

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Hempstead County Courthouse

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Northwest corner of 5th and Washington Streets

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Hope

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Hempstead code: AR 057 zip code: 71801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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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.

Cathryn A. Slater _____ 4-5-94
Signature of certifying official 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: GOVERNMENT Sub: Courthouse

Current: GOVERNMENT Sub: Courthouse

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7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Art Deco

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>Concrete</u>	roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
	walls	<u>Brick</u>	other	<u>Concrete</u>
				<u>decorative</u>
				<u>panels</u>

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: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1939

Significant Dates: 1939

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: McAninch and Anderson/
Edwards, B. W.

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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X 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:

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

=====

10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property: Approximately 2.25

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>444490</u>	<u>3724920</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Blocks 18 and 19 in the College Addition to the City of Hope, Arkansas.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

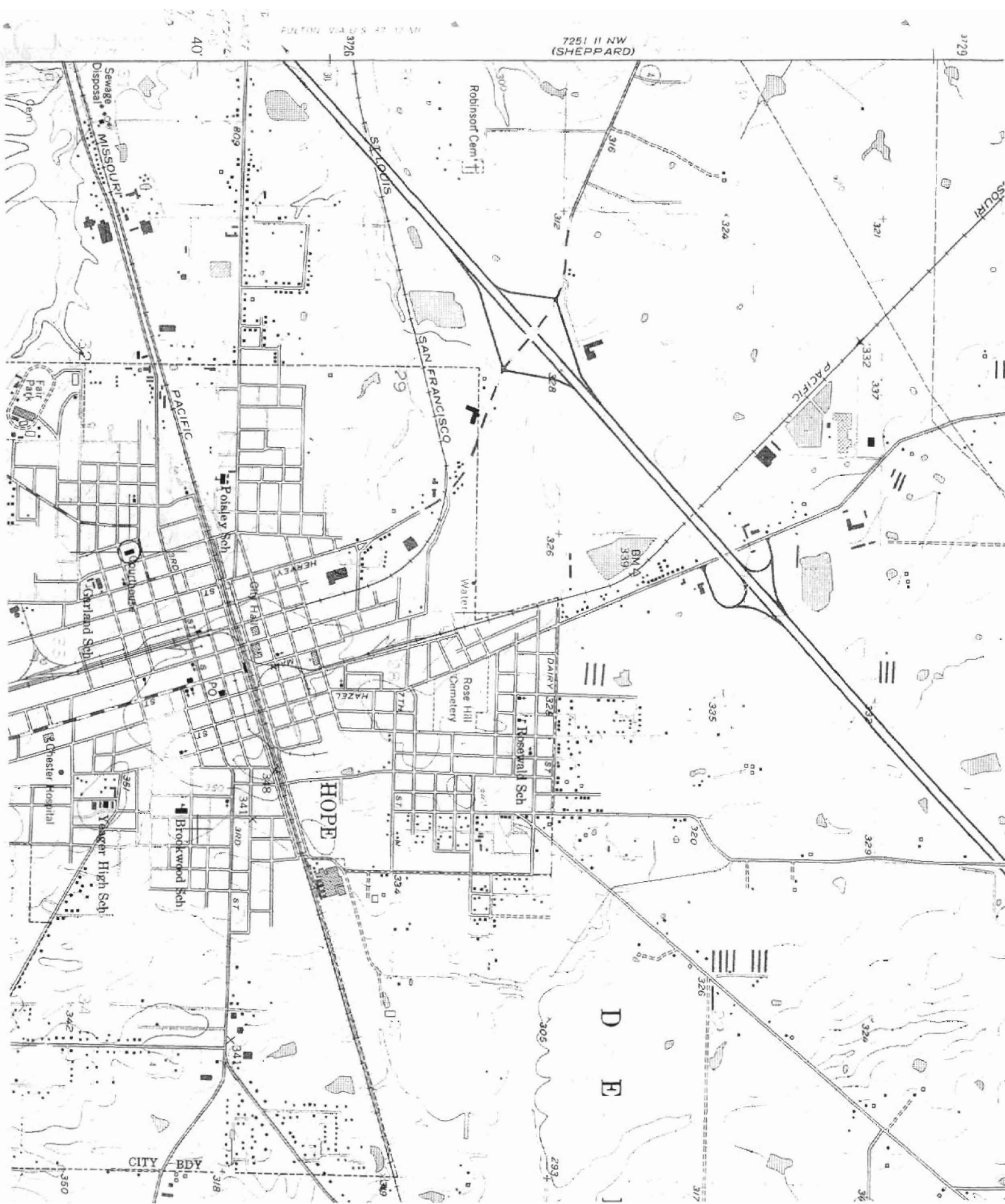
Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/29/94

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-98.

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

HEP
40/44
3/25



PULFRI VALLEY 47 12 M

7251 11 NW
(SHEPPARD)

329

40

3726

ST. LOUIS

SAN FRANCISCO

PACIFIC

MISSOURI

Polsley Sch

Garland Sch

Chester Hospital

Yenger High Sch

Brookwood Sch

HOPE

Rose Hill Cemetery

Rosewalk Sch

D E

CITY BDY

350

318

340

293

317

346

346



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The most serious alteration to the building as such is the recent addition of a large new jail complex that is attached to the historic structure and more than doubles the original area occupied by the 1939 courthouse. However, it has been constructed in a design that is sympathetic to the historic structure and though large in area is not of sufficient height to obscure the historic building from any direction.

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Summary Criterion C, local significance

The Hempstead County Courthouse, constructed in 1939 as a Public Works Administration project, was designed by the Little Rock architectural firm of McAninch and Anderson. It is eligible under Criterion C with local significance as the finest extant example of the Art Deco style within the city of Hope, Arkansas. Its horizontal, symmetrical massing, set back rooflines and stylized Art Deco ornamentation are all identifying characteristics of the style that became the dominant architectural idiom for Depression-era public works courthouses throughout the state.

Elaboration

The city of Hope, Arkansas traced its origins to the arrival of the Cairo & Fulton Railroad (later the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern) in 1873. The small town that formed around the new railroad line grew rapidly thereafter, applying for incorporation in 1875, just two years later. Its population increased so rapidly thereafter that by 1878 the city made its first of several attempts to wrest the site of the Hempstead county seat away from the city of Washington, located approximately ten miles to the northwest. However the residents of northern Hempstead County successfully resisted this effort, as they did the next three elections (1882, 1910 and 1914) in which the voters were asked to name their preference. In spite of Hope's dramatic population growth, and expanding commercial and transportation facilities, the increasingly-isolated Washington held onto the county seat until the spring of 1938, when the city of Hope announced that it had purchased the old Garland School property and was offering it to the county for the site of a new courthouse.

The appropriate forces in Hope circulated petitions and made the formal request for the necessary election to County Judge Frank Rider on May 5th of that year. He approved the request and set the date for the special election for Saturday, June 11th. Certain Washington landowners made some attempts to question the legality of the request and the city's ownership of the school property, but these were thwarted and plans for the election proceeded. On this occasion the city of Hope won an overwhelming majority of the votes reporting, and it was then decided that Hope would be the site of the new county seat, and a new county courthouse (though it should be noted that certain Washington parties continued with their attempts to thwart the county seat removal for several months thereafter).

On August 1st the Hempstead County Court made application through the Federal Emergency Administration of the Public Works Administration for a loan and grant-in-aid to finance the

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Summary

The Hempstead County Courthouse is a five-story, brick and reinforced concrete courthouse building designed in the restrained Art Deco style typical of such Depression-era public works construction. Its rectangular, four-story core is augmented with two-story wings that project from its northern and southern elevations, forming an overall plan that is symmetrically-arranged along a central, east-west axis. The otherwise austere exterior is ornamented with recessed chevron panels beneath the cornice and the eastern entrance is surrounded by an enframingent that features eight carved relief panels set into an inverted chevron molding, all of which is surmounted by a decorative lintel containing sunburst decorative motifs flanking a central eagle. The flat, built-up tar roof and brick walls rest upon a continuous, reinforced concrete foundation.

Elaboration

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The eastern or front elevation is anchored by the broad, projecting central entrance bay that includes the molded, decorative concrete entrance enframingent. This enframingent is composed of a central eagle with spread wings set into and above the entrance lintel. The eagle and the bound sheaves to either side are flanked by panels filled with a sunburst/lozenge pattern. The inverted chevron pilasters that frame the sides of the entrance are each ornamented with a series of four molded concrete panels, each of which depicts a different industry or profession; included are Construction, Mining, Medicine, Justice, Munitions (or Defense), Electricity, Farming and Brickmaking (not all of which have ever existed within Hempstead County). The four-leaf entrance with its large, vertical stationary transom windows is accessed via a broad, low concrete staircase set within brick stoops, coped with concrete. The projecting entrance bay is coped with concrete and covered with a built-up tar roof.

As was common with Art Deco architectural designs, the facade behind the entrance bay steps back twice, once above the second storey windows and once again above the fourth storey

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windows. The first two storeys to either side of the entrance are symmetrically-fenestrated, the only exceptions being the three first-storey windows to the north that were later filled-in with brick. All of the windows are three-over-three sash and placed one above the other in slightly-recessed window bays. The northern and southern projecting wings contain two window bays each, and the walls immediately flanking the entrance contain four window bays each, with these bays separated into groups of two. The two floors above are actually only one on this elevation, as the courtrooms are located on the eastern side of the building; they are lit by these tall, aluminum frame windows. Recessed panels of inverted chevrons ornament the spaces in the window bays directly above the courtroom windows, and the cornice is finished with a delicate dentil course that wraps around the tops of the shallow pilasters that separate the window bays. Beveled corners at either end of the courtroom setback finish the elevation.

The western elevation opposite is far more simple and, with the exception of small decorative panels, the recessed inverted chevron panels near the cornice and the dentil course, is composed entirely of window bays. It is symmetrically-organized throughout, with a pair of double-leaf entrances providing the only access on this facade, and each of which is placed toward the outside of the main central section. Some of the windows have since been sheltered with metal awnings, the second-storey window just to the north of center has been filled with brick, and the beveled corner bays on the upper section have not had their windows filled-in with brick.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical, the only exception being that on the first storey of the northern elevation, the window that originally occupied the third bay from the east has been replaced by a single-leaf entrance. Otherwise, the first two storeys of each elevation are composed of two window bays to the west, a single central window bay, and three more window bays to the north. The two storeys in the central core above are symmetrically-fenestrated with four window bays. The beveled corners of this upper section are lit with a single central window bay in each.

The significant exterior details are limited to the recessed chevron panels beneath the delicate dentil cornice, the eastern entrance enframingent already described, and the regularly-placed concrete decorative panels that relieve the large expanses of otherwise-uninterrupted wall surface.

The interior reflects the simplicity and economy of design for which such Depression-era county courthouses were known. Staircase entrances framed by Art Deco-style arches with zig-zag corners, polished stone dados, and earth tone tile floors are all found within. The only significant alterations are the re-panelling of both upstairs courtrooms. Otherwise the interior is intact and in good condition.

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construction and equipping of the new courthouse and jail. Because of delays resulting from the legal wrangling over the validity of the June election, Hope Mayor Albert Graves was required to make several trips to the PWA offices in Ft. Worth, Texas and Washington, DC to request the necessary funding to begin the new construction. Though he was ultimately successful in obtaining this initial funding, it was incumbent upon Hempstead County voters to approve also a construction and building tax before the work could formally begin. This election was held on November 8th, and the tax issue carried by a margin of more than four-to-one.

Construction and furnishing contracts were let late in 1938, with the contracts for the driving of the piles and the construction of the concrete foundation being among the first. The cornerstone was finally laid on November 29th of 1939, so by that time county officials had already commissioned the Little Rock architectural firm of McAninch and Anderson to design the courthouse. The contractor B. W. Edwards carried on the work through the winter of 1939 and into 1940, though they missed the initial February deadline. County Judge Frank Rider formally accepted the completed courthouse building from the contractor Edwards on April 30, 1940.

Certain details of the building are worthy of note. The molded concrete panels around the main entrance, clearly depicting industries, were probably made from molds that pre-existed this particular project and that were used interchangeably for such public works projects around the country, regardless of whether or not they were appropriate for the particular building under construction. Furthermore, the most significant interior alteration to the building -- the refinishing of both upstairs courtrooms -- was the result of a fire that virtually gutted these rooms in 1979 when the building was struck by lightning.

The Hempstead County Courthouse is eligible under Criterion C with local significance by virtue of its status as probably the finest extant example of the Art Deco style in all of Hempstead County. Though designed by an Arkansas architectural firm and not by government architects (nor, it is important to note, was it built with public works labor; all labor was provided by local private contractors), the clear Art Deco style of this entire building reveals the extent to which this national style had captured the imaginations of designers everywhere, and particularly for such monumental public construction. The heavy, massive proportions and pervasive symmetry associated with this style combined with the dramatic setbacks of the upper storeys to lend this particular aesthetic a modernity and permanence that seemed appropriate for a new courthouse building, and particularly in a new county seat. The stylized geometric detail, sparse though it is, and particularly the flattened, stiff Classicism evident in the figural concrete panels flanking the front entrance are signature elements of the Art Deco and exclusively reflective of the influence of this style.

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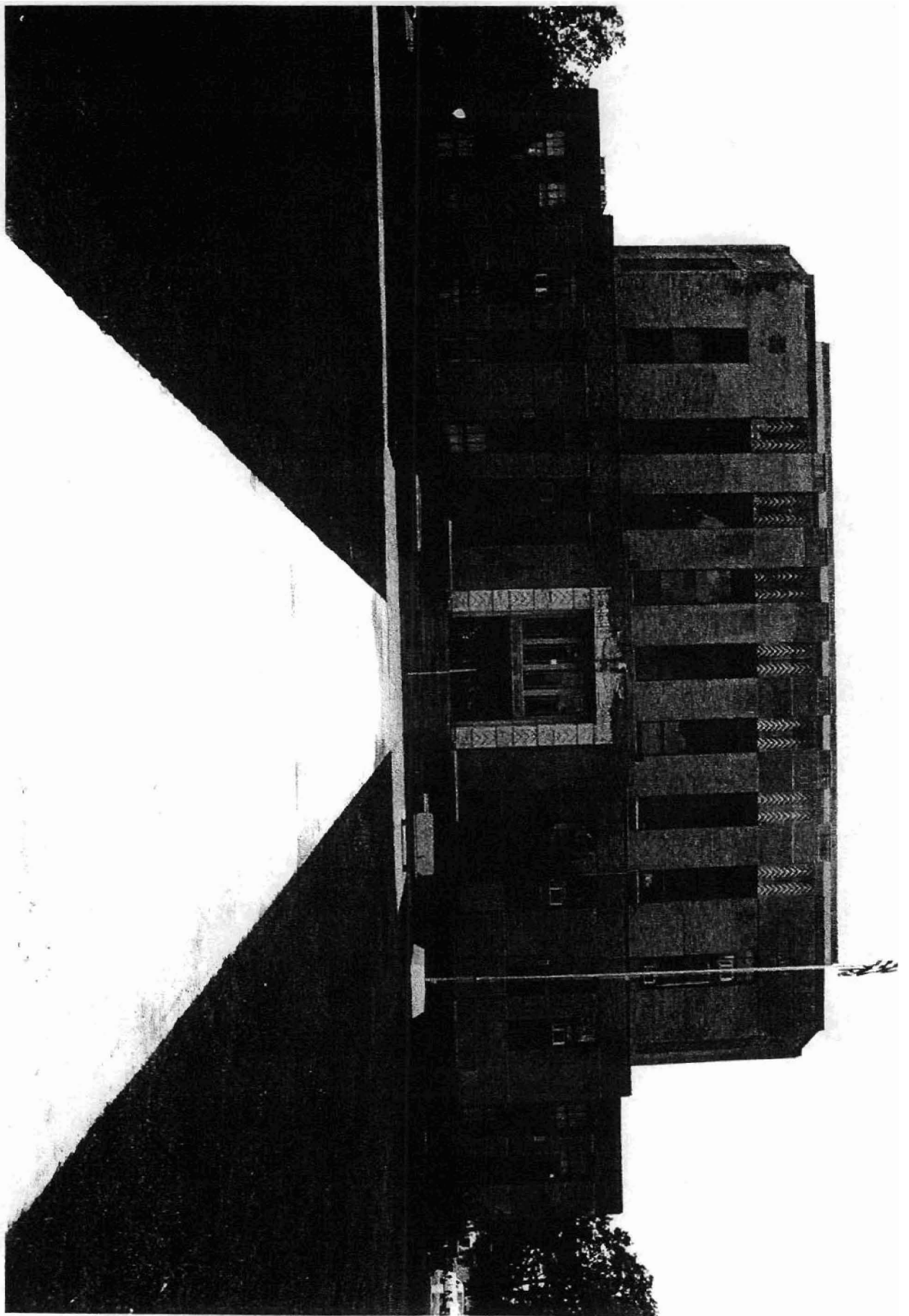
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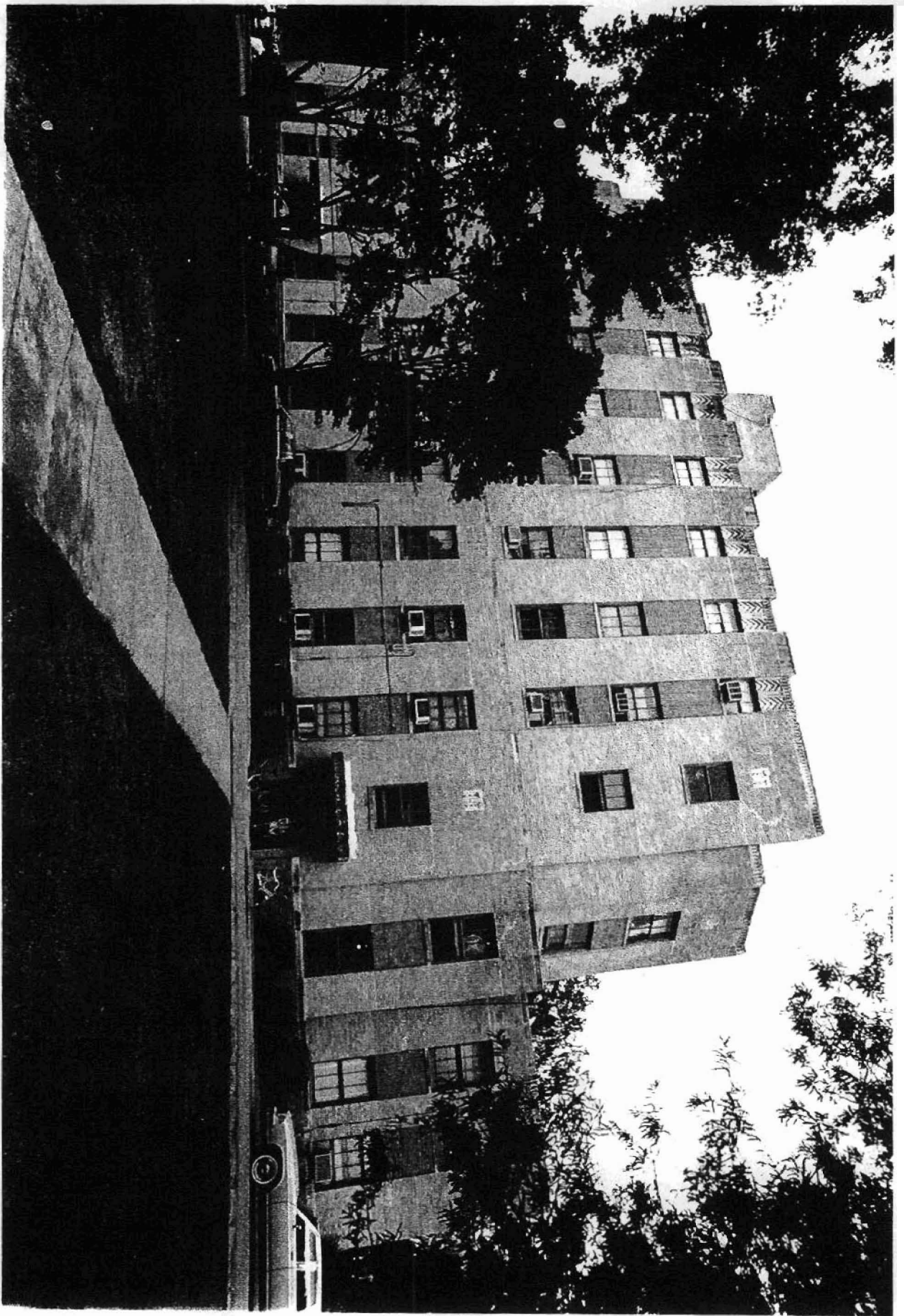
Bibliography

Shiver, Harry W., ed., *A Commemorative History of Hope, Arkansas, 1875-1975*, (Hope, Arkansas: 1974).

Turner, Mary Nell, "History of the 1939 Hempstead County Courthouse," *Hempstead County Historical Society Journal*, (Vol. & No. as yet undetermined), pp. 35-45.



WIMPSTEAD B COURT, HOUSE
HERE, WIMPSTEAD B INCORPORATED
INCORPORATED BY P ROLLNER
FEBRUARY 1994
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AMP
VIEW FROM EAST



Hempstead County Courthouse

Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas

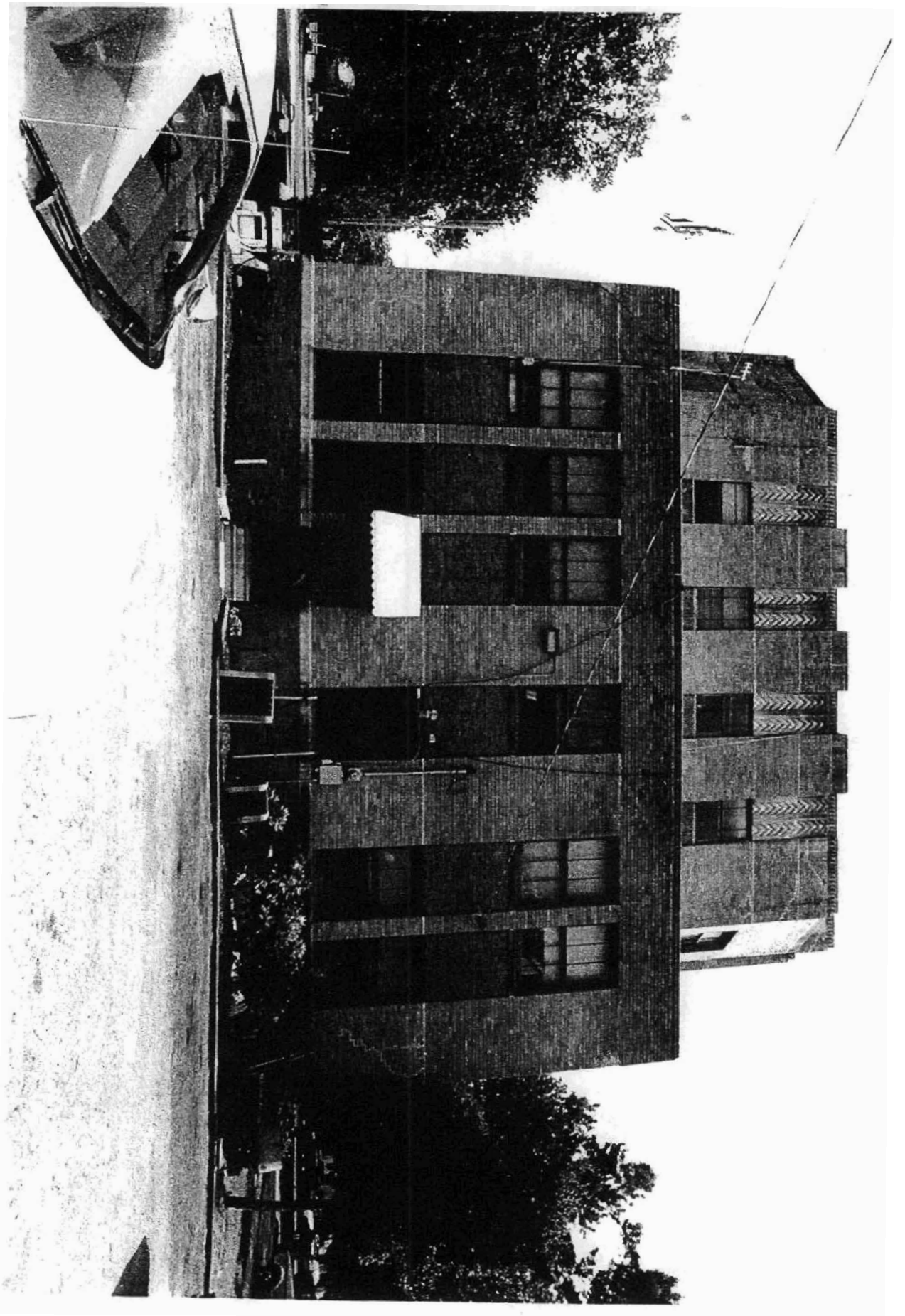
Photographed by P. Zollner

February 1994

Negative on file at AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST





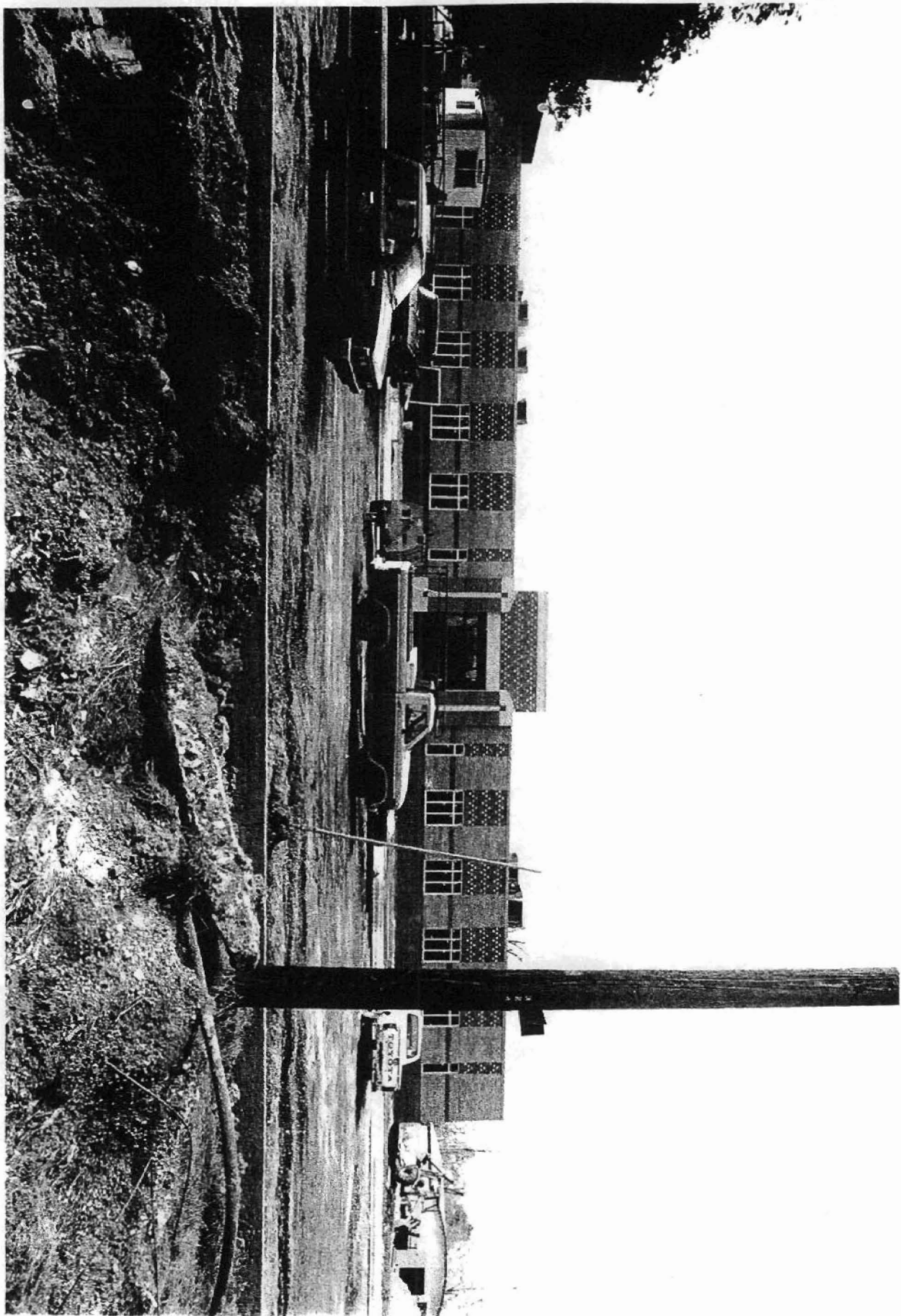
Hempstead County Courthouse
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas
Photographed by P. Zollner
February 1994
Negative on file at AHFP
VIEW FROM NORTH



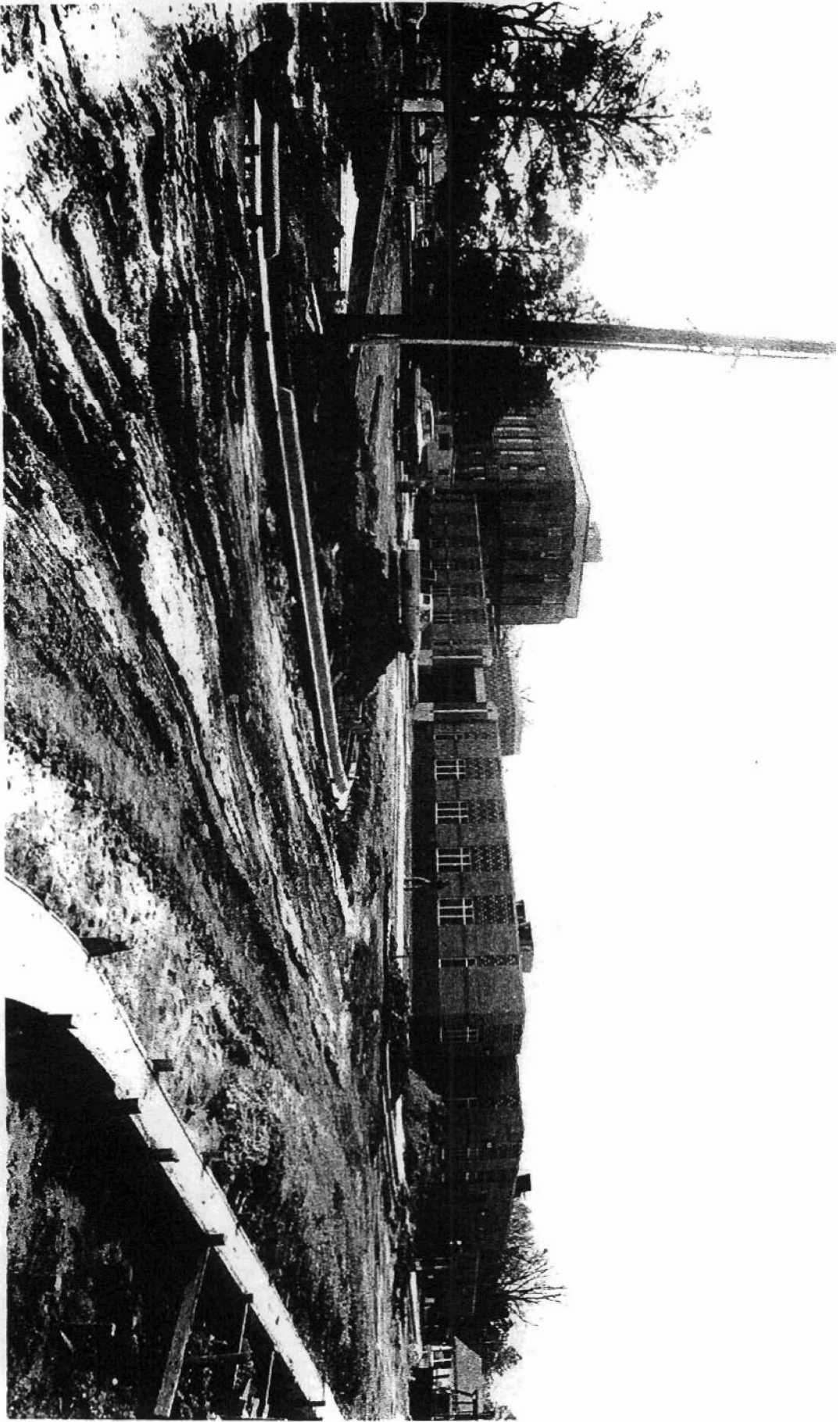
Hempstead County Courthouse
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas
Photographed by P. Zollner
February 1994
Negative on file at AHPP
VIEW FROM SOUTH



Hempstead County Courthouse
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas
Photographed by P. Zellner
February 1974
Negatives on file at AHPP
VIEW OF ADDITION FROM MORTM



Hampstead County Courthouse
Hope, Hampstead Co., Arkansas
Photographed by P. Zollner
February 1994
Negatives on file at AHPP
VIEW OF ABUTTION FROM EAST



Hempstead County Courthouse

Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas

Photographed by P. Zollner

February 1994

Negatives on file at AHPP

VIEW OF COURTHOUSE AND ADJUNCTION FROM NORTHEAST

FEDERAL WORKS AGENCY
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION

JOHN M. CARMODY

FEDERAL WORKS ADMINISTRATOR

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

HEMPSTEAD COUNTY

COURTHOUSE

1939

FRANK RIFER, COUNTY JUDGE

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

R. M. LA GRONE

LLOYD SPENCER

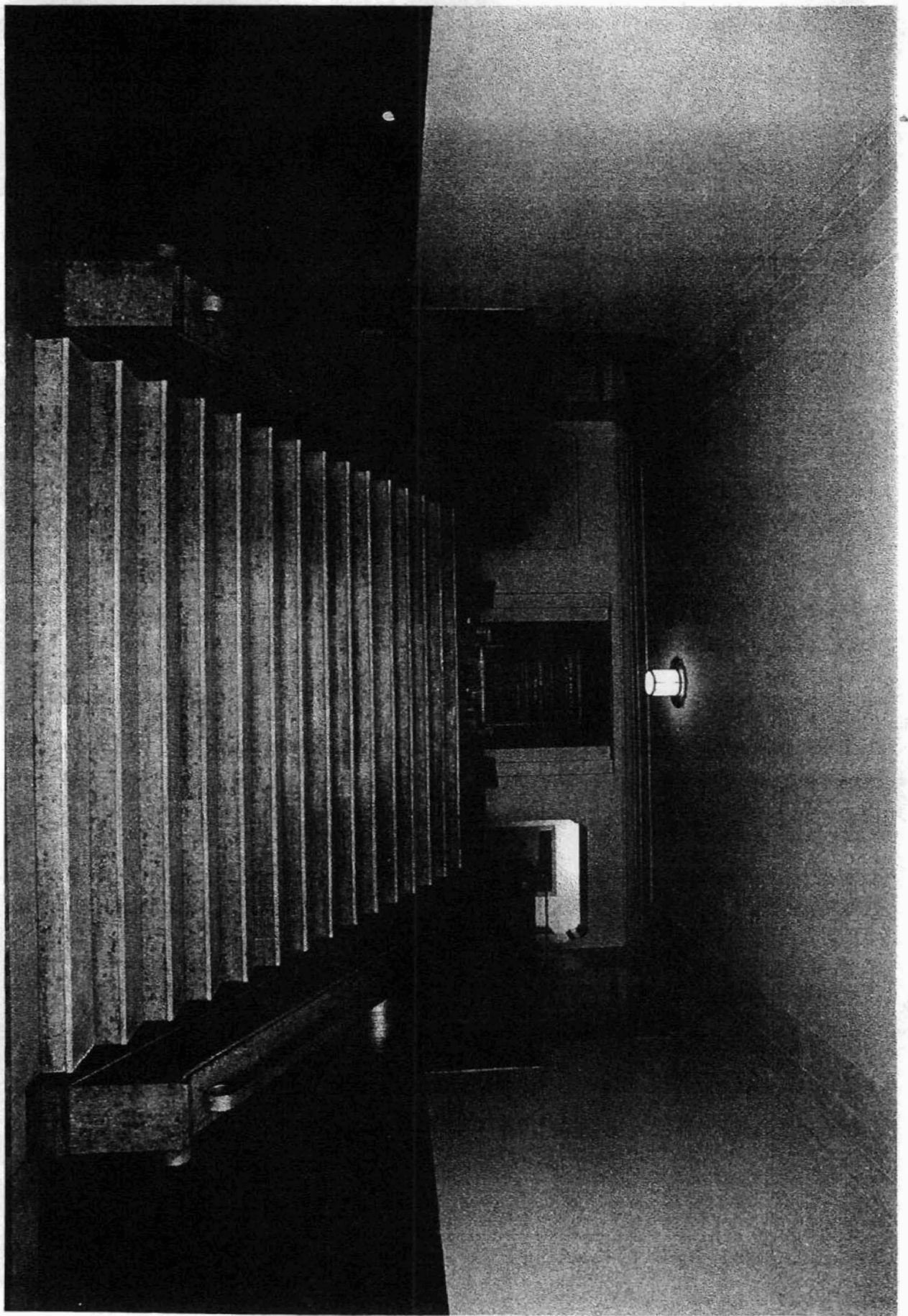
H. M. STEPHENS

GRAVES & LEAVES, ATTORNEYS

MEANING & ANDERSON ARCHITECTS

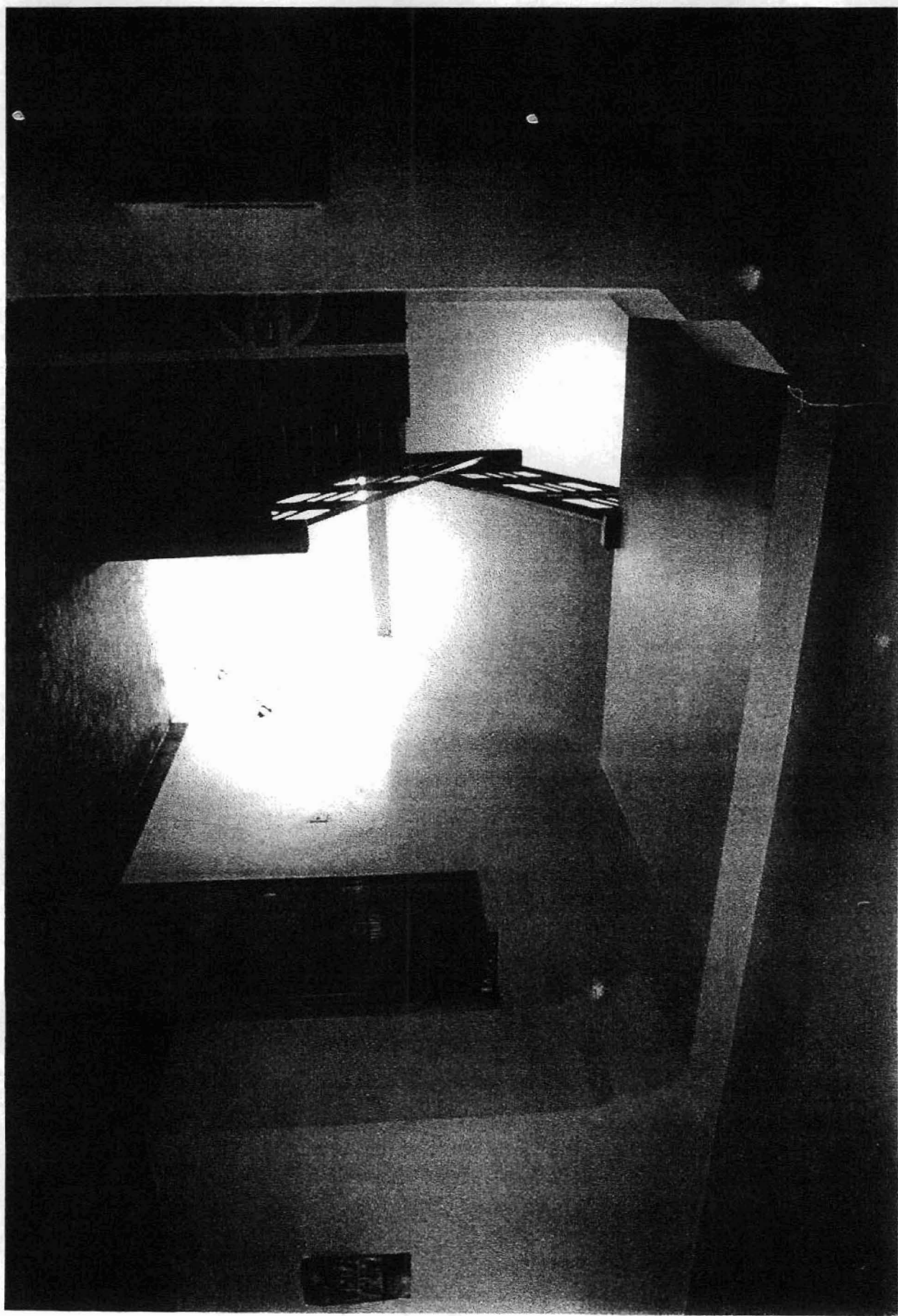
B. W. EDWALL & SONS, GENERAL CONTRACTORS

Hempstead County Courthouse
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas
Photographed by P. Zollner
February 1994
Negatives on file at AHPP
DETAIL OF ORIG. INTERIOR P. 10E



Hempstead County Courthouse
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas
Photographed by P. Zollner
February 1994

Negatives on file at AHPP
VIEW OF INTERIOR COURTYARD



Hempstead County Courthouse

Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas

Photographed by P. Zollner

February 1994

Negatives on file at AHPP

VIEW OF SUPERIOR HILLWAY & STIMMELL