

NR listed 10/8/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: New Home School Building

other name/site number: JA0493

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2. Location

=====

street & number: County Road 69

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Swifton

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Jackson

code: AR 067

zip code: 72471

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	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. Byrd
Signature of certifying official

9-8-92
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
=====

Historic: EDUCATION

Sub: School

Current: VACANT/NOT IN USE

Sub: N/A

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Other

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt
walls WOOD/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: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1915 _____

Significant Dates: N/A

Significant Person(s): N/A

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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Bailey, Raymond, "Country Singings," *The Stream of History*, Jackson County Historical Society, V. XXI, No. 2, June, 1984, pp. 17-20.

Crawford, Billye, "Memoirs of Rural Schools of Jackson County," *The Stream of History*, Jackson County Historical Society, Vol. XXVII, No. 1, Spring, 1990, pp. 15-17.

Eatman, Bertha Bush, "Memoirs of Early Swifton Schools," *The Stream of History*, Jackson County Historical Society, Vol. V, No. 4, October, 1967, pp. 11-12.

___ 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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>664970</u>	<u>3967980</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the northern edge of County Road 69 with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's eastern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the east thereof, proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's northern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its

intersection with a perpendicular line running along the northern edge of County Road 69; thence proceed easterly along said edge for a distance of approximately 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all 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:

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

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

The New Home School Building is a single story, novelty sided structure constructed c. 1915 in Plain/Traditional Style.

Elaboration

The New Home School Building is a single story, novelty sided structure constructed c. 1915 in the Plain/Traditional style. Its rectangular, single-room plan has been augmented only by the addition of a hipped, Craftsman style porch on its southern elevation. There are no extant chimneys. The asphalt shingle gable roof and weatherboarded walls rest upon a foundation composed of stone piers.

The southern elevation features a central hipped roof projecting porch supported by slender columns on piers resting on a wide plank floor. Two separate raised-panel wooden doors provide access to different rooms.

The eastern elevation is fenestrated by four double-hung, four-over-four windows. The northern elevation previously exhibited one window which is now boarded over. The western elevation lighting arrangement is identical to that of the eastern. There is no significant ornamentation of the exterior.

The interior, though simple and without ornament, appears as it did when constructed. The unadorned dimensional lumber used for door and window trim provides the only relief from the flat walls and the blackboard and teaching area at the northern end of the room.

Although the exterior of this structure shows signs of neglect and deterioration, it has not been significantly altered since its construction.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

The New Home School Building (also known as the Pleasant Valley School and as the Possum Trot School), constructed c. 1915 (though some local accounts place the date as early as 1911 or 1912), was erected as a school building to serve one of six small rural school districts in the farm land surrounding the town of Swifton. It is eligible under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a single room, Plain Traditional style school house from this era and the only known extant example that survives with this high level of integrity.

Elaboration

The town of Swifton was founded in 1873 with the arrival of the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad running from St. Louis, Missouri to Texas (prior to the arrival of the railroad, the present town site was probably indistinguishable from the flat farm land that surrounds it, and no community as such existed at all). As was the case with so many railroad towns in Arkansas, the town initially grew up around the railroad and owed its entire existence to it and the national transportation network with which it thereby became connected.

Swifton grew steadily, becoming a regional shipping center for the cotton grown on the farm land surrounding the town, and thereby acquiring the associated cotton gins, mercantile stores and lodging facilities that resulted. Though some modest school facilities existed locally prior to this period, as the town prospered the formation of organized school districts became a priority, with new school construction chief among the concerns of local residents, both in town and in the rural surrounding townships. By the first two decades of the twentieth century the community of Swifton and its environs had been divided into a total of six school districts. By far the majority of these six districts were created to serve students living in remote, rural areas, well away from Swifton proper. Though few historic photographs survive to document the architectural character of these buildings, knowledge of the buildings constructed by small, rural school districts around the state during this period point to the likelihood that single-room schoolhouses predominated here also, as they were relatively easy and inexpensive to construct, and they tended to serve well the needs of the students and their teachers.

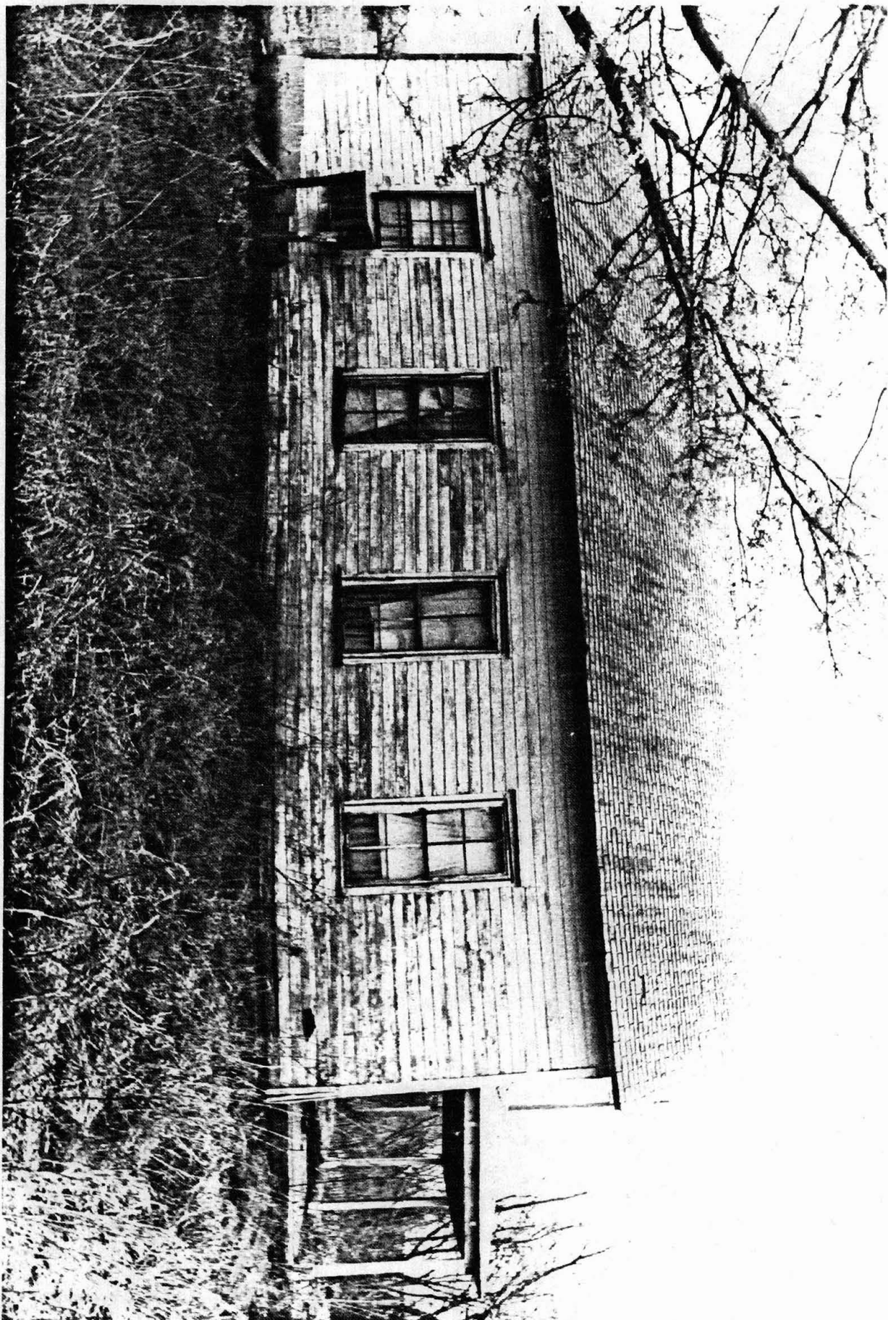
The New Home School Building remains a good and relatively intact example of this particular building type. Its simple, gable-roof form and single-room plan are typical of these traditional, country schoolhouses that were designed simply and functionally, without detail or ornamentation, for the sole purpose of providing a warm, dry environment for the teaching of

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

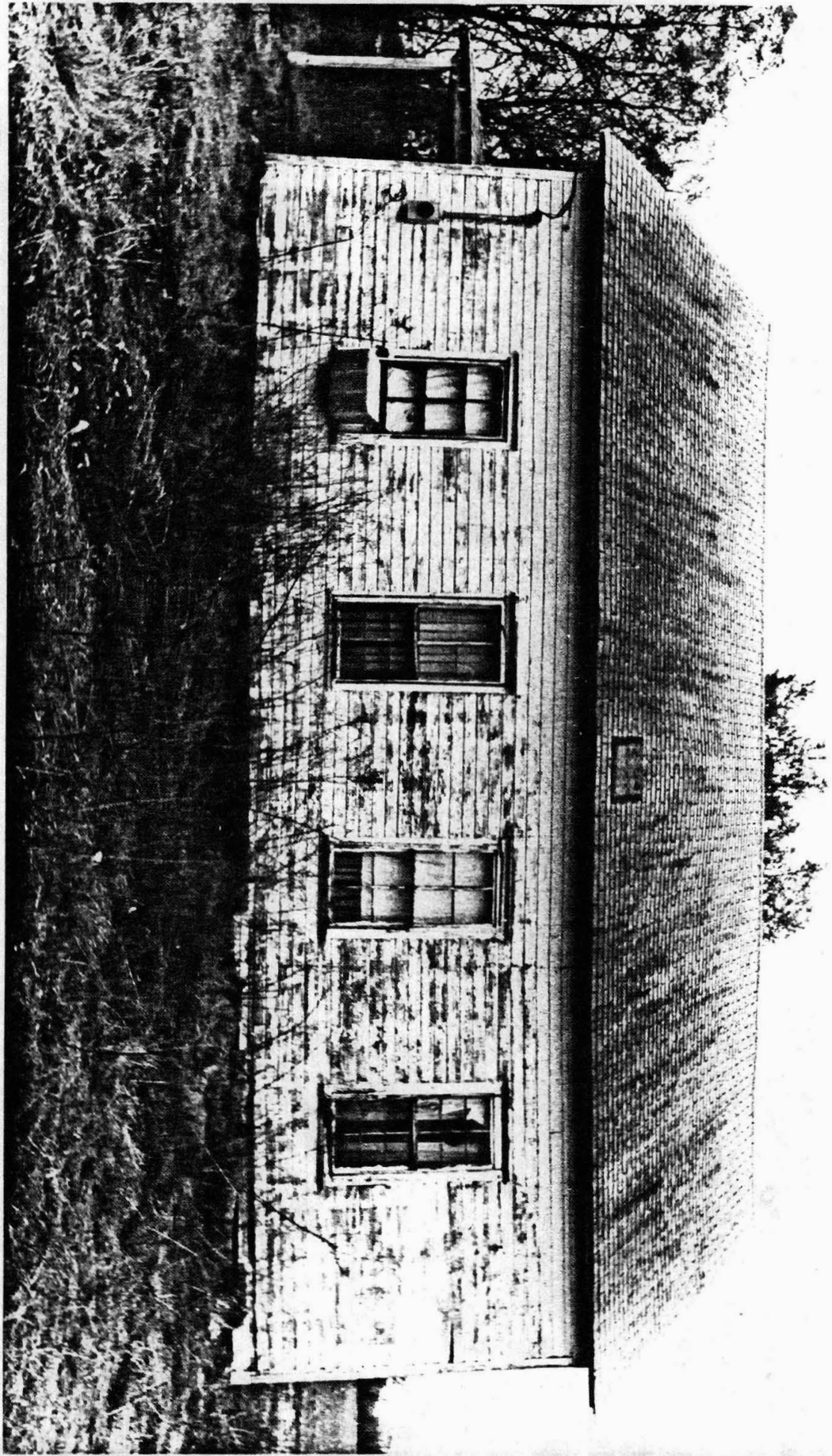
Section number 8 Page 2

the local students that typically walked to this building every school day. In spite of the addition of the later Craftsman-style porch, the New Home School Building remains the best example of this type in the Swifton vicinity, and is thus eligible under Criterion C.



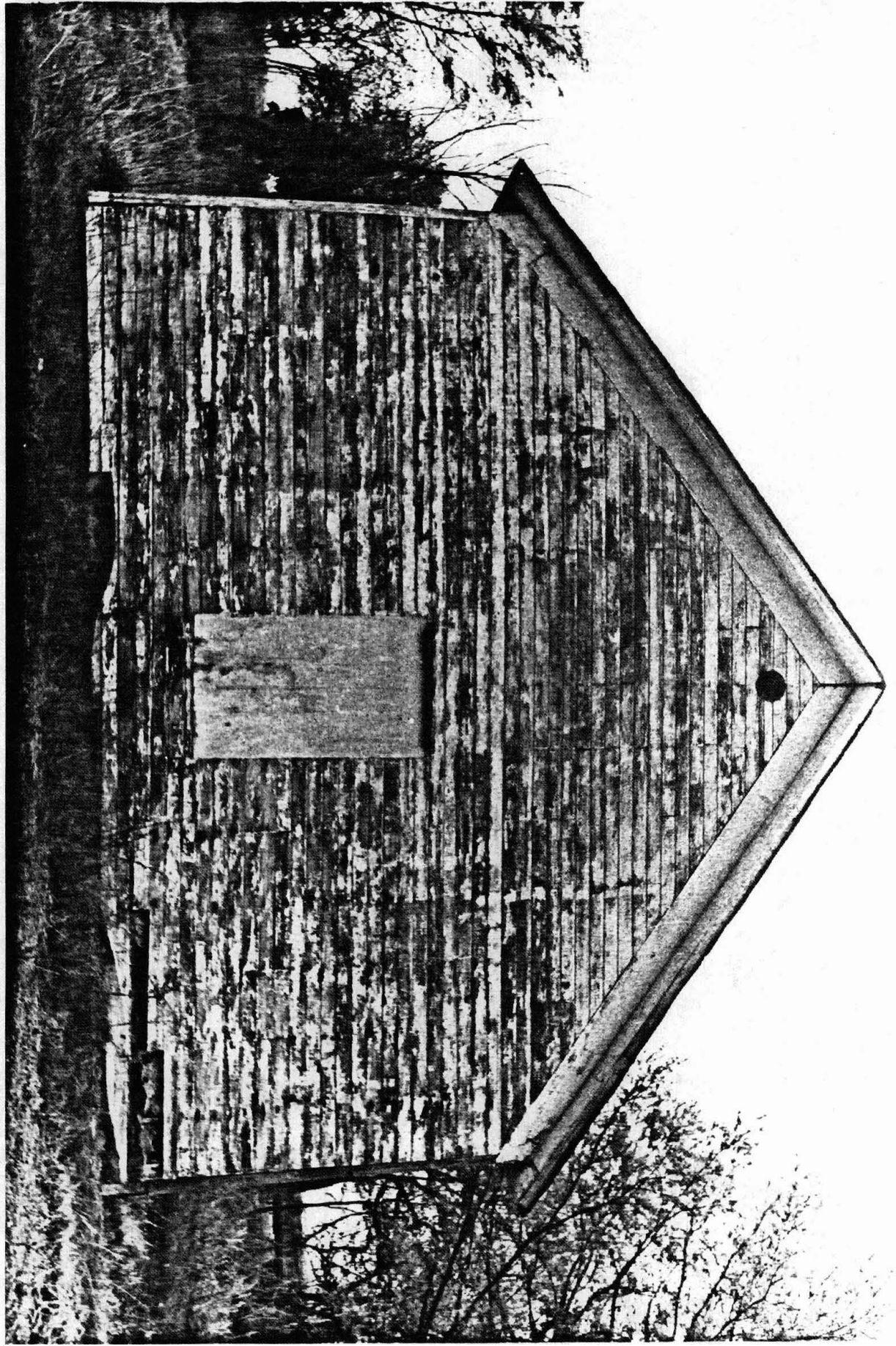
NEW HOME SCHOOL
WATSON VIC, JACKSON CO, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY B. GIBNEY-ALLEN
APRIL, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM WEST

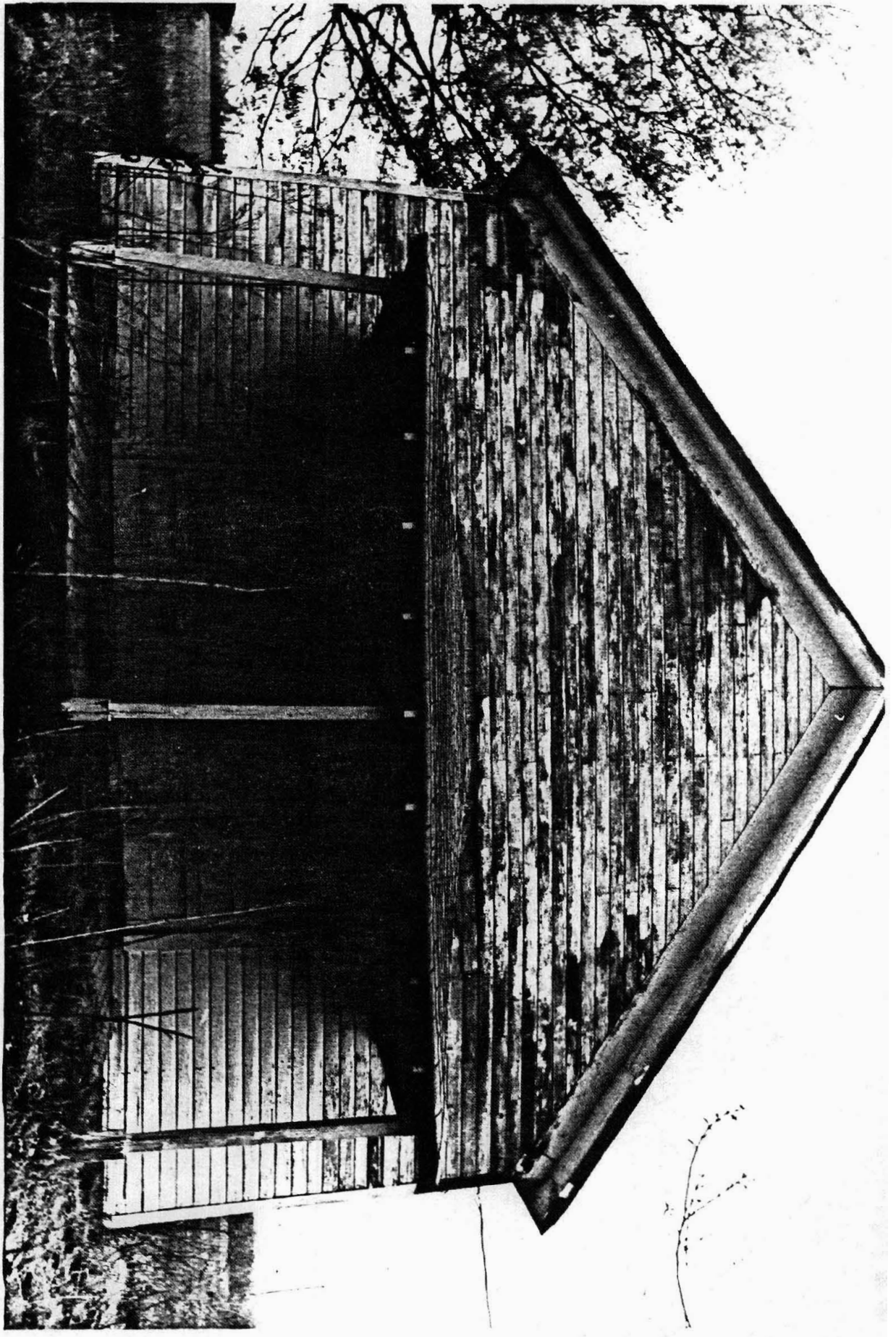


NEW HOME SCHOOL
SWIFTON VIC, JACKSON CO, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY B. LINDSEY-ALLEN
APRIL, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM EAST



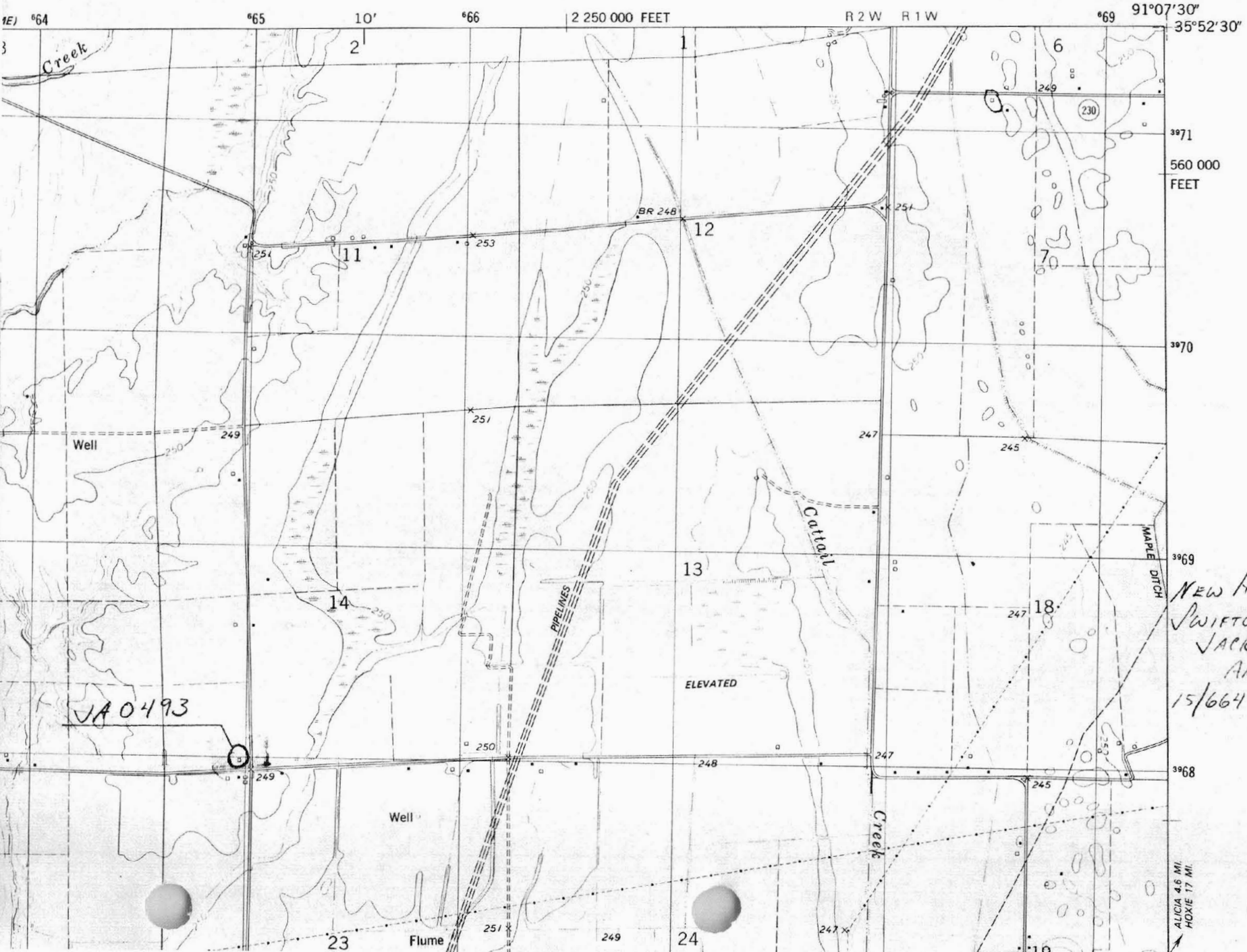
NEW HOME SCHOOL
WILFON VIC, JACKSON CO, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY B. LINDSEY-ALLEN
APRIL, 1990
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM NORTH



NEW HOME SCHOOL
SWIFTON VIC, VICKSON Co., ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPHED BY B. LINDSEY-ALLEN
APRIL, 1990
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP
VIEW FROM SOUTH

SWIFTON WEST QUADRANGLE
ARKANSAS
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
SW/4 ALICIA 15' QUADRANGLE

7785'
1/4 in



NEW HOME SCHOOL
SWIFTON VIC,
JACKSON Co,
ARKANSAS
15/664970/3967980

ALICIA 4.6 MI.
HOME 17 MI.