

NR Listed: 10-04-02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Smyth, Peter, House
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1629 Crossover Street not for publication
city or town Fayetteville vicinity
state Arkansas code AR county Washington code 143 zip code 72701

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.)

Cathie Matthews 8/13/02
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 _____

Smyth, Peter, House
Name of Property

Washington County, Arkansas
County and State

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	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

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)

GREEK REVIVAL

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Sandstone

Weatherboard

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.
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

Period of Significance

Circa 1886

Significant Dates

Circa 1886

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Unknown

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Smyth, Peter, House
Name of Property

Washington County, Arkansas
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Two acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 399030 3993460
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

A part of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of the Northeast Quarter (NE ¼) of Section 11, Township 16 North, Range 30 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian and being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the NW corner of said NE ¼ NE ¼, thence North 88 degrees 16 minutes East 1320.15 feet, thence South 1 degree 10 minutes East 445 feet to the P.O.B. , thence south 1 degree 10 minutes East 210 feet, thence South 88 degrees 16 minutes West 210 feet, thence North 1 degree 10 minutes West 210 feet, thence North 88 degrees 16 minutes East 210 feet to the P.O.B.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all resources historically associated with the property that retain integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Zac Cothren
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 6/25/02
street & number 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 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 _____
street & number _____ telephone _____
city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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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Summary

The Peter Smyth House was constructed in 1886 in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and is an excellent example of a stone constructed cottage. This central hall cottage was constructed for Irish immigrant, Peter Smyth, who settled near Fayetteville in the 1840s with several other Irish families. It is constructed of coursed sandstone with handsomely chiseled stone window lintels and ledges. The home features two internal end chimneys, a feature that is more commonly found in houses with earlier construction dates. Two rooms form a large rear ell on the north. Despite the somewhat aristocratic connotations of the highly unusual stone construction, several elements look back to the long out-of-fashion Greek Revival style. These are: the front door with transom and sidelights, the interior chimneys, and the severity and balance of the five-bay façade, augmented by the absence of the traditional front porch. A small addition was added to the rear of the house along the south side of the ell and along the west side of the house's main section. Although the addition was added in 1990, it is small and located on the back of the building. The addition does little to detract from the overall appearance of the building. A stone fruit cellar is the only outbuilding remaining; it is located on the south side of the house and is a contributing resource to the nomination.

Elaboration

In a survey of vernacular houses of the Arkansas Ozarks, no log central hall houses were found. Most were either balloon or braced frame, depending on their ages. Significantly, the one stone house documented was the central hall cottage type, the Peter Smyth house. Since the Ozarks abound in stone it seems somewhat puzzling that it was so rarely used in constructing houses. The time-consuming and labor-intensive nature of masonry construction, especially when compared to the rapid construction possible with log and frame houses, must have been an overriding factor. Moreover, stone houses connote solidity and permanence; they are houses built for generations. Thus, perhaps they were inappropriate in the somewhat transient society of the nineteenth-century Ozarks, where even the oldest families were relative newcomers. If the crops failed, or drought came, or the community became crowded, it was best to have freedom to move on. This combination of variables accounts heavily for the rarity of stone constructed homes from that particular era in rural northern Arkansas.

The house is a rectangular plan with an ell. There are several things that make the ell seem to be an addition, but there are things that seem to make it a part of the original plan. The sandstone wall between the ell and front rooms had stones of the ell wall abutting instead of penetrating the perpendicular wall of the front rooms, and the roughness of the stone work on the north exterior wall may be strong reasons to feel that the ell had been an addition. However, the level ridge lines, the exact door and window sizes, the exact stonework quality, and the fact that there is a door between the ell and front rooms may be strong reasons to believe the ell is original. Research has yet to yield concrete evidence to prove either theory. Because of one of the strongest facts, the door into the ell from the front room, we believe that the ell might have been original. It is known that the ell dates back at least to the early years of the home.

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The structure consists of two rectangular parts that form an ell. The main portion is only one room deep and consists of two rooms separated by a central hall. The ell consists of two rooms separated by a thin 1"x4" partition wall. Both parts are covered with a gable roof. All of the exterior walls are of cut sandstone; larger cut sandstone defines the foundation for the entire perimeter of the house. The floor level at the façade of the house is about two feet above the ground level, requiring three stone steps at the front entrance. The floor and ground levels are the same at the back portion of the house.

The house, which is now surrounded by modern development, was in a state of disrepair when preservation efforts began in the 1970s. The home had been left vacant for several years and was left accessible to man and beast alike in what was at the time a cattle pasture. Vagrants and cattle took their toll on the house, but fortunately the home was saved. Windows had to be replaced, but replacements were chosen using historic photographs and allow the house to retain its historic appearance. Some new mortaring was also needed on the home to stabilize the stones. Plumbing and electricity were added to the house in the 1980s. Today the house is used as a rental property and is in good condition.

Façade

The façade of the building faces east. The front of the home is symmetrical with a central front door flanked by two window bays on either side. Narrow three-light sidelights and a three-light transom complement the door. All four of the front windows are four-over-four double-hung windows with stone lintels. The original windows had been removed from the house, but the replacements were chosen using historic photographs.

North Elevation

The north facing side of the building consists of the main body of the house as well as the ell. The elevation is quite simple with the most interesting feature being the stone lintels like those found on the front windows. The main body of the house is fenestrated by a single one-over-one double-hung window. The ell is fenestrated by two one-over-one windows.

West Elevation

The back of the house faces west. The west-facing wall of the ell is void of any fenestration. An addition is located along the south wall of the ell and along the west wall (back) of the main portion of the house. The addition is small and does little to detract from the overall appearance of the house. The addition is constructed primarily of stone and topped by a shed roof. Entry into the addition is through a door located where the addition connects to the ell. A false six-over-six window is located just to the right of the doorway. The south-facing wall of the addition is fenestrated by a ribbon of three six-light awning windows. The second portion of the addition is connected to the main section of the house and faces west. It is fenestrated by a false six-over-six window.

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South Elevation

The south elevation is made up partially of the addition and partially of the original house. The south-facing wall of the addition has a single fenestration in the form of a false six-over-six window. The original portion of the house features a plain stone wall void of any fenestration or ornamentation.

Outbuildings

A fruit cellar is located about five feet off the south elevation and is constructed using the same type of stone as the house. The building is a contributing structure to the main house. Although we do not know the exact date the building was constructed, we can safely assume it was built around the same time the house was constructed because of similarities between the masonry of the two buildings. The building has had its original roof replaced by a corrugated metal roof, but no other major changes have been made to the building.

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Summary

In 1883 Peter Smyth, an Irish immigrant, purchased property and in circa 1886 constructed a stone house near the town of Fayetteville in Washington County, Arkansas. The Smyth family owned the home for over eighty years. When the family of the current owner acquired the building it was in a very dilapidated condition and located in a rapidly developing portion of the town. Through use of historic photographs, the house has been restored and preserved. It is a rare and excellent example of a stone constructed vernacular house, and therefore is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion C** with **state significance**.

Elaboration

The first white man to see Fayetteville's hilltop terrain was Frank Pierce, who had come up the White River in 1819. By 1828, the fertile subsoil of northwest Arkansas had attracted sufficient numbers of settlers to warrant the creation of Washington County, a large tract of land embracing parts of present-day Madison and Carroll counties and all of Benton and Washington counties.

Because of its central location, Fayetteville was chosen as the county seat. The town was originally called Washington, but to avoid confusion with 'old' Washington in southern Arkansas, postal authorities requested the name be changed. Since Fayetteville, Tennessee, had been the hometown of two of the founding commissioners, local residents settled upon the name of Fayetteville. Within the next six years farmers, cabinetmakers, innkeepers, and merchants had arrived.

By 1830 Washington County boasted 2,100 inhabitants; Fayetteville claimed 75 residents. By 1834 Congress authorized the county commissioners to sell 160 acres of land to underwrite the building of a proper courthouse. An official announcement of the sale was printed in the Arkansas Advocate.

Settlers reached Fayetteville by traveling over the trail from Cane Hill or up the Huntsville road. Scouts and roving bands of hunters from Indian country followed Indian paths through Weddington Gap. The route from Jefferson City, Missouri, to Fort Smith, known today as Old Wire Road, became a military road over which cumbersome caravans of wagons brought supplies, household goods, and weary travelers. Several maps of the northwestern region of Arkansas made from 1833 to the early 1860s provide a reference point for understanding Fayetteville's growing importance as a major commercial and transportation center.

Washington County and Fayetteville began to grow rapidly. In 1840 the county had a population of over 7,000. Fayetteville numbered 400 residents. Most farmed the rich soil, while others worked in retail and wholesale businesses. People from nearby King's River and War Eagle bought their wares in Fayetteville's six dry goods stores.

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By the end of the 1850s, before the Civil War darkened the landscape, Washington County boasted a population of 13,180 white citizens and 1,499 slaves. As the county seat, numbering nearly 1,000 in total population, Fayetteville enjoyed its identity as the clearinghouse for all major legal, financial, and commercial transactions.

Education has always been very important to Washington County residents. Fayetteville's first school district was organized in 1866. In 1871 a board of directors was elected by the state legislature and empowered to receive bids for the location of an industrial university. Washington County offered \$100,000 in 30-year bonds. Fayetteville supplemented the bid with a \$30,000 bond offer and local citizens combined their resources and donated 420 acres of land as well. The campaign to locate the university contract went to Fayetteville. On the day classes began only eight students, all from Fayetteville, formally enrolled. By 1874-1875 there were a total of 198 pupils in the Preparatory Department and 146 enrolled in college classes. The first graduation ceremony was held in the spring of 1876 with eight graduates.

On June 8, 1881, an estimated 5,000 people applauded the arrival of Fayetteville's first train as it came to a stop. By 1885 Fayetteville's population had reached around 2,300. Nearly everyone prospered. A number of wholesale grocery companies, evaporated apple plants, and a new foundry joined the expanding lumber industry in strengthening Fayetteville's role as a major distribution and manufacturing center. Toward the end of the 1880s Fayetteville strengthened its position as a distribution center for communities in Missouri, Oklahoma Territory, and Texas. The 1880s and 1890s had been good to Fayetteville. In a few short years the town had come of age.

It was in this same period that Peter Smyth built his home on the outskirts of Fayetteville. Smyth, who was born in Ireland, had come to the area with his family and a group of other Irish settlers in the 1840s when he was a small child. Very little is known about Smyth's early life. In 1883 Smyth bought a small farm from a man named John Fitzgerald and in circa 1886 Smyth built a stone house on the farmstead.

Information is somewhat sparse about the Smyth family. The only family of Peter Smyth's that has been identified is a sister named Kate and three sons: John, Leo, and Ed. We do know that Smyth was a very devout Catholic and was possibly a founding member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Fayetteville. Both Leo and John were bachelors and never married. Ed on the other hand was described as a "ladies man" and was married in France while serving in World War I. He left his wife and moved back to America after the war and was married several more times in his life. The family was very religious and one of his marriages was outside the family's religion. That coupled with the amount of marriages led to him being disowned by his father. In all of Peter Smyth's personal records, Ed's name is never mentioned.

Peter Smyth lived in the home until his death in 1924. In 1938 the house was taken by the state because of unpaid taxes. The next year his sons, John and Leo, bought the property back from the state. The farm

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remained in the Smyth family until 1969 when Dr. Phil Deal of Fayetteville purchased it. When Dr. Deal died in 1974, the house was purchased by Johnie Bassett, a businessman from Fayetteville. Mr. Bassett preserved the house and two acres protecting it from extensive real estate development in the surrounding area.

Today, Johnie Bassett's daughter, Carolyn Bassett Madison and her family own the house. The home was in a very dilapidated state when they started preservation efforts. They have had the home restored using historic photographs and now maintain it as a rental property. The home was featured in Jean Sizemore's book, *Ozark Vernacular Houses: A Study of Rural Homeplaces in the Arkansas Ozarks, 1830-1930*. It was the only stone constructed home that was documented during research for the book. Luckily, through the efforts of Mrs. Madison and her family, the home has been preserved and spared from encompassing development.

Statement of Significance

In an extensive three county survey of vernacular houses in the Arkansas Ozarks, the Peter Smyth house in Washington County was the only stone structure documented. The home is primarily vernacular, but possesses some simplified Greek Revival detail around the entryway. The home is an excellent example of vernacular stone construction and the rarity of similar houses make the building all the more important. The Peter Smyth House in Fayetteville, Arkansas, is being nominated to the National Register of Historic places under **Criterion C** with **state significance** as the best example of a stone constructed vernacular house with Greek Revival influences in Fayetteville and the surrounding countryside.

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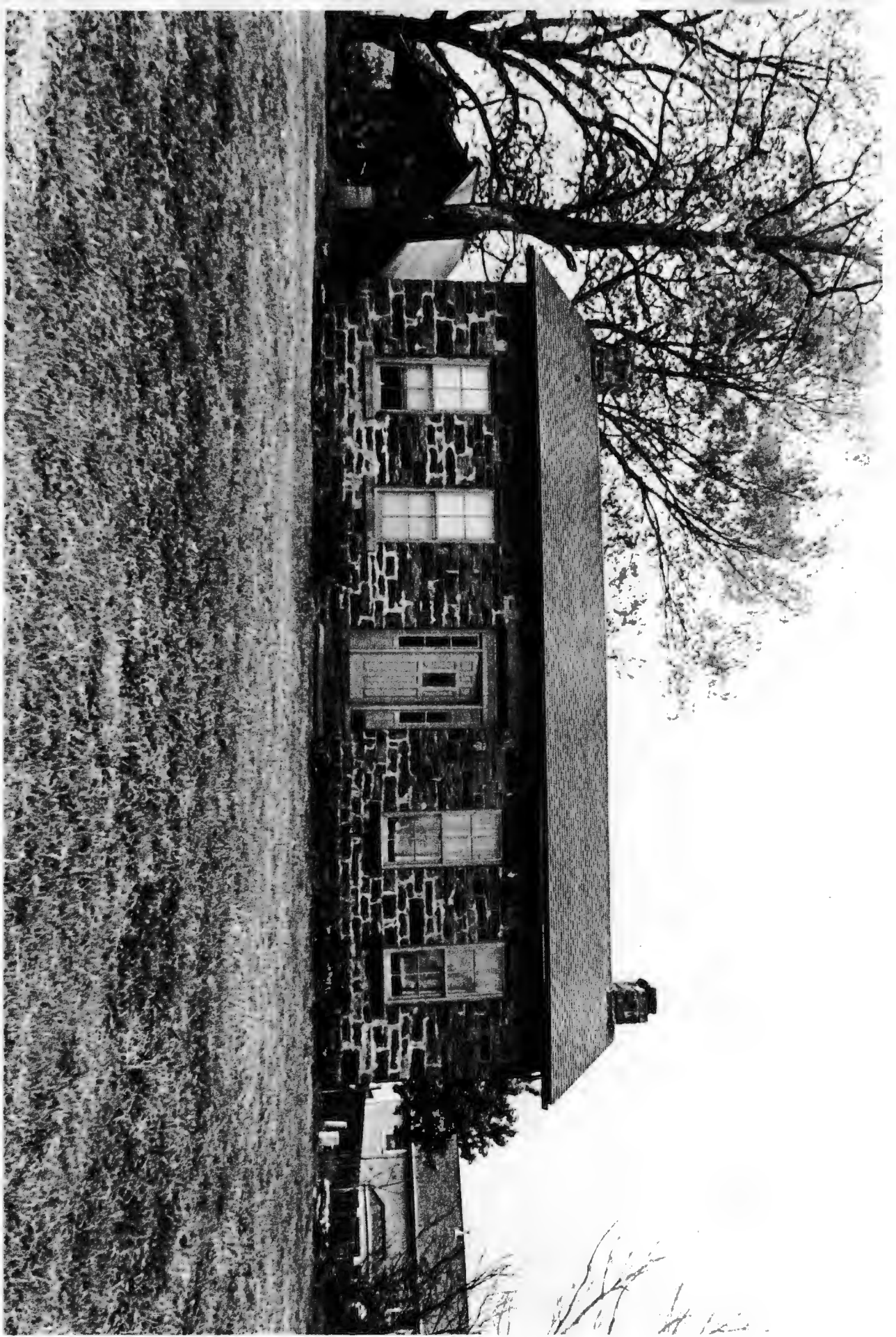
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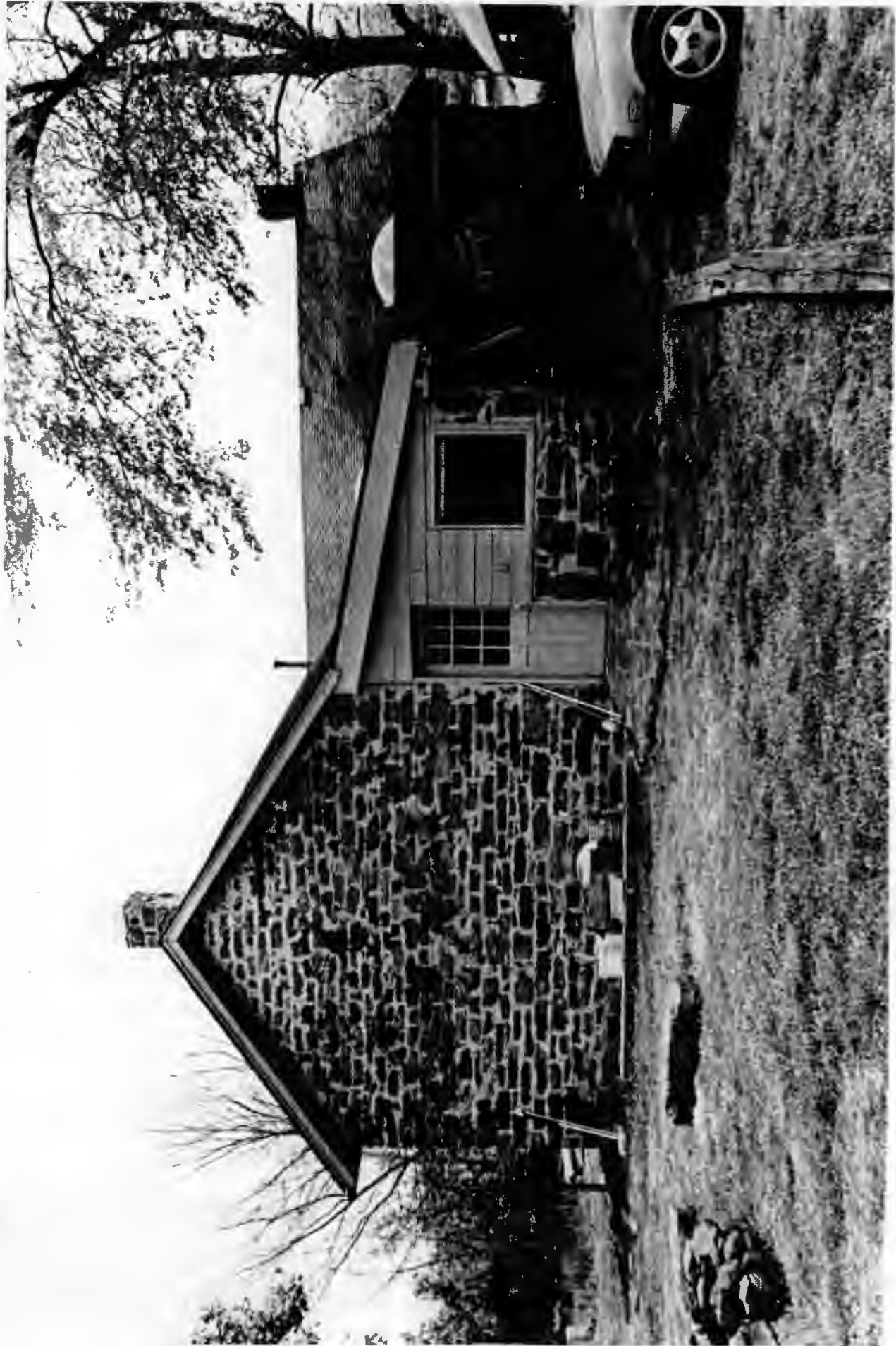
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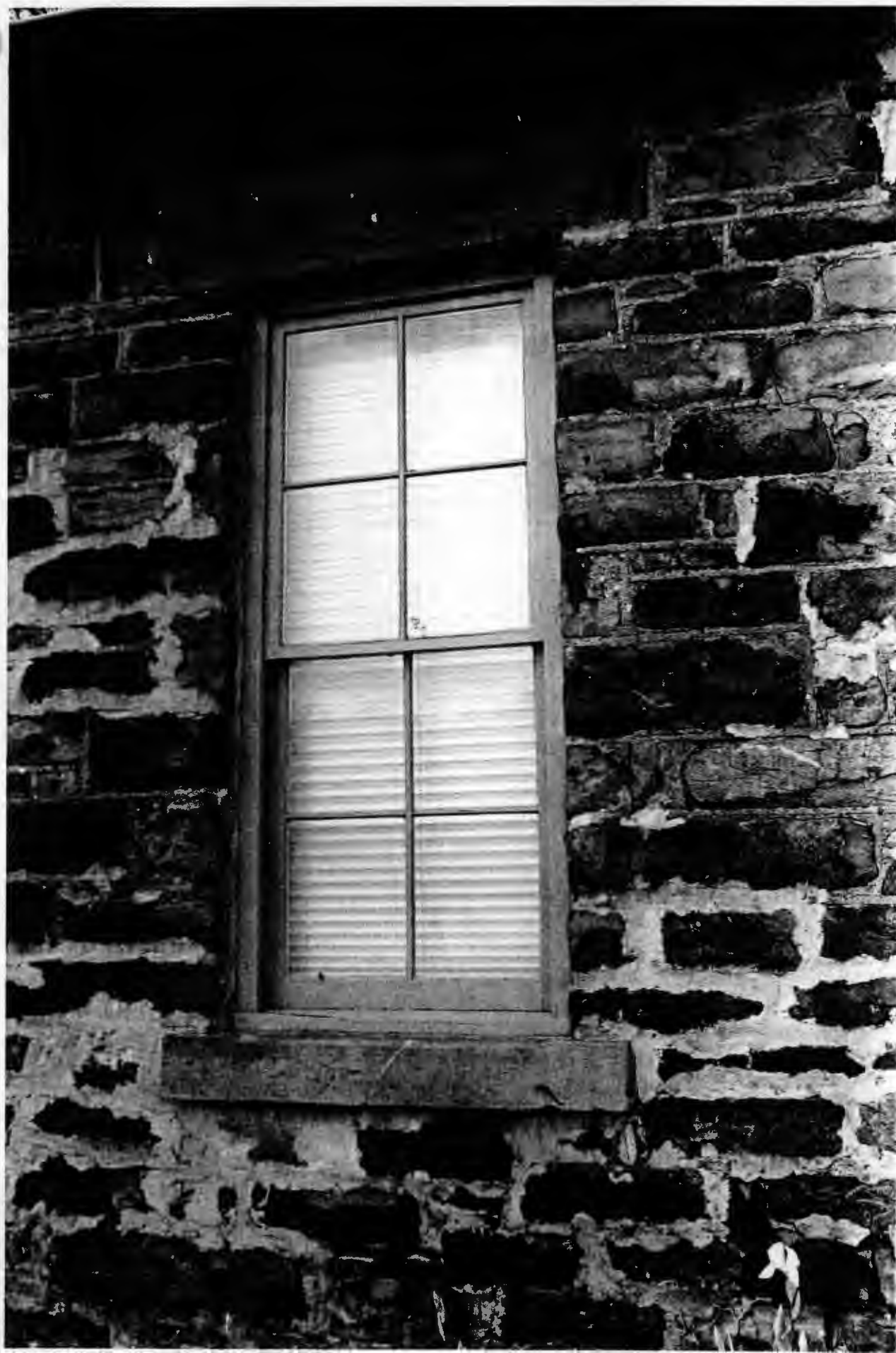
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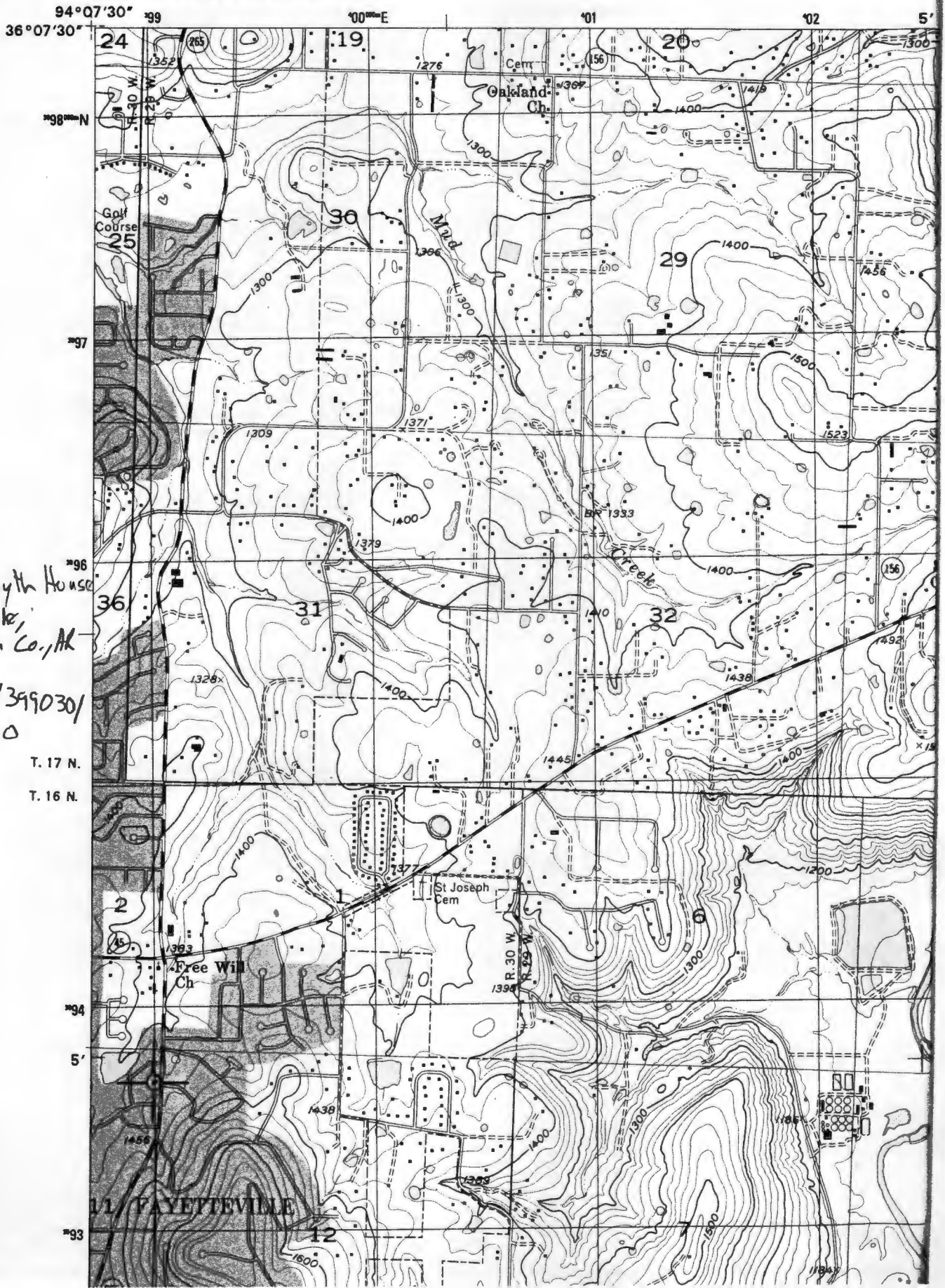








UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Peter Smyth House
Fayetteville,
Washington Co., Ark
UTM: 15/399030/
3993460

T. 17 N.
T. 16 N.

11 FAYETTEVILLE