

NR listed
12/05/85

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Benjamin Franklin Henley House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N/A not for publication

city, town St. Joe X vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Searcy code 129

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Wordna Allen

street & number Parkview Apartments - Apt. A

city, town St. Joe vicinity of state Arkansas 72675

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Searcy County Courthouse

street & number Courtsquare

city, town Marshall state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The house built by local craftsmen for Benjamin Franklin Henley and his family, located approximately one mile northeast of St. Joe, Arkansas, represents two primary periods of construction. The eastern portion, consisting of a room and a half room of braced-frame construction, was built c. 1870. About 1876, a nearly identical room and a half room were constructed and connected to the original house by an open breezeway or dogtrot and delineated by an impressive porch added at the same time. The roof is a combination of gable and shed types, almost becoming an example of a saltbox style. It features an unusual arrangement of an interior end chimney on the east gable and exterior end chimney on the west gable. The house sits on hand hewn log sleepers which are, in turn, supported by a native stone foundation.

The facade of the Henley house, which faces north, is symmetrical. Double doors with oval windows, salvaged from a c. 1908 house and added c. 1944, provide entry into a central hallway or the original passageway between the c. 1870 and c. 1876 portions of the house. A double transom sits over the doorway. The doors are sheltered by a massive, one bay porch erected c. 1876 when the dogtrot was constructed and apparently inspired by some local conception of Greek Revival architecture. The original upper portions of two square posts support the gable porch roof. The lower post portions were replaced with the c. 1944 restoration. Balustrades which extend from the columns to meet the facade also replaced original balusters. Centered in the east side of the facade, the original one-and-one-half pen constructed c. 1870, is a wider-than-normal door. The original entrance to the dwelling, it is hand-made and fastened together with wooden pegs, as are all the doors in this first portion of the house. The exterior doorway is flanked by two narrow 4/4 windows. The west end of the facade, constructed c. 1876, is identical except for a more usual sized doorway, non-functional since c. 1960. Sided with the original, narrow clapboards attached with hand-cut square nails, the facade, except for the enclosed breezeway, is virtually unchanged from that presented in a c. 1894 photograph.

The eastern elevation is relatively bare, with a narrow original window on the southern half, opening into the rear or half room or the c. 1870 construction. On the western elevation, the exterior end chimney rises through the gable peak. Two windows bracket the chimney, with a third located about midway between the chimney and the southern corner of this facade.

The alterations which accompanied the c. 1944 restoration are most evident on the southern, or rear, elevation. Shed additions of unequal length extend from the rear, though both are offset from the corners of the house. On the east and west ends of the rear elevation, original windows are retained between the sheds and the corners. The western shed is a porch, enclosed to half its height by narrow clapboards and screened for the remainder of its height. The eastern shed is enclosed by siding of varying types and widths, with modern windows inserted. Both additions are supported on approximately four foot high wooden pilings.

In addition to the house, a large barn is the only surviving outbuilding. Sheathed with wide oak boards, it was constructed c. 1910.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates c. 1870 **Builder/Architect** Benjamin F. Henley-Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Henley house represents a traditional dwelling which evolved over a relatively brief period of time to reflect the fortunes and prosperity of its original owner. Major alterations were completed by c. 1876. The original construction forms and materials are well represented and substantially unaltered. Although it was not markedly unusual or uncommon when constructed, the Henley house survives as a virtually intact representative of middle-class prosperity and achievement in post-Civil War Arkansas.

Constructed as a room and a half room c. 1870, the small frame house with an interior end chimney was actually the second house built for the family of Benjamin Franklin Henley. Following the Civil War, Henley, originally from Mansfield, Arkansas, and a veteran of an Arkansas Union cavalry unit, returned from Missouri with wife, Martha Delilah McNair. They settled in St. Joe Valley, Searcy County, adjacent to her family's original homesite. The McNair family, also Union sympathizers, had left Searcy County during the war and settled in Missouri for the duration of hostilities.

The frame dwelling followed the new Henley family's original homestead, a log cabin constructed near the site of the Henley house and subsequently abandoned. As was the custom, as Henley's fortunes improved and his family grew, he expanded his house. Henley served or was employed as, variously, a store-keeper, cotton factor, banker, and county official. To accommodate his rising status and expanded stature, as well as thirteen children, a frame one and one-half room addition was constructed c. 1876. It was identical to the original except for the size of the doors and the location of the exterior end chimney. An open breezeway or dogtrot connected the two sides, which shared a common gable and shed roof. At the same time the addition and dogtrot were constructed, an imposing porch, a rural interpretation of Colonial elegance and prestige, was extended from the passageway.

During a brief, well-defined period, therefore, the Henley house grew from an inelegant, one and one-half room frame dwelling into a version of rural pretention and economic and social success. The original construction and growth of the house from c. 1870 to c. 1876 were defined by the period of reconstruction and were initiated by the original owner in response to and as a measure of his prosperity. With the exception of the minor and non-intrusive c. 1944 alterations, the Henley house retains the integrity and character which Benjamin Franklin Henley intended it to convey.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Bishop, A. W. Loyalty On The Frontier.

Congressional Papers, 39th Congress, Second Session, Miscellaneous Senate Documents,
Document 53, p. 79.

Goodspeed, Ozark Reminiscences.

Harrison, LaRue, "The Arkansas 'Federal Scouts' or 'Mountain Fed'," The Journal of
Southern History.

Tatum, Georgia Lee. Disloyalty in the Confederacy.

Worley, Ted R. "The Arkansas Peace Society of 1861: A Study in Mountain Unionism,"
The Journal of Southern History, Vol. XXIV, February - November 1958, 445-456.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately four acres

Quadrangle name St. Joe, Arkansas

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

15	519230	3987920
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

15	519280	3987880
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

15	519360	3987940
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

15	519320	3987980
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked and situated as follows: A) 15 519230 3987920; B) 15 519280 3987880 C) 15 519360 3987940, D) 15 519320 3987980, area inclusive of largest known extent of cultural materials.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Wordna Allen ; Edited by Arkansas Historic Preservation Program staff

organization none

date October 22, 1985

street & number Parkview Apartments - Apt. A

telephone

city or town St. Joe, AR 72675

state Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Wilson S. [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date

10-28-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

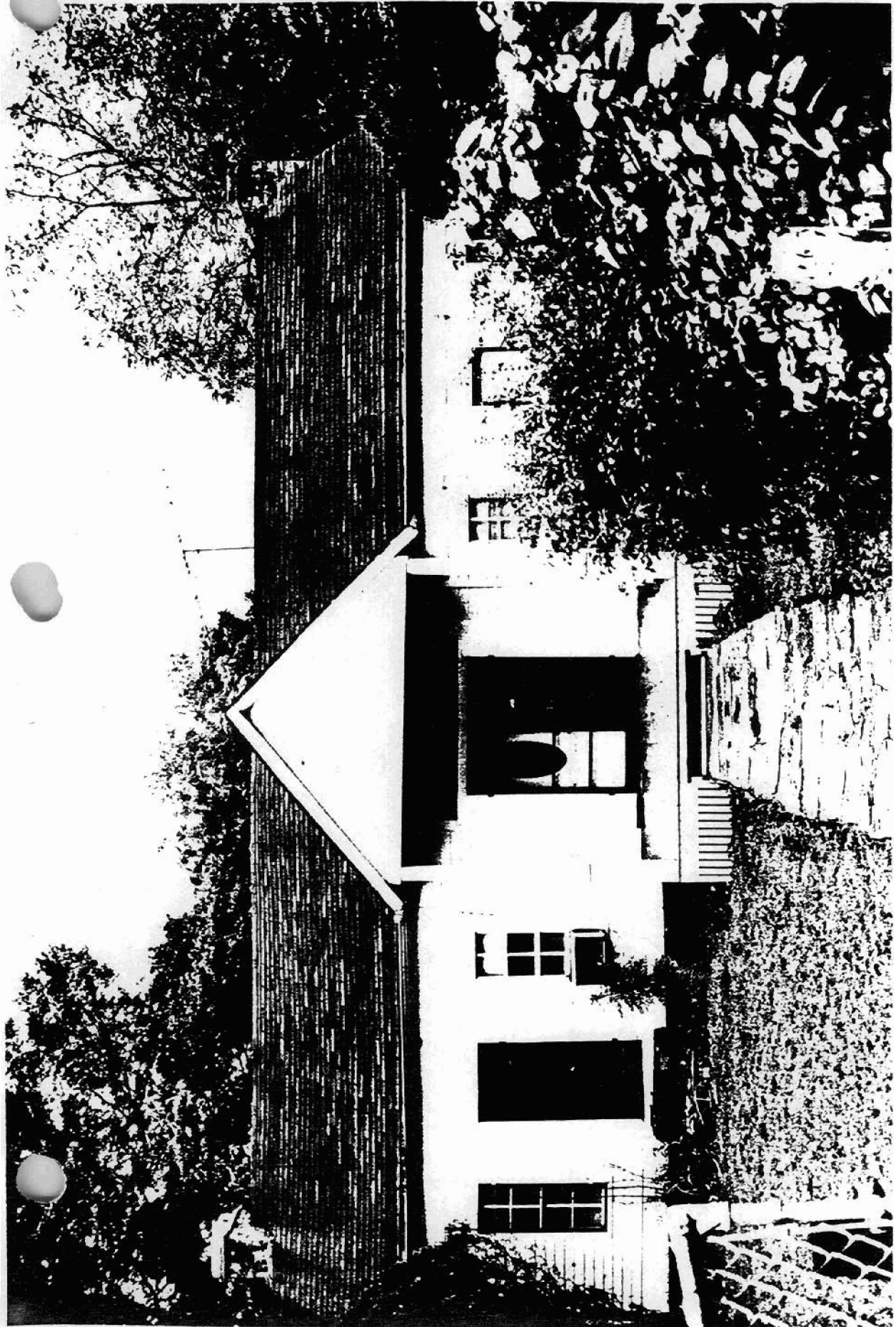
date

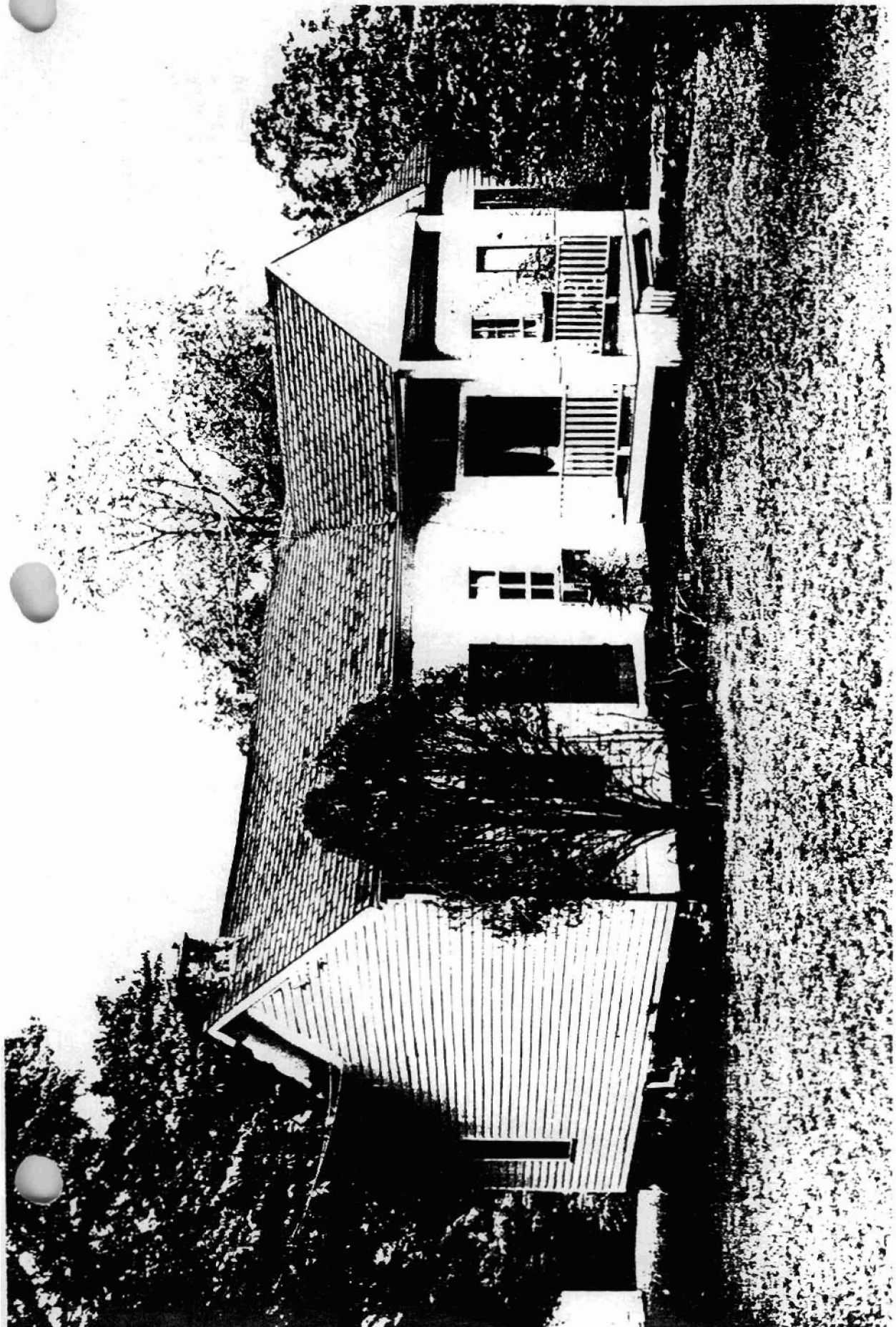
Keeper of the National Register

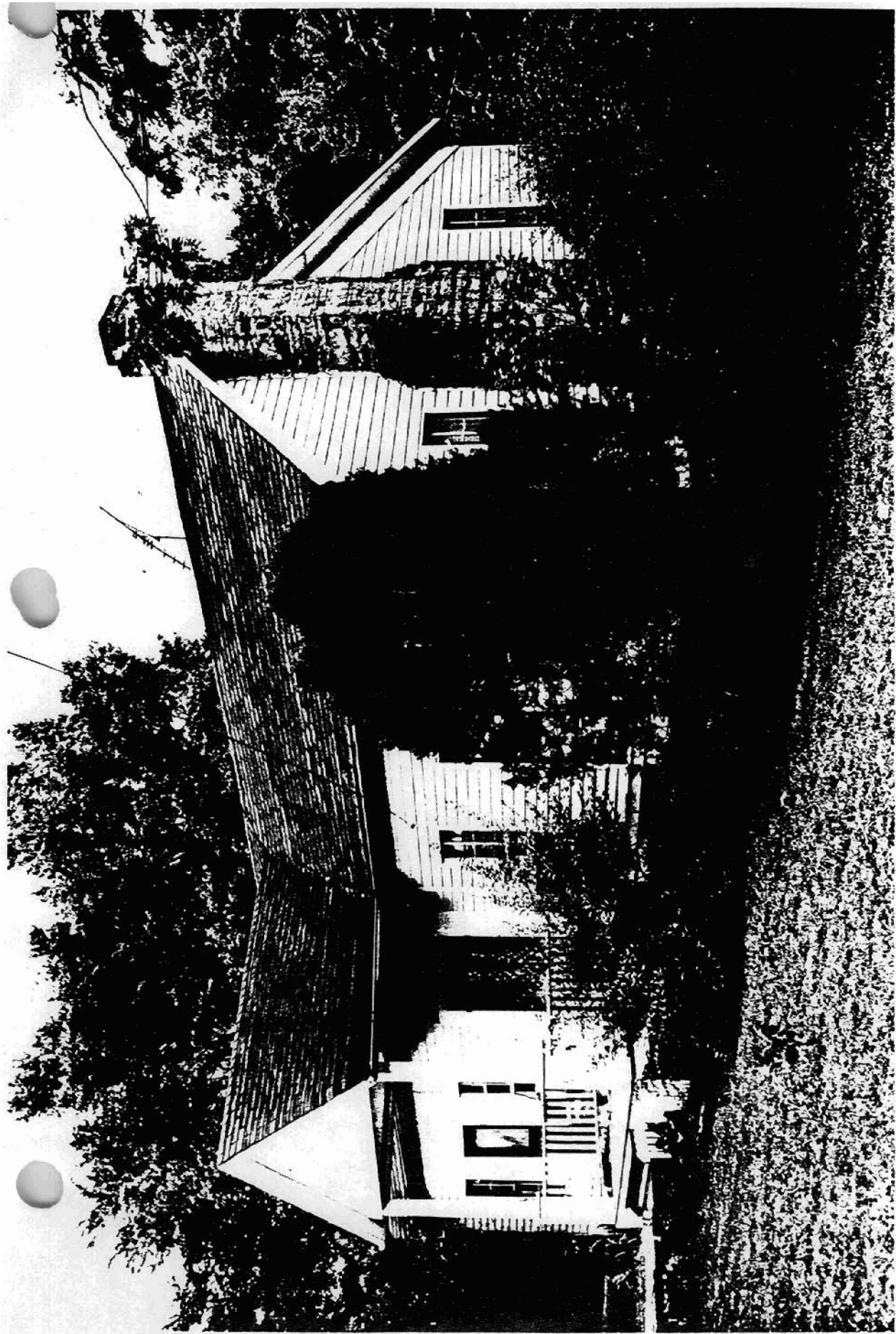
Attest:

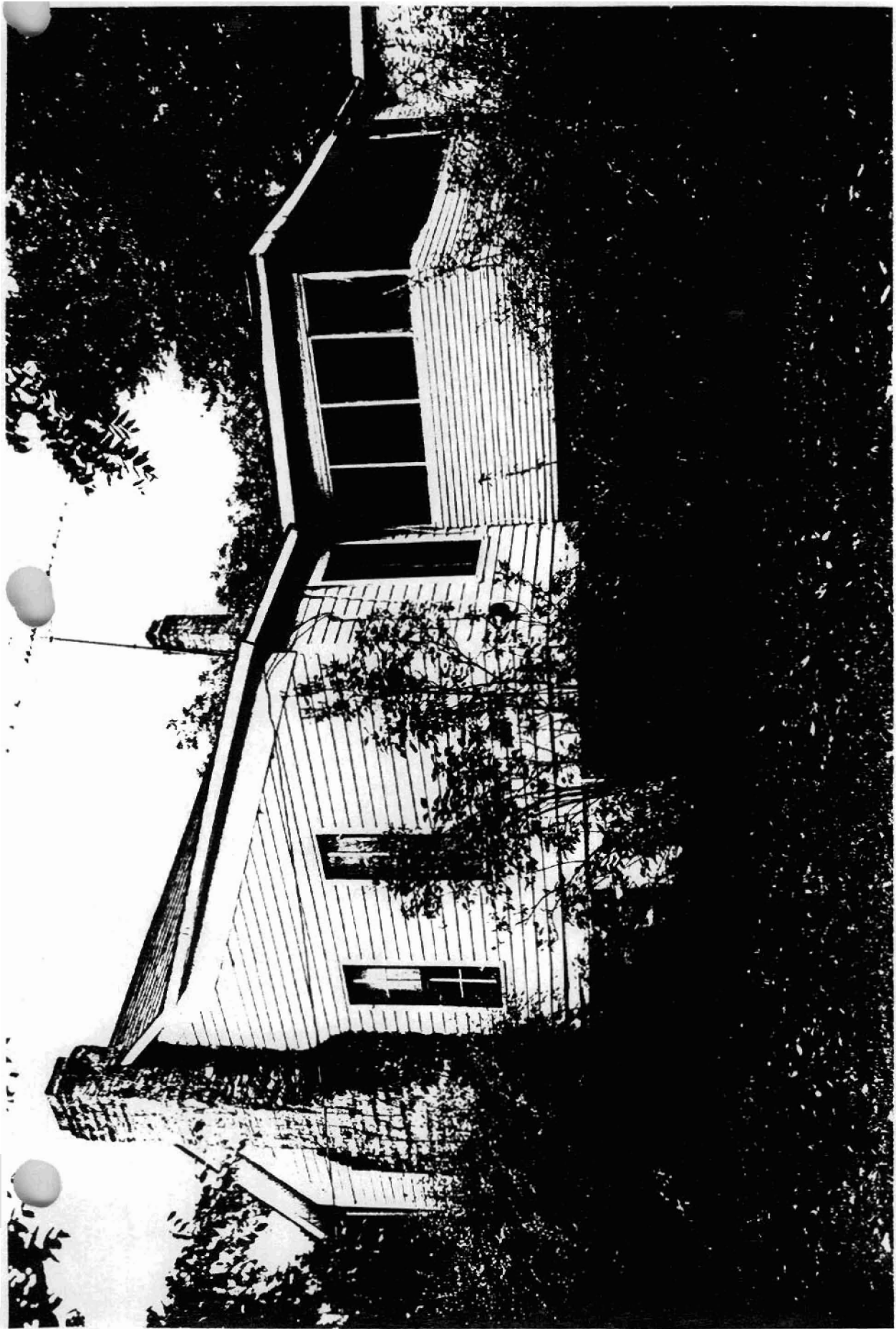
date

Chief of Registration

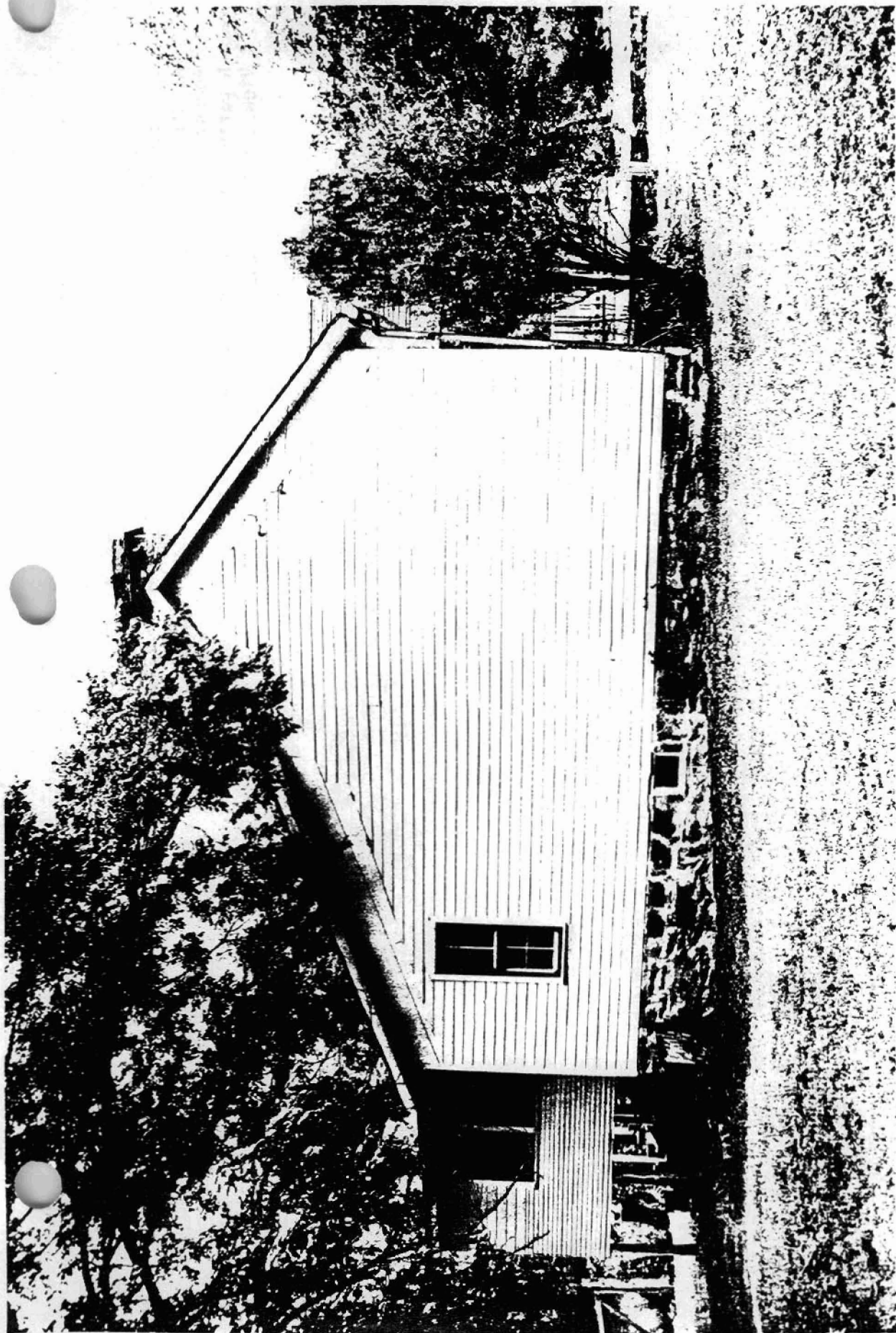


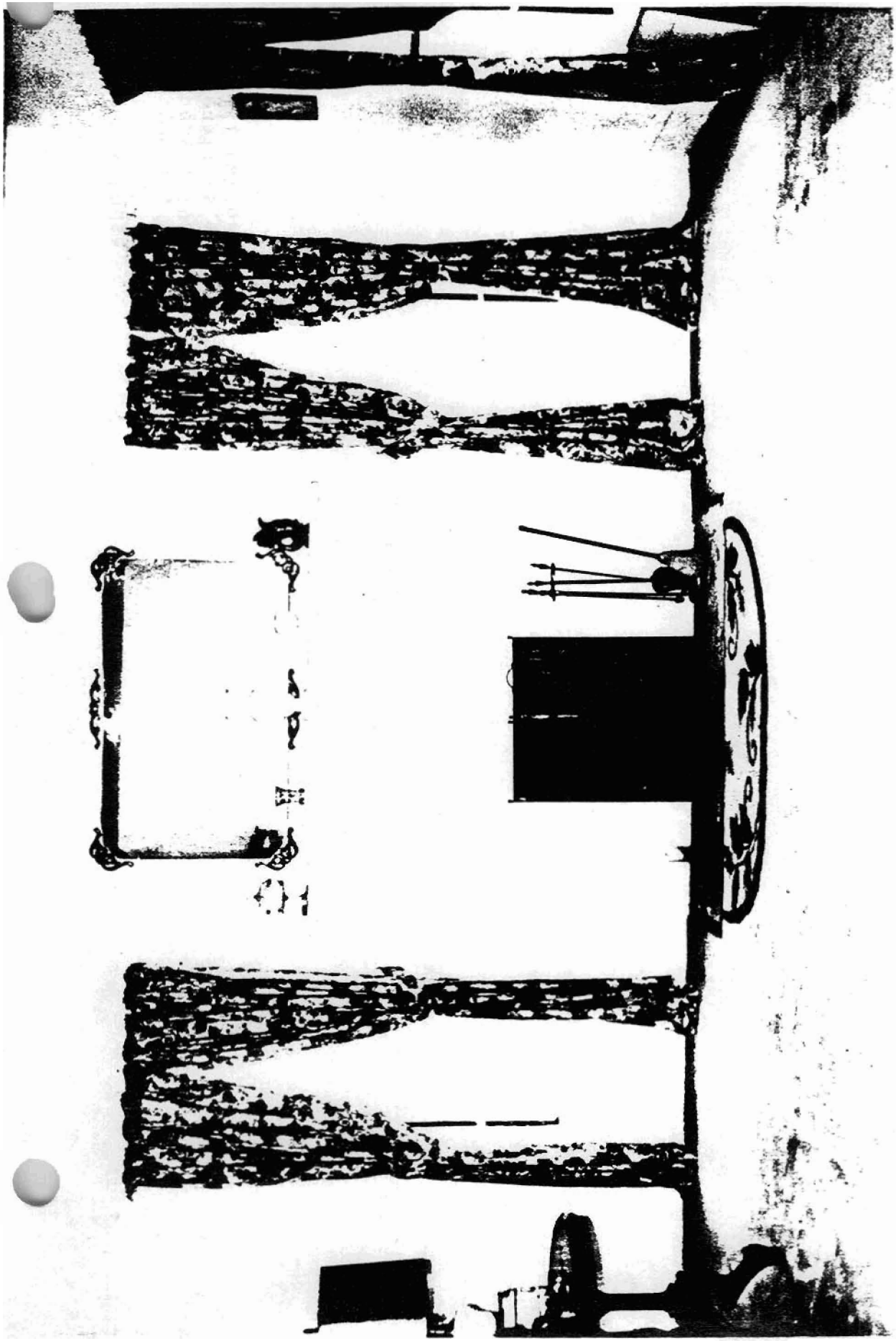


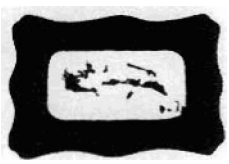


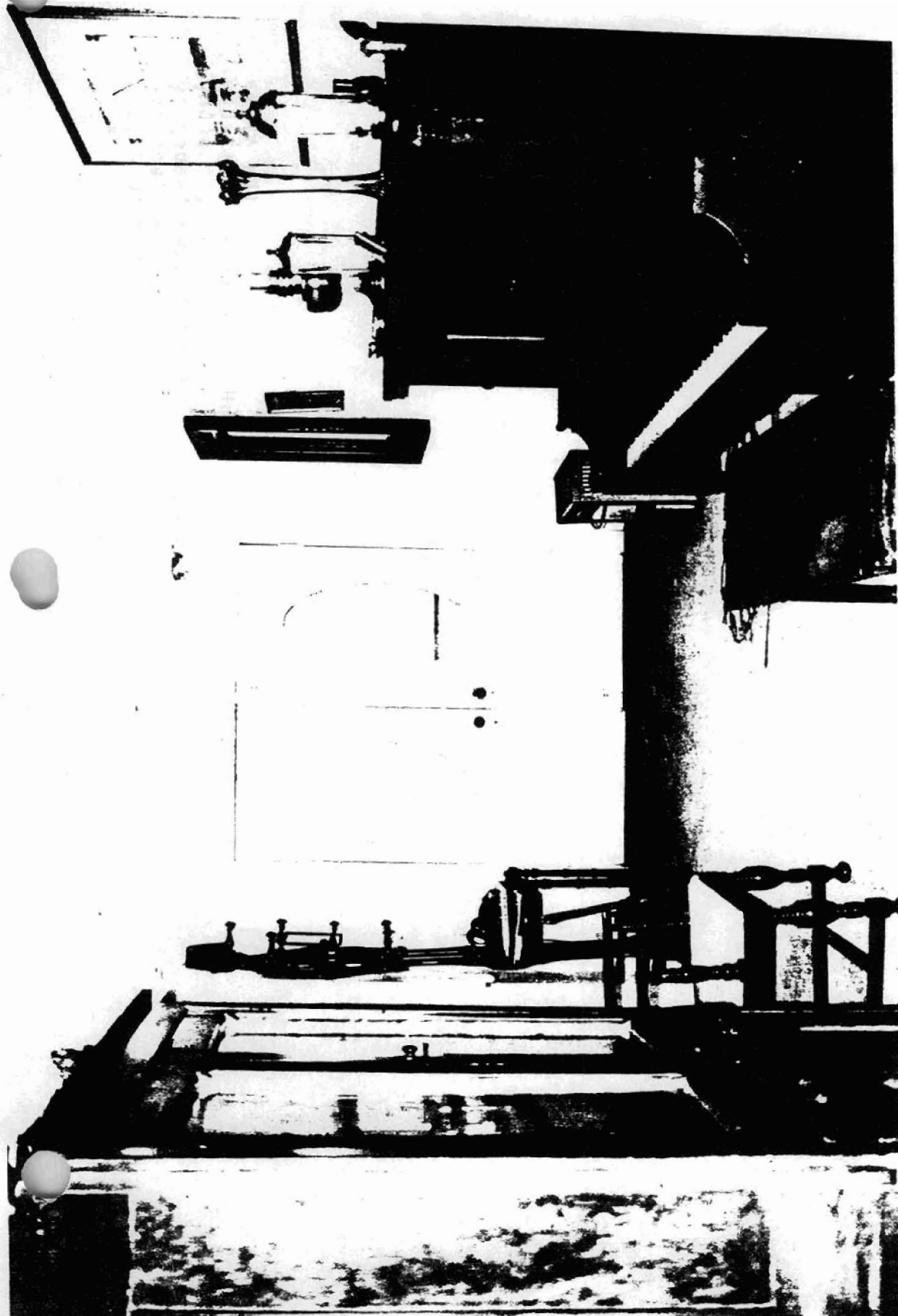


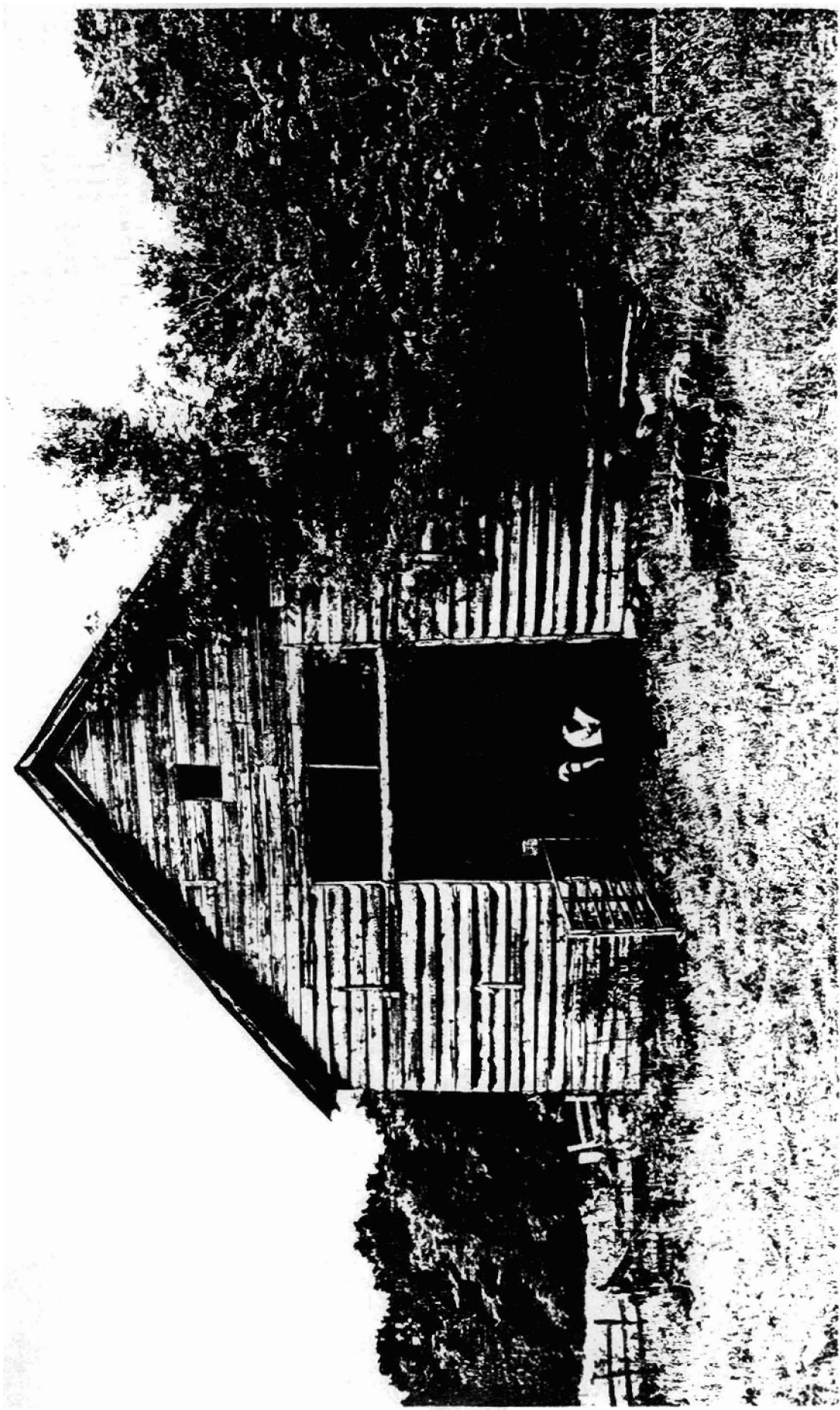


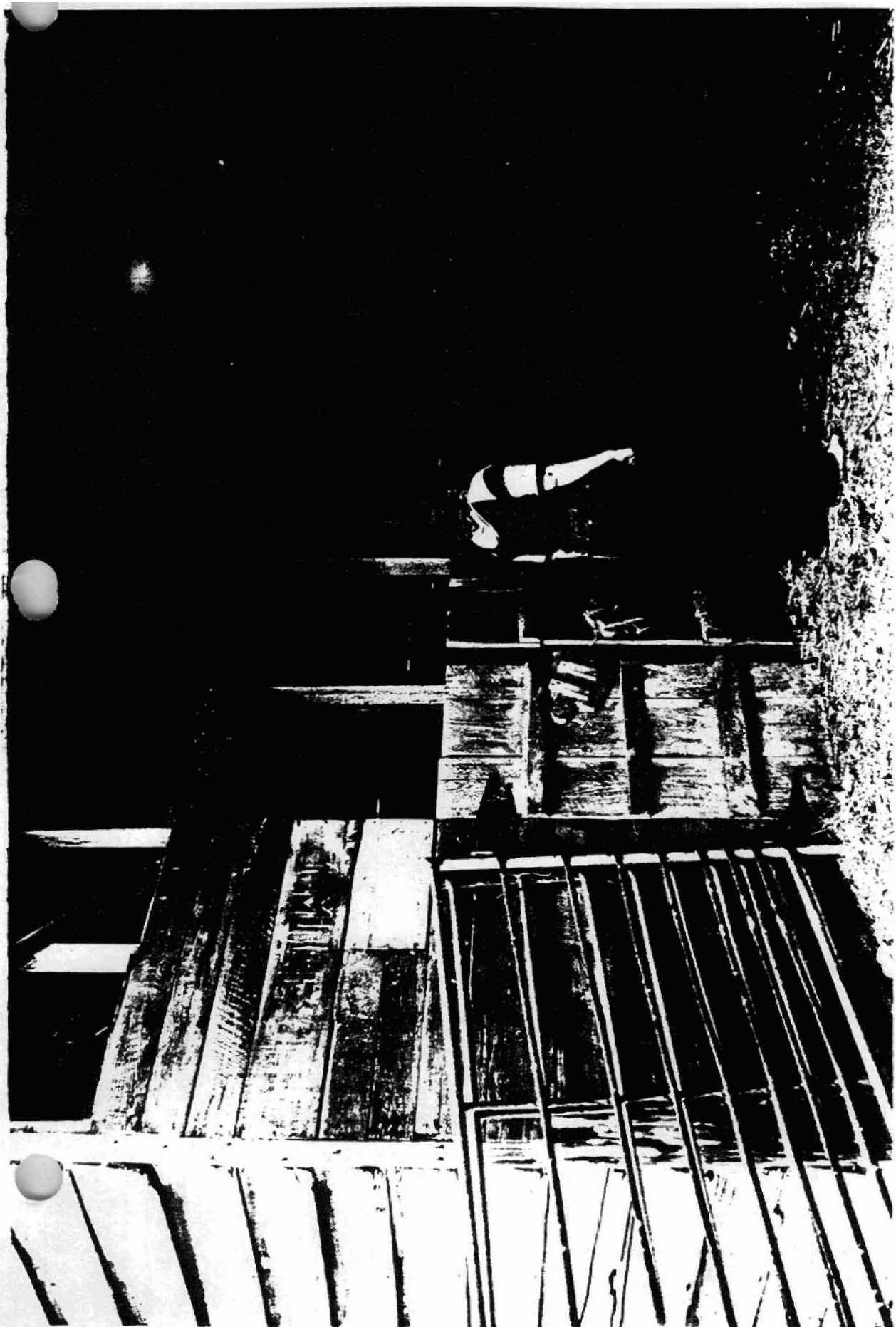












Benjamin F. Henley House
Quadrangle Name: St. Joe, Arkansas
Scale: 1:24000

- A) 15 519230/3987920
- B) 15 519280/3987880
- C) 15 519360/3987940
- D) 15 519320/3987980

