

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

NR LISTED
JUL 24 1998
AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Dr. F.W. Buercklin House

Other Name/Site Number: LW0074

2. Location

Street & Number: 104 Main Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Portia

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Lawrence County Code: AR075 Zip Code: 72457

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u> </u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>2</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

Dr. F.W. Buercklin House
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Arkansas
County and State

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.

William H. Slater
Signature of certifying official

6-15-98
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

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 _____
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
- _____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date
Of action

Dr. F.W. Buercklin House
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Arkansas
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

Current : Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Plain/Traditional

Materials: foundation Stone piers roof Composition Shingle
walls Weatherboard other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Dr. F. W. Buercklin House is an L-plan Plain-Traditional building on Main Street in Portia, Lawrence County. It served the community as a grocery store, doctor's office for Dr. F.W. Buercklin, and a home for his large family. It is believed to be the oldest building that remains in Portia and is thought to have been built in the late 1880s. The frame house features double-hung wooden windows and it rests on stone piers that are concealed by a metal skirt. There is a wraparound porch covering the front door to the south, running down the west wall and extending down the south side wing. A screened-in porch on the east side of the house provides dry passage to a small smokehouse. When the Buercklin family moved to Portia in 1902 the house was being used as a grocery store. The front, southeast gable end which housed the shop projected to the sidewalk and featured a tall false front supported by brackets. By the early 1940s the storefront had been removed and the smokehouse at the northeast corner of the house was covered with asbestos roll siding. It was at this time that the east and front, southern porches were applied. In 1959 the interior underwent changes such as wallpaper and paint and the central dogtrot was enclosed to provide a bathroom and connecting hall for the east and west sides of the house. The house was inhabited until 1997 but began to have severe deterioration problems from squirrel infestations and leakage. A frame barn dating from the early twentieth century stands to the northwest of the house.

Elaboration

The Buercklin House on Main Street in Portia is a one-story L-shaped residence constructed in the late nineteenth century. The Plain-Traditional

Dr. F.W. Buercklin House
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Arkansas
County and State

house grew from a four-pen dogtrot to its larger size over the years as a fifth pen was added to the west end of the house and two rooms were applied to the southeast to provide a community grocery store. A tin-roofed porche was added when the storefront was removed in the early 1940s. The dogtrot was enclosed to provide a bathroom and covered access between the east and west wings of the house in 1959. The house rests on stone piers that have been covered in a metal skirt. It is clad in unpainted weatherboard and the windows are wooden three-over-three and two-over-two double-hung.

The southern, or front elevation originally contained the storefront. When Dr. Buercklin moved into the home the store was already affixed. About half of the store was detached in the early 1940s, which moved the main entrance back from the street. A tin wraparound porch supported by five wooden posts, covers a wooden porch floor and entryway in the former location of the storefront. The interior is accessed by a central paneled door topped with a three-light window. Two three-over-three windows open to the east and west of the door. The original dogtrot section of the house is set back several feet from the front entrance. West to east, fenestration begins with a two-over-two window. The porch structure braced by four square wooden posts, begins just past the window covering a five-paneled door, a three-paneled door with a three-light window, and a pair of two-over-two windows. At the intersection of the southern and western walls a short one-over-one window has been placed in the breezeway, enclosed in 1959.

The west facade begins at the rear of the home with a blank wall on the small gable-roofed smokehouse. The main house is connected to the smokehouse by a hyphen containing a door. This entrance is accessed by a small wooden stoop. A pair of two-over-two windows light the gable end of the house and a single paneled door with a three-light window on the western wall of the grocery store addition are the only fenestration. The porch continues from the southern section at the ell of the house and runs down the west wall to meet the front covering. Faint ghost signs from the store can be seen on this wall as the weatherboard was recycled from the section destroyed in the early 1940s. The current owner's father and uncles made their mark on this portion of the house as well by using the wall as a scoreboard for games of "rats and mice." Childhood friends also left their autograph on the boards as reminders of after school visits.

The northern, or rear facade is attached to a small gable-roofed smokehouse at the northeast corner. The rear wall of the smokehouse has been covered in asbestos roll siding and features a single-leaf door opening onto a small wooden stoop. Fenestration consists of a pair of two-over-two windows beside a shorter two-over-two window in the enclosed breezeway which appears to be two sashes placed sideways in the wall. Three more windows lead to the northwest corner of the home.

The eastern elevation of the Buercklin House contains two three-over-three windows beside a single two-over-two. The rest of this facade is taken up by a long screened-in porch linked to the smokehouse. A single door reached by two wooden steps leads into the porch underneath which is a paneled door matching the southern and western entries. A transom above the door has been filled in. A second window lies between this opening and a paneled door with two-light transom. A third opening leads to the backyard from the hyphen between the house and smokehouse.

Dr. F.W. Buercklin House
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Arkansas
County and State

The barn to the rear of the house is built of cypress and is a single crib with two sheds to the north and south. A metal gable roof covers the central enclosed storage area and the open sides. A raised walkway under the southern side roof leads to a board-and-batten door on the side of the barn. This building was present when the Buercklins moved into the house in 1902.

The main entrance of the home leads to the living room, a remnant of the retail space. All the rooms with the exception of the original office and the kitchen have been altered in some way. Ceilings were lowered and covered with acoustic tiles while floors were carpeted and walls were sheetrocked. The dining room leads directly off the living room. The narrow kitchen retains its original bare board walls and tall ceiling and is lit by a bare bulb. Kitchen cabinets are a mixture of 1950s and Craftsman styles. Located directly off the kitchen is Dr. Buercklin's office. It also features bare board wall cladding and bare bulb lighting. A simple wooden bookshelf is built into the corner. A large entrance to the dining room was opened in later years. A door that originally opened onto the breezeway leads to three bedrooms in the west end of the house through a tiny hall and bathroom that fill the breezeway.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C, A

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture
Social History

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1880s

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Dr. F.W. Buercklin House
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Arkansas
County and State

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

Summary

The Dr. F.W. Buercklin House has been the family home of the Buercklins since 1902, and Dr. Buercklin's grandson has made plans to move back into his childhood home in the near future. The house, thought to be the oldest in Portia, was the doctor's office and a community grocery store. There is no definitive construction date on the house, but its dogtrot core and two-over-two windows probably place it in the late 1880s, about the time of incorporation of Portia. For these reasons the house is being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion A as an example of early Portia's residential and commercial character. Many homes in Portia that would have been similar were destroyed in a 1906 fire making the Buercklin home an important reminder of the town's initial appearance. It is also being nominated under Criterion C for its vernacular Plain-Traditional architecture. A single crib barn with two sheds to the rear of the home is also considered contributing under Criterion C.

Historical Background

The Dr. F.W. Buercklin House is thought to have been built about the time the Fort Scott - Kansas City railroad forged into the county in 1882. Prior to that time the town was farther north on the banks of the Spring River and was called Buncomb Ridge. Many of the early settlers came from Missouri around 1803 after an earthquake destroyed the settlement of New Madrid and a law was passed allowing immigrants to select a parcel of land in Arkansas equal to that they had left behind. After Arkansas achieved statehood in 1836 settlement began picking up only to fall off again during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods.

After the Civil War people were on the move again and settlement in Lawrence County was growing. In 1886 the town of Portia was incorporated. By the time Dr. Buercklin moved to town in 1902, Portia had a prosperous Main Street lined with stores, churches and a hotel. Agriculture added to the wealth of the population, with crops of cotton, corn and hay surrounding the town. With the introduction of the railroad, timber stands in the area were exploited and the Portia lumber company was established around 1890.

In 1906 a coal oil stove in the butcher shop exploded. The wooden buildings of the business district were caught in a chain reaction as burning shingles blown on the strong winds fell on the frame structures. Many homes were also destroyed as the firefighters, armed with handle pumps and buckets were overwhelmed. The burning of the town coupled with rejection of Portia as county seat and the drying up of their area timber stands most likely contributed to the decline in the population.

Historical and Architectural Significance

The Dr. F.W. Buercklin House is being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion C as an unusual example of Plain-

Dr. F.W. Buercklin House
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County and State

Traditional nineteenth-century shelter constructed by early settlers of Lawrence County. It is unique in its dual personality as a residence and retail space. The home survived a nearly city-wide fire to provide living quarters for early Portia residents and a retail establishment for the townspeople. It's role as a surviving representative of late nineteenth-century life in Portia qualifies the building for the National Register under Criterion A.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Information submitted by Thomas Buercklin, January, 1998.

Centennial Committee. *1886-1986, Portia Centennial Celebration*. Portia, Arkansas, 1986. Pp.2-3, pp. 6-7.

McLeod, Walter E. *Centennial Memorial History of Lawrence County*. Russellville, Arkansas, 1936. Russellville Printing Company. P. 56.

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: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than 1

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>673990</u>	<u>3895220</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

Dr. F.W. Buercklin House
Name of Property

Lawrence County, Arkansas
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description:

The west 16 feet of lot 4, all of lots 5 & 6, Block 1, of Portia, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification:

This nomination includes all of the property historically associated with the Dr. F.W. Buercklin House in Portia, AR.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 04/08/98

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

City or Town: Little Rock

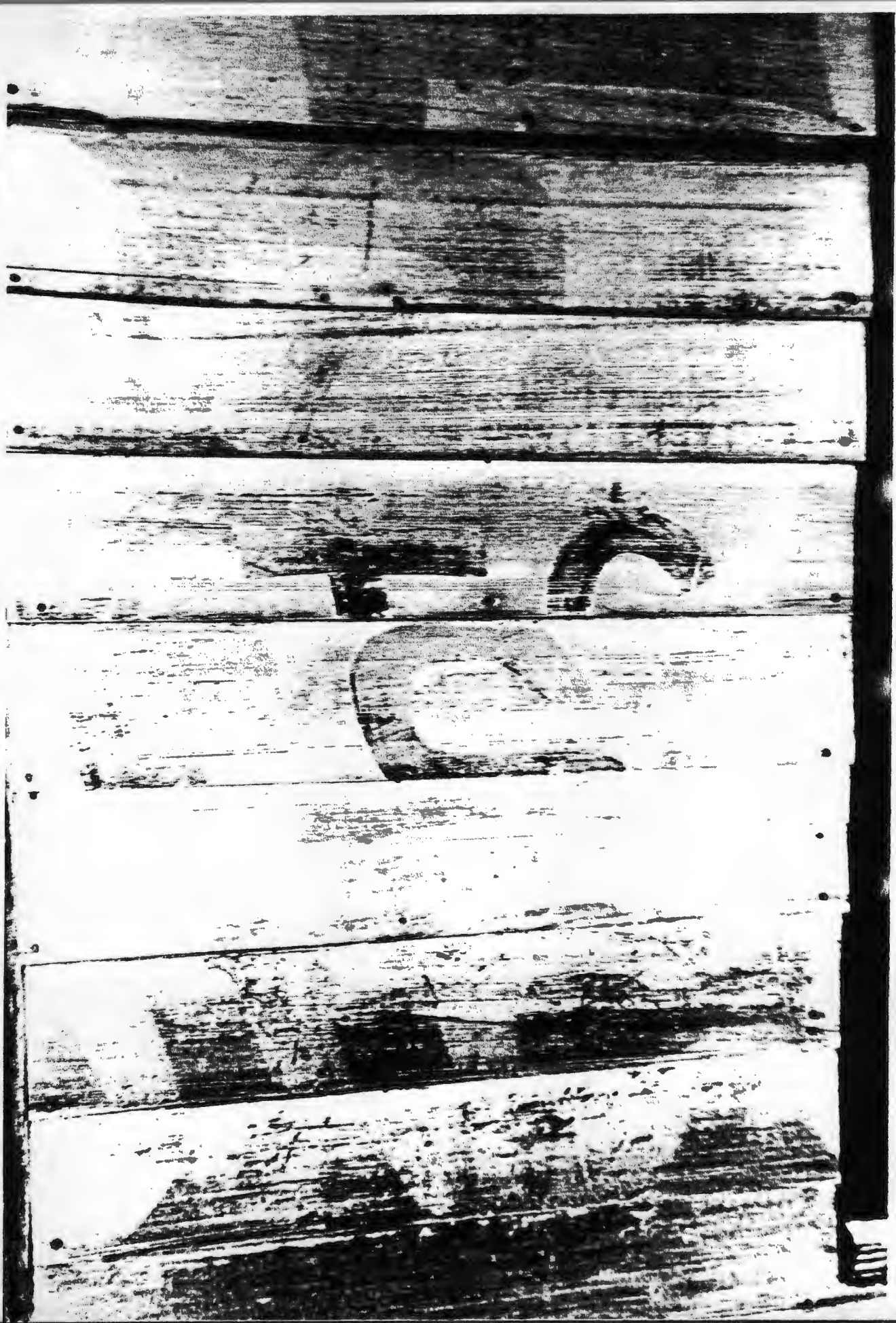
State: AR ZIP: 72201



W. DUCKER HOUSE

Lawrence Co. AR
Photo by Miss Bennett
Taken by [unclear] on 2
Washington on file at AHPP
Yield of Dept. office



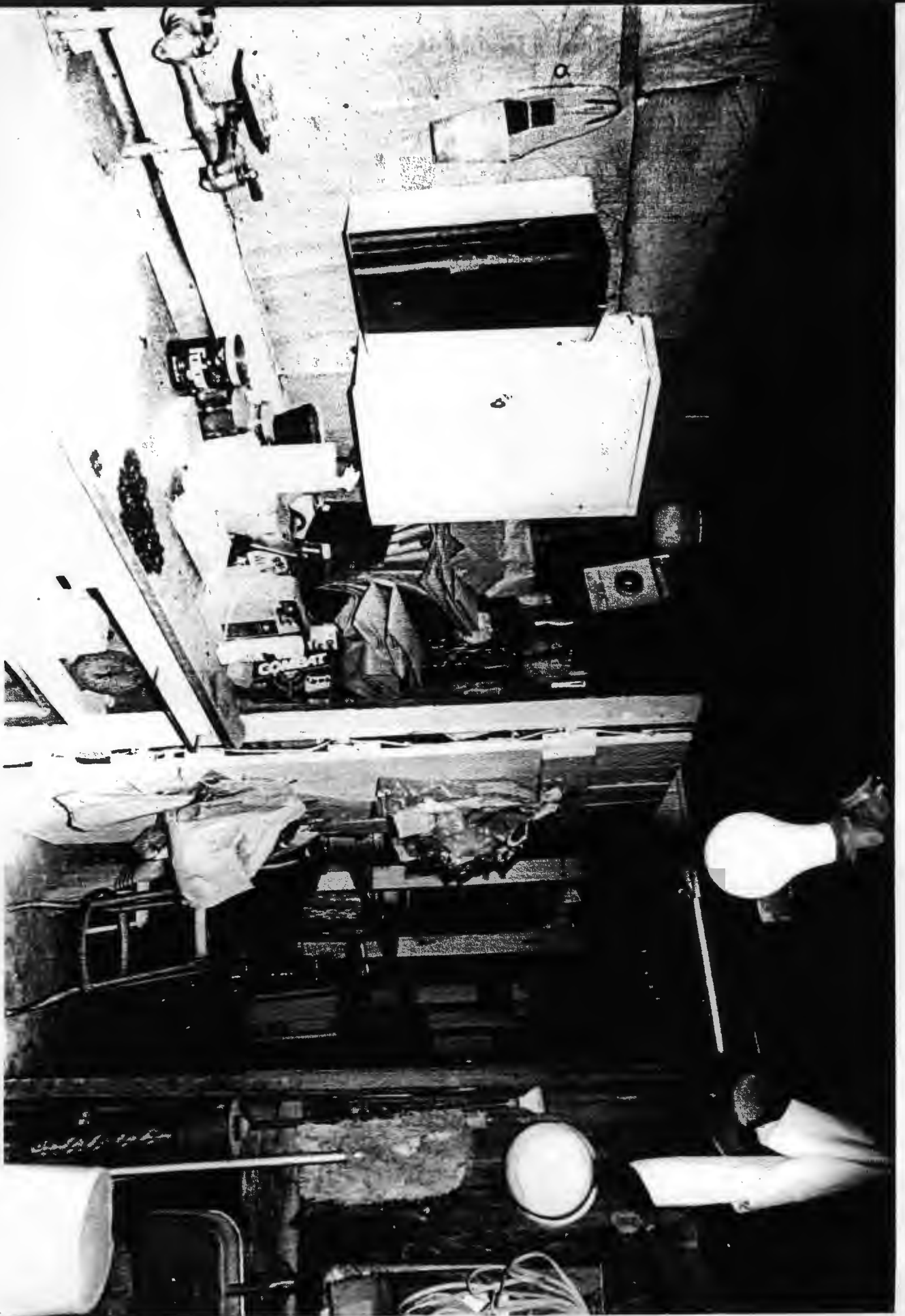


GREEN HOUSE

Lawrence Co. AL
Photo by Amy Corbett
January 20, 1998
Negative on file at AHPP
View of ghost signs



CONVERSE CO, AR
Photo by Amy Bennett
January 20, 1992
Negative on file at AHPP
View from North



Levee Co, AR

in house

Photo by Amy Bennett

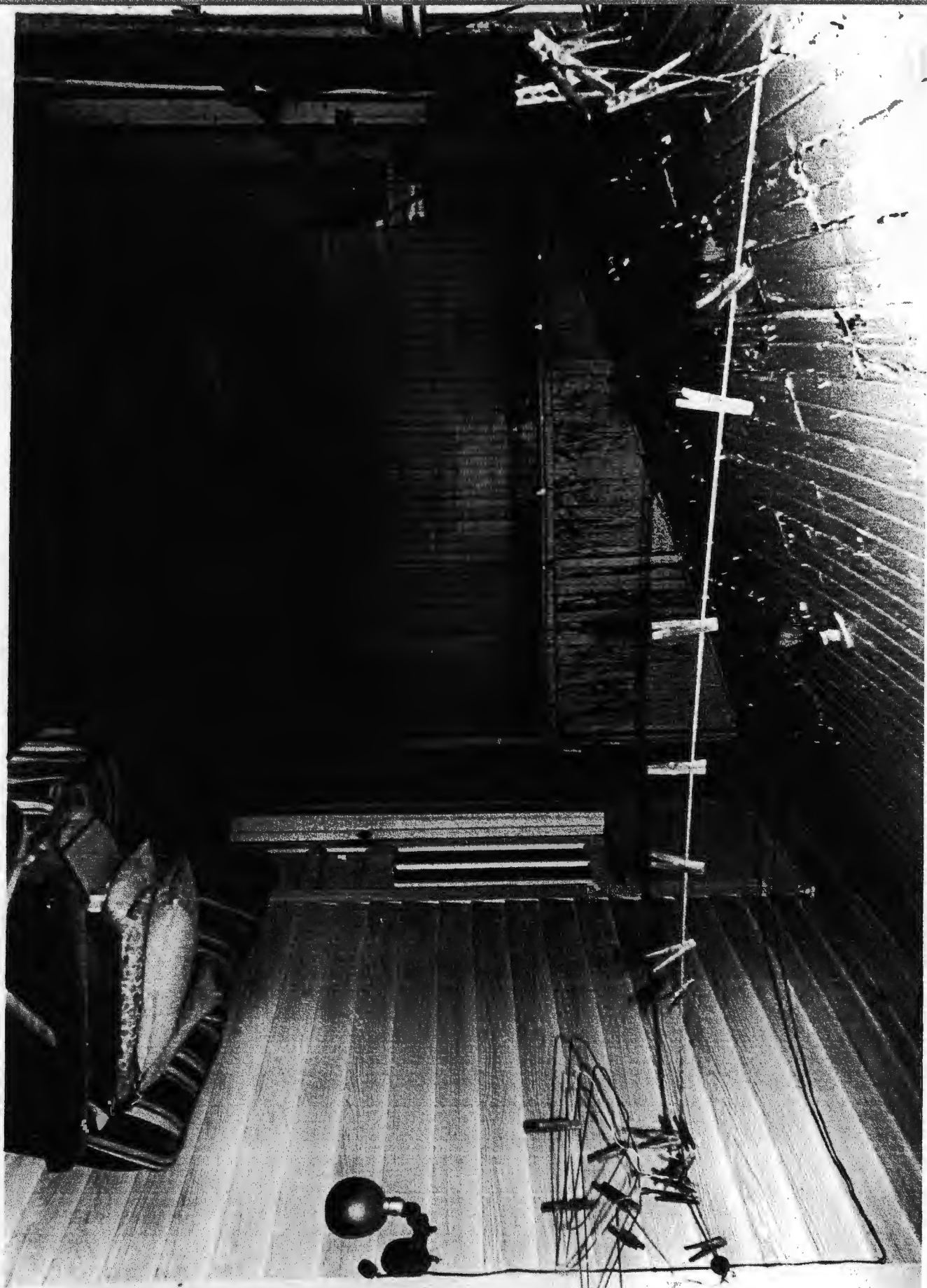
January 26, 1998

Negative on file at HPP

View of Snotellocat



DR F W Buecklin House
Lawrence Co. AR
Photo by Amy Bennett
Jenksley 26, 1998
Negatives on file at AHP
View from east



DR + M JURELLIN-HORIC
SOURCE TO AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

January 20, 1992

Machine on file at APP

Item of Scanned in PDEL



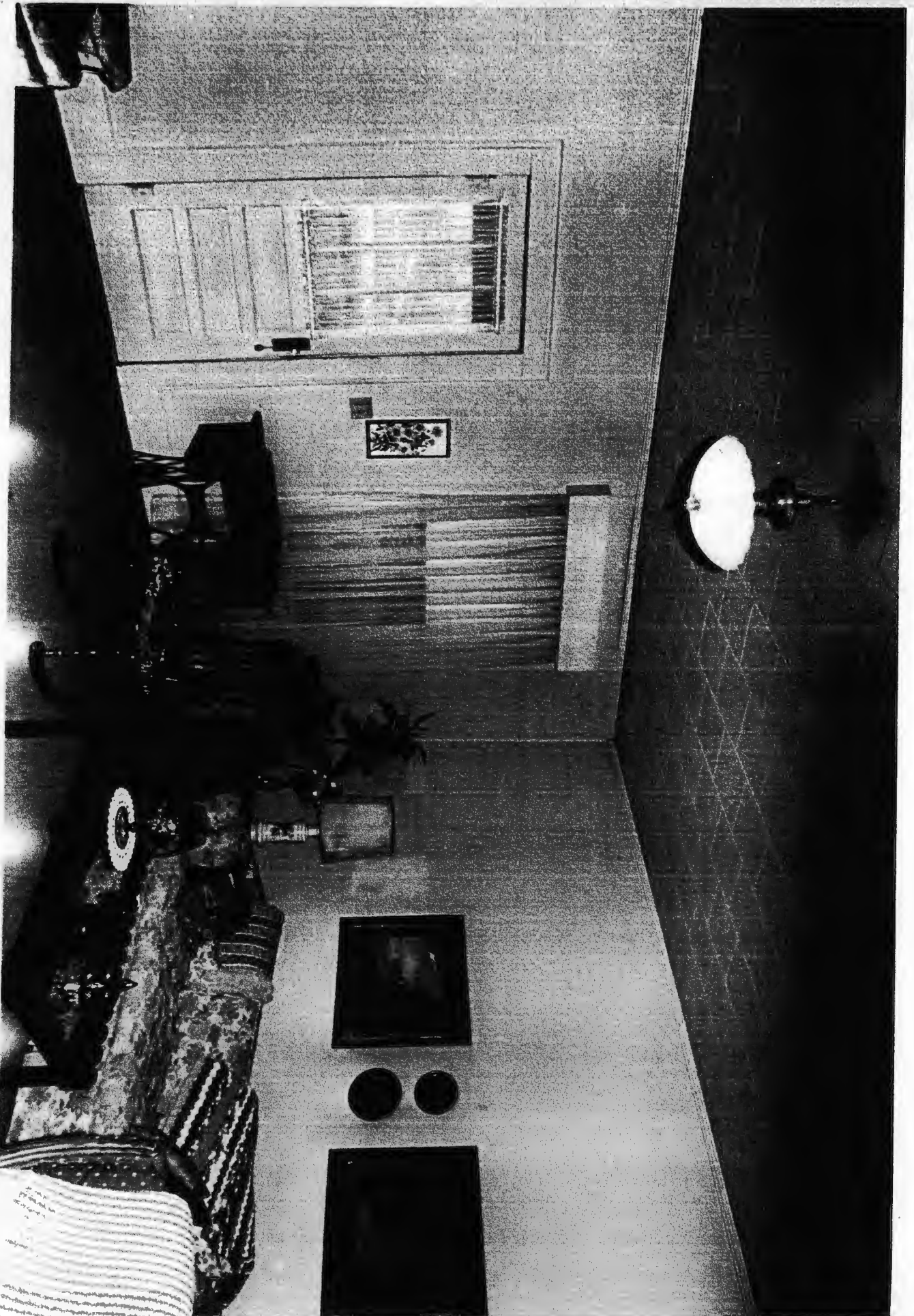
DR F. M. BURRELLIN - HOUSE
L. B. BURRELL CO. AR

Photo by Amy Burrell

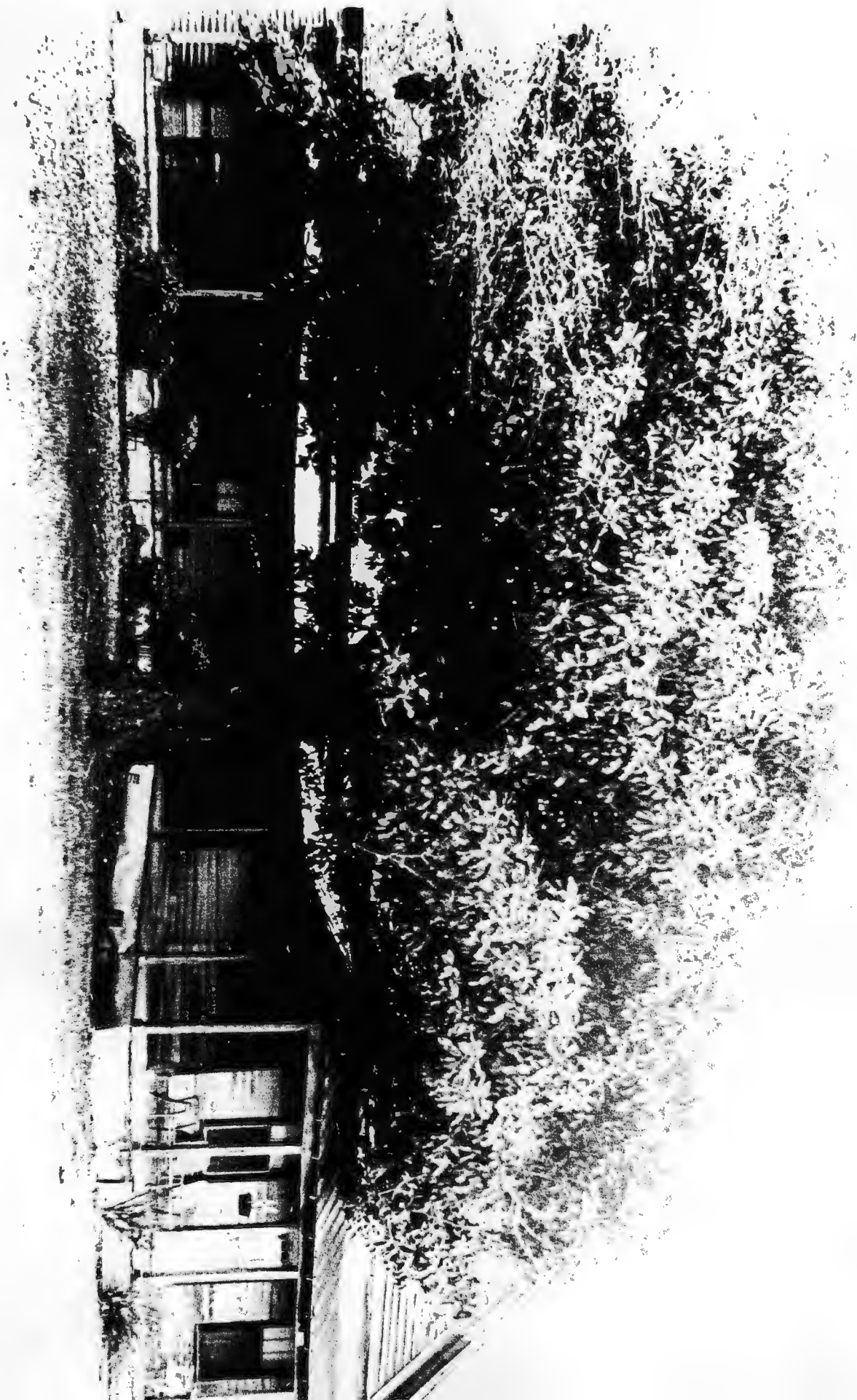
January 24, 1978

Negative on file at AHPP

View from west



Neeroc Co. JR
Push by Amy Bennett
January 26 1998
Neeroc on file at APP
View of Neeroc Living Room



UP "LUNcheon" - 1919

Office Co. Ac

Prints by Army Bennett

January 24, 1919

Memorandum on file at AHP

Well known South



Dr. Tom Bucklin House
Lansdowne Co. AR

Photo by Amy Bennett

July 20, 2002

Mapazine on file at HIPD
view of house from east

7756 11 NW
(IMBODEN)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
LITTLE ROCK

91° 07' 30"
36° 07' 30"

670000m.E.

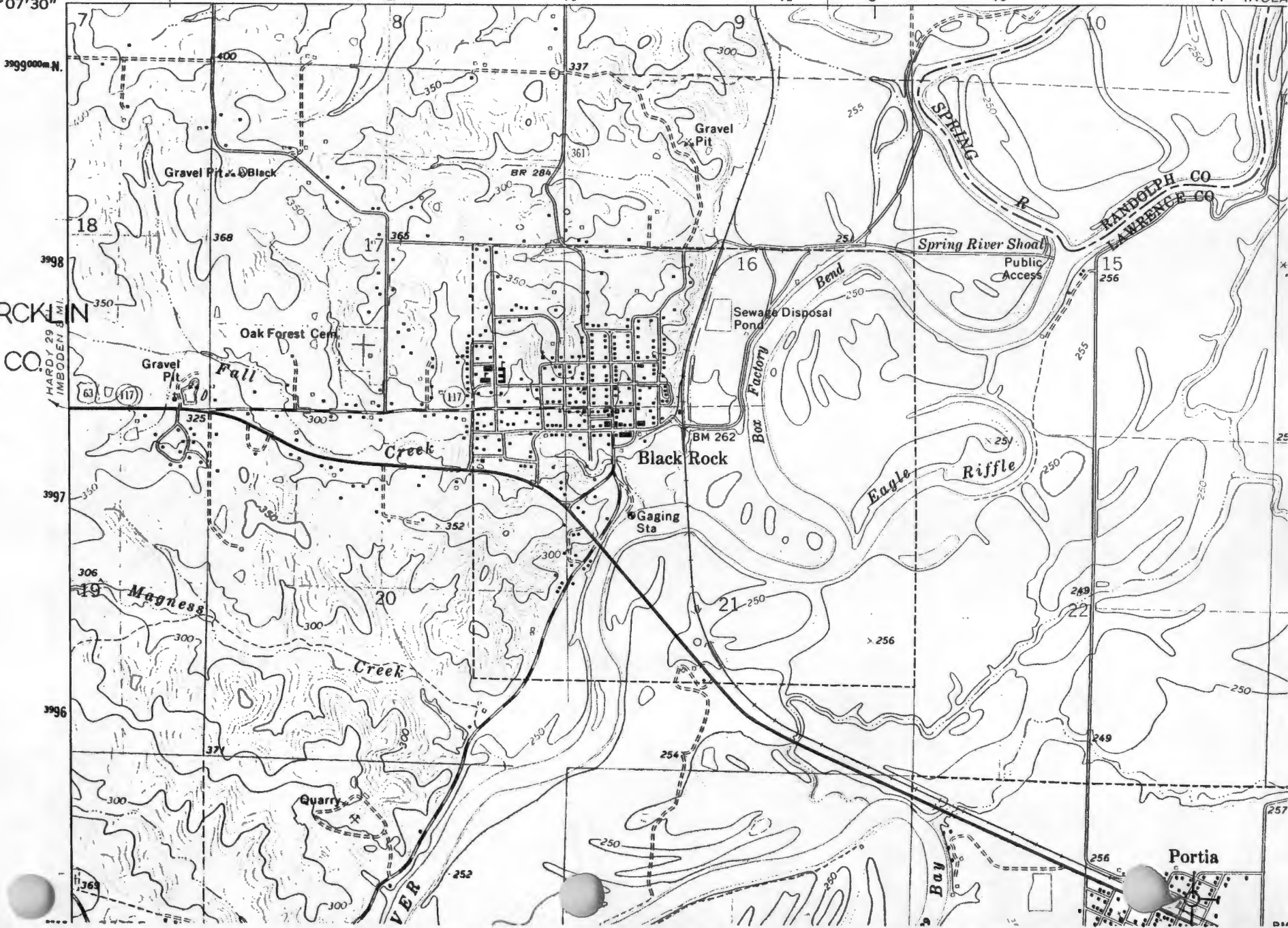
671

672

5'

673

674 7756 11
(INOLA)



R.F.W. BUERCKLIN
HOUSE
LAWRENCE CO.
OPT'A, AR.
ITM:
5/673990/
895220