

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Van Buren County - Damascus
Carl and Esther Lee House
17493 US 65S
NR 10/19/05

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 Carl and Esther Lee House
other names/site number VB0231

2. Location

street & number 17493 US 65S not for publication
city or town Damascus vicinity
state AR code AR county Van Buren code 045 zip code 72039

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

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

Earl Ward House

Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
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2	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
3	_____	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

A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry
Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/ Mixed Masonry

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/ English
Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Cut sandstone

roof Asphalt

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.
[X] 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:

- [X] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C moved from its original location.
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)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1948

Significant Dates

c. 1948

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Silas Owens, Sr., Mason

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
[X] 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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Carl and Esther Lee House
Name of Property

Van Buren Co., AR
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>553771</u>	<u>3913734</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.)

From the point of beginning at the northwest corner of US 65 and E. Main Street proceed north approximately 330 feet, thence proceed east approximately 180 feet, thence proceed east approximately 320 feet to point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holly Hope/ Special Projects Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 08/08/05
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501 324-9880
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 Michael & Pam Frazier
street & number 71439 US Hwy 65S telephone 501 335-7981
city or town Damascus state AR zip code 72039

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,

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Carl and Esther Lee House is situated on busy US Highway 65. This prominent position allows a good view of the stunning intricacy of Silas Owens, Sr.'s, rockwork and the comfortable English Revival lines.

ELABORATION

The front, western façade of the Lee House reveals complicated massing and multiple gables. Owens outlined round louvers with cream brick in a starburst pattern. The northwest corner of the home is sheltered by a gabled porch with a wide arch and stone half-wall. A narrow arched exit in the south wall of the gabled porch allows access to a concrete patio area, which spans the remainder of the façade. A short, stone pier trimmed with the traditional three-in, three-out pattern of brick and topped with a concrete cap is located at the southwest corner of the patio. North to south, the wall under the porch is fenestrated with a single centered, six-over-six, double-hung window. A single window is situated south of the porch. Adjacent to the window, the front entry is located in an gabled extended vestibule featuring a metal awning. The door contains three rectangular lights at graduated levels. The southwest corner of the home is lit by a single window. The two windows on this elevation are sheltered by metal awnings.

The southern elevation is fenestrated west to east by four evenly-spaced windows, a single, shorter window, a six-light, single-leaf door and a single window at the southeast corner. A modern, wooden deck with wood handrail extends from the area of the door to the rear of the house.

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Section number 7 Page 2

Three quarters of the rear, eastern elevation is covered by a modern shed-roofed carport supported by four wrought-iron posts. Beneath the carport from south to north the house is lit by a single window, a pair of windows and shorter pair of windows underneath a metal awning.

The northern elevation is fenestrated east to west by a short pair of windows adjacent to a single-leaf door. A second short pair of windows and three evenly-spaced single windows completes the fenestration. All openings are covered by metal awnings. The western wall of the front porch admits access through a wide arch reached by two concrete steps.

UPPER STORY

The upper story of the home consists of attic space, which is fenestrated on the western elevation by a single six-over-six, double-hung window centered in the gable. The southern elevation also contains a single centered window as does the rear, eastern and northern walls.

OUTBUILDINGS

Two contributing outbuildings remain on the property. A stone storm shelter is located to the south of the house. The shelter is accessed at the eastern end by a below-ground door recessed within two angled stone sidewalls. The shelter is topped by a concrete barrel roof.

Carl and Esther Lee House

Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR

County and State

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Section number 7 Page 3

A Mixed Masonry storage building veneered by Owens is situated at the northeast corner of the home. The small gabled building features a single-leaf, five-panel door centered on the western end. The southern wall is lit by a single small six-over-six, double-hung window. The rear, eastern wall is accessed by an off-center opening, which is missing its door. Half of the northern wall is covered by a wooden, shed-roofed overhang supported by three round posts. A single window opens beneath the overhang.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Carl and Esther Lee House in Damascus is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a good example of an English Revival-influenced Mixed Masonry veneered by Silas Owens, Sr. Constructed circa 1948, it remains an intact and outstanding example of Owens' work and the rural history of Damascus. It is also being submitted under the multiple property context, "A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."

ELABORATION

The original Lee House was a frame structure, which was moved to the lot of the current building from across a pasture. In the late 1940s the home was moved again to a location down the road, where it still stands, for the construction of the new Lee House, circa 1948. Carl, who was raised in Bee Branch and his wife, Esther Hall-Lee from Scotland, AR, reared their family in the new home while operating a store in Damascus, which offered auto parts, groceries, feed and gas.

Carl Lee knew that he wanted native rock as a building material because he had seen an example of a Mixed Masonry at his friend, Charlie Hall's farm in Twin Groves (FA1255). This home was also veneered by Silas Owens, Sr., and its beauty and cohesive construction impressed Lee who obtained the stone from a quarry on Hall's land.

Carl and Esther Lee House
Name of Property

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Carl Lee died in 1979 and Esther lived in the house until her death in 1996. The children had moved away many years earlier but the home remained in the family for a four more years.

Pam and Michael Frazier purchased the Lee house in 2000 after a period of vacancy. Michael Frazier had spent his childhood in Pocahontas and Pam was born in Little Rock but raised in Faulkner County. Michael, a contractor with Frazier Construction, Pam, a nurse with a North Little Rock pediatric clinic and their three children felt comfortable in a small town like Damascus and were able to appreciate the substantial construction and beauty of Owens' work.

Damascus remains a small town despite its proximity to growing Greenbrier and booming Conway. US Highway 65 through the town has been widened within the last decade, which brought it closer to the house; however, it did not detrimentally affect the view or intact lines of the house. The only alterations to the home have been the low-impact addition of a deck and a carport to the rear and side, which does not detract from the original design.

Carl and Esther Lee House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR
County and State

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The circa 1948 Carl and Esther Lee House is being nominated to the National Register under **Criterion C** with **local significance** as a good example of an English Revival-influenced Mixed Masonry veneered by Silas Owens, Sr. The Lee House maintains its small town atmosphere and original scale and materials, lending to its integrity as an example of a late 1940s rural home. It is also being submitted under the multiple property context, "A Storm Couldn't Tear Them Down: The Mixed Masonry Buildings of Silas Owens, Sr., 1938-1955."

Carl and Esther Lee House
Name of Property

Faulkner County, AR
County and State

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Continuation Sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

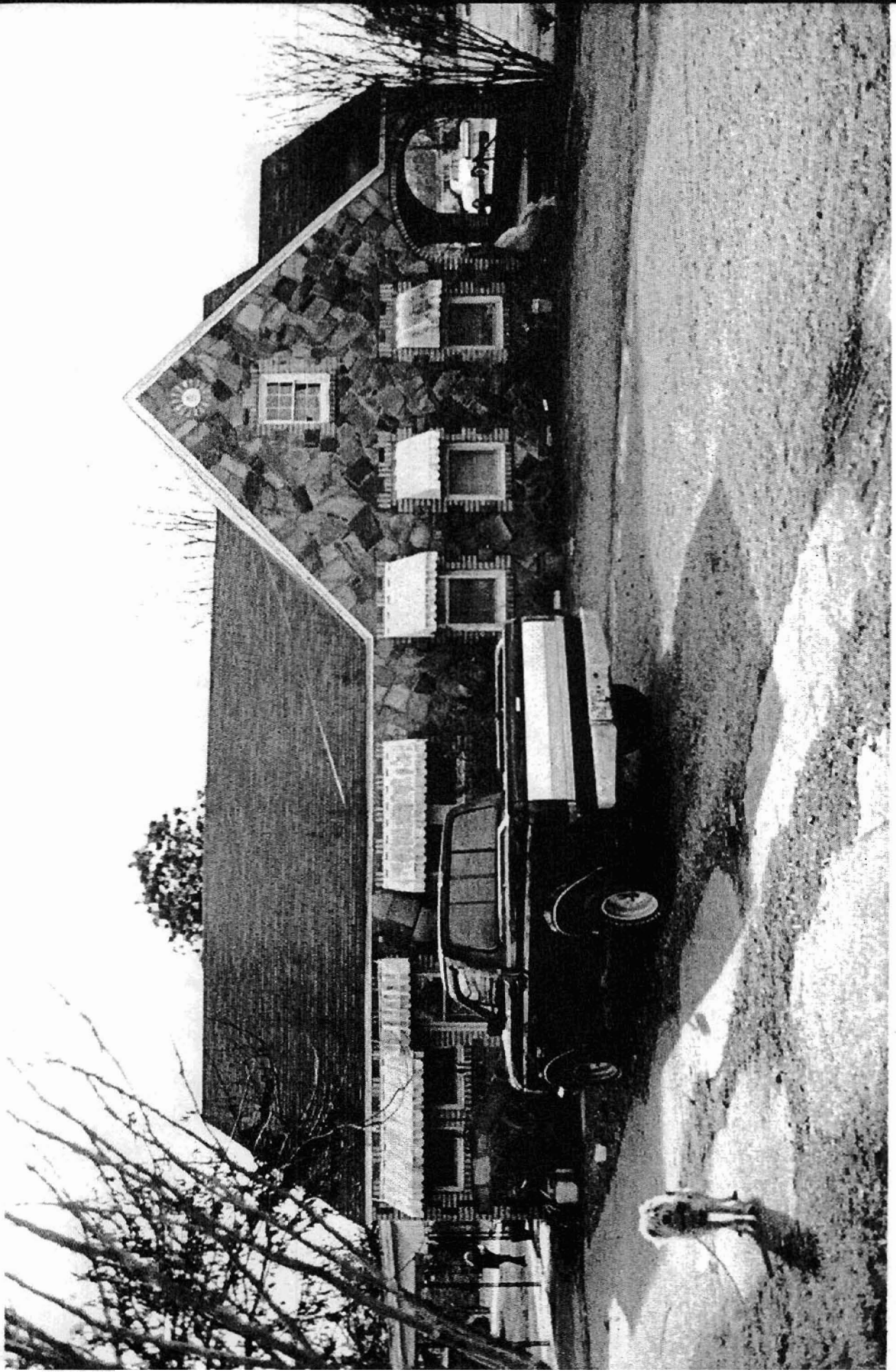
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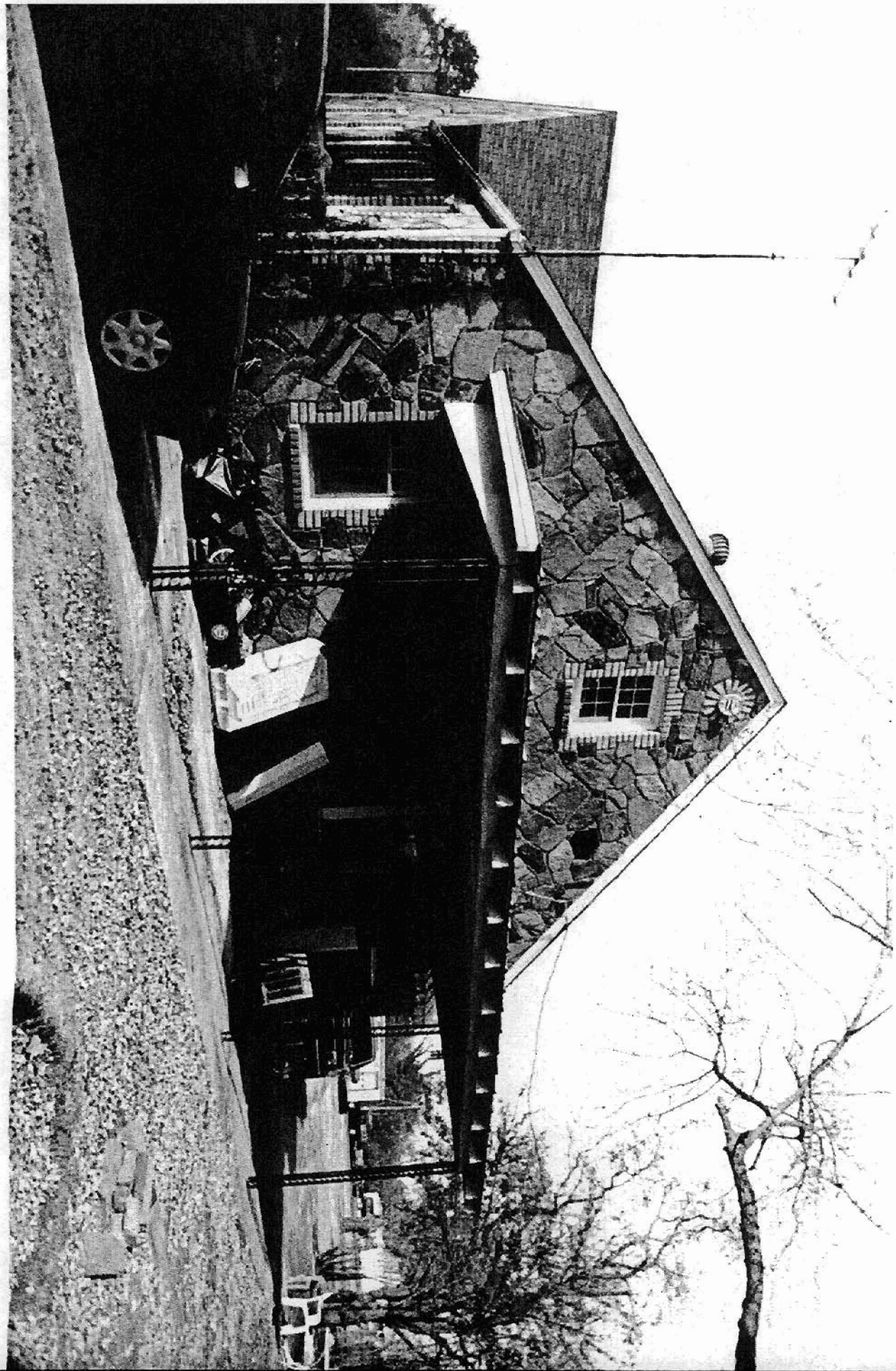
(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

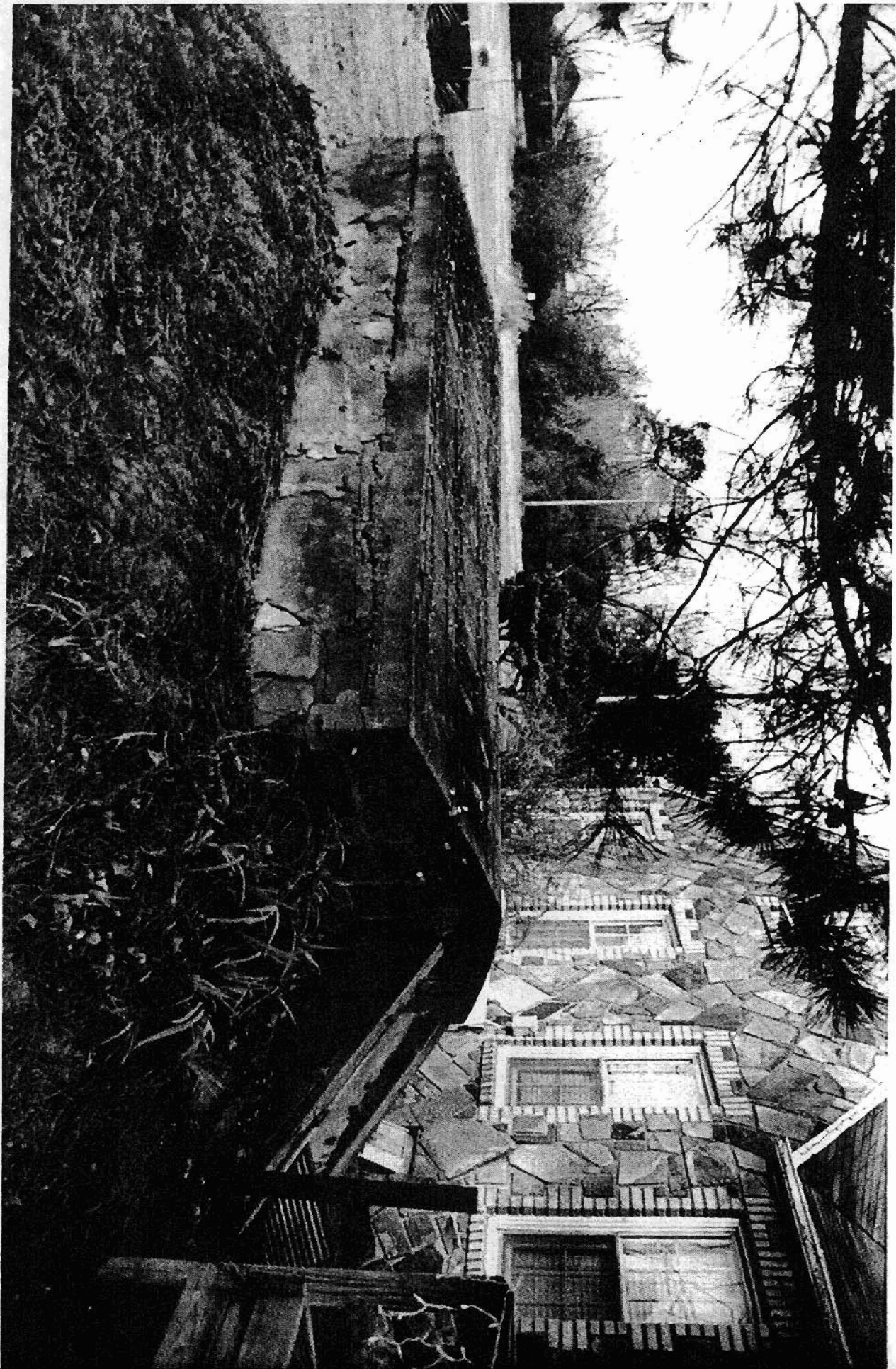
Burchfield, Lou. Daughter of Carl and Esther Lee, Wooster, Arkansas. Telephone interview with author, 06 June 2005.

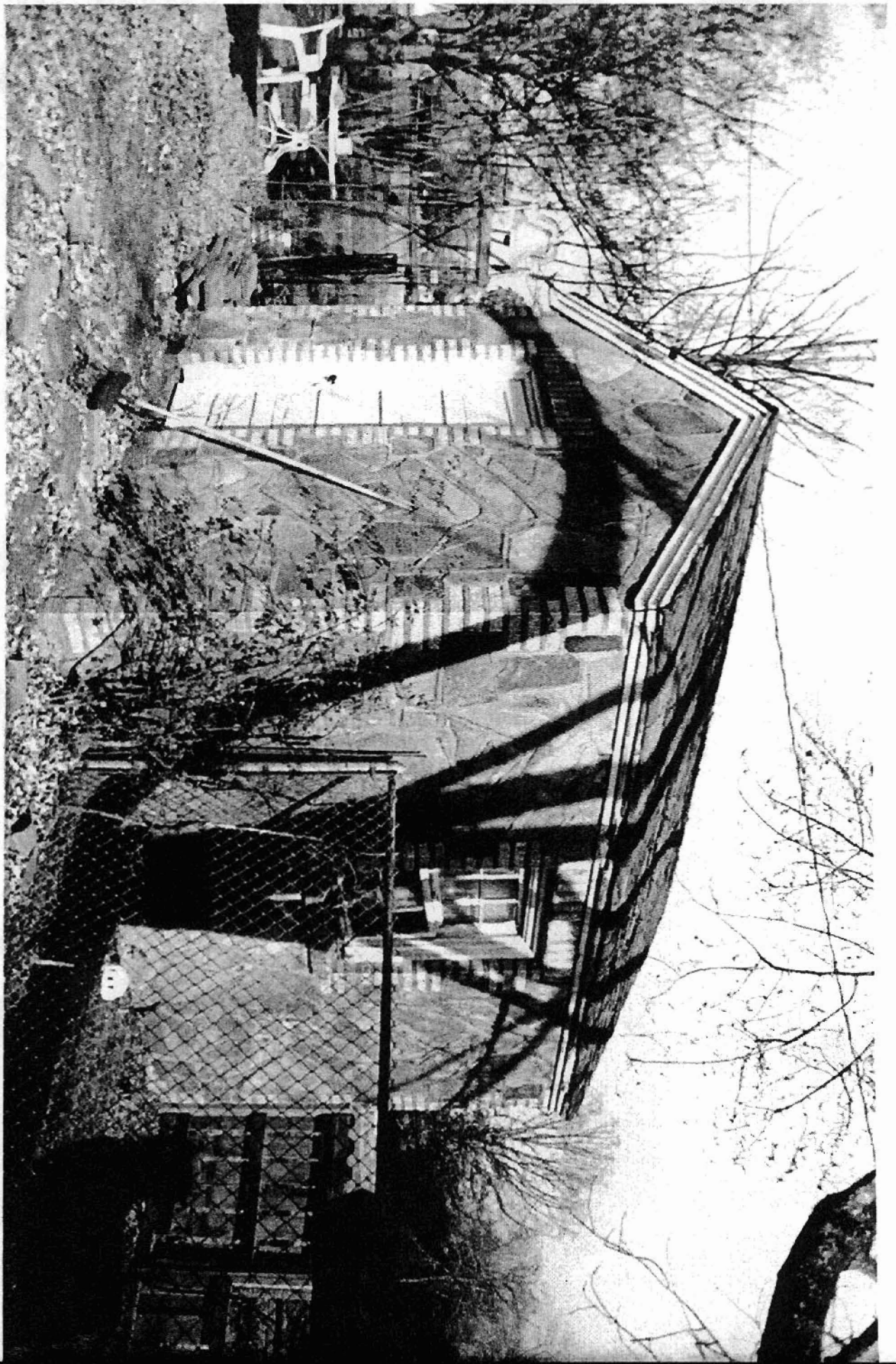
Frazier, Michael. Damascus, Arkansas. Telephone interview with author 27 May 2005.

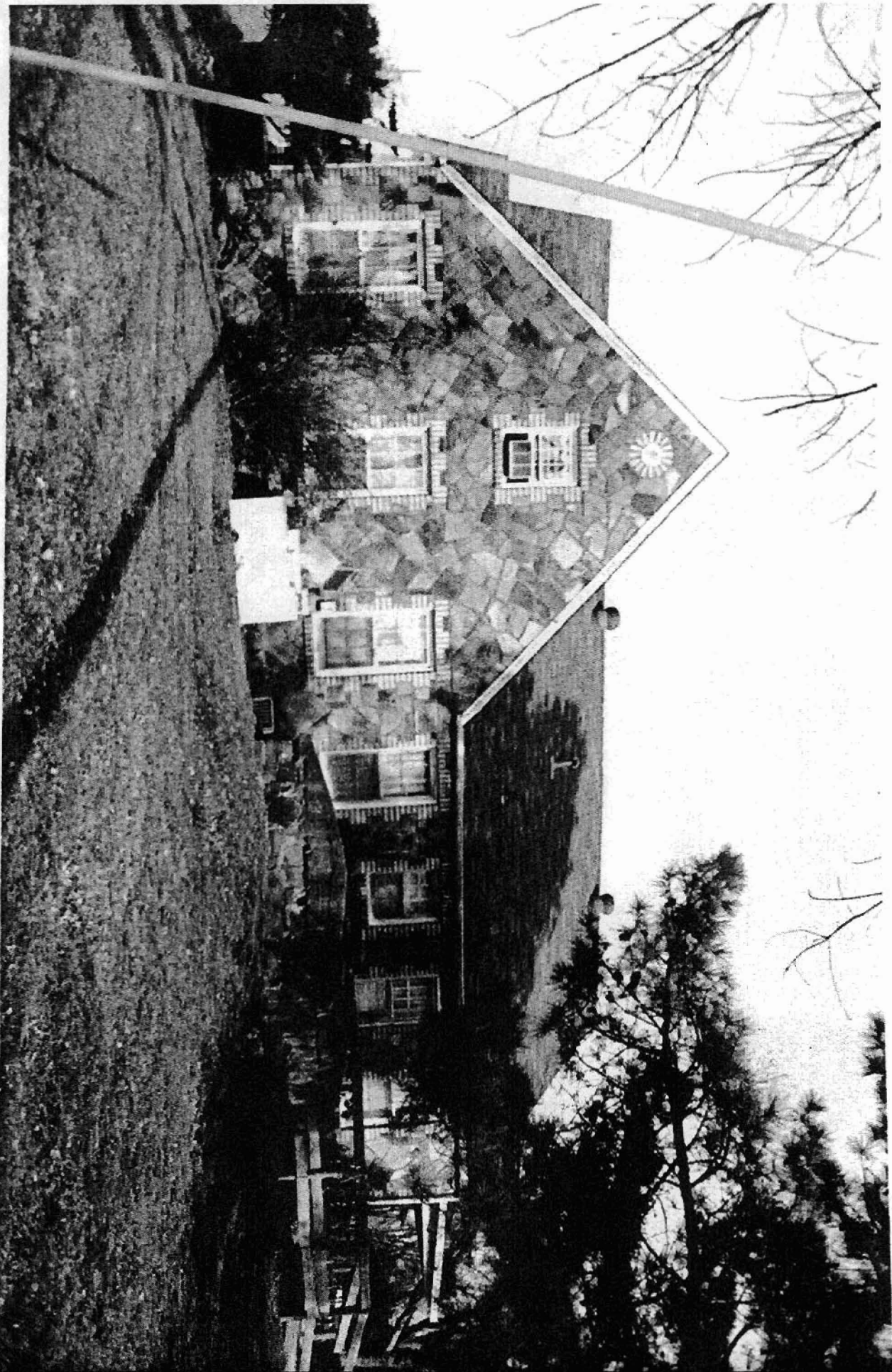
Lee, Joe, Sr. Son of Carl and Esther Lee, Clinton, Arkansas. Telephone interview with author, 03 June 2005.

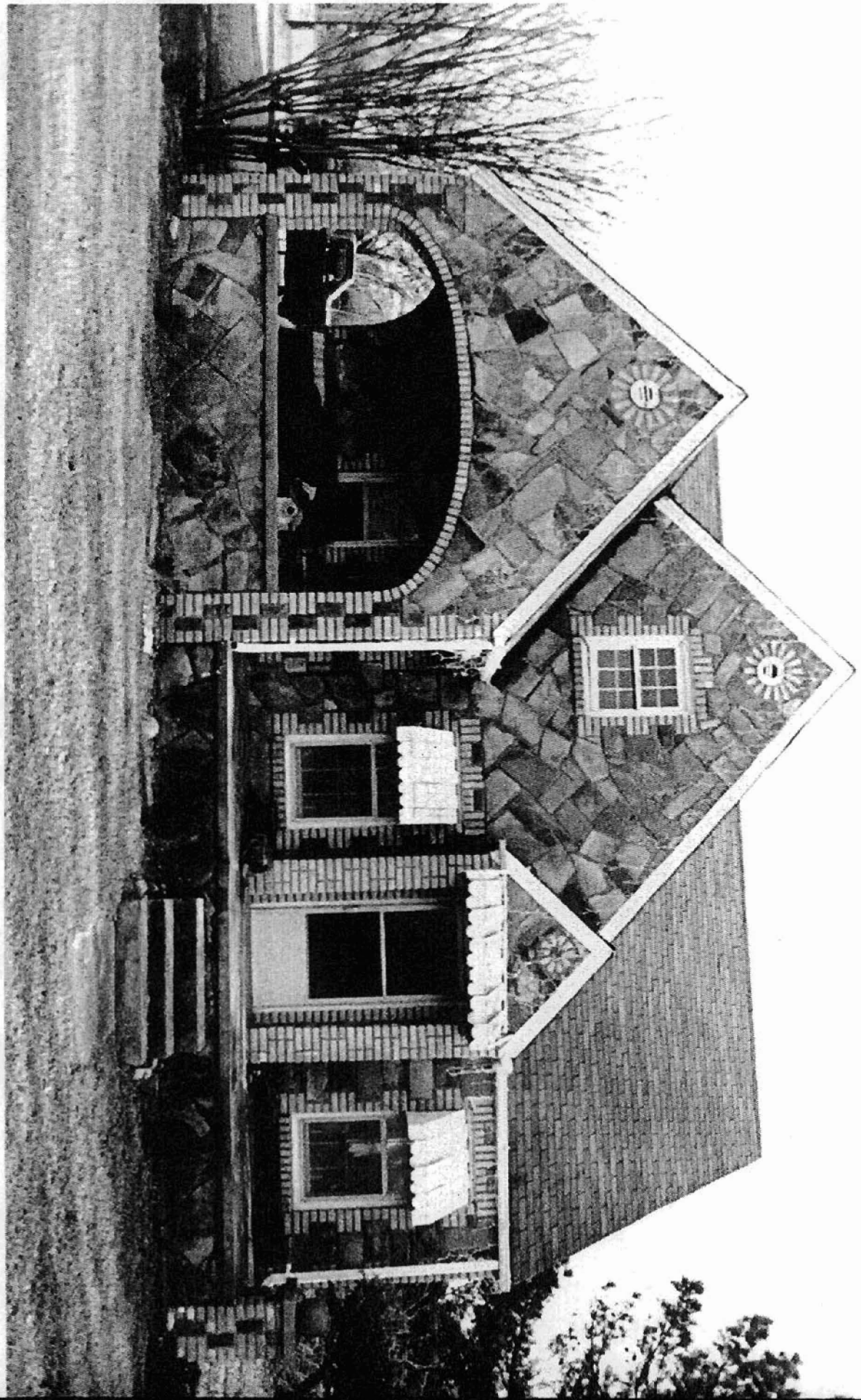




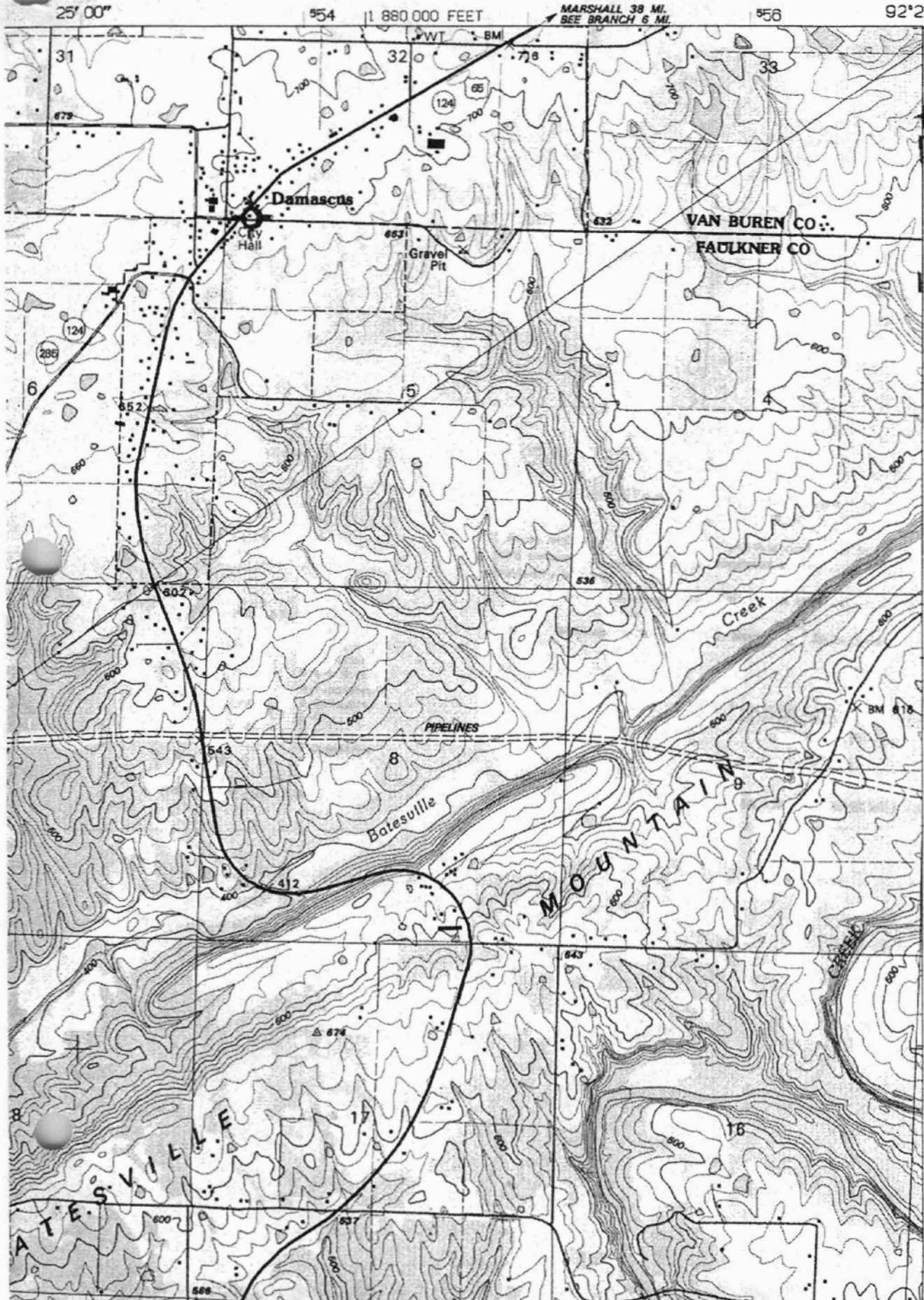








**DAMASCUS QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)**



*Caul + Esthella
House
Damascus,
Van Buren Co,
AR*

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