

NRListed 7/11/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Abington, William Thomas, House

other name/site number: Resource #WH1230

2. Location

street & number: Center Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Beebe

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: White

code: AR 145

zip code: 72012

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building(s)

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Catherine L. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

6-24-92
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.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this 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 Keeper

Date
of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

Current: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:
Other: Vernacular/Double Pile/
Central Hall

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation Brick roof Sheet Metal
walls Weatherboard other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1880-1936 _____

Significant Dates: 1880 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation: N/A _____

Architect/Builder: Abington, William Thomas

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above. X See continuation sheet.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section

See continuation sheet.

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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Creage of Property: _____

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A ___ _____ _____ B ___ _____ _____

C ___ _____ _____ D ___ _____ _____

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Joe De Rose, Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 4 April, 1990

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

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Description

During the Railroad Era (1870-1914) in White County a variety of vernacular houses were constructed. They were also out of a variety of materials. Intact surviving examples from this period, however, are somewhat limited. The William Thomas Abington House is a fine example of a two-story, double pile with central hall building. It has an original sheet metal hip roof, weatherboard clad walls, and the structure rests on a brick pier foundation. The four corners of the two-story portion of the structure are decorated with corner posts capped with simple capitals. Square nails are found throughout the structure. Even though the building was constructed in 1880, and has had several historic and non-historic alterations it is still in good condition.

This building is located in the northeast corporate limits of Beebe and faces U.S. 67 and the Missouri-Pacific Railroad. The original forty acres of the house site has been reduced to thirteen. The house sits in a grove of oak and pecan trees, several of the oaks date from when the house was built. Each generation that lives in the house plants another pecan tree.

The main, or east, elevation of the house is dominated by a two-story, flat roofed porch that stretches the entire length of the facade. It is supported by brick columns and the first floor of the porch has a solid brick balustrade while the second floor porch has a jig-sawn wooden one. The porch is not original but was constructed prior to 1936. Facade fenestration consists of symmetrically placed four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows eight feet in length; the ones on the ground floor are flanked by shutters. Single, centrally placed, wooden doors enter each of the porches. The first floor door has single, oval-shaped sidelights. This door is not original and was acquired from a house in Little Rock.

The two brick chimneys that rise from the interior of the hip roof serve eight different fireboxes between the main eight rooms. They are no longer operable. All eight mantels were originally decorated differently; two, however, have been replaced. Other interior features of note are two walnut staircases that were ordered from the Norton & Wieder Company located in St. Louis. These were shipped via the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad which stopped in Beebe. A widow's walk is still perched on the flattened portion of the hip roof between the two chimneys.

The north elevation has a one-story, centrally placed porch. It is one-bay wide, has a gable roof, and is supported by wrought iron posts. An original window, similar to ones on the east elevation, is located east of this porch and across the second floor while a single-pane fixed

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frame picture window has replaced another original window west of it. This fixed frame window is flanked by single, oval shaped sidelights and was added in 1958.

A one-story, gable roofed, rear ell extends from the northwest corner of the two-story building. This room appears to be original because it has windows similar to ones found in the main portion of the building. It was probably the kitchen originally. Attached to the south elevation of the ell and the west elevation of the main building is a shed roofed addition. This was originally a porch was enclosed in 1958. Its west elevation has a single non-original, asymmetrically placed two-over-two double-hung sash window. The south elevation, meanwhile, is relieved by a single asymmetrically placed four-pane fixed frame window. South of this addition, on the ground floor, is a non-original, paired two-over-two double-hung sash window. Of the two asymmetrically placed windows on the second floor one is original and similar to the other original windows found on the house while the other is not original. It is a single, small two-over-two double-hung sash window. A one-story carport, built in 1958, extends from the southwest corner of the main building. An original four-over-four double-hung wood sash window is located east of the carport.

A one-story, brick constructed, square plan wellhouse is located approximately ten feet west of the house. It was in constant use until 1958, when the owners "tied" into the city water supply. This structure has a metal shed roof and was constructed at the same time as the house. A gable roofed shotgun style servants quarters is located approximately one hundred feet south of the wellhouse. It was constructed c. 1920. Both ancillary structures are contributing.

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Significance

When this building was constructed in 1880, it was one of several two-story, frame, double pile with central hall buildings built in White County during the Railroad Era. There are currently only two that remain relatively intact and reflect the period in which they were constructed. Even though the William Thomas Abington House has had several additions it is still a good example of a balloon frame double pile with central hall building.

This house is also noteworthy for its inhabitants. William Thomas Abington was born in Shelby County, Tennessee in 1843, and married Mary Jane Plant of Fayette County, Tennessee in 1866. They had three children, including W.H. and E.H. Abington. In 1867, they all moved to a place about four miles west of Des Arc in Prairie County, Arkansas. About ten years after this they moved to Beebe and shortly thereafter built this house. William Thomas Abington designed it himself. He died February 23, 1888, from complications of a Civil War injury.

At the start of the twentieth century W.H. Abington was a local doctor and owned the town's only hospital. He also served in the House of Representatives and Senate for over twenty years; he was the house speaker c. 1929. His brother E.H. and himself donated the land for Beebe Junior College, which later became Arkansas State University--Beebe. The college library has been named Abington Library in their honor.

E.H. was a local doctor from 1897 to the 1960's. He also served as a local surgeon for the Missouri-Pacific Railroad, was a surgeon in the Spanish-American War, and was elected the first major-surgeon in the Arkansas National Guard. In 1917, he founded Citizens Bank in Beebe and served as its president, chief executive officer, and chairman of the board.

The William Thomas Abington House is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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Acres of property: Less than one

UTM References:

A 15/602560/3881690

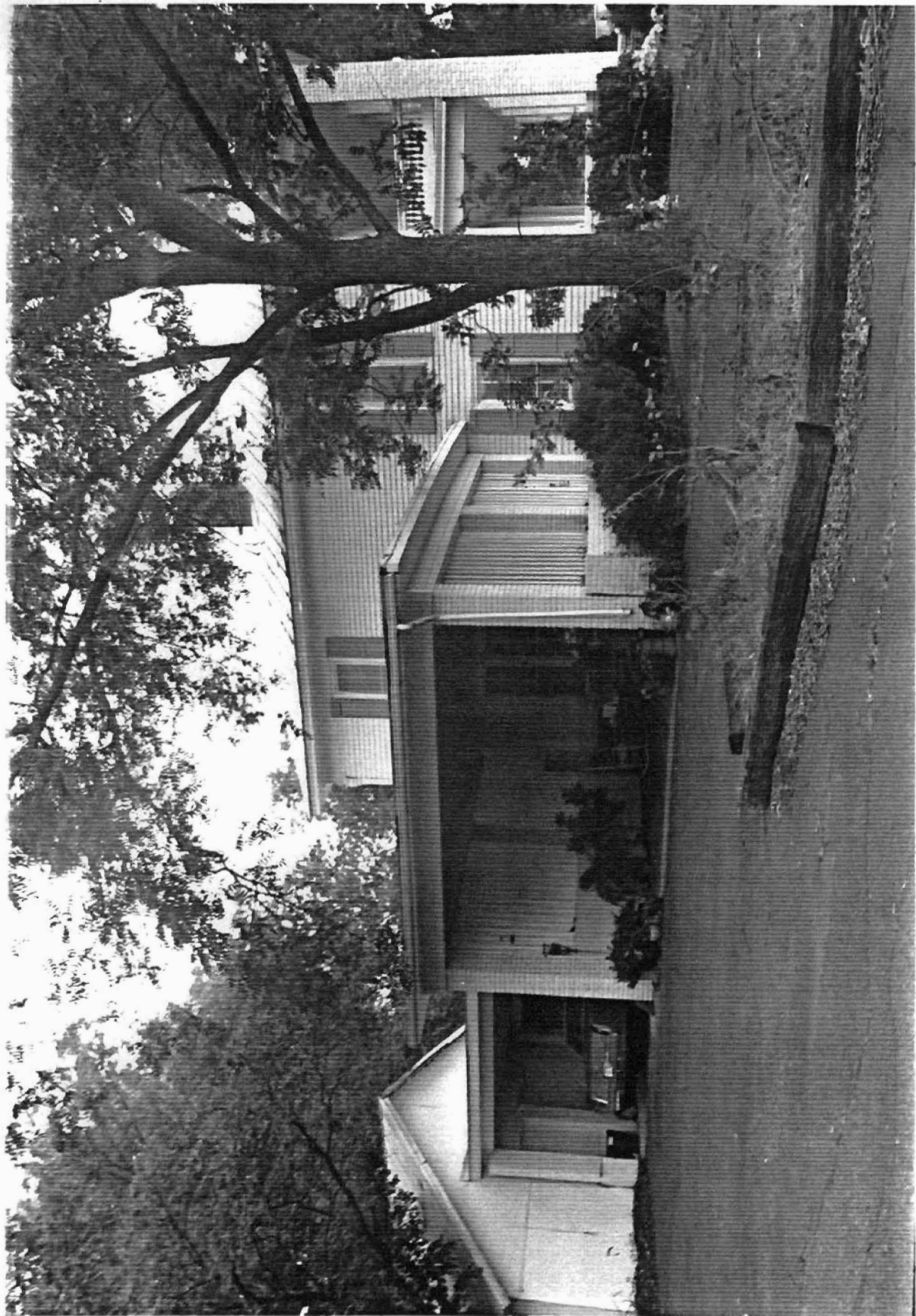
Verbal Boundary Description:

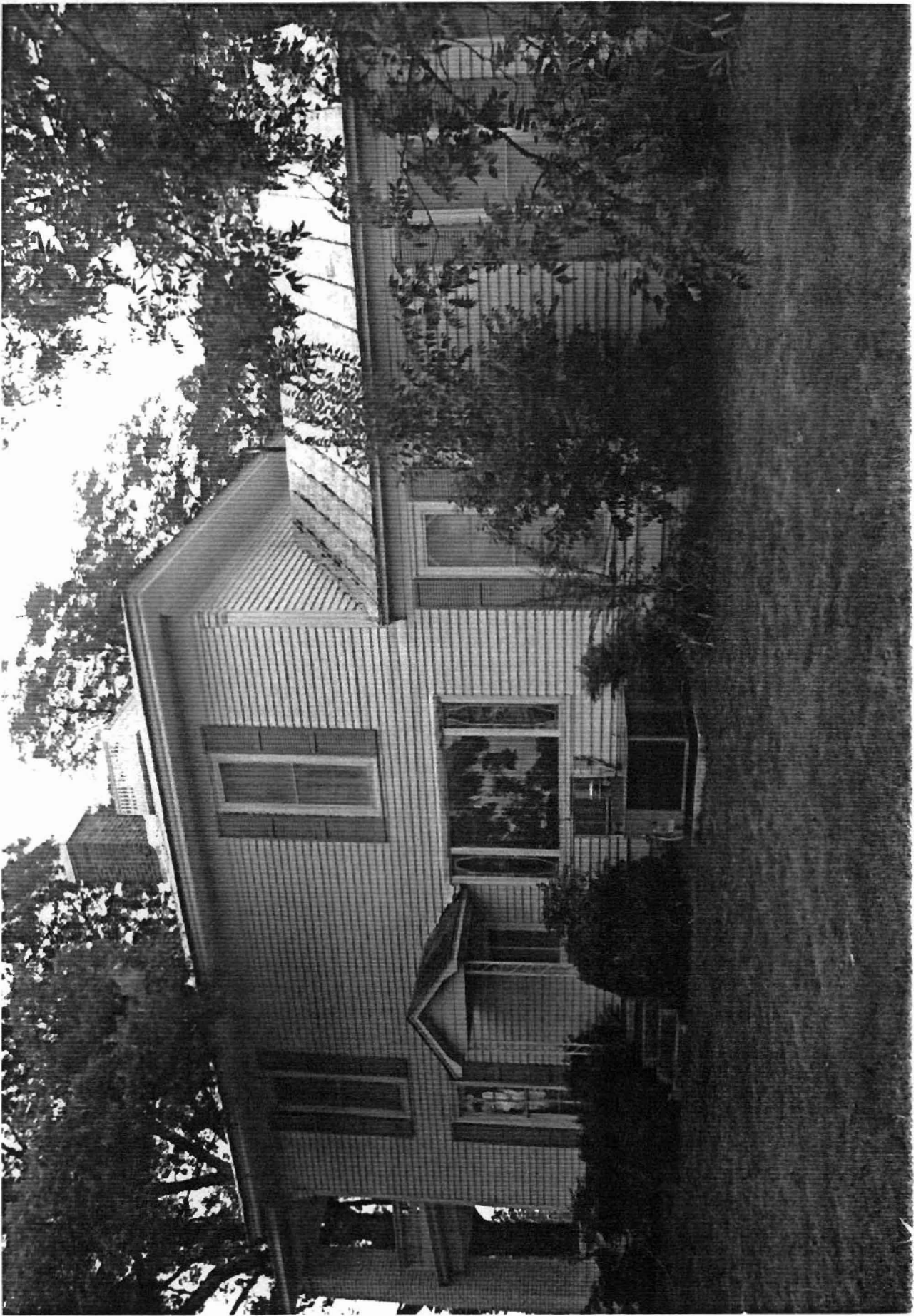
Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the western edge of U.S. Highway 67 with a perpendicular line running parallel to the southern elevation of the shotgun house and located 50 feet to the south thereof, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the western elevation of the building; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the northern elevation of the main house; thence proceed easterly for a distance of approximately 200 feet along said line to its intersection with the western edge of U.S. Highway 67; thence proceed southerly for a distance of approximately 200 feet along said line to the point of beginning.

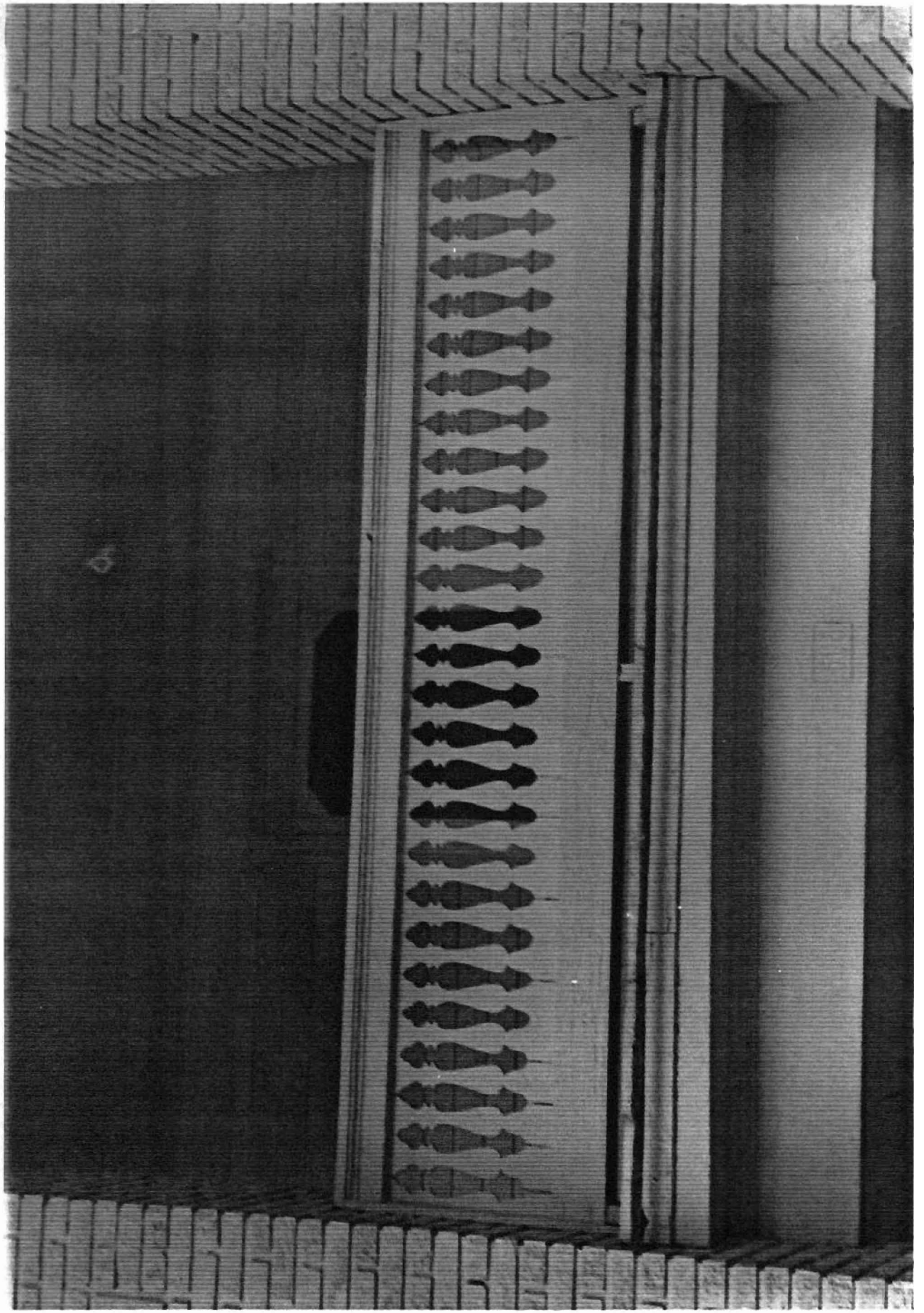
Boundary Justification:

The original lot has been subdivided during the non-historic period, resulting in an indefinite current lot boundary; therefore, this boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.







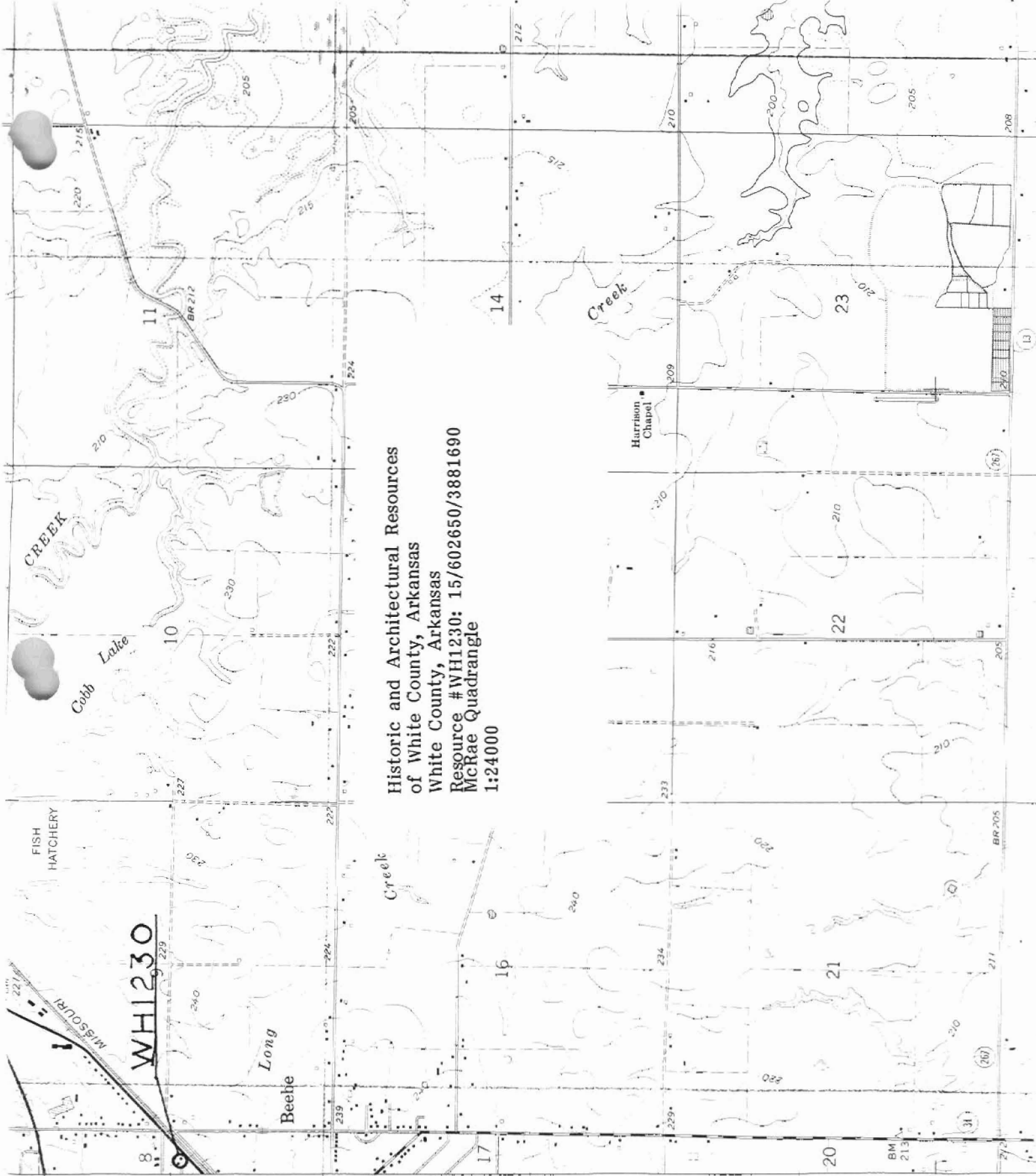












WH1230

Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas
White County, Arkansas
Resource # WH1230: 15/6026650/3881690
McRae Quadrangle
1:24000

WARD 6 M.
BEEBE (P.O.) 0.5 MI.
7654 III SW (BEEBE)
3880
3879
2'30" 3878
BR 205
BR 212