

NR listed  
12/05/85

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic  
Inventory—Nomination Form

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Reeves-Melson House

and/or common Abraham and Amanda Miles House

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication

city, town Bonnerdale vicinity of Mazarn Community

state Arkansas code 05 county Montgomery 4983 code 097

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Bobby Jarrell Spencer and Winnie Miles Spencer

street & number 523 Pittman Road

city, town Hot Springs vicinity of state Arkansas 71913

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Courthouse

street & number Courtsquare

city, town Mount Ida state Arkansas 71957

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The Interior of both pens display an austere character. Only one of the two fire mantels, located in the log pen, survives and it reflects a local interpretation of classical revival design found on mantels in many Arkansas rural houses.

Ancillary structures existed on the property. A 10' x 10' log smokehouse stood behind the kitchen. A chicken house made of lumber existed northeast of the house. Today, only the well remains and stands adjacent to the kitchen area.

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The c. 1882, 1888 Reeves-Melson House is situated adjacent a small branch of the Mazarn Creek in southeast Montgomery County. The county is located within the Ouachita Mountain Range in Western Arkansas. The house reflects a dogtrot plan. Each pen is constructed by different building methods and materials. William H. Reeves built the single log pen house soon after he entered into a homestead contract in 1882. Reeves sold the property in 1887 to Larkin Melson. Melson, a local carpenter, expanded the log house into its present form by building a frame and weatherboard pen and the central open hall.

The house, facing west, sits on stone piers and is covered by a gable roof. The present tin roof material replaced the original wood shake roof in 1940. The roof slope extends on the west side to create the porch roof and the facade. The turn posts which support the porch roof are not original to the structure. Under the porch, the structure is made of two distinguishable facades. The log pen, measuring 18' x 16', is identified by a centered batton door and a 4/4 double-hung window set north of the door. Hewed on two sides, pine logs are locked together with 1/2 dovetail notching. Split boards covered the chink between the logs, some of which are extant today. An exterior gable end chimney and the gable roof extension marks the north elevation of the log pen and structure. Two squared hewn log plates on the east and west walls of the pen create the overhang of the roof. These log plates are supported by notched and chamfered plates that terminate the pen's north and south walls. Field observations of gable overhangs on other structures suggest it was a technique to protect mud cat chimneys from the weather.

The second pen was probably built soon after Larkin Melson purchased the property from William Reeves in the winter of 1887. The pen, a 18' x 16' frame with weatherboard walls, completes the facade of the house. Two symmetrically placed 4/4 double hung windows characterizes the main elevation. The gable end of frame pen (south) is a solid mass with a 4/4 window placed on its west end. An exterior stone chimney at one time occupied the wall until it was dismantled in the 1940's.

The open central hall connects both pens and provides cover for the main entry into the frame pen as well as the entries to the lean-to room additions attached to both pens. A trap door, in the hallway floor, provides access to a dug-out cellar beneath the log portion of the house. This feature is not ordinarily found with a rural structure in Arkansas' 19th century landscape. The open stairway in the hall is attached to the wall of the log pen. It occupies the front portion of the hallway with access by way of the front porch.

The rear elevation of the Reeves-Melson House consist of two lean-to additions. Melson built the addition to the frame portion of the house. It is also frame constructed with weatherboard siding. A 4/4 window is placed off center in an otherwise solid weatherboard mass. An entrance into a second dug-out cellar is located under the frame lean-to at the southeast corner. The kitchen occuppied the second lean-to addition that completes the structure's rear elevation. Attached to the log pen, the vertical plank addition extends a few feet beyond the pen's north wall. It is not know when or who built this addition.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)	

Specific dates 1882; 1888

Builder/Architect N/A

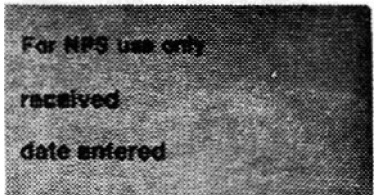
### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Located in the Ouachita Mountain region, Montgomery County had been sparsely settled since the 1830's. The county's southeast section attracted little occupation until the mid-1870's. However, with a fairly steady influx of homesteaders, the limited farmland surrounding the local waterways and in the narrow valleys was settled by the turn of the century. During this time William Reeves, a former county sheriff, homesteaded eighty acres of land adjacent a small branch of the Mazarn Creek, one of two major waterways in the area. The c. 1882, 1888 Reeves-Melson House represents, locally, the strong traditional plan and construction methods commonly used in initial settlement periods throughout Arkansas in the nineteenth century. As in the earlier years of settlement in the state, traditional house plans and construction methods continued to dominate the initial building environment of Arkansas's late nineteenth century settlement areas. The house displays two important areas in the traditional building discipline. The log single pen portion of the house reflects a popular settlement house type, while the present dogtrot typifies a practice of expanding a single pen into a two pen plan. The use of two different building methods and materials easily distinguishes this method of expansion.

Built in two stages, the Reeves-Melson House illustrates a rural practice of adding onto an original single pen house. C. 1882, William Reeves built the initial single pen house. Using pine logs locked with the half-dovetail notching, Reeves constructed an 18' x 16' structure. Following a common technique, the logs were hewed on two sides for a flat exterior and interior wall surface. Leaving the top and bottom of the logs in their natural state resulted in a smaller chink space between the logs. Larkin Melson purchased the property in the winter of 1887. Melson, a local carpenter, added the open central hall and the second pen to create the structure's present dogtrot plan. He constructed the 18' x 16' frame and weatherboard pen using locally milled lumber. The use of different building materials was a common practice in expanding the single pen into a two pen plan.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Reeves-Melson House

Item number 9

Page 1

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abstract for Floyd Miles, Abstract No. 4230, Montgomery County Abstract Company, Mount Ida, Arkansas.

Goodspeed, ed. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Co., 1891 reprint ed., Easley. South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1978.

State Land Office Original Entry Records. (microfilm roll #25) Little Rock, Arkansas. Arkansas History Commission.

United States Census, Population Schedules, Montgomery County, Arkansas, 1870, 1880, 1900. (Microfilm) Little Rock, Arkansas: Arkansas History Commission.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Bonnerdale, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	5
---	---

4	6	2	3	0	5
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	1	0	3	7	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

C 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--

--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Reeves-Melson House beginning at a U.S.F.S aluminum monument located at the southwest point of said property, the west boundary runs North along a county road 230.5'. From that point the lines runs N 85° East, 140'. From that point the line runs South 180'. From that point S 75° West, 143' to point of beginning. Contains .7 of an acre more or less in part of S½ NE¼ of S36, T3S, R3W

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Winnie Miles Spencer; edited by Don Brown, AHPP Staff

organization N/A

date 10-25-85

street & number 523 Pittman Road

telephone

city or town Hot Springs,

state AR

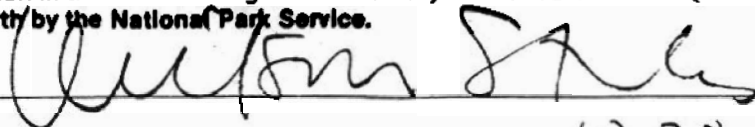
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10-28-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

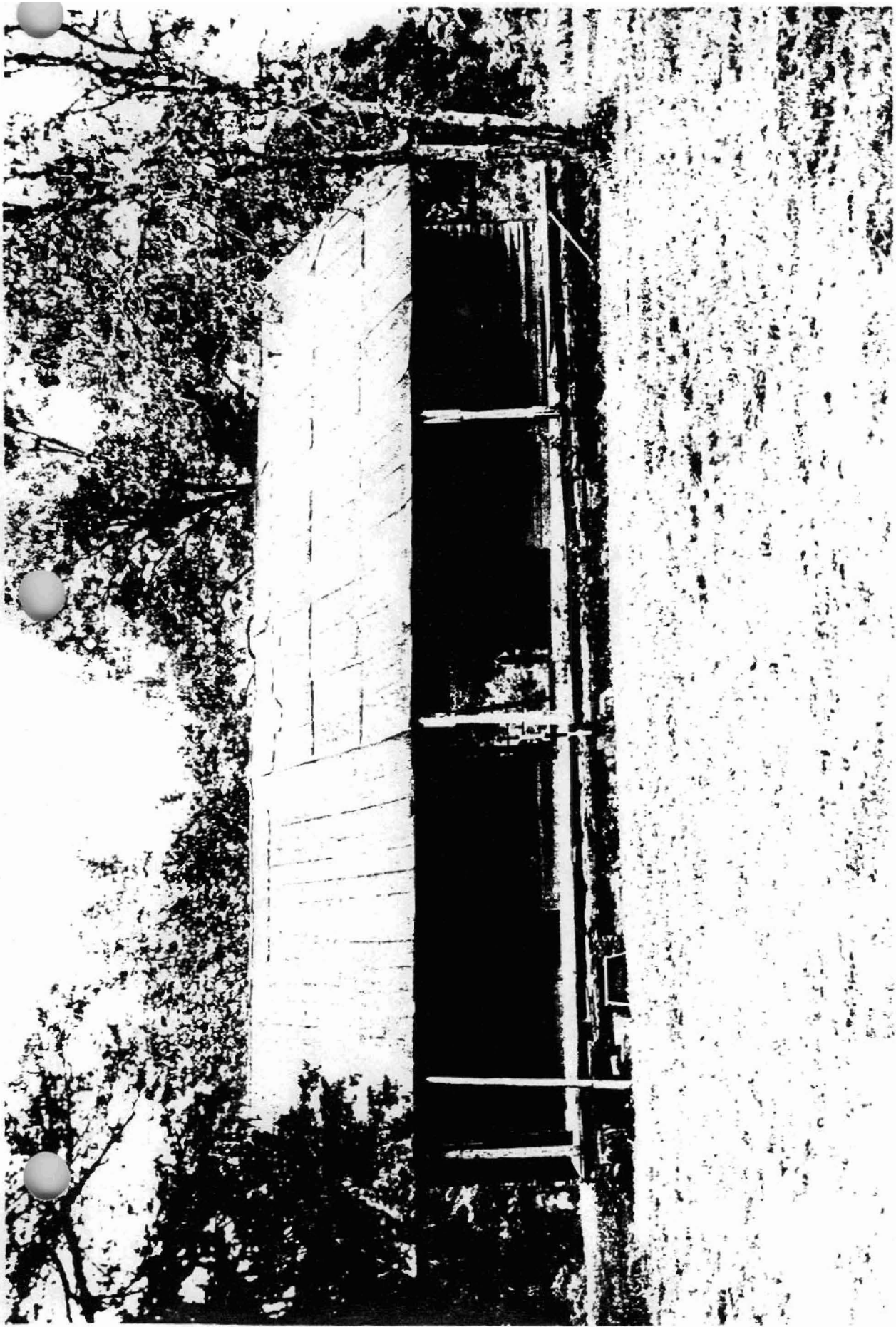
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

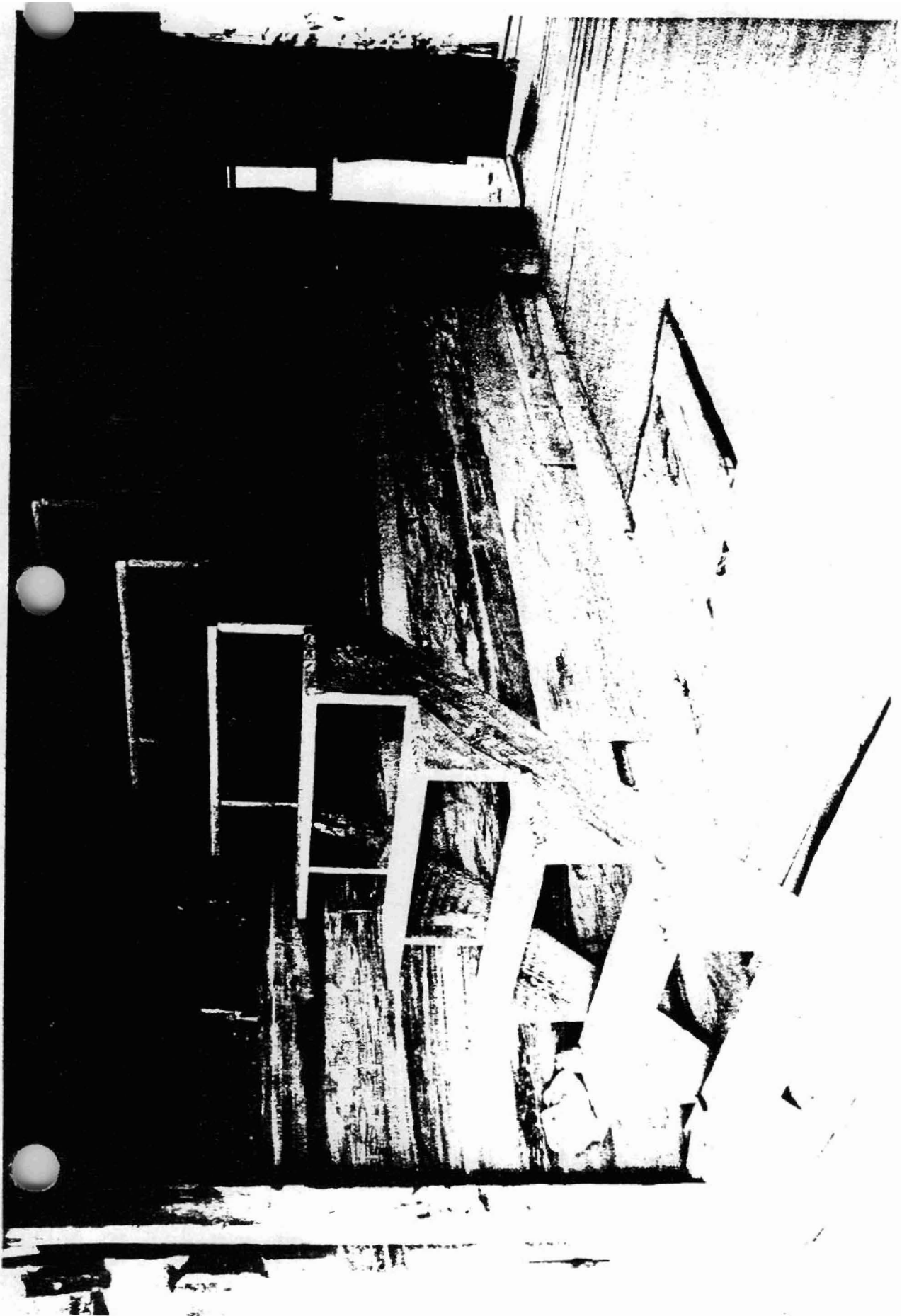
Chief of Registration











Reeves-Melson House  
Quadrangle Name: Bonnerdale, AR  
Scale: 1:24000  
15 462305/3810370

