

NR listed  
4-18-85

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William A. Short House

and/or common Edwardian Inn

2. Location

street & number 317 Biscoe N/A not for publication

city, town Helena N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Phillips code 107

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Bed & Breakfast

4. Owner of Property

name Edwardian Inn Partnership

street & number c/o Ernest & Cathy Cunningham, 17 East Ridge

city, town Helena N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Phillips County Courthouse

street & number Cherry Street

city, town Helena state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Helena Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no N/

date 1979  federal  state  county  local N/

depository for survey records Phillips County Library

city, town Helena state Arkansas

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY

Impressive as an early Arkansas example of the Colonial Revival, the William A. Short House was constructed in Helena in 1904. Built by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis, the house is richly and meticulously detailed. The interior possesses an impressive collection of native woods such as oak and cherry which have been used to create elaborate mantels, floors, the stair and trims. The focal point of the exterior is the expansive front porch, which features a curved central projection.

#### ELABORATION

The Short House was built in 1904 by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis for William A. Short and his wife, Sallie Baker Short. The house, of Colonial Revival design, sits high on a terrace of Crowley's Ridge and when it was constructed commanded a magnificent view of Helena and the Mississippi River.

Elevated above Biscoe Street, the Short House has a commanding presence. Situated on a large plot of lawn, the front of the house is reached via sweeping concrete steps, the outside walls of which gracefully curve and terminate with small concrete piers. Parking is located at the front and a drive leads to the porte-cochere and adjacent parking on the north side of the house.

The Short House is a two-and-a-half story frame structure possessing a number of Colonial Revival characteristics. Typical features of this stylistic influence include a symmetrical facade, a rectangular plan with minor projections, a hipped roof with a balustraded deck, large double-hung windows, over-sized dormers and a prominent front entrance. The most notable exterior feature of this residence is the large wrap-around porch. Resting on a brick foundation, the house is clad with clapboards.

The front facade is perfectly symmetrical. Flanking the central entrance on the first floor are a pair of three-sided projections. Each of the three sides possesses a large one-over-one double-hung window, the dominant window type. The large entrance consists of a paneled oak door with an upper sash, flanked by sidelights resting upon paneled oak aprons. A leaded and beveled transom of clear glass is positioned above the door. A simple surround frames these entrance features.

Hip-roofed three-sided projections extend from both corners on the second floor. These projections are not positioned directly above those on the first floor. The two outside windows of each projection have multi-paned upper sash. Separating the two floors, located just above the one story porch roof, is a band of shingles. Echoing the curve of the porch, the center of the second floor features a curved projection with three windows, each with multi-paned upper sash. Finely detailed console brackets support the overhang of the eave, which extends from above the plain entablature. A large hip-roofed dormer projects from the center of the front slope of the dominant hip roof. Clad in shingles, the dormer features a recess,

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	education	military	social
1700-1799	art	engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	communications	industry	politics government	transportation
		invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1904

Builder Architect Clem Brothers - Builders

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### SUMMARY

Constructed in 1904 for William A. Short, the Short House graces a hill overlooking Biscoe Road and is a marvelous Arkansas example of the Colonial Revival style. The house was built by the Clem Brothers of St. Louis who came to Helena to build several of the finer homes in town. With its outstanding oak woodwork, decorative mantels, and parquet flooring, the house exhibits some of the finest craftsmanship available during the period. The wood used in the Short home is thought to have been cut locally as is the case with others of its type constructed during this period in Helena.

### ELABORATION

William A. Short and his wife Sallie Baker Short came to Helena from Mobile, Alabama in 1885. Mr. Short had been engaged by the Howell Cotton Company of Little Rock to supervise a branch of their business in Helena. In 1888, Short started his own cotton business and changed the firm's name in 1890 to W. A. Short and Company. In 1895 Short and Y. F. Harrington established a partnership and formed a company in cotton which did over five million dollars worth of business in 1902. Short's business prospered so that he created branch offices in Marianna, Pine Bluff, Brinkley, Newport, Cotton Plant, Clarendon, Forrest City, Marvell, Holly Grove, Memphis and Osceola.

In 1900, Short and Harrington bought a controlling interest in the Citizens Compress Company and Short was made president of the company. W. A. Short and Y. F. Harrington were officers and stockholders in the following firms: New South Oil Company of Helena; Bluff City Oil Company of Pine Bluff; Peoples Savings Bank and Trust Company; and the Helena Hotel Company. They also owned the Grand Opera House of Helena and a northwest Arkansas zinc mining company. Both invested largely in timber and farming interests.

During the early years of the 1920's the cotton market fell and Short lost most of his money. Having begun to suffer financial remunerations earlier, Short was forced to sell the house in 1917. It later served as a funeral parlor and even later as an alcohol rehabilitation center. Most recently, the house has been renovated for use as a bed and breakfast enterprise.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Arkansas Democrat - February 26, 1984.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name LaTour, Ark-Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A 

1	5	7	2	0	5	0	3	8	2	2	0	5	0
Zone				Easting				Northing					

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Cathy Cunningham, edited by AHPP staff

organization owner date March, 1985

street & number 17 East Ridge telephone 338-9155

city or town Helena state Arkansas

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer date March 13, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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detailed with a pair of Ionic columns. Small console brackets embellish the eaves. Two interior brick chimneys pierce the primary hip roof.

The wide full front porch is the dominant element of the east facade. The porch, which possesses an entablature detailed with triglyphs, curves outward to form a rounded center projection and wraps around each of the side elevations. (A portion of the south porch has been enclosed to accommodate a bathroom.) The porch rests on painted brick piers, between which is wood lattice. The roof of the large central curve is supported by free-standing Ionic columns, while the porch roof to either side is supported by pairs of Ionic columns that rest on brick piers. Only the curved portion of the porch roof is detailed with the balustrade which is embellished with wood urns resting on paneled wood piers. A porch railing on turned spindles like those of the balustrade is positioned between the columns and brick piers. Two sets of steps lead up to the porch. A chain-suspended light fixture hangs at the center and there is a ceiling fan at each corner.

The north side elevation features a shed-roofed porte-cochere which is an extension of the side porch. A large dormer and three-sided bay projection echo the same features of the front. A side entrance, protected by the porte-cochere, is detailed similarly to the front entrance.

The rear (west) elevation has a cross-gabled central project, to which a two story gable-roofed kitchen and one story sun room addition are attached. Originally the kitchen was detached from the house. The flat-roofed and glass-enclosed sunroom is attached to the south side of the kitchen. An exterior skin of lattice lends it the appearance of an enclosed porch. The railed roof functions as a terrace and serves as a connection between the second floors of the main structure and the kitchen. The gable ends of the cross projection and kitchen are covered with shingles.

The south side elevation clearly reveals the connection of the kitchen to the main structure. A three-sided cross gable projection is similar to the same feature on the rear elevation. An arched attic window pierces the gable end. A portion of the porch extension has been enclosed for a bathroom, however, the lattice exterior of the enclosure appears as a logical alteration.

The focal point of the interior is the entrance hall, which is paneled and floored in quarter-sawn oak. The L-shaped hall connects the front and side entrances and provides access to the sunroom. Built-in paneled oak closets are located in the side entrance hall. Dominating the hall is a stunning open stair with a built-in bench and two landings positioned at the rear of the hall. Two oak arches span the width of the hall at the point of the first stair landing and a pair of columns on paneled bases are positioned between the two doors on either side of the hall. On either side of the front entrance, pocket doors with leaded transoms lead to the dining room which features mirrored alcoves, and the cherry-paneled den, reputedly the first such room in Helena. Each room with the exception of the den, is

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paneled in oak, and all possess beautiful oak floors with parquet borders. There are three classically-detailed and mirrored overmantels on the first floor, each with tile surrounds. Because it was badly damaged, the original dining room mantel was removed and adapted for use as a front desk for the bed and breakfast operation. The attached kitchen is now used as the manager's living quarters.

Curved ceiling beams and built-in cupboards are found in the spacious second floor hall. Paneled oak doors with leaded transoms lead to five bedrooms, each with its own fireplace with beautifully detailed mantels. A door at the west end of the hall leads to the roof terrace of the sunroom.

As part of its recent renovation, twelve "rooms" were created within the Short House, which now functions as a bed and breakfast. Minor alterations include the sensitive addition of closets, bathrooms, the sunroom and free-standing partition walls that divide the larger rooms into suites. Though not original, fixtures are of the period. The attic is finished with beaded boards and now functions as conference space.

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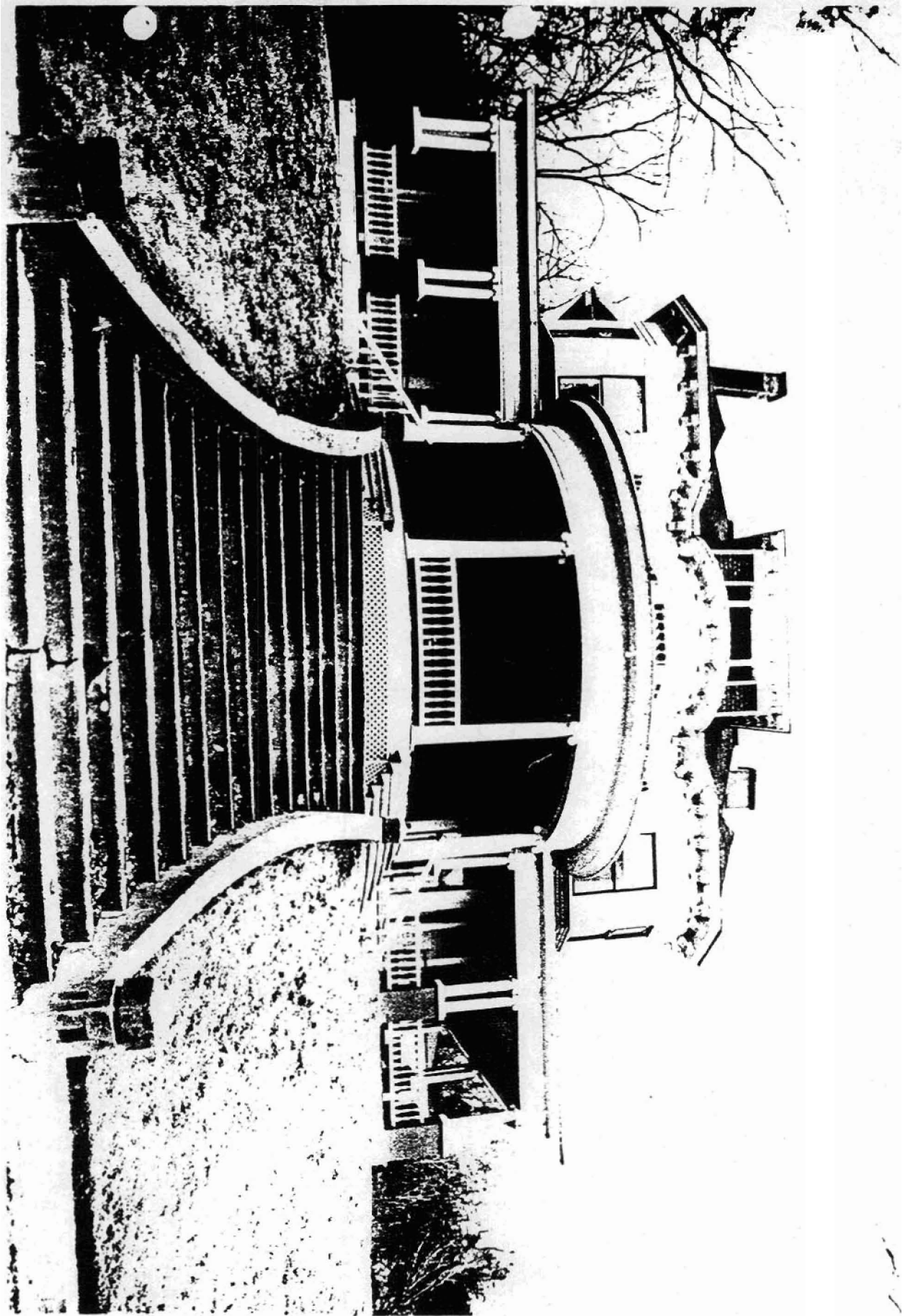
received

date entered

Continuation sheet

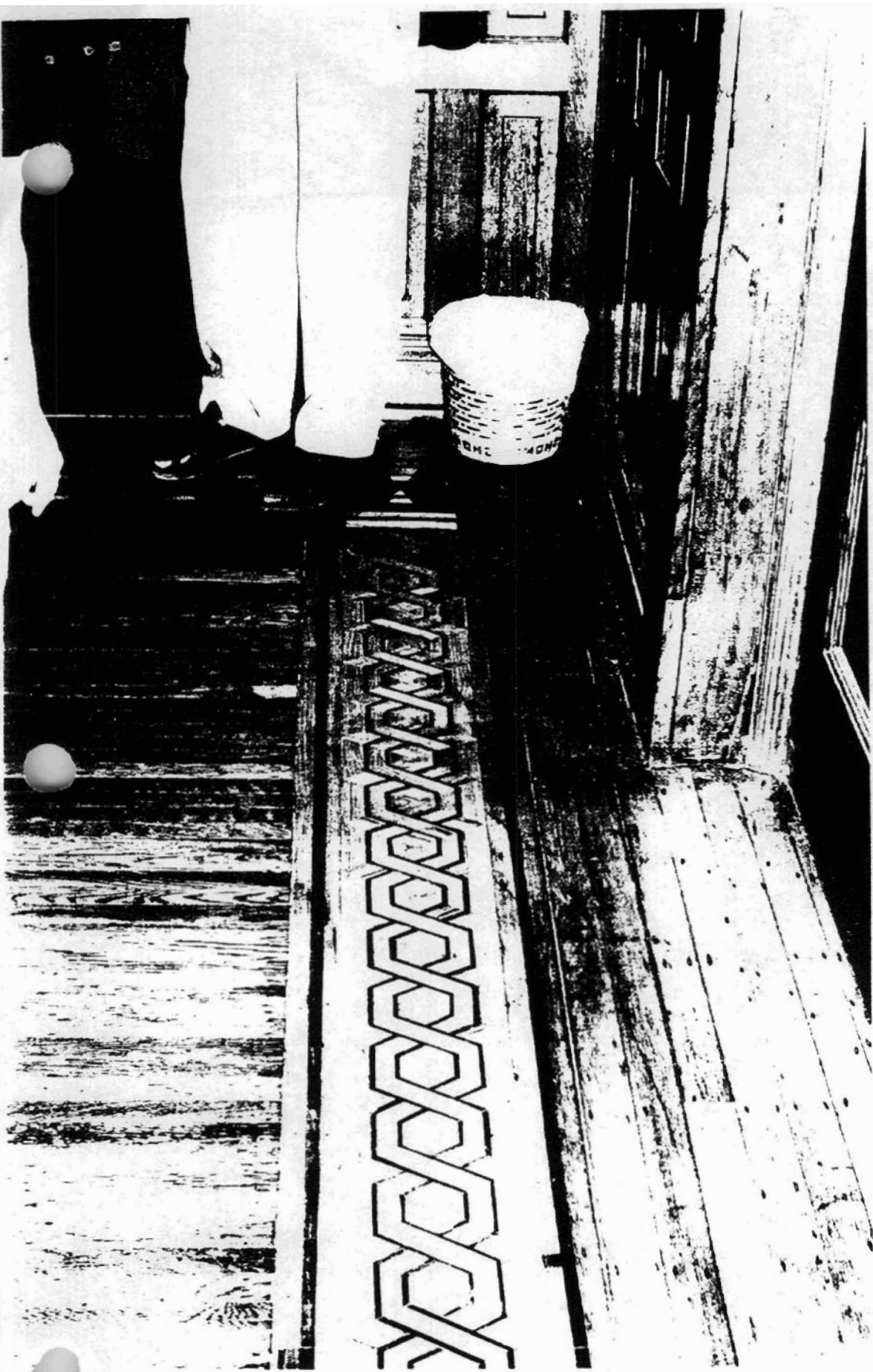
THAT PART OF PRIVATE SURVEY NUMBER 2295, TOWNSHIP TWO (2) SOUTH, RANGE FIVE (5) EAST, IN THE CITY OF HELENA, PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

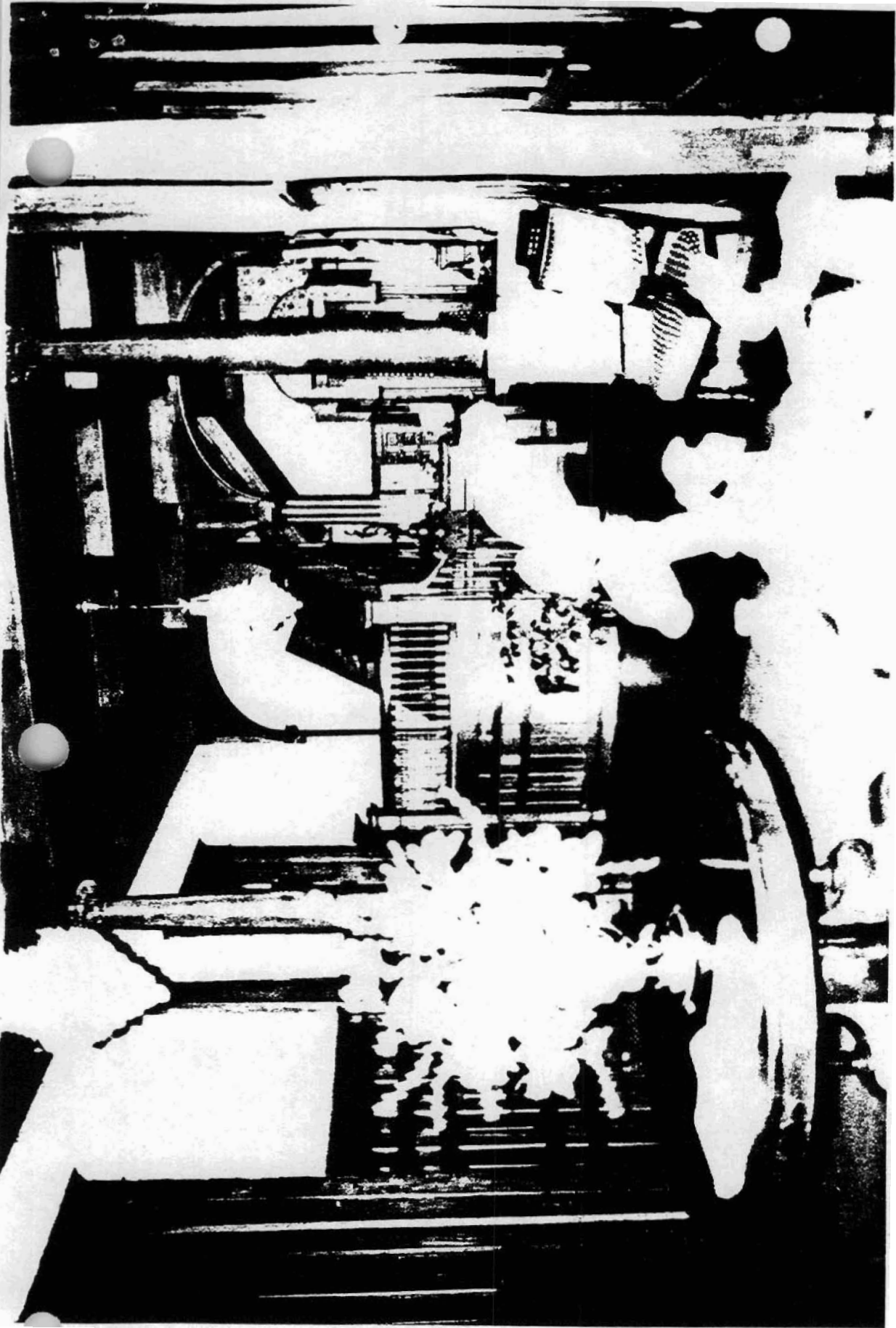
COMMENCING AT THE INTERSECTION OF THE SOUTH LINE OF LOUISIANA STREET WITH THE WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BISCOE STREET (U. S. HIGHWAY 49B), THENCE SOUTH 6 DEGREE WEST 18.25 FEET ALONG THE SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE TO THE NORTH LINE OF A TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO DOROTHY ANTOINETTE PAPA BY WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 485, PAGE 581, OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS, SAID LINE BEING MARKED BY AN OLD WIRE FENCE; THENCE CONTINUE SOUTH 6 DEGREE WEST 92.0 FEET ALONG THE SAID WEST RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF BISCOE STREET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SAID DOROTHY ANTOINETTE PAPA TRACT AND THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING CONTINUE SOUTH 6 DEGREE WEST 111.5 FEET TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF A TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO JOE PAPA AND WIFE BY WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 290, PAGE 506, OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS; THENCE NORTH 84 DEGREE WEST 252.9 FEET ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO JOE PAPA AND WIFE TO THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF A TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO HELENA-WEST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 2 BY WARRANTY DEED RECORDED IN BOOK 379, PAGE 494 OF THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF PHILLIPS COUNTY, ARKANSAS; THENCE NORTH 1 DEGREE 50' WEST 112.6 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID TRACT OF LAND CONVEYED TO HELENA-WEST HELENA SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 2 TO THE SOUTH LINE OF SAID DOROTHY ANTOINETTE PAPA TRACT; THENCE SOUTH 84 DEGREE EAST 268.2 FEET ALONG SAID SOUTH LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

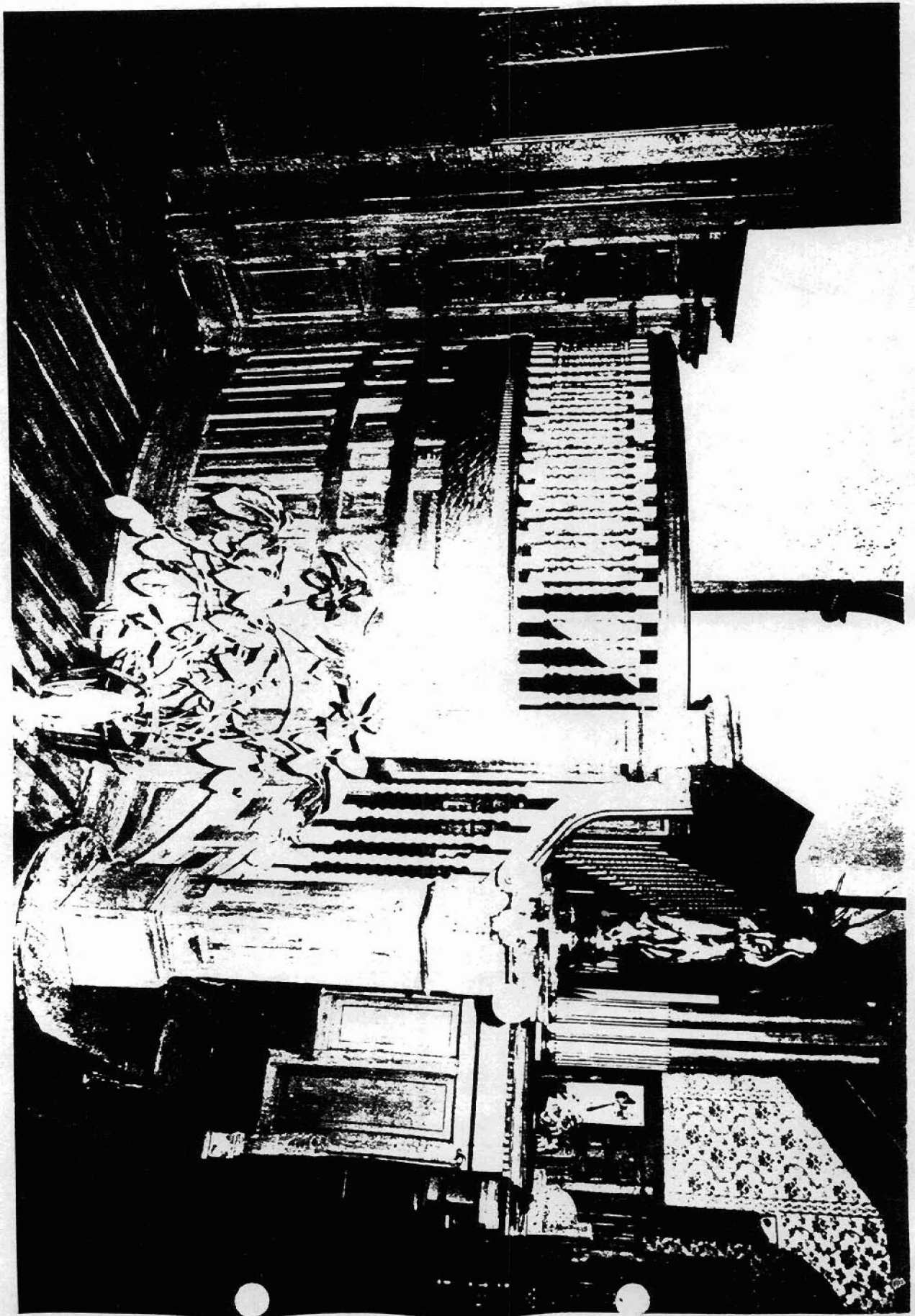


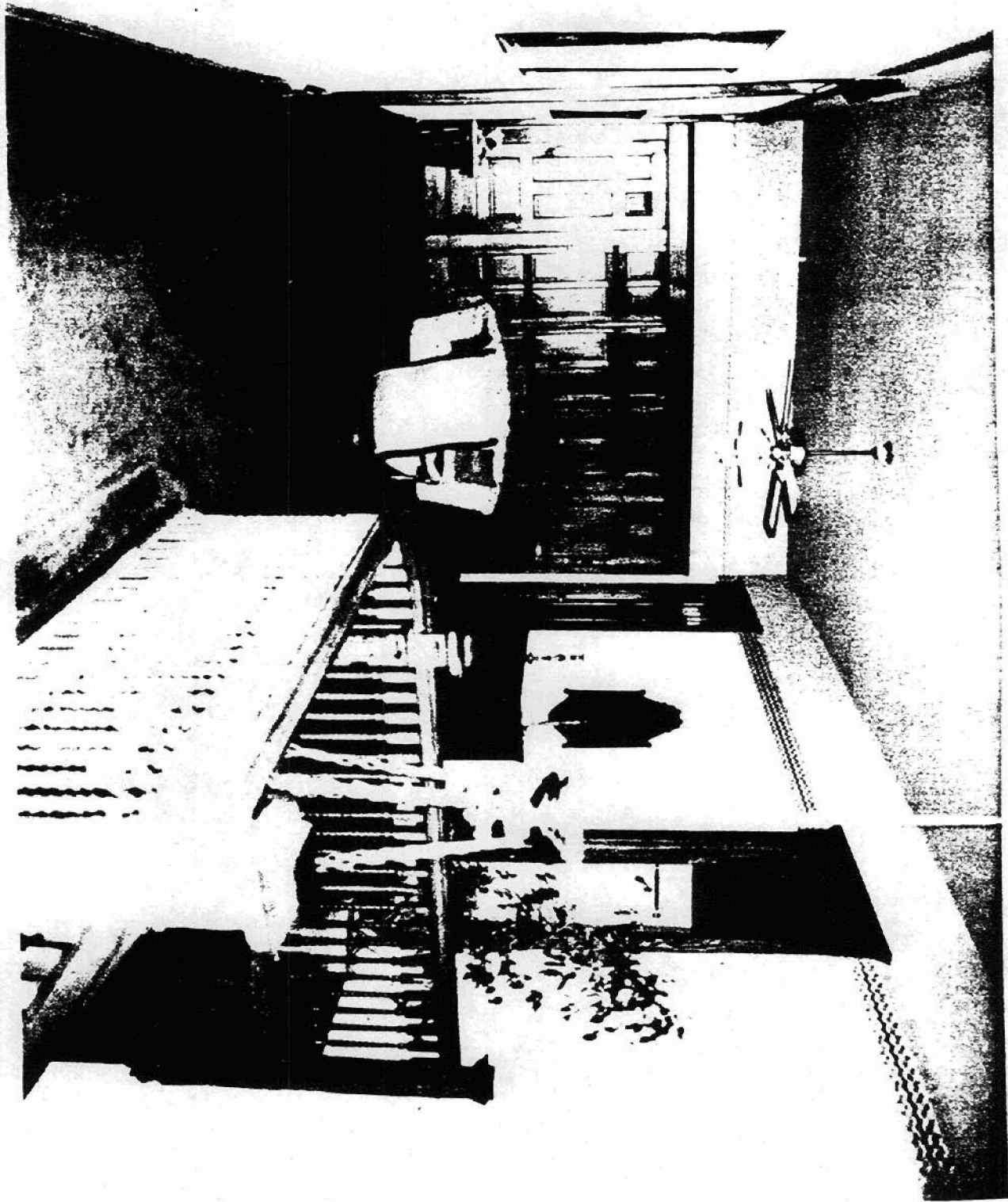


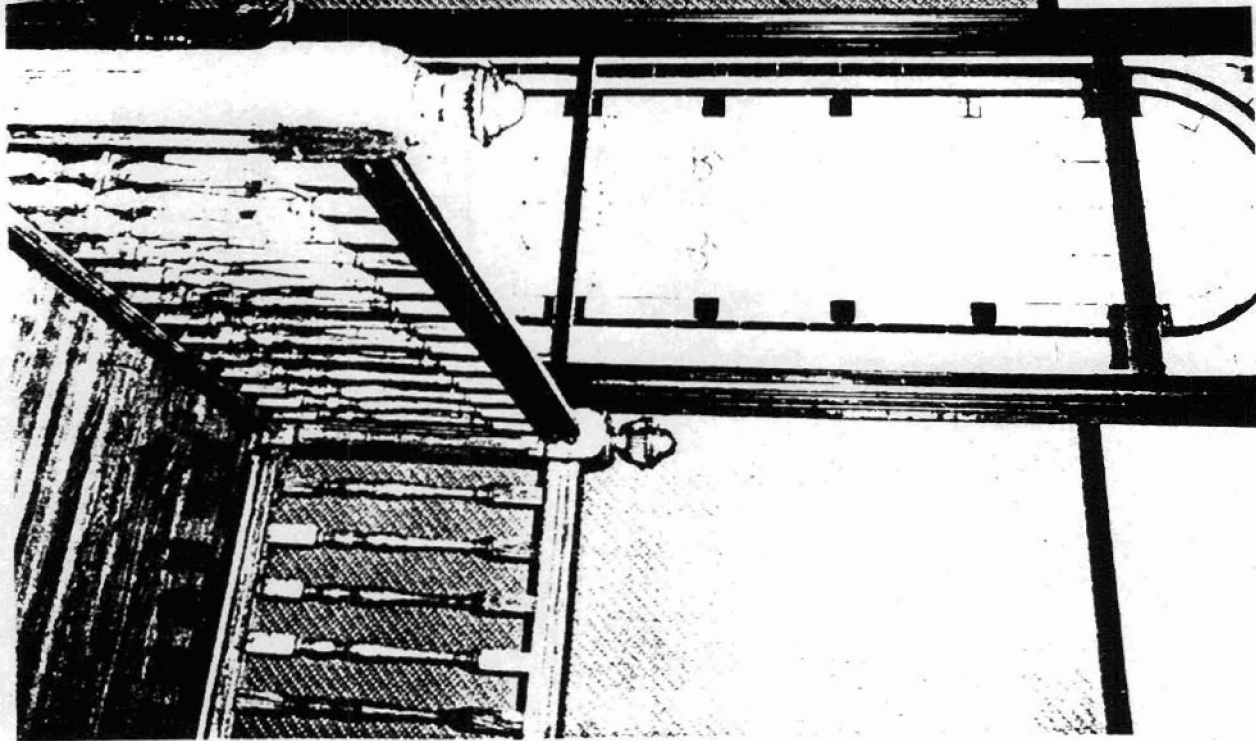
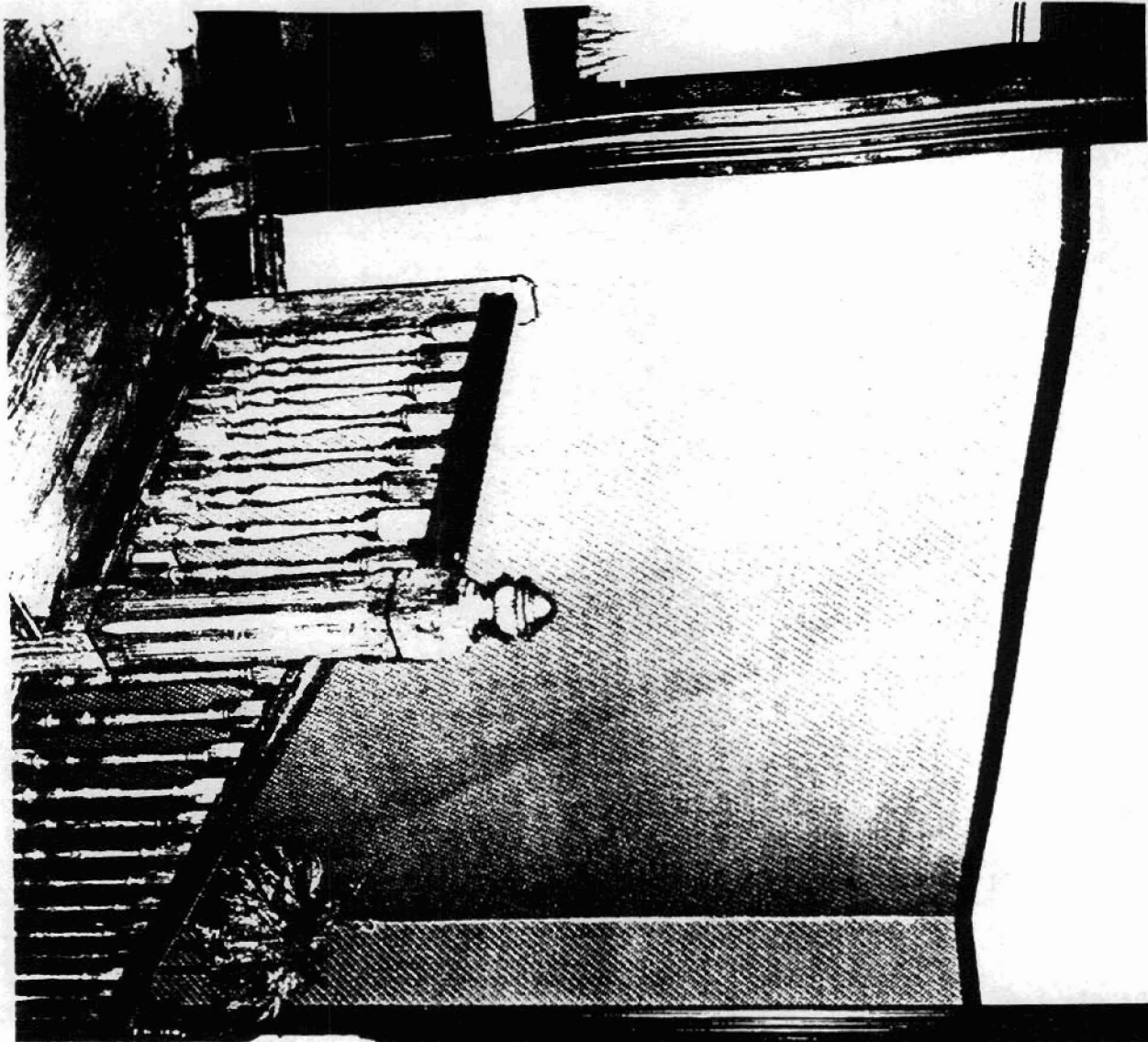




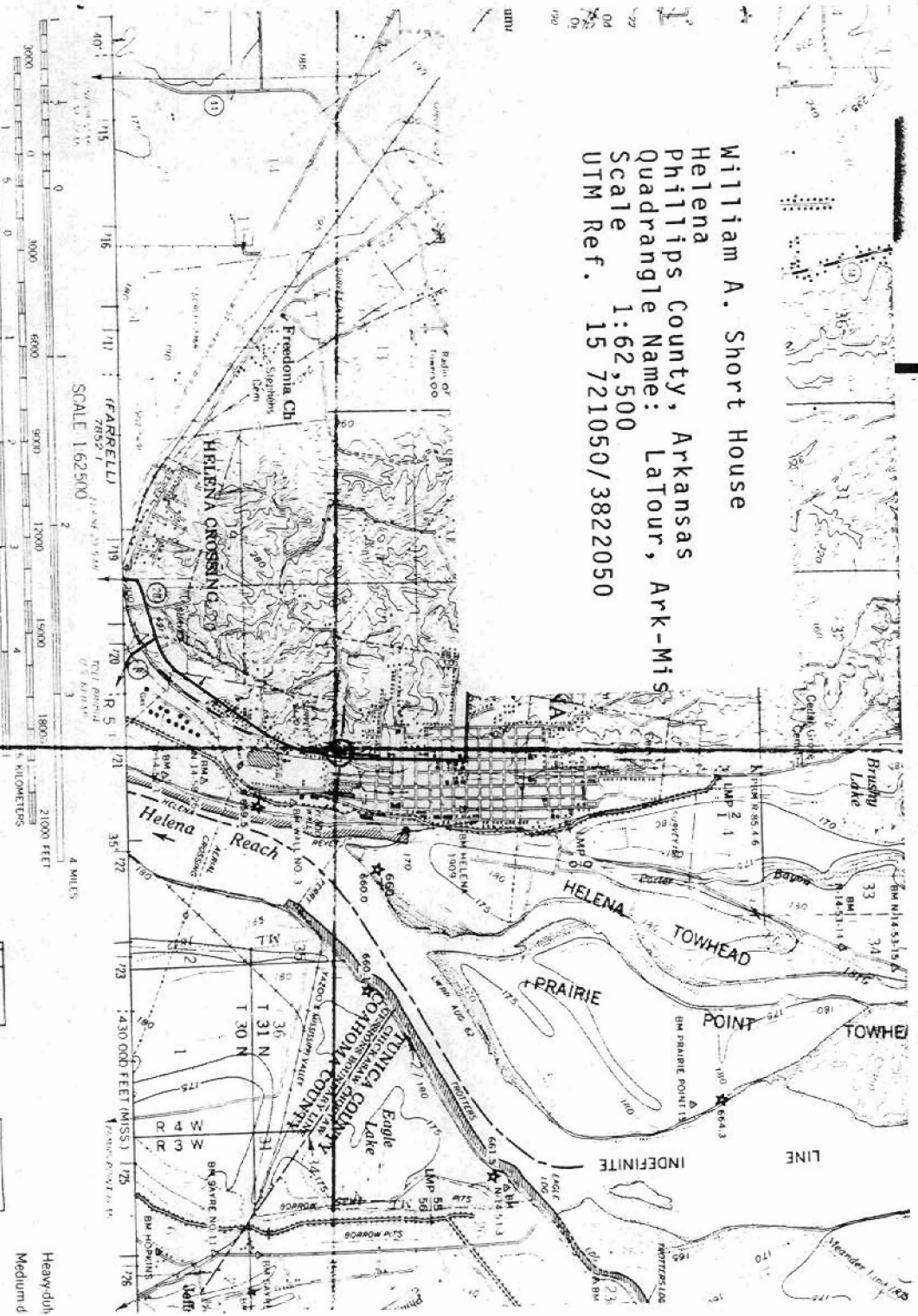






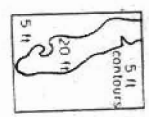


William A. Short House  
 Helena  
 Phillips County, Arkansas  
 Quadrangle Name: Latour, Ark-Miss  
 Scale 1:62,500  
 UTM Ref. 15 721050/3822050



CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 AND 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

SCALE 1:62,500



Heavy-duty  
 Medium-duty

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS.  
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 ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL AND CONSERVATION COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS,  
 AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION, VICKSBURG, MISSISSIPPI  
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