

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Robert Lee Hardy House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 207 South Main Street not for publication

city, town Monticello vicinity of congressional district District 4

state Arkansas code 05 county Drew code 043

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Estate of Mr. Eric Hardy (Mrs. Lurene Hardy)

street & number 207 South Main Street

city, town Monticello vicinity of state Arkansas 71655

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Drew County Courthouse

street & number South Main Street

city, town Monticello state Arkansas 71655

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Arkansas Historic Preservation Survey, conducted by Southeast Arkansas Economic
title Development District, Inc. has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☐ no

date May 1979 ☐ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☒ local

depository for survey records Arkansas Historic Preservation Program SEAEDD, Inc.

city, town Little Rock Pine Bluff state Arkansas

7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located across the street from the Drew County Courthouse and on the edge of an encroaching commercial district, the Robert Lee Hardy House provides a formidable but stately anchor for the residential neighborhood south of Monticello's town square. The two-story red brick building was constructed in 1908-09 by George Wells, Sr., according to the design of George Franklin Barber, a Knoxville, Tennessee, architect who enjoyed considerable influence in the southern and midwestern United States. The Hardy House presents an example of Barber's interpretation of the Colonial Revival style.

The building's steep hipped roof and the details of the front (west) elevation are Colonial inspired, but the less restrained plan of the building, as demonstrated by the L-shaped veranda extending across the principal facade, is reminiscent of late Victorian design. Elevated slightly above grade, the veranda is supported by Ionic columns set on square brick piers and is covered with a shed roof. A portico supports its unembellished entablature. Decorative Ionic brackets support the simple portico cornice. The portico terminates in a balustraded second-floor balcony.

Without the veranda, the principal elevation of the Hardy House would be severely symmetrical. The centrally located front door contains a single glass panel and the appearance of this entrance is enriched by a leaded-glass sidelight to the right of the door. Both are surmounted by beveled glass transoms and a single concrete lintel caps both the door and sidelight. Rectangular windows with similar concrete lintels flank the door. On the second floor, two windows placed symmetrically above these are found on either side of the balcony entrance, a double-door with transom that is articulated with the same concrete lintels that define all openings in the brick veneer wall. The principal elevation of the Hardy House is further distinguished by three dormers that penetrate the hipped-roof. A large central dormer with a broken triangular pediment and a distinctive Palladian window appears between two smaller triangular pedimented dormers with rectangular windows. All dormers are faced with wood shingles. A widow's walk, whose balustrade echoes the details of the portico balcony rail, caps the building.

As the veranda distinguishes the principal facade of the Hardy House, so too does it contribute to the appearance of the south elevation of the building. This elevation is asymmetrical and more reflective of a transitional style (from Queen Anne to Colonial Revival) than of the overtly Colonial interest the principal facade exhibits. A low range of steps located at the southeast corner of the building offers additional access to the veranda. Again, clusters of Ionic columns on brick piers articulate the entry element. This corner of the building projects in a half-hexagon shaped bay and windows, with the typical concrete lintel detail, light each of the three sides. This bay has a gable roof which terminates in a bracketed, triangular pediment faced with the same type of shingles that appear on the front dormers. The gable is penetrated by a louvered vent. The rear porches are also visible from this side of the building.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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The rear (east) elevation of the building is characterized by a screened porch on the first floor and a covered balcony above it. The upstairs balcony has been enclosed. Doric columns support the balcony roofs. In contrast to the openness of the porches, the northeast corner of this elevation, which reflects the service spaces (kitchen, pantry and bath) of the plan, is severely solid. This wall is penetrated only by two small windows on each floor and this section of the house is capped by a gable roof whose triangular pediment is articulated in the same fashion as that of the southeast corner of the building.

The north elevation is the least distinguished facade of the building appearing as a flat brick wall penetrated by ranges of rectangular windows capped by concrete lintels in both the first and second story of the house.

Although George Franklin Barber designed houses in a variety of exterior stylistic treatments, his plans rarely changed. Like much of the architect's work, the Hardy House offered a rather common-place solution. The house is slightly asymmetrical in plan. One enters the building through a large reception room which affords access to a front parlor, library, bay-windowed dining room, and a central stair hall. A pair of doric columns separates the parlor from the library. Three bedrooms, a family room, bathroom and the balconies comprise the second floor scheme. Interior details are reflective of the Classical characteristics of the Colonial Revival.

A small barn, belonging to a Methodist Parsonage which originally occupied the site where the Hardy House was constructed, is located at the rear of the home. The barn is built of cypress board with tin roof. Iron hinges are found on one entrance. The building is presently used for storage.

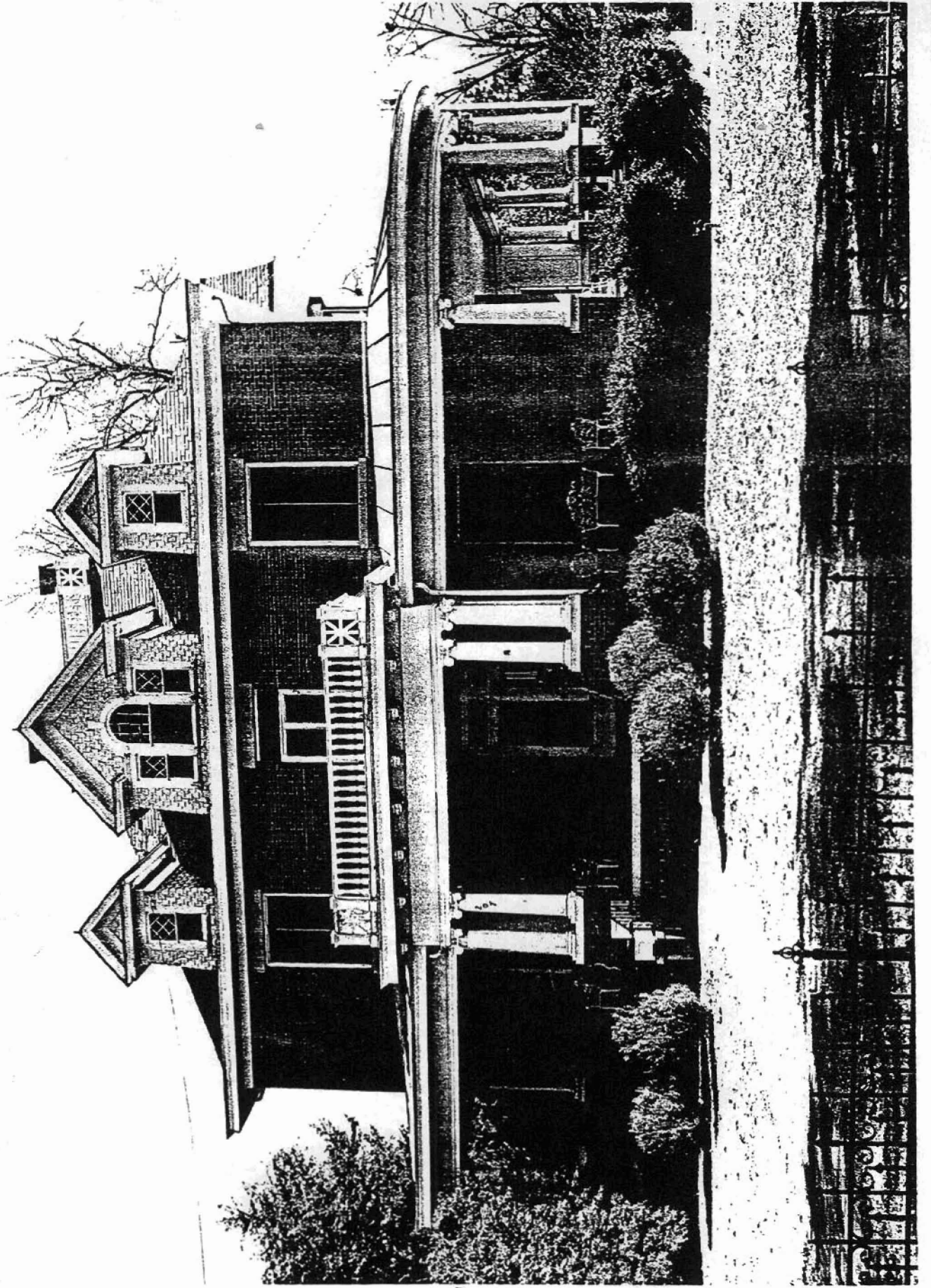
8. Significance

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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1908-1909 Builder/Architect George F. Barber Co., Knoxville, Tenn.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built as a residence for prominent Monticello lawyer and real estate entrepreneur Robert Lee Hardy, the Hardy House survives as an architectural representative of the period when Monticello, a thriving agricultural center, was one of the wealthiest cities in Arkansas. The house, the work of regionally prominent Knoxville, Tennessee architect George Franklin Barber (1854-1915), is distinguished by its stately Colonial Revival esthetic which graphically captures the spirit of expansion and prosperity Monticello enjoyed during the 1880 - 1920 era. Being one of the few residential structures constructed of brick during this period of Monticello's history, the building's architectural significance is underscored. Turn-of-the-century Monticello saw the construction of many fine houses but the gracious, yet solid, masonry of the Hardy House and its enriching decorative details stand in contrast to the frame structures that predominate in the city, particularly the many houses built in the more active Queen Anne style and the less presumptuous Victorian cottage mode. Though the Hardy House's Classical nature derives largely from the application of period details such as its clustered Ionic columns, its simple balustrades, its dormers and its Palladian window, these finely crafted elements communicate the architect's skillful interpretation of the Colonial Revival style. Constructed at a time when most Arkansas houses were the designs of local contractors, it is not insignificant that the Hardy House is an architect designed structure. Equally important are the logistics of its design. While the Barber firm was best known for the house pattern books it produced, including American House (1895) and Modern American Homes (1903), and the architecture built according to the dictates of those pattern books, Barber also designed houses to the specific instruction of clients by mail. The Hardy House was designed in this manner. As an example of such "mail-order" architecture it not only represents an architecturally outstanding component of Monticello's built environment during the city's prime but also documents the transmission to and assimilation of nationally popular architectural styles and forms in Arkansas. The Hardy House is presently occupied by Lurene Hardy, widow of Robert Lee Hardy's son, Eric.



Hardy Hall
1884

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Tomlan, Michael A., "George Franklin Barber-Carpenter, Architect and Publisher," unpublished manuscript, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y., May 1975.
Tomlan, Michael A., "George Franklin Barber," abstract of paper presented to the S.A.H., Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians, December 1976.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Monticello North, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

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

B
Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification "A part of Block Number 194 in and out of Town of Monticello, Arkansas, and particularly described as follows: Beginning six feet south of the NW corner of said block running thence south 142½ feet thence east to east boundary line of said block 194 thence north 142½ feet west to place of beginning."

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian/Meg Gooch, Researcher

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date December 14, 1979

street & number Suite 500, Continental Building telephone (501) 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas 72201

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

 national state X 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

State Historic Preservation Program

date

12-29-80

For HCERS use only

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

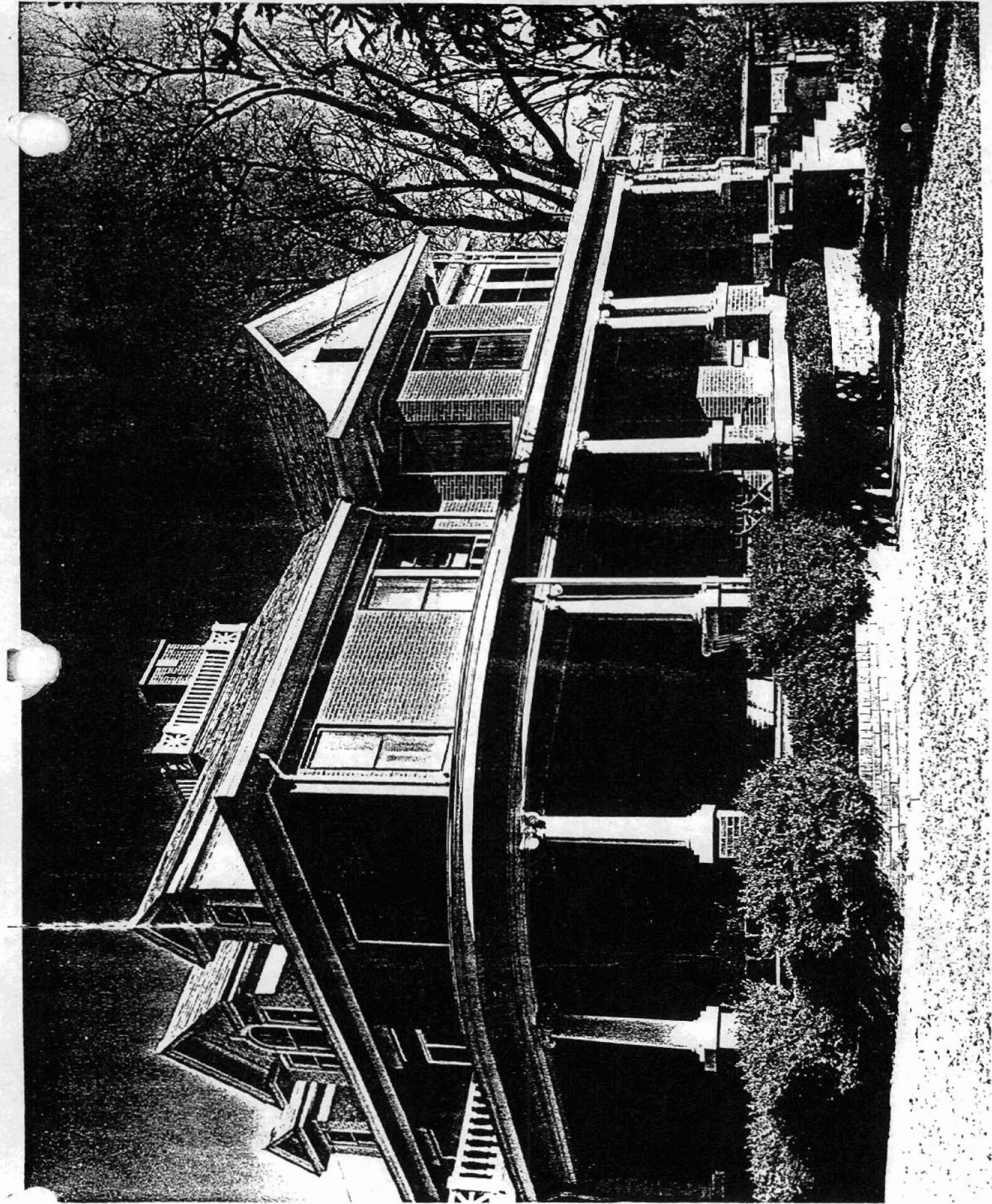
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



ROBERT LEE HARDY HOUSE

207 S. Main, Monticell10, Drew Co., Arkansas

Photographer: Robert Dunn

Date: December 5, 1979

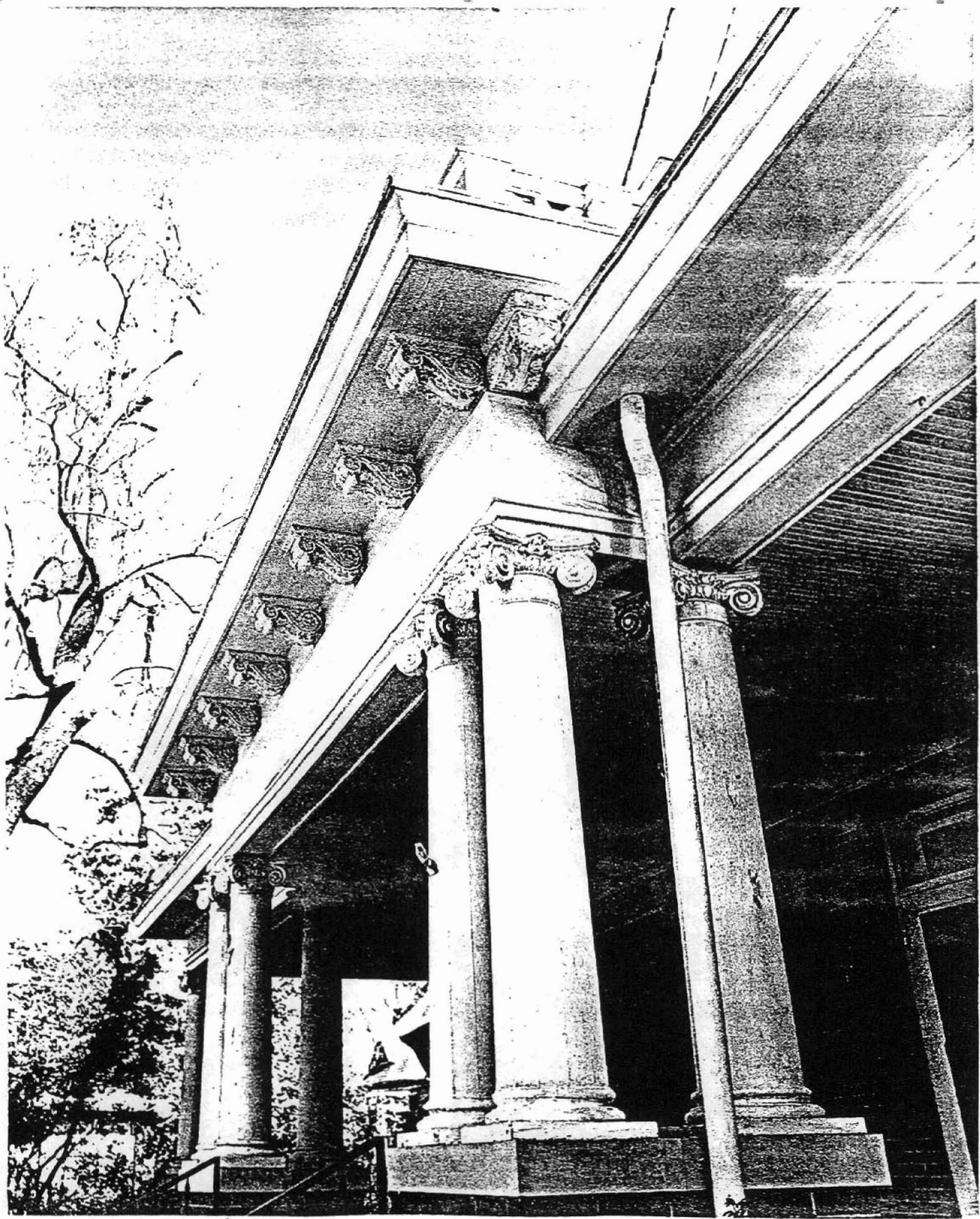
Negative location: Arkansas Historic

Preservation Program

South elevation, photographer facing North-
east

3 of 10

MAR 3 1 1980



ROBERT LEE HARDY HOUSE

207 S. Main, Monticello, Drew Co., Arkansas

Photographer: Robert Dunn

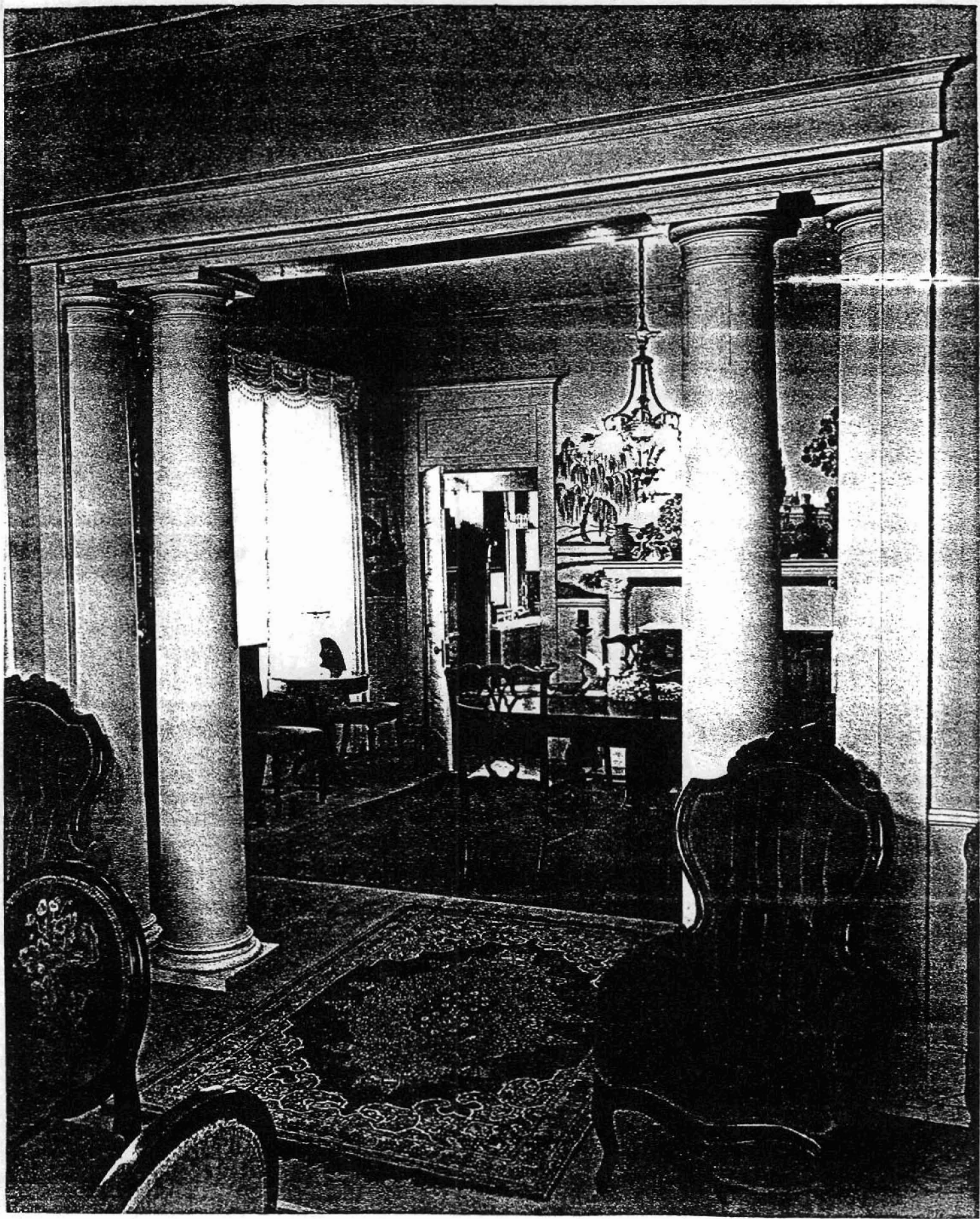
Date: December 5, 1979

Negative location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Detail of porch, west elevation, photographer
facing Northeast

7 of 10

MAR 31 1980



ROBERT LEE HARDY HOUSE

207 S. Main, Monticello, Drew Co., Ark.

Photographer: Robert Dunn

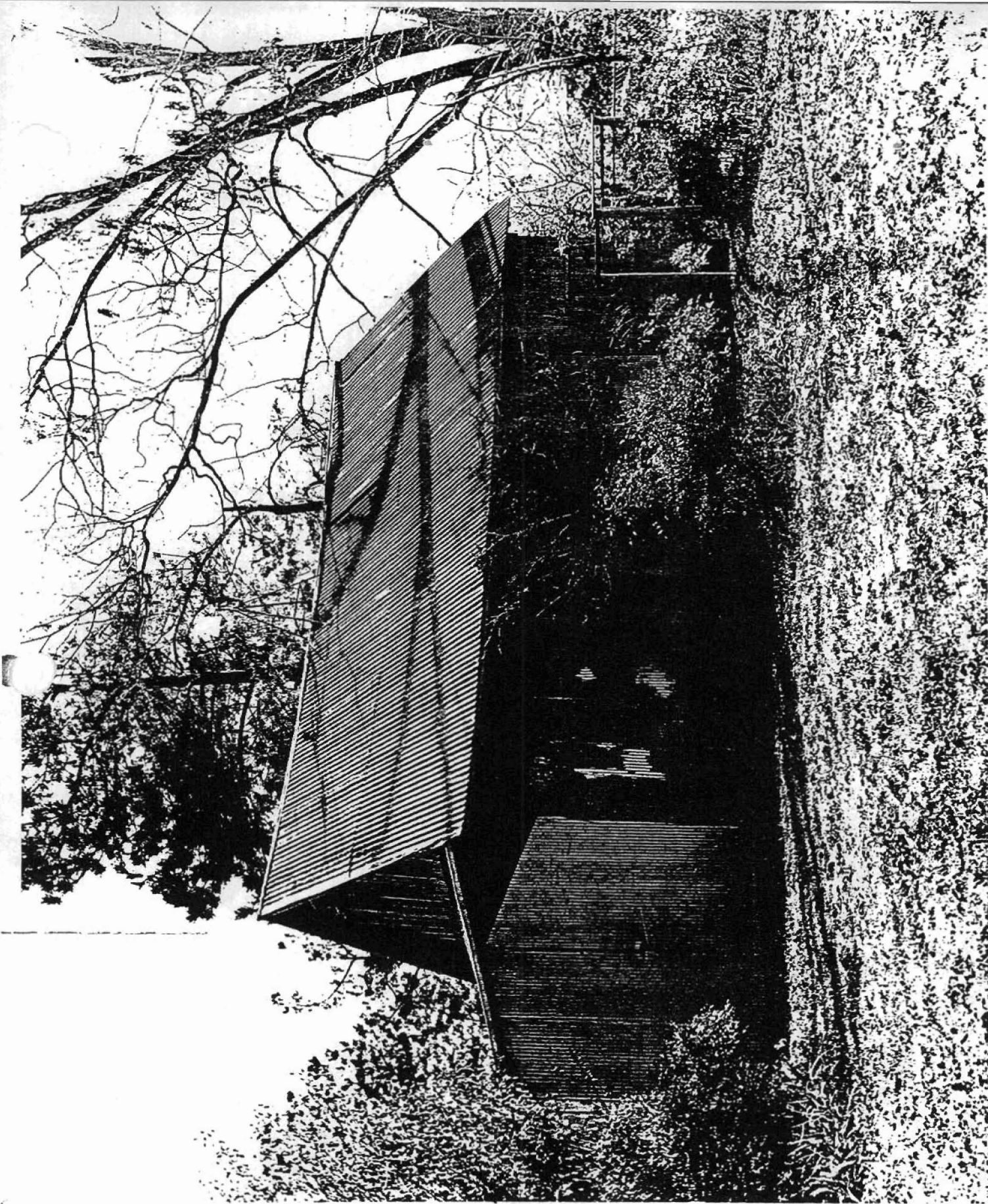
Date: December 5, 1979

Negative Location: Arkansas Historic
Preservation Program

Doric Columns separating parlor and dining
room, photographer facing east

9 of 10

MAR 31 1980



ROBERT LEE HARDY HOUSE

207 S. Main, Monticello, Drew Co., Arkansas

Photographer: Robert Dunn

Date: December 5, 1979

Negative location: Arkansas Historic

Preservation Program

Small barn, photographer facing Southeast
8 of 10

MAR 31 1980

