

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

historic name: Runyan, J. P., House

other name/site number: Shinpaugh, Joseph, House

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2. Location

street & number: 1514 South Schiller

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Little Rock

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Pulaski code: AR 119 zip code: 72202

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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
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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 A. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

7-13-92
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

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5. National Park Service Certification
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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

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic Multiple Dwelling
Current : Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description  
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Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt  
walls Weatherboard other Wood

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: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture  
Politics/Government  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1901- 1907

Significant Dates: 1901

Significant Person(s): Little, John Sebastian  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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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X 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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Acreege of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Table with 4 columns: A, B, C, D. Values include 15, 564390, 3843770.

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

The South 37.5 feet of Lot. 35 and the North 32.5 feet of Lot 36, Block 20, Allis and Dickinson Supplement to the Centennial Addition, to the City of Little Rock, Arkansas, and the East 20.0 feet of Lot 4, W. M. Stannis Subdivision of Block 28, McDonald and Wheeler's Addition to the City of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with th resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By  
=====

Name/Title: Lori Gunnell, Student: University of Arkansas at Little Rock  
Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 07/09/92

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

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1**Summary**

The Runyan House is a one-and-a-half story residence designed in the Classical Revival style of architecture. A continuous brick foundation supports the weatherboard-clad, balloon-frame structure that is covered by a composition-shingled, dual-pitched hipped roof with a bellcast flare. The roof is punctuated by four gabled dormers, with one on each elevation, a projecting cross gable on the southern elevation, and two interior brick chimneys on the northern and southern elevations.

**Elaboration**

The Runyan House is a one-and-a-half story residence designed in the Classical Revival style of architecture. A continuous brick foundation supports the balloon-frame structure that is covered by a composition-shingled, dual-pitched hipped roof with a bellcast flare. The structure is sheathed with white-painted 3" weatherboard and features a wood belt course that encircles the house just below the window sills. Each roof elevation is punctuated by a distinctive centrally placed gabled dormer that, in conforming with the main roofline, is also bellcast. Decorative fishscale and diamond-patterned wood shingles adorn the side walls and gable ends of the dormers. Despite the use of the wood shingles - ornamentation usually reserved for Queen Anne or Folk Victorian style buildings - a classical appearance is achieved by the use of a projecting boxed cornice (which creates a rather unusual pediment due to the bellcast roof), a wide frieze band, and fluted Ionic pilasters which flank the two one-over-one double-hung windows. The southern elevation of the roof also features a projecting cross gable bay. Like the dormers, the roof is bellcast, though the degree is not as pronounced. The gable end, defined by a projecting boxed cornice, is decorated with wood shingles in the same fishscale and diamond-shaped pattern that is found on the dormers. Otherwise, the roofline is marked by an interior brick chimney on both the northern and southern elevations (originally there was an exterior brick chimney on the northwest face of the structure; however, because of its advanced state of deterioration, the chimney was removed during a 1987 kitchen remodeling).

The front, or eastern elevation, is composed of a full facade, inset porch supported by twelve Classical Revival columns and two semi-circular pilasters of the same design. Paired columns flank the stoop, whereas a cluster of three columns is utilized to define the two corners. The columns, of which only the upper halves are fluted, feature Ionic capitals and rest upon unusual pedestals that form, and define the height of, the porch balustrade. Simple stick balusters, interrupted by two symmetrically placed diamond-shaped wood ornament, compose the remainder of the balustrade. Above the columns, a classical entablature encompasses the entire house. Four sets of tripled brackets

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(which actually resemble elongated modillions) adorn the wide, boxed eave along this elevation. The centrally placed entrance consists of a single-leaf door flanked by fluted Ionic pilasters, partially glazed sidelights, and a full-length transom. The upper half of the paneled wood door is composed of a fixed glass pane surrounded by egg and dart molding. Egg and dart molding also borders the sidelights, which are almost the same dimensions as the door fenestration, and the single-pane transom, which is also decorated by a delicate drip mold. The two symmetrically placed windows, one on each side of the entrance, feature a small, rectangular hopper sash over a large, stationary single pane.

Fenestration on the southern elevation consists of eight one-over-one double-hung windows, with three located in a bevelled bay covered by the aforementioned projecting cross-gable bay. The easternmost windows are decorated with delicate drip molds. Two sets of tripled brackets are placed at the eastern end of this elevation, and two sets are located underneath the projecting cross-gable bay.

The rear, or western, elevation of the house has been altered considerably since the house was constructed. Originally, the building had a central hall running from the front to the back, with a matching central door, transom, and sidelights on each end. An enclosed kitchen was located at the northwest corner and an open sun porch comprised the remainder of the elevation. An exterior double staircase provided access to the second-story ballroom. Subsequent owners enclosed the sun porch, creating one large living space open to the kitchen. In 1941 the owner, Joseph Shinpaugh, remodeled the house to convert it into rental units. He removed the exterior staircase and reconstructed a similar staircase on the interior. A bathroom was added behind the new staircase, an addition which separated the hall from the back of the house. Shinpaugh also opened up the ceiling over the central hall and put in additional bathrooms and kitchen units throughout the house. When Fred and Ethel Ambrose purchased the house in 1982, they proceeded to revert much of the house back to its original appearance. They removed the bathrooms and additional walls installed by Shinpaugh; however, they left the downstairs bathroom, the interior staircase, and the skylight, which was installed in the 1930's after a flue fire damaged part of the roof. The skylight does not affect the integrity of the roofline. The Ambroses also installed an old door which was part of the original carriage house to the west elevation of the building and it now serves as a rear door. The rear door, though of a different style (multiple-pane/paneled), is consistent with the time period in which the house was built.

An enclosed service porch, added at some point during Shinpaugh's ownership, projects from the northern elevation at the western end and is the only other substantial exterior alteration to the original form of the exterior. The porch is

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clad with 3 " weatherboard that is identical to that used on the original house; is lighted by a similar one-over-one double-hung window; features a wide, compatible frieze band; and is circumscribed by a continuation of the main house's belt course. The remainder of the elevation is fenestrated by four one-over-one double-hung windows, with paired windows crowned by a single drip mold adjacent to the service porch and two single windows with drip molds placed to the east. Three sets of the tripled brackets adorn this elevation.

With the exception of the aforementioned interior alterations to the rear of the house, the interior retains the majority of its original decoration. Finely crafted oak and hardwood inlaid floors, with a different pattern in each of the rooms (the central foyer and the two rooms of each side bay), have been restored. The original doors and door and window moldings, fluted with paterae, remain intact, and virtually all of the original light fixtures, window pulls, and ceiling lamps, all constructed of solid brass, have survived. The wood-carved, classical-inspired mantels of the adjoining rooms of the south bay are original, as is the similar mantel of the northeast room of the north bay.

Also original and intact are the carriage stone in front of the house, which bears the name of Runyan, and the cast iron, gas street lamp on the east side, in front of the facade.

There are two noncontributing structures on the property, an apartment and connected work shed where the carriage house was located. The apartment was built in the 1940's to house the Shinpaugh's maid and the shed is probably somewhat older. Both are constructed of white-painted, 3 " weatherboard like the house, but are of no particular merit.



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## Summary

The J. P. Runyan House is being nominated under Criteria B and C with local significance. Under Criterion C, the Runyan House is locally significant as one of the best examples in the Central High Neighborhood of the Classical Revival style of architecture. The house is also locally significant under Criterion B as the temporary residence of former governor of Arkansas, John Sebastian Little, who unexpectedly suffered a complete mental and physical collapse only two days after assuming the office.

## Elaboration

Located at 1514 South Schiller, the Runyan House is an integral part of the built environment now known as the Central High Neighborhood (the namesake school made famous during the 1957 desegregation crisis is located one block away), but originally platted in 1877 as the Centennial Addition to the City of Little Rock. The Centennial Addition, previously the estate of Benjamin Johnson who died in 1851, is comprised of 160 acres extending west from the original city to half way between Schiller and Park Avenue, and from 12th Street to Wright Street. On April 6, 1877 the Chancery Court divided the land into blocks and named it the **Centennial Addition**. This area developed into a prestigious neighborhood, with fine homes and a large park, West End Park, where the city's people would congregate for walks, picnics or to listen to music played in the large pavilion located there. By 1887, the nine blocks surrounding the park were still vacant.

R. W. Porter purchased the land of the present site of the Runyan House in 1894. He sold the lot to Joseph P. Runyan, a surgeon from Columbia, Arkansas, on November 20, 1900. Judging from the Real Estate Tax Records of Pulaski County, Runyan built his home in 1901 and took residence the following year. Joseph P. Runyan would become a prominent citizen in Little Rock, establishing a respectable practice and, in 1915, becoming the sole owner of Saint Luke's Hospital. He also served for a time as the President of the Arkansas State Board of Health and was active in many private and community organizations. He remained in the house on Schiller until 1906, at which time he rented the property to the Governor of Arkansas, John Sebastian Little, who lived there less than a year.

In subsequent years the residents of the house declined in status, not an uncommon phenomenon as wealthier tenants and owners abandoned their older homes for newer ones in the suburbs.

When the house was purchased from Runyan in 1921 by Dr. James S. Martin and his wife, Una, it was being rented by a bookkeeper, George C. Wallace. The

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Martins lived in the house from 1928 to 1931, when James Martin died and his daughter Mildred and her Husband Ira Stanton became the sole residents. The property had been transferred to Ira Stanton in 1924 by the Martins and was later transferred from Ira to his wife Mildred in 1941.

The same day that the property was transferred to Mildred Stanton, it was sold by Mildred to Joseph Shinpaugh for \$1.00 in exchange for ten acres of farmland on the outskirts of the city. The Shinpaughs retained ownership of the property until 1979. Joe Shinpaugh converted the house into six rental units, which he rented, and his son, Joe Jr., after him, until John Robben purchased the property in October of 1979. Robben sold the house soon after to William Lane, who in turn sold the property to the current owners, Fred and Ethel Ambrose, on March 10, 1982. Since the Runyan House had been somewhat altered over the years and suffered from general deterioration, the Ambroses moved into the maid's house (built by the Shinpaugh's in the 1940s) and proceeded to repair and restore the house as much as possible to its original condition.

Today, the Runyan House is an exemplary representative of the Classical Revival style of architecture. The Classical Revival style originated from the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. Although the World's Fair, originally conceived to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' discovery of America, exhibited a few new technological and scientific inventions (the original Ferris wheel and Edison's kinoscope for example), the chief marvel of the exposition was its architecture. The leading architects and firms of the day, notably R. M. Hunt, McKim, Mead and White, Frederick Law Olmsted and Peabody and Stearns designed monumental exhibit buildings, with some reflecting pure Beaux Arts styling and others depicting a more restrained, Roman classicism. The collection, dubbed the "White City style" (though only the Court of Honor buildings and the Palace of Fine Arts truly qualify for this designation), was widely photographed, reported, and attended. Soon, the Classical Revival style, employing far less ornament than the Beaux Arts style, became the latest fashion throughout the nation. The style evolved into a very eclectic style with Early Classical Revival (also known as Roman Revival or Jeffersonian Classicism), Greek Revival and even Georgian and Adam styles providing inspiration.

In Arkansas, the style became popular beginning at the turn of the century and was utilized primarily for public buildings. The few private residences in Little Rock that were constructed in the Classical Revival style were usually large, architect-designed houses derived from either the Greek Revival or Jeffersonian Classicism styles. More often, classical elements were incorporated in Colonial Revival designs or onto Plain Traditional forms. In fact, houses which are commonly classified as, and certainly intended by their architect or builder to be, "Colonial Revival" are usually based on an asymmetrical Queen Anne plan of either one or two stories and feature such decorative elements as: classical

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columns, Palladian windows, dentil courses, boxed cornice returns, brackets, and a doorway surrounded by a transom (or fanlight) and sidelights.

The Runyan House is distinguished from the aforementioned Colonial Revival idiom by the intention of the unknown builder to create a true Classical Revival-styled residence. The structure features a recessed, full facade front porch supported by clusters of Ionic columns, a symmetrically balanced front elevation with a central doorway flanked by Ionic pilasters, boxed eaves adorned with elongated, modillion-type brackets with a wide frieze and architrave band underneath, symmetrical placement of the elaborate roof dormers, and decorative drip mold window crowns. Still, the Runyan House does reflect evidence of the preceding Queen Anne style of architecture in the fishscale and diamond-patterned wood shingles on the sides and in the gable ends of the dormers and the egg-and-dart molding around the front doorway. The bevelled bay on the southern elevation also contains wood shingles in the gable end, but its appearance suggests the influence of the concurrent Colonial Revival style.

With its bellcast, dual-pitched hipped roof and Ionic columns, the Runyan House is indicative of the first wave of popularity of the Classical Revival style, from about 1900 to 1920. The latter phase of the style, from about 1925 to the 1950s, emphasized side-gabled roofs and simple, slender columns.

In a neighborhood dominated by Colonial Revival and Craftsman style structures, the Runyan House is an excellent and relatively unaltered example of a style found infrequently in Little Rock and is therefore being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

The second facet of this structure's historic significance is its role as residence of the former Governor Little. It is clear from events, and from the *Little Rock City Directory*, that the unfortunate John Sebastian Little resided in the Runyan House for only a very short time (the directory reveals that the original owner, Joseph P. Runyan, resided in the house in 1906, Governor Little in 1907, and no resident in 1908). The governor probably rented the home from Runyan shortly before his inauguration in January, 1907. Little was a resident of Greenwood, Arkansas, and would have rented a home in Little Rock while serving as governor of the state. Unexpectedly, however, Little suffered a complete mental and physical collapse only two days after assuming the office, and on advice from his physician, returned home to Greenwood to recover. He left his son, Paul Little, in charge of the Governor's office, but there is no record that his son resided in the Runyan House. Little never recovered from his malaise, however, and died the following year in the Arkansas State Hospital for Nervous Diseases.

Despite the short term and unhappy circumstances of the Governor's residency in the Runyan House, it nonetheless carries the distinction of having been chosen

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as the Governor's Mansion, and the dubious distinction of Little's home when he lost his mental and physical health. For these reasons, the Runyan House is being nominated under Criterion B with local significance.

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Bibliography

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- Arkansas and its People: A History, 1541-1930*. New York: American Historical Society, 1930.
- Donovan, Timothy P. and Gatewood, Willard B., Jr. *The Governors of Arkansas*. Fayetteville, Arkansas: University of Arkansas Press, 1981.
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984.
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- Pulaski County Real Estate Deed Books. Pulaski County Courthouse. Little Rock, Arkansas: 1894-1982.
- Pulaski County Real Estate Tax Records. Arkansas History Commission. Little Rock, Arkansas: 1834-1907.
- Letter: From Joe Shinpaugh, Jr. to current owner of 1514 S. Schiller, Mrs. Ethel Ambrose (reminiscence of past years in Runyan House). 1991.





Ronyan House

Pulaski Co, Arkansas

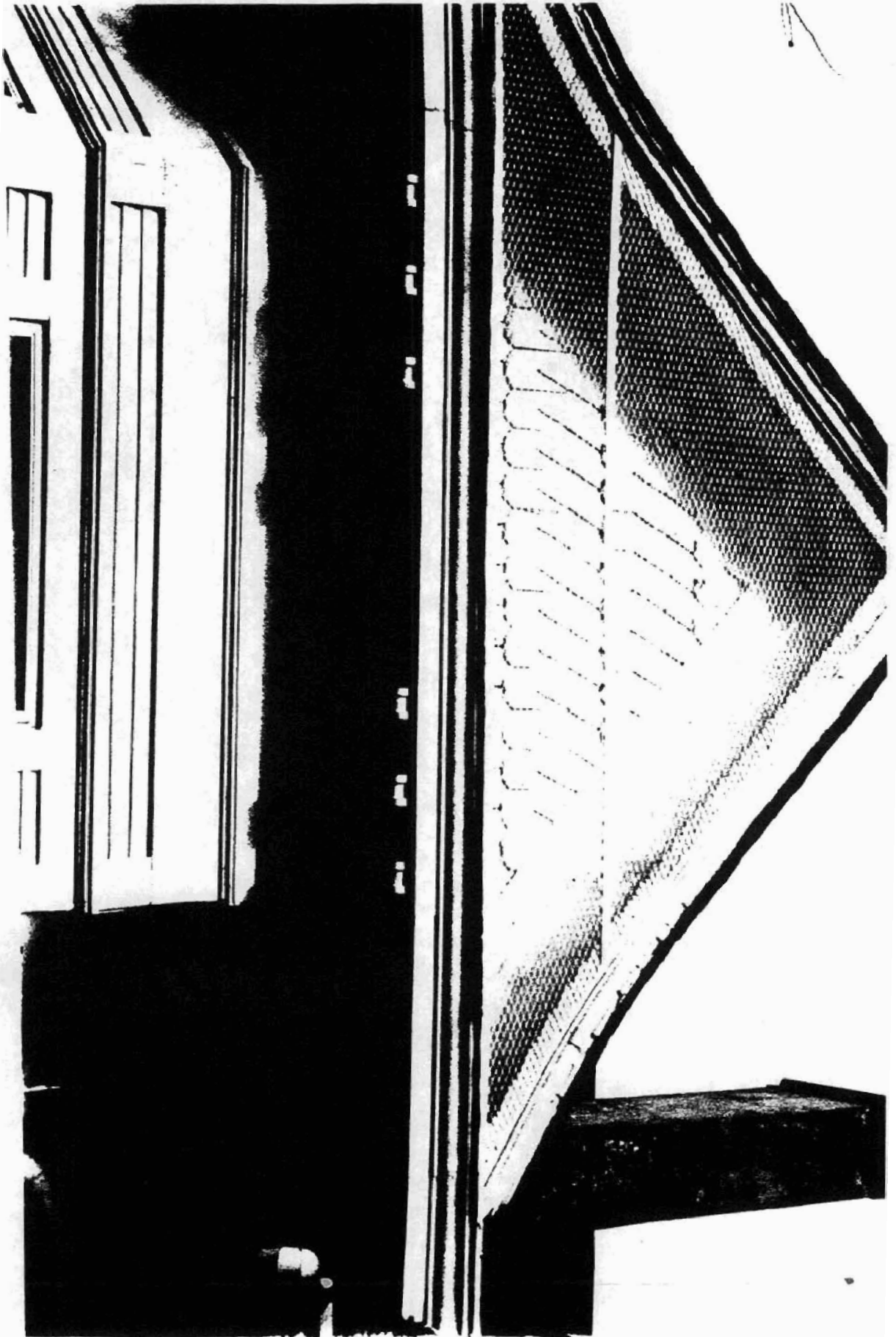
Photographed by Lee Sennell

November 1911

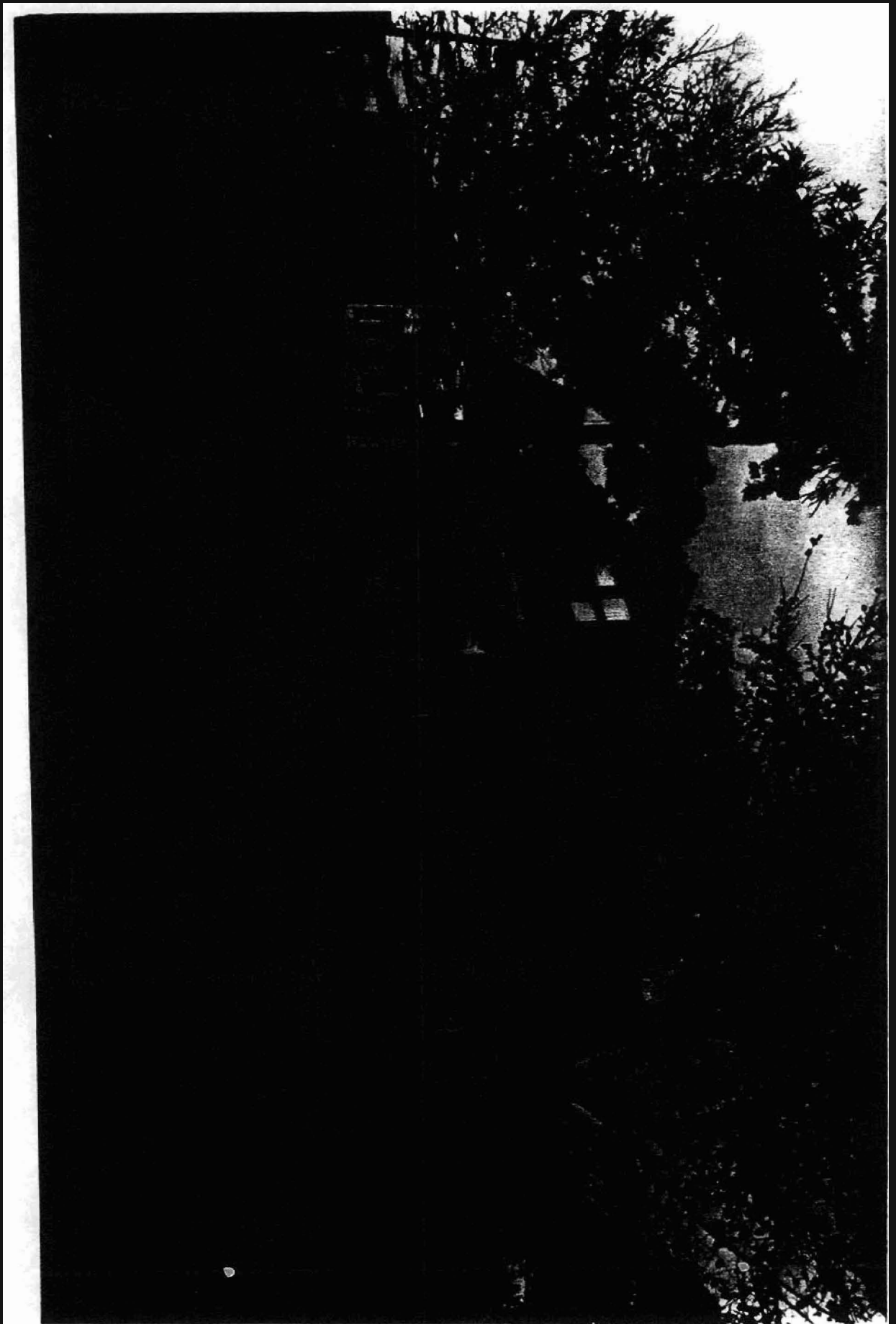
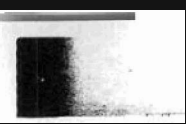
Negative in file at AHP

View from the east





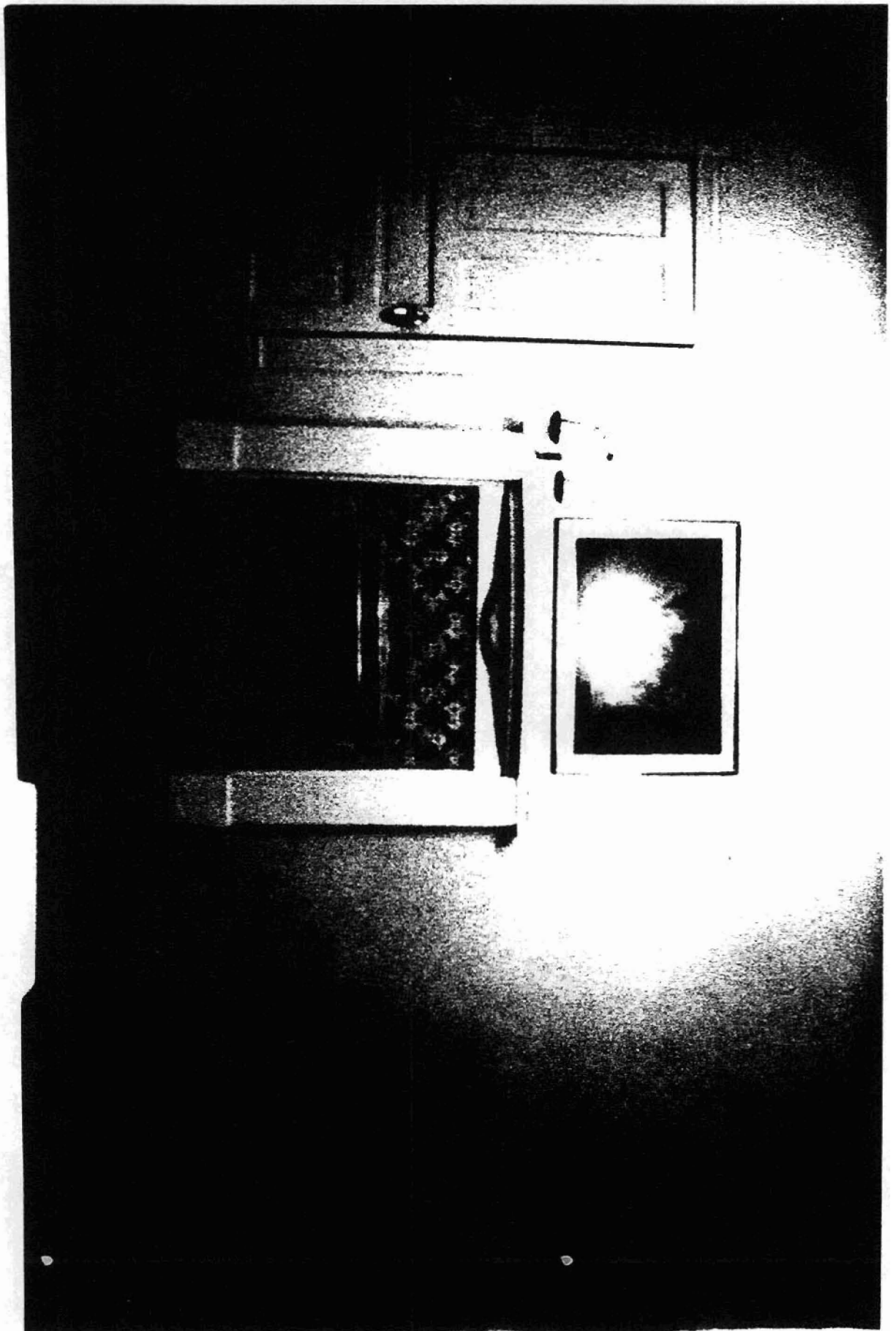
Runyan House  
Pulaski Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by Lee Pennell  
November 1991  
Negative on file at AHP  
View from the south



Runyan House  
Polaski Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Leni Currier  
November 1911

Negative on file at A-APP  
View from the southeast



Rinyan House

Polasec Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Lora Gurnell

November 1991

Archive on file at AHPP

View of market



Ruñyan House

Pulaski Co., Arkansas

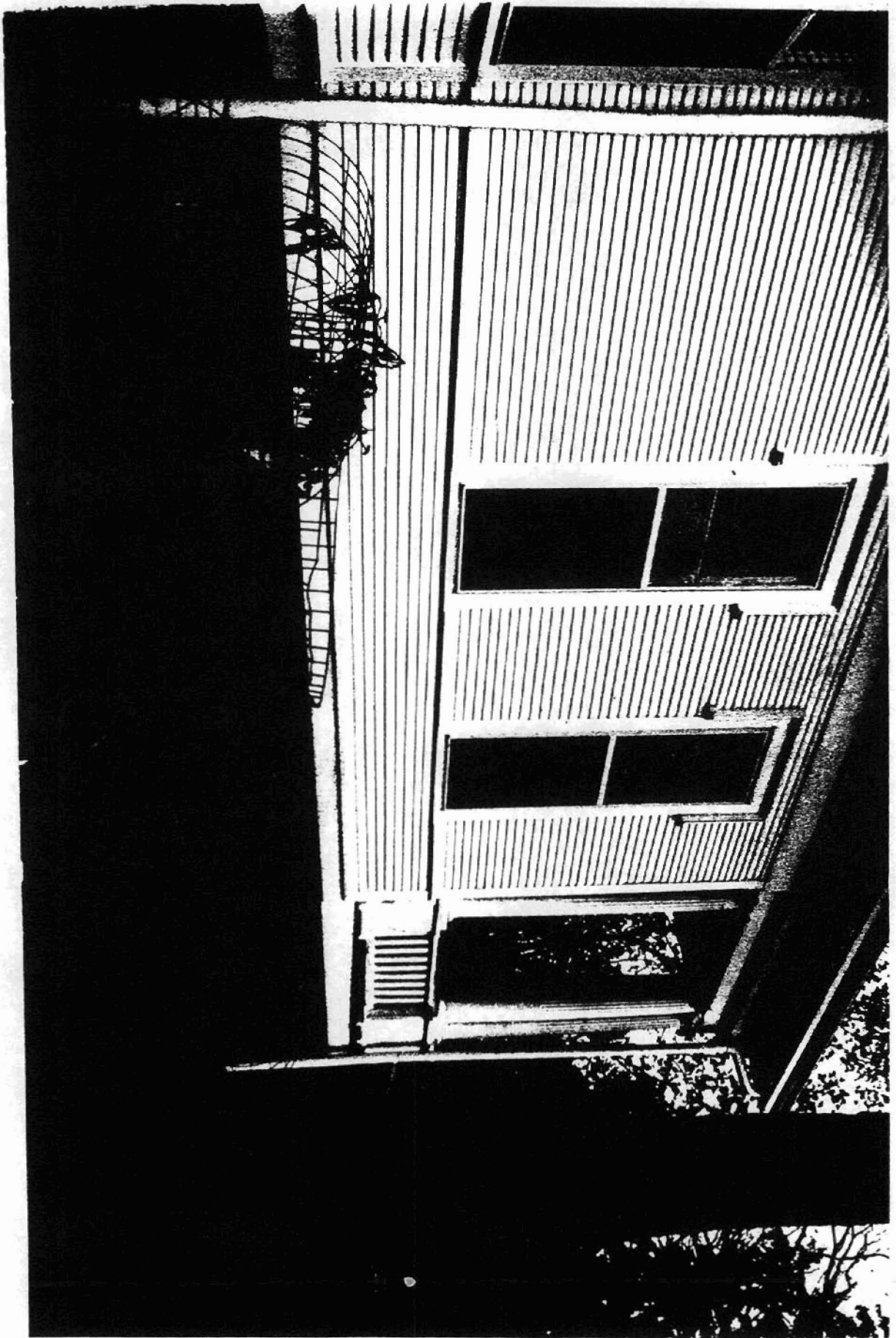
Photographed by Lori Gu. 11

November 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the northeast





Ryan House

Pulaski Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Teri Gunnell

November 1991

Negative on file in AHPP  
view from the southwest.



Ronyan House

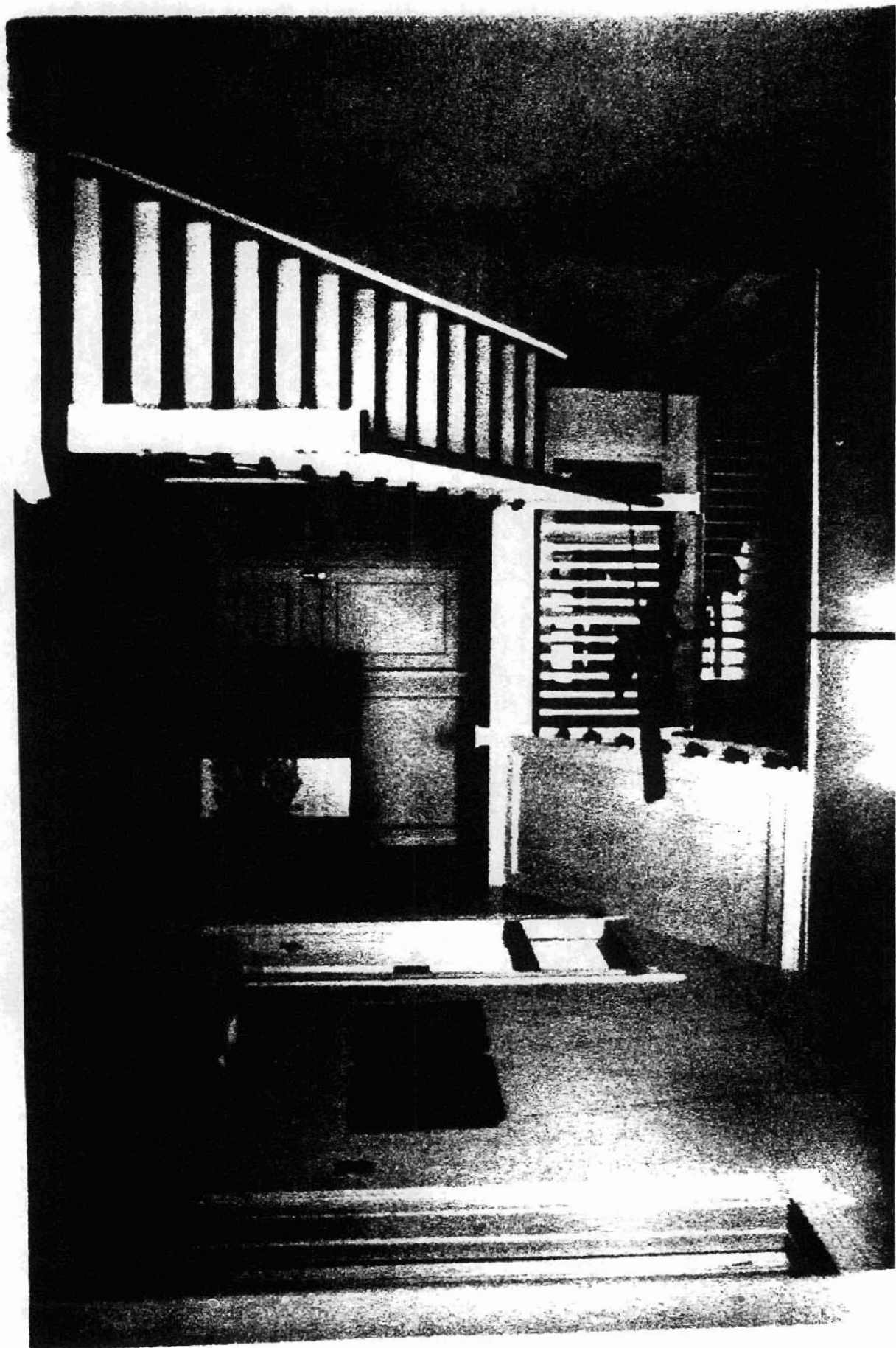
Pulaski Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Carl G. Smith

November 1971

Negative on file at AHPP

View of inland floor.



Rumyan House

For info on Abi

Photo provided by Lisa G.

November 1999

Negative on file at A1100P

For an internet reference to a

cash.



Runyan House  
Little Rock, Arkansas

UTM: 15/564390/3843770

AREA PLANNING  
ARIZONA COUNTY

LITTLE ROCK QUADRANGLE

ARKANSAS

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

CONWAY 32 MI (VIA U.S. 65)  
0.5 MI TO JUNG U.S. 65  
1.7 MI TO NORTH TERMINAL INTERCHANGE  
92°15'  
34°45'



7531 SW  
MCA MOUNT

