designs. Although some people after World War II still believed "that only shrunken colonial, Cape Cod ranches, or Cinderella homes properly represent the American way of life...a trend [had] now begun working the other way. ...[It was] slowly becoming apparent to people that architects working with builders can give them better, more thoughtful design for their money."<sup>12</sup>

This post-World-War-II architecture moved away from an "over-decorative eclecticism to a less self-conscious expression." Expression, rather, was manifest through window placement and design, placement of the home in the landscape, and also through interior space arrangement. Also, the Mid-Century Modern style greatly espoused the relationship between the indoors and the outdoors (which was partly expressed through the window placement and design).

The style and its design also put more emphasis on privacy. Privacy played a role in the design, both on the exterior – large amounts of glass more often appeared on the rear of the property, making it private from the street – as well as on the interior. "The interior, too, emphasizes privacy for the members of the family from each other. The children's right to their noisy pursuits is recognized along with that of the parents *not* to hear Huckleberry Hound's televised antics."<sup>13</sup>

The Morris House clearly reflects the design trends that were impacting residential architecture in the Mid-Century Modern style after World War II. The house lacks the applied ornamentation that was so often used prior to World War II, and uses window placement and a variety of materials to give visual interest and ornamentation. As McAlester and McAlester point out with respect to the style, the Morris House has "no decorative detailing." Furthermore, it "lack[s] the

<sup>12</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 21.

<sup>13</sup> Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961, p. 22.

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stark white stucco wall surfaces, which are usually replaced by various combinations of wood, brick, or stone.”<sup>14</sup>

The design of the Morris House also reflects the increased relationship between the indoors and outdoors, as well as the issue of privacy in house design. The design of the Morris House, with its large windows along the east façade, encouraged residents and visitors to interact with the house’s surroundings. Although the placement of the large windows was towards the street, the house’s setback from Highway 89 emphasized privacy for the house’s occupants from the street.

The use of the Mid-Century Modern style in Lonoke was unusual during the 1960s. Rather, houses built in Lonoke during the period tended to be built using Ranch forms or Colonial Revival style or influences. High-style Mid-Century Modern houses, especially by known architects are rare. Since the Morris House is an excellent example of the Mid-Century Modern style and one of only a few Mid-Century Modern houses in Lonoke, it is being nominated to the National Register with **local significance** under **Criterion C**.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

*Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Pulaski, Jefferson, Lonoke, Faulkner, Grant, Saline, Perry, Garland, and Hot Spring Counties, Arkansas.* Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889.

Cunning, Charles William. “Lonoke (Lonoke County).” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at: <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=928#>.

Gane, John F., AIA, ed. *American Architects Directory, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition*. New York: R. R. Bowker, Company, 1970.

Henderson, Linda (daughter of William Henry and Mayme Morris). Telephone conversation with the author. 25 September 2018.

Information on Lonoke County found at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~arlonoke/>.

Information on William Henry Morris and Mayme McCrary Morris from [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

Toms, Mason. Sandwiching in History Tour, St. Luke’s United Methodist Church. 4 January 2019. Information in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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<sup>14</sup> McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, p. 482.

Morris House  
Name of Property

Lonoke County, Arkansas  
County and State

McAlester, Virginia & Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

Von Eckardt, Wolf. *Mid-Century Architecture in America*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1961.

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** LN0247

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 4 acres.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Latitude: \_\_\_\_\_ Longitude: \_\_\_\_\_



Morris House  
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Lonoke County, Arkansas  
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3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: 15 Easting: 599231 Northing: 3850685

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at UTM Point 15/599291/3850743 at the northeast corner of the parcel, proceed westerly perpendicular to Highway 89 for 400 feet to UTM Point 15/599167/3850745, thence proceed southerly for 425 feet parallel to Highway 89 to UTM Point 15/599167/3850617, thence proceed easterly for 400 feet perpendicular to Highway 89 to UTM Point 15/599288/3850614, thence proceed northerly for 425 feet along Highway 89 to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary contains all of the land historically associated with the property.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

street & number: 1100 North Street

city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201

e-mail: ralph.wilcox@arkansas.gov

telephone: (501) 324-9787

date: January 17, 2019

Morris House  
Name of Property

Lonoke County, Arkansas  
County and State

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Morris House

City or Vicinity: Lonoke

County: Lonoke County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Mason Toms & Callie Williams

Date Photographed: December 20, 2016, and August 23, 2018

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 27 . East façade, looking west.

2 of 27 . East façade, looking northwest.

3 of 27 . South façade, looking north.

Morris House  
Name of Property

Lonoke County, Arkansas  
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- 4 of 27 . South and west façades, looking northeast.
- 5 of 27 . Detail of the south end of the west façade, looking northeast.
- 6 of 27 . Central section of the west façade, looking east.
- 7 of 27 . West façade, looking east.
- 8 of 27 . South end of the west façade, looking southeast.
- 9 of 27 . Central section of the west façade, looking southeast.
- 10 of 27 . North and west façades, looking southeast.
- 11 of 27 . North façade, looking south.
- 12 of 27 . North and east façades, looking southwest.
- 13 of 27 . Window detail, looking southwest.
- 14 of 27 . Entrance wall and light, looking southwest.
- 15 of 27 . Screen between the living room and the foyer, looking south.
- 16 of 27 . Screen in the hallway above the living room and the foyer, looking southeast.
- 17 of 27 . Kitchen, looking northwest.
- 18 of 27 . Kitchen, looking southwest.
- 19 of 27 . Family room fireplace, looking east.
- 20 of 27 . Built-in sound system in the family room, looking southeast.
- 21 of 27 . Built-in sound system in the family room, looking southeast.
- 22 of 27 . Bedroom closet, looking southwest.
- 23 of 27 . Bedroom desk, looking south.
- 24 of 27 . Bathroom, looking southwest.
- 25 of 27 . Master bedroom closet, looking southwest.

Morris House  
Name of Property

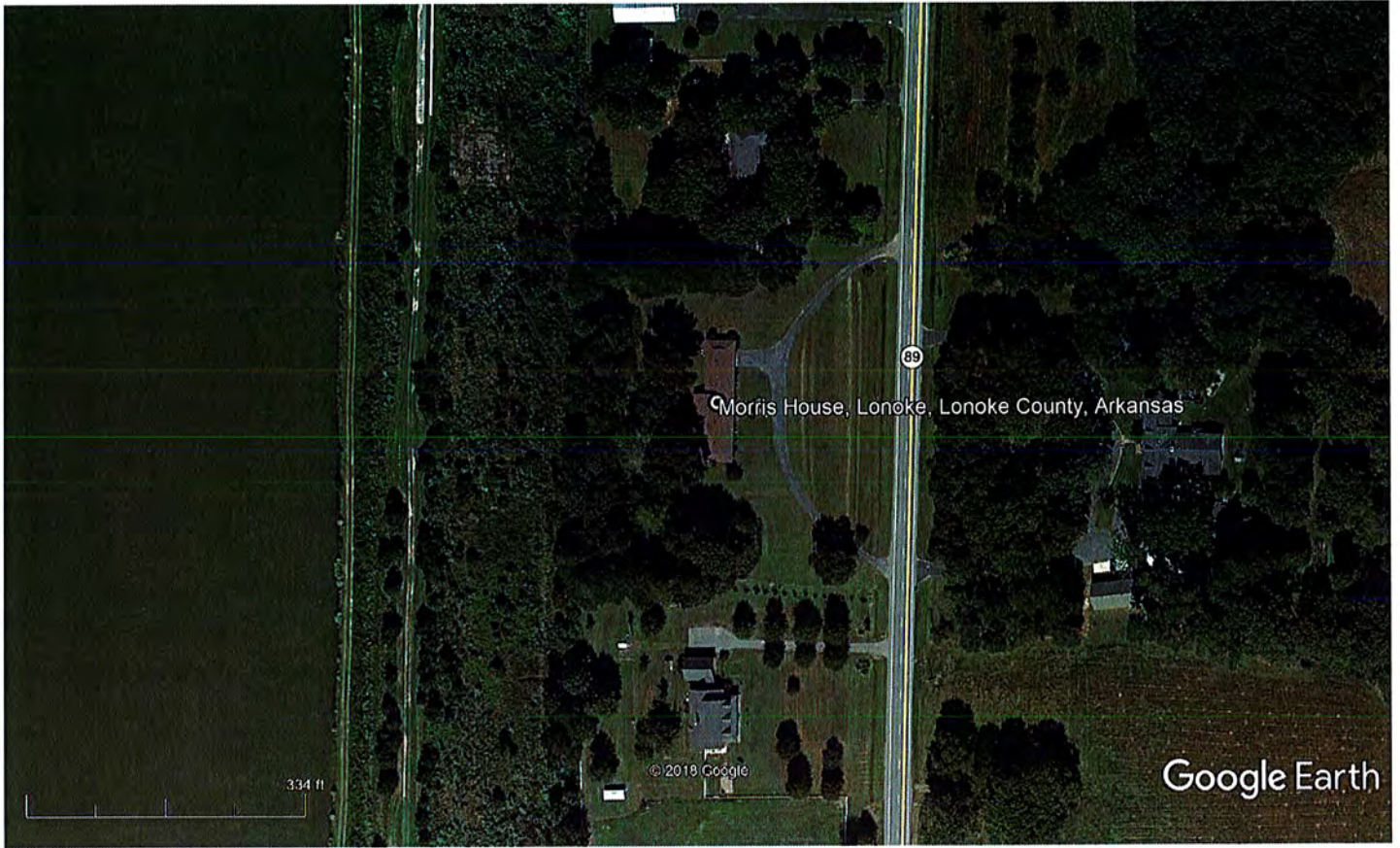
Lonoke County, Arkansas  
County and State

26 of 27. Master bedroom, looking southeast.

27 of 27. Master bathroom, looking northwest.

**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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



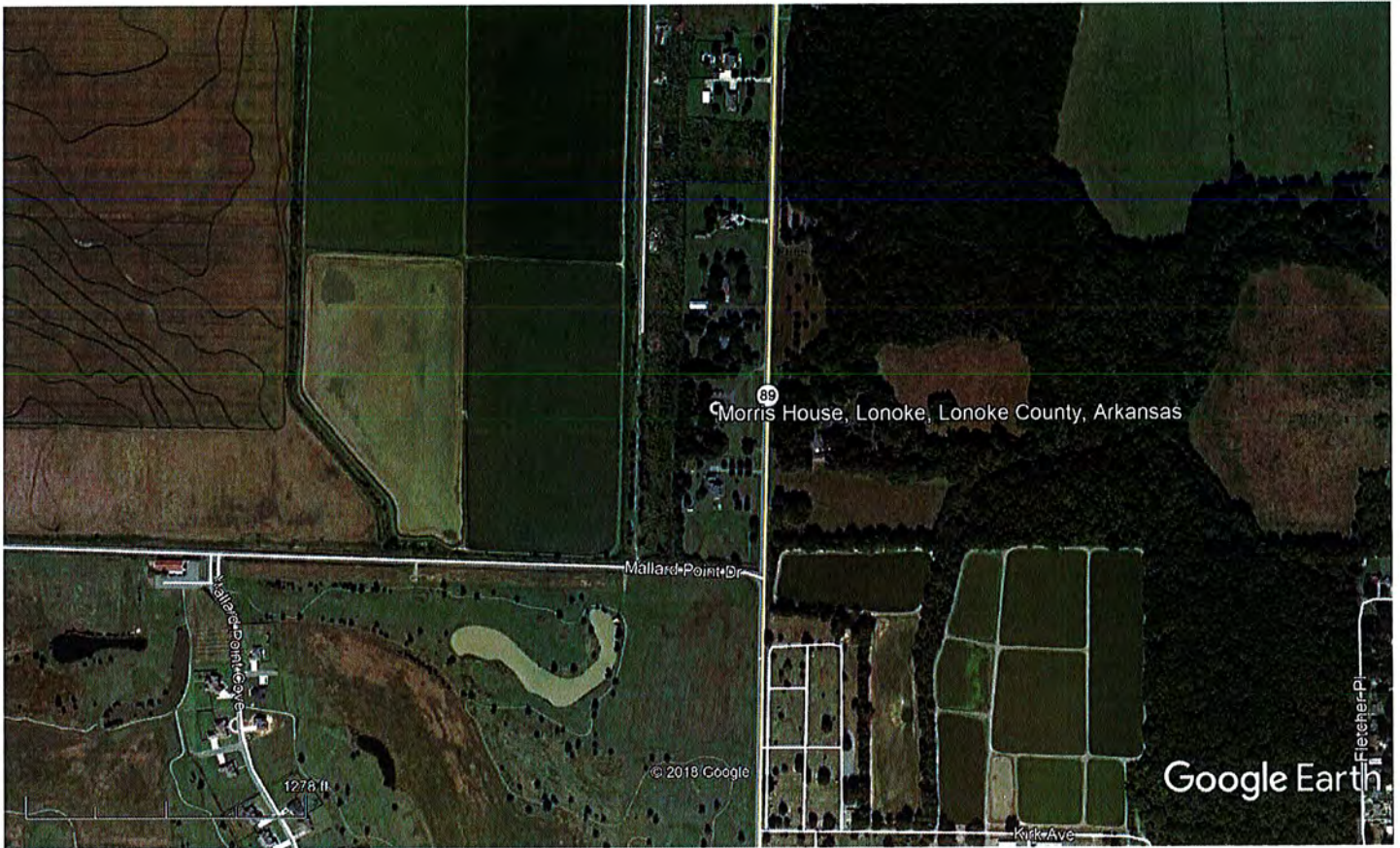
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Morris House  
Lonoke, Lonoke County, Arkansas

15 599231E 3850685N



North



|-----1278 feet-----|

Morris House  
Lonoke, Lonoke County, Arkansas

15 599231E 3850685N

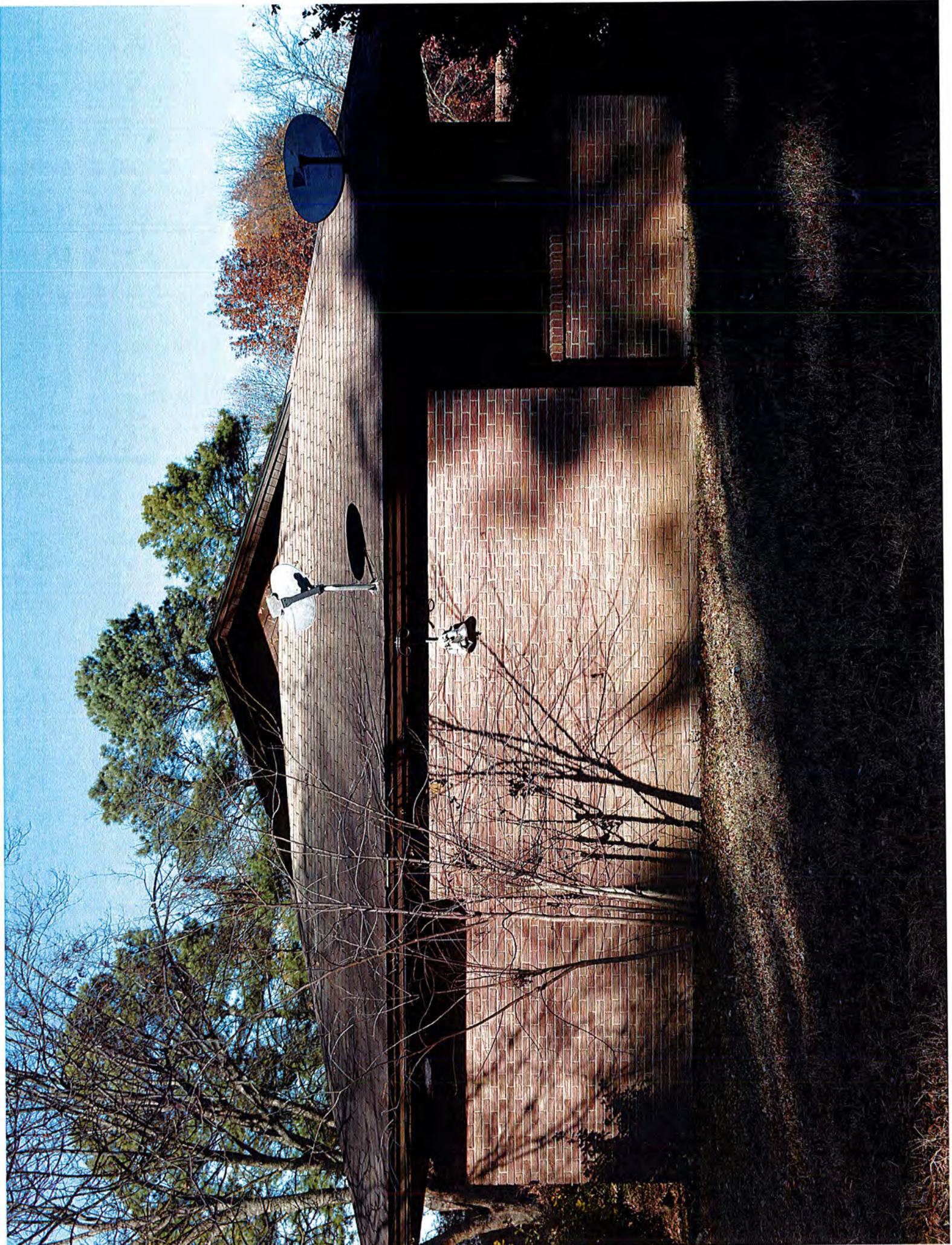


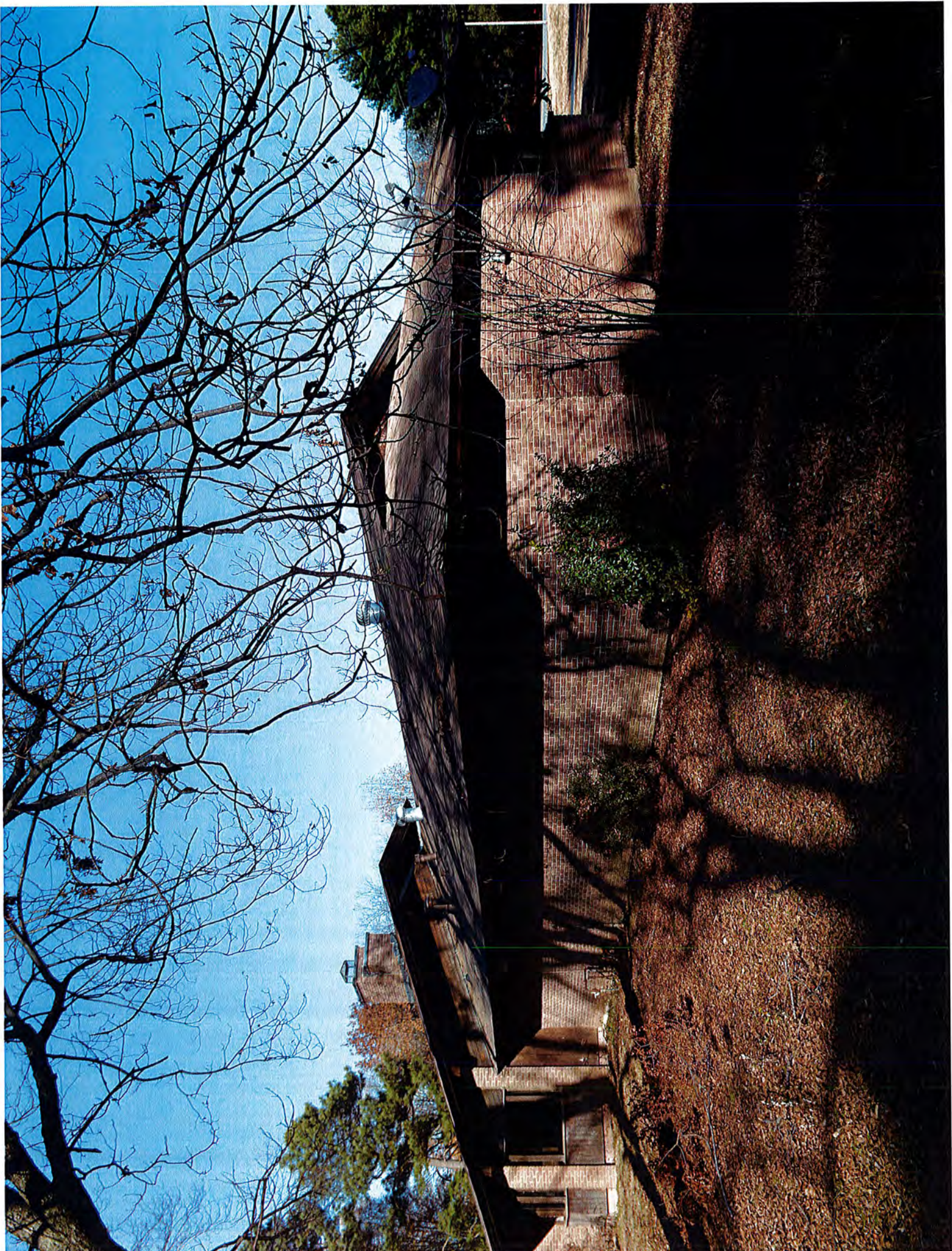
North





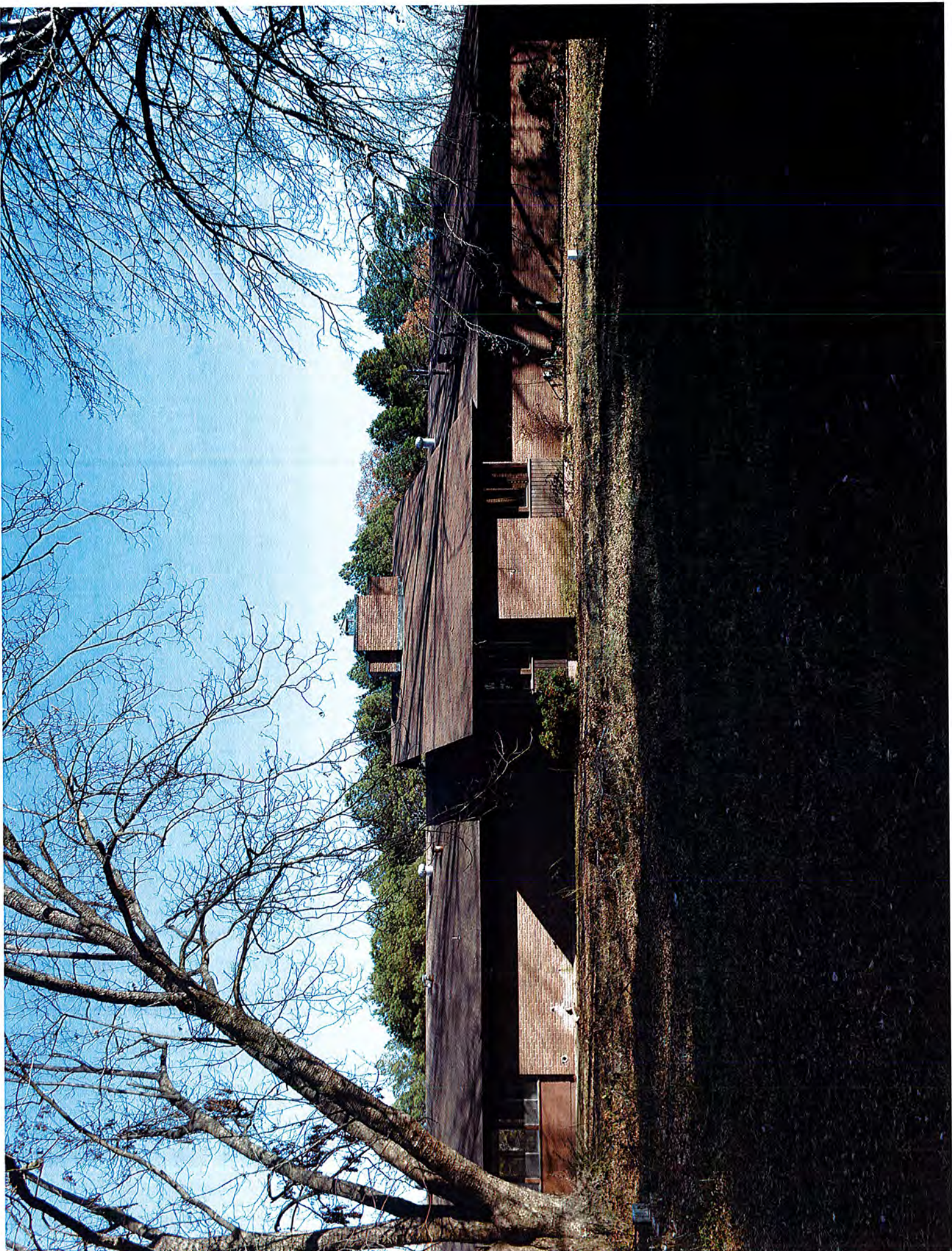


















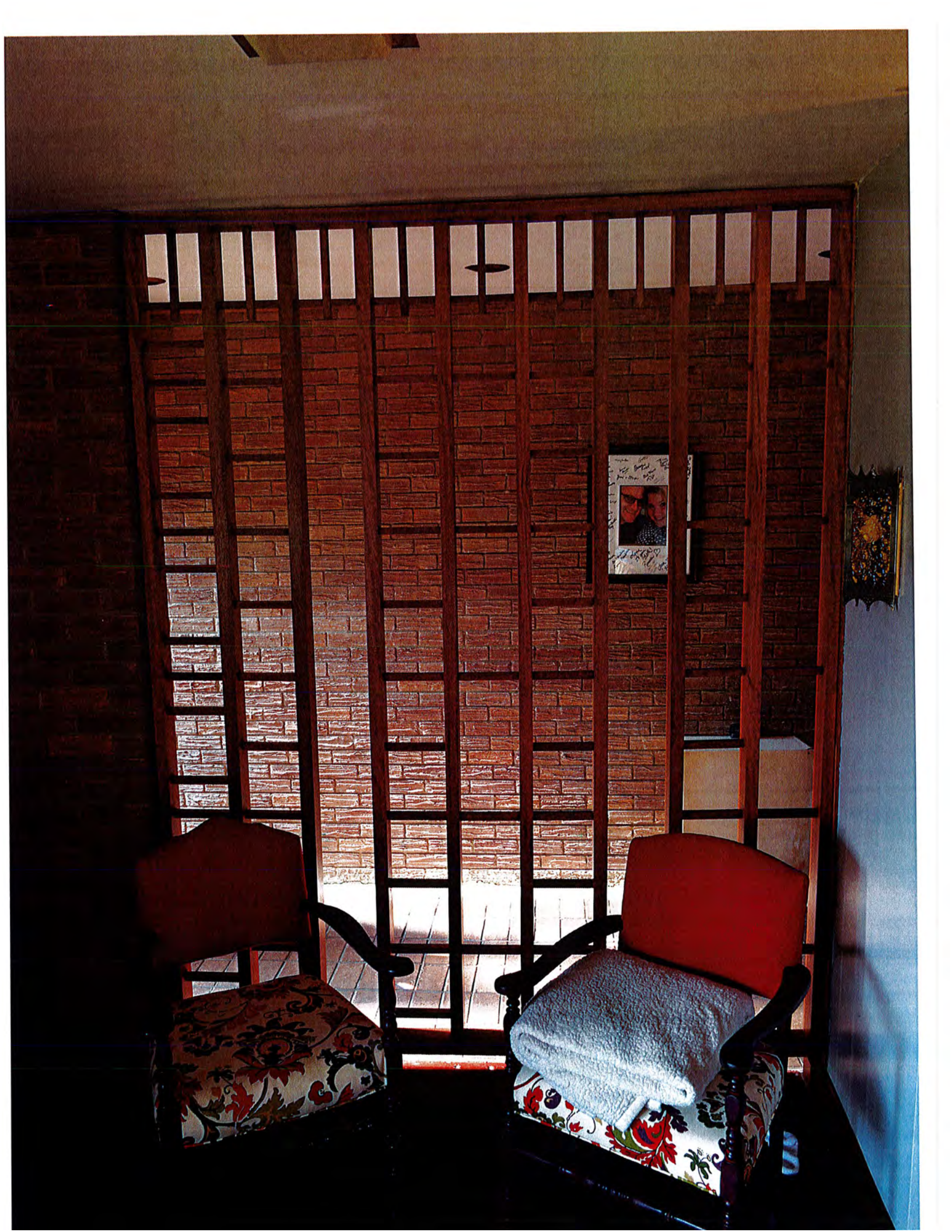


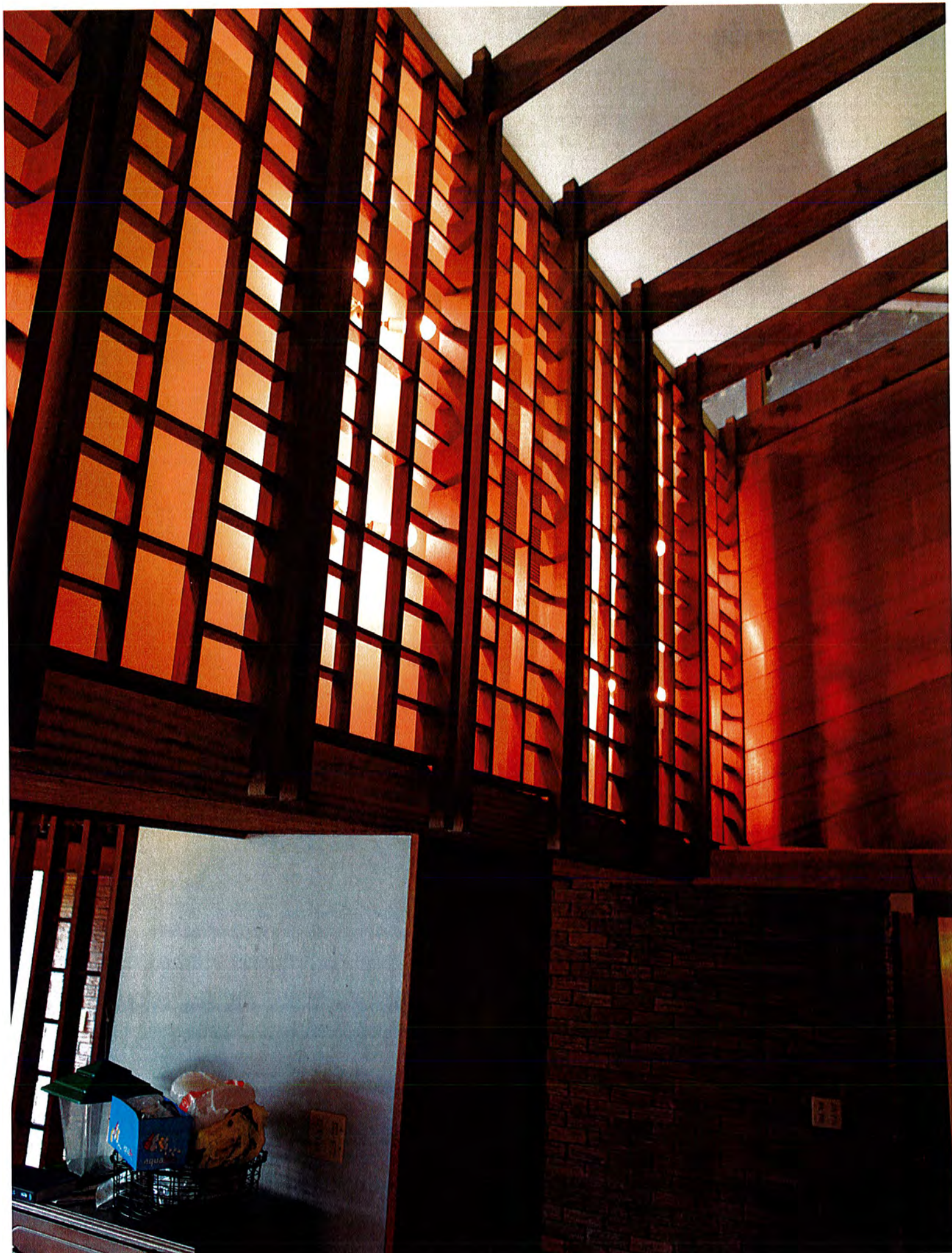


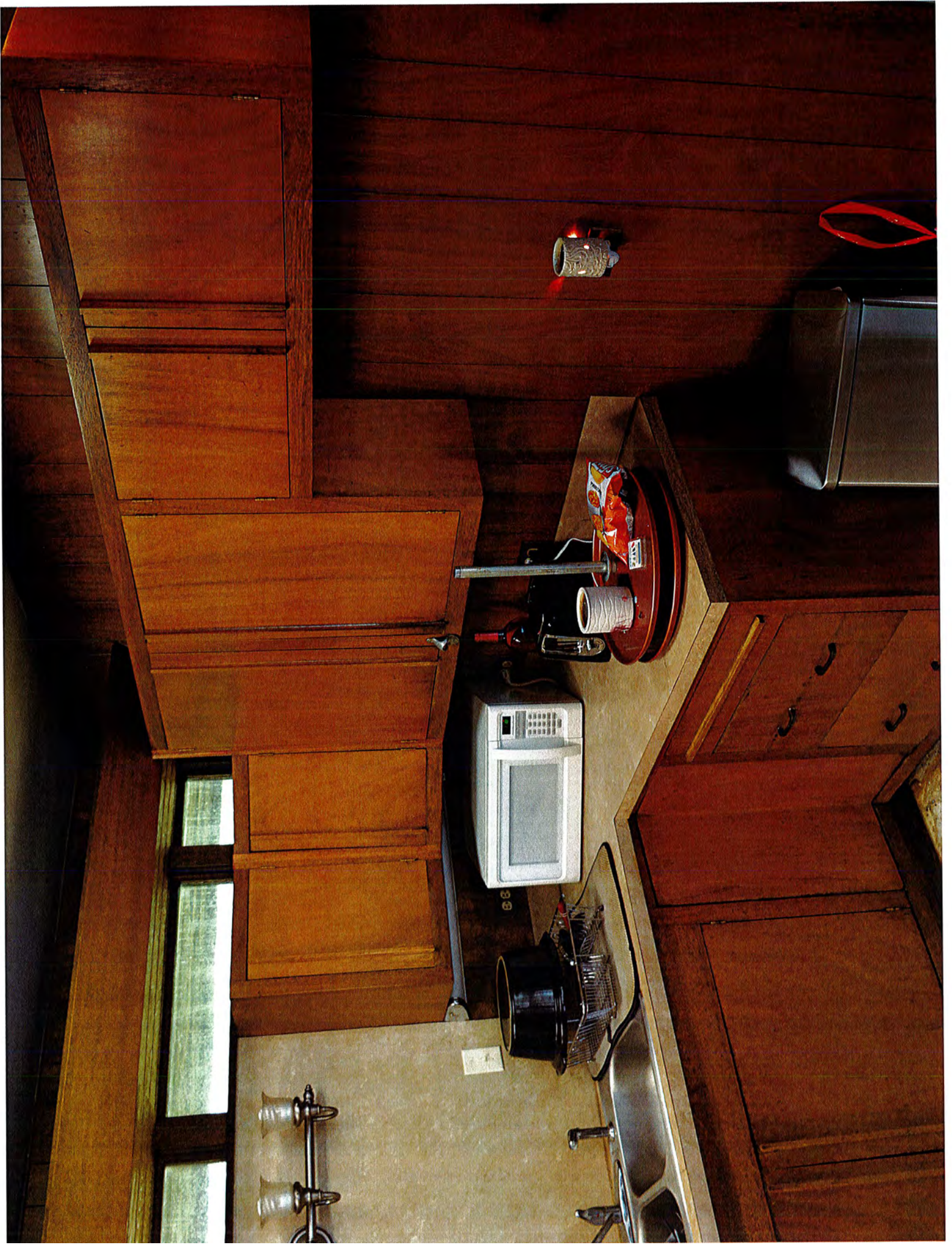


















NEVER Give Up



