

NR listed 9/05/90

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Perryville American Legion Building
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Northwest corner of Plum and Main Streets not for publication N/A
city, town Perryville vicinity N/A
state Arkansas code AR county Perry code AR 105 zip code 72126

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Number of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Cathryn D. Bradford
Signature of certifying official
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

8-1-90
Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Asphalt

other METAL/Steel door hardware

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1935

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

7. Geographical Data

Acres of property less than one

UTM References

A 15 517940 3873420
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

1. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian date July 31, 1990
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program telephone (501) 371-2763
street & number 225 E. Markham St., Suite 200 city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The Perryville American Legion Building is a single story, cut-stone masonry institutional building designed in the architectural style known as the "Rustic" style. It also features unusual, hand-crafted door hardware and the rough-hewn wood ceiling trusses characteristic of this style.

Elaboration

The Perryville American Legion Building is a single story, cut-stone masonry institutional building designed in the architectural style known as the Rustic style. Its design also reflects Tudor Revival influences through the application of half-timbering in the gable ends and the Craftsman style through the use of exposed rafters. It is arranged in a Latin cross plan, with the main or southern entrance placed on axis with the fireplace at the opposite end of the building. The cut stone chimney rises through the ridge and is placed slightly inside of the northern gable end. Its stone foundation and walls are covered by an intersecting gable roof covered with composition shingles.

The southern or front elevation is symmetrically arranged, with the central, projecting gable dividing the wall into two flanking window groupings of three six-over-six, wood sash windows each. Beneath the pediment is the central, double-leaf door which itself is flanked with two tall, fixed eight-pane wood windows. The porch is supported on solid, braced timbers stained a dark hue (as is virtually all of the wood in the building).

The eastern and western elevations are virtually identical, as each is divided into three principal parts: the shorter section of the side gable component to the south, the longer section to the north and the intersecting gable end separating them. The shorter, southern side gable wall is fenestrated with a single, central window; the longer section to the north is accessed via two doors and lighted by a single southern window on the western elevation, while the eastern elevation is accessed by a single entry to the south, near the wall intersection, and is lighted by a grouped pair of windows near the northern gable end. Each of the gable ends are lighted with a central group of three six-over-six wood sash windows.

The northern elevation is also symmetrical, as it is organized into the two walls of the side gable component flanking the central gable end. The gable end is lighted with a central group of three six-over-six wood sash windows as are the side gable walls flanking it.

Noteworthy exterior details include the half-timbering in the gable ends, the braced porch supports, the irregular window sills and lintels (with some ends square and some triangular) and the shutters which ornament some of the windows. The most unusual detailing, however,

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is reserved for the doors, which are hung on large, metal hinges which were hand-crafted from old Model "T" Ford axles. They have been worked on a forge and flattened out to form unusual, barbed plates which affix the doors to the jambs, giving the heavy, wood plank doors a Medieval appearance. The lock and latch hardware was also hand-crafted and features decorative pulls, bolts and latches.

The interior is simply appointed, as it has always been, and has remained largely as it appeared when it was constructed. The most noteworthy feature is the rough-hewn wood log trusses which support the roof. Typical of the Rustic style, they are only slightly finished and the vertical members have been cut at odd angles to fit together into the carrying beams. Together with the rough-hewn rafters and purlins that support the roof deck they lend an English parish church aspect to the interior. Later lighting fixtures, crafted from airplane engines, hang from the trusses. The stone fireplace has been covered with plasterboard, but remains intact behind it, and the massive, stepped stonework at the back of the chimney is visible.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Perryville American Legion Building remains the best example in Perryville of the Rustic style of architecture, an architectural style which came into popularity during the Great Depression through the rural construction projects carried out by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps, which at one point in time maintained sixty-four camps in Arkansas and several in the vicinity of Perryville.

Elaboration

The American Legion was founded in France during the relatively quiet and uneventful days that followed the signing of the armistice that ended World War I. American enlisted men from all three of the principal branches of the service then in existence -- the Army, Navy and Marine Corps -- were billeted in various locations for the purpose of maintaining a military presence while the negotiators worked out the details of the treaty that would outline the political future of much of Europe for the next decade. These servicemen found life during the occupation uneventful and boring, and this only compounded the frustration felt by many at not being allowed to return to home to family and friends. A small group of officers -- and especially Lieutenant Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. and Lieutenant Colonel George A. White -- met to discuss the possibility of establishing a veterans' organization which would include all branches of the military and which would serve the immediate purpose of providing an outlet for some of the energy and frustration felt by the occupation forces but which would also set as its larger goal the establishment of a nationwide veteran's organization that would provide its members with both a social organization and a vehicle for voicing their collective concerns about such issues as national defense, subversive activity, radical thought, domestic social programs and veterans' affairs. Successive meetings over the course of the next several months in both Europe and America further defined the Legion's mandate and purpose. However, it was the shooting of four Legionnaires during an Armistice Day parade in the lumber town of Centralia, Washington in 1919 by socialist IWW organizers and the subsequent coverage of the trial that followed -- in which the Legionnaires were portrayed as the aggressors -- that both galvanized and tempered the Legionnaire spirit. Both the public and the Legion press recognized the dangers of extremism by any party while admitting the need for responsible vigilance against any activity that threatened the democratic form of government. The American Legion began to grow steadily thereafter through an organization that elected officers on the national, state and local levels and provided a voice for its members regarding a variety of national concerns.

During the Depression the American Legion distinguished itself in particular through the expansion of local programs targeted at youth. Of particular note were the founding of American Legion Junior Baseball, the American Legion Oratorical Contest and Boys' State.

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It was during this period that the Perryville American Legion Building was constructed. Obviously influenced by the Rustic style architecture being erected by the Civilian Conservation Corps at such nearby locations as Camp Ouachita on Lake Sylvia and the state park on Lake Catherine, the local residents who erected the building added such unusual touches as the hand-forged Model "T" Ford axles and the enormous, over-built stone chimney. It is even possible that CCC participants assisted in the design and construction of this building, given their relative proximity; however, this has not been documented.

The Perryville American Legion Building is locally significant as the best surviving example of the Rustic style, and is significant also by virtue of the unique craftsmanship displayed in its construction.

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Bibliography

Moley, Raymond, Jr., *The American Legion Story*, (New York, 1966), pp. 41-225.

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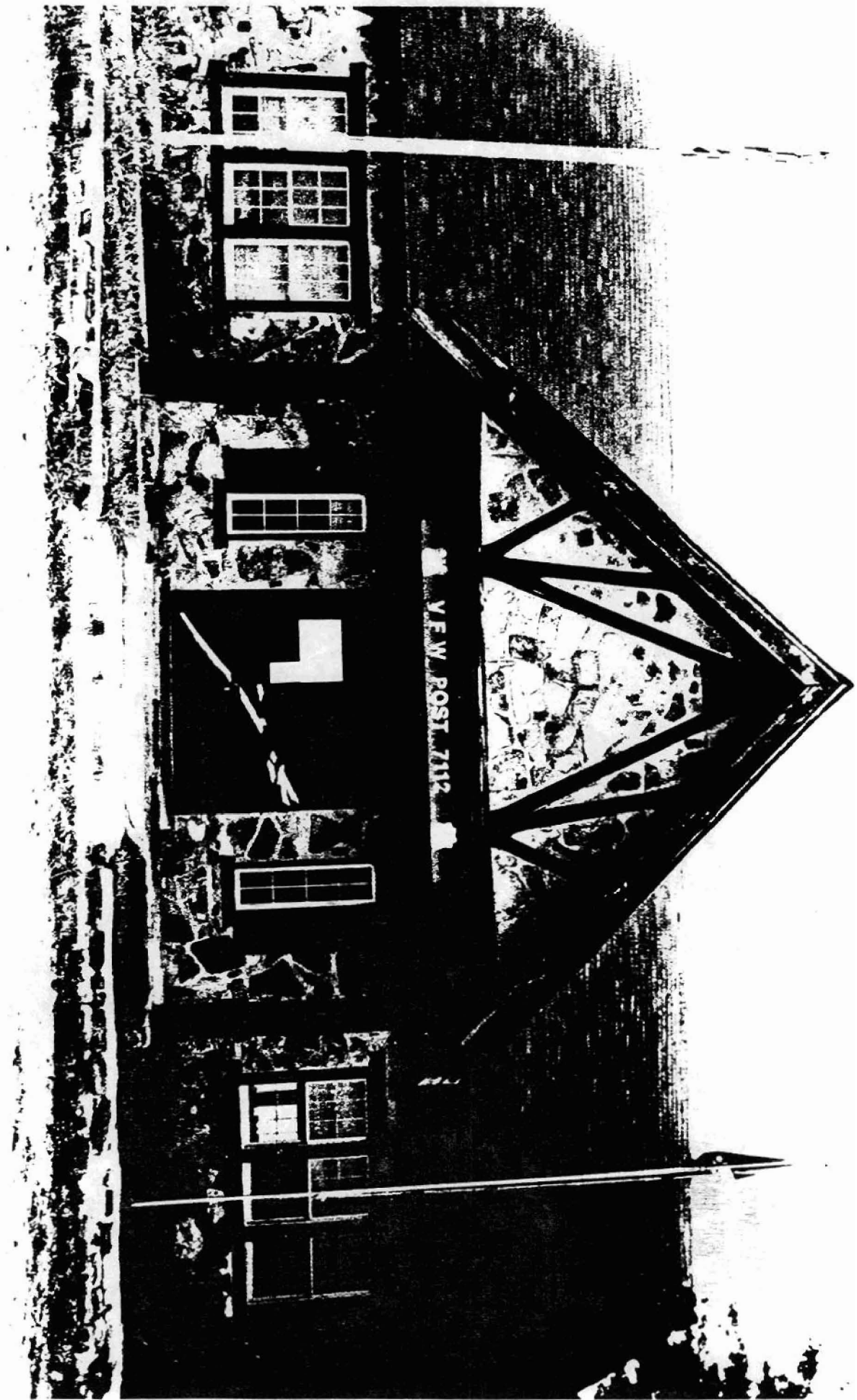
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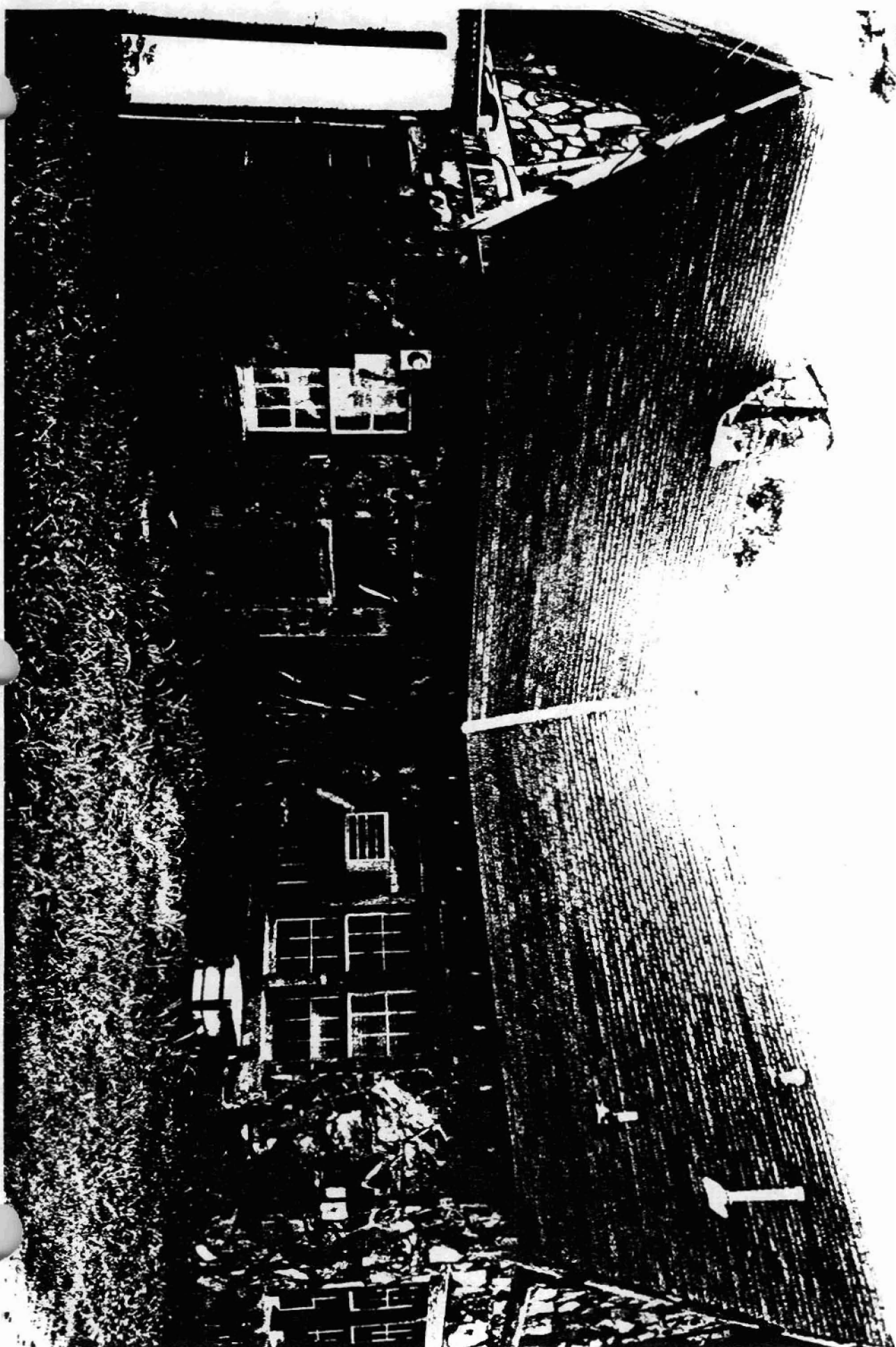
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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the western edge of Plum Street with the northern edge of Main Street, proceed westerly along said edge to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western elevation of the building; thence proceed northerly along said line to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern elevation of the building; thence proceed easterly along said line to its intersection with a perpendicular line formed by the western edge of Plum Street; thence proceed southerly along said edge to the point of beginning.

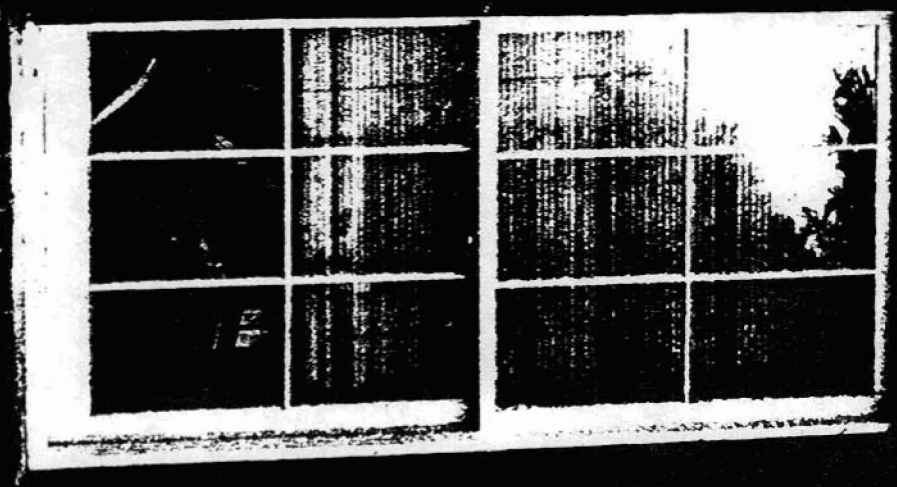
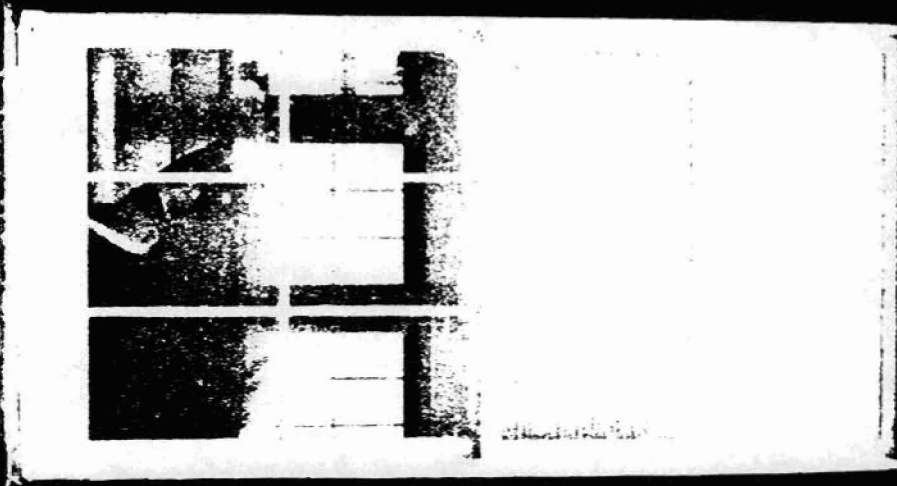




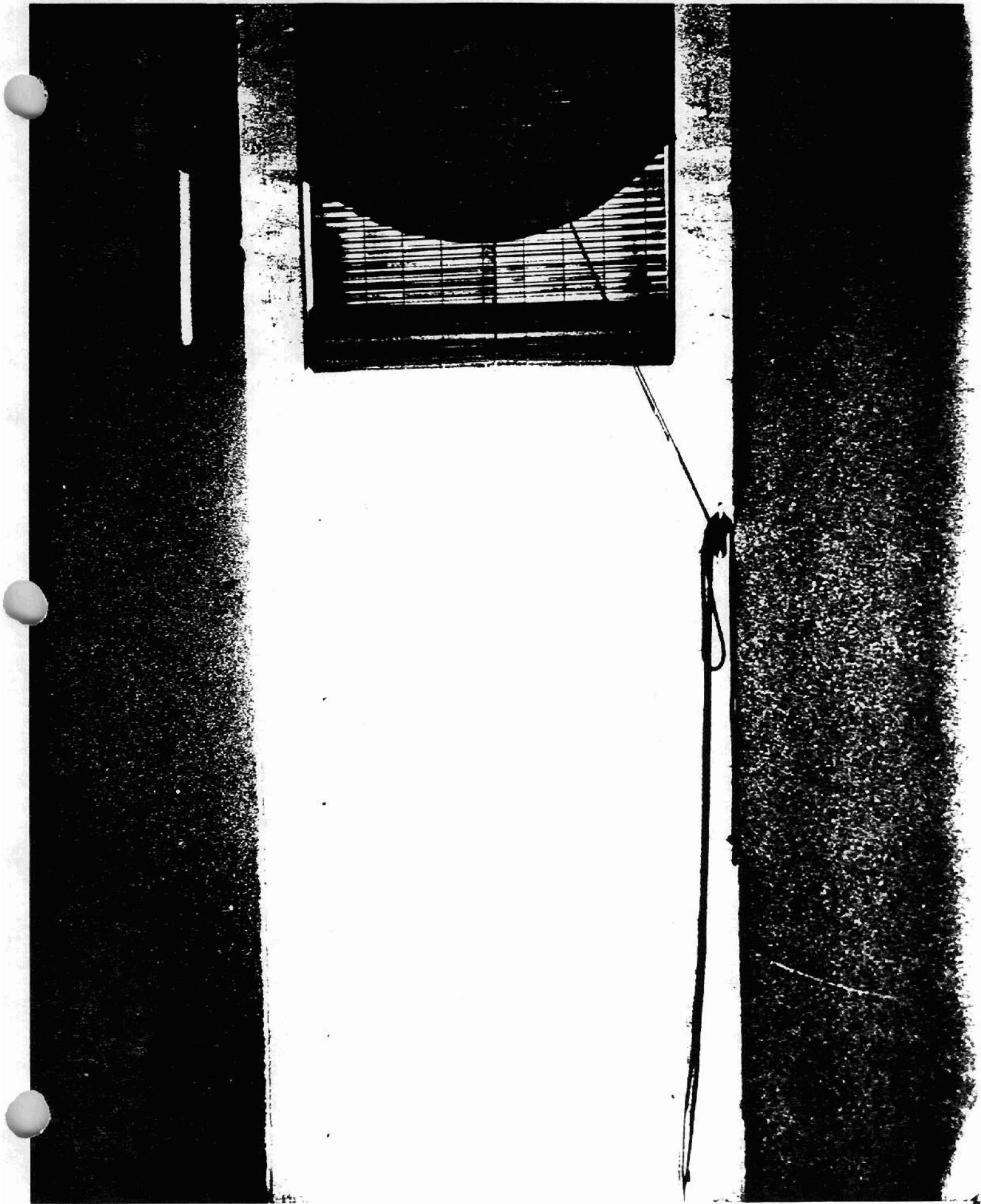


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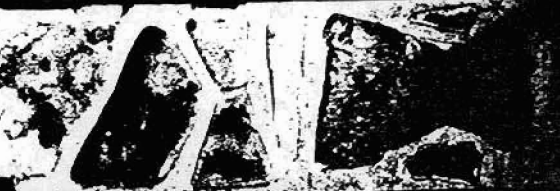


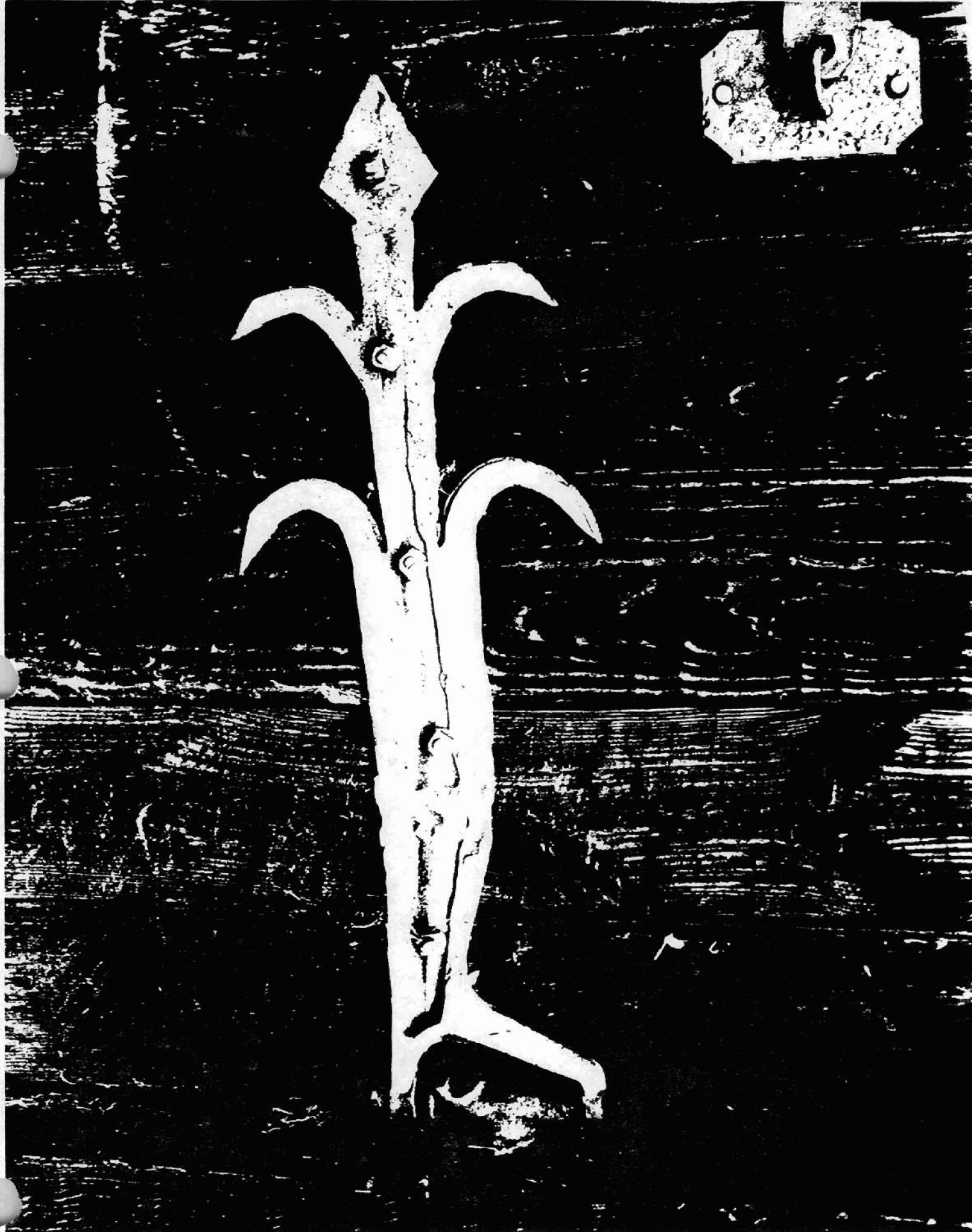


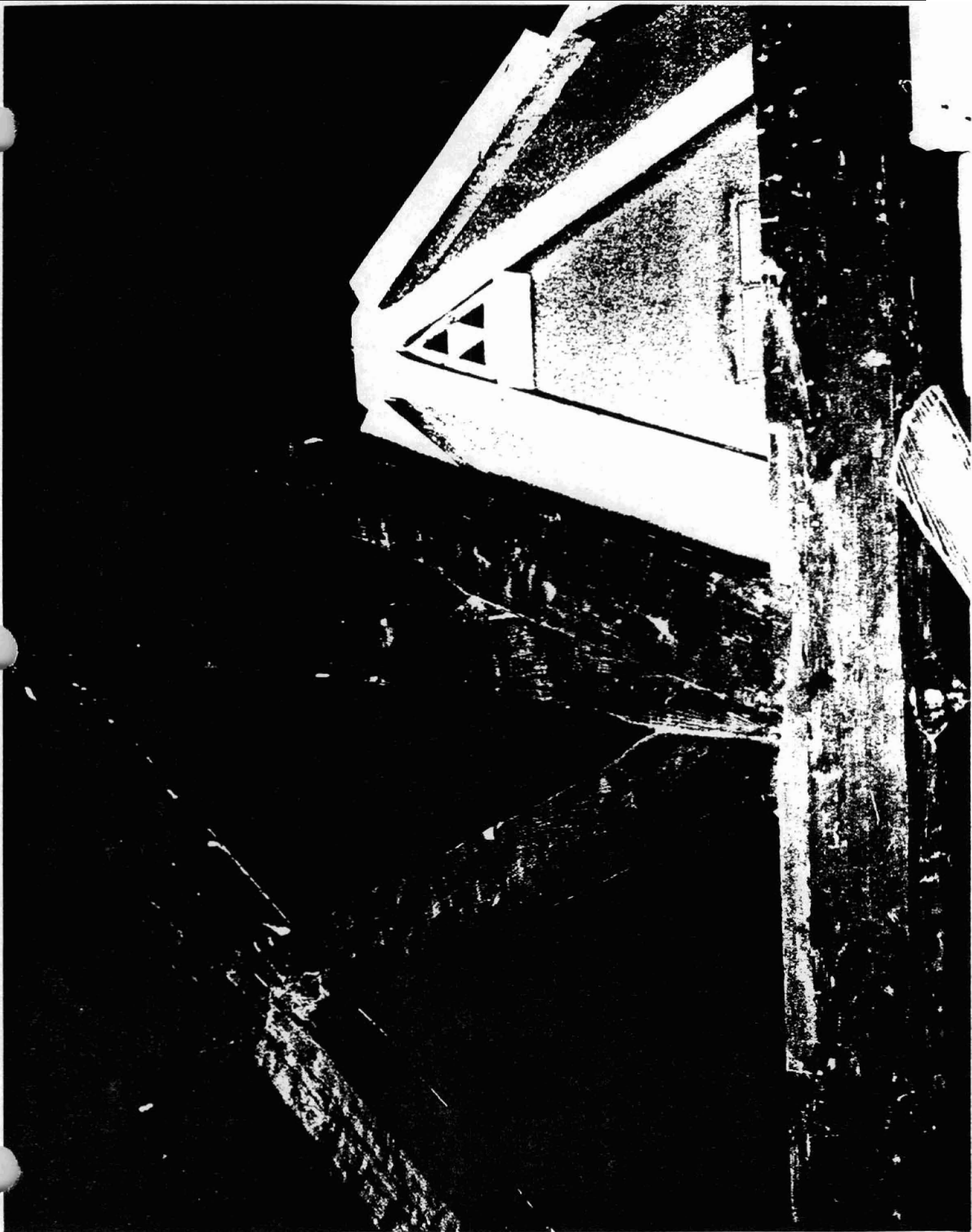




WALL
WALL

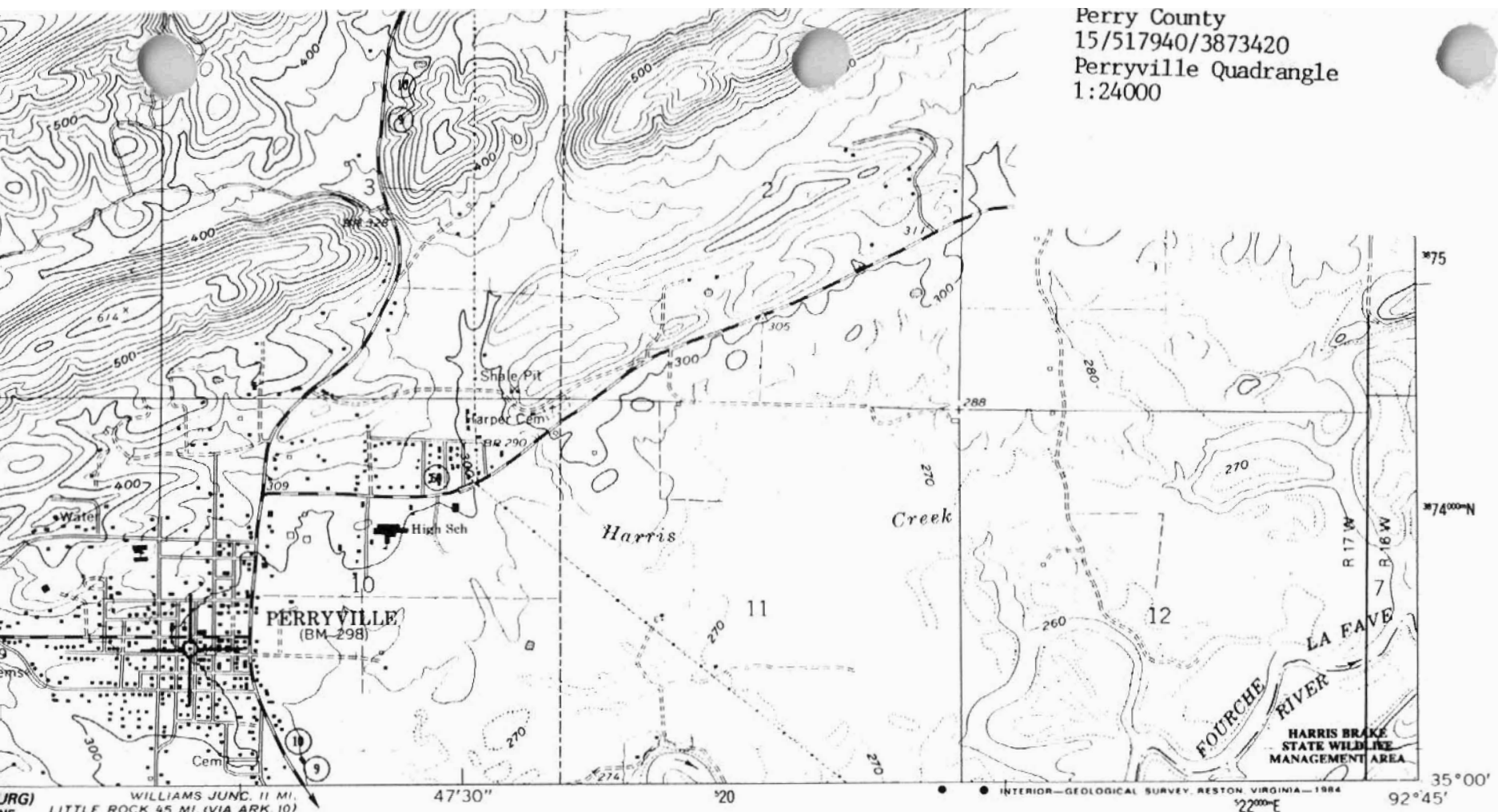




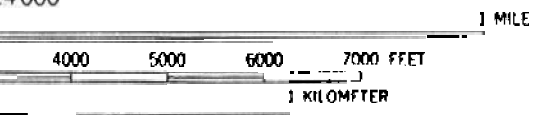




Perry County
 15/517940/3873420
 Perryville Quadrangle
 1:24000



WILLIAMS JUNC. 11 MI. NE
 LITTLE ROCK 45 MI. (VIA ARK. 10)



VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
 ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- () Interstate Route
- [] U. S. Route
- () State Route

MARTINDALE
 7453 I NW

PERRYVILLE, ARK.
 35092-A7-TF-024

1961
 PHOTOREVISED 1984
 DMA 7454 III SE SERIES V884