

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Averitt House

other name/site number: N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 6 miles south of Texarkana; west off U.S. Route 71

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Mount Pleasant

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Miller

code: AR 091

zip code: 72561

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>2</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

=====  
4. State/Federal Agency Certification  
=====

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.

Catherine A. Byrd  \_\_\_\_\_  6-24-92  \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official 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  
=====

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:  Domestic  \_\_\_\_\_ Sub:  Single Dwelling  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Current :  Domestic  \_\_\_\_\_ Sub:  Single Dwelling  \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification:

No Style  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Rustic\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Stone\_\_\_\_\_ roof Asphalt\_\_\_\_\_  
walls Log\_\_\_\_\_ other Stone\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local\_\_\_\_\_.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C\_\_\_\_\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Architecture\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1933\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Tom Averitt\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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:

- 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>410280</u>	<u>3690000</u>	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at the western edge of U.S. Route 71, a point approximately 150 ft. northeast of the northern corner of the northeastern elevation of the house, proceed southwest along the line formed by, yet 10 ft. from, the northwestern elevation of the garage outbuilding to the point of intersection with the line formed by, yet 2 ft. from, the southwestern elevation of the garage outbuilding. Then proceed southeast to a point approximately 25 ft. south of the southern corner of the southeastern elevation of the house. Then proceed northeast to the western edge of U.S. Route 71. Then proceed northwest to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification: \_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all of the property historically associated with this resource, both around and between the house and the two outbuildings.

=====  
11. Form Prepared By  
=====

Name/Title: Ken Story, National Register Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 6/23/92

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 Averitt House is a single-story, wood log structure designed in the style generally known as "Rustic." It features an irregular, roughly "L"-shaped plan, with a shed roof porch on its northeastern elevation. A single fieldstone chimney rises through the gable roof near the intersection of the two gable-roof sections. The asphalt shingle roof and log walls are supported upon a continuous stone foundation.

#### Elaboration

The Averitt House is a single-story, wood log structure designed in the style generally known as "Rustic." It features an irregular, roughly "L"-shaped plan, with a shed roof porch on its northeastern elevation. A single fieldstone chimney rises through the gable roof near the intersection of the two gable-roof sections. The asphalt shingle roof and log walls are supported upon a continuous stone foundation.

The northeastern or front elevation is formed by the two intersecting gables, consisting of the side of one gable and the gable end of the other. A single-story, shed roof porch projects from the side gable wall, and is supported upon four rough log posts. The wall beneath is accessed via a single, central entrance flanked by two six-over-six wood sash windows. The section of the wall of the intersecting gable that is also beneath the shed roof is accessed via a single entrance. A single, central window lights the gable end to the south. The southeastern elevation features a single-leaf entrance to the southwest and two modern windows to the northeast, all of which are located directly above a modern, flat wood deck with a balustrade. Two single six-over-six wood sash windows flanking a central, smaller window complete the elevation. The southwestern elevation is fenestrated with a single six-over-six wood sash window in the side gable wall that is recessed to the northwest, a bank of windows in the center (now boarded-over) and a single smaller wood sash window to the southeast. A single-leaf entrance accesses the perpendicular wall section between the recessed side gable to the northwest and the projecting, shed roof section near the center. The northwestern elevation is composed of the side gable at the end of the porch described above and the gable end that is fenestrated with a pair of six-over-six wood sash windows.

There is little significant exterior ornament of note, for as is typical of the Rustic style, the saddle-notched, round logs that compose the walls and the sloping corners provide the only detail besides the unfinished log supports beneath the shed roof front porch.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

The principal living area within the structure survives in a remarkable state of preservation. The large, rough-hewn fieldstone fireplace with its broad, wood mantel remains at one end, while a series of exposed, stained log cross-ties lead to the unhewn stick and log balcony at the opposite end. The cathedral ceiling has been resheathed with particle-board for insulation purposes, and other of the adjacent rooms have suffered some modernization, but overall the entire structure retains much of its original appearance throughout. There have been few other alterations to the structure of note.

Also included in the nomination are two outbuildings: a log construction, automobile garage and a later, concrete block storage building (non-contributing).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

---

### Summary

The Averitt House, constructed c. 1933, is locally significant under Criterion C as the best example of the Rustic architectural style, and probably the only such design ever constructed in the entire county. The logs visible on its exterior remain largely visible on the interior, and especially so in the large family room, or hall, located at the northwestern end of the larger gable roof section. An original stone fireplace and loft balustrade constructed from unfinished branches also survive.

### Elaboration

The Averitt House is located on Hwy. 71, to the south of the crossroads that forms the small community of Mount Pleasant (now little more than a church). The area has always been covered with pine forest and occasional hardwoods, and thus has been ill suited to farming or hardwood timbering. Thus the area has always been sparsely populated, as it remains until this day.

The arrival of the automobile and the dramatic increase in mobility it afforded Americans opened up for settlement parcels of land that had been previously unattractive due to their remove from larger urban centers and their inability to afford any kind of living in their own right. The automobile, even moreso than the railroad or any combination of commuter trains and/or trolley cars, made the idea of residing several miles away from one's workplace not only feasible, but with the increase in overall noise and congestion brought about by the dramatic growth in American cities during the early twentieth century, even preferable. Such developments played an important role in the settlement of such areas as the stretch of U.S. Hwy. 71 south of the historic community of Mount Pleasant, whereon the Averitt House was constructed.

The Averitt House was constructed by Tom Averitt between the years 1931 and 1933, reputedly by himself and without the help of other laborers. Averitt was a health inspector for Miller County, and probably built this house for himself and his wife Blanche due to the relatively central location of the site relative to the overall county boundaries. The logs for the construction were cut from the site during the clearing process, and Averitt used this available lumber for the construction of the house itself.

Averitt's choice of a clearly Rustic style of architecture, though not at all inappropriate for the Depression era, remains somewhat of a mystery given the fact that there was virtually no documented Civilian Conservation Corps activity in Miller County, though they were actively constructing various facilities for the Ouachita National Forest, the southern boundary of which was located about sixty

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

---

miles to the northeast. However, given that Averitt was a health inspector, it seems likely that he was well read and was probably familiar with the aesthetic then popular for such rural public works construction, and particularly within wooded settings much like the one he selected for the construction of this home. Regardless of the source of the inspiration, however, the Rustic style clearly influenced Averitt in the design of his home. The use of unfinished logs on both the interior and exterior of the house, the selection of uncoursed, unfinished stone for the fireplace, and the dark, natural look of the handsome wood throughout the house combines with the overall emphasis on horizontality and the broad, overhanging eaves to reveal strongly the influence of the Rustic style. This aesthetic is carried over to the associated automobile garage/storage building to the rear of the house, also included in the nomination.

The Averitt House is the only example of this style of construction known to have ever existed in this rural, central section of Miller County, and it is certainly the only such example extant. As such, it is eligible under Criterion C with local significance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   1  

---

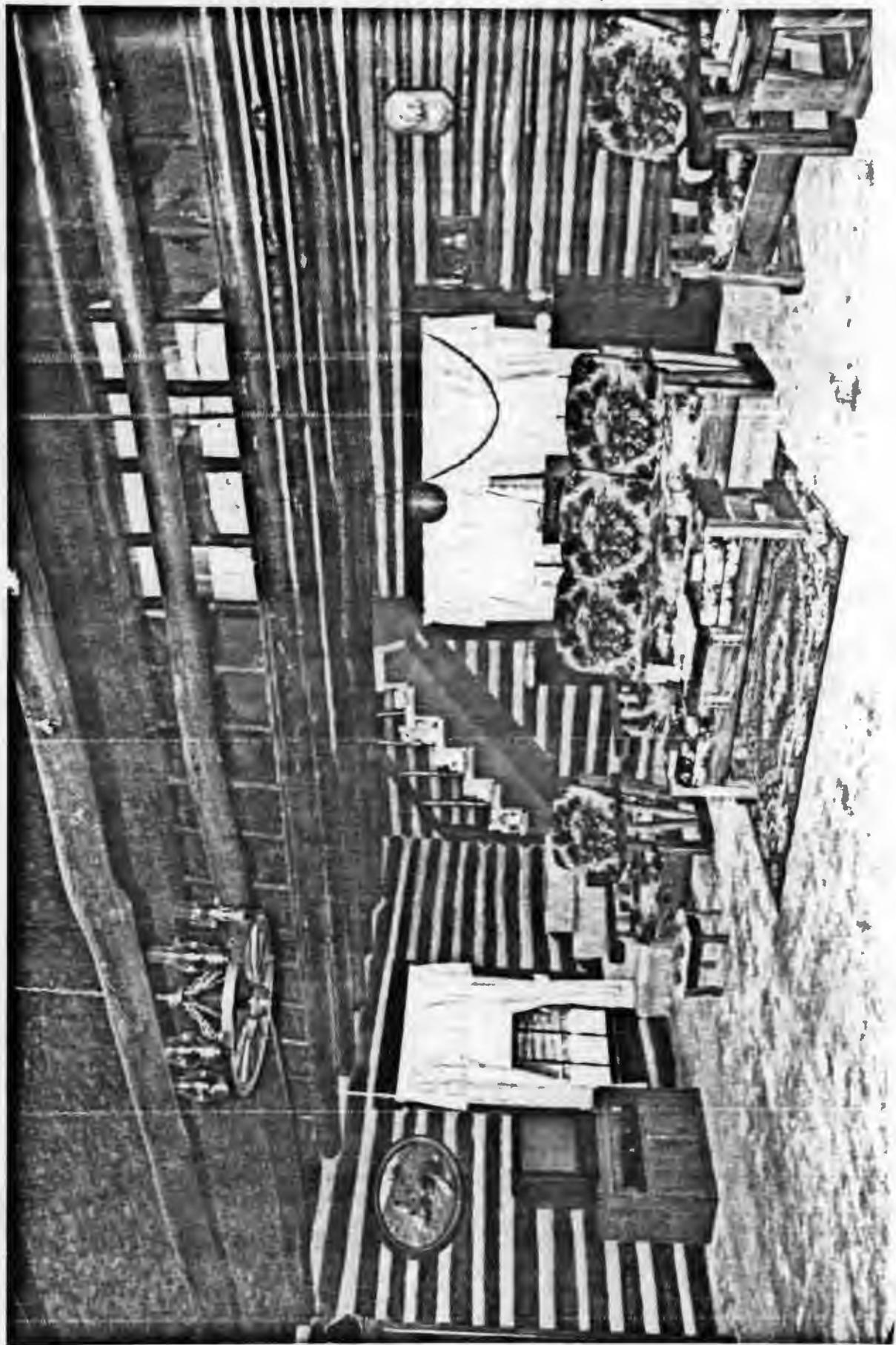
### Bibliography

Interview with Ann Turk; September, 1991.

*Miller County Home Extension Scrapbook, 1938.*



Average Foot  
Miles  
Photographed by Patrick Zolner  
September 1991  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the north



Averitt House

Milkeville, Arkansas

Photographed by Patrick Zolher

September 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View of interior from the east



Veritt Haase

Miller Arkansas

Photographed by Patrick Zollner

September 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View of saddle notch



House  
Missouri, Arkansas

Photographed by Artick Zolner  
September 1991

Negative on file at AHPP  
View from the northeast



Aversitt House

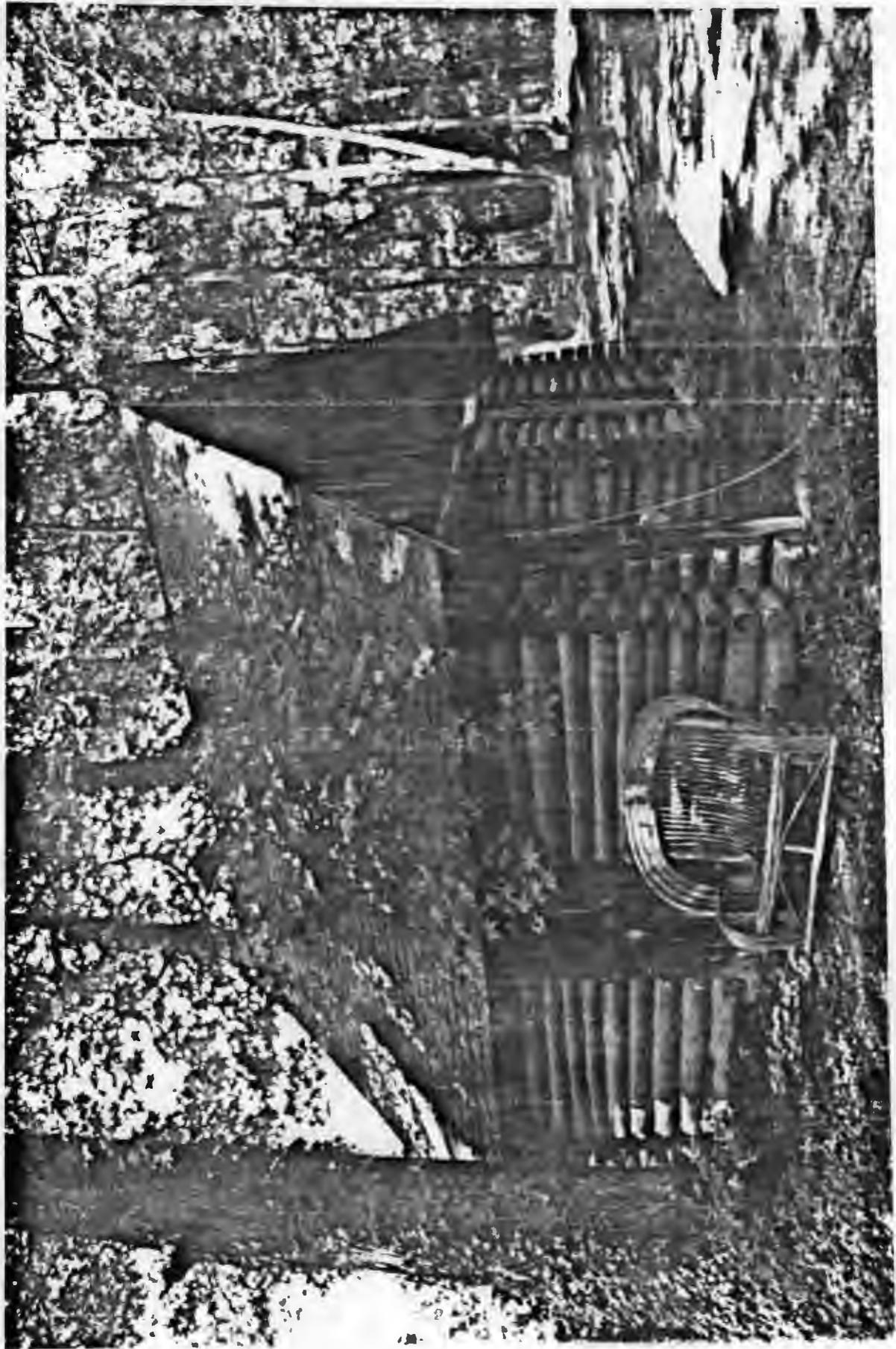
Miller Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Patrick Zellner

September 1991

Negative on file at AHP

View from the southwest



Mount House

Mo Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Patrick Zolner

September 1991

Negative on file at AHPP

View of garage outbuilding from the east



1000th House,

Miller, A. Kansas

Photographed by Patrick Zolher  
September 1991

Negative on file at AHP

View of porch supports  
from the northwest

750 1 NE  
(TEXARKANA)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Averitt House  
Mount Pleasant vic., Arkansas

UTM  
15/410280/3690000

