

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

historic name: Smith, Sylvester, Farmstead

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

street & number: South of County Rd. 10, approximately 3/4 mi. NE of jct. with County Rd. 13

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Boswell

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Izard

code: AR 065

zip code: 72516

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3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>5</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. Buford
Signature of certifying official

7-16-92
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

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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

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: Domestic
Agriculture

Sub: Single Dwelling
Agricultural Outbuildings

Current : Domestic
Agriculture

Sub: Single Dwelling
Agricultural Outbuildings

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Stone roof Tin
walls Weatherboard other _____

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: B,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: Agriculture
Commerce
Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c.1922-c.1942

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): Smith, Sylvester

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Smith, Sylvester

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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Approximately five

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>586100</u>	<u>3988810</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the southern edge of County Rd. 10, approximately 300 ft. northwest of the northwest corner of the house, proceed 400 ft. due south to a point approximately 200 ft southwest of the southwest corner of the house. Then proceed 500 ft. due east. Then proceed approximately 700 ft. north to the southern edge of County Rd. 10. Then proceed southwest along the road edge 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

=====

Name/Title: Barbara Lindsey-Allen, Survey Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 07/29/92

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

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

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National Park Service

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Summary

The Sylvester Smith Farmstead includes a total of six structures, featuring one residential structure. Together these comprise a remarkably intact example of an early twentieth century, rural IZARD County farmstead. There is one non-contributing structure.

Elaboration

The Sylvester Smith farmstead is composed of six standing structures, all of which are historic and closely associated with the history of the property as a working twentieth century farmstead.

Located in Section 15, Township 16 North, Range 10 West, near Boswell in IZARD County, the residence is a one story, wood frame building designed in Plain/Traditional style. The plan is basically rectangular with a 3/4 front porch. The front section of the house features a shingle clad hipped roof with an intersecting, gable roof rear section -- also composition shingled -- sheltering the rooms to the south. The walls are clad in narrow novelty siding and the structure is supported by a continuous foundation of stone. There is a partial cellar under the western elevation of the house, located approximately at the center of the elevation.

The northern or front elevation of the residence features a single story, gable roofed porch that shelters the double entry below. The porch features a low stone balustrade which provides a base for the wood columns supporting the roof. Fenestration of the elevation features one two-over-two window in the gable end of the porch roof.

The western elevation features three symmetrically-placed two-over-two windows and the access to the breezeway which separates the sections of the house and provides shelter for the cistern which is still in use.

The southern of rear elevation features a single two-over-two window, a pair of two-over-two windows and the entrance to the large screened porch.

The eastern elevation features a single entrance to the screened porch area and two symmetrically-placed two-over-two windows.

The interior of the house is intact with original flooring fabric throughout. It is very simple in ornamentation with some stained and painted wood trim.

The contributing ancillary structures to the rear and side of the house are all

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of a similar style. The smoke house is located to the south of the house. It is a box-construction, rectangular building with a tin clad gabled roof, covered with board and batten. The structure rests on stone piers and has a construction date of circa. 1923.

Southeast of the smokehouse is a chicken house, also built in 1923, and designed with a rectangular plan and of box construction. The walls are vertically-sided and covered with a tin shed roof. The foundation is constructed of stone piers.

A large double crib style barn was built c. 1923 to the east of the residential house. It is supported by stone piers and of log, vertical board and covered box construction. The roof is gable flowing into shed on each side and is clad with tin.

A small rectangular plan garage with a metal-clad gable roof was erected southeast of the house. The walls of the structure are fashioned of vertical boards and are supported by a stone pier foundation; it was constructed c. 1942.

The one non-contributing structure is a c. 1960 privy located southwest of the smokehouse.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Summary**

The Smith Farmstead is eligible under Criteria B and C with local significance through its associations with its builder and principal resident, Sylvester Smith, an unusually active and innovative farmer, merchant and general entrepreneur in the community of Boswell, and through its status as the most intact commercial and subsistence farmstead ensemble that survives from the third and fourth decades of the twentieth century.

Elaboration

The small town of Boswell, Arkansas is located on the western line of IZARD County near the Missouri Pacific Railroad and on the north side of the White River. In its history, it has had three names: Wideman, Cook, and Boswell. The very first settlement known as Wideman was located on Wideman Creek about four miles from the present town of Boswell. The Wideman school, which pioneer settlers erected early, served a large area as both an educational and social center. This settlement spread quickly, however, all the way down the creek to White River as other people came to live in the territory.

Approval was made in the year of 1905 for a United States Post Office for the little village, but since there was already an existing post office named Wideman in IZARD County, the name Cook was selected as there were numerous residents in the area having that name. After the railroad was built and a depot station established, the trainmen and railroad officials referred to the station as Wideman. Later the station was referred to as Boswell since the station agent's name was Robert Boswell. Shipments of freight were tagged for Boswell, but it was necessary that all statements and bills be addressed to the post office of Cook, which resulted in much confusion. Thus, in 1927, the name of the post office was officially changed to Boswell.

Many changes for Boswell came with the building of the railroad during the years of 1901 -1906. Firstly, it provided employment for the natives which helped them pay for homestead lands, build better homes and purchase food for families and livestock. Secondly, the railroad was a source of transportation, not only for people but also for freight and livestock. Better roads were built leading to Melbourne as merchants received much of their freight via railway at Boswell and hauled it by wagon to Melbourne. By the 1930's, the economy of the area was based upon farming, livestock production, and the railroad industry.

Henry W. Smith, his wife Ida Vest Smith, and two small sons, Sylvester and Thurman moved to Boswell, Arkansas from a farm at Belview (also IZARD County) in January, 1901. The St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern was being built, and

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the promise of employment, as well as the available fertile river bottomland for farming attracted many settlers to the area.

Henry W. Smith homesteaded 160 acres in 1902 and in 1907 the property was deeded to him by the U. S. government. The Smith sons were approaching maturity. Sylvester attended high school at a nearby community called Mt. Olive (about a four mile walk) where he received a high school diploma. After high school he attended and graduated from Droughon's Business College in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Sylvester returned to the Boswell area where in 1914 he married Miss Edna Combs. As a wedding gift from his father, he and his bride were given the 80 acres on which the Smith farmstead now stands. In 1922, he completed the house and began completing the ancillary structures. During that time he was a partner in a business of General Merchandise with his father, Henry W. Smith, called Smith and Son. However, this business ended abruptly when the store building was struck by lightning, burning to the ground.

Sylvester Smith was an entrepreneur of first rank. He served several years as the agent-telegrapher for the Missouri Pacific Railroad Company, working stations at Sylamore, Boswell, and Calico Rock. During those same years he was buying, raising and selling cattle as another source of income. Oral history maintains that Smith was the first person in the county to fence his cattle. He is also credited with bringing the Red Polled Hereford cattle to IZARD County. During this time he was experimenting with different hays and grasses to further productivity of his herds.

The railroad was a great friend to Sylvester Smith. Marketing of his cattle was made by way of train into St. Louis and Smith was said to have shipped as many as nine car-loads of cattle at one time. He also shipped eggs on contract to the luxurious Marion Hotel in Little Rock.

Smith business interests didn't stop with merchandising. During the Depression he was owner and publisher of the "Calico Rock Progress," a small local newspaper. Furthermore, to break the monotony of business, journalism, cattle and poultry production, Smith was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Odd Fellows. In his spare time he sold real estate.

During these years Smith was adding land to his holdings until he was in possession of an area of an entire section (640 acres).

Smith's devotion to his homeplace, his love of the land and interest in the history and heritage of Arkansas has been passed intact to his children and grandchildren who now occupy and maintain the property in an unaltered and

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respectful manner.

The Smith Farmstead is eligible under Criterion B through its direct association with the farmer, merchant, railroad man and general entrepreneur Sylvester Smith, the Boswell resident who both erected all of its contributing structures and resided here with his family throughout its entire period of significance. Furthermore, though all of the contributing buildings within the Smith Farmstead are of simple, relatively unornamented design and without architectural distinction, the ensemble of residential and agricultural structures remains intact from the first twenty years of the historic occupation of the site as a commercial and subsistence farmstead, and is thus also eligible under Criterion C.

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Bibliography

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Interview with Mr. William "Bud" Cooper; January, 1992.

Interview with Mrs. Lora Cooper Ross; July, 1991.

Ross, Lora Smith, *The Reverend J. J. Vest and Some of his Kinfolks*, Melbourne, Arkansas; 1985.

Shannon, Karr, *History of Izard County*, (Melbourne, Arkansas; 1927).



Sylvester Smith Farmstead

Isard Co.,

Arkansas

Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Alken

July 14, 1911

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the South



Sylvester Smith Farmstead

Izard Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Alken

July 1991

Negative on file at AHPI

View from the north





Wynne Smith Farmstead

Izard Co., Arkansas

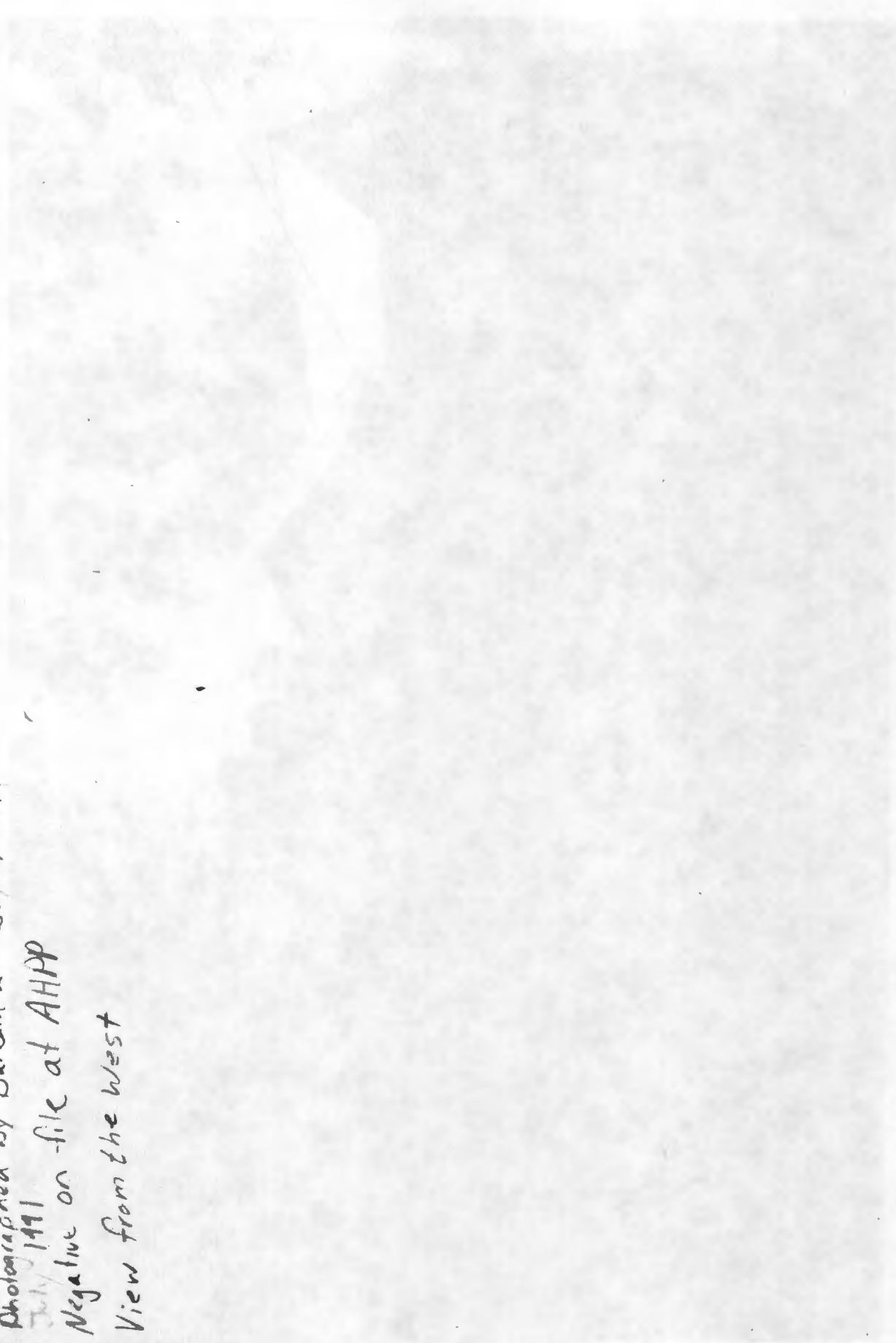
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey - Allen

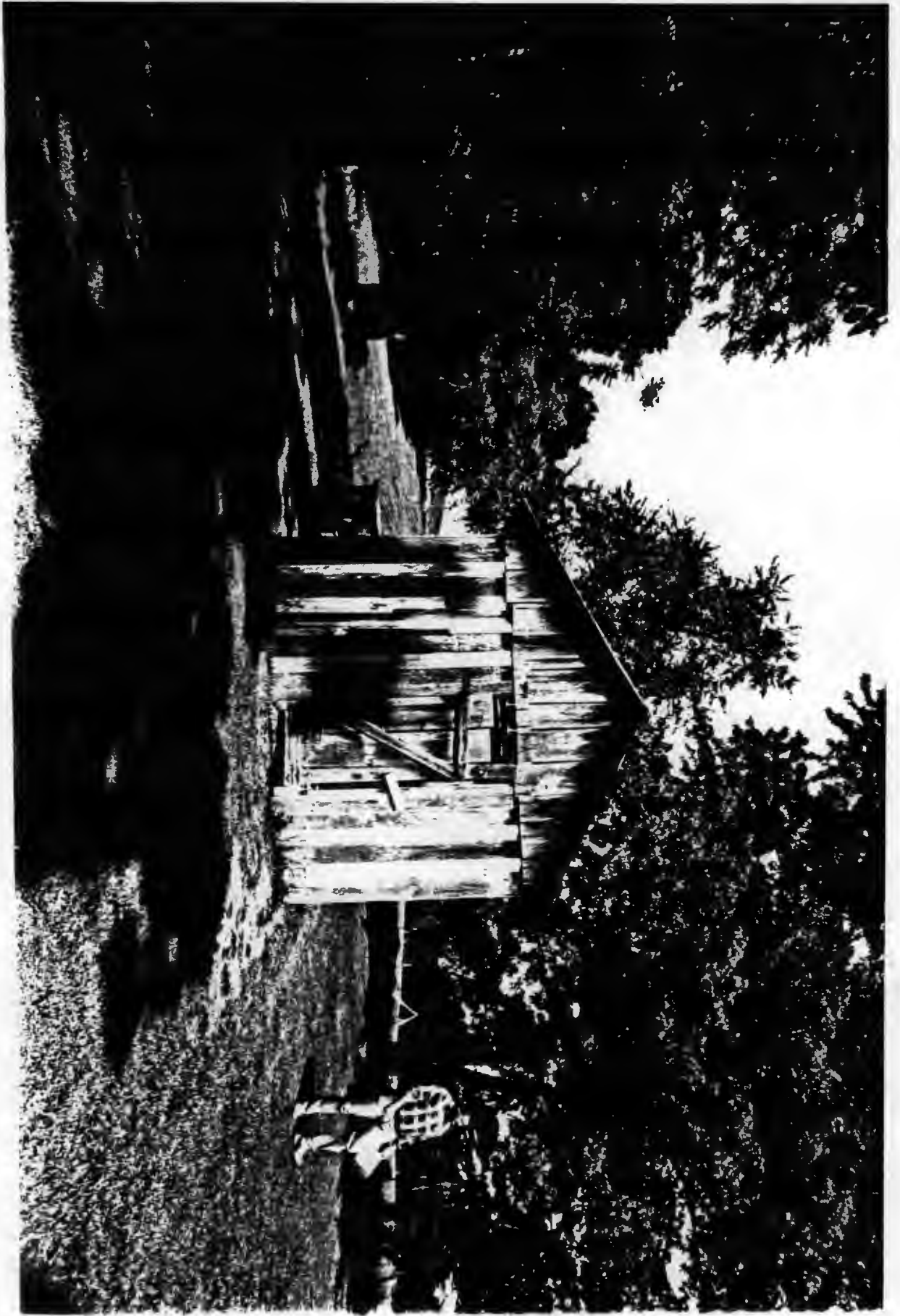
July 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

Negative on file at AHPP

View from the West





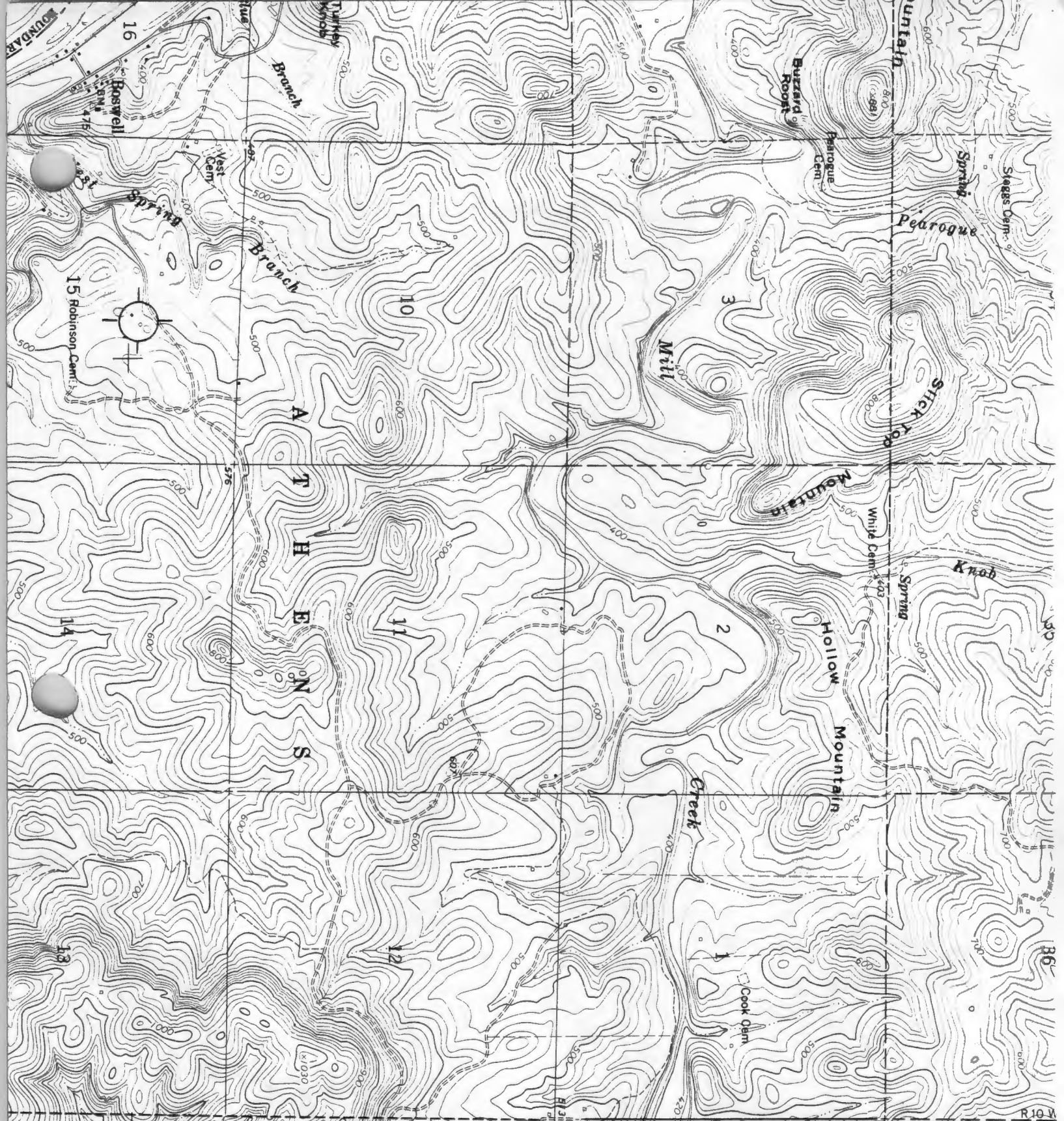
Sylvester Smith Farmstead
Izard Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen
July 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the East



Sylvester Smith Farmstead
Izard Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen
July 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the East



Sylvester Smith Farmstead
Izard Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Barbara Lindsey-Allen
July 1991
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the East



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Farmstead