

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 Ronoake Baptist Church

other names/site number New Ronok Baptist Church, Site #CL0131

2. Location

street & number North End of Ronoake Baptist Church Road

☐ not for publication

city or town Gurdon

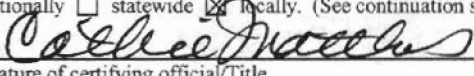
☒ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Clark code 019 zip code 71743

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

7/15/11
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

Ronoake Baptist Church

Name of Property

Clark 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

2

buildings

sites

2

structures

objects

2

2

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION / Religious facility

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE / Agricultural

Outbuilding

DOMESTIC / Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RELIGION / Religious facility

AGRICULTURE / SUBSISTENCE / Agricultural

Outbuilding

VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN

MOVEMENTS / Bungalow / Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD

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)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1945

Significant Dates

1945

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)**Architect/Builder****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 Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: _____

Ronoake Baptist Church

Name of Property

Clark County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Five acres.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 15 486419 3755792
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.)

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley Todd, Edited By: Erik Holbrooks & Ralph Wilcox

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date April 21, 2011

street & number 1500 Tower Building 323 Center Street

telephone 501-324-9787

city or town Little Rock

state Arkansas

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, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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Summary

Ronoake Baptist Church, located at the north end of Ronoake Baptist Church Road in Gurdon, Clark County, Arkansas, is a Craftsman style building that was built in 1945. There are a total of four structures on the five acre property; the church itself, the fellowship hall or kitchen, a well house and an outhouse (no longer in use).

The four buildings rest on concrete foundations and are sheathed in wood clapboard siding. The church and the Fellowship Hall have gabled roofs, while the wellhouse and outhouse have shed roofs. Ronoake Baptist Church gets its Craftsman style influence from its exposed rafter tails, king post style rafter supports, and bands of windows.

Elaboration

Ronoake Baptist Church, located at the north end of Ronoake Baptist Church Road in Gurdon, Clark County, Arkansas, was built in 1945. The Craftsman style building has a side-gabled roof with a front-facing gable in the center of the front. The porch has a protruding gable with king post style rafter supports and two triangular brace supports on either side. The walls, which are sheathed in wood clapboard siding, and trim are painted white. The front façade is symmetrical with central double doors and transom, with a series of three windows on either side. Both the southeast and northwest elevations of the building have three windows. There are two doors on the left side of the structure with a small overhang; along with one door on the right side of the structure. There is an addition to the rear, which forms a lean-to roofline towards the back. The rear façade has a centrally located door with two smaller windows on either side. There are three other structures on the five acre property: the church's fellowship hall, a wellhouse and an outhouse (no longer in use).

CHURCH - Contributing

Northeast Façade / Front

The front façade of Ronoake Baptist Church is of Craftsman style architecture. The clapboard siding is painted white, along with the trim. The design of the façade is symmetrical. There is a central front-facing gable with a gabled porch. The gabled porch has triangular brace supports, one each side, with a king post style rafter system. The entrance has wooden double doors, painted white, and a transom. On either side of the double doors there are a series of three tall, one-over-one, wood-framed windows. There is a cornerstone on the left side of the front façade which reads: "New Ronok Baptist Church, Built July 11, 1945, Officers: RT. Ford, Tom Colmon, Jim Jenkins, Walter Junell, Rev. J.H. Hinton."

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Southeast Elevation / Side

The southeast elevation shows the addition to the rear, which makes a lean-to addition to the gabled roofline. The clapboard siding is painted white, along with the trim. There are three tall, one-over-one, wood-framed windows evenly spaced along the façade, and the center one has an air-conditioning unit attached to it. To the far left, where the addition is, are two wooden doors, painted white, with a small shed-roofed overhang above them. There is also a rectangular louvered attic vent in the gable peak.

Southwest Elevation / Rear

The southwest elevation is the addition. The clapboard siding is painted white, along with the trim. There is a centrally located wooden door with three horizontal panels in the bottom half and three vertical panes of glass in the top half. The door is painted white to match the rest of the building. In addition, the entrance is flanked by two smaller, two-over-two, wood-framed windows, one on each side. The attic vent that protrudes like a dormer has a hip roof.

Northwest Elevation / Side

The northwest elevation shows the addition to the rear, which makes a lean-to addition to the gabled roofline. The clapboard siding is painted white, along with the trim. There are three tall, one-over-one, wood-framed windows evenly spaced along the façade, and the center one has an air-conditioning unit attached to it. To the right, where the addition is, is a wooden two-panel door that is unpainted. There is also a rectangular louvered attic vent in the gable peak.

FELLOWSHIP HALL - Contributing

The fellowship Hall, or kitchen, has the same white clapboard siding and trim as the church. There is a gabled roof with exposed rafters. The northeast façade (front) has two white painted doors, one at each end, along with two smaller, one-over-one, wood-framed windows near the center of the façade. Both the Southeast and Northwest elevations (sides) have two smaller, one-over-one, wood-framed windows. The Southwest elevation (rear) has exposed rafters from the gabled roof. There are two smaller, one-over-one, wood-framed windows. The window on the right has an air-conditioning unit attached to it.

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OUTHOUSE – Non-contributing

The outhouse, which is no longer in use, is the most weathered of the four buildings on the property. There is a shed roof and natural wood is showing on all four sides.

WELL HOUSE – Non-Contributing

The well house is sheathed in clapboard siding and has a shed roof. Two sides of the clapboard siding have been painted white to match the church and the fellowship hall.

Integrity

The Ronoake Baptist Church retains good integrity. As stated by church members, “The Church house has all of its original features, although the interior window and door trim is undecorated, and the exterior has been treated using basic paint. The inside of the Church house retains all of its original wood flooring, windows and benching.” The biggest change to the church is the lean-to addition on the rear of the building. However, it is relatively small in scale compared to the original building, and was designed to blend in with the original building’s architecture. Two window air-conditioning units have been installed on either side of the structure on the center windows. There are three other structures on the five acre property: a fellowship hall (Kitchen), an outhouse (no longer in use) and a well house. The Fellowship Hall has the same white clapboard siding and trim as the Church. The outhouse and well house both have clapboard siding. However, they are considered to be non-contributing since they do not illustrate the Craftsman style influences of the main building and the fellowship hall. Ronoake Baptist Church remains a good example of a 1945 rural Craftsman style church. The church’s rural setting also reflects the period in which it was built.

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SUMMARY

The Ronoake Baptist Church, which was built in 1945, is an excellent example of Craftsman style inspired rural church near Gurdon. With its exposed rafter tails, king post style rafter supports, and bands of windows, the church employed textbook characteristics of the Craftsman style. Because of its significance as an excellent example of a Craftsman-style church near Gurdon, the Ronoake Baptist Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**. Since the building is still owned by the church and in use for weekly services, it is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

ELABORATION

Clark County was founded December 15, 1818, as a part of the Missouri Territory. One of five counties comprising Arkansas Territory when it was created in 1819, Clark County included all or parts of at least fifteen counties in present-day Arkansas and parts of six counties in what is now Oklahoma. The county was named for then Missouri Territorial Governor William Clark, of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Among the most noted settlers of Clark County was Meriwether Lewis Randolph, grandson of Thomas Jefferson. A historical marker in the city of Gurdon briefly tells his story. Churches and schools headed the priority list of the early settlers. Clark County had become a thriving county of agriculture, commerce and education by the year 1860. With the onset of the Civil War, Clark County provided many eager volunteers to the Confederate cause.

Gurdon, Arkansas, is located about 75 miles south of Little Rock on Interstate 30 and is located just east of the Interstate on Highway 67. The town originated as a timber town close to the railroad, and is said to be named after a railroad executive. The construction of the railroads played an important part in the birth and growth of the timber industry, and hence in the growth of Gurdon also. The community now known as Gurdon started as a construction camp on the Cairo and Fulton Railroad (later the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern, Missouri-Pacific, and Union Pacific), first completed in 1873. Soon after, the Iron Mountain Railway constructed a branch line southeast to Camden from Gurdon, and it only increased the activity and regional centrality of the town. By 1906 the Gurdon Fort Smith Railroad connected Gurdon with the virgin forest of Montgomery County and the lumbering operations which were cutting throughout the forest of the Ouachita Mountains. The Missouri-Pacific Railroad Depot in Gurdon was constructed in 1917.

Ronoake Baptist Church began in a community near Smithton in the spring of 1893. Although no written records survive from the early years of the congregation, it is believed that the land belonged to Mrs. Lou Young and family. The land was near the Iron Mountain Railroad line, which is now the Union Pacific. The founders of Ronoake Baptist Church were Mr. Bob Dixon, Mr. Haywood & Mrs. Ellen Dixon, Mr. Jake and

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Mrs. Jessie May, Mrs. Birdie Scott, Mr. George and Mrs. Fannie Simmons, Mrs. Sally Weatherspoon, Mr. Newton and Mrs. Sally Williams. The first pastor of the congregation was Rev. Adam Stephens.

Smithton, Arkansas, where the congregation started, was named after James A. "Jim" Smith. Born in 1847 in Ireland, Smith moved to the United States in 1867 and to Clark County in 1873. He began his career as a construction worker on the Iron Mountain Railroad. In 1884, Smith had a small mercantile business which he moved to Smithton. Also in 1884, Smith began a shortline railroad to bring logs to Smithton, and the Smithton Lumber Company eventually became one of the largest lumber mills and planers in Arkansas.

The earliest written records for the Ronoake Baptist Church date to 1918 and show that there were plans being made to purchase land. The records also show that there was \$45.00 in the church's treasury at that time. By 1919, land had been purchased at the east end of the Greenville/Smithton Cemetery in order to construct a building for the congregation. The congregation would remain at that location until 1943.

By the early 1940s, the congregation was growing and the church's building was in serious need of repair. Congregational meetings were held, and it was decided that the building should be torn down. The building was torn down in 1943, and another piece of land was purchased approximately ½ mile to the west for the construction of a new building. While building the new church in Gurdon, the congregation met under a brush arbor in the Greenville community on the land of Mr. John H. Stephens.

On July 11, 1945, the new Ronoake Baptist Church was dedicated. The congregation built their new building utilizing influences from the Craftsman style, which was one of the most popular architectural styles during the first decades of the twentieth-century. According to Virginia and Lee McAlester in *A Field Guide to American Houses*, the height of popularity for the Craftsman style was from 1905 until 1930, although the Ronoake Baptist Church illustrates that the style's popularity extended beyond the 1930s, especially in rural areas. The style was mainly inspired by the brothers Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene who practiced architecture together in Pasadena, California, from 1893 until 1914. It was a style that emphasized the craftsmanship and materials that went into a building's construction. The Ronoake Baptist Church, with its low-pitched gable roof; exposed rafter tails; decorative beams under the front porch roof; and bands of windows, exhibits the emphasis on craftsmanship and materials that is a key characteristic of the Craftsman style.

Since the completion of the building in 1945, the Ronoake Baptist Church has remained a vibrant part of the Gurdon area community. The congregation has purchased a pastor's robe, choir robes, eighteen chairs for the choir, eighteen hymnals, had a well drilled, added restrooms and remodeled the kitchen in the fellowship hall by purchasing a stove, refrigerator and sink. Ronoake Baptist Church celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 1993, and a centennial celebration was held on July 18, 1993.

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Today, the Ronoake Baptist Church is a living reminder of early twentieth century architectural history in the Gurdon area. The Ronoake Baptist Church, with its low-pitched gable roof; exposed rafter tails; decorative beams under the front porch roof; and bands of windows is a good example of the Craftsman style, and illustrates the popularity of the style in the first part of the twentieth century. The survival and continued preservation of the Ronoake Baptist Church is a monument to the dedication of the members of the congregation.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ronoake Baptist Church, which was built in 1945, is an excellent example of Craftsman style inspired rural church near Gurdon. With its exposed rafter tails, king post style rafter supports, and bands of windows, the church employed textbook characteristics of the Craftsman style. Because of its significance as an excellent example of a Craftsman-style church near Gurdon, the Ronoake Baptist Church is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion C**. Since the building is still owned by the church and in use for weekly services, it is also being nominated under **Criteria Consideration A: Religious Properties**.

Ronoake Baptist Church

Name of Property

Clark County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

"A Century of Christian Faith: Ronoake Baptist Church." Privately printed. In the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 1993.

McAlester, Virginia, and Lee McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A Knopf, 1994.

Richter, Wendy. "Clark County Arkansas: Past and Present." Clark County Historical Association 1992.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Located at the north end of Ronoake Baptist Church Road in Clark county of Gurdon, Arkansas.

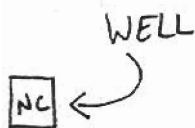
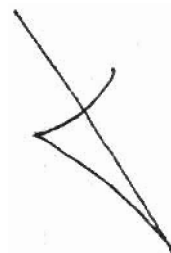
Beginning at the southeast corner of the southwest quarter (SW $\frac{1}{4}$) of the northeast quarter (NE $\frac{1}{4}$) of section twenty one (21), township nine (9) south, range twenty (20) west, as a starting point; thence west 210 feet; thence north about 1155 feet to the right-of-way of the M.O.P Ry Womble Brance Road; thence along the right-of-way of said M.O.P Ry Co. in a southeasterly direction to the east line of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 21, township 9 south, 20 west; thence south to the point of beginning, containing 5 acres more or less.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

This is all the land historically associated with Ronoake Baptist Church

RONOAKE BAPTIST CHURCH
GURDON VIC., CLARK
COUNTY, ARKANSAS

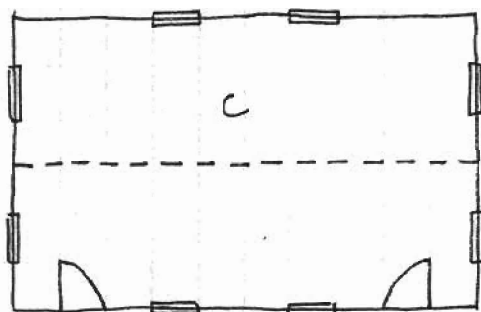
NORTH



8' 1

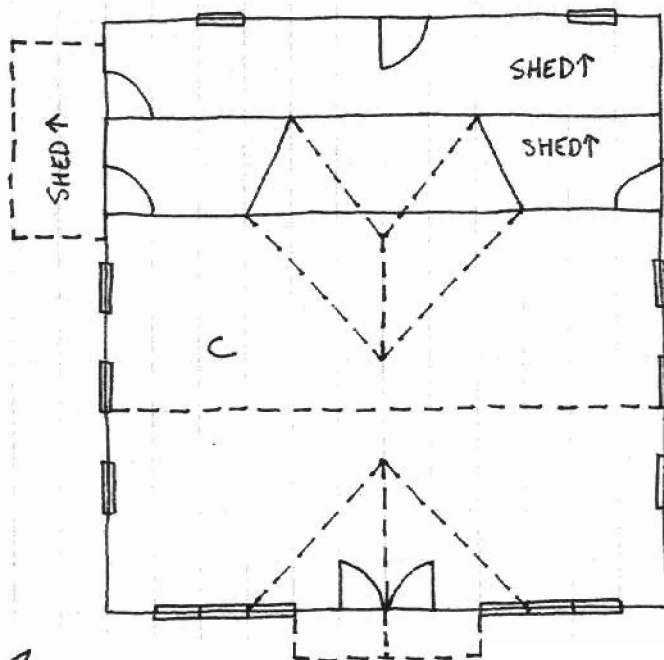
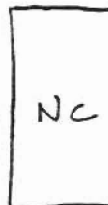
7

KITCHEN (A)



4 > 6' 1

9 > OUTHOUSE

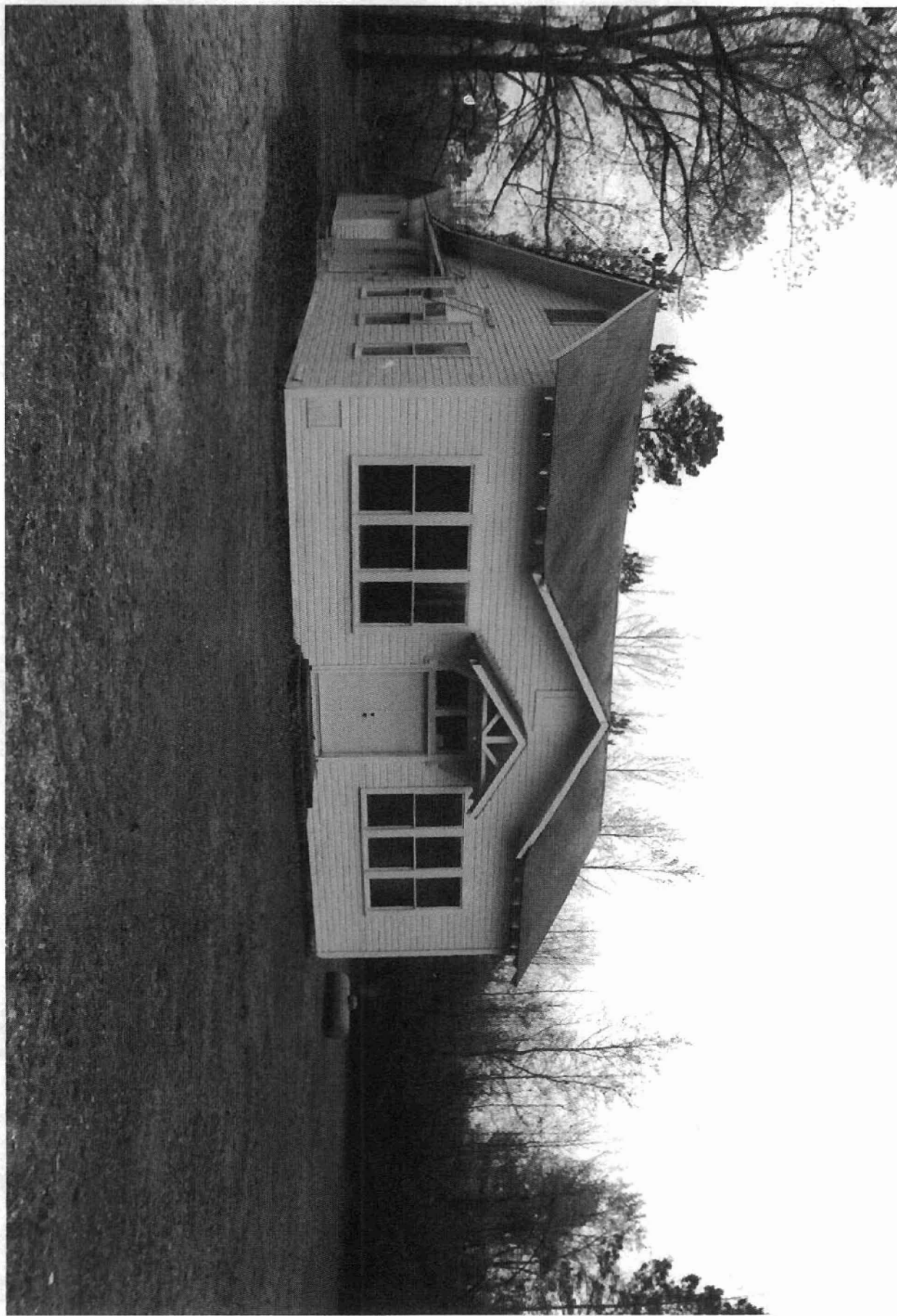


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17

2



NEW RONDON
BAPTIST CHURCH

JULY 11 1946

OFFICERS

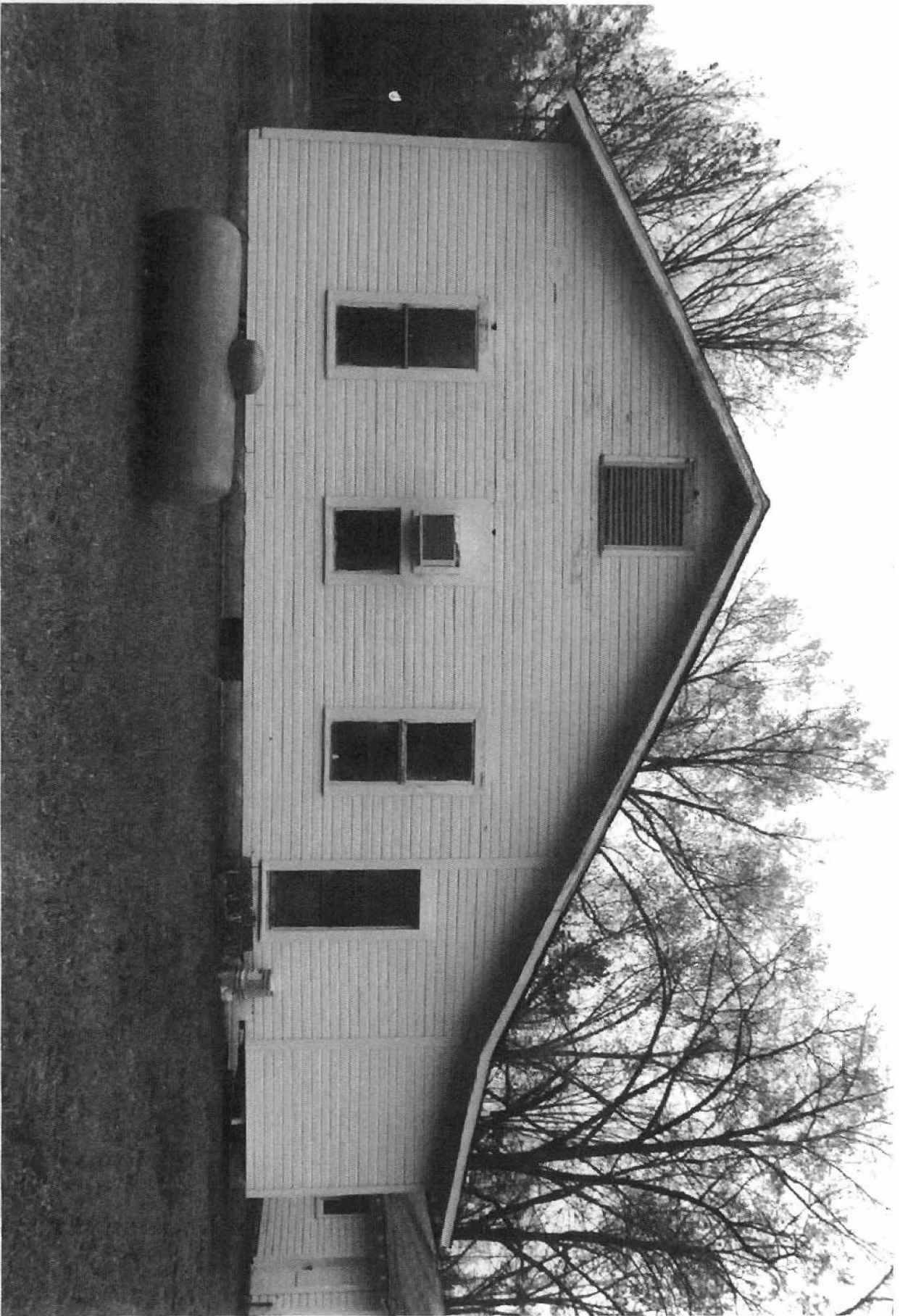
H. T. FORD

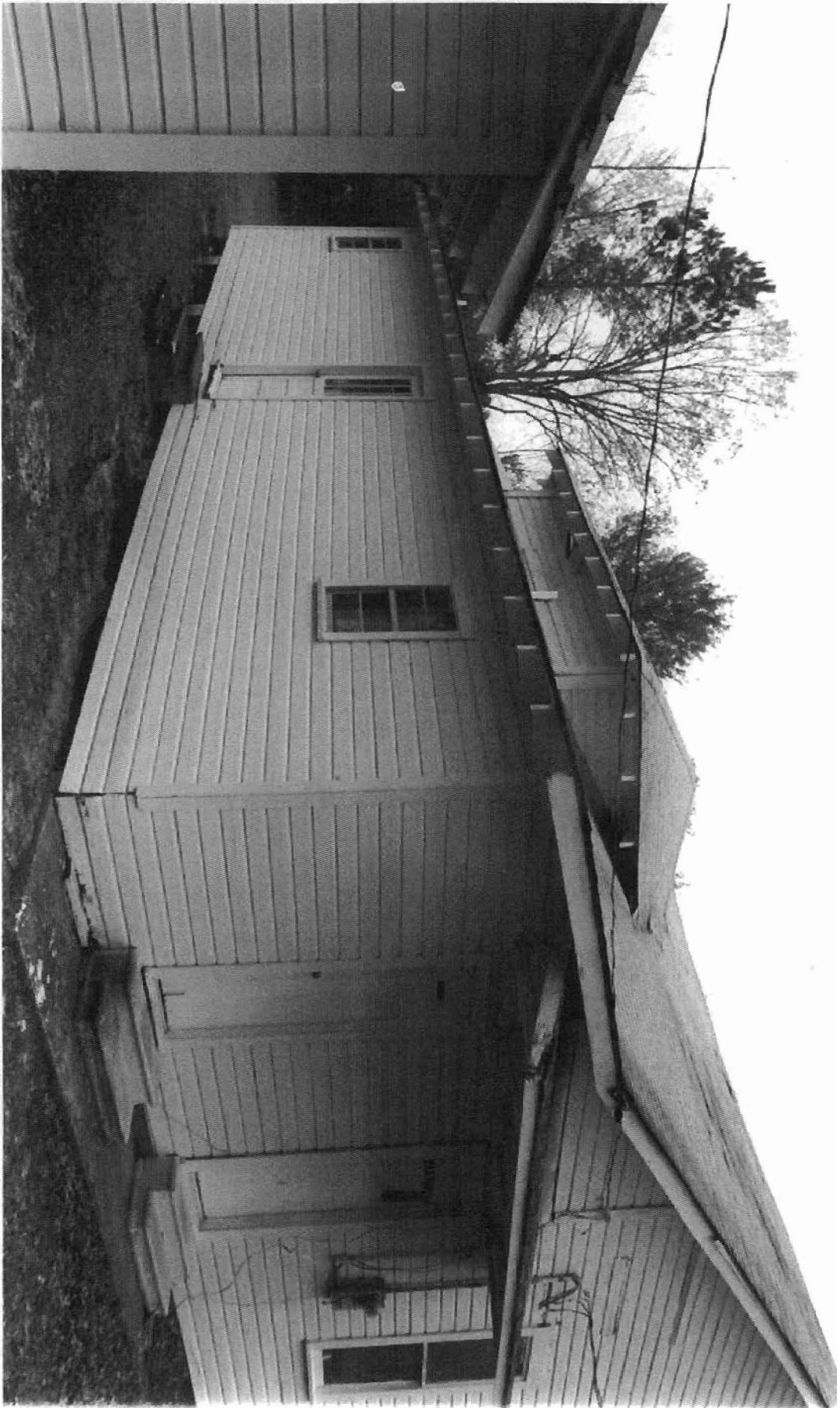
TOM. COLMON

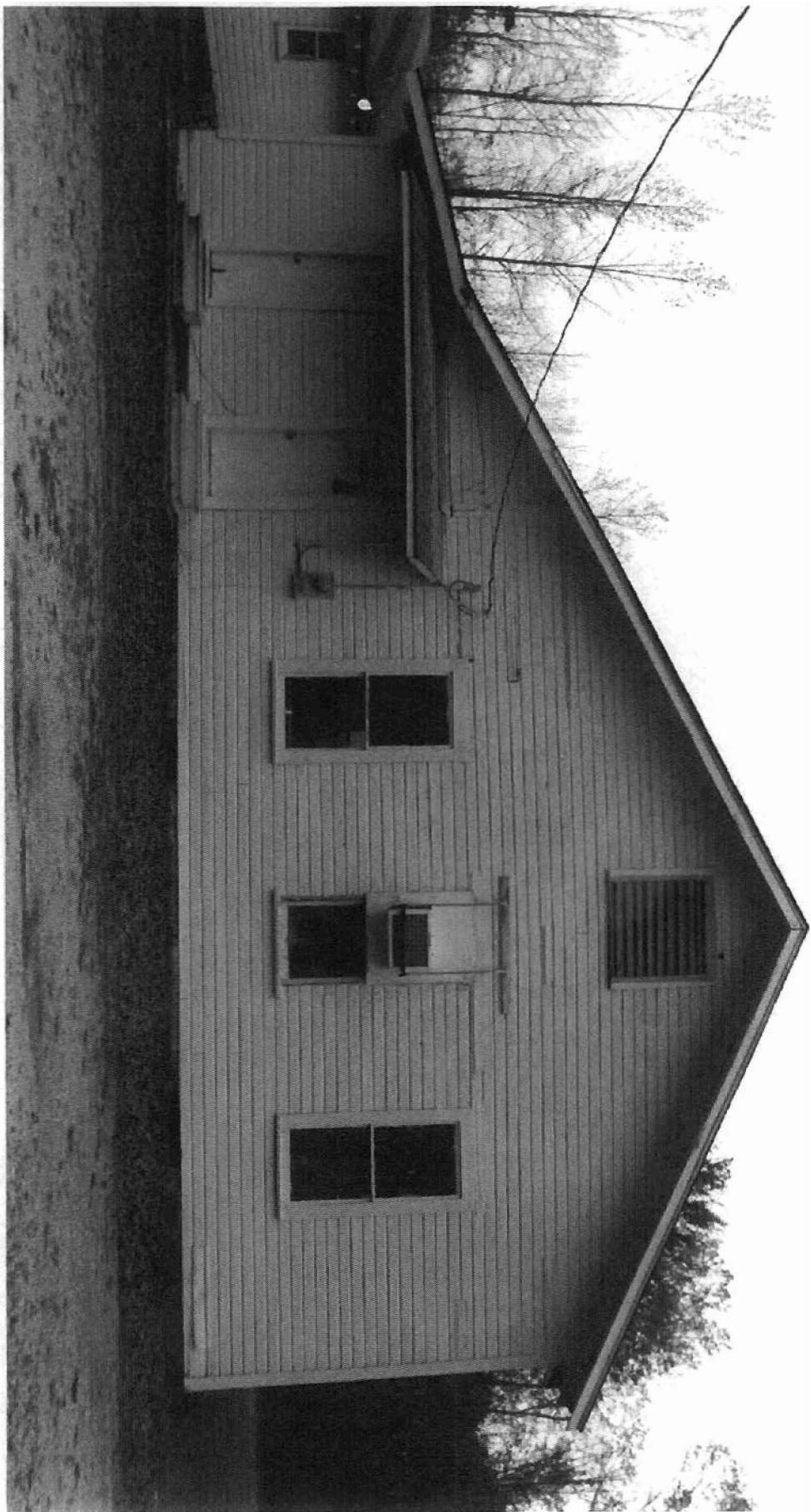
JIM. JENKINS

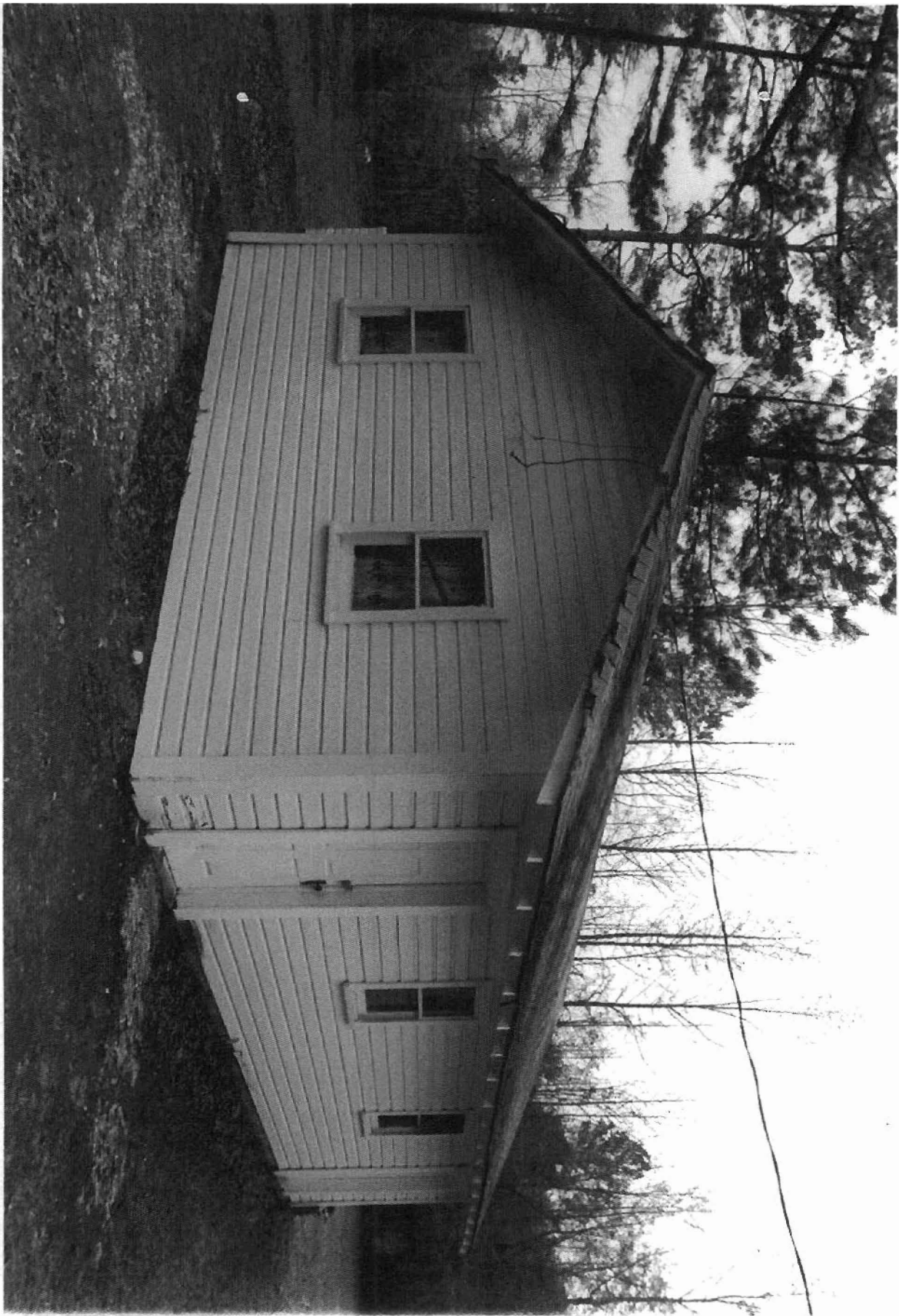
WALTER R. JINNEL

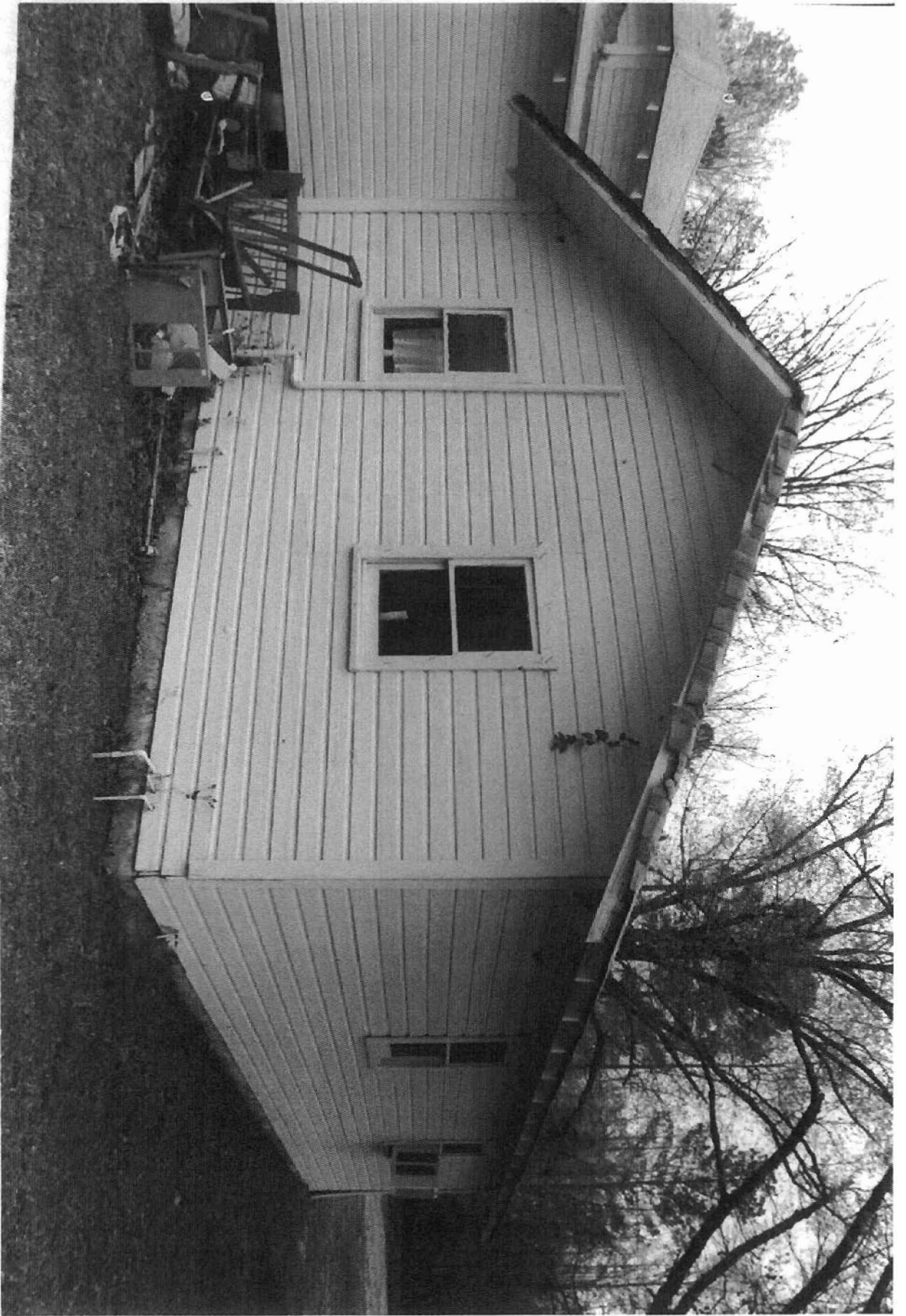
REV. J. H. HUNTER

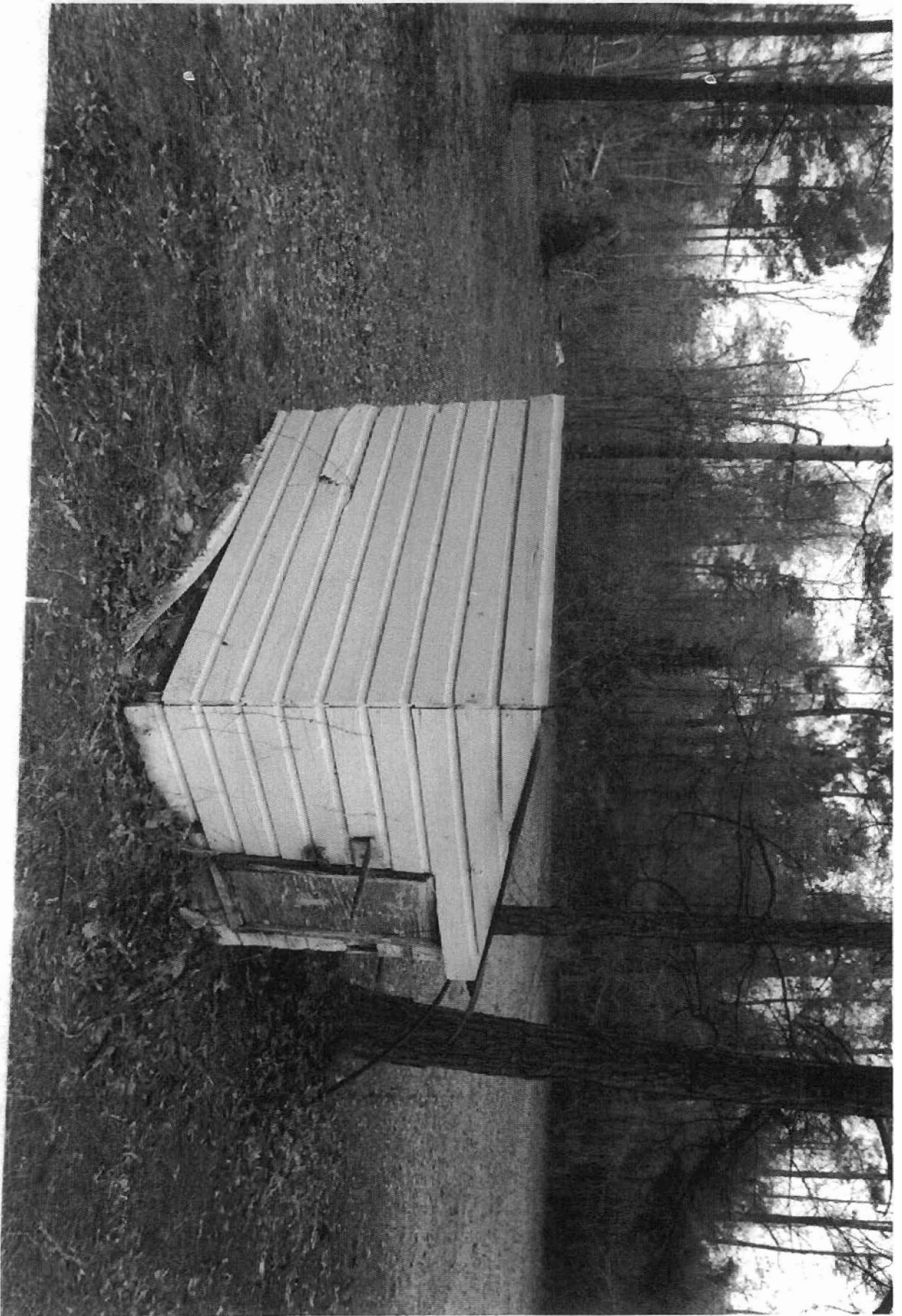


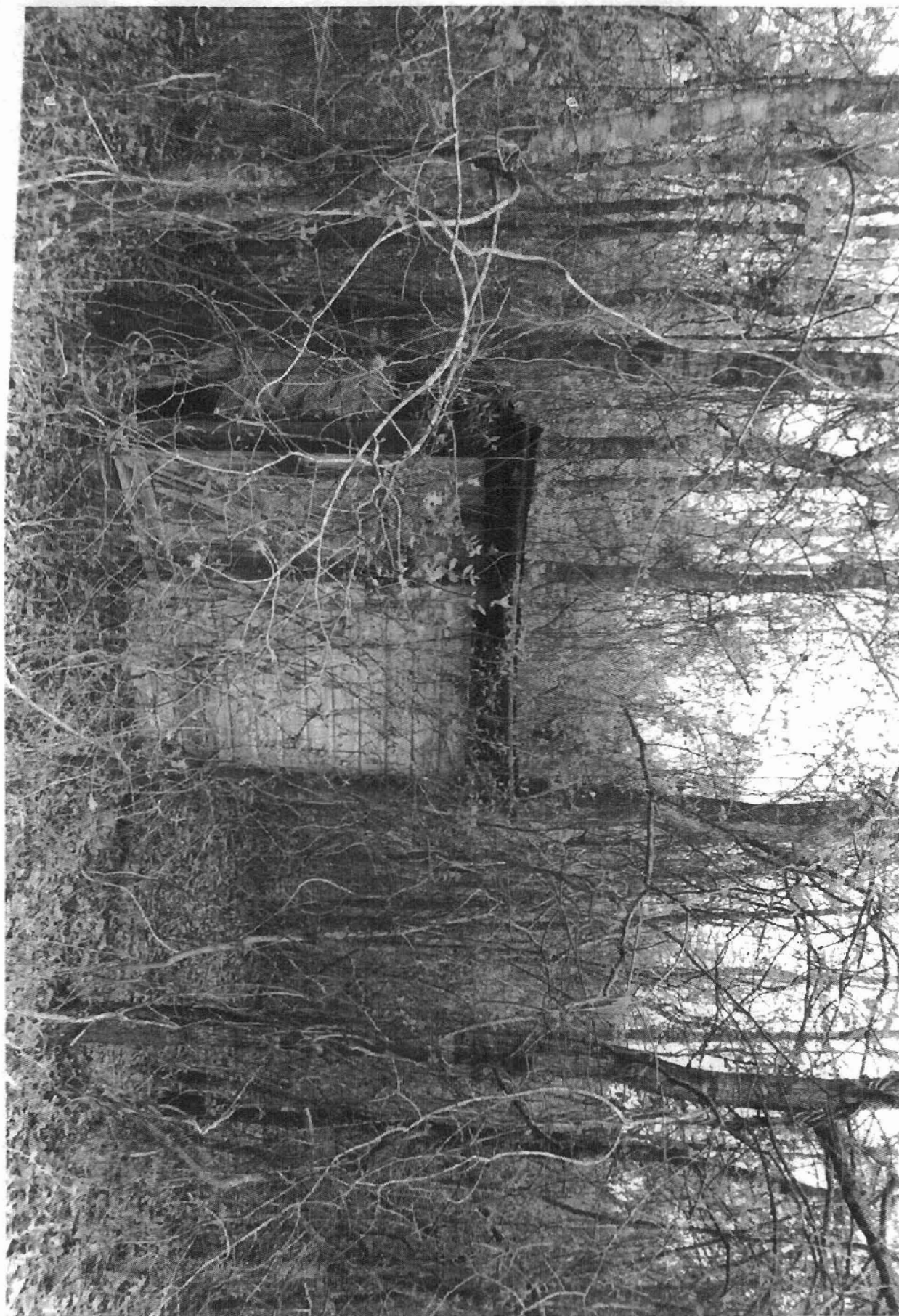


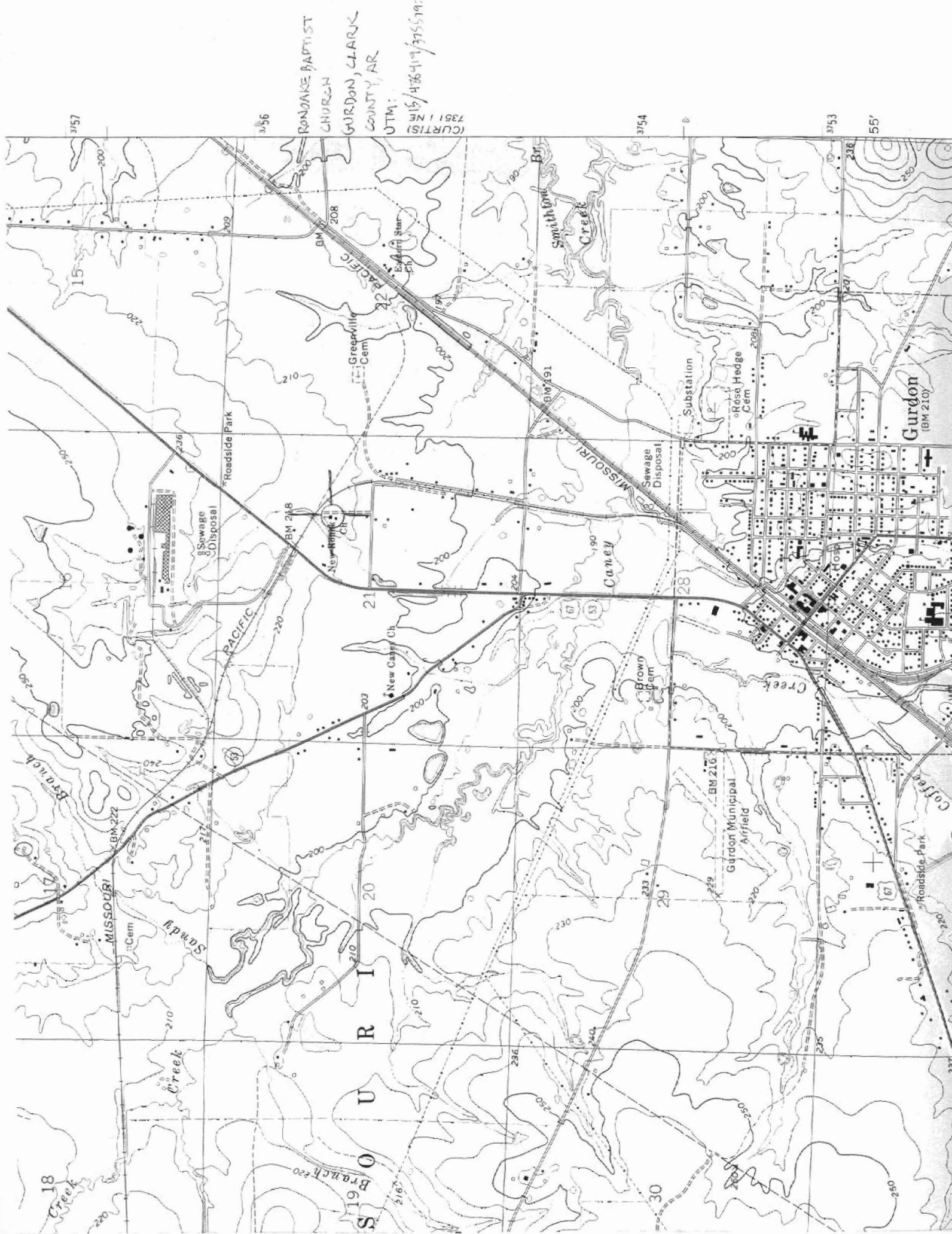












RONDAKE BAPTIST
CHURCH
GURDON, CLARK
COUNTY, AR
UTM:
15/476419/395519
(CURTIS)
7351 1 NE

Gurdon
(BM 210)

U R I

S 19 O