

NR listed 5/14/91

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hamburg Presbyterian Church

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Cherry and Lincoln Streets

not for publication N/A

city, town Hamburg

vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Ashley

code AR 003

zip code 71646

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private (checked)
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Catherine A. Buford
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date: 4-3-91

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.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Social/Garden Club

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century

American Movements/Craftsman

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood

walls Wood/Weatherboard

roof Asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Summary

The Hamburg Presbyterian Church is a single story, wood frame church building that, as it currently appears, is designed in the Craftsman style. Its gable roof is punctuated only by a square, hipped roof tower near the northern gable end and is sheathed with asphalt shingle. Its walls are covered with a combination of wood weatherboard, novelty siding and half-timbering. The entire structure rests upon cypress blocks.

Elaboration

The Hamburg Presbyterian Church is a single story, wood frame church building that, as it currently appears, is designed in the Craftsman style. Its plan is basically rectangular, with the large sanctuary and vestibule placed at the western end of the building and the original vestry spaces placed at the eastern end. Its gable roof is punctuated only by a square, hipped roof tower near the northern gable end and is sheathed with asphalt shingle. Its walls are covered with a combination of wood weatherboard, novelty siding and half-timbering. The entire structure rests upon cypress blocks.

The western or front elevation consists of the large, central window and the double-leaf entry placed near the northern wall. The window is composed of a decorative, semi-circular, leaded stained glass transom atop a pair of four-over-four wood sash windows that are each surrounded by smaller stained glass pieces. The projecting cornice above is supported by alternating Craftsman brackets and knee braces. The eastern elevation opposite is fenestrated by two four-over-four wood sash windows placed symmetrically in the elevation and flanking a slightly off-center single-leaf door on the first story. The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical, with each being lighted by five four-over-four wood sash windows (each of which feature the same decorative stained glass surrounding the clear, larger panes) placed symmetrically across the facades.

The building features a significant amount of exterior detail. In addition to the windows described above, the cornice around the entire building is decorated with Craftsman brackets of various configurations. Those on the western and eastern elevations are of both the jig-sawn, decorative variety and the more typical knee braces; those that run along the northern and southern cornices are of the former type only. The northern and southern elevations are clad with both half-timbering that divides the wall surface into horizontal rectangular fields below the windows and vertical rectangular fields above, with weatherboard placed in between. The half-timbering lends a unique rhythm that compliments the pattern of the exposed decorative rafter tails above. This half-timbering pattern is continued on the eastern elevation and is further complimented by the addition of the decorative, vertical wood planking in the pediment area, the bottoms of which have been cut to form a triangular pattern that also adds

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flat, geometric ornament that compliments the building's other Craftsman-style ornament.

Of greatest decorative interest, however, is the belfry atop the northern slope of the gable roof. Its low hipped roof and projecting cornice shelter a small, square belfry that is decorated at its top with jig-sawn circular detail and at its base with a flat, solid baluster rail. The actual belfry sits atop a larger square tower and is joined to it by a truncated hipped roof. The cornice of this roof is finished with a simple box cornice and the base of the tower is weatherboarded down to its intersection with the roof.

The interior of the structure is decorated with a wood dado around the entire sanctuary, stained a dark brown, and the walls above are sheathed with vertical, beveled-edge tongue-and-groove boards of varying widths, painted white. The ceiling consists of flat planks with batten strips placed over the cracks between them; it is also painted white. Other surviving details include the original decorative wood rail that ran across part of the front of the raised wood speaking platform or dias, and the dias itself. Most of the original four-panel doors and surrounding trim survive also.

The Hamburg Presbyterian Church has an interesting construction history that needs to be noted. The building, in its original configuration, was constructed in 1871, and was at least somewhat different in appearance until c. 1920. Though no historic photographs of its pre-1920 appearance survive, the visible alterations to the building, combined with the oral accounts, indicate that the original tower was probably placed at the northwest corner, directly above the entrance. The oral accounts also corroborate the visible alterations to the interior, the most significant of which was the enclosing of the original black balcony at the rear of the sanctuary to create additional Sunday School and utility space. However, around 1920 the balcony and tower alterations were made, and the building's appearance "updated" to change it from a unique, vernacular interpretation of a Stick style building to an equally unique rendering in the Craftsman style. These alterations included the addition of the cornice brackets, the relocation and redesign of the belfry, and the addition of the exterior decorative details to compliment the existing geometric half-timbering. Thus the building is being considered as a design that dates from c. 1920.

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Summary**Criterion C, local significance**

The Hamburg Presbyterian Church is significant locally as the best surviving example of a Craftsman style church building; however, it is also significant as an unusually successful adaptation of what was initially a vernacular interpretation of the Stick style of architecture into a Craftsman style building.

Elaboration

The community of Hamburg was selected as the county seat when Ashley County was formed by act of Legislature in 1848. The town experienced a significant period of growth in the 1850's, largely through immigration from southern states to the east. Among these settlers were a significant number of Presbyterians. And though they worshipped in existing churches of other denominations due to the absence of an organized Presbyterian church when they first arrived, they continued to practice as Presbyterians and preserved their particular traditions until a Presbyterian church in Ashley County could be organized.

A relatively active Presbyterian congregation existed in neighboring Union County in the 1850's, and so it was to them that the unorganized Ashley County Presbyterians turned to help them establish a formal church. This was accomplished in the late spring or early summer of 1859 with the official recognition of what was called the Orion Church in Mill Creek township. This church struggled along during the instability and unrest brought on by Civil War, as did so many Arkansas congregations, until 1866, when it became clear that Hamburg would provide a more central location for a church facility. After this move the church grew steadily and continued to add many new members. By 1871 the growth was sufficient to require the construction of a new and large church building to shelter the faithful, and the result was the current building. The church included a sanctuary, vestry rooms, a vestibule, and a balcony for black worshippers located at the back of the sanctuary.

The congregation continued to grow gradually, though it prospered throughout the end of the nineteenth century and into the twentieth. The church records note that it was in 1909 that the first mention was made regarding new construction. The plans at that time were for the construction of a completely new facility, with the entire congregation to be renamed in honor of a recently-deceased elder of the church. However, these plans never came to fruition, as the original building was maintained and survives until this day. Nevertheless, it was almost certainly within the next ten years that the original rear of the sanctuary was partitioned to create separate Sunday School rooms below and enclosed rooms above in the structure that was formerly the black balcony. It was during this time period also that the other significant changes to the exterior were made, as Hamburg residents who were living as of the early 1980's recall having attended the church in 1930 as children and remember that the building

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looked then exactly as it does now. This account is consistent with the style chosen for the remodeling, as the Craftsman style of architecture was popular in Arkansas starting about 1920, and this slightly more ornate version of it in particular.

The Hamburg Presbyterian Church continued to operate as such until the early 1980's, when a loss of population generally in Hamburg combined with other societal factors to cause the congregation's numbers to dwindle to the point that it was no longer feasible to maintain the building as a church. However, it was sold to the Hamburg Garden Club soon thereafter, and they have continued to maintain the building in largely its c. 1920 appearance, the only significant changes being the modernization of certain kitchen equipment and the removal of the rows of curved wooden pews within the sanctuary (it should be noted, however, that the Garden Club has preserved several of the pews for posterity; they are kept within the church).

The Hamburg Presbyterian Church is eligible under Criterion C with local significance as not only the best surviving example of an early Craftsman-style church building in Hamburg but also as an unusually successful adaptation of an earlier architectural style. The geometric half-timbering that defines much of the exterior wall surface of the building was being introduced into the United States during the years just after the Civil War, and it is interesting to speculate on how it made its way so quickly to rural southern Arkansas by the early 1870's. Nevertheless, the remodeling of the building that occurred c. 1920 took great pains to incorporate this attractive existing detail into the new design. This effort is especially evident on the eastern elevation, where the strict linear quality of the horizontal and vertical timbering is complimented by the vertical planks in the pediment above that end in three rows of triangular details - two lower rows flanking a raised central row directly beneath the gable peak - reminiscent of a dentil course. The geometric window panes - of both clear patterned glass and stained glass - certainly appear to pre-date the twentieth century, and yet are oddly appropriate to the 1920 remodeling, largely due to their emphasis on square or rectangular panes of glass that are either clear or of a single rich, primary color.

For all these reasons the Hamburg Presbyterian Church survives as an example of a twentieth century adaptation of a nineteenth century design that is remarkable for the cohesiveness of its final form in spite of the diversity of styles and periods blended within.

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Bibliography

Etheridge, Y.W., History of Ashley County, Arkansas, (*Van Buren, Arkansas, 1959*), pp. 58-61.

Goodspeed's History of Southern Arkansas, (Chicago, 1890), pp. 874-885.

History of the Hamburg Presbyterian Church, (1980).

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1871-1940

Significant Dates

c.1920

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than 1

UTM References

A

1	5
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6	1	2	3	4	0
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3	6	7	6	7	4	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the southern edge of Lincoln Street with the eastern edge of Cherry Street, proceed southerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the southern elevation of the building; thence proceed easterly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the eastern elevation of the building; thence proceed northerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the southern edge of Lincoln Street; thence proceed westerly See continuation sheet to the point of beginning.

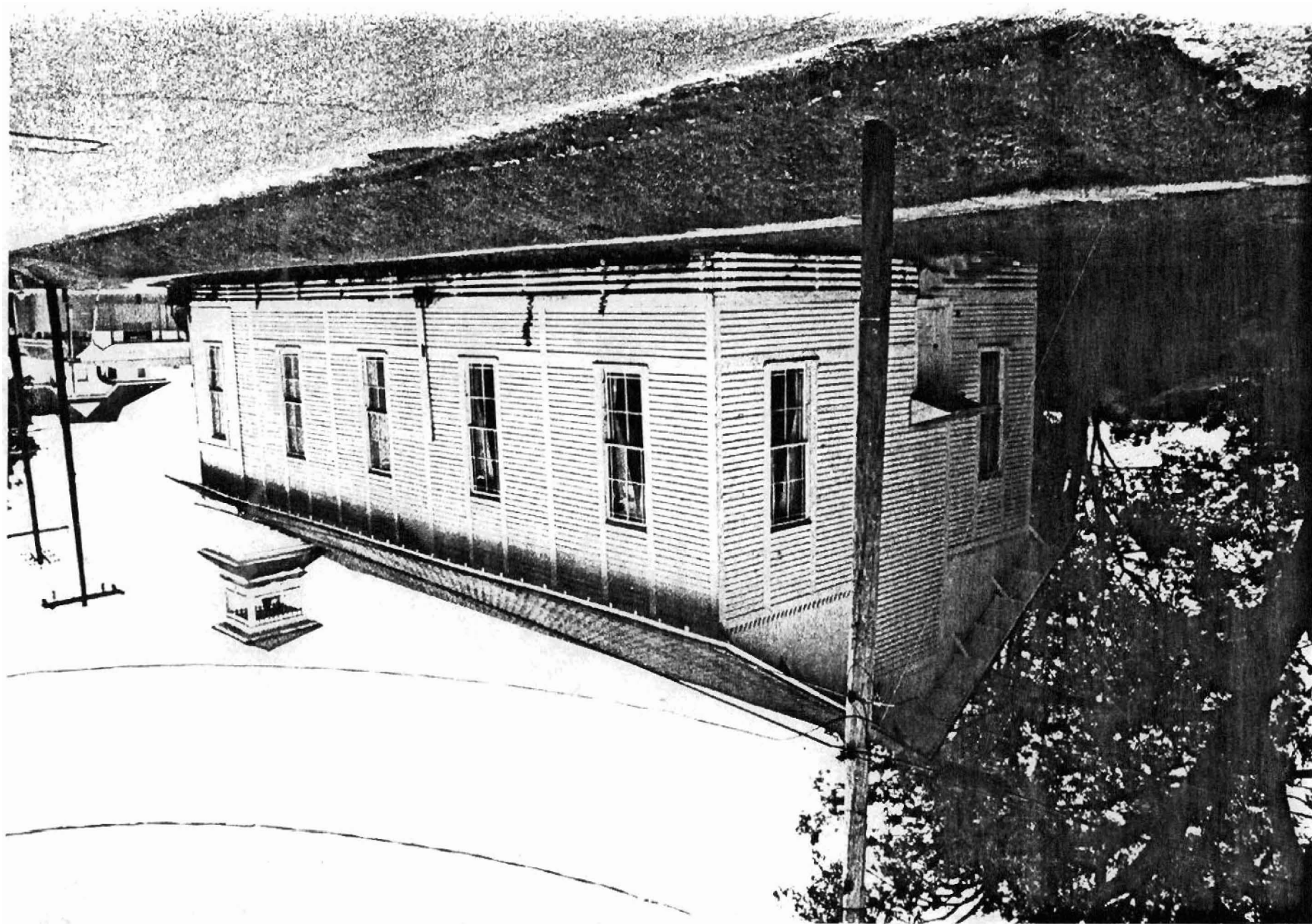
Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 3/13/91
street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501) 324-9346
city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

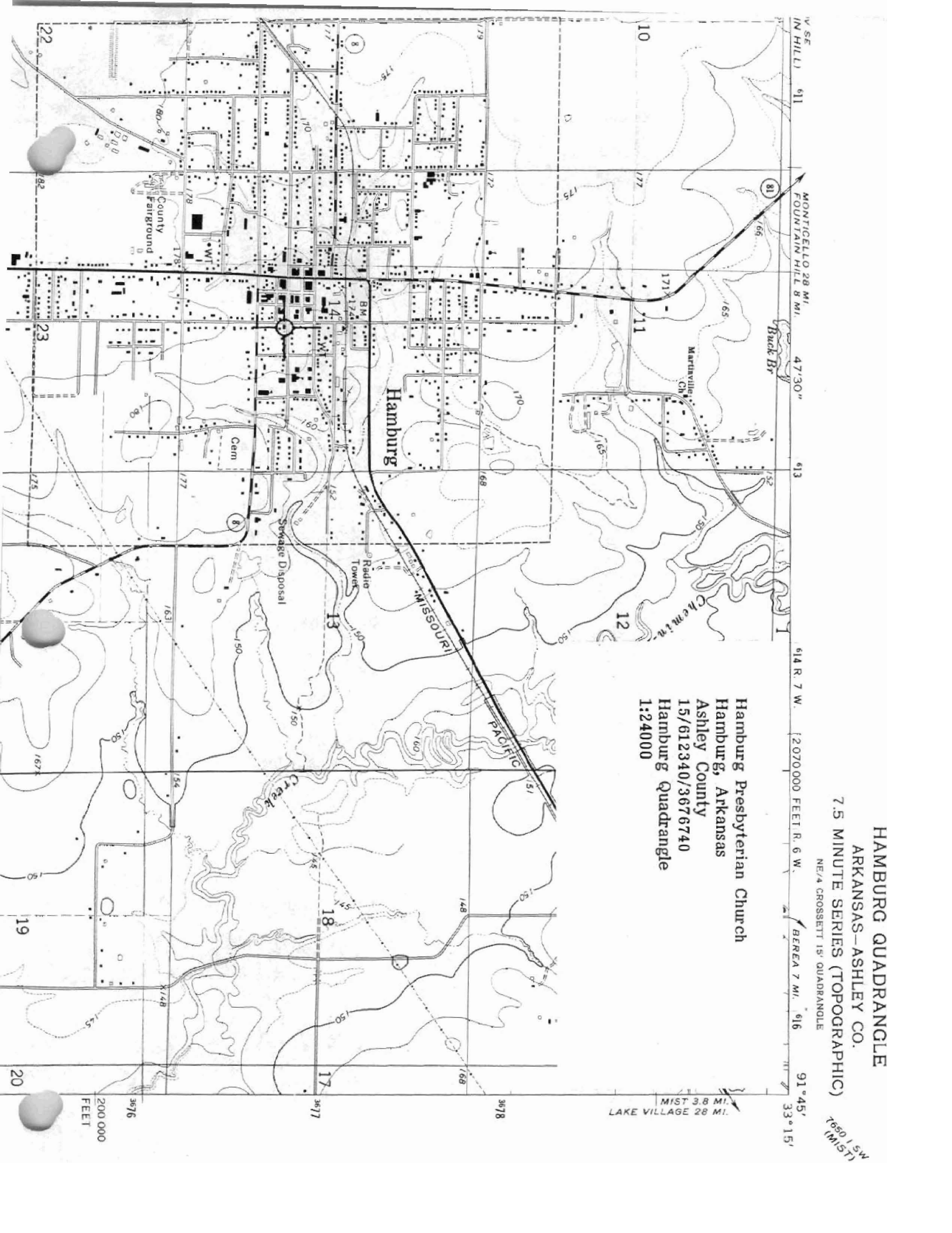


HAMBURG QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS-ASHLEY CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NE 1/4 CROSSSETT 15' QUADRANGLE

7650 1 SW
(MIST)

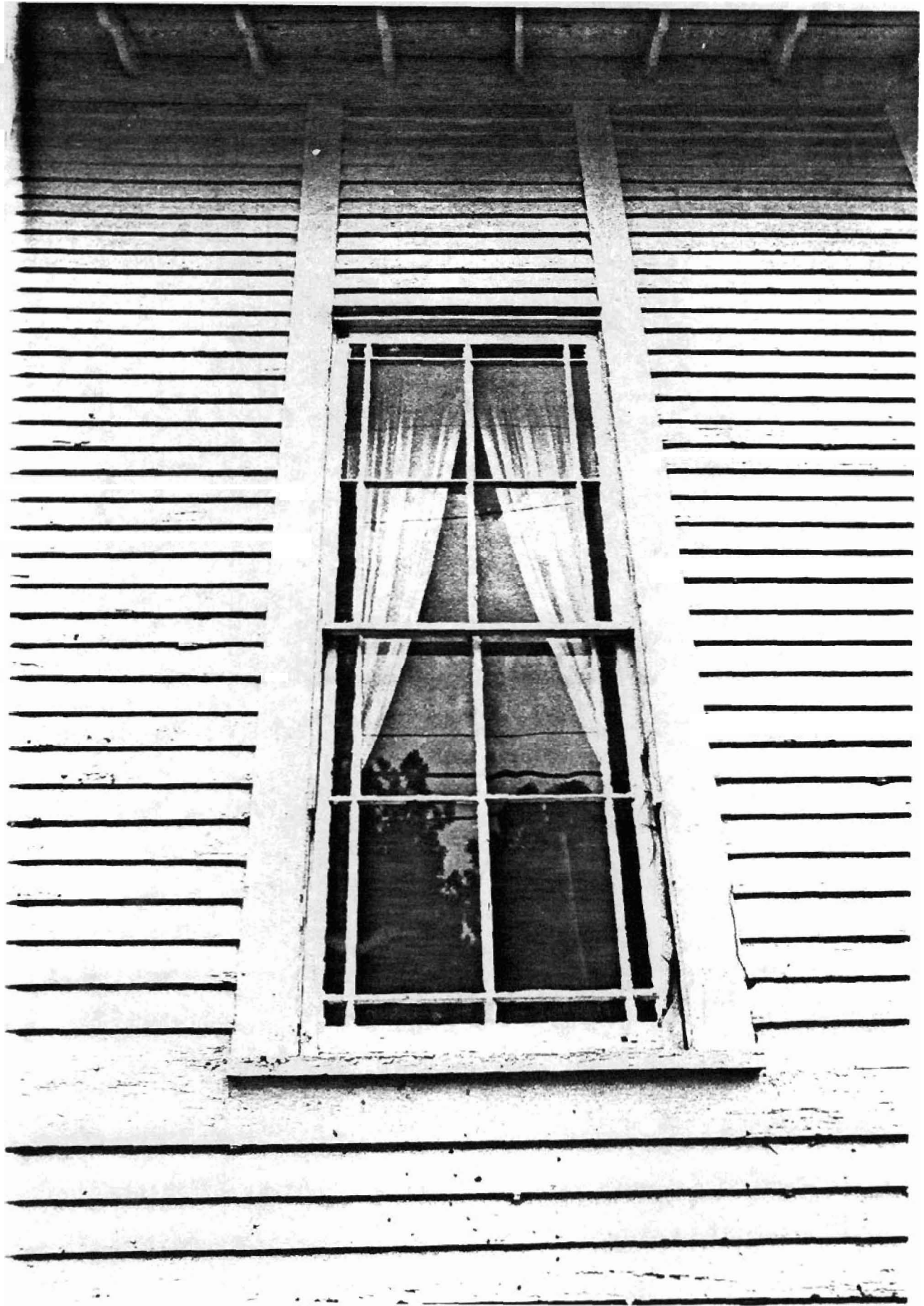
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Hamburg, Arkansas
Ashley County
15/612340/3676740
Hamburg Quadrangle
1:24000

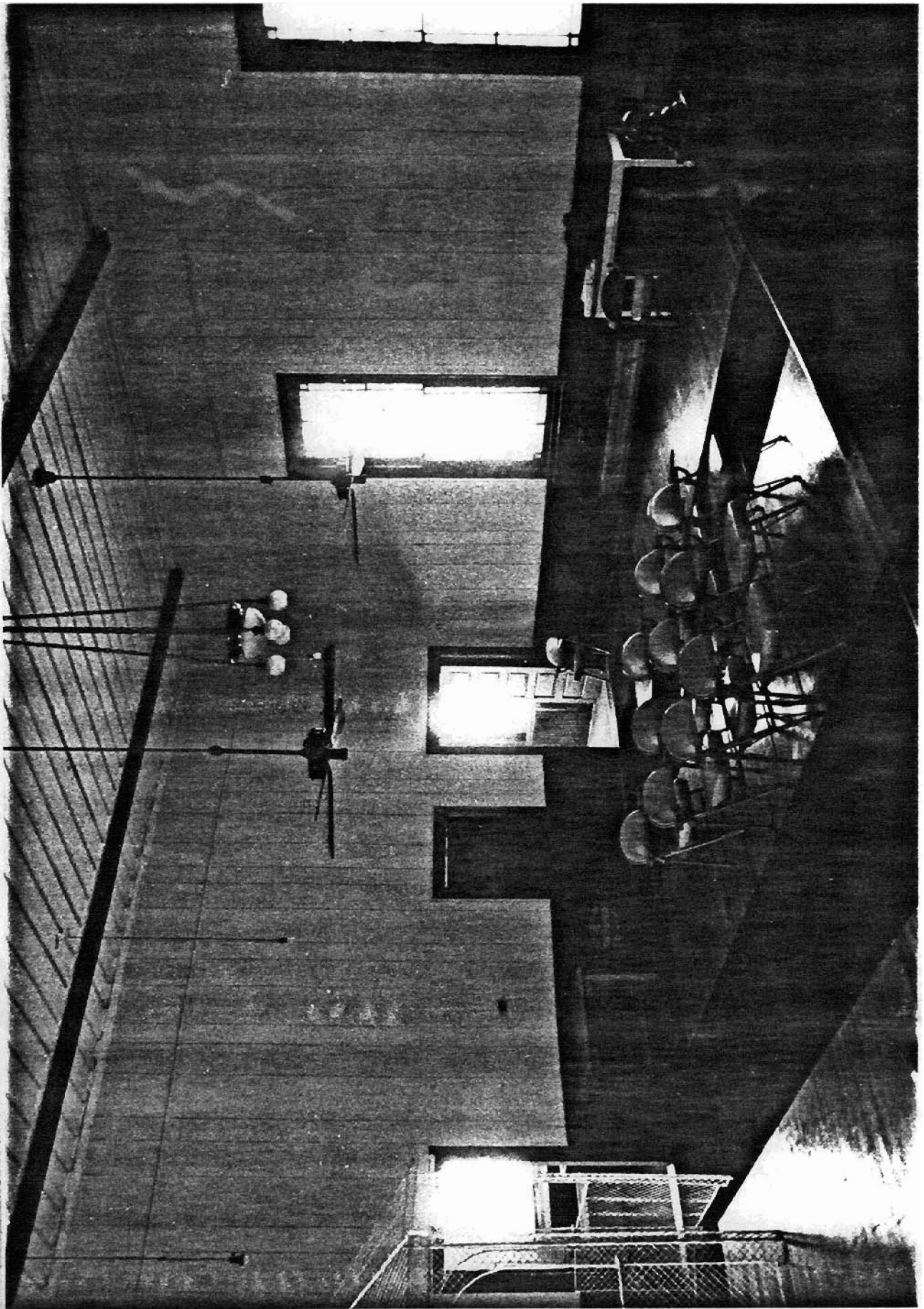


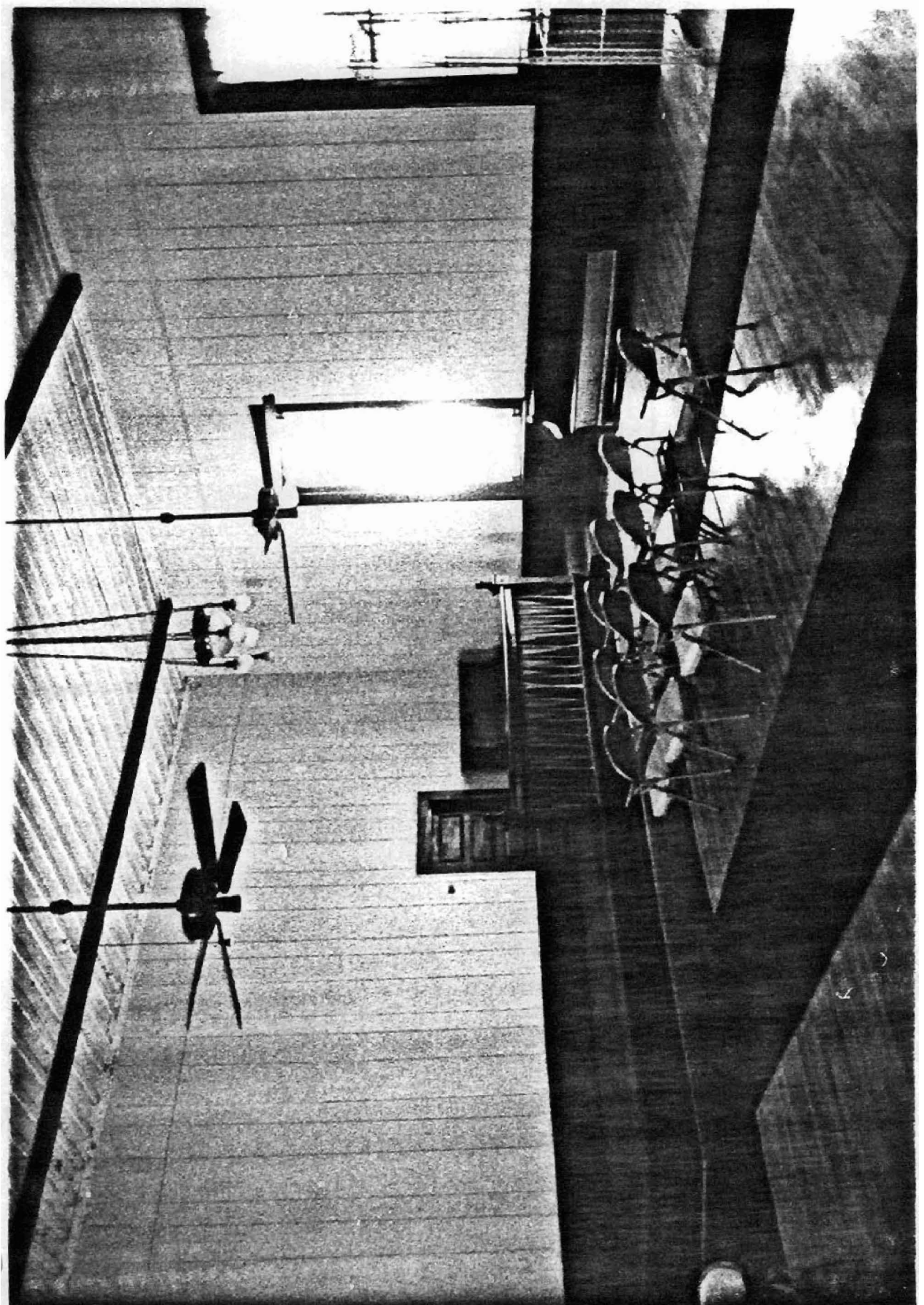
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MONTICELLO 28 MI. FOUNTAIN HILL 8 MI. 47.30" 1
Buck Br. 172 171 170 168 166 165 164 163 162 161 160 159 158 157 156 155 154 153 152 151 150 149 148 147 146 145 144 143 142 141 140 139 138 137 136 135 134 133 132 131 130 129 128 127 126 125 124 123 122 121 120 119 118 117 116 115 114 113 112 111 110 109 108 107 106 105 104 103 102 101 100 99 98 97 96 95 94 93 92 91 90 89 88 87 86 85 84 83 82 81 80 79 78 77 76 75 74 73 72 71 70 69 68 67 66 65 64 63 62 61 60 59 58 57 56 55 54 53 52 51 50 49 48 47 46 45 44 43 42 41 40 39 38 37 36 35 34 33 32 31 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

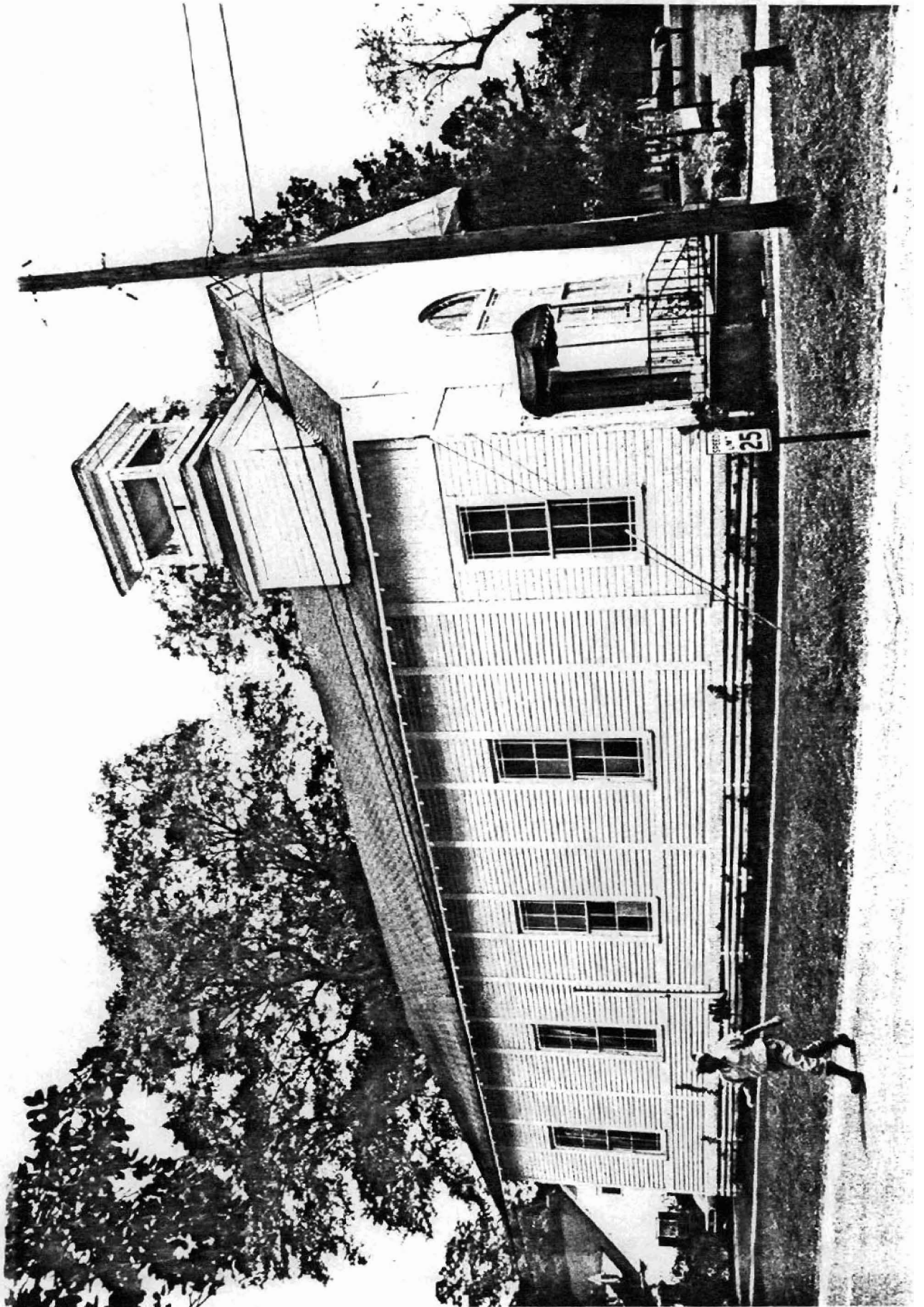
MIST 3.8 MI. LAKE VILLAGE 28 MI.

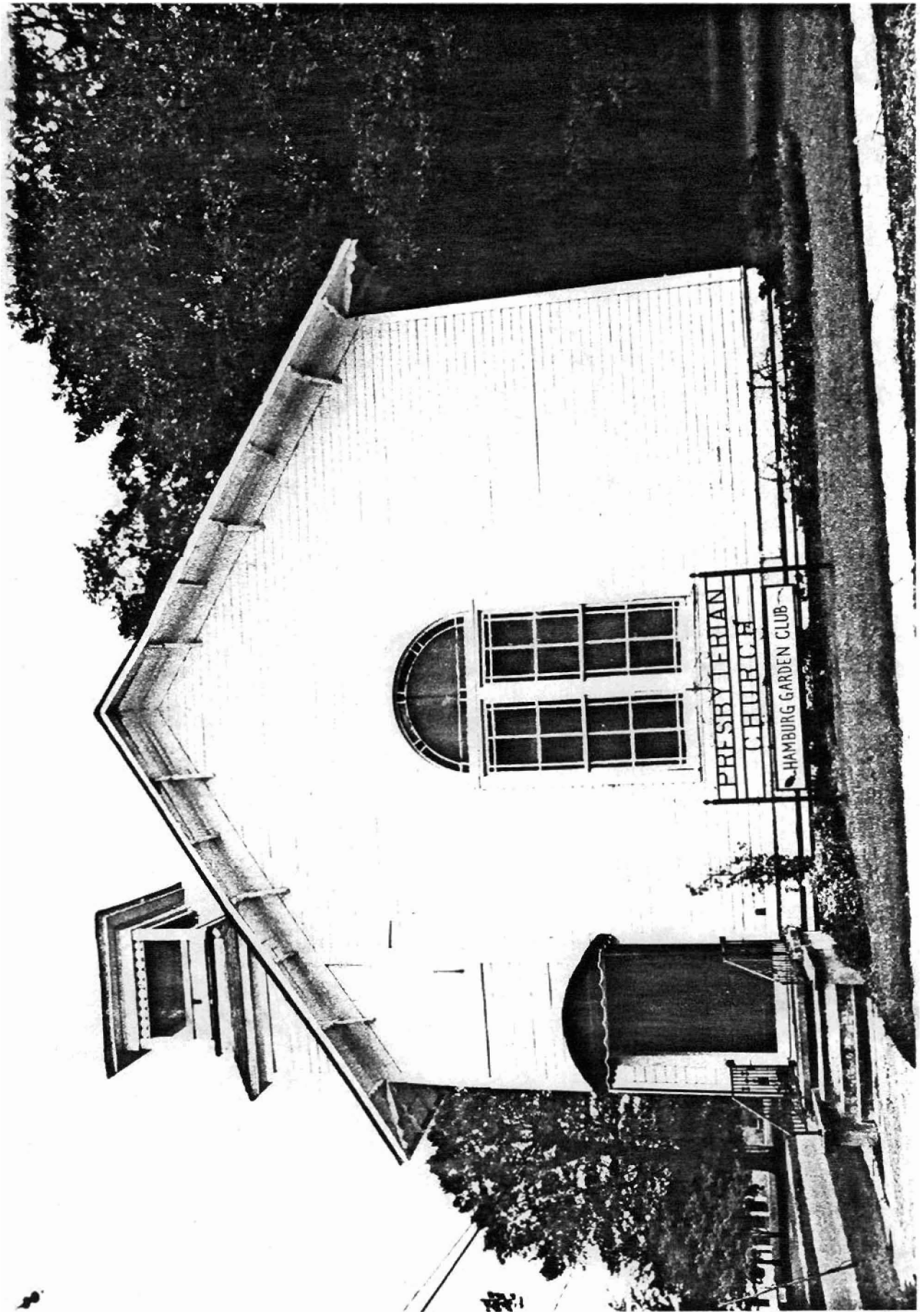
200 000 FEET











PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

HAMBURG GARDEN CLUB