

NK listed 7/16/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Deadrick, Captain Isacc N., House

other name/site number: N/A CS0004

2. Location

street & number: NW of int. of U.S. 64 and AR 163

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Levesque

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Cross

code: AR 037

zip code: 72396

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</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. Slator
Signature of certifying official

8-5-93
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 family dwelling

Current : Vacant/Not in Use

Sub: _____

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7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

Greek Revival

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt
walls Weatherboard other Brick

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: A,B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Exploration/Settlement
Politics/Government
Military

Period(s) of Significance: c.1850-1884

Significant Dates: c. 1850

Significant Person(s): Deadrick, Captain Isaac N.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

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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Acreage of Property: Approximately two

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

Table with 4 columns: Label, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row A: 15, 708140, 3903030, B. Row C: C, D.

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Beginning at the southern gatepost of the driveway, proceed 160 ft. north along the chain-length fence; then proceed 300 ft. west; then proceed 160 ft. south; then proceed 300 ft. east to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the resources that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zollner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 07/20/93

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

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Summary

Located in the Levesque community in Cross County, the Captain I. N. Deadrick House is a two-story braced-frame residence originally constructed circa 1850 in a vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style. There is one nonhistoric outbuilding located on the property. The Captain Deadrick House has suffered numerous alterations and is in deteriorated condition.

Elaboration

Believed to have been constructed circa 1850, the Captain I. N. Deadrick House is a two-story, T-shaped residence of probable braced-frame construction. The house is composed of eight rooms, each measuring twenty feet square, and two hallways, one each floor, that measure 20' X 12'. A brick pier foundation, now enclosed with asphalt plate siding, supports the structure, which is sheathed with lapped weatherboard and drop siding. The "T" plan is covered by two composition-shingled gable roofs. There is an exterior brick chimney at each end of what will be referred to as the "I" section and a single interior brick chimney in the rear, or "T", section. Each of the six rooms originally had a fireplace.

The front, or eastern, elevation features symmetrical fenestration with four windows per story. One-over-one double-hung windows have replaced the originals on the first story, while the second story contains six-over-six double-hung windows that appear to date from construction. In the center of the facade, a substantial double-leaf entry is surrounded by a nine-pane transom and three-pane sidelights. The two half-glazed wood doors, although historic, are not original to the structure. Directly above on the second story, a single-leaf entry is composed of a four-panelled wood door of the inverted cruciform configuration and a three-pane transom without sidelights. This door could be original as it is typical of vernacular doors found throughout antebellum Arkansas.

A large, centrally placed brick chimney dominates the southern elevation of the front, or "I" section, and is flanked on each side by two windows with one per story. Again, the first-story windows are one-over-one sash while the second-story windows are of the original six-over-six sash type. The chimney step begins at a height level with the top of the upper-story windows. The rear, or western elevation, of the "I" section contains a narrow first-story bathroom addition covered by a hipped roof. This addition is covered with weatherboard and is punctuated by two small windows facing west. There is no fenestration on the upper story of the western elevation of the "I". The southern elevation of the rear "T" is divided into three bays with a six-over-six double-hung window on each floor. The rear, or western, elevation of the "T" is fenestrated by two six-over-six double-hung windows on the first story with a

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blank second story.

The northern elevation differs from the southern elevation in that the "T" section wall is not fenestrated and a sizable single-story, gable-roof addition projects from the junction of the "T" and the "I" sections. A shed roof begins a few feet underneath the eave of the rear, or western, elevation of the "I" section and extends to the west. From this shed roof, the gable roof projects to the north (while sharing a common western slope) beyond the northern elevation of the "I" section. An inset porch extends across the full length of the rear, or western, elevation of the addition and extends around to the north of the "T" section (with a shed roof). The addition is accessed from the rear by a single-leaf entrance and is lighted by a single two-over-two, horizontal sash window to the south and a pair of identical windows to the north. There is no fenestration on the northern elevation of the addition; however, the eastern elevation contains a pair of the two-over-two, horizontal sash windows. The northern elevation of the "I" section is identical to that of the southern elevation with the exception of the lower windows, which have six-over-six, double-hung sashes.

The interior walls of the house are covered with deteriorating plaster over hand-made lath. Door and window moldings are of a simple design as is the balustrade of the staircase, which ascends to the west, without turns, on the northern side of the hall. Of note, however, is the flooring of the two front rooms of the "I" section which is composed of flush heart pine planks extending the entire length of each room.

A nonhistoric gable-roof, concrete block outbuilding is located northwest of the house.

Of associated interest, but not located on the property, is the Deadrick Cemetery at the summit of the hill behind the house. Isaac N. Deadrick, his wife, and his father-in-law, John D. Maget, are buried there. Of the marked headstones, the burials range from 1857 to 1916.

Alterations to the house, both known and suspected, have been numerous over the years. Originally the house was constructed with a two-story porch covered by a gable roof forming a pediment and supported by columns, as was typical of two-story vernacular Greek Revival residences of that era. At some point during the ownership of the Stein family, however, this porch was removed and a full-facade, screened-in, first story porch was installed. John H. Johnston, Sr. had that porch removed after he purchased the property in 1926. Mr. Johnston also had a bathroom added to the rear, or western, elevation of the "I" section circa 1945. In the early 1960's, Johnston removed the existing kitchen addition on the north side of the "T", which leaked badly, and replaced it with the current structure. Either Johnston, or his son, John H. Johnston, Jr., replaced the roof during their ownership, and the eave and cornice appears to have been altered from its original configuration. Another alteration, of which

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nothing is known, is the replacement of the original lapped weatherboard with drop siding on all of the elevations with the exception of the southern elevation of both the "I" and "T" sections and the southern half of the western elevation of the "I" section. This type of drop siding is usually found in Arkansas from the early 1930's to the present.

Located west of State Highway 163 and north of the intersection with U. S. Route 64, the Captain Deadrick House sets back from the highway and is surrounded by several trees (oak, pecan, magnolia, etc.). Currently, the house is deteriorated on both the exterior and the interior, and a hole in the roof of the "T" section contributes greatly to this condition. Recently, the windows have been boarded over and a fence erected around the house in response to vandalism.

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Summary

The Captain I. N. Deadrick House is being nominated under Criterion B with local significance for its association with Isaac N. Deadrick, captain of a Confederate cavalry company and a prominent early settler of Cross County. The house is also eligible under Criterion A with local significance for its status as the oldest extant residence in Cross County and its subsequent association with the antebellum and Civil War period of that county.

Elaboration

The Captain Deadrick House was constructed on a piece of land that was originally part of Spanish Land Grant 2383, claimed by John Taylor in the 1820's. Settlement in the area was sparse, and the first major trading center, Wittsburg, did not come into prominence until 1848. Wittsburg, located approximately two miles southeast of the Captain Deadrick House on a natural junction of ridge, river, and road, was the first incorporated town in St. Francis County (and later Cross County), although there were other unincorporated ridge communities that were older. By 1860, Wittsburg could boast of a post office, a school, a newspaper, two general stores, several cotton warehouses, and a much-used steamboat landing. Like many other towns in Arkansas, Wittsburg's growth was interrupted by the outbreak of the Civil War.

Cross County was created in 1862 as Arkansas's first Confederate county from portions of Poinsett, St. Francis and Crittenden counties. Although there are differing historical accounts as to whom the county was named for, *The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas* attributes the name to Colonel David C. Cross who owned ". . . a large tract of land in Cross' present limits" (approximately 85,000 acres in both Poinsett and Cross Counties at the outbreak of the Civil War) and was the commanding officer of the 5th Arkansas Infantry regiment. Richard L. Hartness, Sr. in *Wittsburg, Arkansas* elaborates on Goodspeed's account and states that in February, 1862, Cross, citing asthma difficulties, returned to his home in what was then Poinsett County. Later in the year, he led a local delegation from the tri-county area to Little Rock to petition the Fourteenth General Assembly for the creation of a new county. The effort was successful and on November 15, 1862, "an act to establish the county of Cross . . ." was signed into law by the acting governor. Hartness notes that the November 20, 1862 edition of the Little Rock Civil War weekly, *Arkansas Patriot*, reported "[a] new county has been created . . . It is named Cross, in compliment to Colonel David C. Cross . . . former Colonel of the Fifth Arkansas Volunteers."

Dallas T. Herndon in the *Centennial History of Arkansas*, however, asserts that "all of the early

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historical writers (apparently excluding Goodspeed) state that it was named for Edward Cross, who served as territorial judge, was one of the incorporators of the Cairo & Fulton Railroad Company, served in Congress from 1839 to 1845, and was then elected associate justice of the Supreme Court." David Y. Thomas in *Arkansas and Its People* (published eight years later) reiterates this version. Both writers mention that a letter published in the *Arkansas Democrat* on February 24, 1906 by J. M. Vann, a prominent citizen in late 19th century Cross County, stated that the county was named for Colonel Cross. Nevertheless, they dismiss this claim by pointing out that Vann noted that Cross ". . . gave his residence to the county for a county seat" and that the act by the General Assembly appointed *Wittsburg* as the temporary seat of justice and not Cross's residence. Goodspeed and Hartness explain that a three-member county seat location commission was elected in 1863. No report was made until after the war in July, 1865. The commission did indeed select for the permanent county seat the residence of Colonel Cross along with the 53.6 acres that he donated for the new town, which was named Cleburne after Cross's friend and Confederate hero, Patrick Cleburne. No public buildings were ever constructed at Cleburne, and in 1868, the county seat was returned to Wittsburg.

After the completion of the Knobel to Helena branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad in 1882, Wittsburg began to decline in importance, and in 1886 the county seat was moved to the new railroad town of Vanndale, where a two-story brick courthouse was constructed. Still, the presence of the county's first courthouse built expressly for that purpose was not enough to keep the seat of government in Vanndale for long. By the early 1890's Vanndale had been eclipsed by a more vibrant railroad town to the south, Wynne, located at the junction of two branches of the Iron Mountain railroad. Consequently, the county seat was moved for the last time to Wynne.

While some of the prominent Wittsburg families has their houses dismantled and moved to Wynne, a local landmark remained at its original location a couple of miles to the northwest of Wittsburg. According to local tradition, the Captain Deadrick House was constructed c. 1850 by the slaves of John D. Maget¹ for his daughter, Virginia, who had married Isaac N. Deadrick.² The house, and perhaps the community around it, may have been known as "Magnolia Grove" during Deadrick's lifetime due to the magnolia trees in the yard. This information is mentioned in Robert W. Chowning's book, *History of Cross County, Arkansas*

¹ His name is spelled "Maget" on his tombstone; however, practically all of the historical accounts refer to him as "Maggett."

² In his obituary and on his tombstone, the name is spelled "Deaderick"; however, almost all historical accounts since that time, as well as his descendants with that name, have dropped the second "e", and this is the form that will be used throughout this nomination.

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and in a 1973 newspaper article about the house; however, no time frame for this name is clearly identified, and it may have been applied to the property after Deadrick's ownership. It is clear that in 1886 a depot or flag stop for the recently completed Memphis to Bald Knob branch of the Iron Mountain railroad was established a short distance from the house. The new town never achieved the prosperity of its brethren railroad communities, and even today there are only a few homes in the area. Ironically, it was named Levesque by the railroad in honor of Captain James M. LeVesque, a Confederate compatriot of Captain Deadrick.

Little is known about Deadrick. From his headstone in the cemetery behind the house, it is known that he was born on September 5, 1828 and died April 29, 1884. Deadrick is first mentioned in Cross County History in 1848 as a charter member of the Mount Zion Methodist Episcopal Church, which was located about a mile and a half southeast of the later community of Vandale. The church, also constructed by the slaves of "Uncle" John D. Maget, was the site of the organization of the White River Conference of Methodist churches. In his obituary published May 8, 1884, the *Arkansas Democrat* (reprinted from the *St. Francis County News*) related that Deadrick drowned in an overflow of the St. Francis River on a return trip from Wittsburg in his skiff and noted in the last sentence that "Capt. Deadrick was among the most prominent and influential men of Cross County." During the Civil War he was commander of Company "A" of the Twenty-Ninth Arkansas Cavalry Regiment, which was organized in 1864. Deadrick also organized a "home guard" company after his return from regular forces.

Although no written information concerning Deadrick's military service has been found, there is a Civil War story associated with the house that has been passed down through the years and is related in Robert W. Chowning's *History of Cross County, Arkansas*:

According to a story often told, Mrs. Deadrick once held several Yankee soldiers at bay in the home when they came to search for her husband, who, unknown to the soldiers, was hiding upstairs. Mrs. Deadrick stood on the stairs with a pistol leveled at the soldiers and told them "I'll blow your brains out if you come up these stairs." The men finally left empty handed.

After the war, Deadrick's name once again appears in the annals of Cross County history concerning the erection of the county jail in Wittsburg. After a petition in 1868 resulted in the removal of the county seat from Cleburne to Wittsburg, the construction of a new jail was ordered. Originally, Colonel Thomas McCray, who had designed the log jail, was to be the building superintendent. A year passed, however, without construction beginning and I. N. Deadrick was appointed Commissioner of Public Buildings. The jail was completed about a year later in mid-1871. Unfortunately, according to Hartness, in the next two decades the jail

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made more headlines for the escapes made from it than from its ability to hold prisoners.

Nothing more is mentioned about Deadrick in the historical accounts of Cross County until his death. Although Isaac N. Deadrick was not the most prominent man in Cross County during his era - that honor could be argued for Colonel Cross or James M. LeVesque - it can be concluded from the admittedly sketchy documentation that he did play a significant role in Cross County's involvement in the Civil War as well as the post-war Reconstruction government in Wittsburg. For these reasons, the Captain Deadrick House is significant under Criterion B with local significance. Perhaps more importantly, the Captain Deadrick House is regarded as the oldest extant building in Cross County, and despite the numerous and serious alterations to the structure, is the last symbol of the antebellum period in that area (then St. Francis County) and of the hectic Civil War years, which saw the creation of the state's first Confederate county. As such, the Captain Deadrick House is also eligible under Criterion A with local significance.

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Bibliography

Chowning, Robert W. *History of Cross County, Arkansas*. Wynne, Arkansas: The Wynne Progress, 1955.

Hartness, Richard L., Sr. *Wittsburg, Arkansas: Crowley's Ridge Steamboat Riverport 1848-1890*. Little Rock, Arkansas: Rose Publishing Company, 1978.

Herndon, Dallas T. *Centennial History of Arkansas*. Chicago-Little Rock: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922. Vol. I.

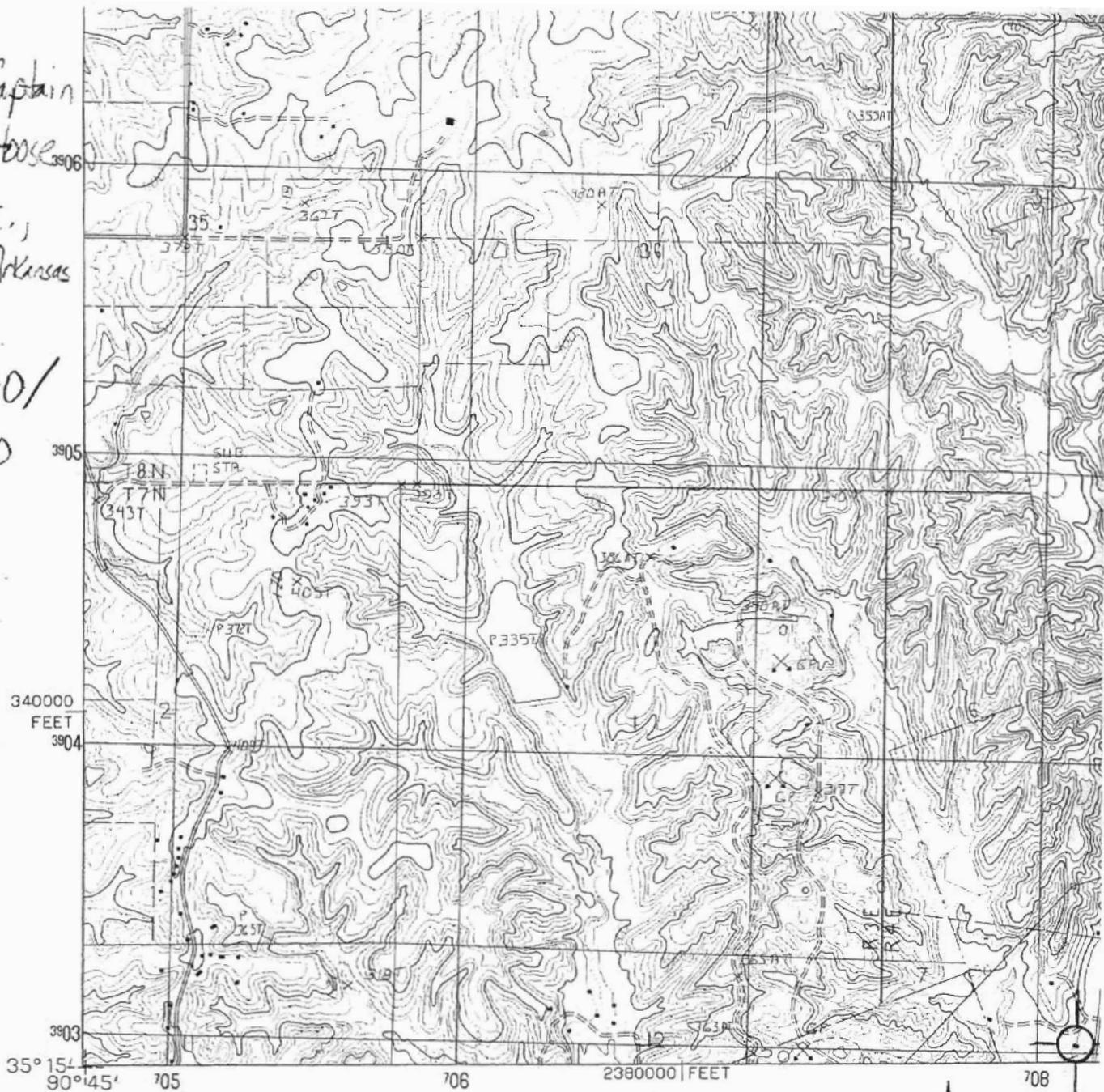
Information supplied by Mrs. John H. Johnston, Jr. in a telephone interview, May 18, 1993.

Jordan, Sandy. "Visiting County's Oldest Home." *The Wynne Progress*, August 22, 1973.

The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas. Chicago, Nashville, and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890.

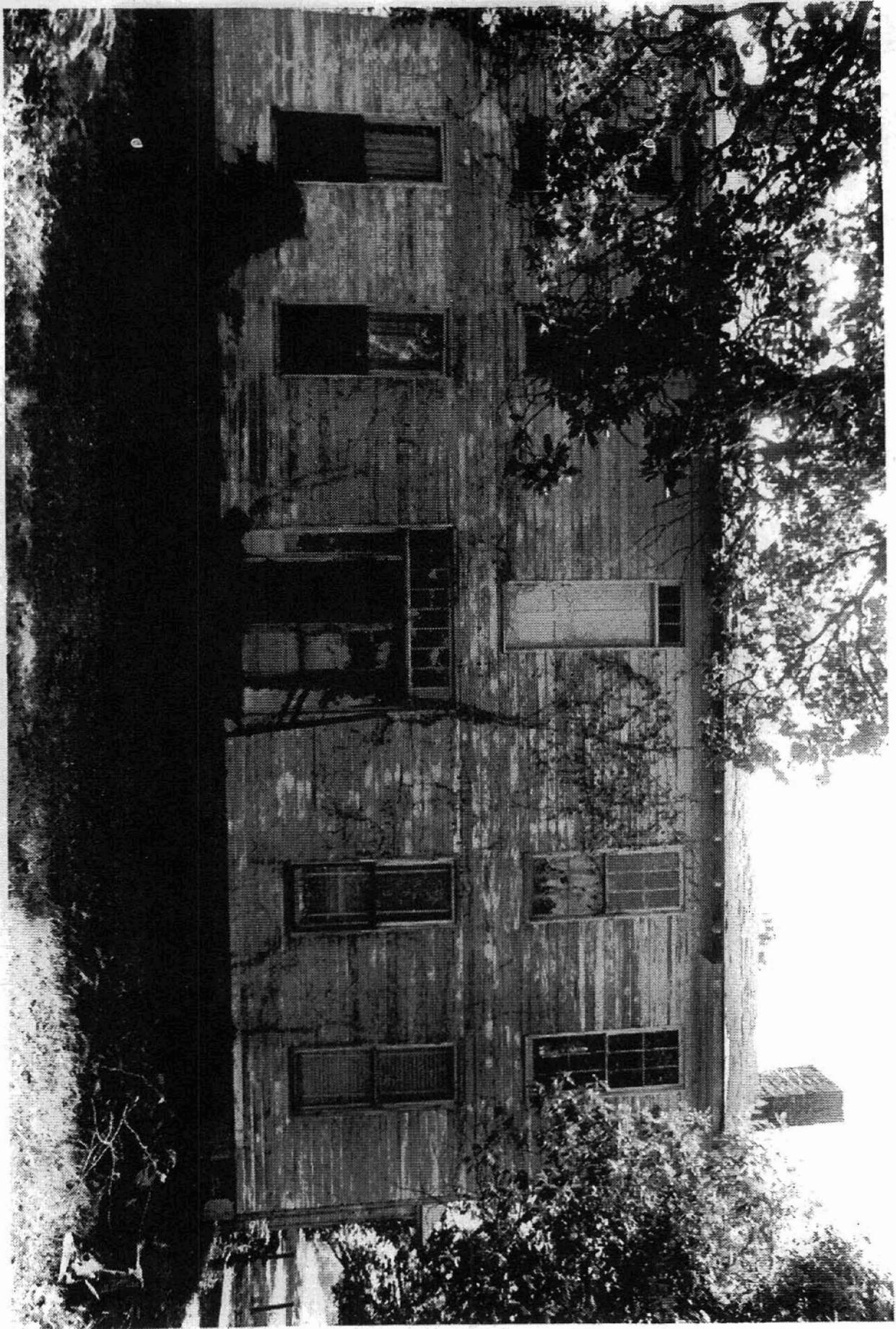
Thomas, David Y. *Arkansas and Its People*. New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1930.

Deadrick, Captain
 I. N., House
 evesque vic.,
 Cross Co., Arkansas
 UTM:
 15/708140/
 3903030



PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
 CONTROL BY..... USGS AND NOS/NOAA
 COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN..... 1979-83
 FIELD CHECKED..... 1982. MAP EDITED..... 1984
 PROJECTION..... LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC
 GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR..... ZONE 15
 10,000-FOOT STATE GRID TICKS..... ARKANSAS, NORTH ZONE
 UTM GRID DECLINATION..... 1°20' EAST
 1984 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION..... 3°30' EAST
 VERTICAL DATUM..... NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
 HORIZONTAL DATUM..... 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM
 To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,
 move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks
 (7 meters south and 10 meters east)
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any
 Federal and State Reservations shown on this map
 No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings

PROVISIONAL MAP
 Produced from original
 manuscript drawings. Informa-
 tion shown as of date of
 photography.



Chas. C. ...
Photograph by Brown / Mitchell

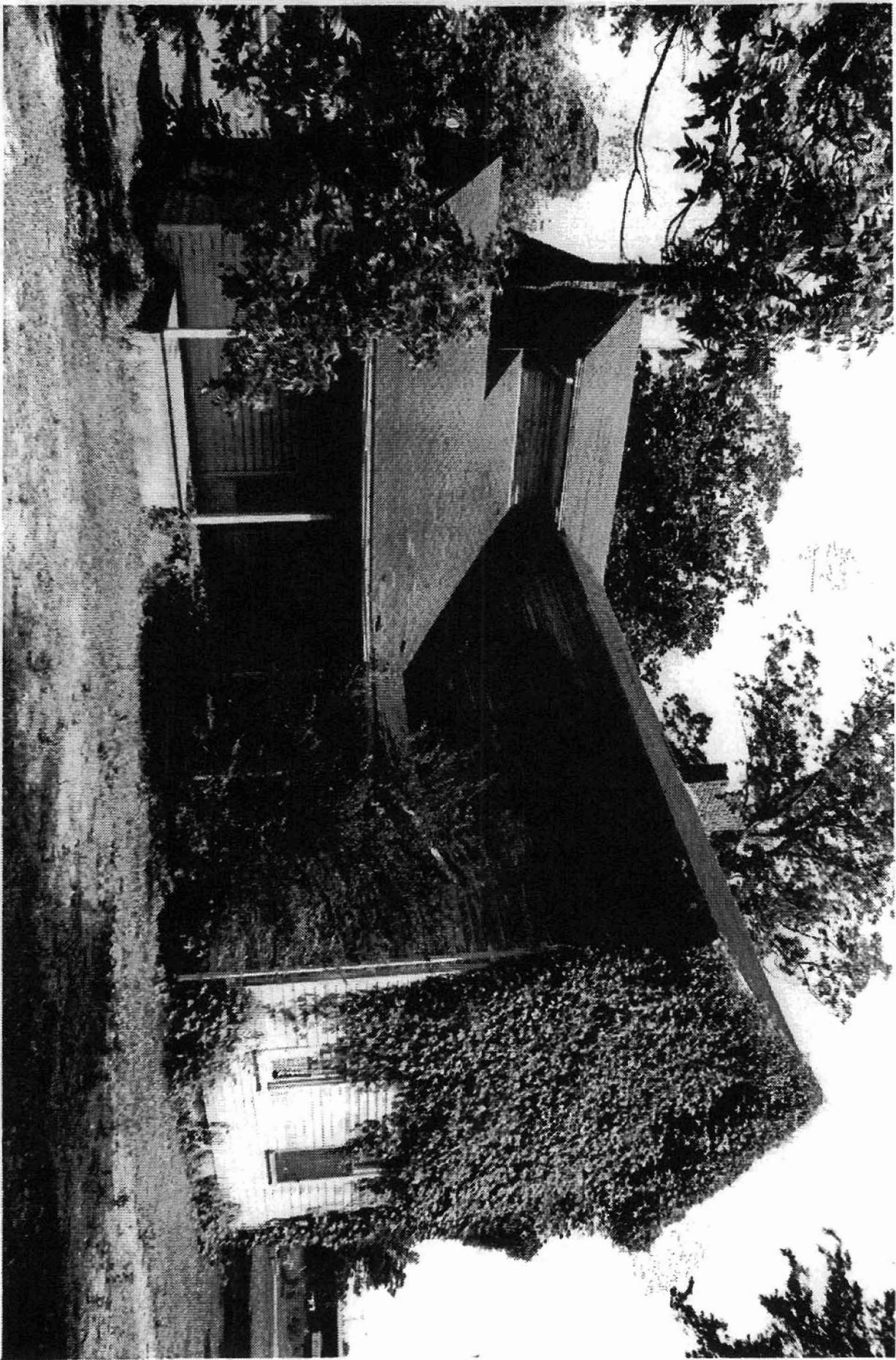
May 1967
Negative on file at AHP
View of front elevation
from the east.



Capt. I. N. Dendrick House
Cross Co. Arkansas
Photograph by Brown/Mitchell
May 1967
Negative on file at AHPP
Close view of southern
end of "I."



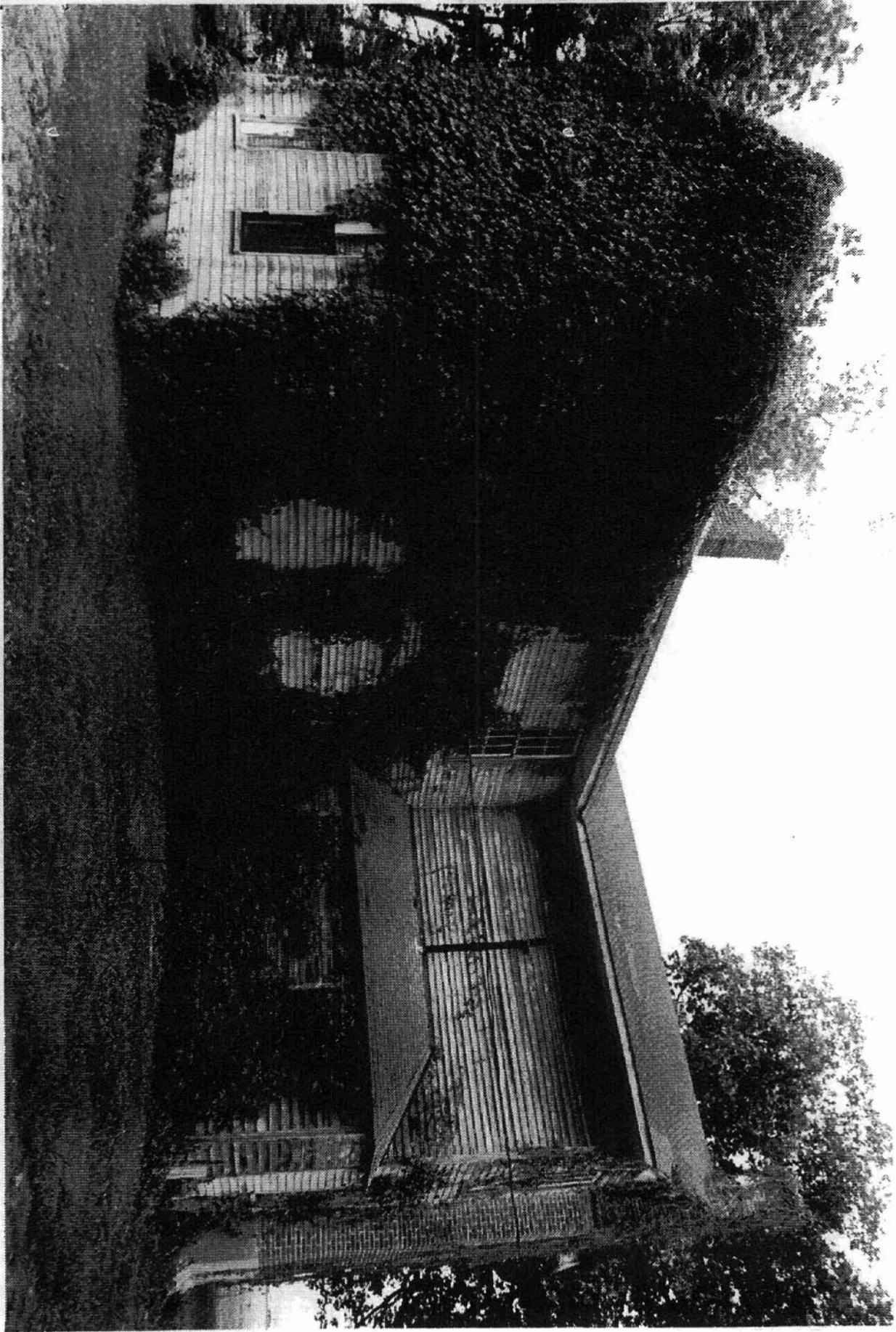
Captain I. M. Deadrick House
Cross Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Brown / Mitchell
May 1927
Negative on file at AHP
View from the southeast



APR 1951

1951

Class Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Brown/Mitchell
May 1987
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the northwest



Craw Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Brown/Mitchell
May 1987
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the southwest



Cross Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Brown/Mitchell
May 1987
Negative on file at AHPP
View of front entrance from
the east.



Captain L. W. Beaman & Tense
Cross Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Brown/Mitchell
May 1987
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the north