

NR 3-13-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received UN0156
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge No. 18

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication

city, town Lisbon N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Union code 139

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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: Lodge

4. Owner of Property

name Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge No. 18

street & number N/A

city, town Lisbon vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Union County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town El Dorado state Arkansas 71730

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

SUMMARY

The Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge in Lisbon is a two-story wooden building which has remained basically unaltered and on its original site since its construction in 1858. It is an excellent example of the type of structure which was built in the mid-19th century to serve not only as a social and civic meeting place, but also as a location for religious services. The two-story design of the lodge clearly reveals this dual function.

ELABORATION

The two-story, rectangular, gabled-roof structure of the Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge, approximately 22' x 55', is made of cypress throughout, including the weatherboards. All of the windows are double-hung and those on the ground floor have working shutters. The structure is held together by both wooden pegs and square nails. One of the most unique features of the Mt. Moriah Lodge is the corner posts. Sitting on log sills, each post is a single timber for the full two-story height, measuring 12" x 12" and hewn into an "L" shape. The floor on the first level is also unusual. It is "puncheon-like" in appearance -- that is, all of the floor boards begin and end on the sleepers, producing seams which run the full width of the building. In plan, the first level is a single room with a door at the center of one end and another at the center of one side. The entrance to the stairway is from the outside. The second floor, where the lodge actually meets, has one large room and three smaller divisions, one of which is the enclosed staircase. The other two are a small storage room and a kitchen area. In the large room, there are podiums, or stations, on three sides. Some of the floor boards on the podiums measure 26" across. The station at the end opposite the kitchen and stairs is emphasized by a free-standing elliptical arch structure, supported by square columns. The original wood-burning stove is still present, although no longer in use.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	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 1858

Builder/Architect L. O. McKinzie

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Mt. Moriah Masonic Lodge is located in Lisbon, a one-time lumber town, which is now only a small rural community. The 1858 lodge is the only reminder of the original, once vital settlement. The two-story wooden building is on its original site, a lot which it shares with a landmark old oak tree. The lodge is significant because of its construction and basically unaltered condition as well as the role of the Masons and their lodge building in the community. It is an excellent example of the type of structure which was built in the mid-19th century to serve not only as a social and civic meeting place, but also as a location for religious services.

ELABORATION

The Mt. Moriah chapter of the Masonic Lodge was chartered in 1848 and its present meeting place was constructed ten years later, in 1858, by L. O. McKinzie. The construction of the lodge makes it distinctive in Arkansas buildings. The use of a single timber for a two-story corner post is most likely unique in the state. The stairway is also noteworthy because it is completely held together by wooden pegs. Mt. Moriah Lodge played an important role in the community, serving as a community center for over one hundred years. Traditionally, the ground floor of the lodge was made available for any religious organizations which needed a place to meet. Due to the secretive nature of the Masonic organization, knowledge of specific service projects is limited; however, members of the lodge financially support the widows of Masons and their children, including paying for a college education. Not only have members of Mt. Moriah Lodge "been of an upstanding community character", several of its charter members, such as Lewis Murph and D. R. Coulter, were also leaders, holding local political offices as well as being members of the state legislature in the 1850's. The lodge remains virtually unaltered and is still located on its original site. It is the oldest structure in the state which was built by the Masons as a lodge and continues to be used for this purpose.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Arkansas, at its Annual Communication, 1848 and 1849.

"Lisbon Masonic Lodge Building Served as Civic Center for Years" Centennial Section of Centen El Dorado News June 21, 1936.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1 acre

Quadrangle name Lisbon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 15 516130 3681235
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carroll Ricketts, edited by AHPP staff

organization Member, Mt. Moriah Lodge date 10/27/86

street & number 200 Lion Place telephone (501) 862-5667

city or town El Dorado state AR 71730

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 *William J. ...*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 11-7-87

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

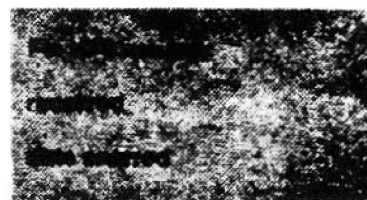
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Mount Moriah Lodge #18 is located in Section 2, Township 17 south, Range 17 west in Union County Arkansas. Specifically, from the intersection of State Highway 172 and the county road at Lisbon, Arkansas, proceed south along State Highway 172 for 234 feet. Next proceed east for 67 feet to the northwest corner of the property. Then proceed east 60 feet to the northeast corner. Then proceed south 27 feet to the southeast corner. Then proceed west 60 feet to the southwest corner. Then proceed north 27 feet to the point of origin, thus encircling the property.



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Continuation sheet

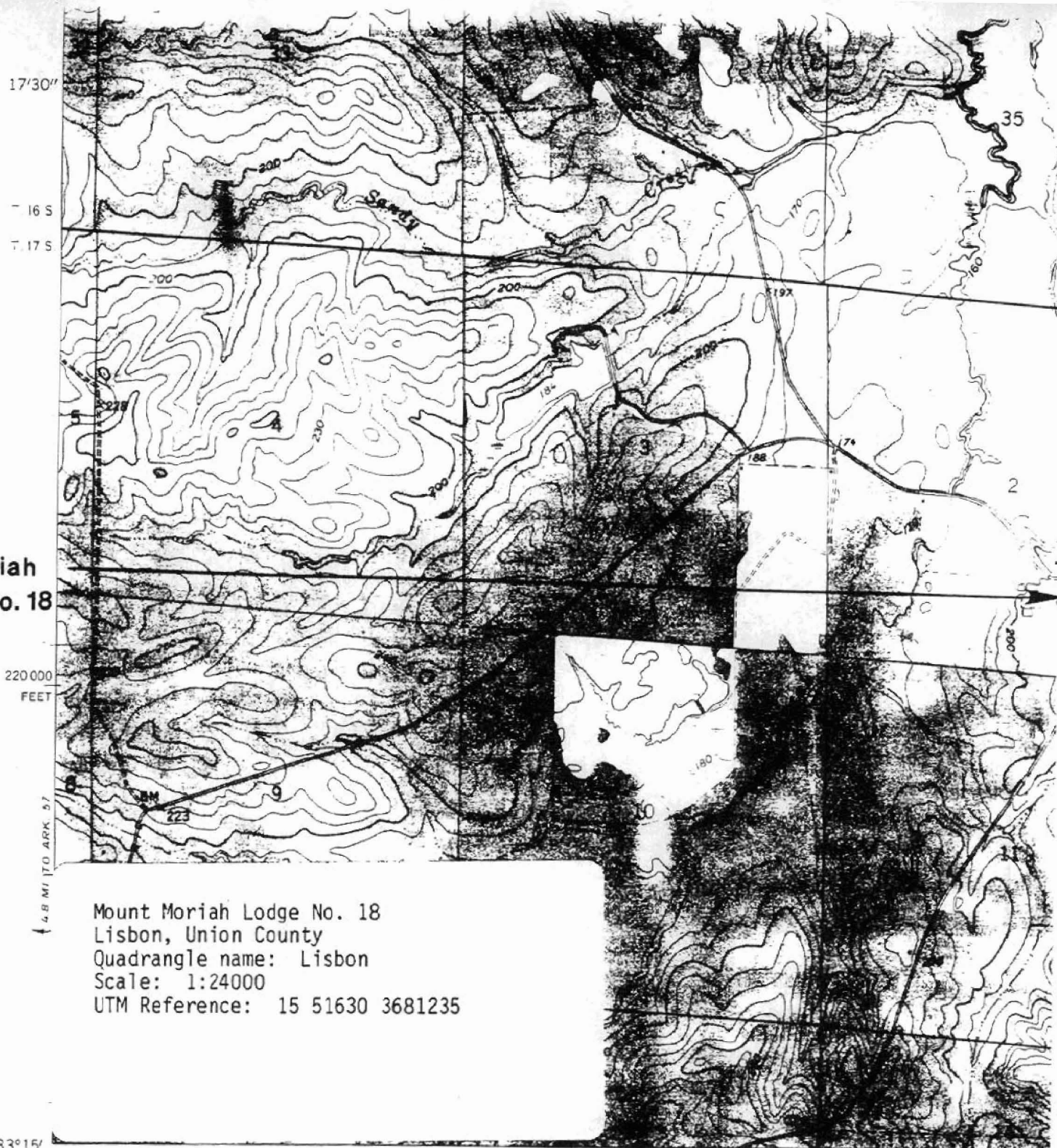
Item number 9

Page 2

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interview with Jack Donham, Grand Secretary, Arkansas Grand Lodge F. & A.M., December 1986.

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas Chicago, Nashville, and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890. pp. 823, 825, 863.



• Moriah
dge No. 18

220000
FEET

↑ 4.8 MI TO ARK 57

Mount Moriah Lodge No. 18
Lisbon, Union County
Quadrangle name: Lisbon
Scale: 1:24000
UTM Reference: 15 51630 3681235

33°15'

92°52'30"

1740000 FEET

CAIRO 2.7 MI

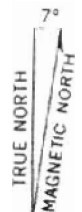
50'

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1962. Field checked 1962

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



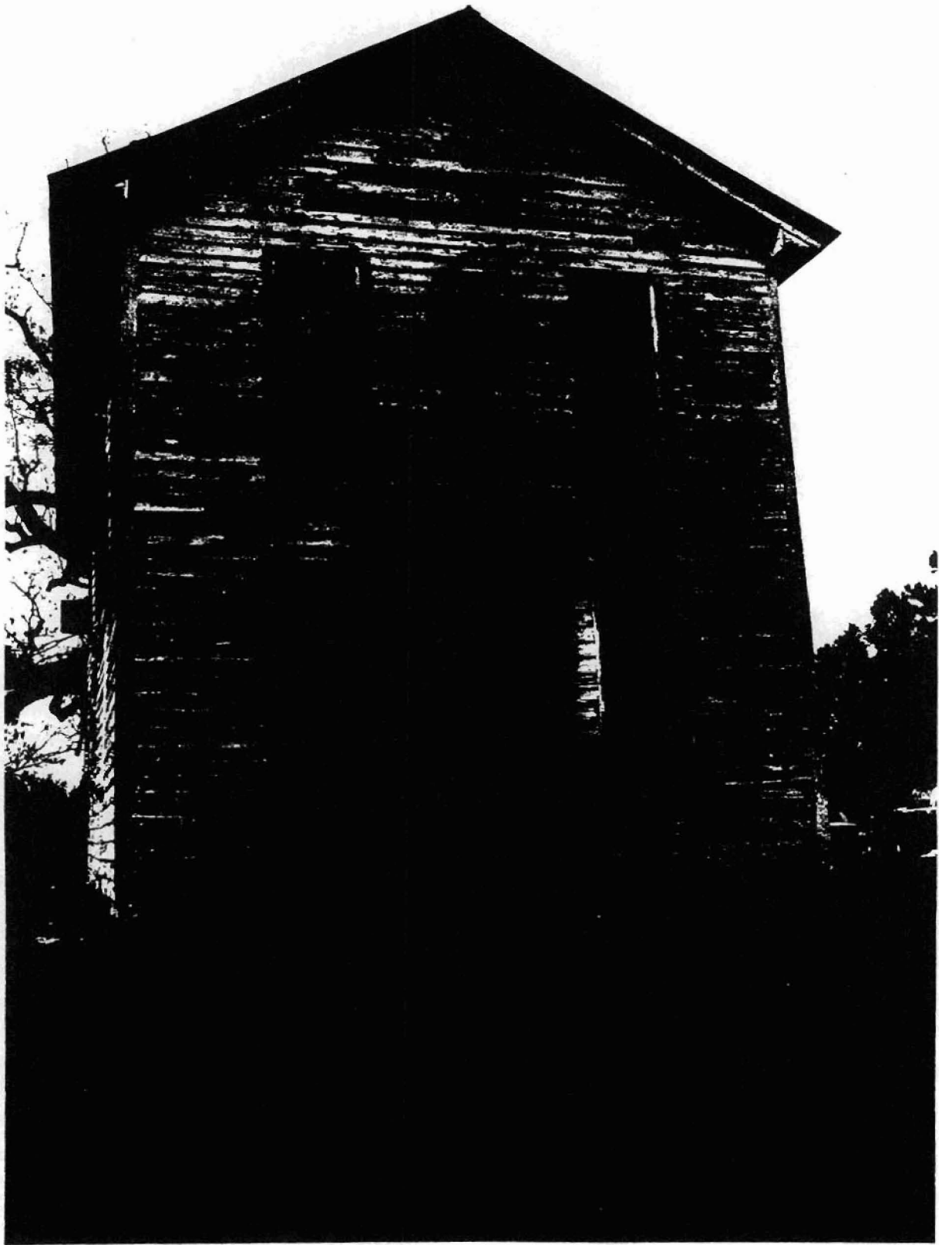
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1962

FOR S
AND BY

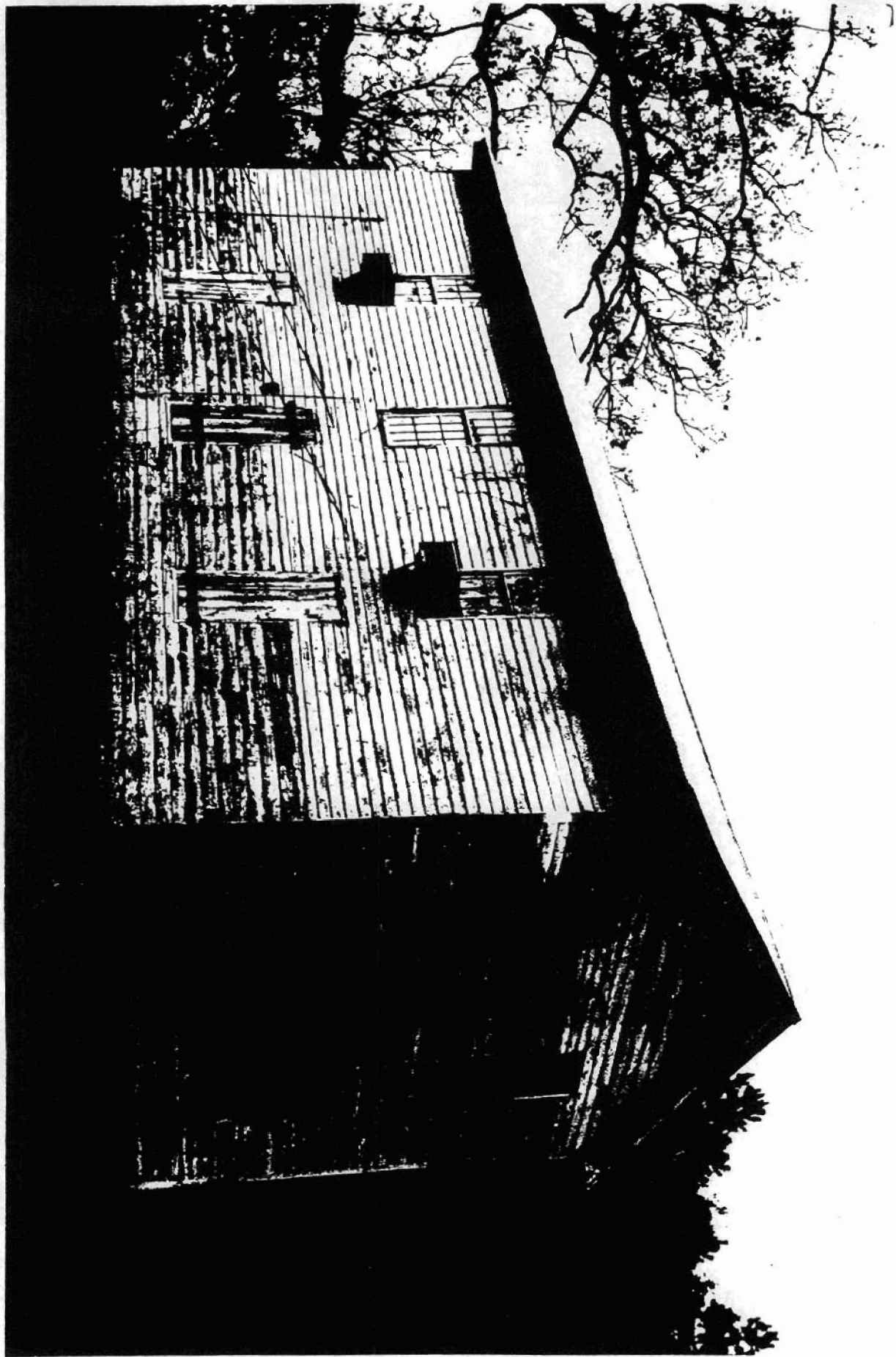




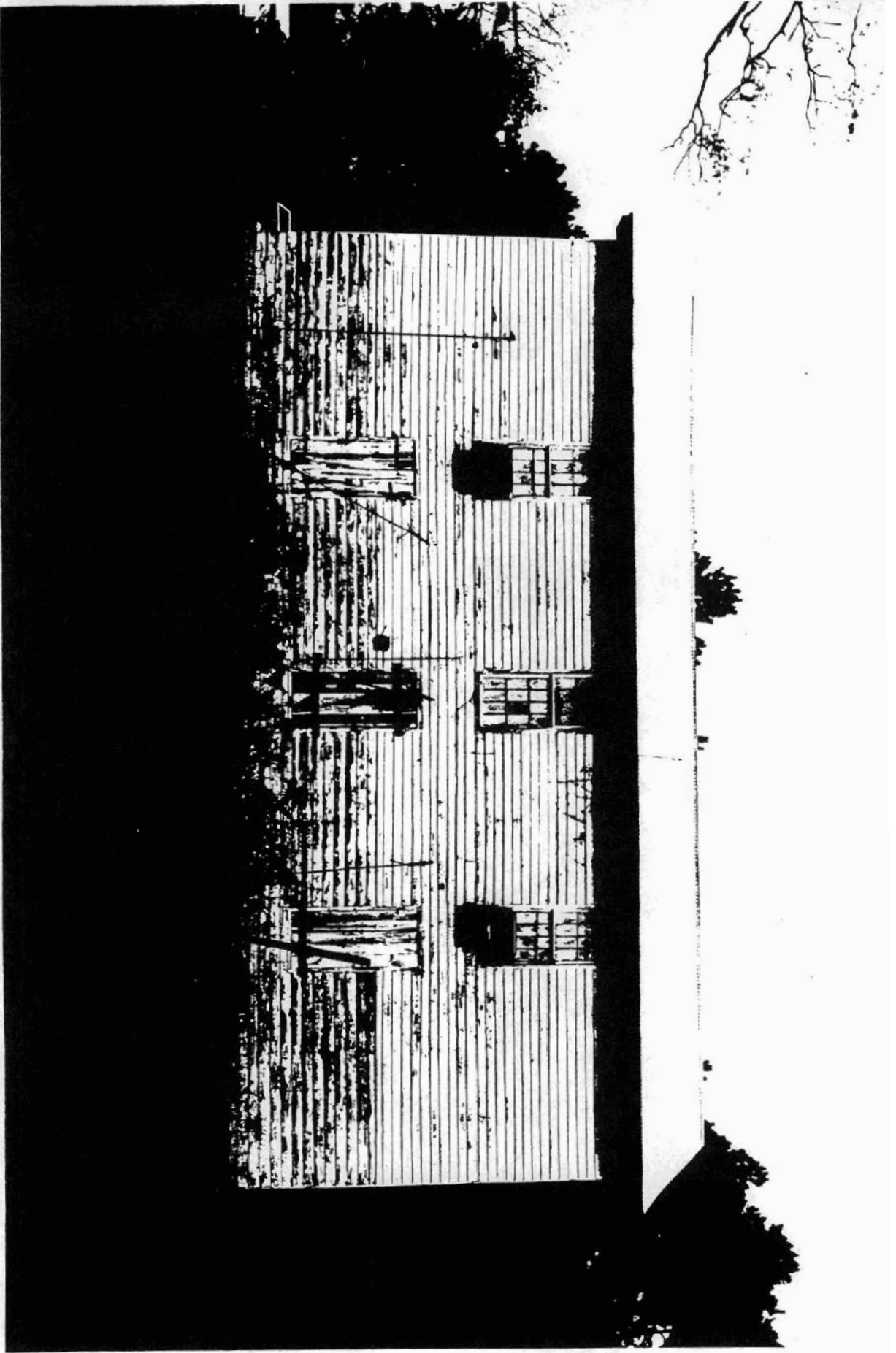
Mt. Moriah Lodge
Lisbon, Union County
Viewed from the northeast
Photographed by Julie Vosmik
November 1986
Negatives on file at AHPP



Mt. Moriah Lodge
Lisbon, Union County
Viewed from the south
Photographed by Julie Vosmik
November 1986
Negatives on file at AHPP



Mt. Moriah Lodge
Lisbon, Union County
Viewed from the southwest
Photographed by Julie Vosmik
November 1986
Negatives on file at AHPP



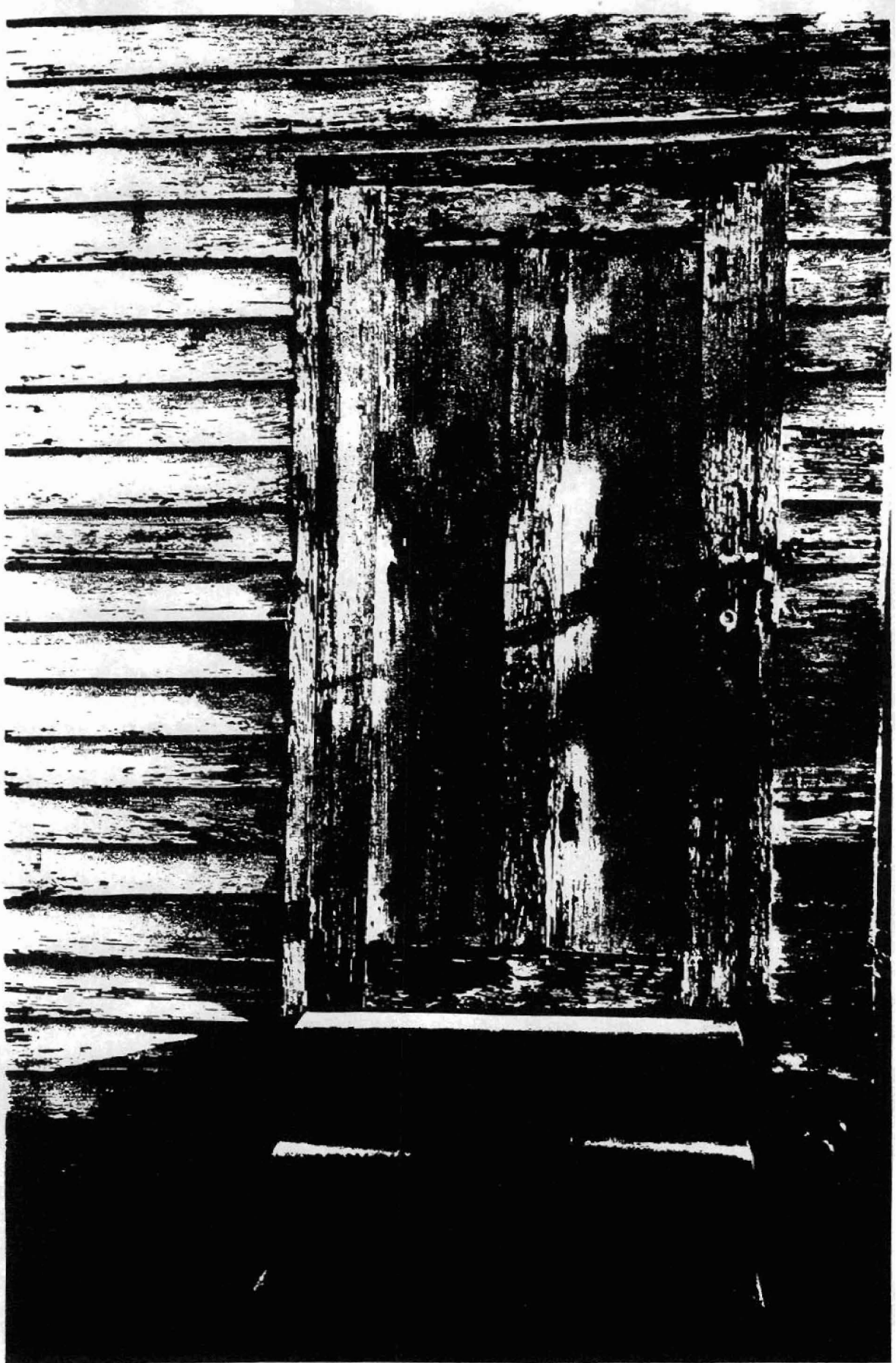
Mt. Moriah Lodge

Lisbon, Union County

Viewed from the west

**Photographed by Julie Vosmik
November 1986**

Negatives on file at AHPP



W1. Michael Lodge

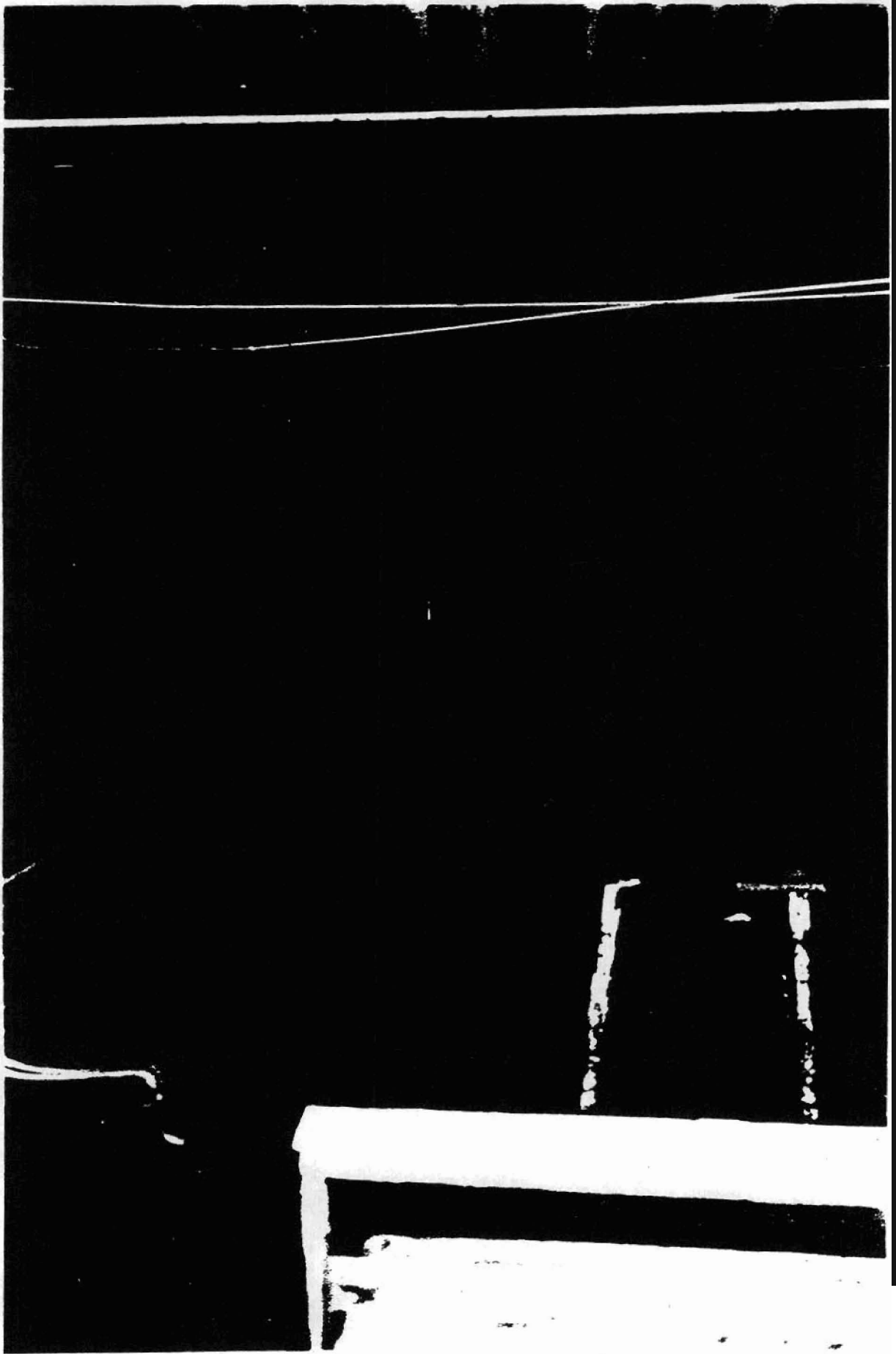
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City: Dallas

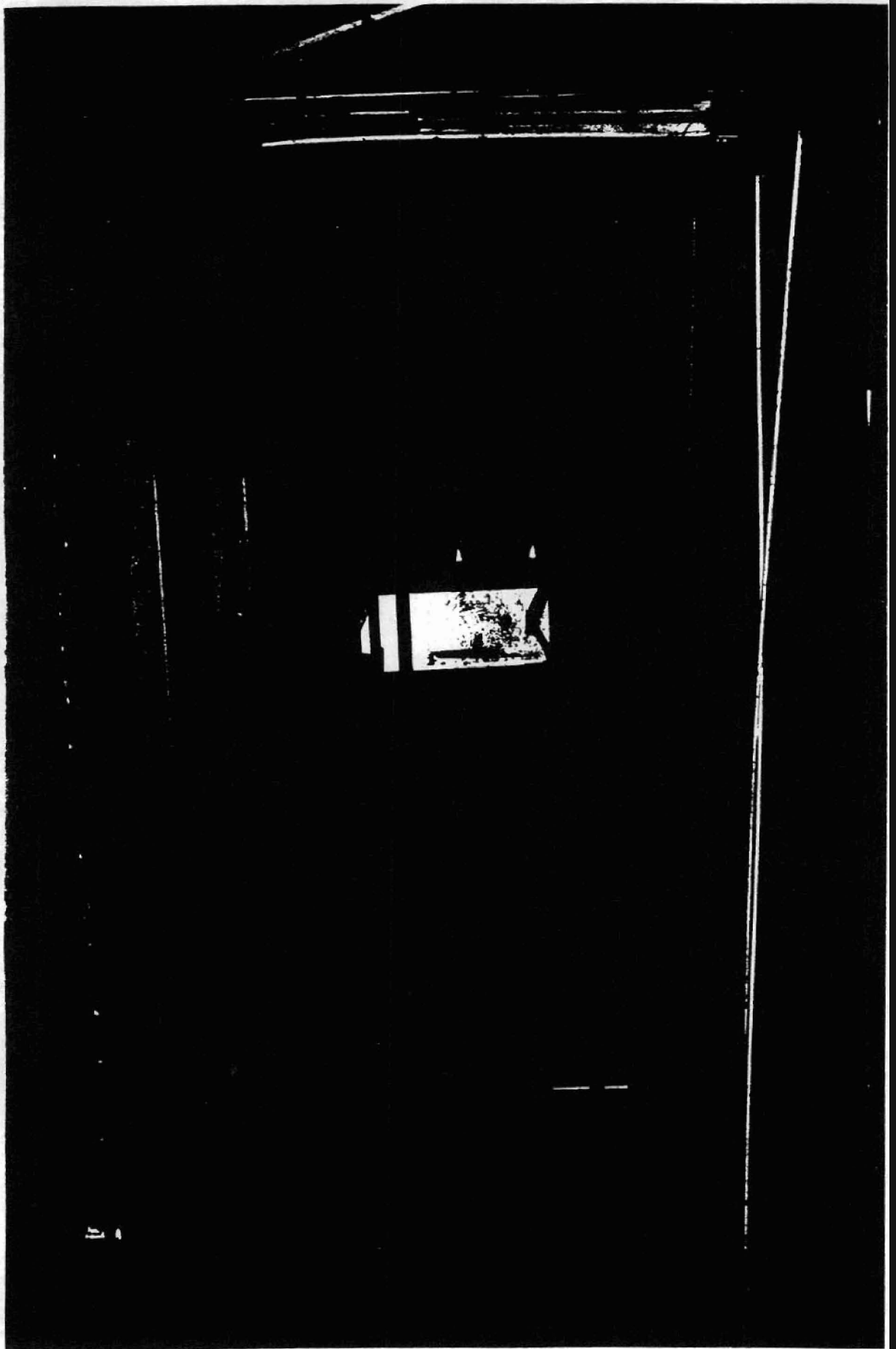
Phone: 214-555-1234

Age: 35

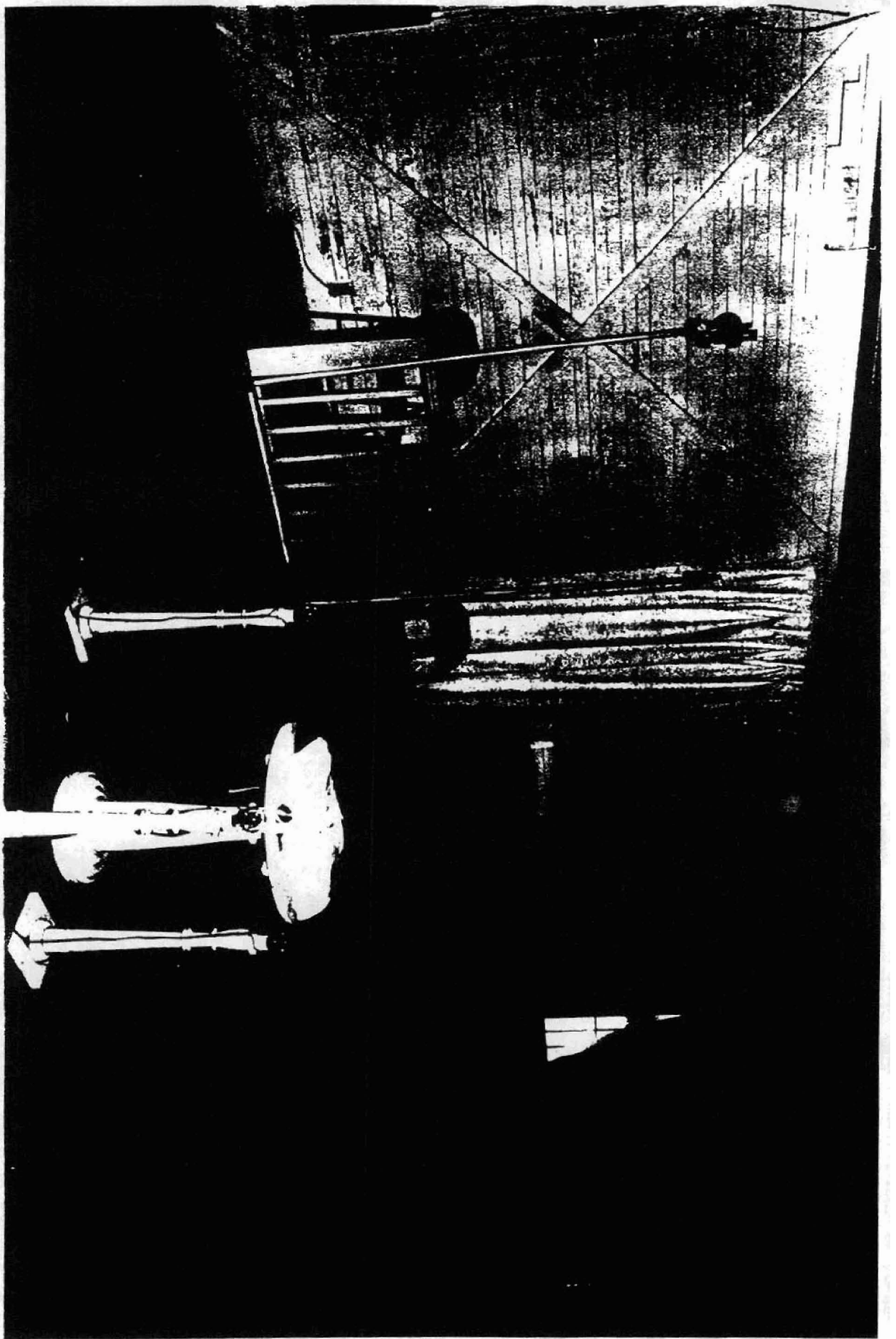
Height: 5'10"



Mt. Moriah Lodge
Lisbon, Union County
Interior, first story
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