

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR Used
9-23-2004

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 Looney-French House

other names/site number Site #RA0037

2. Location

street & number 1325 Deer Run Trail

not for publication

city or town Dalton

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Randolph

code 121

72455

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.)

Cochie D. Matthews
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/7/04
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 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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
1		sites
		structures
		objects
2	1	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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/Plain-Traditional

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE
walls LOG
WEATHERBOARD
roof METAL
other

Narrative Description

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

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)

State

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

c.1833

Significant Dates

c.1833

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Looney-French House
Name of Property

Randolph County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 1.5 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>668347</u>	<u>4029447</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 S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 17, 2004

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 Jack & Christina French

street & number 4106 Highway 304 telephone

city or town Delaplaine state AR zip code 72425

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 Looney-French House is a 1½-story log dogtrot house built on the bank of the Eleven Point River southeast of the small town of Dalton, Randolph County, Arkansas. The house currently rests on a concrete foundation, but had a stone foundation originally. The walls of the house's two pens are constructed of red and white oak logs, and are presently covered with wood weatherboard siding. Each pen has a cut stone chimney on its exterior end built with stone that came from the property's riverbank. The gable roof of the house and the roof of the wraparound porch are sheathed in standing-seam metal sheeting.

ELABORATION

The Looney-French House is a 1½-story log dogtrot house built c.1833 southeast of the town of Dalton, Randolph County, Arkansas. The house is located on the bank of the Eleven Point River. The house consists of two log pens of unequal sizes constructed out of red and white oak logs. The original dogtrot has been enclosed and the house is currently covered in wood weatherboard siding, which has been there since at least 1942. Each pen has an exterior cut-stone chimney constructed of stone quarried from the Eleven Point River's bank on the property. The roof of the house is covered in a standing seam metal roof.

In addition to the enclosure of the dogtrot, the building has a c.1950 addition on the rear that houses the kitchen. The current standing-seam metal roof replaced the building's original wood-shake roof, which was present as late as 1942. The house has wood-frame, double-hung, one-over-one and two-over-two windows.

Northeast/Front Façade

The first floor of the northeast façade has a doorway towards the southeastern end, which enters into the southeastern pen of the property. The doorway has an exterior modern screen door. Another doorway, which is located just to the left of the center of the façade and is currently boarded up, leads into the dogtrot space of the home. The northeast pen of the house is accessed by a centrally located doorway with a modern screen door that is flanked on each side by a wood-frame, double-hung, one-over-one window. The entire first floor of the property is spanned by a full-length porch that actually extends past the southeastern edge of the house. The porch roof is supported by wood posts, and covered with a standing-seam metal roof.

The second floor of the façade has one small centrally-located, wood-frame, double-hung, one-over-one window. The front façade also has a heavy wood cornice that has four large wood dentils, one at each end of the façade, and one at each end of the dogtrot portion of the façade.

Southeast/Side Façade

The southeast façade of the original log pen of the house has no fenestration. The cut-stone chimney is centrally located on the southeast side of the log pen. The first floor of the façade is also spanned by the wraparound porch. As on the front façade, the porch is supported by plain wood posts, and is covered with a standing-seam metal roof.

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To the rear of the house is the southeast side of the c.1950 shed-roofed addition. A doorway with a modern screen door provides access from the porch into the addition. There is no other fenestration on the southeast side of the addition.

Southwest/Rear Façade

The majority of the house's original southwest façade is covered today by the c.1950 addition. A small portion of the original façade, however, is present at the southeastern end of the façade. A doorway with modern screen door on the left side of the original façade provides access into the southeast pen of the house. Like the front façade, the original rear façade possesses the heavy wood cornice and large dentil at the end of the pen. The wraparound porch is also present at the southeast end of the façade and terminates into the southeast end of the c.1950s addition. The porch used to span the entire façade prior to the construction of the addition.

The southwest façade of the c.1950 addition, towards the southeast end, has a pair of small wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows flanked on each side by one larger wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two window. Just left of center of the c.1950 façade is a single small wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two window. To the left of the single window is a pair of larger wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two windows.

Northwest/Side Façade

The northwest façade of the c.1950 addition has one centrally-located wood-frame, double-hung, two-over-two window on the first floor. The northwest façade of the original log pen is dominated by the centrally located stone chimney. A single wood-frame, double-hung, one-over-one window is located to the right of the chimney on the first floor. The chimney is flanked on the second floor by one small wood-frame, double-hung, one-over-one window.

Interior

The first floor of the house consists of two large rooms (the original pens) and the central dogtrot space in the original portion of the home. The original winder stairway is present in the rear of the dogtrot space, although it has been enclosed. The c.1950 addition contains two main rooms, one on each end, with a central stair hall with stairs that go down to the partial cellar. The second floor plan consists of two large rooms (the original pens) with the central dogtrot space.

The walls of the first floor are covered with hard Portland plaster walls in the pens while they are covered with gypsum board in the dogtrot space. (Underneath the gypsum board in the dogtrot are rough sawn wood studs and rough sawn wood sheathing, indicating that the dogtrot has been enclosed for a long time, but was not originally.) The ceilings on the first floor are currently gypsum board, although evidence indicates that the joists were exposed for a long time before being covered with plaster originally.

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Pls of the dogtrot space on the second floor are currently covered in gypsum board although rough wood sheathing papered with newspaper is underneath it. The second floor room of the southeastern unfinished exposed log walls, square pegged rafters, and a plank floor. The gable end of the room, has gypsum board on the wall and the gabled wall bordering the dogtrot is partially covered with horizontal bead board. The second floor room of the northwest pen has gypsum board on all walling surfaces.

Quarry site is located on the south bank of the Eleven Point River to the northeast of the house. The bank retain chisel marks from the masons who quarried stone used in the construction of the chimneys and foundation. The quarry site is considered to be a contributing resource.

House
The Looney-French House and the bank of the Eleven Point River is a modern house built by the owners within the last ten years. The house is of wood-frame construction with concrete block foundation and a standing-seam metal roof. However, because of its recent date of construction, it does not contribute to the nomination.

INTEGRITY

Despite the age of the building, the Looney-French House possesses remarkable integrity. The largest changes to the property over the years have been the enclosure of the dogtrot at an unknown early date and the addition of the kitchen addition c.1950. However, both of these changes occurred more than 50 years ago. It is also known that the weatherboard siding was installed on the property prior to 1942. Although changes have occurred to the house, the original construction and plan of the c.1833 dogtrot are readily identifiable, especially on the interior of the house. The setting of the house, with the exception of the addition of a new home in front of the house within the last ten years, remains rural just as it was when the Looney family arrived at the site. As a result, the Looney-French House remains one of the earliest structures in Arkansas, and a remarkable surviving building from the earliest periods of European settlement in Randolph County.

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The Looney-French House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** for its significance as an outstanding example of an early nineteenth-century log dogtrot. The Looney-French House is one of the oldest standing structures in Arkansas, and a fine example of a log dogtrot from the earliest periods of settlement in the Randolph County area. The house is also significant as a house representing the first generation of permanent settlement in Randolph County. William Looney, who was the original builder of the house, settled on Point River in 1802, and was one of the earliest settlers in the area. As a result, it is eligible for listing under **Criterion A** for its associations with exploration and settlement in Randolph

Settlement did not occur in the Randolph County area until the early nineteenth century, but it began in the sixteenth century. Nineteenth century settlers uncovered coins and other artifacts with an expedition of Spanish explorers led by Hernando De Soto that passed through the area in the 1600s, French explorers were passing through the area, including Marquette in 1673, and DeTonti in 1686. Some Native American occupation occurred in the 1700s, primarily by the Shawnee, and Delaware, but their occupation was transitory in nature.¹

The Territory was formed and approximately two-thirds of the northern part of the state was included in the County of the Missouri Territory, including present-day Randolph County. Lawrence County was divided several times to form other counties in the area. Randolph County was created on March 18, 1809, and comprised the area's oldest settlements. Arkansas would become a state the following year.

It is significant to indicate that by the late 1700s and early 1800s several Frenchmen had settled in the area. The county possessed several features that made it attractive to early settlers. The county has many natural features that could provide water, and they were the way that many of the early settlers arrived in the area. The natural and Native American trace that entered Randolph County where the Missouri state line crossed the Point River and ran along the Ozarks foothills also made travel in the area easier than in other areas. The trace was known by a number of names, including the Southwest Trail, the Point River Trace, and the National Road. In addition, by 1803, William Hicks was operating a ferry on the Point River.

¹ Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004. Privately published report in the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Council, 2004, p. 1.

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where the Southwest Trail crossed it. (It would later be known by the Arkansas Road or some of the early government surveyors in the area.)³

Settlers started pouring into the area, mainly from Tennessee, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Virginia. Migrants accessed the area via its many waterways. The earliest local river transportation boats, or keelboats. It would not be until 1829 that steamboats came to the area with the advent of the steam engine on the Black River. Many of the early towns in the Randolph County area came about as a result of river travel, including Lawrence (later Davidsonville) and Bettis Bluff (later Pocahontas) and Biggers on the Current River.⁴

William Looney was born in 1785 in Stanley Valley near Rogersville, Tennessee. When he arrived in the area with three of his slaves in 1802, he also took advantage of the rivers for transportation, mainly the Eleven Point River. Life was not easy for the early settlers of the area. In order to get the best days of settlement, Looney had to travel to Cape Girardeau, Missouri, a trip that was difficult to complete.⁵

Looney settled on the west bank of the Eleven Point River adjacent to a natural ford for his home site. The site was a productive one, growing corn, wheat, potatoes, and tobacco on his farm. In addition, he had an apple orchard and produced brandy, also considered a staple on the frontier. Looney owned about 1,500 acres of land along the river comprising land patents given between 1823 and 1825. The property was an important feature on the property, allowing easy access for selling his goods, and maintaining in touch with his extended family that relocated to the area in 1812.⁶

It was for William Looney to become a well-respected and prominent individual in the area. When Lawrence County was established for Lawrence County, Looney was appointed as a justice of the peace. He served in that capacity from 1816 until c.1825. He also served as a Captain in the 3rd Arkansas Militia. In 1843, he also increased his landholdings by purchasing the land on the courthouse square in Pocahontas from Thomas Drew.⁷

The current house on the property c.1833. A recent dendrochronology study of the house, conducted by the University of Arkansas, determined that the red and white oak logs were cut between June 1832 and between June 1832 and June 1833 from trees that began growing between 1644 and 1645. As log construction practices allow the logs to season for several months, the house was

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in 1834.⁸ Looney also cut the stone for the chimneys from the banks of the Eleven Point
roads from the house, and chisel marks are still visible in the river bank at the quarry site.

to enjoy the house until his death in March or April 1846 when, according to family
records in the Eleven Point River. After his death, each of his children (10 according to the
records) received a farm and one slave from the estate. Looney's wife, Rhonda, still lived in the house
until her death on April 18, 1847. Today, the property is owned by Jack and Christina French,
descendants of the Looney family. Although the property is currently used as pastureland for cattle,
it remains a significant part of the area.⁹

The Looney-French House represents an important tangible link to the early history of Arkansas and
the settlement of the state. Constructed c.1833, the Looney-French House is an excellent example of an early
log dogtrot. In addition, it is one of the oldest extant houses in the state, and represents a
property from the earliest period of settlement in Randolph County.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Looney-French House is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C**
Significance as an outstanding example of an early nineteenth-century log dogtrot.
As such, the Looney-French House is one of the oldest standing structures in Arkansas, and a
survivor of a log dogtrot from the earliest periods of settlement in the Randolph County area.
The Looney-French House is also significant as a house representing the first generation of permanent
settlement in Randolph County. William Looney, who was the original builder of the house,
settled on the Eleven Point River in 1802, and was one of the earliest settlers in the area. As a result, it is
eligible under **Criterion A** for its associations with exploration and settlement in Randolph

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Inventory Sheet**

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Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004. Privately published report in the files of the
Historic Preservation Program, 2004.

Ring Dating of the Looney-French House, Randolph County, Arkansas. January 2004.
1 (ed.) *Early Arkansas Settlement Study, 2003-2004.* Privately published report in the
Historic Preservation Program, 2004.

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Register of Historic Places Inventory Sheet

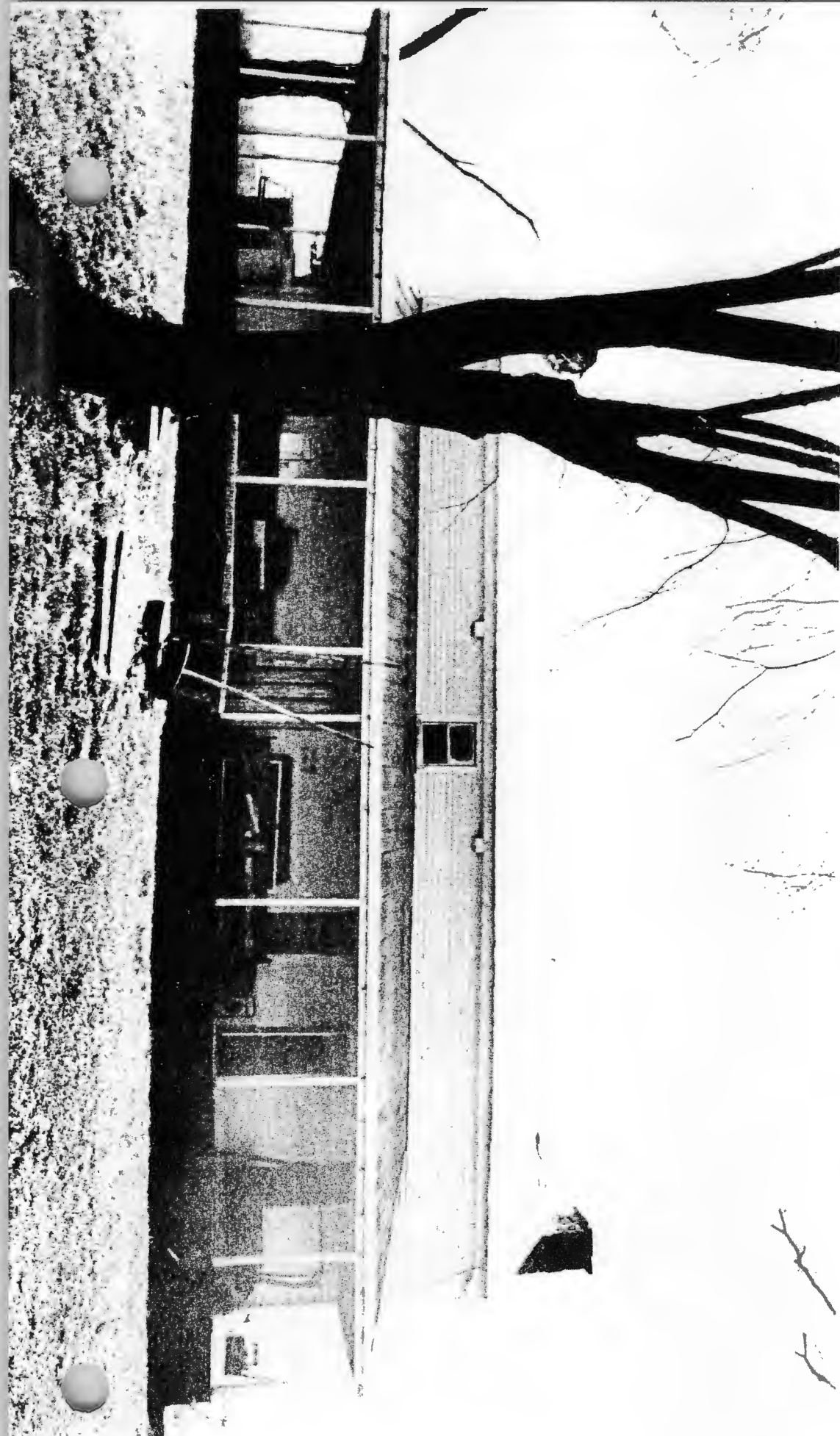
10 Page 1

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

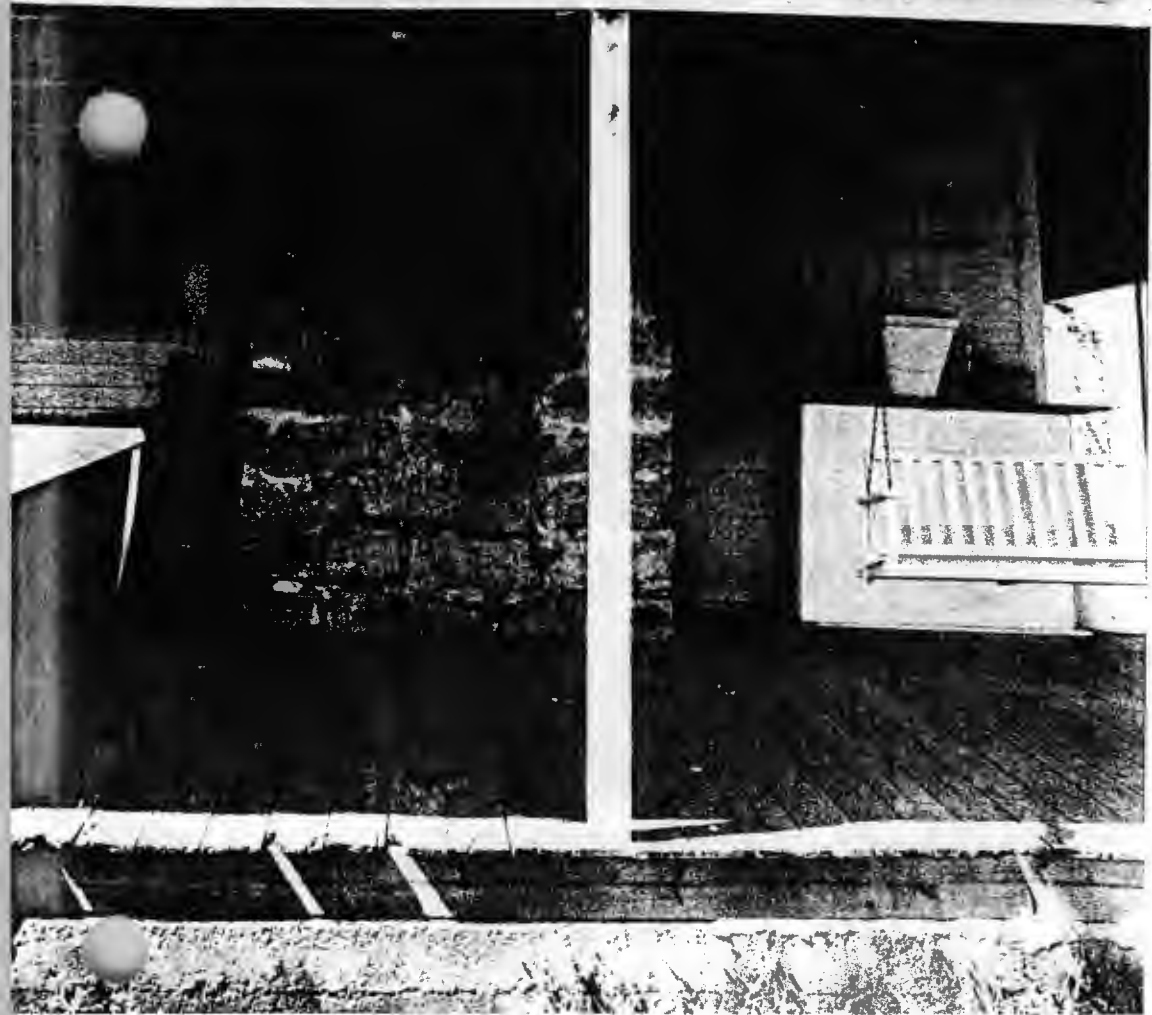
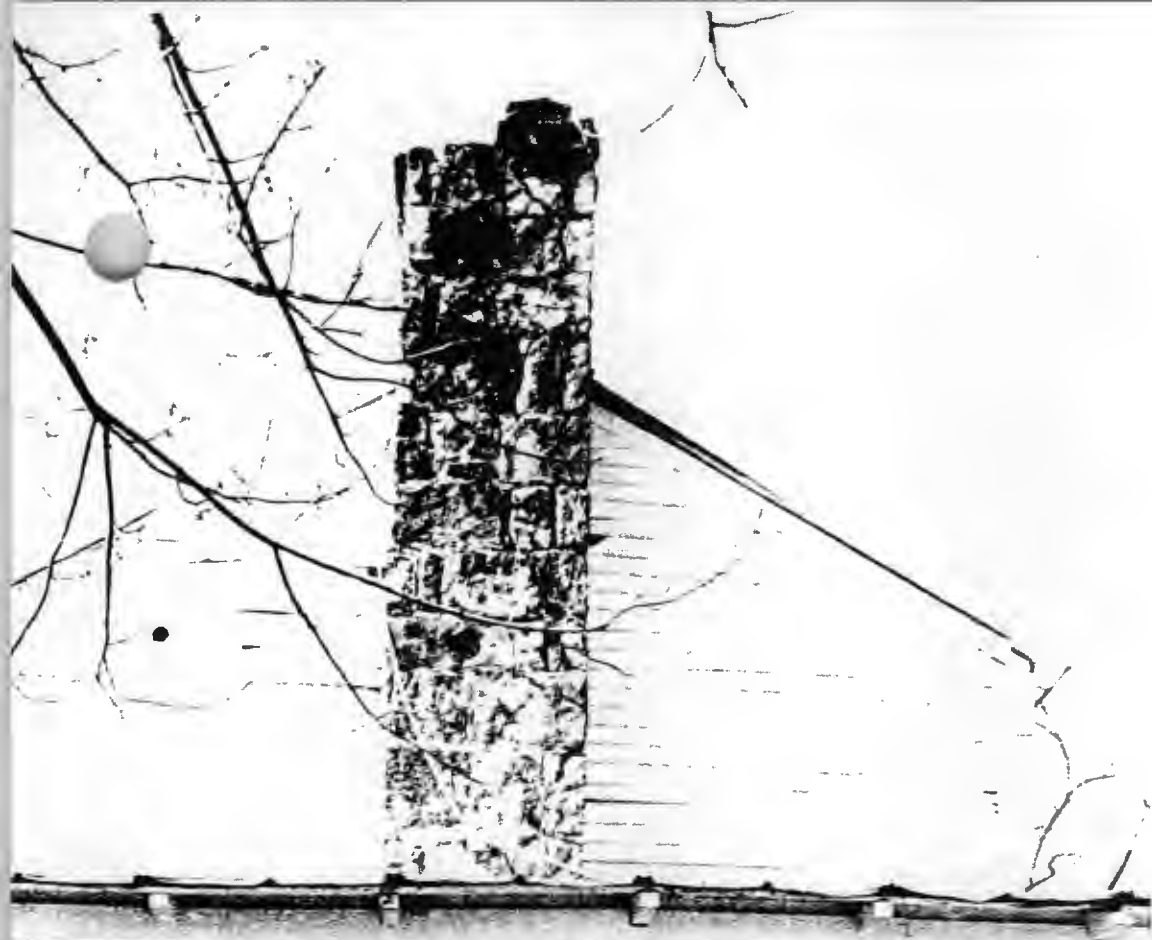
Beginning at the driveway to the southwest of the house, proceed 105 feet along the driveway to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning, proceed southeasterly 165 feet, thence proceed easterly 165 feet, thence proceed northwesterly 165 feet, thence proceed southwesterly 375 feet back to the point of beginning.

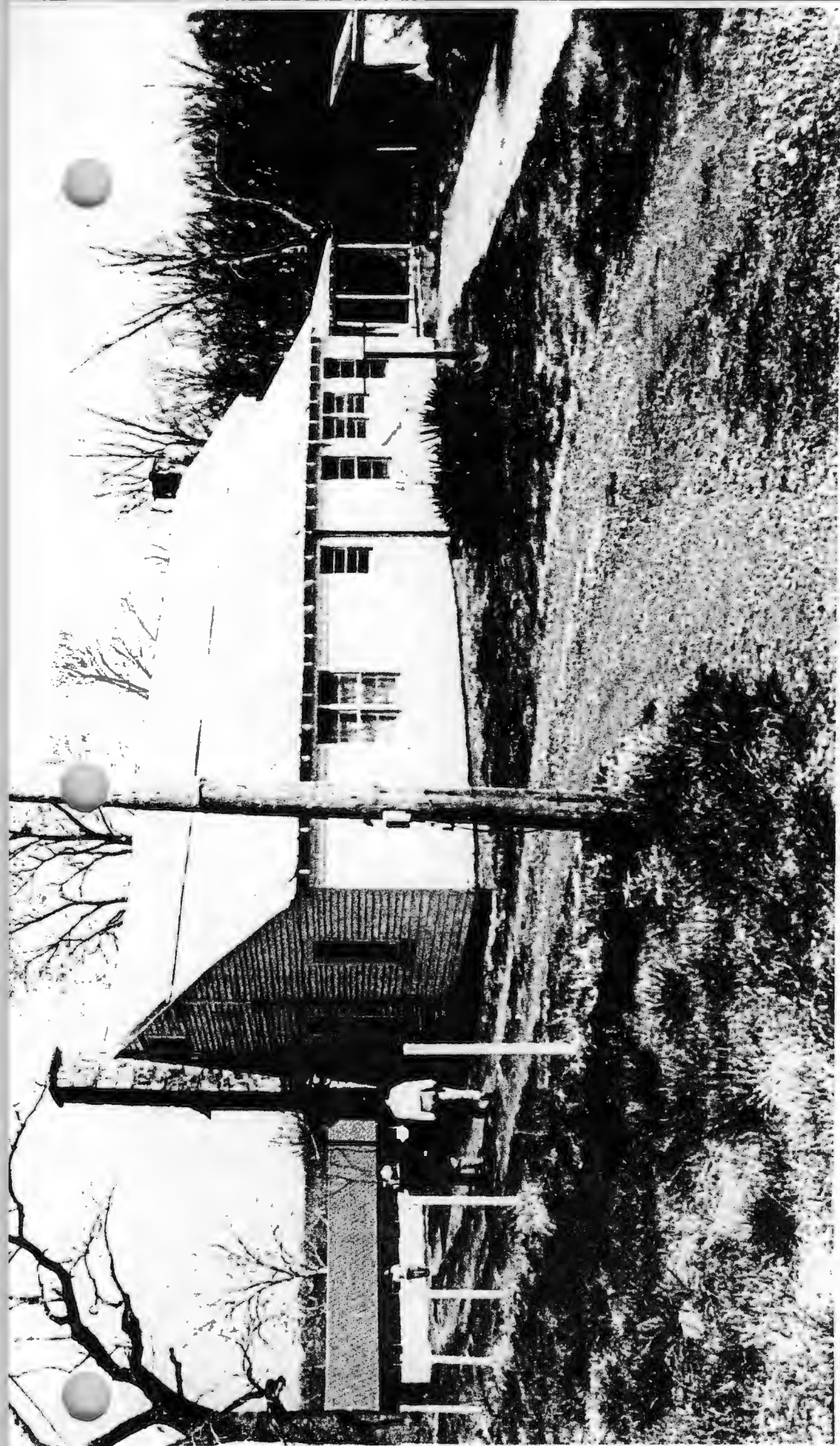
JUSTIFICATION

This property contains the land around the Looney-French House that retains integrity.

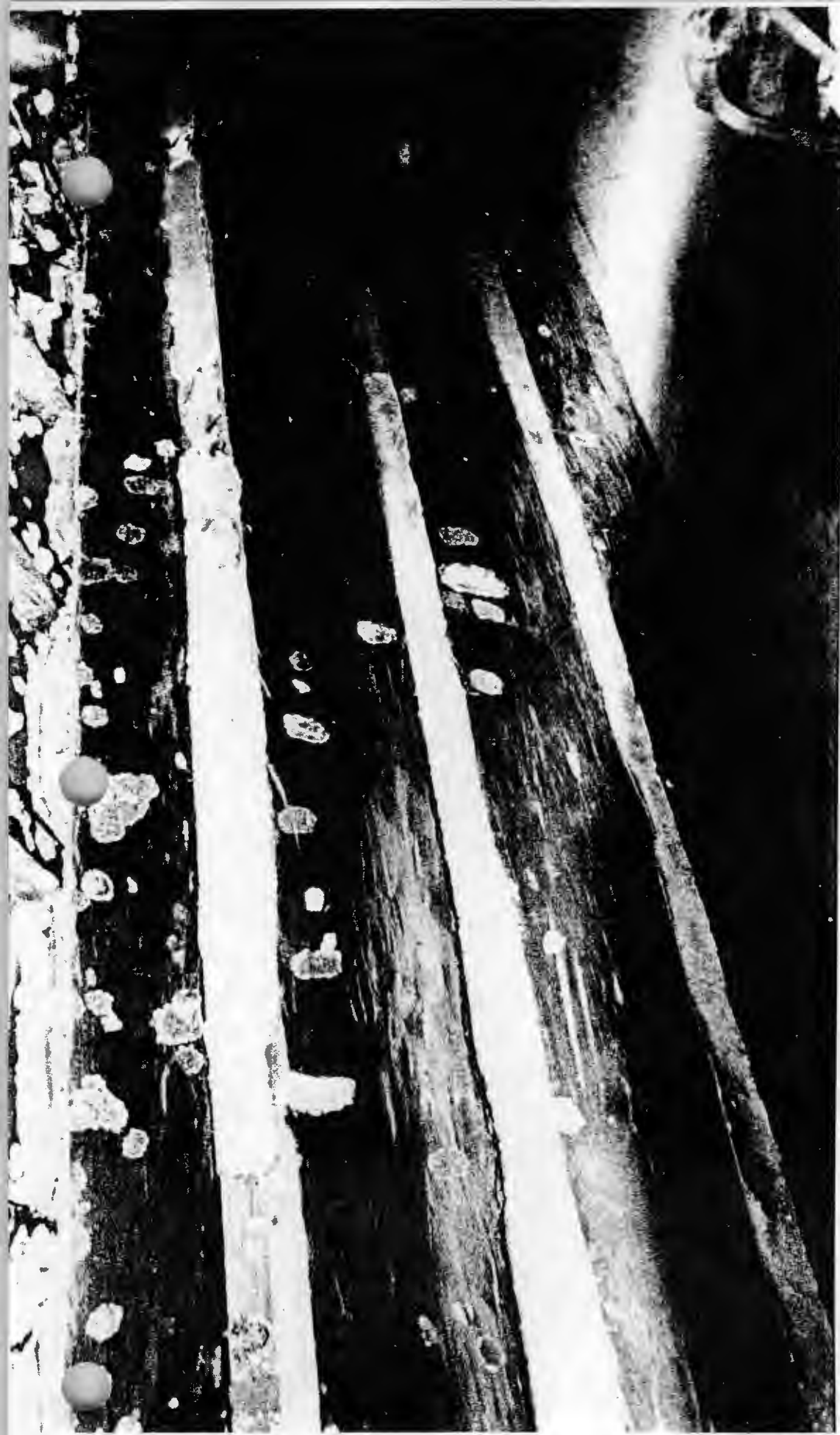




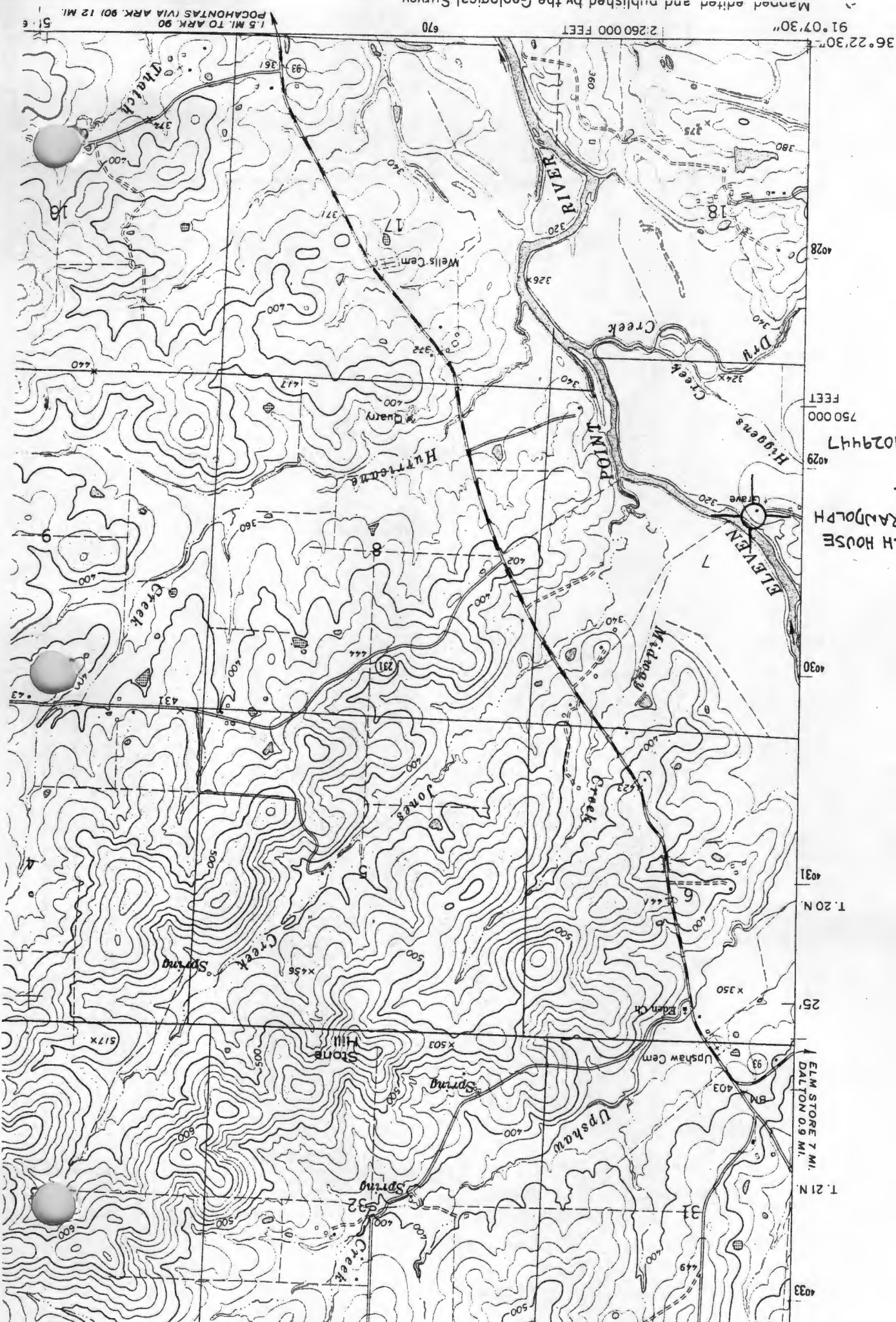












LOONEY-FRENCH HOUSE
 DALTON VIC., RANDOLPH
 COUNTY, AR
 UTM:
 15/668347/4029447

FEET
 750 000

T. 20 N.

25'

ELM STORE 7 MI.
 DALTON 0.9 MI.

T. 21 N.

4033

4028

4029

4030

4031

4032

4033

36° 22' 30" N
 91° 07' 30" W

2:260 000 FEET

670

51.6

1.5 MI. TO ARK 90
 POCAHONTAS VIA ARK. 901 12 MI.

WARM SPRINGS QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS - MISSOURI
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7857 IN SW
(POYNOR)

2'30" 676 R. 1 W. 677 2 290 000 FEET 678 R 1 E. 679 91°00' 36'30"



780 000
FEET

27'30"

MIDDLEBROOK 4.3 MI.

Woodridge
Spring