

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NR LISTED
JUL 23 1998
AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Sailor House, C.L.

Other Name/Site Number: PEO073

2. Location

Street & Number: Wilson Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Bigelow

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Perry

Code: AR105 Zip Code: 72016

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	Objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation 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.

Cathryn A. Sater 6-15-98
Signature of certifying official 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

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6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current : Domestic Sub: Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Colonial Revival
Craftsman

Materials: Foundation Stone/Brick Roof Composition Shingles
walls Brick other Composition Shingles

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

The Sailor House is located at the intersection of Wilson and Wiley Streets, just south of the Bigelow High School in Bigelow, Faulkner County. Pasture land and a small pond surround the two-story Craftsman-Colonial Revival-style home. The plan is irregular with a cross-gable roof and a modern, shed-roofed addition on the rear elevation. Wall materials are brick and composition shingles on a stone foundation. The raised wraparound porch features paneled posts, paneled architraves and half-walls resting on brick piers. There are forty-nine windows of varying styles and sizes with brick sills. The Sailor House has seen several owners since its construction in 1917 and has fallen into disrepair over the years. John Jordan, the current owner, is in the process of restoring the house to its original condition. There have been changes in access to the front porch and the addition of a deck and a den to the rear of the building.

Elaboration

The front, or northern, elevation contains the basement entrance set in the stone foundation. A brick walled sidewalk leads to a fifteen-light French door flanked by two short one-over-one double-hung wooden windows. The window on the east is barred and the window on the west is covered with a sheet of faux stone. The raised wraparound porch rests on seven brick piers. A staircase with central landing, reached from the porch by two wood steps, has wooden stick balustrades and square newel posts with round newel caps. Two seven-tread staircases extend east and west from the landing. A concrete pad on stone marks the spot where the original staircase ended in the front, central section of the porch. The pad is carved with the name of the home's

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original owner, C.L. Sailor, and the 1917 date of construction. Each corner of the concrete pad is beveled. The porch floor is tongue and groove and the ceiling is beaded board. Seven square posts support a wide two-part entablature with paneled detail. This detailing appears on the inside of the entablature as well. The square porch supports have one recessed panel per side and thin molding at the height of the wooden stick balustrade makes the post appear to rest on a separate square pier. The centered front door features a beveled glass panel, three-pane beveled glass transom and beveled sidelights. There are six four-over-one double-hung windows, a ribbon of three to the east and three to the west of the front door. A screened door with a transom leads to a screened-in porch that extends down the western elevation to a two story bay. Two screened openings on either side of the door rest on a paneled wooden half-wall.

Above the porch roof, a small square screened-in porch is centered in the second-story gable. The porch is supported by square paneled wooden posts, and the east and west walls slope upward to meet the gable. A single light door within the porch leads into the front bedroom. Two double-hung windows open to the east and west of the door. The ceiling and walls are beaded board and the floor is pine. The gable wall surrounding the porch is partially covered with grey composition shingles.

The western elevation slopes upward to the south, exposing a small double-hung window in the basement. The northwest corner of the porch is spanned by a section of stick balusters that ends at a screened-in porch on a paneled half-wall that reaches to a bay. The balusters enclose an opening that formerly held a staircase. Another beveled concrete and stone pad holding the name of the owner and construction date of the home is found in the yard where the staircase would have ended. A ribbon of three double-hung windows within the porch lights the living room. The north side of the bay holds a modern fifteen-light French door. The northwest and southwest sides have one double-hung window each. The central section of the bay has a similar window that is wider. The south section features another shorter double-hung window. To the south of the bay is a small porch raised on two short brick piers with three posts, balustrades and new handrails like that seen on the front porch. Under the porch roof are a small square stationary window and a door with one central window. Three wooden steps end at a third engraved concrete pad. A modern deck with wooden handrails has been appended to the southwest section of the original back porch. Half the deck is covered by a shed roof supported by two square, wooden posts. A modern, one-story, weatherboard addition extends from the original rear wall under the shed roof of the deck. Two one-over-one metal double-hung windows are placed to the left and right of a modern French door.

The second-story gable to the north is partially shingled and battered with a small one-light casement window to the north of paired double-hung windows. The upstairs section of the bay is only fenestrated on three sides. The central, western section holds a wide, six-beside-six casement window. The southwest and northwest sections hold two smaller three-beside-three casement windows under boxed, bead-board eaves. The bay terminates with a battered, composition shingled pediment beneath a wide open eaved gable roof.

The rear, or southern, elevation has been altered with a modern addition. Under the shade of the deck porch are two original double-hung windows in a

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portion of the original brick facade. The rear wall of the addition holds two long evenly spaced modern double-hung windows. To the east of the addition is a square one-light stationary window set in the brick wall.

The upstairs gable is completely shingled to the first-story roof line. A small, oblong stationary window is tucked into the southwest slope of the gable beside a thin, brick chimney. In the center of the gable is a six-beside-six casement window.

The eastern elevation's stone foundation slopes up to the south and ends behind a one-story bay. At this point the brick wall continues to the ground. A short one-over-one double-hung window topped by a brick segmental arch opens into the basement. A single double-hung window is to the north of the single-story bay. The bay features cutaway eaves and a battered, shingled pediment beneath a gable roof like that seen on the second story of the western bay. The three sections of the bay are fenestrated and two double-hung windows are placed to the south. A one-light stationary window is located on the southwest corner of the house.

The second-story gable is centered with paired double-hung windows flanked by two square one-light casement windows to the north and south. The gable is shingled and battered in the style of the northern and western gable, but the southern half is covered in brown composition shingle that is believed to be original wall material.

The basement has recently been renovated to provide rental space. The walls and ceiling have been covered in sheetrock but the original supporting timbers are exposed through the covering on the ceiling. The center of the room is taken up by the brick chimney of the fireplace.

The main floor features a central hall, wide baseboards, and four and 1/4" crown molding. The walls and ceilings in the foyer are covered in beaver board. A pine dog-leg staircase with square newel posts and turned spindles leads to the second story. All hardware on the windows and original paneled doors retain the 1917 hardware. All of the second-story rooms have five to eight side walls, there are no square rooms. Beaded board closets in the four bedrooms are lighted with casement windows and the closet ceilings follow the angles of the gable valleys.

The two outbuildings on the property are a modern, corrugated-metal garage with a gable roof to the northeast of the house, and a small open shed-roofed, wood-frame shelter for the horses in the field to the south of the house. Both are noncontributing.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) N/A

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Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1917

Significant Dates: 1917

Significant Person(s): C.L. Sailor

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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

Summary

The Sailor House located on Wilson Road in Bigelow, Faulkner County, is situated in pasture land among a small rural neighborhood of modern and mobile homes behind the Bigelow High School. A gravel drive leads past a pond and a small field to the front of the Sailor House which is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B with local significance for its association with C.L. Sailor, general manager of Fourche River Lumber company, president of the Bigelow State Bank and owner /operator of two newspapers. It is also being nominated under Criterion C with local significance for its eclectic blend of the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles of architecture.

Elaboration

The city of Bigelow is located in eastern Perry County between the Fourche LaFave and Arkansas rivers. The Sailor House is a reminder of the early twentieth century glory days of this small town. In 1833 a group of German immigrants led by Gustave Carl Frederick Wilhelm Klingelhoffer reached Little Rock. The group made the town their base while searching for new home sites along the Arkansas River. In 1833 the land along the Fourche LaFave caught the eye of Mr. Klingelhoffer so he persuaded some members of the colony to join him in his move up the river two miles west of Perryville. He operated a ferry across the Fourche until 1856 when he moved a few miles to a small mountain overlooking the river. Others joined him there in beginning a new settlement called Esau.

After the Civil War, Esau was a sleepy agricultural settlement with a few businesses until the railroad came to Perry County. Rail traffic provided the impetus for a commercial and population boom with an emphasis on the lumber industry. The first saw mill was built by Prichard Niemeyer in 1900 on the

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banks of the Fourche. The Bryant Lumber Company opened not long after, and in 1902 the Fourche River Lumber Company was in operation. Over the next eighteen years people poured into the county to work in the lumber industry. The need for worker housing spawned a company town of gray buildings and houses; hence the name Graytown.

Eventually people began moving closer to the railroad and away from the old area of Esau until it was finally deserted. The settlement of new homes and businesses inherited the name Esau. In 1905 a local group petitioned for incorporation as a city and the growth began. A large hotel was at the vanguard of new construction. Three other hotels and a number of boarding houses followed. Churches and stores were constructed to preach to the patrons of the hardware store, jewelry store, drug store and barber shop. By 1910 the local newspaper, "The Citizen's Press" and the U.S. Telephone Exchange improved the lines of communication between the 10,000 inhabitants of the new Esau.

By 1911 the sawmill's influence on the town was entrenched. The citizens of Esau requested that the State's General Assembly change the name of the town to Bigelow in honor of N.P. Bigelow, second president of the Fourche River Lumber Company. Residents emboldened by the power of the mills petitioned for transferral of the county seat from Perryville to Bigelow in 1914. Confident in the outcome of a 1915 county election, \$5,000.00 and land for a court house was donated to the cause. Bigelow was the victor by 12 votes but the results were contested and the county seat remained in Perryville.

The halcyon days ended with the closure of the Fourche River Lumber Company in 1921. Hundreds of families were suddenly left with no source of income and were forced to move to new lumber camps. The decline in population consequently affected the merchants who either closed their businesses or moved elsewhere. Today, Bigelow has few commercial businesses and a much smaller population than that of the turn of the century. Most residents travel several miles to work in neighboring towns. Nothing is left of Graytown and the sawmills, but the Sailor house serves as a reminder of the days when the streets were lined with merchants, hotels, a theater and an opera house.

The Sailor House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B with local significance for its connection with C.L. Sailor and his role in the growth of Bigelow. As the general manager of the Fourche River Lumber Company, president of the Bigelow bank and owner/operator of two newspapers, Sailor contributed greatly to the social and economic structure of Bigelow at the turn of the century. The house he built is a unique example of an eclectic blend of Craftsman-Colonial Revival architecture that has no equal in Bigelow. Thus, the Sailor house is also being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

- Flack, Clyde, Crist, Mrs. Frank, and Eugene Crist. "History of Esau and Bigelow, Perry County Arkansas." undated manuscript.
- Jordan, John. "Narrative on the Significance of Placing the Sailor House on the National Register of Historic Places." submitted with National Register application, February, 1997.
- "Living the Times . . . 1776-1976 A Bicentennial Tribute to Perry County." Compiled by Heritage Committee Members. "Bigelow": pp. 40-47

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>533500</u>	<u>3872400</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the eastern edge of Wilson Road with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation and located 100 feet to the north thereof, proceed easterly along the latter line for a distance of 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's eastern elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of 200 feet to its

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intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line to its intersection with a line running along the eastern edge of Wilson Road; thence proceed northerly along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Sailor House.

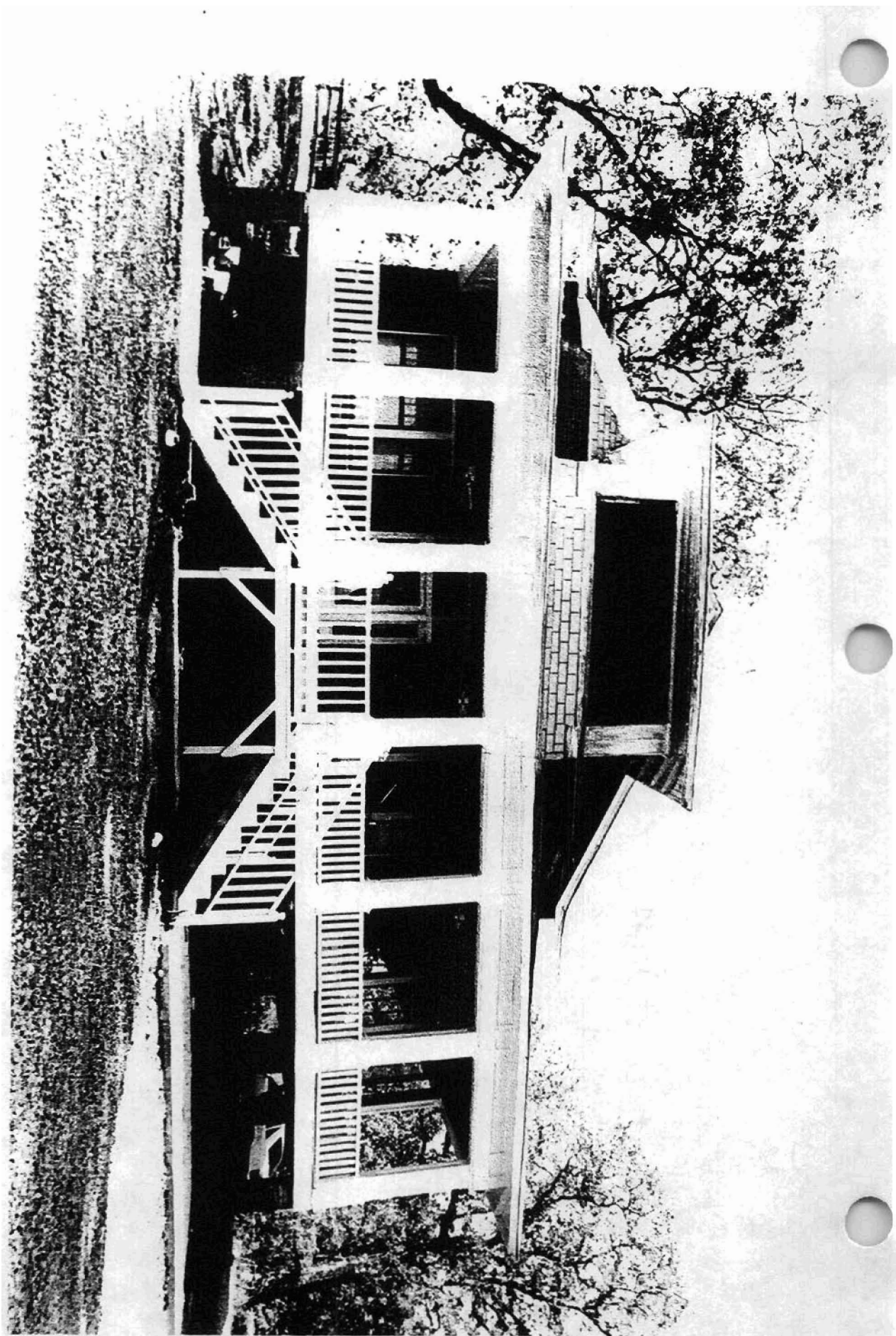
11. Form Prepared By

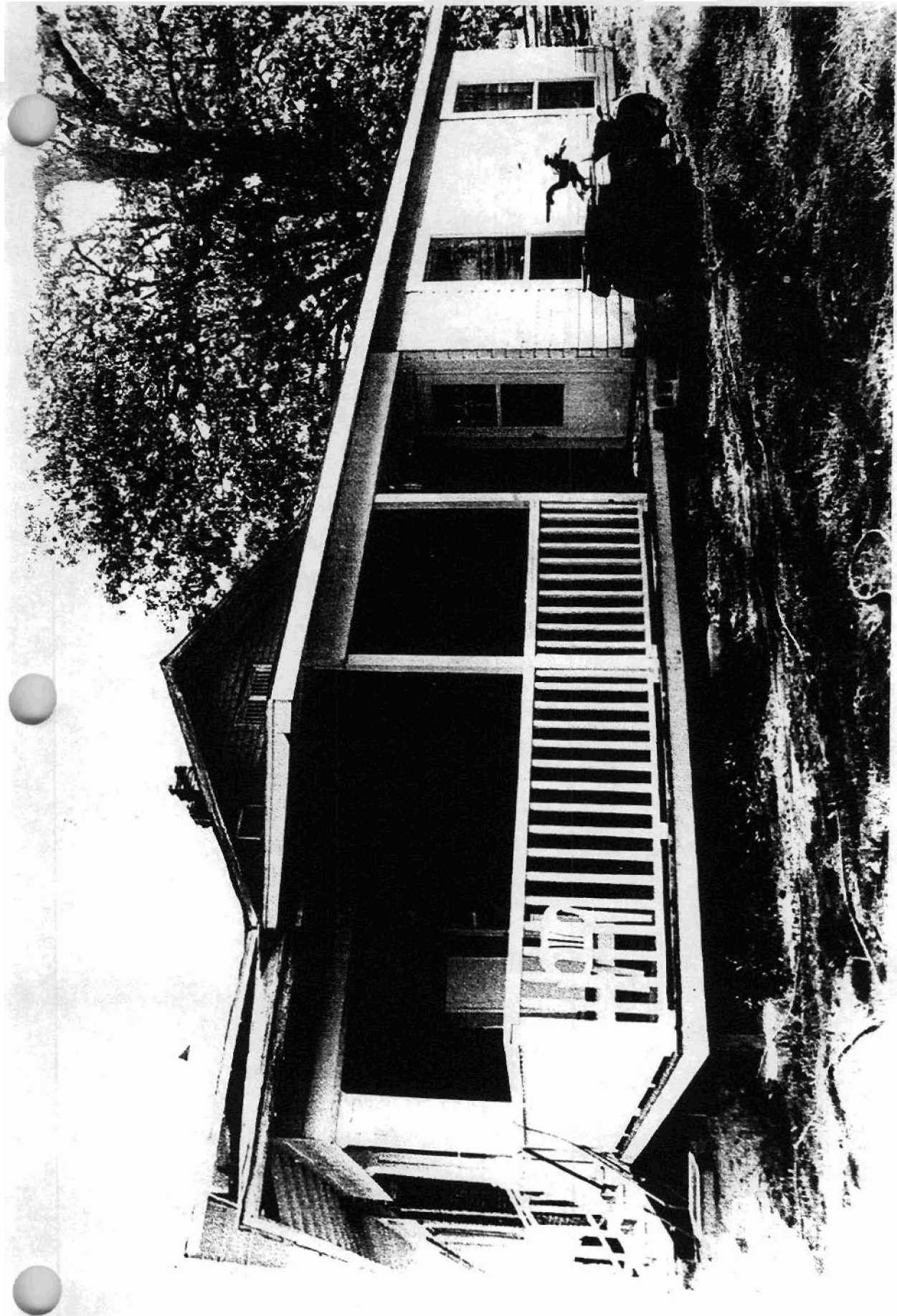
Name/Title: Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 04/05/98

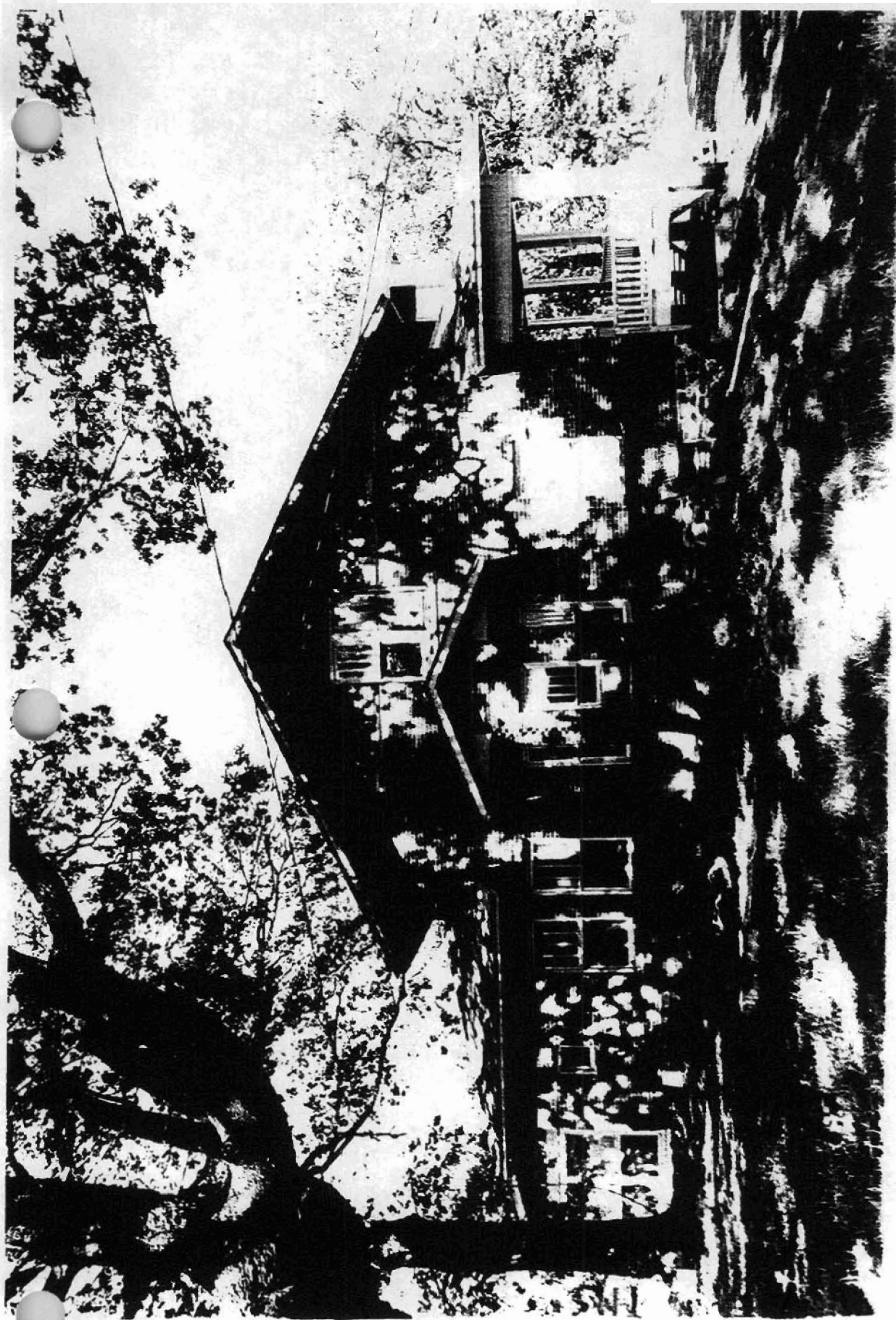
Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

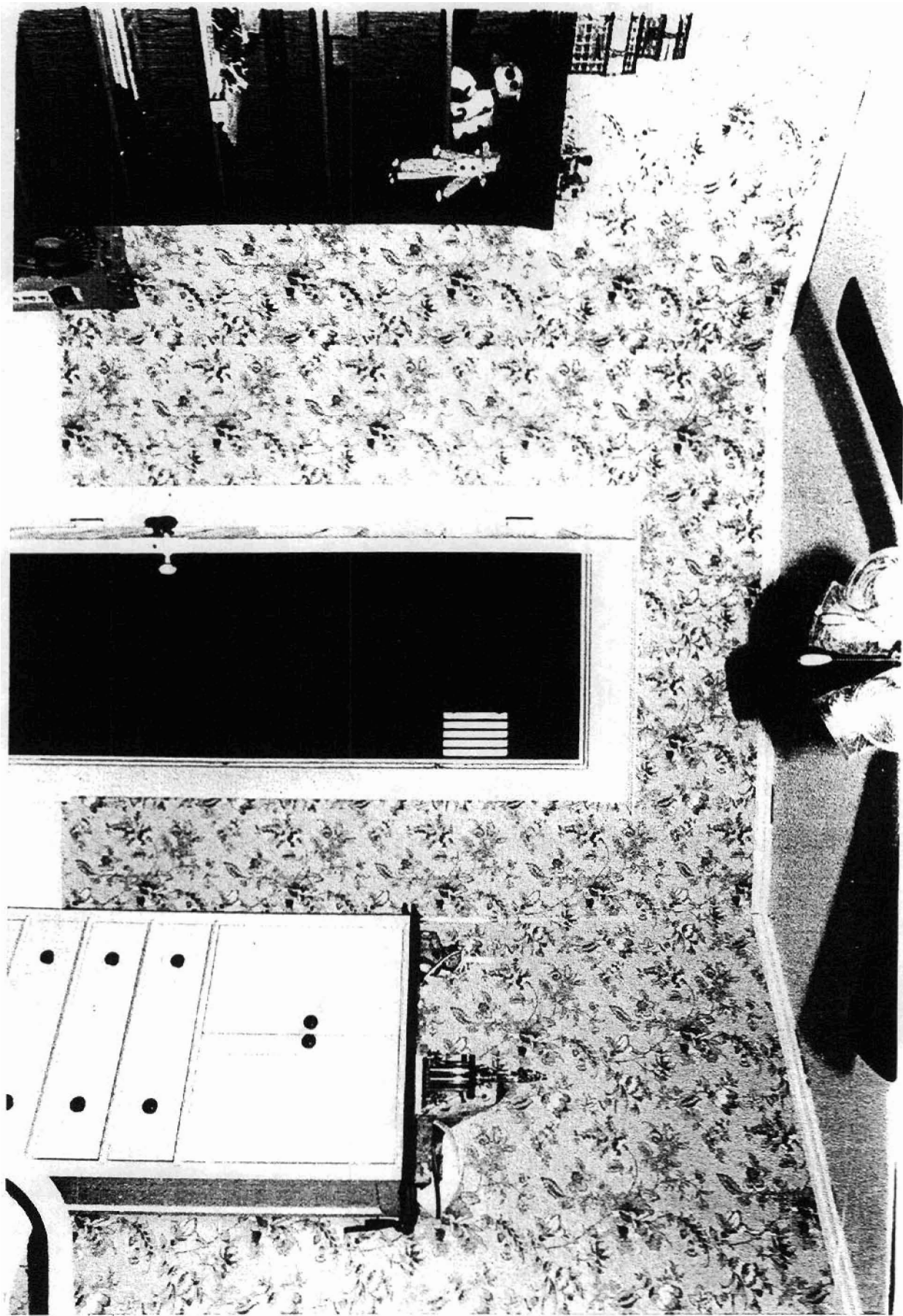
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



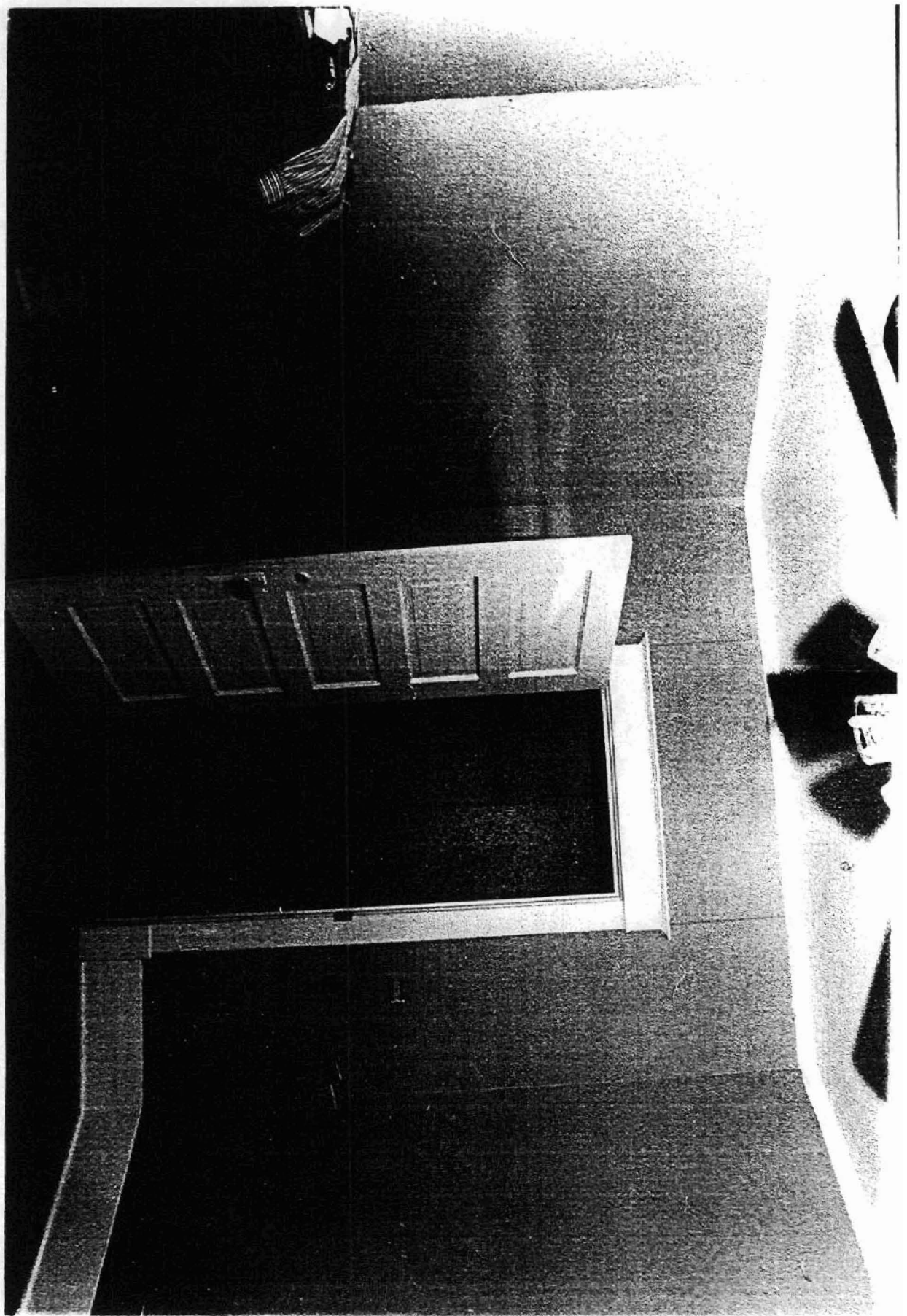


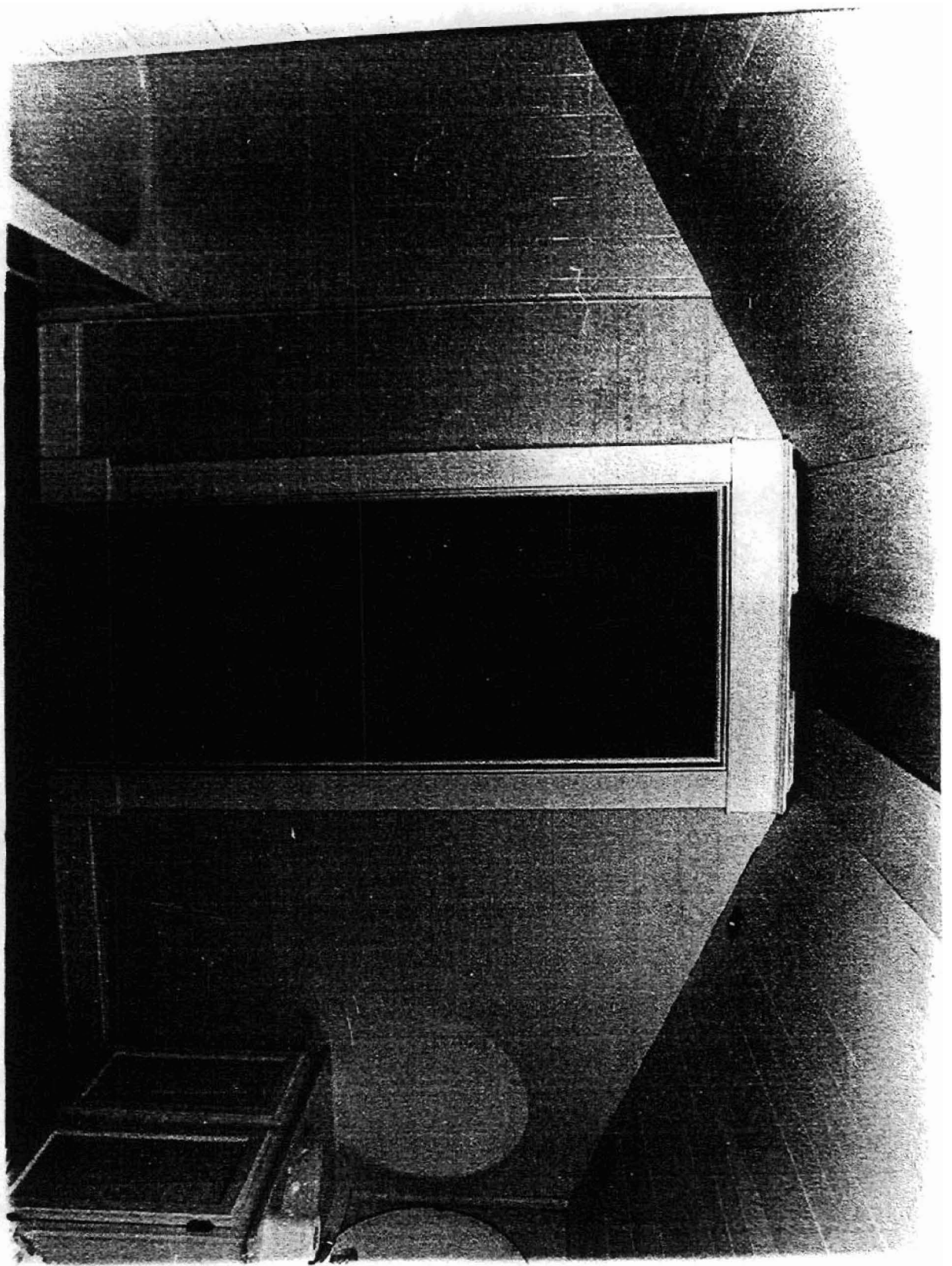


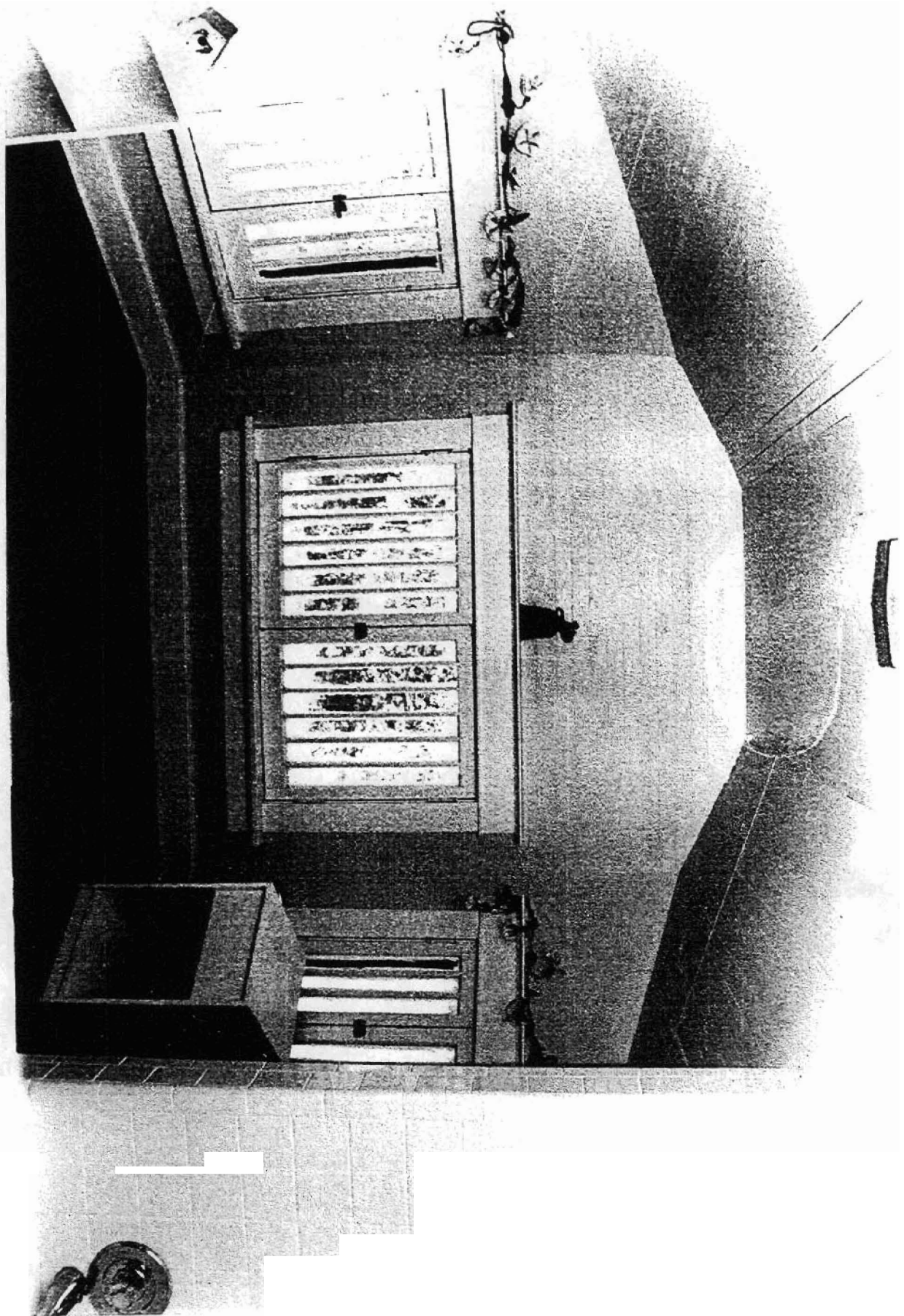


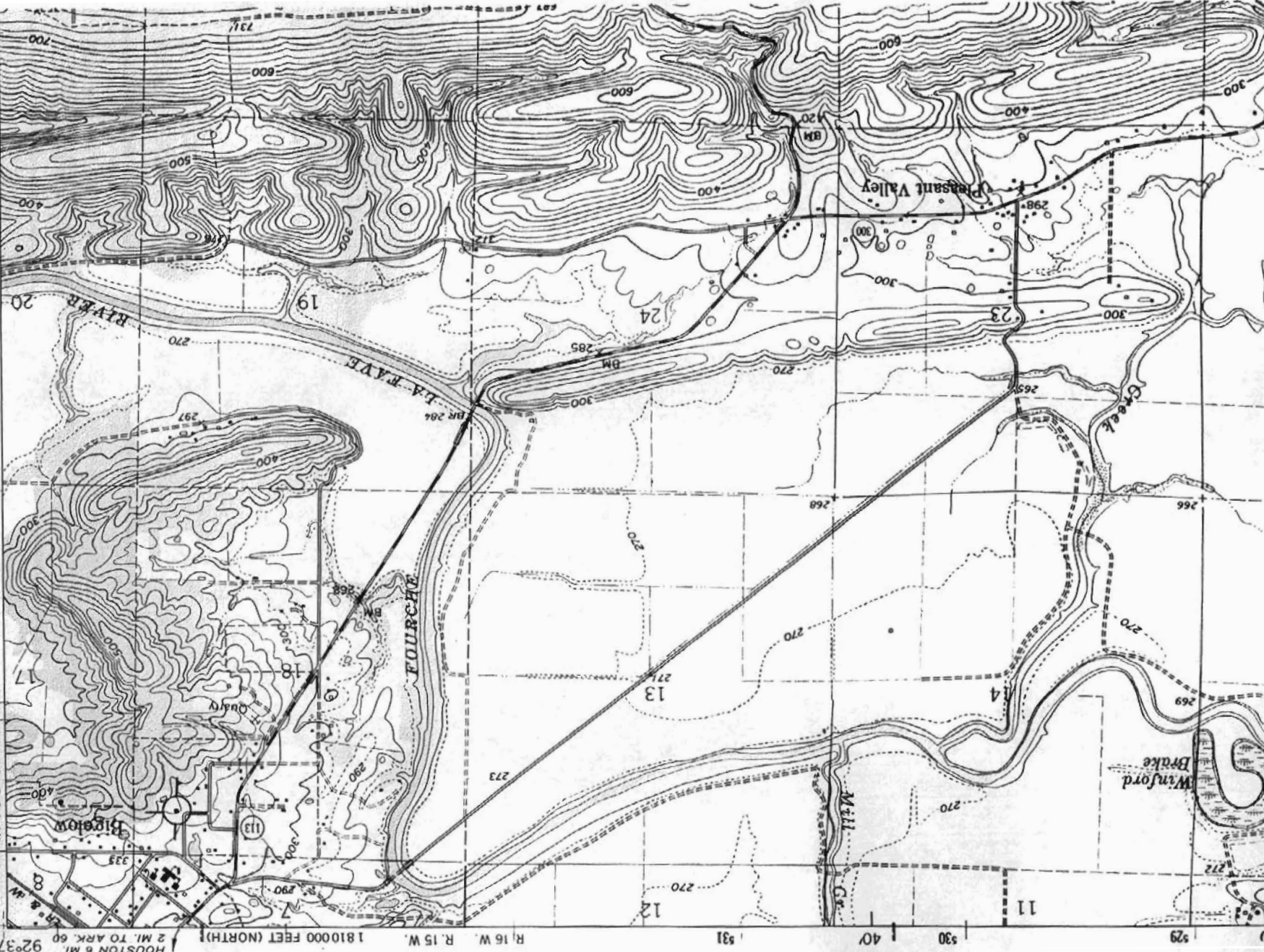












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