

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR 11-20-86

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

NR 11-20-86

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

CODE 12

## 1. Name

historic Ozmer House

and/or common Same

## 2. Location

street &amp; number Highway 82 By pass, Southern Arkansas University Farm N/A not for publication

city, town Magnolia X vicinity of

state Arkansas code 03 county Columbia code 027

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Southern Arkansas University

street &amp; number

city, town Magnolia vicinity of state Arkansas 71753

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Columbia County Courthouse

street &amp; number

city, town Magnolia state Arkansas 71753

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Arkansas Inventory has this property been determined eligible? X yes no

date 3/31/77 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

city, town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"The Ozmer House Moved" Visions, Newsletter of the Historic Preservation Alliance of Arkansas, June 1982.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5

Quadrangle name Magnolia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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1	5
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3	6	8	3	0	1	5
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Zone

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beverly Watkins and Frank Schambach, ed. by AHPP staff

organization Ozmer House Committee

date 7/11/86

street & number Box 1381, SAU

telephone 235-4230

city or town Magnolia

state AR 71753

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Wilson S. Smith*

title

AR. 22APD

date

10-6-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

## 7. Description

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☐ original site  
☒ moved

date 6/17/82

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### SUMMARY

Built in 1883, the Ozmer House is an unusually well-crafted dogtrot cabin with an ell addition. The house is situated by a pond and amongst large trees all of which create a picturesque setting for this significant vernacular structure. Although the Ozmer House was moved because of commercial and residential encroachment, Southern Arkansas University (SAU) has exercised great care in restoring the structure to its original specifications, and its new setting at the SAU farm is only one half-mile from its original location. The Ozmer House, now safe from destruction, is common in plan but distinguished for its craftsmanship and details, such as the hand-planed cypress lumber, vertical interior and exterior board-and-battens and gambrel ceilings, and is a handsome example of a common type of housing built by farmers and settlers in the mid-upland south.

### ELABORATION

The Ozmer House, separated from U. S. Highway 82 by-pass by a fence and a sizeable field, is oriented towards the north and is surrounded by large trees, a spring at the rear and a pond on the southwest. An unobtrusive farm lane connects the property with other SAU structures which are not visible from the Ozmer House. The structure rests on brick piers and the side gabled roofs, ending in return cornices, are covered with cedar shingles. The house is of box construction with vertical board-and-batten on the exterior as well as the interior. All walls are one board thick and all windows are four-over-four double-hung sash. The facade possesses a broad front porch with a shed roof supported by chamfered posts. Symmetrically-placed windows lie on either side of the breezeway in the original front rooms.

East and west elevations possess centered brick chimneys flanked by a window on either side. Two rooms, with a shed roof and a window on each outside wall, were added enclosing both east and west ends of the back porch.

Soon after Mr. Ozmer built the dogtrot he constructed a two-room ell addition that extends from the southwest side of the dogtrot. The two rooms each have one door on the east wall and are fronted by a porch with a shed roof.

In plan the structure consists of six rooms: two on the original dogtrot, two enclosing east and west ends of the back porch and two in the ell addition. All interior walls are finished with wide baseboards and battens; wooden floors are in excellent condition. Although the roofs are gable the structure's ceilings are gambrel and consist of hand-planed wood.

Only the original pine mantel exists, but a meticulously crafted replica of the original has been produced to replace it. Walls and floors have never been covered with material of any sort and are in remarkable condition.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1883

Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### SUMMARY

Architecturally significant for its excellent craftsmanship and as a representative of the homes built by farm families in south Arkansas, the Ozmer House was built in 1883 approximately two miles northeast of the courthouse square in Magnolia, Columbia County. Originally located in a rural, farming area, the structure is a dog-trot with a kitchen ell. The one-story house is of box-construction with board-and-battens both exterior and interior. The interior also possesses an unusual gambrel ceiling and handmade pine mantels. Typical in plan but exceptional in craftsmanship, the Ozmer House is a well-preserved representative of Columbia County's agricultural and architectural heritage.

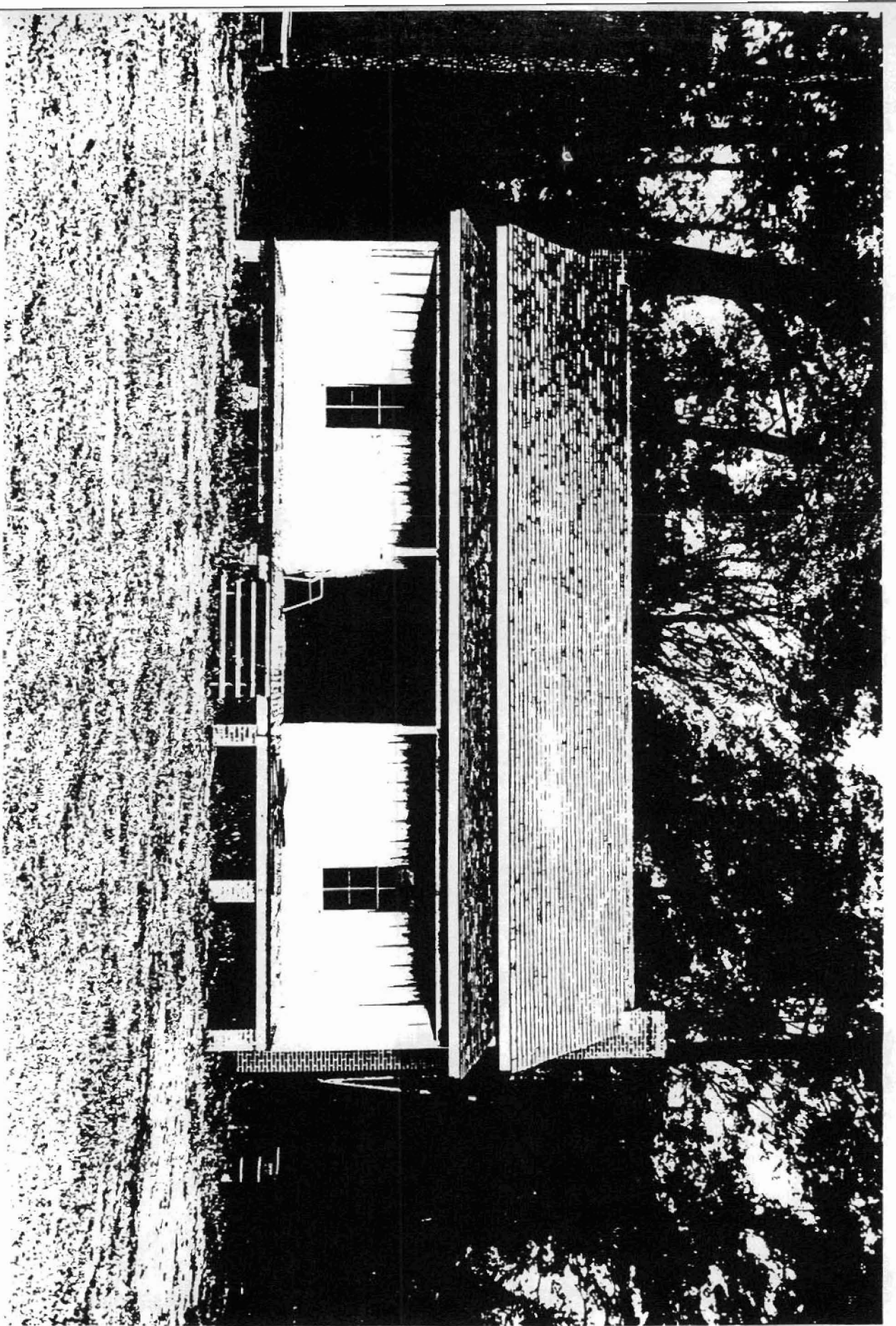
#### ELABORATION

A family of yeoman farmers, the Ozmers migrated to Columbia County in 1860 from Georgia by way of Alabama. Henry Ozmer, builder of the house, was born in Georgia. He married Virginia Faulk of Athens, Louisiana in 1873 and they lived in a log house close to where they would later build the board-and-batten structure. The Ozmer family helped establish a short-lived Presbyterian Church, and were among the founders of Greers Chapel Church.

Surrounded by other family farms at its original location, the Ozmer House was built as a result of the area's agricultural and economic prosperity. The Ozmer farm was in a part of Columbia County where development began in the late 1850's and early 1860's. By the early 1880's the farmers, including the Ozmers, had cleared the land and developed the area's agricultural potential. With the completion of the Cotton Belt railroad through Magnolia, farmers realized increased income from their cotton crops. In 1883, Henry Ozmer built the structure and lived there until his death in 1941.

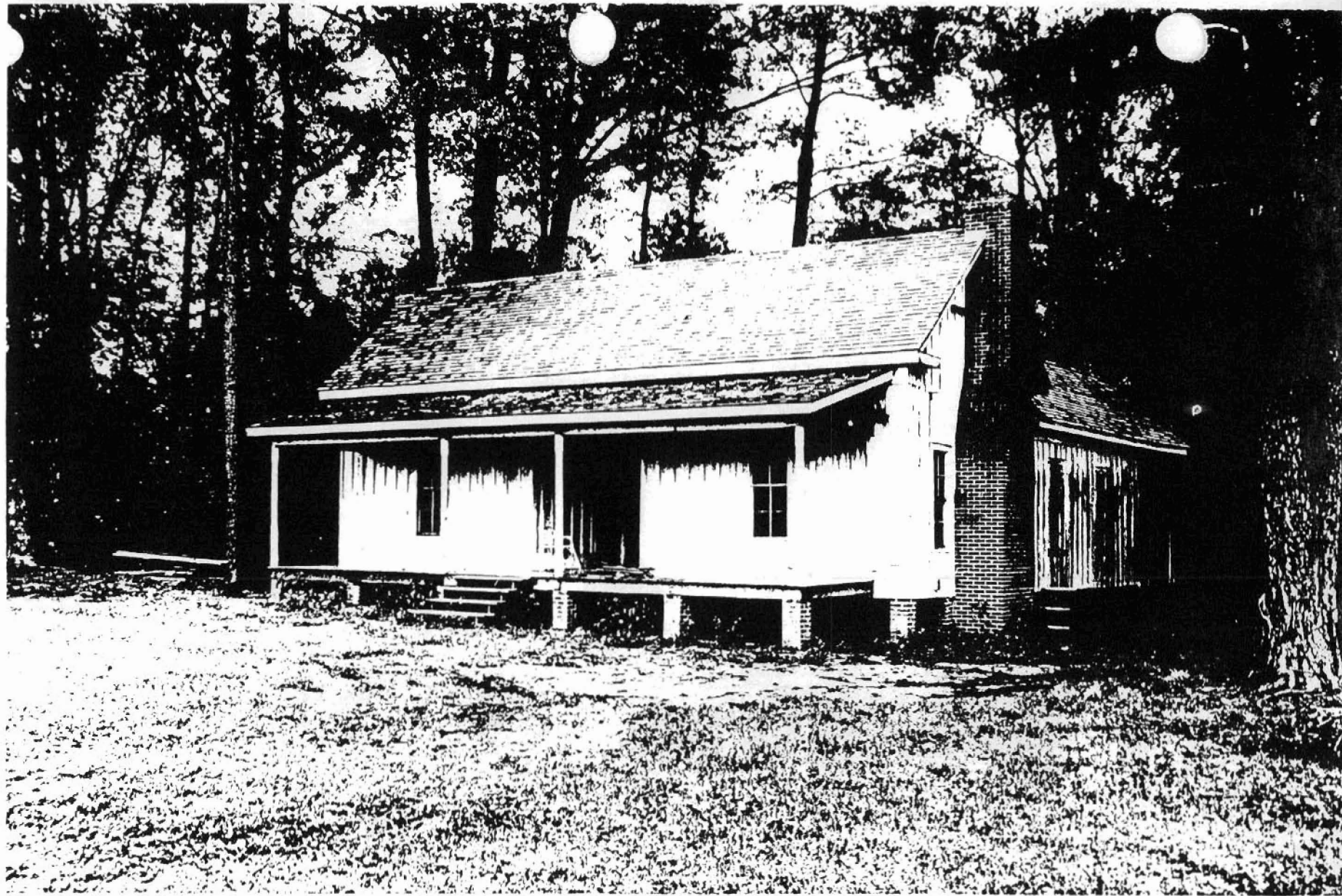
In plan the structure is a dog-trot with kitchen ell and was commonly the type of structure built by farm families in the area. Due to the unusually fine craftsmanship the Ozmer House is distinguished among its contemporaries.

Due to rapid deterioration and commercial and residential encroachment, the Ozmer House was donated to Southern Arkansas University on the condition that the structure be moved from the original site as soon as possible. The house was moved one-half mile west of the original site to a spacious setting. Safe from demolition and deterioration, the building now rests on brick piers as it originally did and maintains excellent integrity.



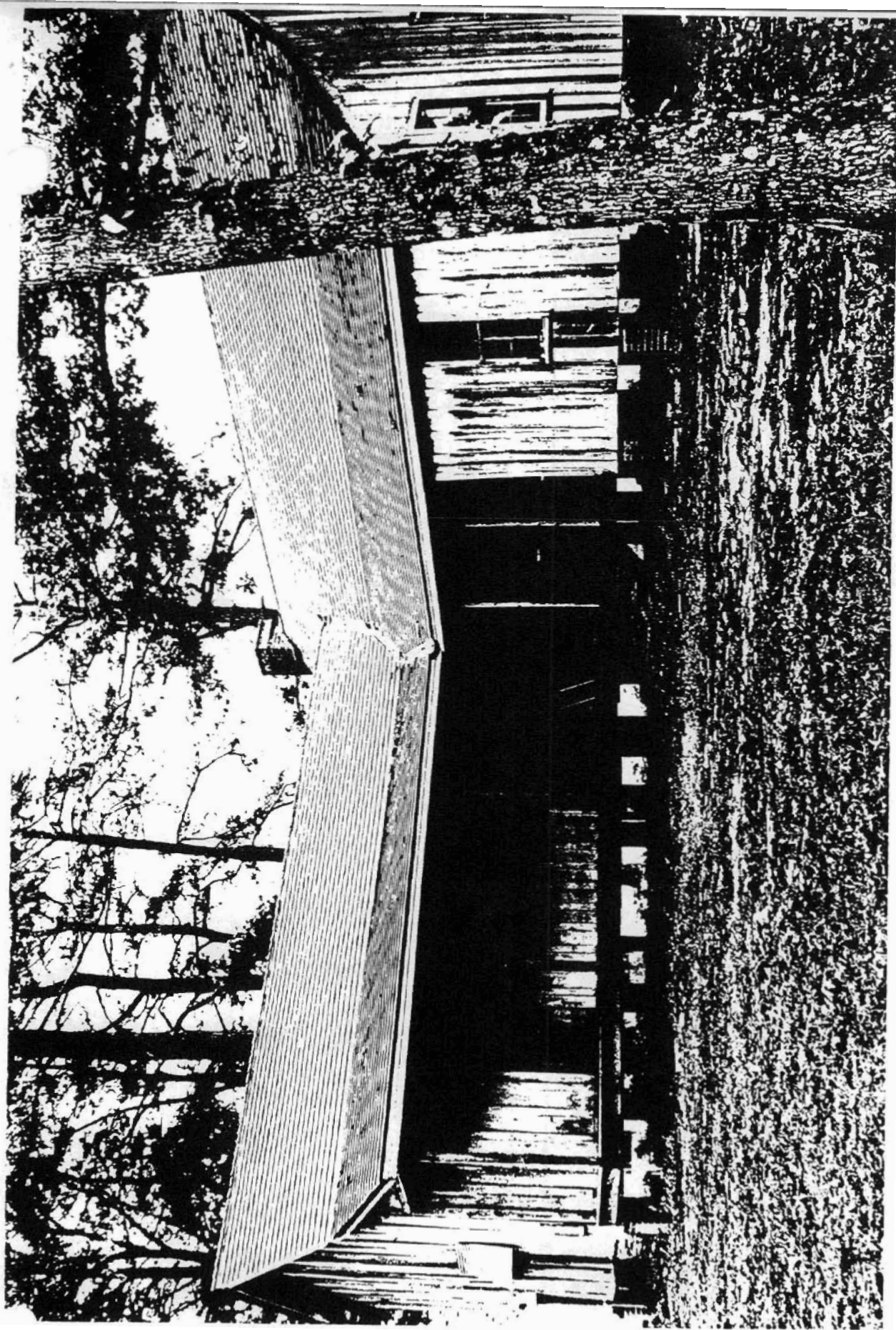
Ozmer House  
Magnolia, Columbia  
North (Front) Elevation  
Julie Vosmik , photographer  
6-10-86





Ozmer House  
Magnolia, Columbia  
Front (North) Elevation  
Julie Vosmik , photographer  
6-10-86

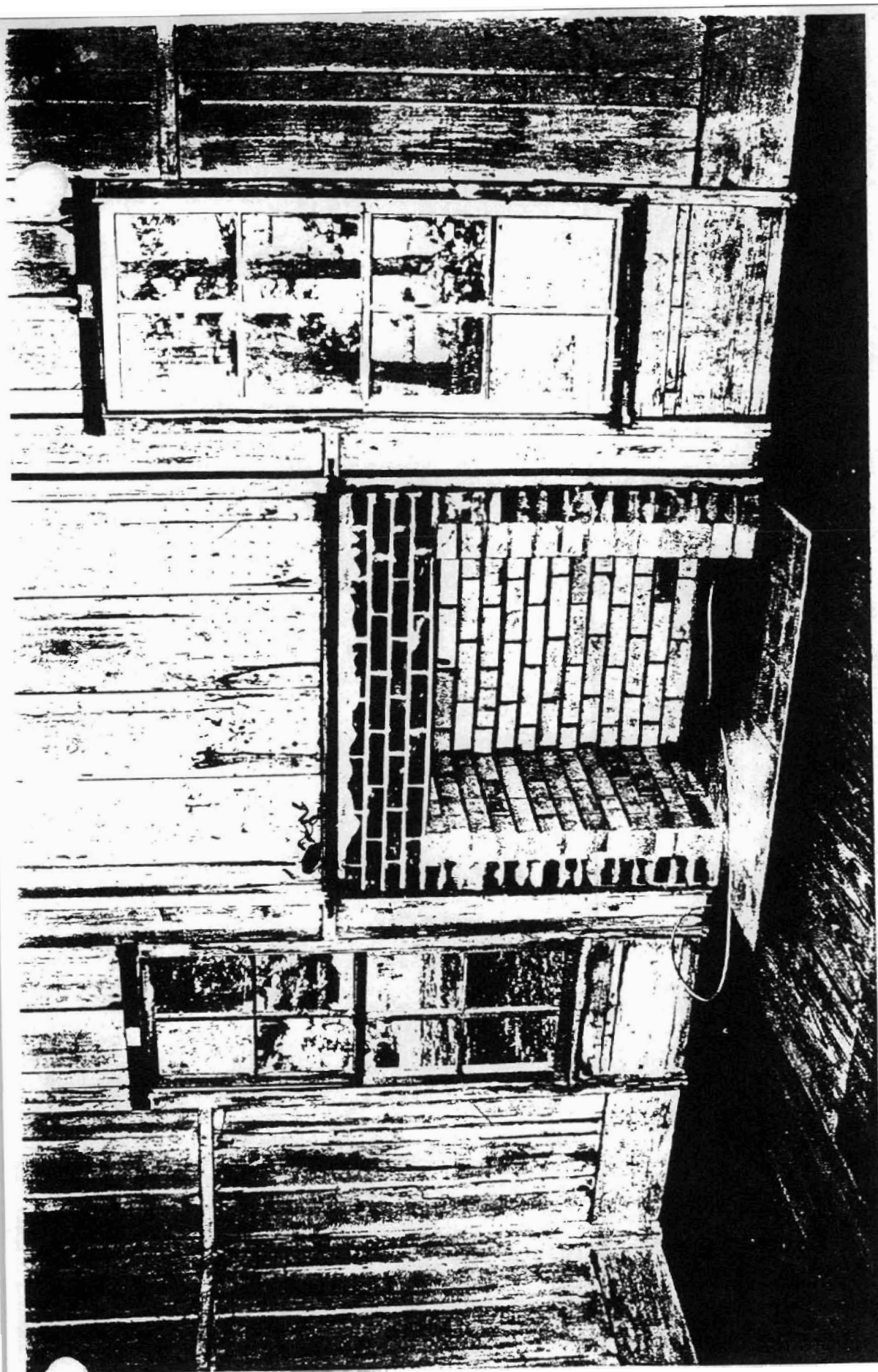




Ozmer House  
Magnolia, Columbia  
Rear Ell from Southeast  
Julie Vosmik, photographer  
6-10-86



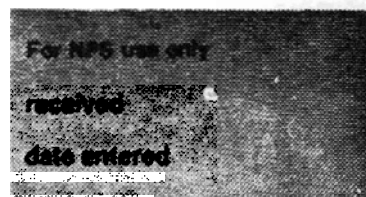
Ozmer House  
Magnolia, Columbia  
Interior  
Julie Vosmik, photographer  
6-10-86



Ozmer House  
Magnolia, Columbia  
Interior West Wall  
Julie Vosmik, photographer  
6-10-86

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

VERBAL BOUNDARY

The property is located in the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 31, Township 16 south, Range 20 west.

Two miles north on Pearce Street from the corner of Pearce and Main in Magnolia, Arkansas, the road forks with one fork gravel and one paved. East of this fork 250' is the southwest corner of the property. Starting at that point, proceed 40' north to the northwest corner of the property. Then proceed 30' east to the northeast corner. Then proceed 40' south to the southeast corner of the property. Then proceed 30' west to the point of origin, thus encircling the property.



