

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Wynn - Price House

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: Price Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Garland

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Miller

code: AR 091

zip code: 71839

Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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 H. Bryard Signature of certifying official 12-3-91 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: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Current : Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Creek Revival

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation Brick _____ roof Asphalt _____
walls Wood/Weatherboard other _____

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: Statewide.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c.1845 _____

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Wynn, William

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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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 four

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>432700</u>	<u>3691610</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: December 3, 1991

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

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

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Continuation Sheet

MI

Section number 7 Page 1**Summary**

The Wynn-Price House is a wood frame, residential structure designed in the Greek Revival style. It consists of a central, two-story gable roof section that is flanked by two smaller end-gable "temples" with parallel gable roofs connected by two perpendicular gable roof connectors or "hyphens" and another single-story, gable roof section that was a separate building and has since been moved in and attached to the eastern "hyphen," disrupting the otherwise "E"-shaped plan. The three end-gable sections feature columned front porticos and the side-gable connectors, though probably open galleries originally, are now weatherboarded and filled with six-over-six wood sash windows.

Elaboration

The Wynn-Price House is a two-story, wood frame high-style Greek Revival plantation residence. It features a rambling plan that is composed of a central, two-story gable roof section with a full-front, two-story columned portico, two single-story connecting sections placed to the east and west of the central section with perpendicular gable roofs, and two single-story "temples" at each end, each covered with a gable roof the ridge of which runs parallel to the ridge of the central, two-story section. Furthermore, a separate gable roof building (probably a detached outbuilding originally) was moved in and attached to the rear of the eastern connector, probably c. 1860; the result is a modified "E"-shaped plan. A total of three red brick chimneys punctuate the roofline of the building: two exterior end chimneys are attached to the rear gable ends of the central and western gable roof sections, and an interior chimney is set back from the rear gable end of the eastern gable roof section, rising through the gable peak. The gable and shed roofs are covered with asphalt shingles, the walls are covered with weatherboard and the entire structure rests upon a continuous brick foundation.

The southern or front elevation is anchored by the projecting, two-story pedimented portico that is supported upon full-height wood columns with a balustraded balcony on the second floor that is accessed via a central entry. To the west, the single-story pedimented section at the end of the elevation is connected to the two-story section via a shed roof connector; to the east, the single-story pedimented section at this end of the elevation is connected to the two-story section with another gable roof section that is actually the gable end of the building that was moved in later. The central two-story section is accessed via a central double-leaf entry with half-sidelights that is ornamented with an elaborate entablature featuring triglyphs, metopes, and guttae at the bottom of both the regulae beneath the triglyphs and the mutules that ornament the soffits of the projecting lintel above. The corners of the projecting lintel are in turn decorated with an attached, stylized vegetal form identical to that found at the corners of the soffits of the Parthenon in Greece. The single-leaf balcony entrance on the second story

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above features a simpler, fluted pattern around the door with a central, rectangular panel set into the trim directly above the center of the entrance. This entrance also features half-sidelights set above decorative wood panels. Broad, blank, wood wall pilasters support the pediment's soffits. The entrances on both stories are flanked by blank walls faced with flush horizontal planks.

The shed roof connecting section to the west is lighted with two separate groups of three louvered windows each. The single-story gable roof section at the end features a pediment with a blank, horizontal flush plank tympanum supported by four symmetrically-placed fluted wood columns. The recessed porch behind the columns leads to the central single-leaf entrance that is virtually identical in configuration to the second-story balcony entrance seen earlier. A single nine-over-six wood sash window is placed to the east of this entrance and a sliding door with a two-pane transom provides access into the eastern wall of the porch. The wall surface around the entrance is composed of horizontal flush planks. The first single-story, gable roof section to the east of the central two-story section features a tympanum that is punctuated only by a central louvered attic vent. The weatherboarded wall below is lighted by two six-over-six wood sash windows. The second single-story, gable roof section is fundamentally identical to that on the opposite end of the elevation: its blank pediment is filled with horizontal flush plank and supported upon four symmetrically-placed fluted wood columns. The recessed porch behind features two entrances, one in the center of the southern wall and the other in the western wall. The wall surface to the east of the central entrance is faced with decorative recessed wood panels.

The northern elevation is divided into the four gable ends and the rear of the shed roof connector to the west of the central, two-story gable roof section. The gable end to the east is fenestrated with two symmetrically-placed nine-over-nine wood sash windows. The next gable roof section to the west is punctuated by a louvered attic vent above a later shed roof that is entered via a central single-leaf door and lighted with jalousie windows. The rear of the central two-story gable roof section is divided symmetrically by the brick exterior end chimney, which is flanked by two six-over-six wood sash windows on the second story and two nine-over-six wood sash windows on the first story. The shed roof section is lighted with two six-over-six wood sash windows, and the western gable end also features a central brick chimney that is flanked to the east by a small, single-leaf doorway and transom, and to the west by a nine-over-six wood sash window.

The eastern elevation is lighted by three nine-over-nine wood sash windows, spread evenly across the elevation, while the western elevation is lighted with two nine-over-six wood sash windows, placed symmetrically within the wall surface.

The interior contains a number of features that are historic if not original. Wood panelled pocket doors provide access into the main parlor on the first floor of the two-story section.

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Summary

Criterion C, statewide significance

Built by William Wynn, one of southwest Arkansas' most wealthy and successful antebellum plantation owners, the Wynn-Price House remains Arkansas' best example of a high-style Greek Revival plantation house in its original, rural setting.

Elaboration

As is frequently the case in Arkansas, attempts to study even significant characters in local or regional antebellum history are frustrated by a lack of primary sources. Reconstructing the life and activities of William Wynn is no different, though we do know through census records, slave ownership records and deed information that he was a successful farmer, and probably growing cotton, the staple crop of the Red River valley during this period. However, when considered within the broader context of American and regional history during the period of 1835 (the first documented date of William Wynn's arrival in the Red River area) to 1861, the primary sources that do survive support certain additional conclusions about Wynn's investment activities and his hopes for the "city" of Garland as a major commercial river and overland transportation crossroads.

The years 1819-1830 saw a dramatic increase in the amount of white settlement in what was then the Arkansas Territory: the 14,000 white settlers living in Arkansas as of 1819 had increased to 30,388 by 1830. The demand for good farmland brought on by this steadily increasing population, combined with the desire of many Southern politicians to expand the amount of slaveholding area in the United States, resulted in substantial pressure to expand west into the area that is now Texas. Mexico laid claim to this land, and though the Mexican government allowed such white settlers as Stephen F. Austin to colonize portions of that land, as of 1821 the Mexican government refused to recognize the colony. This caused no little bitterness among these settlers, and by 1835, these American settlers declared Texas to be an independent republic. Santa Anna, the dictator of Mexico, marched his army into the new republic and attempted to overthrow the fledgling government, an attempt that was for the time being repulsed at the battle of San Jacinto in early 1836 (with the aid of such legendary characters as Sam Houston and Davy Crockett). This temporarily (Davy Crockett and many others died during their storied defense of the Alamo in San Antonio less than two months later) restored calm to this troubled region and appeared to be the first step toward the opening of this area to American settlement and trade.

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For a number of other reasons also, the late 1830's proved to be watershed years for this area around the Red River. The area now known as Miller County was part of a contested area during this period, first between the state of Arkansas and Mexico and then between Arkansas and the new Republic of Texas. As of 1838, two years after Arkansas became a state, Governor James Sevier Conway dissolved Miller County as such and annexed it to Lafayette County, largely due to the perceived lack of "patriotism" displayed by its residents, many of whom preferred to throw in their lot with the new republic to the west. This allowed the state of Arkansas to collect taxes and levy fines upon its residents. Secondly, though the federal government had hired Captain Henry Miller Shreve to clear the enormous logjam (known as the Great Raft) that had stood as such a severe impediment to the navigation of the Red River as of 1833, it was not until 1836 that he had perfected his methods to the point that he was making significant progress, reaching over 130 miles above the original foot of the raft by the spring. And the election of Governor Conway in 1836 (who was a Lafayette County neighbor) was also significant due to his attempts to pass legislation that would allow for the sale of public lands to help finance the establishment of a state university: a large portion of the land along this section of the Red River was publicly owned and therefore stood the chance of being sold for settlement and development. Though his efforts were unsuccessful, the United States Congress enacted such legislation by the 1840's.

The 1850 Lafayette County Census lists William Wynn's occupation as "farmer" and notes that he owned 96 slaves; and considering that most of the farmers along the Red River grew cotton to export down the river via New Orleans to international markets, it is reasonable to assume that cotton was the principle crop, though it is likely that such other crops as corn were grown also to supplement the cotton harvest (it is known that Governor Conway grew both crops on his farm at Walnut Hill, to the east of the Red River, when he retired here after serving his term of office). However, the land transactions for Lafayette County as recorded in the deeds reveal that William Wynn began purchasing large tracts of land on both sides of the Red River starting in 1835, beginning with tracts to the north of the site of Garland and then moving south. Wynn was clearly wealthy: in addition to possessing the means to purchase almost one-hundred slaves, he acquired over 14,000 acres in Townships 15 and 16 South, Range 25 West, through a single purchase on April 2, 1844 from one Robert Hamilton (the land upon which the house sits was part of that transaction). This obvious interest in acquiring land might well be attributed to a simple desire to expand his arable acreage; however, the vulnerability of this frontage to flooding (a vulnerability that continues to exist today) and the resulting damage to crops suggests another explanation.

There were no bridges across the Red River until after the Civil War, when the growth of the

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railroads and the establishment of Texas as a state after 1848 combined to make the investment in such a project feasible. Prior to this, however, all crossings of the river were achieved by ferries, of which there were several along the Red River in Arkansas. Probably the most active was that at Fulton, as this was the point where the Southwest Trail from St. Louis and Little Rock intersected the river; and yet there were documented ferries along the Red River as early as the late eighteenth century. Ferriage rights were jealously protected by their owners, as records survive that reveal that landowners frequently sold their river frontage while retaining the ferry rights. Moreover, by the mid-nineteenth century there was serious talk of building a railroad across south Arkansas to connect the Mississippi, the Ouachita and the Red Rivers, the goal being to facilitate via an improved transportation network the exploitation of the inland lumber and mineral wealth of the southern half of the state and thus transform the entire region into an economic boomtown. The western leg of this rail line was to have crossed the Red River just below the present site of Garland, through land that by 1850 was owned by William Wynn.

Though this railroad -- like virtually all of the railroads planned for Arkansas before the Civil War -- was not constructed until after the cessation of hostilities, coming through Garland as the St. Louis and Southwestern (Cotton Belt) Railway in 1880, it was clearly in the minds of many prominent Arkansans before the Civil War. When considered with the fact that the expansion of the United States west into Texas was started as early as 1821 and was, in the minds of many scholars, the sole reason for the Mexican-American War of 1846-48, the value of the lands along the Red River near Garland become quite apparent. It is thus justifiable to speculate that William Wynn envisioned Garland as a major crossing point on the Red River, for both ferry traffic and the proposed railroad. This argument is even supported by the placement of the house itself, on what was the road leading due west from the western bank of the Red River and that which would have been the main traffic route of any ferry traffic, thus facilitating the monitoring of traffic and the collection of tolls.

That the house was meant to be seen is obvious from the building's architectural style. This grand Greek Revival design, luxurious in both plan and elevation, was undoubtedly constructed largely from materials shipped up the Red River from New Orleans and elsewhere (we know that the marble for the two fireplaces was so ordered). The tall, imposing two-story portico with its flanking, single-story "temples" must have been one of the most imposing edifices in the region, and certainly survives today as the best surviving example of a high-style Greek Revival plantation house in Arkansas.

Though the site probably also retains potential to reveal further information about the occupation of the site by William Wynn, his two sons (the 1840 Lafayette County census indicates two

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males between the ages of 20 and 30 living with him, though not necessarily at this site) and his slaves, the any professional archeological investigation of the site remains to be done. Such investigation, upon completion, may justify additional areas of significance for the property.

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Lafayette County Deed Records; 1835-1854.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the northern edge of Price Street located 1,800 feet west of the intersection of said edge with the western edge of U.S. Route 82, proceed northerly for a distance of 400 feet along a perpendicular line running parallel with the eastern elevation of the Wynn-Price House to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the northern elevation of the house; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of 400 feet to the point formed by its intersection with the eastern edge of the adjacent dirt access road; thence proceed southerly along said edge for a distance of 400 feet to the point formed by its intersection with the northern edge of Price Street; thence proceed easterly to the point of beginning.



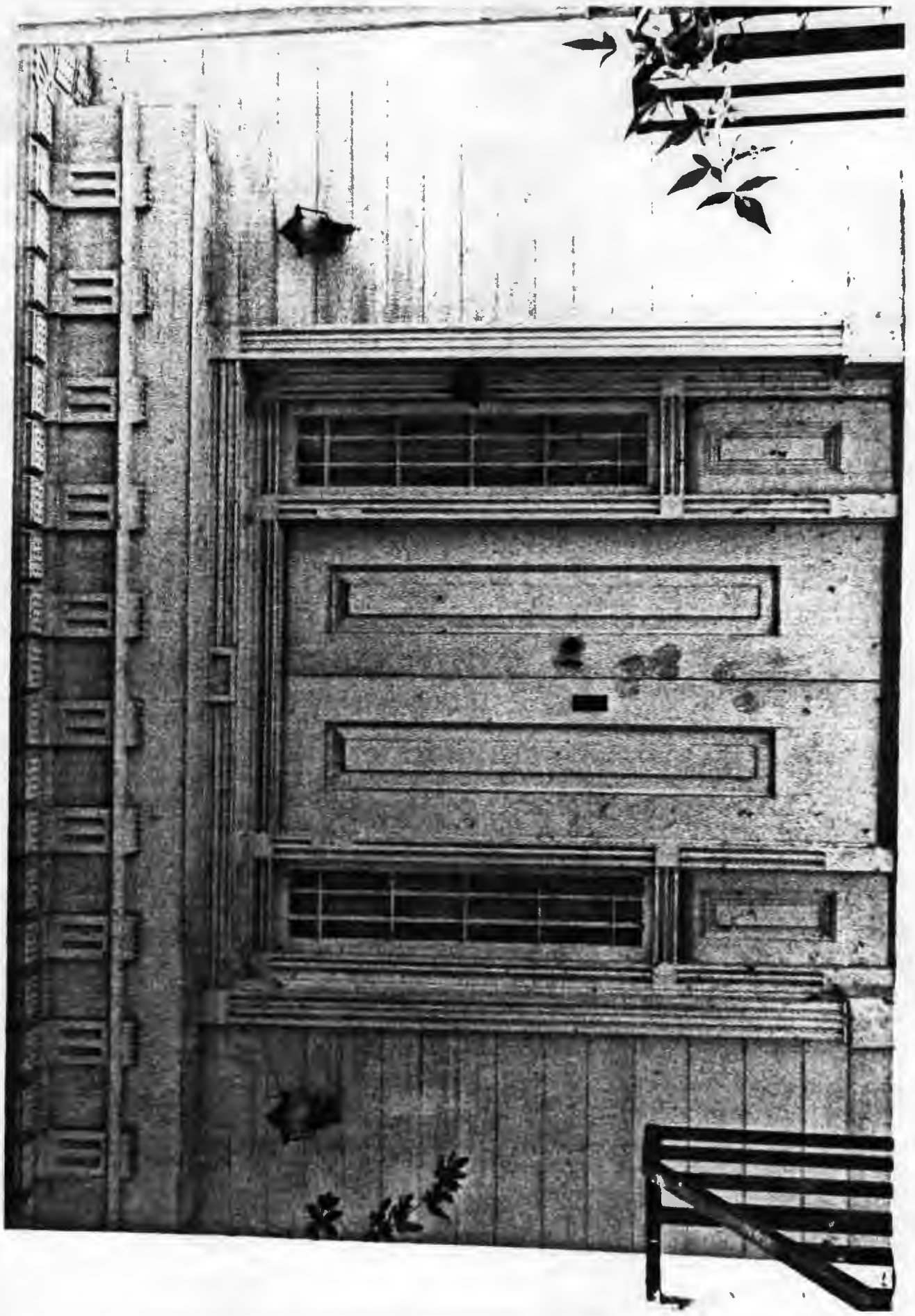
GRAND W., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. BAYLES
MAY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHHP
VIEW FROM SOUTH



CONFIDENTIAL

PHOTOGRAPHS BY V. BOWLES
July, 1989

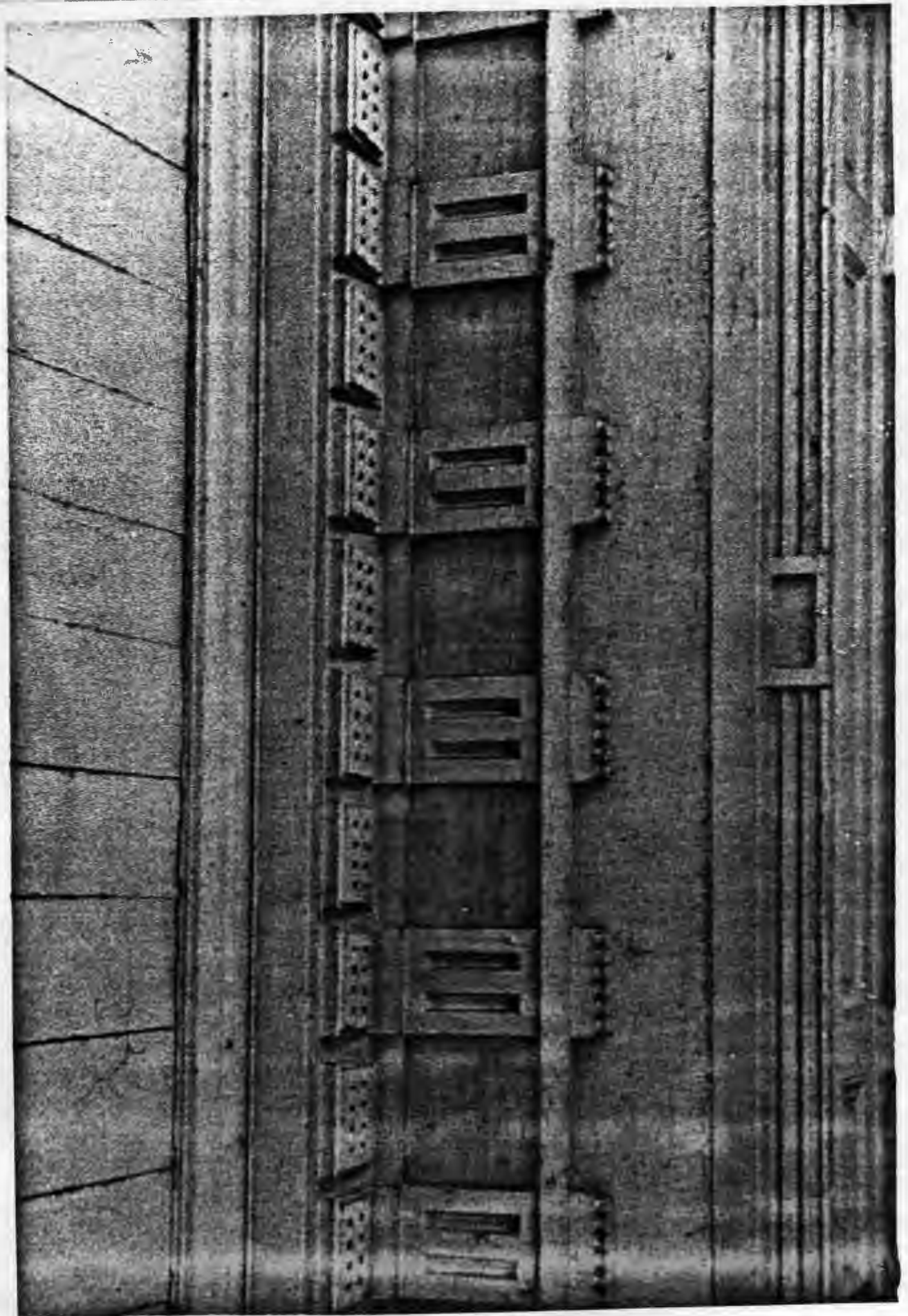
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP
FROM PORTICO DETAIL



Camden vic, Arkansas
Photographed By V. Bayles
July, 1989
Negative On File At AHP
Front Entrance Detail



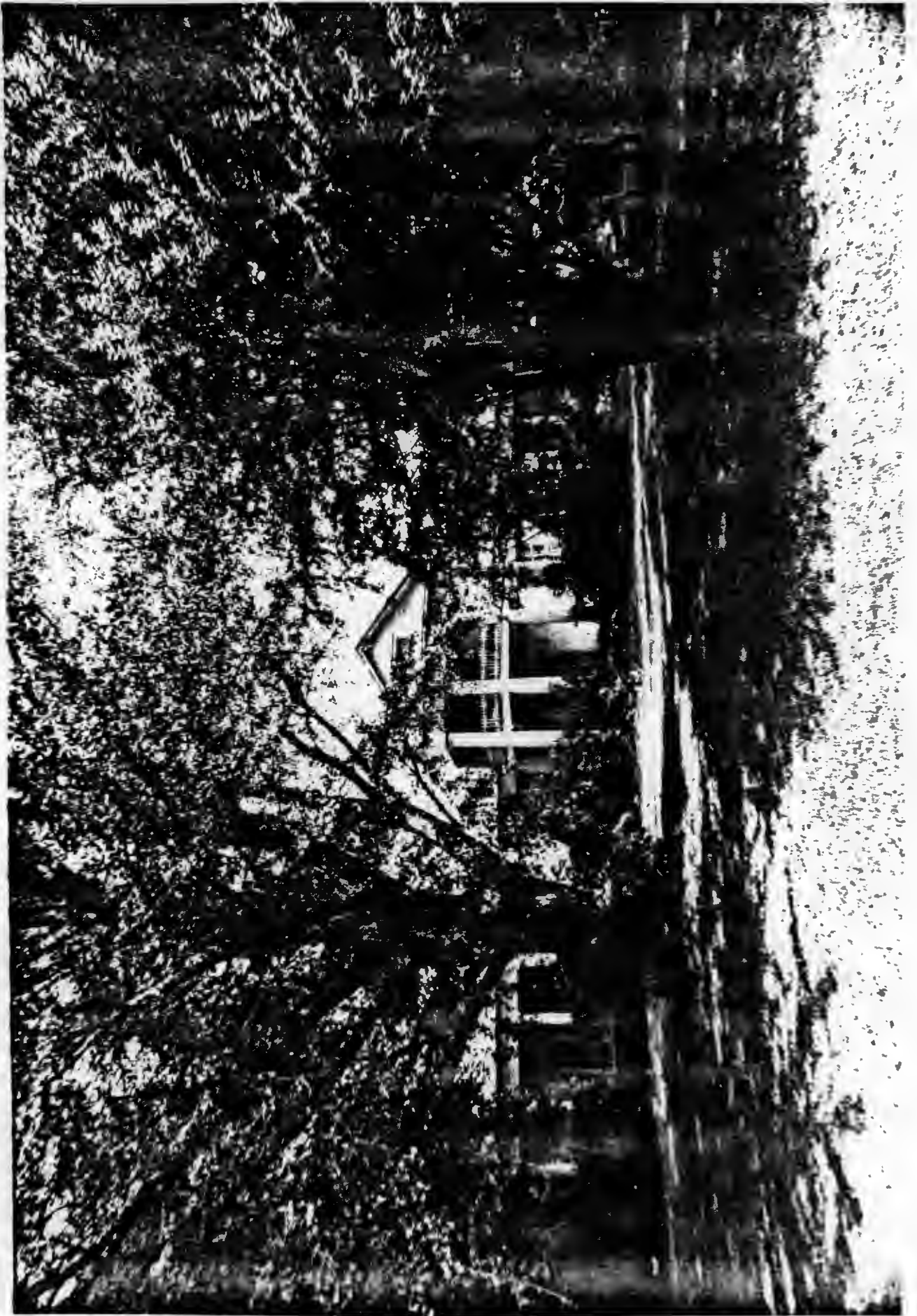
WY - PRICE TOWER
GAR AND WY, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. BAILES
JULY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANHP
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST



ADD. NO. 117, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHERED BY V. BAYLES
JULY, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPD
ENTRANCE ENTRANCE DETAIL



U.S. AIR FORCE
Fairford Air Base, Arkansas

PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. BAYLES
July, 1989

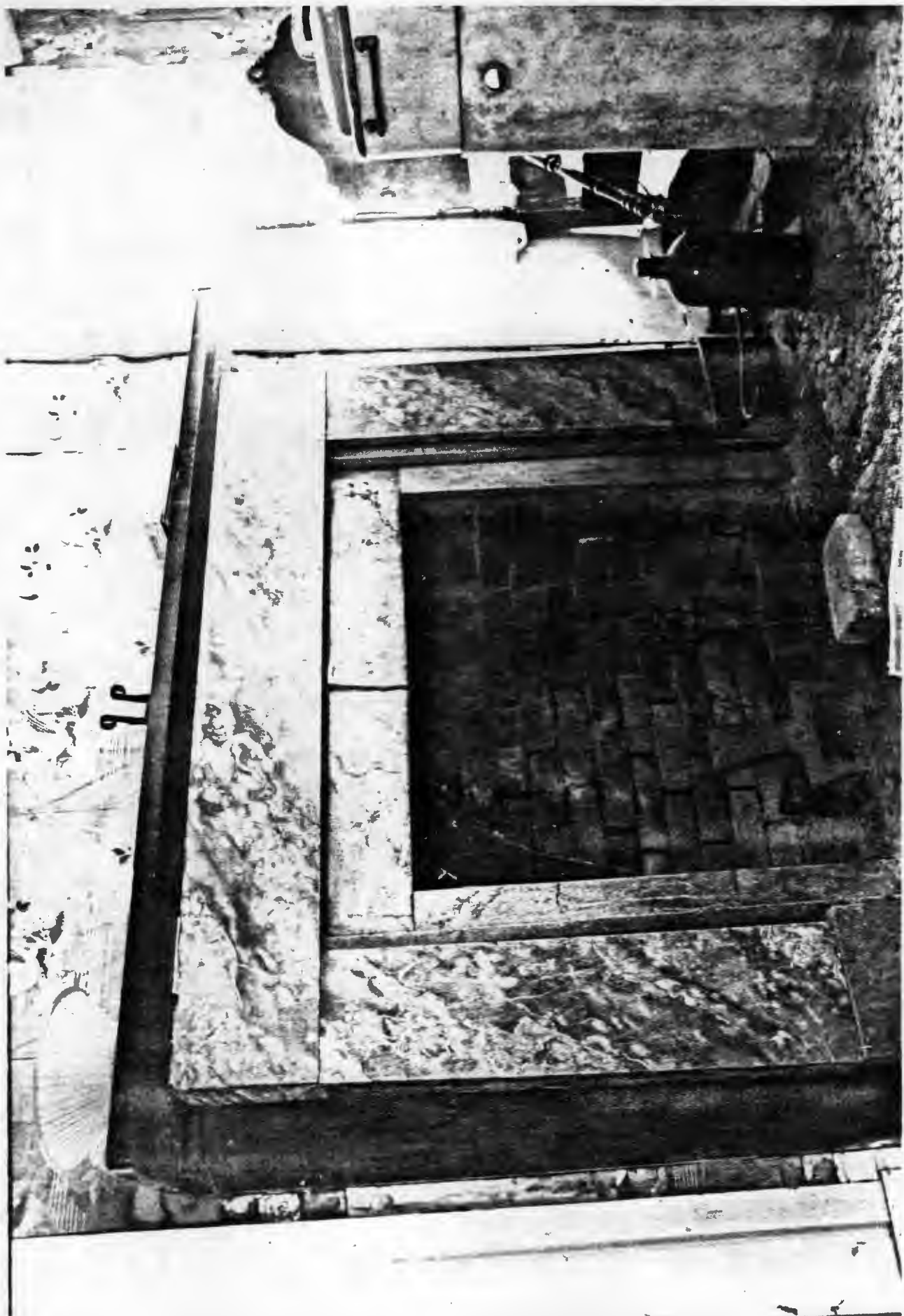
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHP
View from Southwest



W T - OFFICE HOUSE
GAIN AND WIT, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. BAYLES
July, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ARPP
WINDOW DETAIL



WY 1000E 1000E
GARDNER W. ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHER BY V. BAYLES
JULY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT APP
ARIZ DETAIL

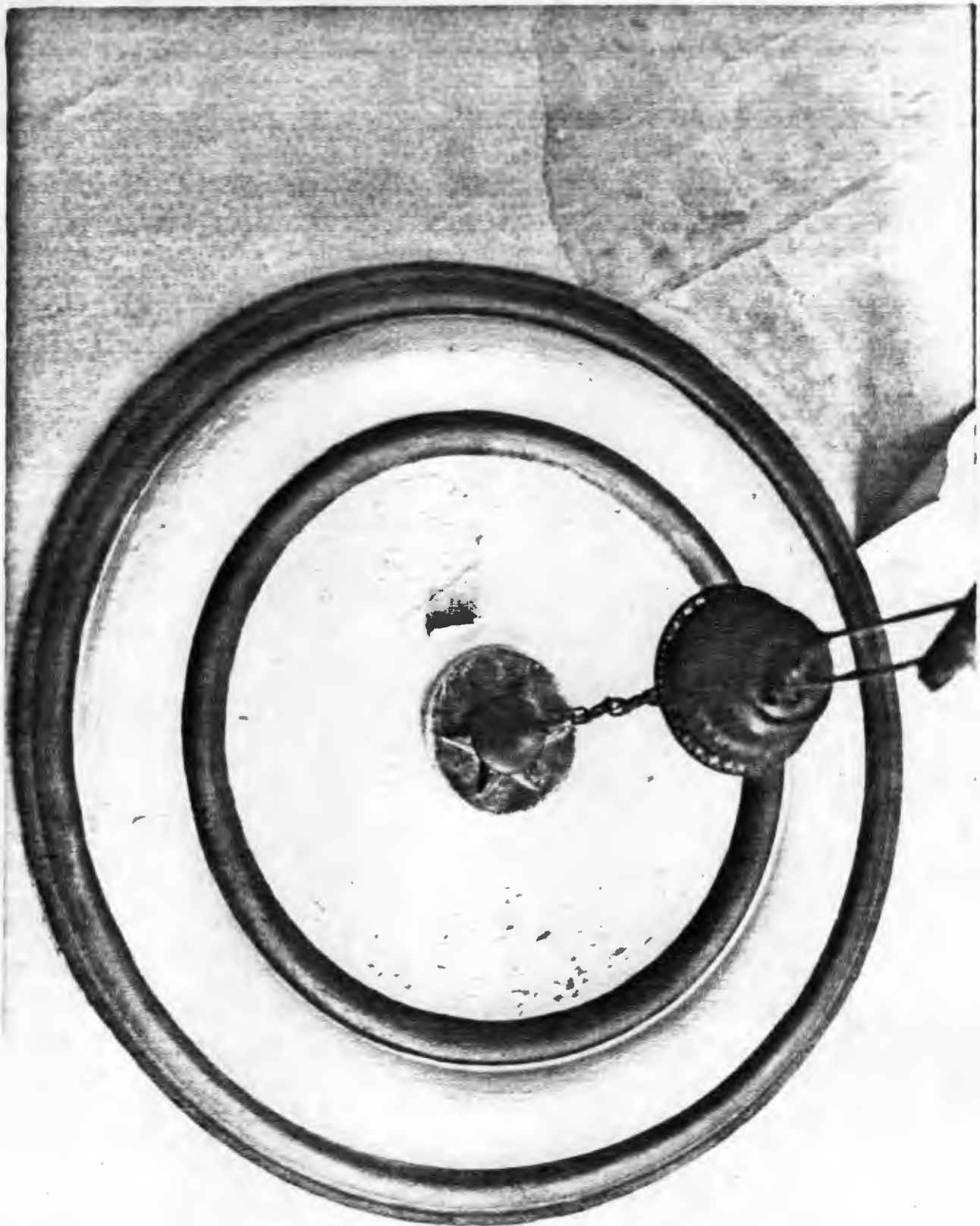




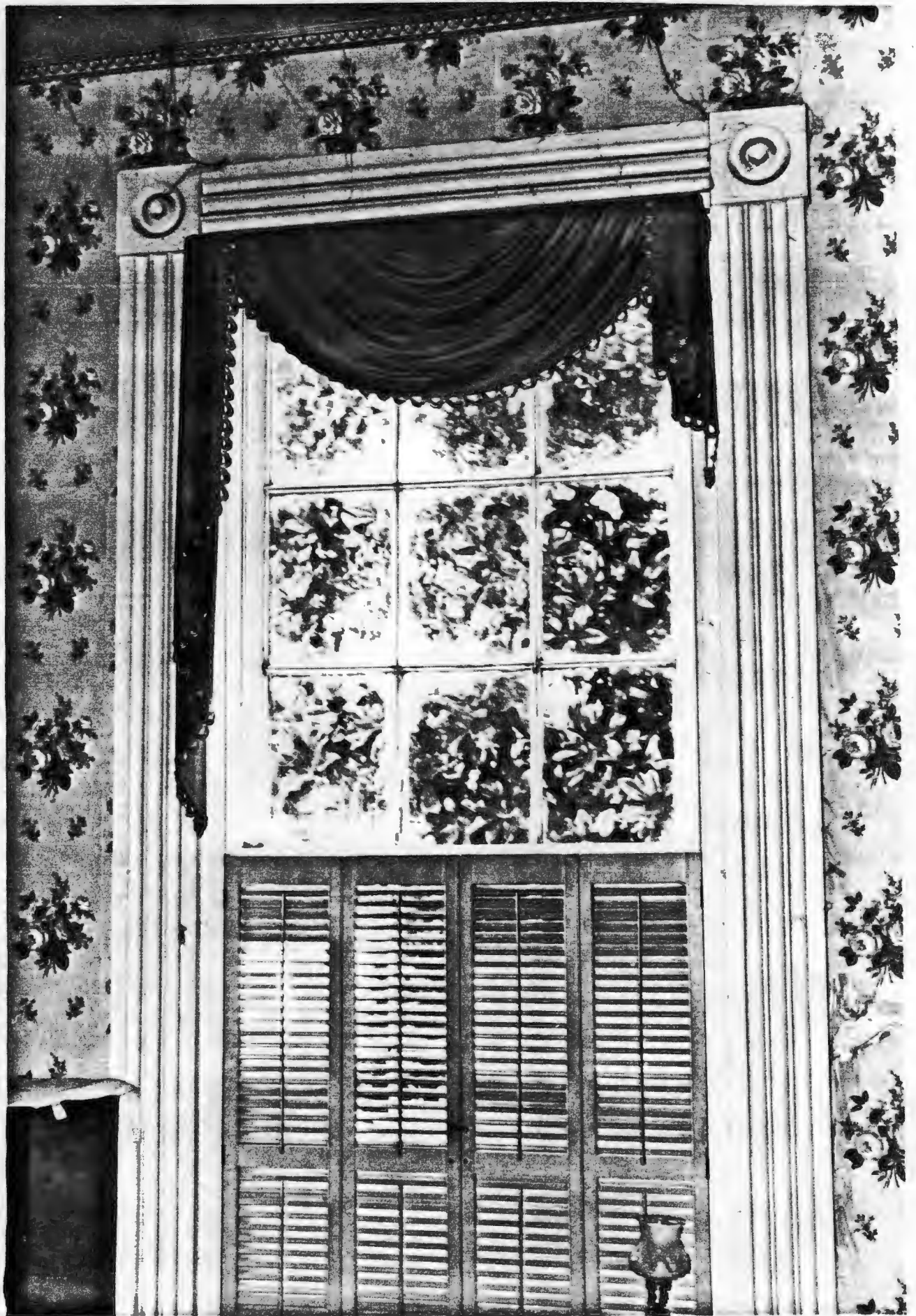
WITHIN-TREE HOUSE
GARD AND WIT, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. BAYLES
JULY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHP
VIEW OF REAR OF TWO-STOREY SECTION FROM NORTH



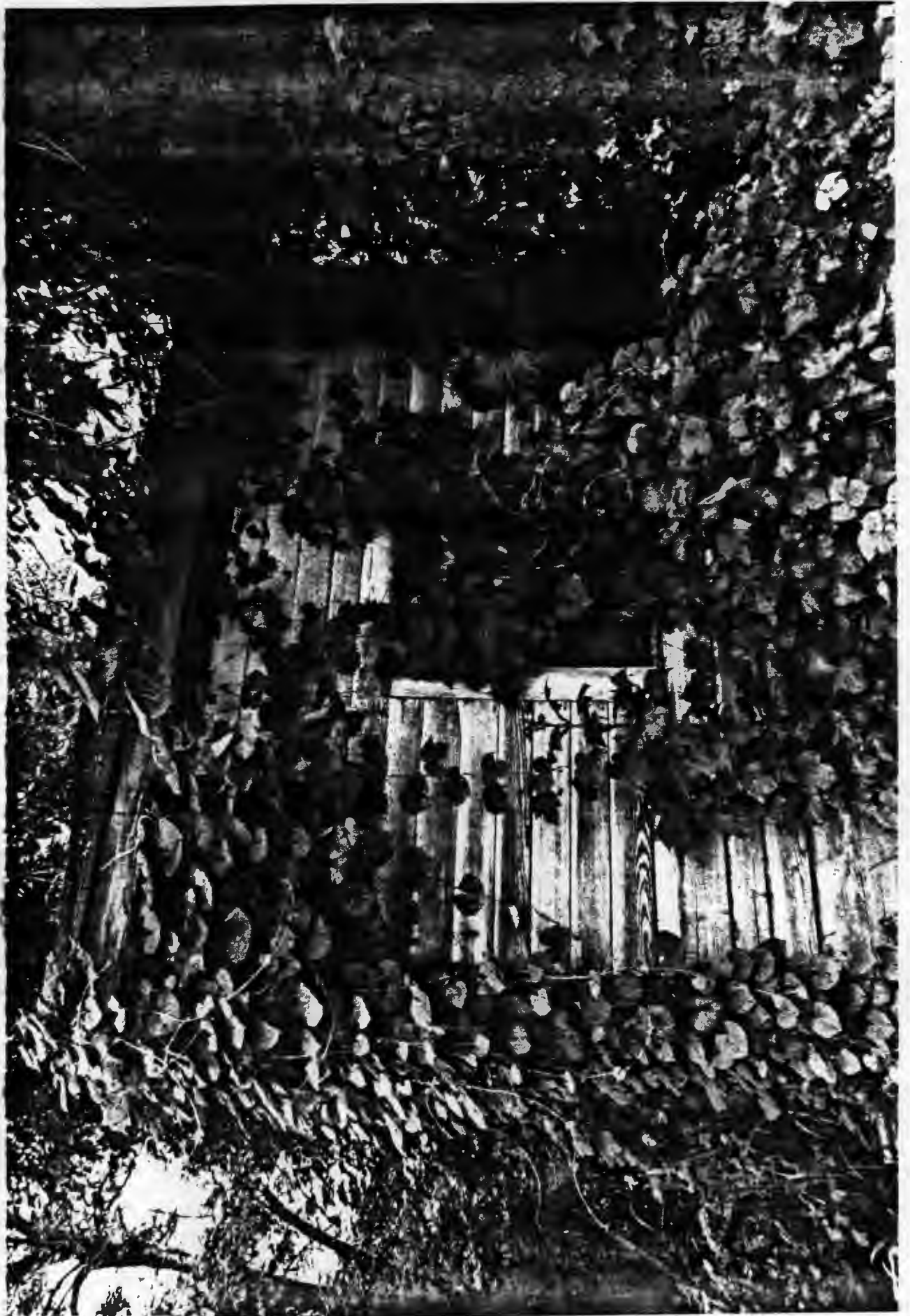
GRAND WITNESS
GRAND WIT, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY J. BARKES
JULY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW OF BARROW ENTRANCE FROM INTERIOR



W. W. - TRICE HOUSE
G. R. LAND INC., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. BAULES
JULY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ARPP
INTERIOR CEILING DETAIL



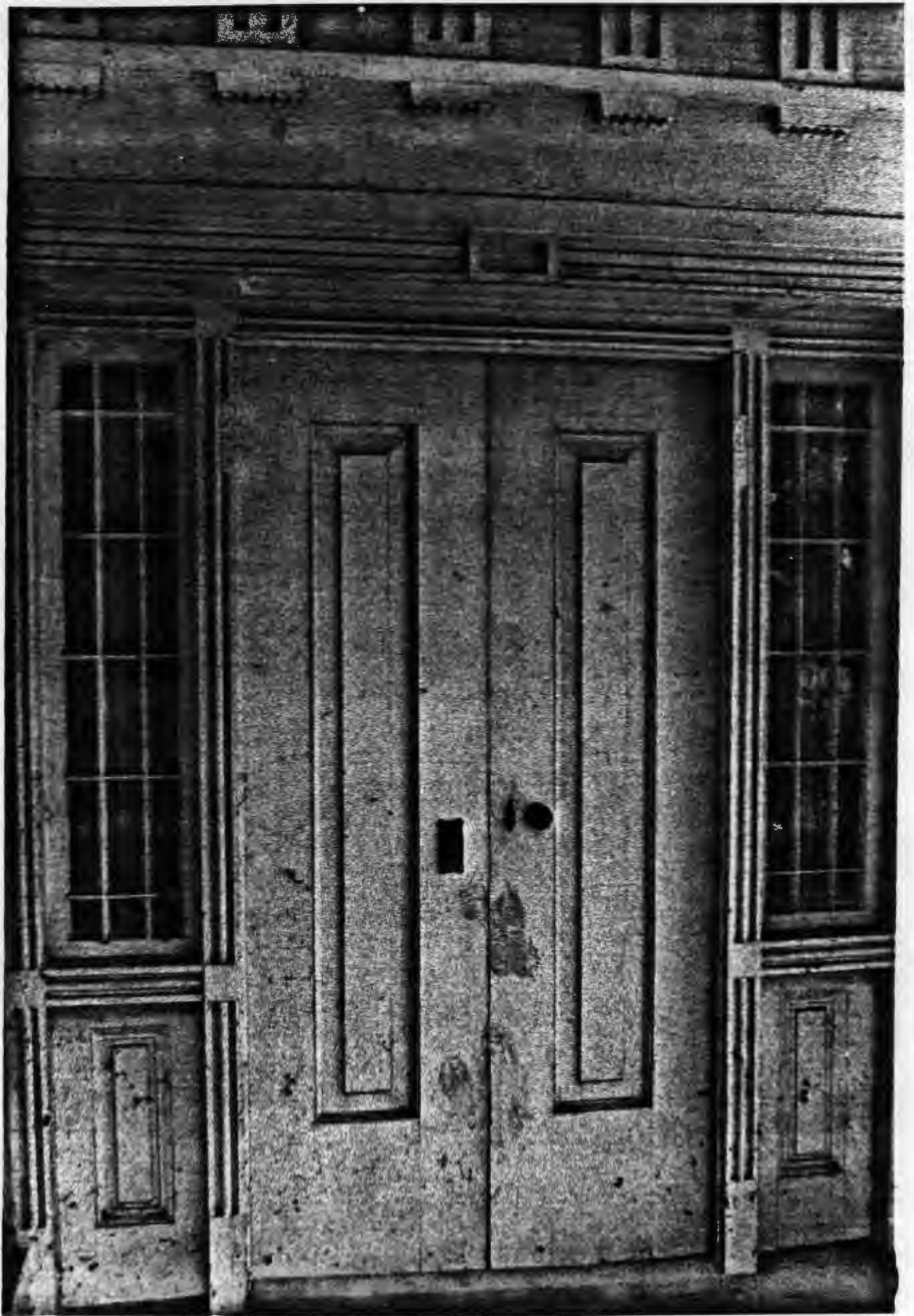
6077 - WHITE HOUSE
GARLAND III, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHER BY V. BAYLES
JULY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
INTERIOR WINDOW DETAIL



WIND - WICK HOUSE
GAIL AND WIFE, HERKIMAS

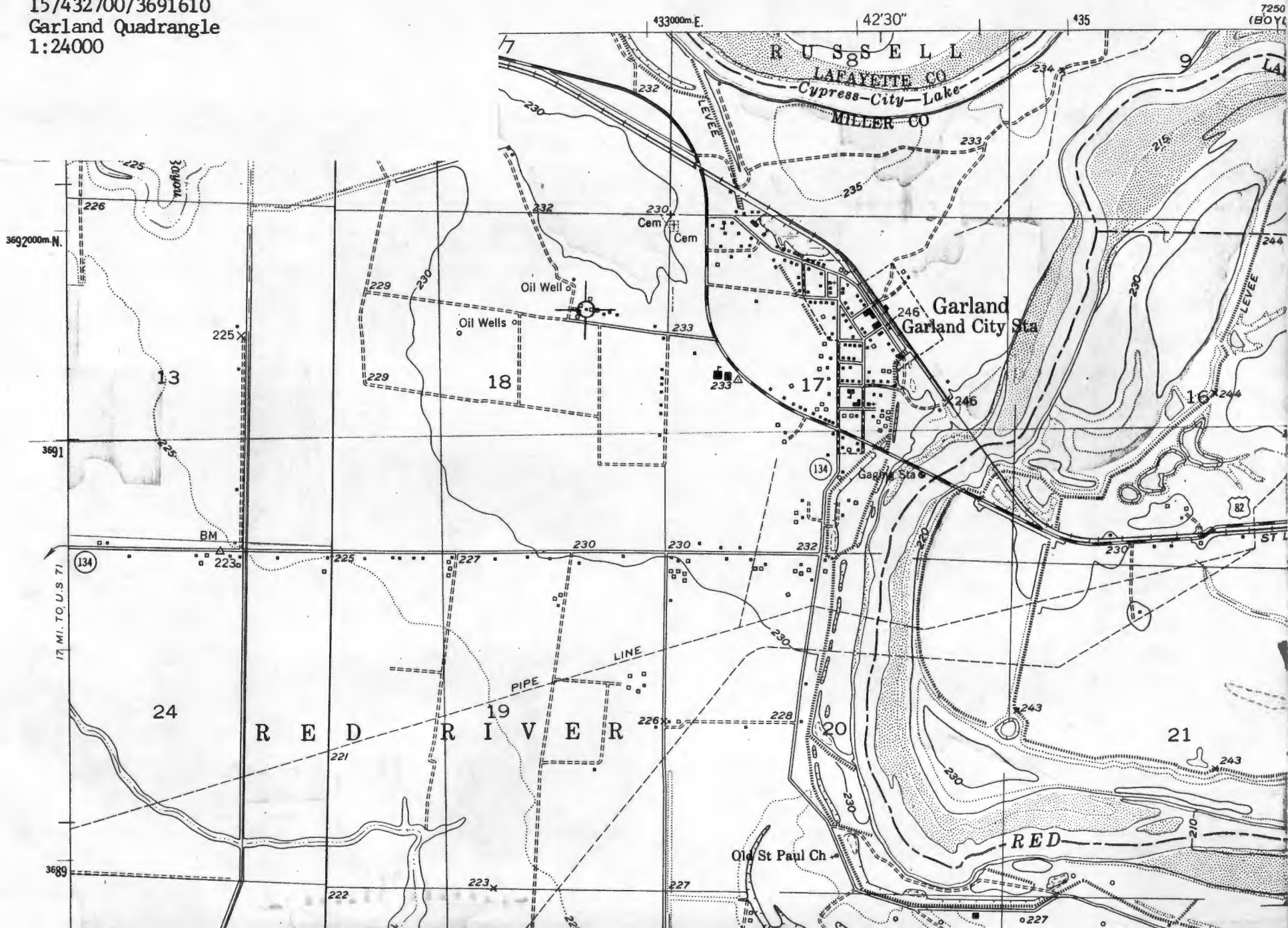
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. BAYLES
July, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHP
VIEW OF HISTORIC DISTRICT FROM SOUTH



WILLIAMS TRUSS
GARLAND WILSON, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. BAYLES
JULY, 1989
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
FRONT DOORS DETAIL

Wynn-Price House
Garland vic., Arkansas
Miller County
15/432700/3691610
Garland Quadrangle
1:24000



7250
(BOY)