

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Champ Grubbs House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: State Highway 172

not for publication: N/A

city/town: New Hope

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Drew

code: AR 043

zip code: 71655

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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. Byford
Signature of certifying official

10-12-92
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

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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

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Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

Current: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other

Other Description: Dog-trot

Materials: foundation Wood/concrete roof Metal
walls WOOD/Log other Wood posts

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: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1855-1859

Significant Dates: 1859

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Grubbs, Stephen H.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>599000</u>	<u>3708450</u>	B	—	—	—
C				D			

See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the southern edge of State Highway 172 located approximately 1,100 feet east of its intersection with the eastern edge of County Road 9, proceed southerly along a line running parallel with the house's western elevation for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the house's southern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the house's eastern elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the southern edge of State Highway 172; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: October 8, 1992

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, 15th Floor Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

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Summary

The Champ Grubbs House is a single-story, wood log residential structure of square-notched construction and a dog-trot plan (though the dog-trot has since been filled). Though the building has suffered a series of additions and minor alterations in its lifetime, it retains its original log construction, including its single log pens flanking the central hallway.

Elaboration

The Champ Grubbs House is a single-story, wood log residential structure of square-notched construction and a dog-trot plan (though the dog-trot has since been filled). The original dogtrot plan, constructed entirely of logs, has been augmented by a shed roof addition across the rear, though two separate shed roof rooms, attached to the rear of the two log pens, were added within the first twenty years of the construction of the house, and were connected to enclose the rear of the dogtrot passageway during the historical period (this historic structure was removed approximately ten years ago due to its advanced state of deterioration, though its replacement largely reproduces the form of the historic structure). Two exterior end chimneys rise through the gable peak. The metal roof, and the log and wood frame walls are supported by a combination of wood and concrete blocks.

The northern or front elevation consists of the filled dogtrot in the center, which is accessed via a central, single-leaf door that is flanked by two modern four-over-four windows, and two openings in the center of each of the log pens. The eastern log pen retains its original function as a single-leaf entry, while the opening in the center of the western pen has been converted more recently into a window. Sheltering this entire facade is a sloping, single-story shed porch that is supported upon a total of five wood posts. The southern elevation opposite consists entirely of the board-and-batten shed addition, which is fenestrated by two one-over-one sash windows and a pair of windows placed toward the eastern end.

The eastern and western elevations are similar, in that the central chimney in the gable end is flanked on both elevations by two four-over-four wood sash windows, with the only difference being that the eastern elevation of the shed roof section is accessed via a single-leaf entrance while the western elevation opposite is fenestrated with a one-over-one sash window.

The significant exterior details are limited to the square-notching of the logs and the absence of chinking between the logs, a condition that appears to be original.

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The interior of the log pens has largely been refinished with modern vertical wood paneling, with the notable exception of the central passageway, in which the logs are visible.

With the filling of the central passageway, the conversion of the western pen's front door into a window, the necessary rebuilding of both chimneys, and the refinishing of the interior of the original log pens, significant alterations have occurred to the Champ Grubbs House; however, its original construction remains intact, as the logs remain visible both inside and out, and the overall form of the house -- the two log pens flanking the central hallway with the historic shed roof section on the rear -- remains the same.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Champ Grubbs House, constructed c. 1859 (builder unknown), is significant by virtue of its status as one of the few extant, single-story log dog-trot residences remaining from the antebellum period in Drew County. It is thus being nominated under Criterion C with local significance for its construction.

Elaboration

The first documented European settlement in the area that comprises the present-day land mass of Drew County occurred in 1832, when the first immigrants came from Louisiana and settled on the banks of Bayou Bartholomew. At the time of the official formation of Drew County -- November 26, 1846 -- the county was divided into six principal townships; by 1850, the county boasted a population of 3,276, with the county seat being firmly established at Monticello.

Though known as the Champ Grubbs House -- after Elisha Champion Grubbs, who served the Veasey Township as justice of the peace for forty-two years (1889-1931) -- this residence was actually constructed by his father, Stephen H. Grubbs, who came to this area from his ancestral home in Milledgeville, Georgia with his wife, Elizabeth Jackson Grubbs. The deed abstract reveals that Stephen H. Grubbs first purchased the property in 1851, though oral history maintains that they did not relocate to this site permanently until 1853 or 1854. The elder Grubbs first constructed a smaller, single-pen log residence for his family -- in addition to his wife, he already had five children before coming to Arkansas -- while he was completing the new, larger dogtrot residence. He began construction on the dogtrot in 1855, completing the construction by 1859.

Stephen H. Grubbs and his wife remained in the home for the remainder of their lives, having five more children after they settled here. Little else is known about the elder Grubbs, apart from the fact that he served the county as a coroner after he settled here. His son, Champ Grubbs, lived in the house also while he served the county in his capacity as justice of the peace, and reportedly performed many of his official duties within the walls of his home, including the hearing of court cases and the performance of marriages. The house remains in the hands of Grubbs family descendants, as the current owner, Curtis Mayo, is the great-great grandson of Stephen H. Grubbs.

The Champ Grubbs House, in spite of the considerable alterations it has suffered, retains all of

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the original log construction for which it is considered significant, and for which it is being nominated. The two log pens are eighteen feet-square, with the central passageway measuring ten feet across. The ceilings of the log pens are nine-and-one-half feet in height. The large pine logs of the interior and exterior walls -- measuring an average width of approximately eleven inches -- are completely intact, as are the stripped pine poles that form the roof rafters. Antebellum log residences of this age and structural integrity, and particularly of pine log construction, are rare indeed, and their importance transcends their outward appearance. Thus it is for the integrity and uniqueness of its construction that the Champ Grubbs is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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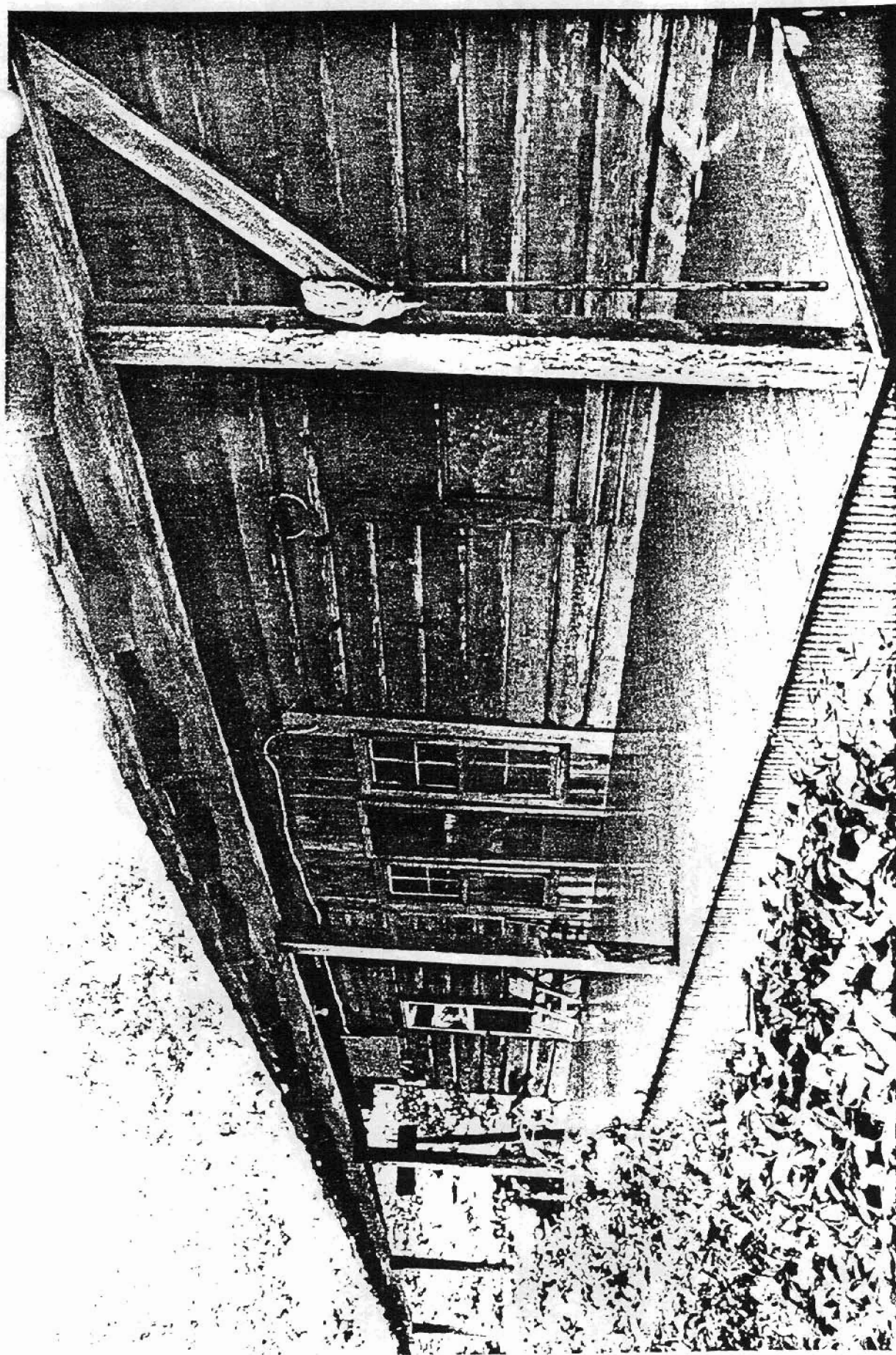
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Bibliography

Goodspeed's *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas*, 1890.

Hulan, Richard, "Middle Tennessee and the Dogtrot House," *Pioneer America*, (1975).

Information provided by Curtis Mayo; 1981 and 1992.



CHAMP GRUBBS HOUSE

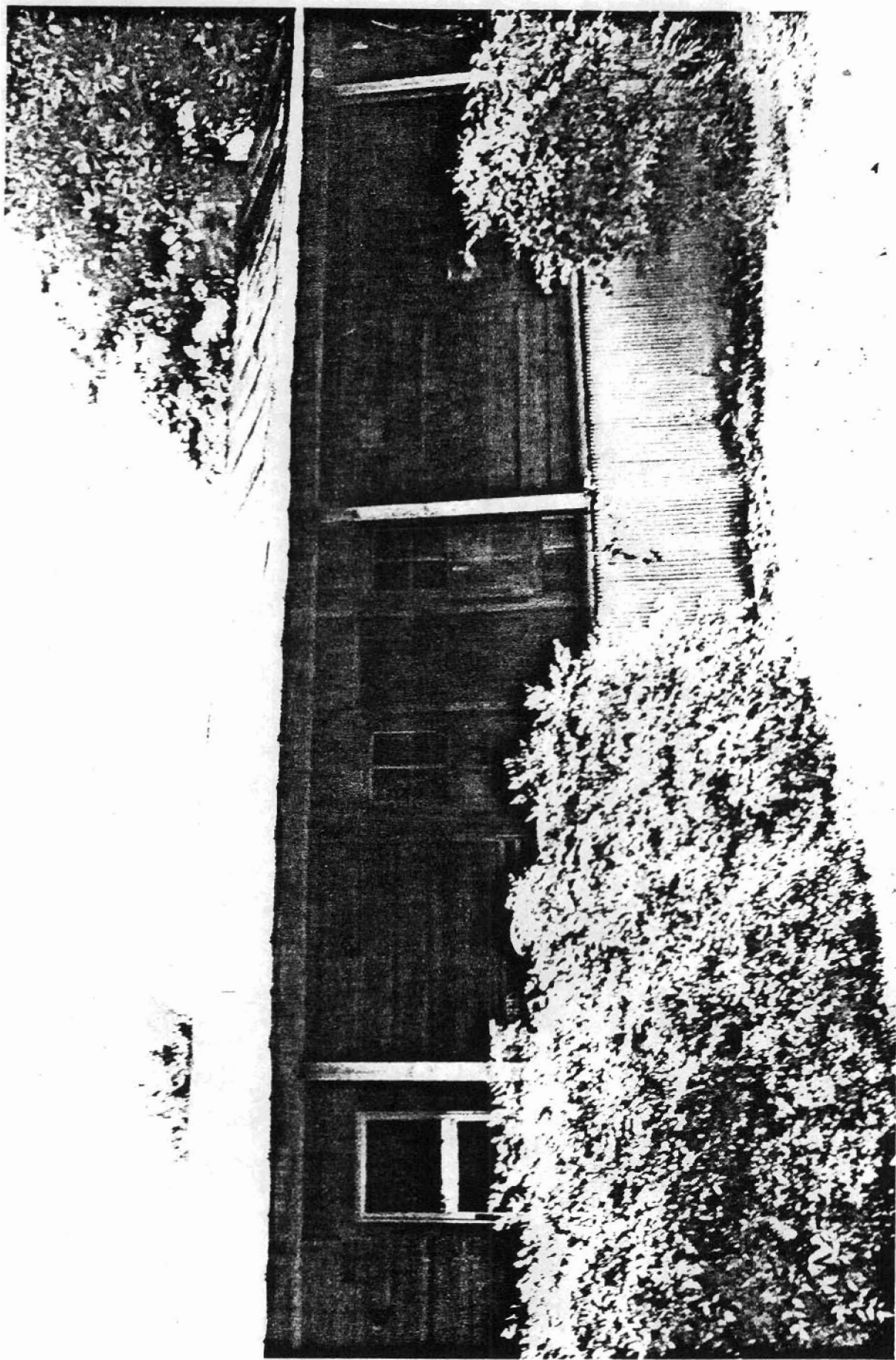
New Hope vic. Drew County

Photo: P. Zoller

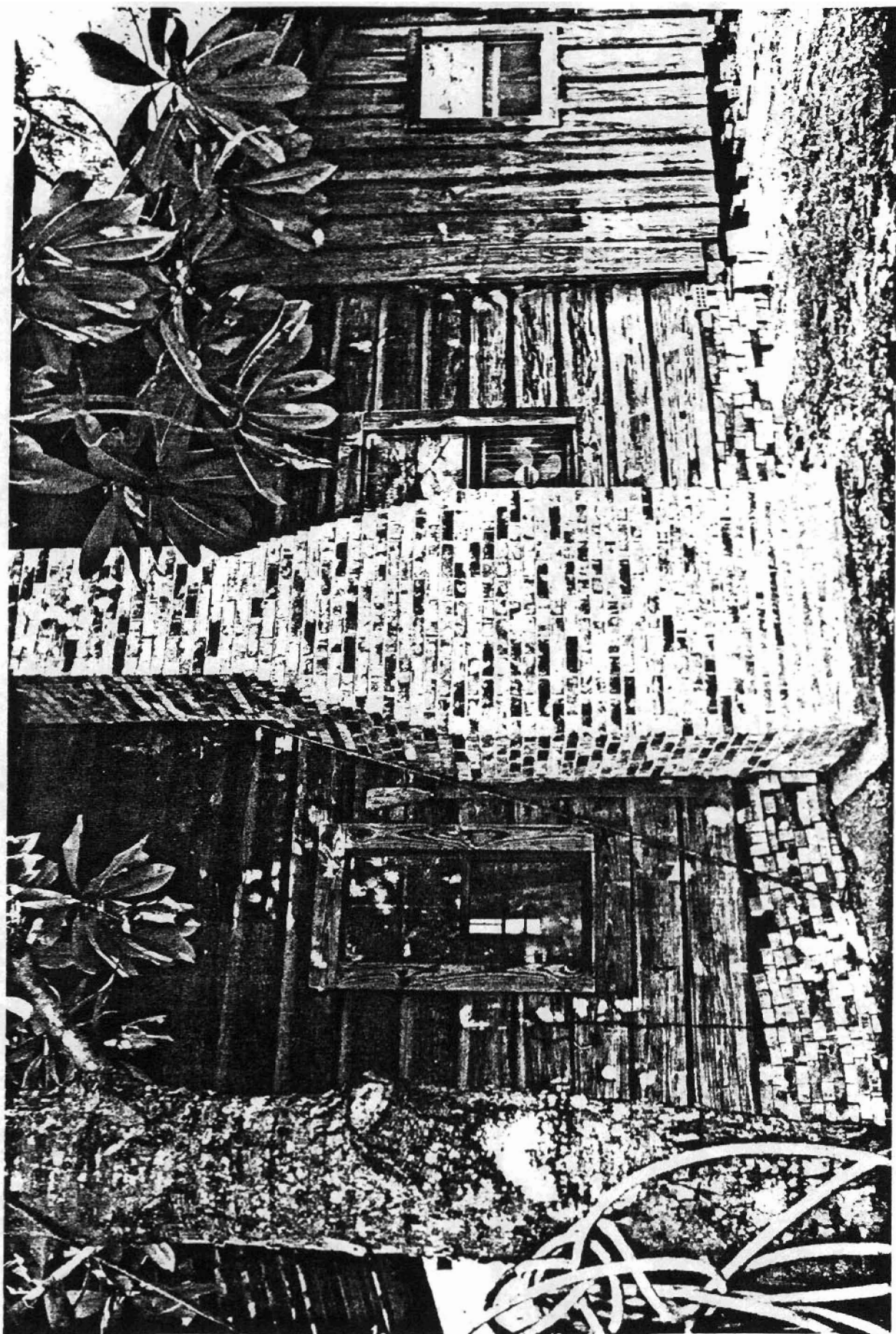
Aug. 1992

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View from NW



MANUSCRIPTS ABOUT
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AUGUST, 1962
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VIEW FROM NORTH



CHINA TOWERS HOUSE
AND HOUSE IN NEW R. TOWNS
RECORDED BY P. ZOLLNER
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