

NR Listed: 1-15-04

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Edward Samuel Wildy Barn

other names/site number MS0262

2. Location

street & number 1198 South State Highway 136

not for publication

city or town Etowah

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Mississippi code 093 zip code 72428

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cathie Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/04/03
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

Edward Samuel Wildy Barn
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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1	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
2	_____	structures
2	_____	objects
5	0	Total

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

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE/Agricultural
Outbuilding

VACANT/NOT IN USE

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE/Storage

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Gambrel Roof Barn

foundation Concrete/Dirt

walls Wood

roof Metal

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Edward Samuel Wildy Barn
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas
County and State

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)
Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1915-1954

Significant Dates
1915

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)
N/A

Architect/Builder
Edward Samuel Wildy

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Edward Samuel Wildy Barn
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Less than one

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>749442</u>	<u>3956053</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph Wilcox
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date September 23, 2003
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501-324-9787
city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Katherine Wildy and Ann Wildy Carpenter
street & number 1391 South State Highway 136 telephone 870 -531-2110
city or town Osceola state Arkansas zip code 72370

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 listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Edward Samuel Wildy Barn is a two-story structure, with an accompanying windmill, silo, two water troughs and concrete pads located in Etowah, Mississippi County. It was built in 1915 in the Plain/Traditional style. Resting on piers, the barn is rectangular in plan, and of wood framed construction. The gambrel roof is covered in corrugated metal. The walls are board and batten, made of cypress trees that were plentiful in the area at the time of construction.

ELABORATION

The Edward Samuel Wildy Barn is a two-story structure, with an accompanying windmill, silo, two water troughs and concrete pads located in Etowah, Mississippi County. It was built in 1915 in the Plain/Traditional style. All five of the original structures in the complex remain today. The barn's appearance is the same as when it was originally built in 1915.

Front/East Façade

The east façade is comprised of three bays. The left bay is the side porch, covered by a shed roof. The first level of the center bay is comprised of three doors and a single window. The top level of the center bay is comprised of a small, single window, and a large opening through which hay was removed from storage in the barn. The right bay is another side porch, which is also covered by a shed roof.

A water trough is located a short distance from the barn, off of the northeastern corner of this façade. It is made of cast concrete, and stands roughly three feet high, and is roughly five feet in length.

Side/North Façade

The north façade is comprised of a side porch that is supported by seven wooden posts and covered by a shed roof. There are three single doors, two which are left of center and one which is at the far right corner, and one double door which is directly to the right of the center of the façade. In the center of this façade, there is an entryway with a window directly to the left. There are two other windows on this façade, one of which is a third of the way to the end of the left side of the façade and the other which is a third of the way to the end of the right side of the façade.

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Rear/West Façade

The west façade is comprised of three bays. The left bay is the side porch, covered by a shed roof. The first level of the center bay is comprised of two doors and a single window. The top level of the center bay is comprised of two small windows, one of which is directly above the first level window, and the second of which is directly above and slightly to the right of the first second level window. The right-hand bay is the rear side of the small room that comprised a bay of the south façade. There is a small window in the center of this bay.

A windmill sits behind the left corner of the barn, and is roughly 40 feet in height. Built in 1925, it was used to pump water from the holding tank at the top of the barn to the house, making the Wildy Farm one of the earliest homes in the area to have running water.

A water trough sits a short distance behind the right corner of the barn, between the barn and the silo. It is made of cast concrete, and stands roughly three feet high, and is roughly five feet in length.

A silo sits a short distance behind the right corner of the barn. It is constructed of concrete, and octagonal in shape with a round roof. Painted white in color, there are 10 openings that run vertically from top to bottom on the silo. Built in 1928, the silo housed feed corn for the farm's livestock.

Side/South Façade

The south façade is comprised of a small room off the left corner of the façade, and a side porch which comprises the remaining three-fourths of the façade. The small room is accessed by two small doors. The side porch is supported by five wooden posts, and is covered by a shed roof. There are five entryways on this façade, and one small window. There is one large, non-gated entryway at the left corner of this façade, by the small room. A few feet to the right is the small window. A few feet to the right of this window is a small gated entryway, which is proceeded on the right by two non-gated entryways. Another small gated entryway is located at the extreme right-hand corner of the façade.

Interior

In the original construction, the barn was divided into two bays with a hall down the center. One side of the barn housed the mules the other side housed the cows.

Edward Samuel Wildy Barn
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas
County and State

United States Department of the Interior
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INTEGRITY

The Edward Samuel Wildy Barn retains good architectural integrity, and closely reflects the time of its construction in 1915. The barn retains its original roof, with minor repairs, and all of the original entryways remain intact. The barn, along with the water troughs, silo and windmill, is one of the few, if not the only, barn and accompanying outbuildings still in workable condition on a single farmstead in Mississippi County. The complex is a wonderful representation of farm life in Mississippi County.

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Summary

The Edward Samuel Wildy Barn is being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with agriculture in Mississippi County in the early 1900s, and **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a gambrel roof barn in the town of Etowah. The barn was in use from 1915 until the early 1960s.

Elaboration

The Edward Samuel Wildys were of German heritage and spoke with an ethnic accent even though they were born in Southern Illinois. Alvina Marir Schneider (1892-1981) and Edward Samuel Wildy (1892-1985) were married shortly before leaving New Athens, Illinois, in December 1913, for their new home in Etowah, Arkansas. Mr. Wildy's father had bought land in Etowah from an Illinois land-developer, providing a home place for one of his sons.

Farm life in Etowah contrasted sharply with farm life in Illinois. The Wildys left brick houses, electricity, running water, good roads, a Lutheran Church, and organ lessons. Etowah at the turn of the twentieth century was primitive and rugged. Most of the area was only suitable for logging and trapping. Cypress, cottonwood, maple, oak, hackberry, willow and walnut trees populated this swampy area of South Mississippi County. Most of the county flooded in the spring because drainage ditches did not exist to carry the water away. Mr. Wildy was instrumental in the development of the drainage districts that were established in Mississippi County in the early 1900's.

The Wildy family cleared land to farm and set up their home place. The barn served as the center of activity and as an essential structure because of the importance that the mules, horse, hogs, and cows played in the success of the family farm. If the livestock were exposed to harsh weather conditions in Northeastern Arkansas, they would not survive to work the farmland or feed the farm folks.

Edward Wildy built the Wildy Barn in 1915, using carpenters from southern Illinois, following similar structural designs from his home state. The first structure housed the mules, followed by an additional structure for the cows.

The mule side had stalls with names of the mules imprinted or painted --- names such as Slick, Slim, Tom, Harry, Maggie, Fred and Jiggs. The tack room, located in the southeast part of the barn, contained a rack for each mule's harness. Two storage bins, or corn cribs, provided food space. The hayloft utilized a rope and pulley that hooked to a fork that gathered hay---all geared to a pair of mules that used their force to create the pull to draw the hay upward.

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In the loft of the barn is a water reservoir that was connected to the windmill that is located to the west of the barn. This windmill and reservoir not only supplied the barn with water; it supplied the farmhouse and a second barn that once stood east of the road—now Highway 136 East. To the knowledge of the Etowah residents, the Wildy home place was the only one at the time that had fresh running water.

The family built a farmhouse in 1915-1916, working on weekends and Sundays. A Mascoutah, Illinois, carpenter worked to the supervision and direction of Mr. and Mrs. Wildy's father's---Grandpa Schneider and Grandpa Wildy from New Athens. They also built additional barns and a wooden silo south of the mule and cow barn. Two-by-four lumber strips were cut in Lepanto and hauled to Etowah in a pick-up truck. The base outline of the wooden silo still exists. The windmill was erected in 1925. The Wildy's oldest child, Earl, who was born in 1916, remembers working on the windmill used to pump water for the farm and the home. Earl said, "I can still remember helping Dad on the platform of the windmill, holding so he could bolt together. I was late getting to the one-room school at Etowah that morning."

Earl also remembers gravel used in concrete construction being hauled on a railroad from Lepanto to West Ridge and then placed on a spur that ran north of the Wildy barn. The gravel was then transferred to wagons for its final trip to the barn.

In addition to the windmill and the barn, the site has a concrete silo that is still standing in its original location. The silo is octagonal with a round rooftop. It is painted white and clearly stands out in the background of this American barn. The silo was built around 1928 and housed the feed corn for the farm livestock.

Renowned barn photographer Barney Sellers of Batesville, Arkansas (former reporter and photographer for the Memphis' *The Commercial Appeal*, told the youngest son Charles in October of 2001 that to his knowledge the Wildy barn, windmill, and silo are the only ones remaining on one farm site in the Delta.

The Wildy barn is built from cypress wood that was abundant in Mississippi County at the time of its construction. The barn is painted red with a corrugated tin roof. It is one of the few barns still standing in northeastern Arkansas in its original condition. The barn sits on the original home site (selected for its higher elevation) of the Wildy Family. Considering its size and the age in which this barn was built, it is a marvel that it has withstood the ravages of time and weather. Thanks to the Wildy family, this landmark still casts a shadow on the landscape of our community.

The barn had an addition (a wing) built in 1918. An Illinois carpenter named Knapp helped Edward Wildy during the construction. Little is known about Knapp except Mr. Wildy trusted his skills.

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Knapp also added an addition to the barn in the 1930's. Mr. Wildy sawed lumber for the barn at his Etowah sawmill. He utilized a large Twin City tractor, abandoned by the road district. In 1932, he added a concrete water tank to the second floor. Mrs. Wildy's younger brother, Carl Schneider of Illinois, led the mule in the mixing labor. "Mix it dry....make it stronger." It leaked. They began again.

Since these last additions, the barn has retained its silhouette. Although the animals have been gone since the late 1950's and early 1960's, the barn has housed farm equipment and supplies. David Wildy, Earl's younger son, farms the home place, now owned by Katherine and the late Charles Wildy.

As the calendar turns into the 21st century, the Wildy barn exists as a symbol of Arkansas ancestors, hard work, perseverance, and devotion to the land. The late Stanley Carpenter, Mississippi County Agent, wrote story in 1928 for The Progressive Farmer magazine, announcing that Alvina and Edward Samuel Wildy were the Arkansas Master Farm Family of the year. The story headline "Ed Wildy Cut a Road to His Farm"

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Samuel Wildy are dead. Four of their six children lie beside them at Garden Point Cemetery in the Etowah Community. The livestock is traded or consumed. The mules have disappeared in Mississippi County. The chicken house and the smokehouse are bare. The garden plot is idle. The flowers no longer bloom. The fruit jars are empty. The cooking aromas have wafted in the wind. But the Wildy barn stands—a sentinel for the past and for the present. This American landscape should be preserved for future generations to measure their achievements, their landscapes. The Wildy barn is a shape of our past that can shape our present and preserve our future.

Statement of Significance

The Edward Samuel Wildy Barn is being nominated under **Criterion A** for its association with agriculture in Mississippi County in the early 1900s, and **Criterion C** with **local significance** as the best example of a gambrel roof barn. The barn was in use from 1915 until the early 1960s.

Edward Samuel Wildy Barn
Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas
County and State

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Carpenter, Stanley D. "Ed Wildy Cut a Road to His Farm." Delta Historical Review, Summer 1992.

Information provided by the Wildy Family, Etowah, Arkansas.

Edward Samuel Wildy Barn

Name of Property

Mississippi County, Arkansas

County and State

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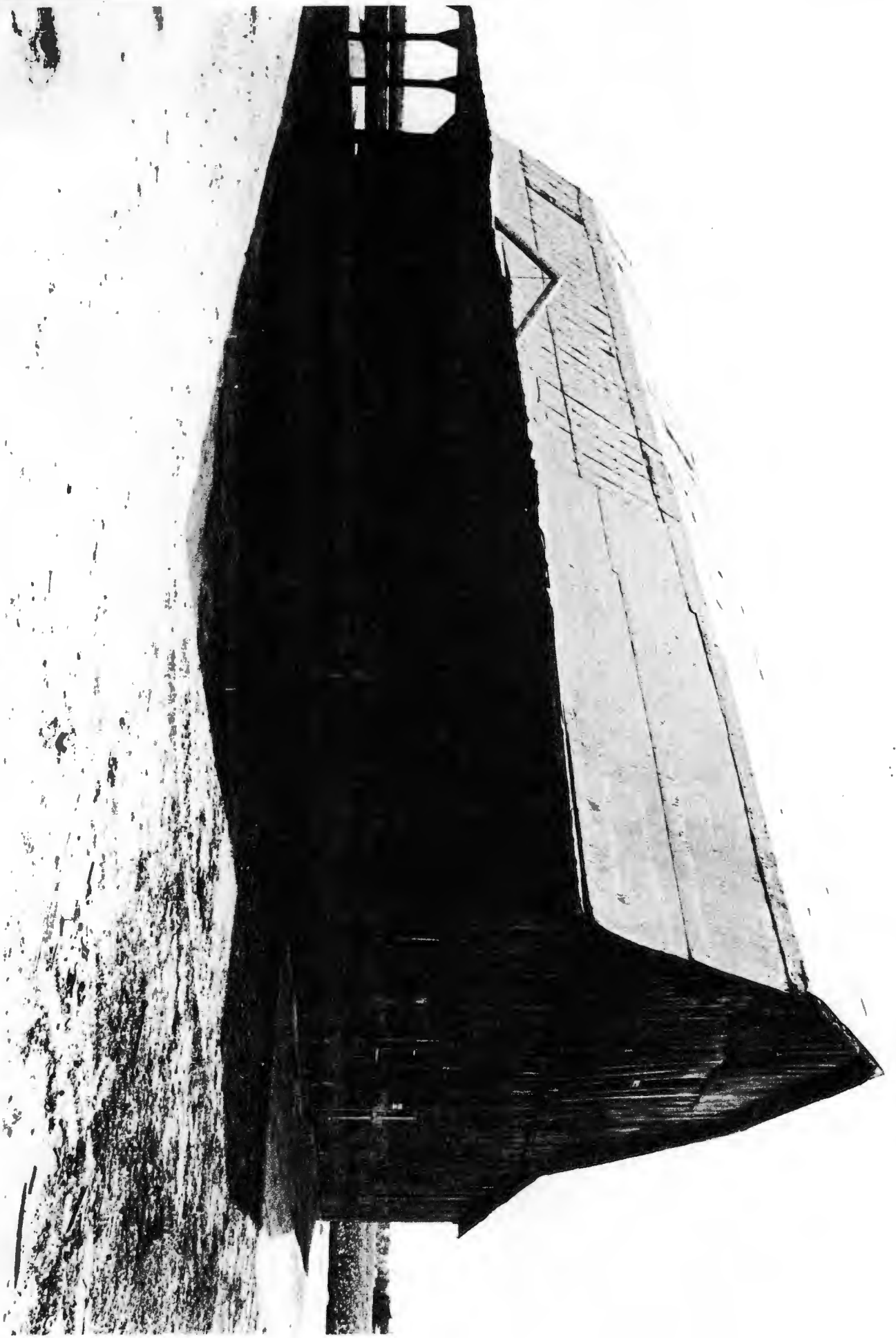
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

From a point 0.6 miles south of the southwest corner of the county Road 634 and Highway 136 intersection, proceed westerly 250 feet to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning proceed southerly 145 feet, then proceed westerly 230 feet, then proceed northerly 145 feet, then proceed easterly 230 feet to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary contains the land that is historically associated with the Edward Samuel Wildy Barn.



1. Edward Samuel Widyburn

2. Mississippi County

3. Zule Cothren

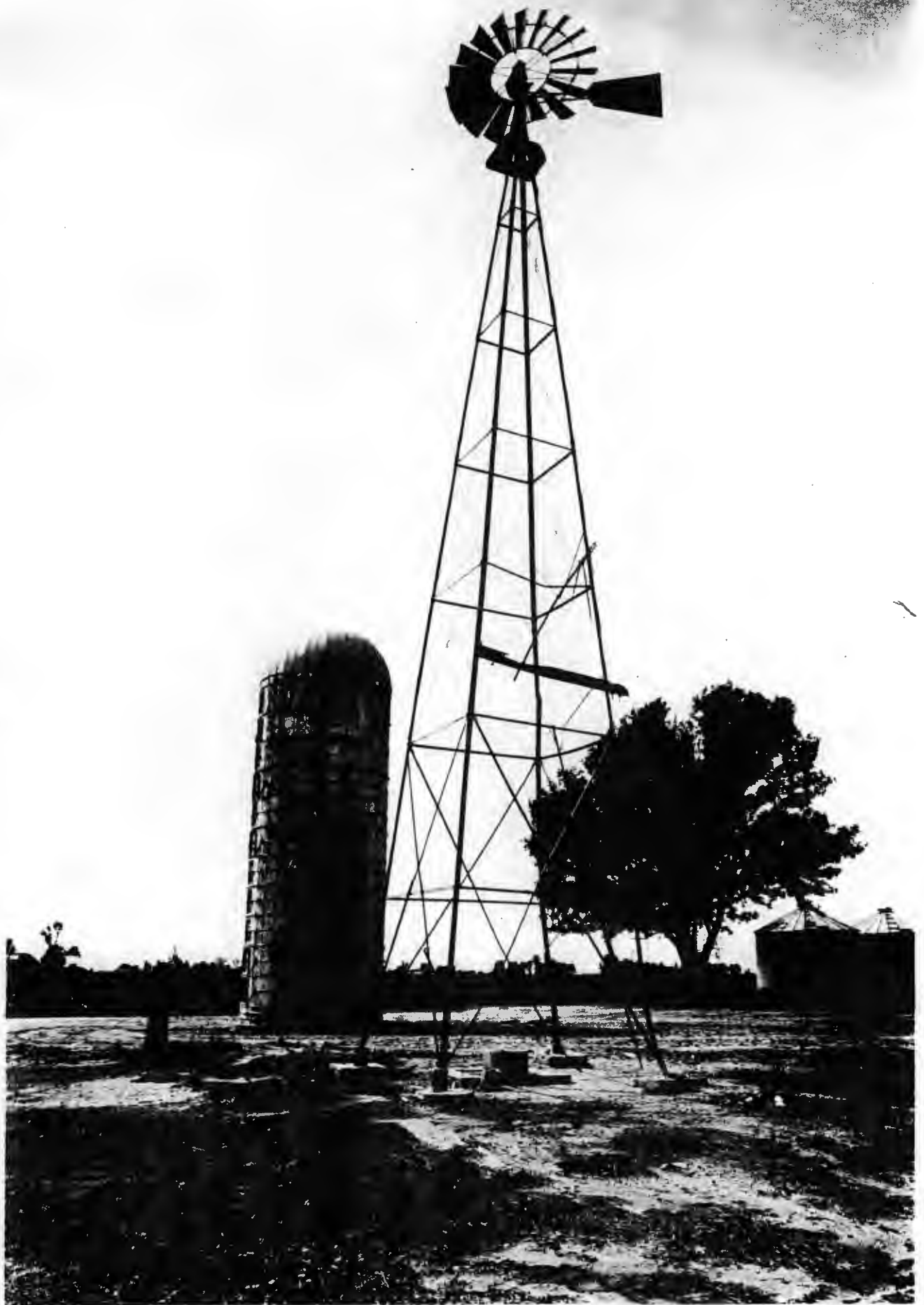
4. Sept. 1903

5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

6. Side/Rear Northwest corner



1. Edward Samuel Wildy, Barn
2. Mississippi County, Arkansas
3. Zac Cothran
4. ~~Edward Samuel Wildy, Barn~~
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. Front / East Facade



1. Turner Sammie 1 Utility Barn
2. M... Co. County Arkansas
3. 20 - Cotman
4. 25 - Simpson
5. Anderson - Historic Preservation Program
6. ... from the rear facade of the barn



