

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Smithville Public School Building

other name/site number: LW0033

2. Location

street & number: State Highway 117

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Smithville

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Lawrence code: AR 075 zip code: 72466

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940

=====
4. State/Federal Agency Certification
=====

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. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

8-2-92
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

=====
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 Keeper

Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: EDUCATION

Sub: School

Current: GOVERNMENT

Sub: Fire station

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS
Craftsman

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt
walls Stone other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: EDUCATION
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period(s) of Significance: 1936-1940

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

See "Public Schools in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940" Multiple Property Form, Section H.

___ 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:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreeage of Property: Approximately two

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>652580</u>	<u>3993950</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Block 27, Original Addition to the City of Smithville.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes both the historic resource and all the surrounding property known to have been historically associated therewith that retains its integrity.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: July 16, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Smithville Public School Building is a single-story, T-shaped structure built in 1936 by the WPA and designed in the Plain Traditional style. The building is constructed of structural field-stone walls on a continuous stone foundation. The elements are repelled by a composition-shingled gable roof.

Elaboration

The central projecting cross-gable bay dominates the southern or front elevation. Originally fenestrated by six nine-over-nine, double-hung windows, the recent restoration of the building has either refurbished or replaced in-kind all of these windows, thus retaining its original appearance and pane configuration. The pediment is stuccoed and otherwise contains only a triangle-shaped louvered attic vent. On both sides of the cross-gable bay, southern-facing, double-leaf doors with twelve-pane transoms provide access to the classrooms. The eastern entrance is accessed by a stoop with nine concrete steps and the western entrance is now accessed via a concrete handicapped-access ramp; both are covered by shed roofs that are supported by ornate wood brackets. A set of two nine-over-nine, double-hung windows are located near both corners.

The western elevation is not fenestrated. The pediment is identical to the one in the southern elevation. The northern elevation is lighted by two sets of six nine-over-nine, double-hung windows and a smaller nine-over-nine window near the eastern corner. The eastern elevation is identical to that of the western elevation with the exception of an open foundation access and the boarding over of the triangular louvered vent.

There is a stage in one of the classrooms. The building currently functions as a fire station office.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

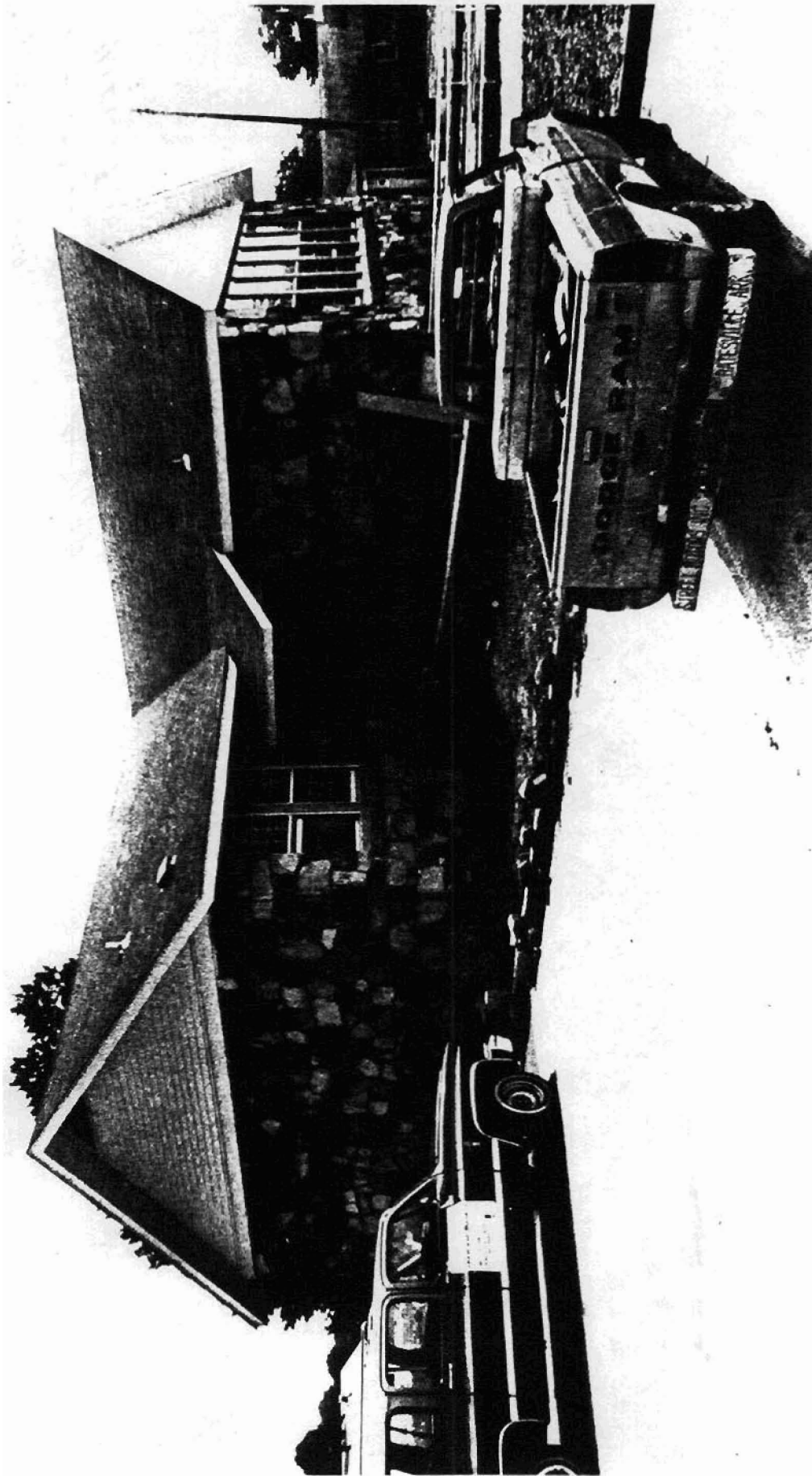
Section number 8 Page 1

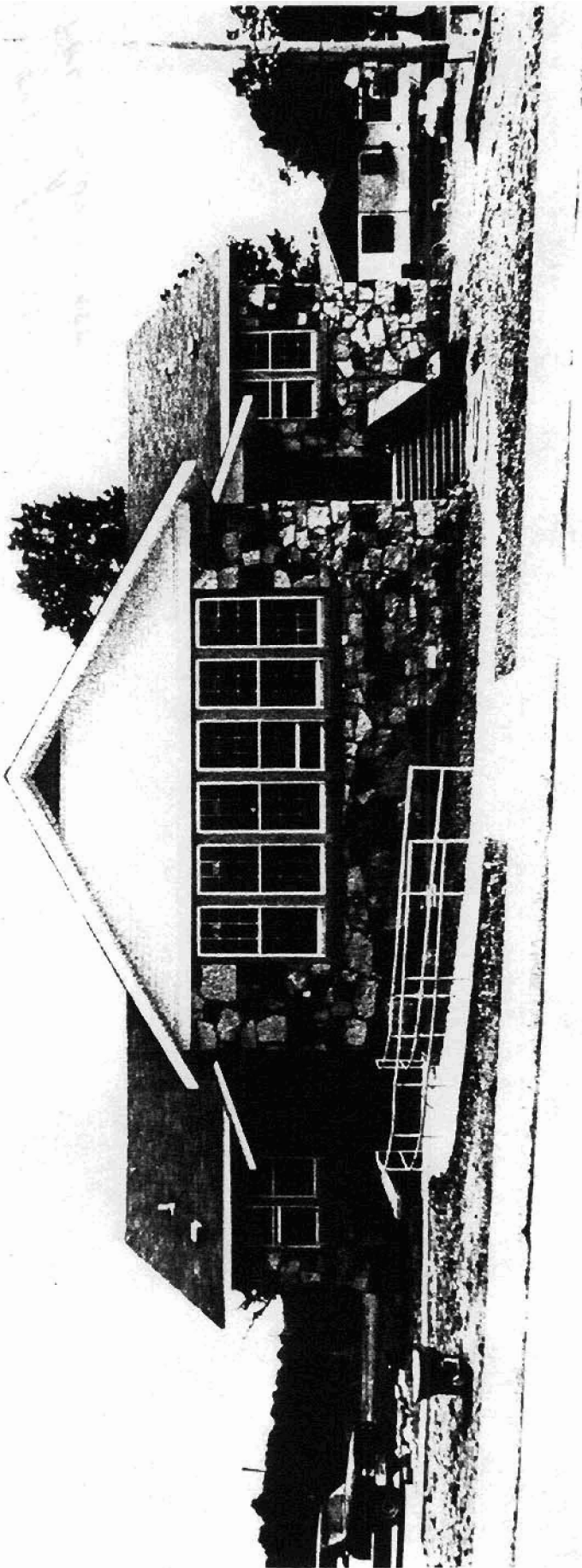
Smithville Public School

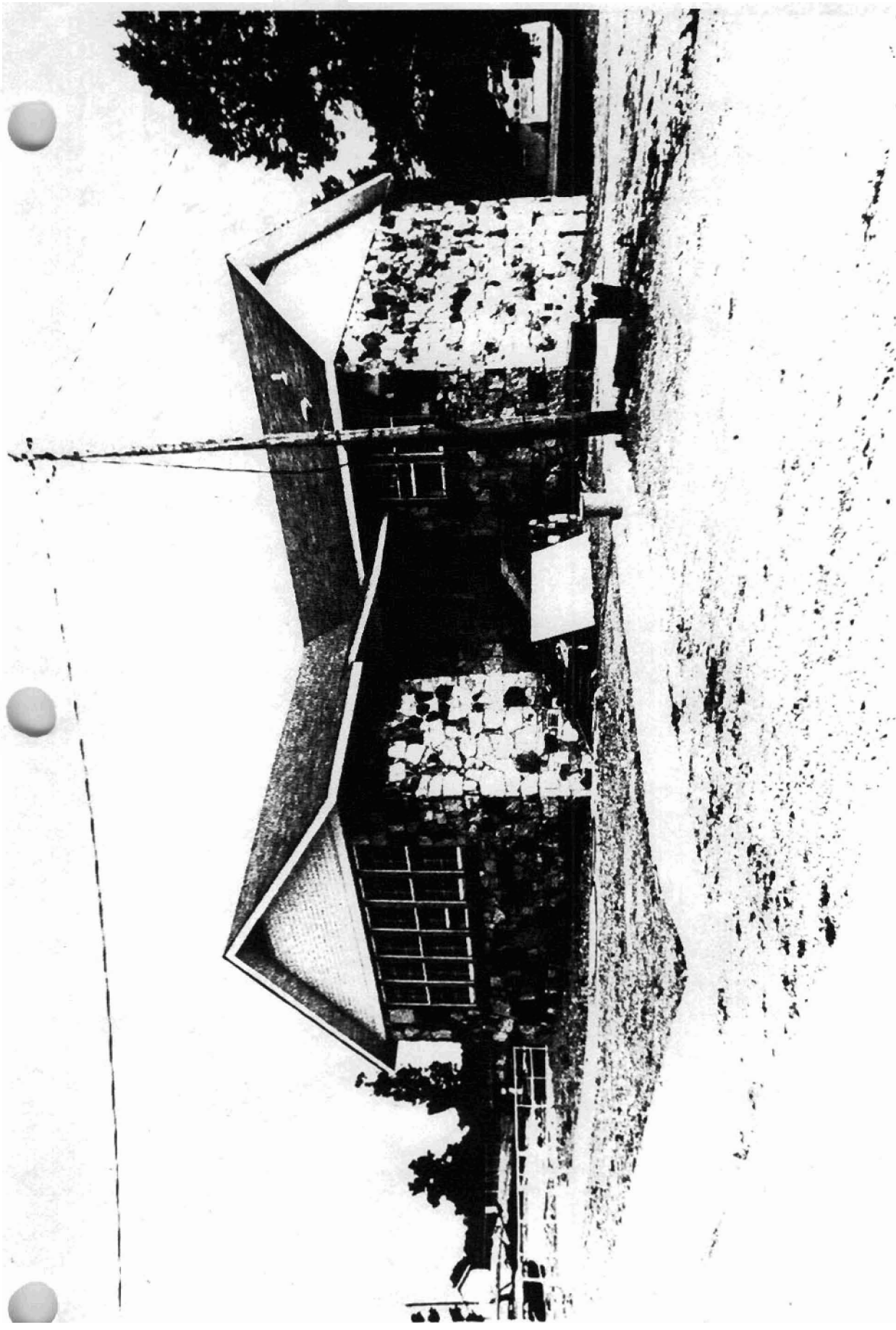
In the 19th Century, the Lawrence County seat of Smithville had been a prosperous and thriving community, an inland distribution center serving an intensively farmed hinterland. However, shifts in agricultural patterns from the uplands to the lowlands, as well as the loss of the county seat with the creation of Sharp County from western Lawrence County, all resulted in the community's relative decline. By the mid-1930's, virtually all that remained of Smithville was a gin, a grist mill, and a struggling bank. The Works Progress Administration's construction of the Smithville Public School in 1936 was an attempt to revitalize the fading community and the failing economy.¹

The Smithville Public School Building, constructed during the period covered by the historic context *The Evolution of the Public School System in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1920-1940*, is a representative example of a small stone school building constructed for a rural school district. Its documented construction by the W.P.A. and its use during this period as a local school building clearly identify it with this historic context and with this property type. It is significant locally under Criterion A through its direct associations with both the history of the evolution of the public school system in the Ozark Mountain region of the state during this period and the W.P.A.

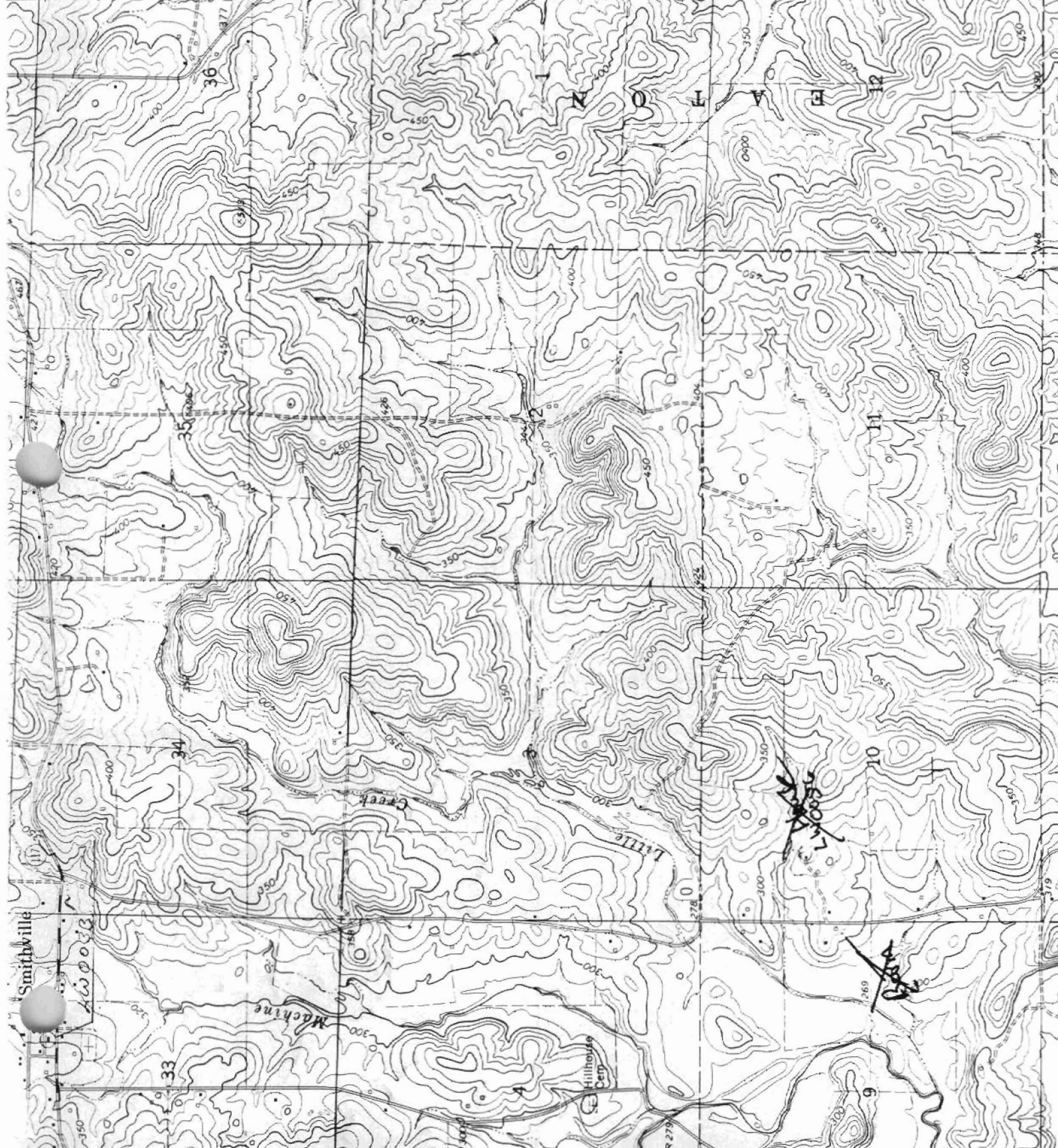
¹Carol W. Dougan, The Developing and Changing Frontier: A Historical, Industrial, Agricultural, and Cultural Survey of Lawrence County, Arkansas (Jonesboro, Arkansas: By the Author, 1978), 21n.







Shinnecock Point
1 corner
Autumn, 18
L. W. O. O. O. O. O. O.
T. 16 N.
7756 11
T. 16 N.
7756 11
T. 16 N.
7756 11
T. 16 N.
7756 11
T. 16 N.
7756 11



(POWHATAN 1:62 500)
7756 11
T. 16 N.

2'30"