

NRLISTED 4/30/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Patton House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: State Highway 25

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Wooster

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Faulkner code: AR 045 zip code: 72181

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</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.

Carlynn H Slater
Signature of certifying official

August 12, 1993
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

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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: Hotel

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Craftsman

Other Description: N/A_____

Materials: foundation Concrete_____ roof Asphalt_____
walls Synthetic/Vinyl_____ other Concrete block porch piers_____

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: 1918_____

Significant Dates: 1918_____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

Architect/Builder: Ball, Jim

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

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date: 08/11/93

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

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Continuation Sheet**

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Summary

Located on the south side of State Highway 25 in the small town of Wooster, the Patton House is a two-story, wood frame residence designed in the Craftsman style. Its intersecting gable roof covers a fundamentally symmetrical original house block, with the later rear additions featuring shed and gable roofs. The exterior is distinguished by the unique formed concrete block columns that support the projecting pediment above the recessed porch, and the interior retains such original details as built-in oak and leaded-glass china closets and an abundance of handsome oak window and door trim.

Elaboration

The Patton House is a two-story, wood frame residence designed in the Craftsman style. Its intersecting gable roof covers a fundamentally symmetrical original house block, with the later rear additions featuring shed and gable roofs. A single large brick chimney rises through the northern slope of the central gable roof just to the south and east of the intersection of the perpendicular gable that shelters the front porch. The continuous concrete block foundation supports the wood frame structure that, although originally clad with wood novelty siding, has more recently been re-sheathed with vinyl artificial siding. Asphalt shingles cover the roof surfaces throughout.

The northern or front elevation is composed of the large, dominating gable that shelters the full-width, recessed porch on the first story. The gable pediment contains a central group of three four-over-one wood sash windows, and is otherwise ornamented with five symmetrically-placed knee braces that project just beneath the boxed cornice. The recessed porch below is supported upon a total of six formed concrete block columns-on-piers, each of which is formed by square concrete blocks formed to resemble stone, stacked one upon the other. The wall behind the columns is entered via a single-leaf entrance flanked by ten-pane half-sidelights, all of which is placed slightly off-center to the east. The wall to the east of the entrance is blank, while that to the west is fenestrated with a single five-over-one wood sash window, as is the westward-facing wall and the final northern wall plane encountered as the porch wraps-around to the south.

The eastern elevation is formed by the end wall of the main central gable, the side wall of the intersecting gable to the north and the end wall of the smaller, single-story, projecting rear section to the south. The southernmost section is actually formed by the gable end of the original bedroom, which is fenestrated with two wood sash windows, and the side wall of the modern greenhouse, which is accessed via a single-leaf door and lit with a nine-pane stationary window.

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The end the central gable is five bays in length on the first story, and dominated by the central, flat roofed porch/balcony that shelters the single-leaf entrance on the first story and provides a balcony area above that is accessed via the central group of four windows that light the bedroom above. The wood porch/balcony is composed of a wood deck supported by two large, simple wood posts. A small entrance porch and balustrade located within these supports provides access to the first-floor entrance. The side gable wall to the north is fenestrated with a pair of wood sash windows next to the recessed porch.

The western elevation is composed of the recessed porch to the north, the central end gable wall in the center, and the projecting, hipped roof concrete block projection to the south. The end of the concrete block section is blank and the wall of the recessed porch has been described above. The central gable end wall is symmetrically-fenestrated with a central group of three four-over-one wood sash windows on the second floor, and asymmetrically-fenestrated on the first floor with a group of three four-over-one wood sash windows to the north, a single slightly-narrower window placed just off-center to the south, and a group of two shorter four-over-one wood sash windows next to the intersection with the perpendicular wall of the concrete block section. The northern elevation of the concrete block section does contain one central four-over-one wood sash window.

As noted above, the southern elevation is composed of the principal additions to the house. The western end is composed of the original concrete block section, which is now augmented by a modern wood deck. To the east, a modern greenhouse has been added to the original room that projects to the east. Between them is a later, slightly-projecting gable roof bay that is fenestrated by a single central window; another identical window lights the wall just to the east. The concrete block section is relieved only by two single-leaf entrances that lead onto the deck, and the greenhouse is fenestrated with six pairs of three-pane casement windows on this elevation, as well as a stationary nine-pane window in its western wall. The shed dormer above is fenestrated with a central group of three wood sash windows.

Significant exterior details include the four-over-one and five-over-one Craftsman wood sash windows, the distinctive formed concrete block columns-on-piers that support the recessed front porch, the decorative knee braces the adorn the cornices on the gable ends, and the slightly-arched spans between the front porch columns.

The interior has been recently restored and retains virtually all of its distinctive Craftsman features. The handsome stained oak wood trim around the doors and windows remains, as do the original solid, panelled wood doors and the paired french doors that separate certain rooms. Most impressive of all, however, are the intact wood and leaded glass half-cabinets that divide

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the entrance parlor from the dining room to the south and west, and the leaded-glass china cabinet. The half-cabinets and the china cabinet are highlighted by the curving, geometric leaded tracery that holds the clear glass in place.

The Patton House has suffered several alterations to the exterior, though all the additions are attached to the rear. These consist of the enclosing of the original screened rear porch to add a bathroom (1954), and later, a laundry room (1978) and another bathroom (1989); and the addition of the deck and greenhouse (1986). However, these additions are concentrated on the rear of the house, and none is so visually intrusive from any of the principle elevations as to be distracting. By far the most serious alteration has been the addition of artificial vinyl siding in 1987 (the owner maintains that the new siding mirrors exactly the form of the original wood novelty siding; however, as yet this has not been documented).

The Patton House currently functions as a combination residence/bed-and-breakfast. It is in very good condition.

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Summary

Criterion C, local significance

The Patton House, constructed in 1918 under the supervision of Jim Ball, a local carpenter, is locally significant under Criterion C as the best example in the small town of Wooster of a Craftsman style residence. Though the building has suffered several additions to the original house plan, such original details as the round formed concrete block columns that support the front porch roof and the knee braces at the gable-end cornices continue to identify this building with its original style and preserve its status as the finest residence of this style in this small community.

Elaboration

The small farming community of Wooster, located approximately ten miles north of the county seat of Conway, sprang up around a major, early twentieth century regional crossroads formed by the intersection of the old Conway-Damascus road -- which ran north-south between Conway and other such northern Arkansas cities as Clinton, Marshall and Harrison -- with the principal local road providing access to the community of Greenbriar to the east. In 1925, when the fledgling State Highway Commission (later to become the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department) brought U. S. Highway 65 into full operation, the section of road running between Conway and Damascus became part of the new U. S. route, only increasing the amount of vehicular traffic passing through Wooster. Thus, in spite of the rural, isolated aspect this community presents today, Wooster enjoyed a great deal of contact with the outside world during the first four decades of the twentieth century through its location on the expanding nationwide highway system that passed through it for a time (the new road bed between Conway and Damascus, running to the east of Wooster and passing directly through Greenbriar, was opened in 1939).

During this period, three stores, a post office and a blacksmith shop all carried on business in Wooster. One of these general mercantile stores was owned by Jim Patton, the man who, with his wife Elsie, built this residence for their family in 1918. Built at a total cost of \$3,200, several craftsmen were involved with its construction: Tom Shaw, a local resident and neighbor, cut the logs and hauled them out of the local "bottoms" to be sawn for the structural timbers; George Reynolds, a local cabinet maker, made and installed the handsome half-cabinets and china cabinet; Henry Reed, a local mason, built the fireplace and flues; and all was overseen by Jim Ball, a local carpenter and builder. The original floor plan featured a total of four bedrooms, two upstairs and two downstairs, all of which are intact. Of especial note was the fact that it was the first residence in Wooster to have both electricity (provided by a generator) and

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indoor plumbing, all of which was installed during the original construction.

The Patton House was originally part of a small farmstead that included a barn, a well, and a water storage tank that was filled with well water by a gasoline-powered pump. However, none of these standing structures remain and the adjacent garage building is non-historic.

Jim and Elsie Patton, along with their three sons Doyle, Dennis and Levi, became one of the prominent families in Wooster through a varied assortment of interests. Their residence, largely due to its relatively large size and architectural splendor, became a social gathering place for many local residents during both the years while their children were growing up and afterward. However, more importantly, the Pattons were also vocal proponents of local public education, even donating a small parcel of land in front of their house for the construction of a school (this was later destroyed by a tornado and relocated to a different location thereafter). The Pattons were also active in church affairs.

The Patton House remains the finest high-style residence within the community of Wooster. Its clear Craftsman style influences reflect the growing popularity and pervasiveness of this style, even in such relatively rural communities. In spite of the alterations suffered, its unique formed concrete block porch columns and distinctive Craftsman windows combine with the other details characteristic of this style to preserve its original architectural character and identity. It remains not only the most architecturally-distinctive historic residence within Wooster, but one of the few — if not the last — visual connection to Wooster's history as an early twentieth century crossroads community in Faulkner County.

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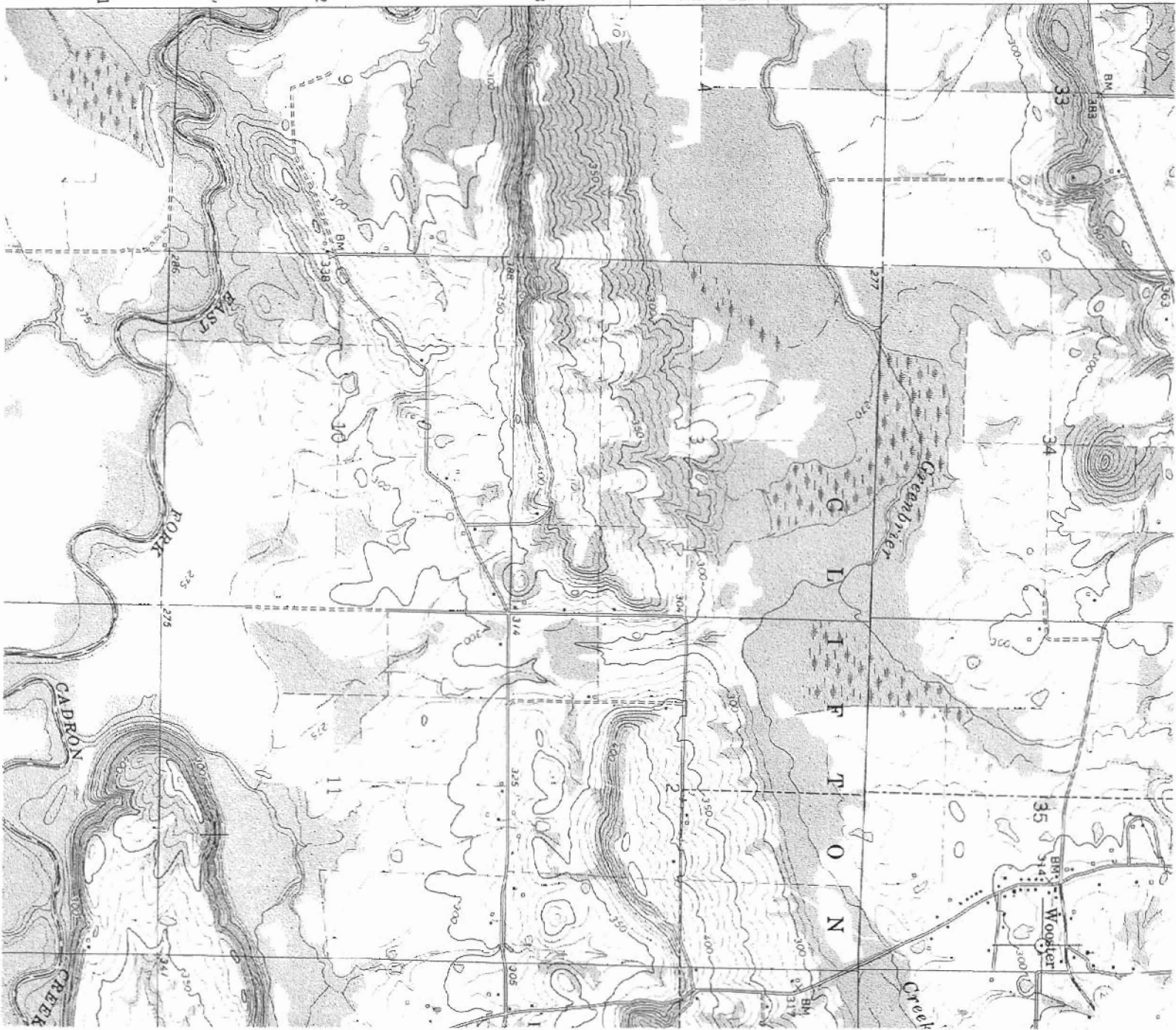
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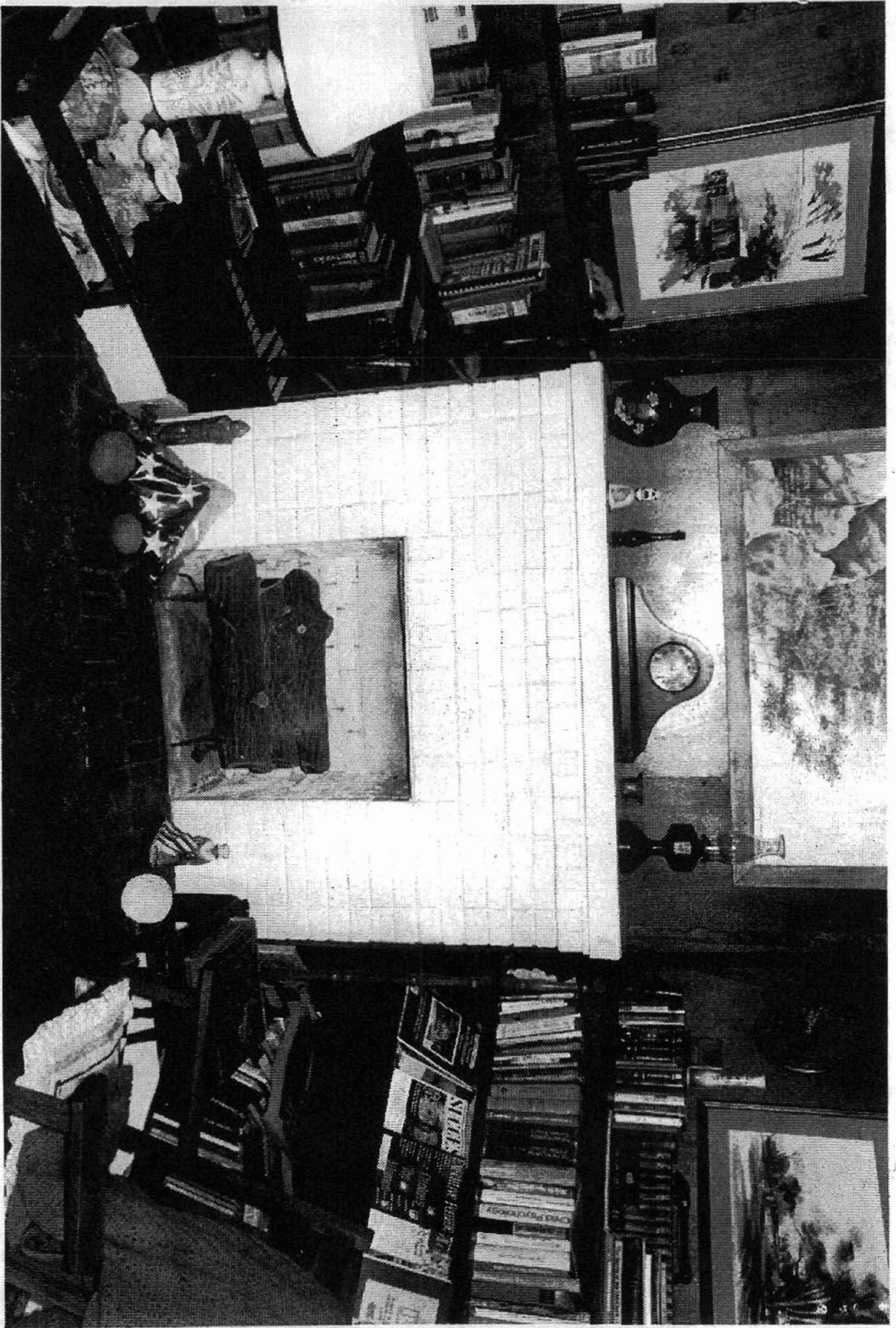
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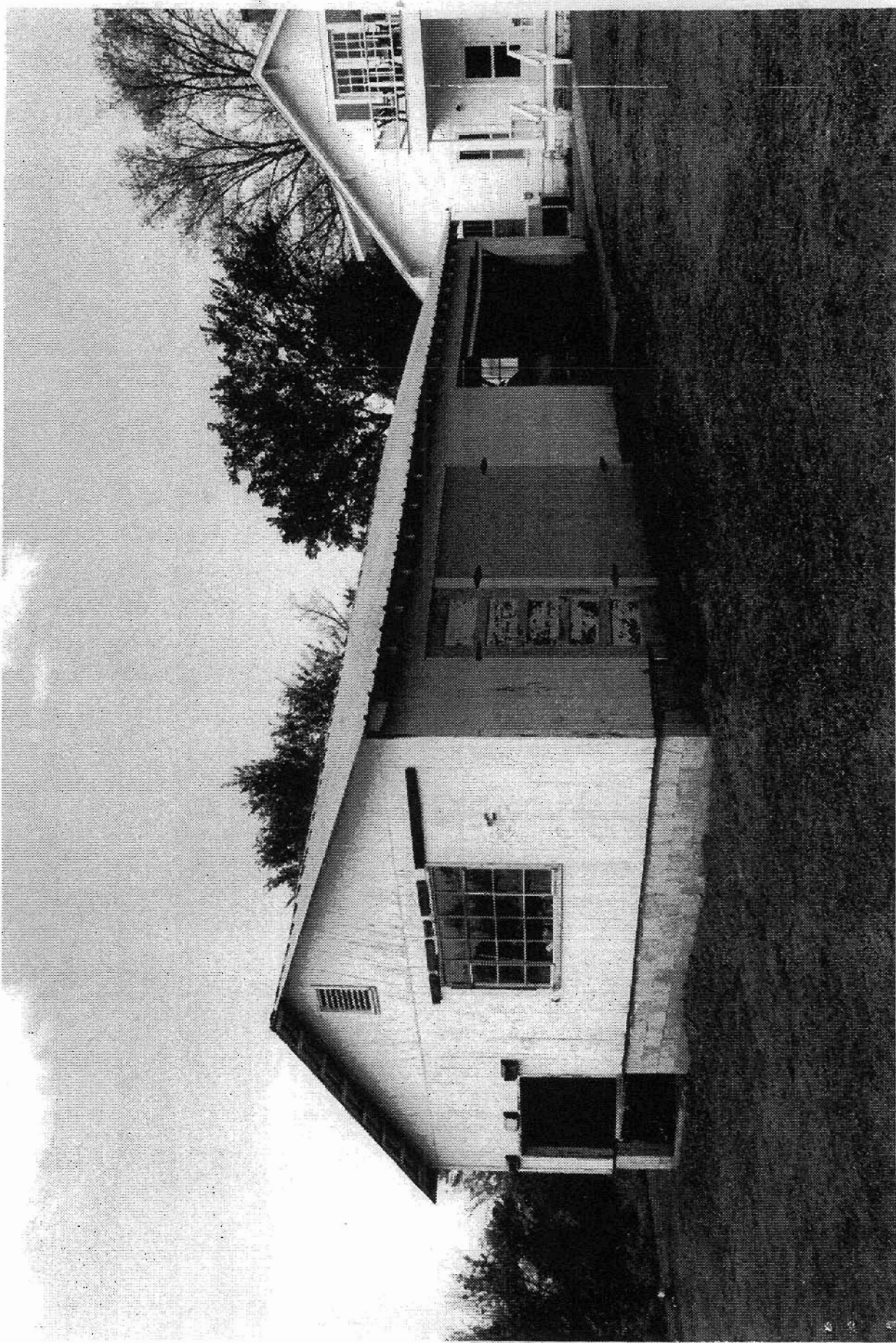
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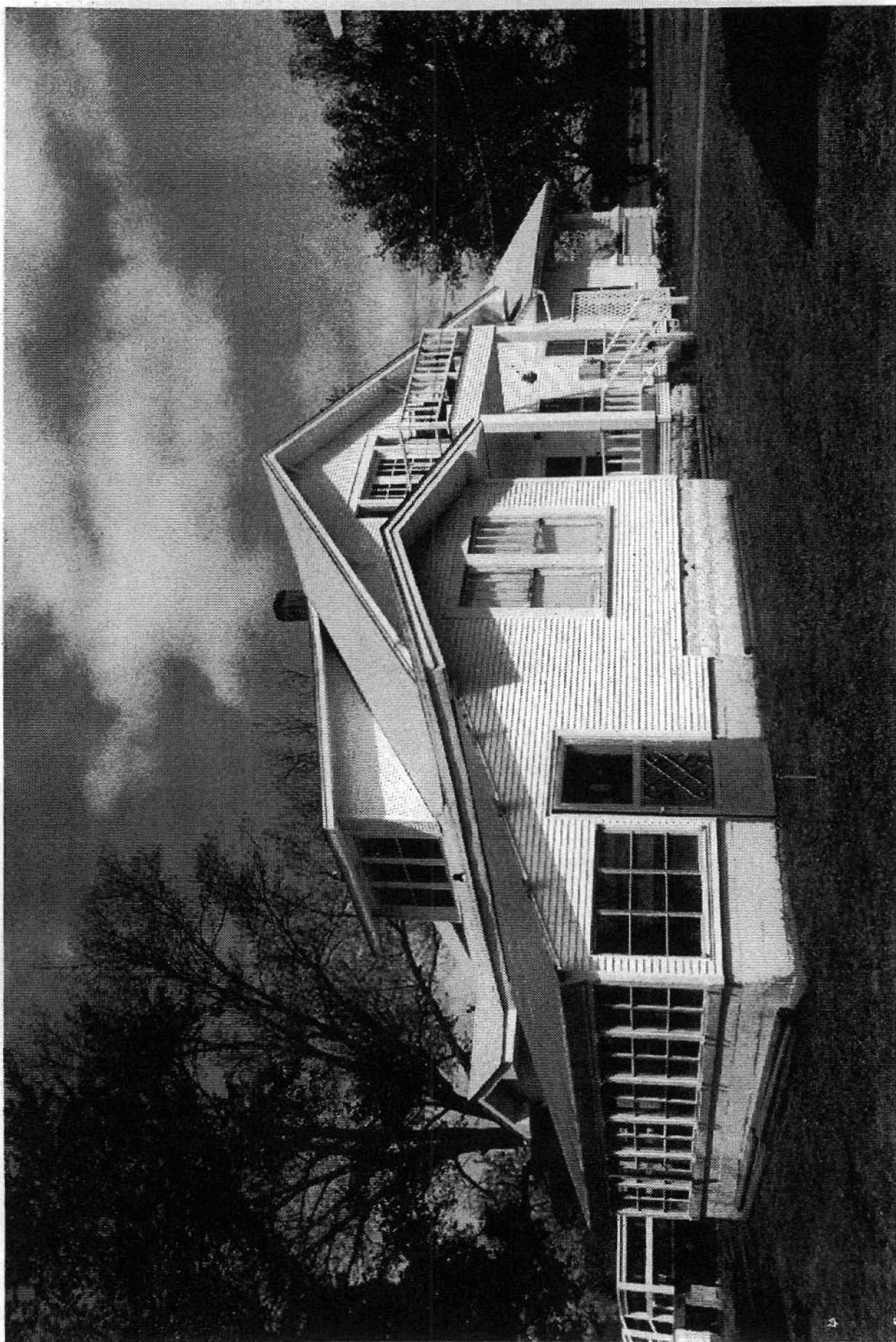
Jim Patton House
Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas
Photo by K. Story
Photographed 4-20-93
Negative on file at AHPP
Fireplace detail



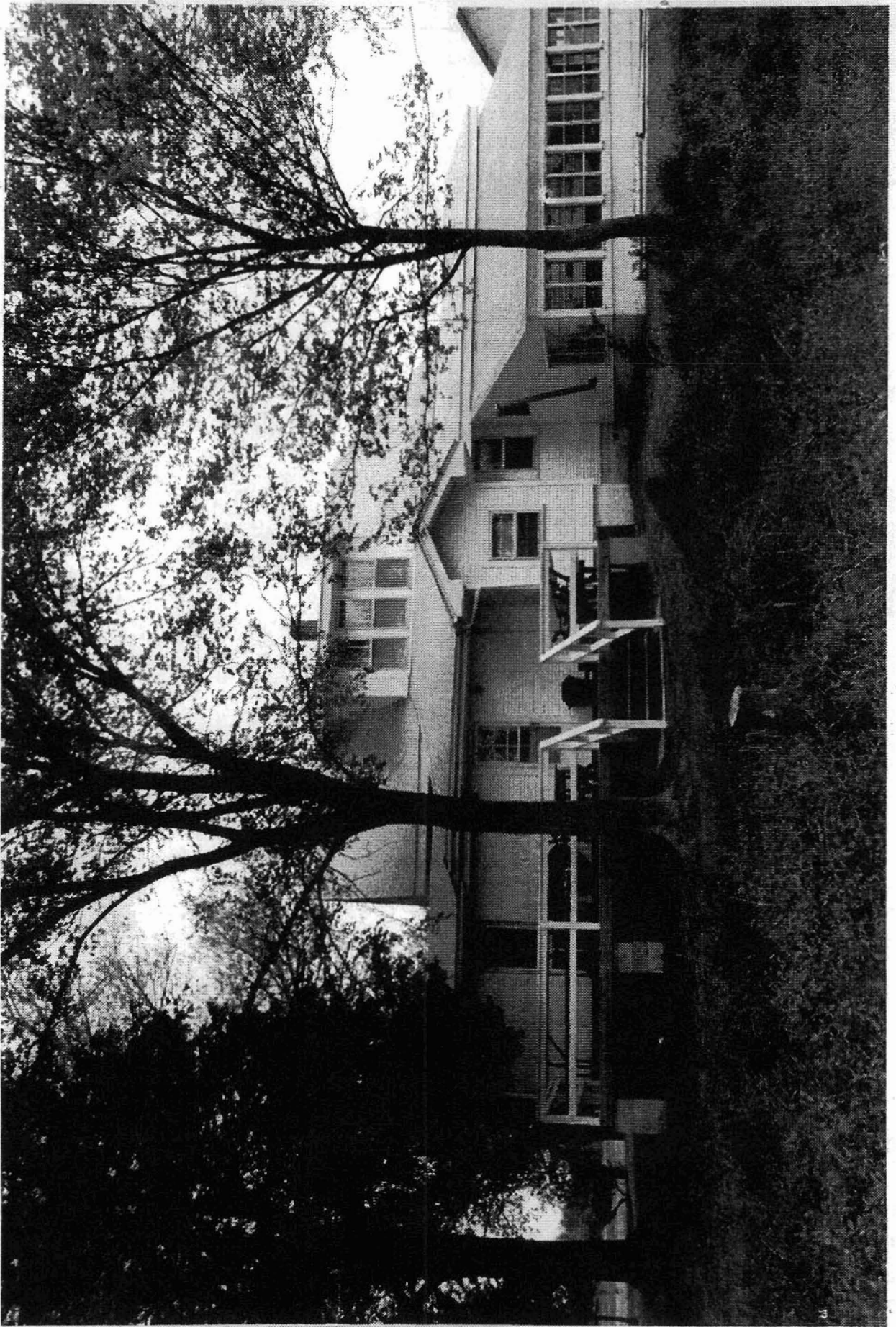
Jim Patton House
Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas
Photo by K. Story
Photographed 4-20-93
Negative on file at AHP
Garage



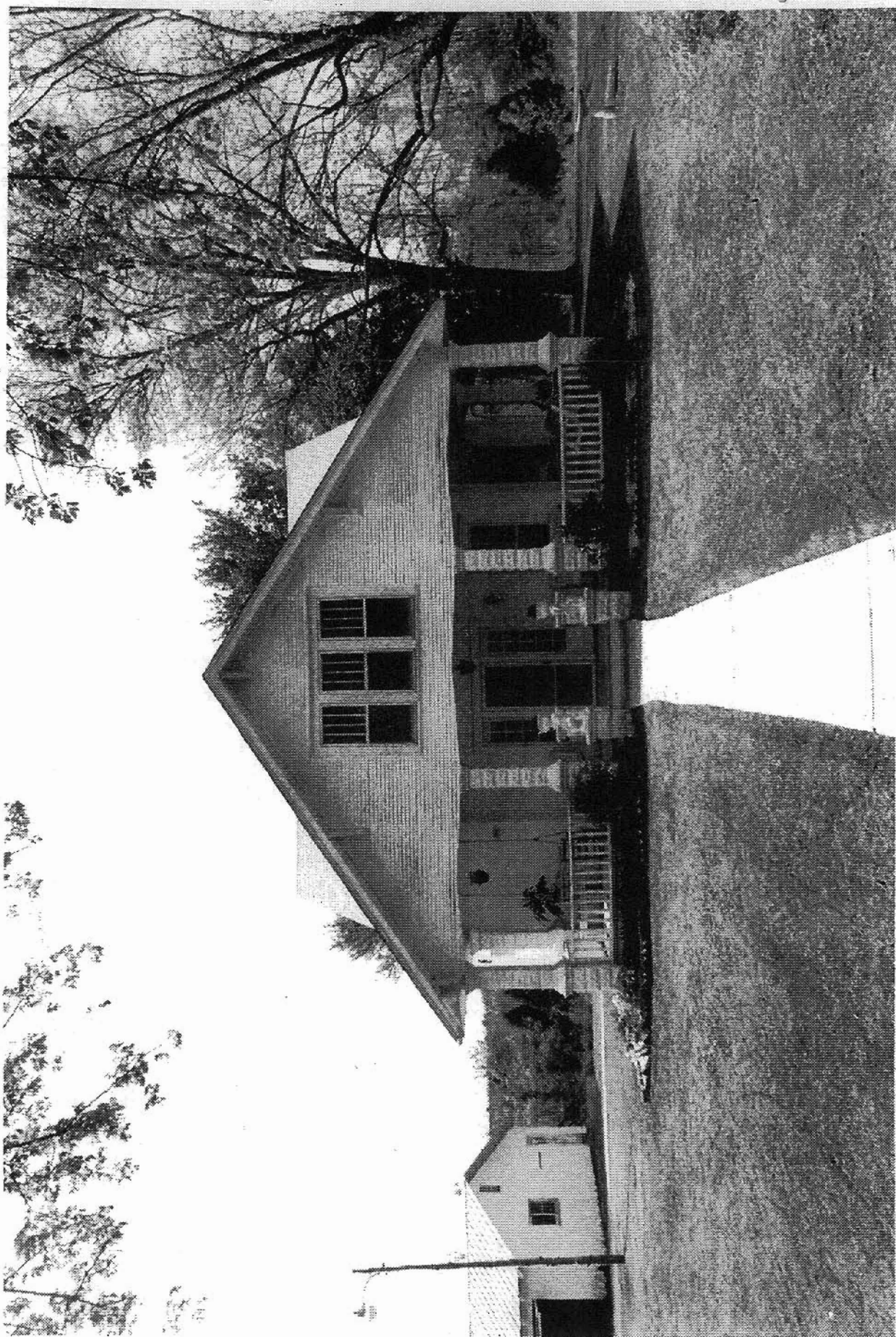
Jim Patton House
Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas
Photo by K. Story
Photographed 4-20-93
Negative on file at AHPP
View from southeast



Jim Patton House
Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas
Photo by K. Story
Photographed 4-20-93
Negative on file at AHCP
View from south



Jim Patton House
Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas
photo by K. Story
Photographed 4-20-93
Negative on file at AHP
View from north



Jim Patton House
Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas
Photo by K. Story
Photographed 4-20-93
Negative on File at AHPP
Detail of entry way



Jim Patten House

Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas

Photo by K. Story

Photographed 4-20-93

Negative on Fica + AHP
Detail of dining room, cabinets



Tim Patton House

Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas

Photo by K. Story

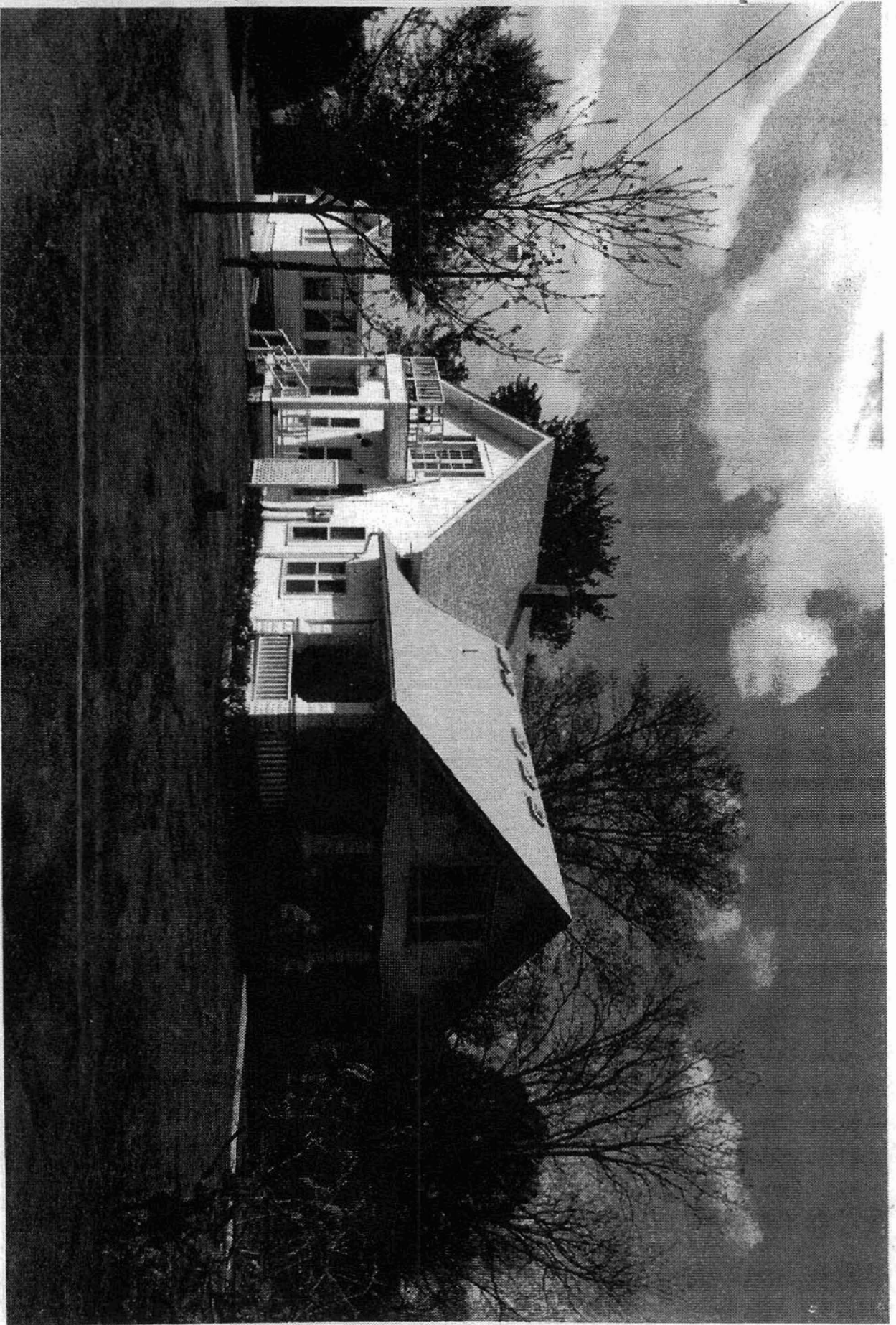
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Negative on file at AHPP

View from northwest



Jim Patton House
Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas
Photo by K. Story
Photographed 4-20-93
Negative on file at AHPP
View from northeast



Jim Patton House
Wooster, Faulkner Co., Arkansas
Photo by K. Story
Photographed 4-20-93
Negative on file at AHPP
Detail of staircase

