

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bogg Springs Hotel

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: State Highway 84

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Bogg Springs

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Polk code: AR 113 zip code: 71944

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Catherine A. 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

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#### 6. Function or Use

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Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: Hotel

Current: VACANT/NOT IN USE

Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Concrete/stone/wood logs roof Asphalt  
walls Wood/Weatherboard other N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

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: A,C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
HEALTH/MEDICINE  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1904-1943

Significant Dates: 1904-1907

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.

## 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>368660</u>	<u>3799380</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____	_____

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the eastern edge of the associated driveway with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation and located 50 feet to the south thereof, proceed easterly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's eastern elevation; thence 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 along the eastern edge of the associated driveway; thence proceed southerly along said line 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: 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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**Summary**

Located at the end of State Highway 84 in the rural southwest corner of Polk County, the Bogg Springs Hotel is a two-story, wood frame resort hotel designed in the Plain Traditional style. The rectangular plan of the principal structure is augmented only by a single story porch on the front and a single-story kitchen addition on the rear.

**Elaboration**

The Bogg Springs Hotel is a two-story, wood frame resort hotel designed in the Plain Traditional style. The rectangular plan of the principal structure is augmented only by a single story porch on the front and a single-story kitchen addition on the rear, constructed in two distinct sections. Two small brick chimneys rise through the roofline: one near the center of the main, two-story structure, just to the east of the ridge line, and the other adjacent to the eastern or rear wall of the single-story kitchen ell. The walls, weatherboarded throughout, are supported upon piers composed of stone, wood logs and concrete block with the exception of the kitchen ell, which is supported upon a continuous cast concrete foundation. The roof is sheathed with asphalt shingles.

The western or front elevation is ten bays in length and visually dominated by the single-story, flat-roof porch that is placed slightly off-center toward the north. A continuous stone foundation (formerly composed of stone piers and filled-in later) supports the porch deck, which in turn carries seven simple wooden roof posts. The porch is accessed via a single set of concrete steps placed at its southern end. A single double-leaf entry provides access into the entrance hall directly behind. Otherwise both stories of the facade are fenestrated with six-over-six wood sash windows. The eastern elevation opposite is less symmetrical as its fourth bay from the south features a single-leaf entrance on each of its two stories, and the single-story kitchen projects from the wall just to the north of center. The second-story entrance is accessed via an exterior wooden stairway that runs along the wall to the south. The kitchen, covered by a combination hipped/gable roof, is vented by a small, central wooden vent atop the hip intersection. Its northern wall is fenestrated by a single six-over-six wooden sash window, while the shed-roof extension on its southern wall is partially screened and accessed via a single-leaf door. The eastern wall is also accessed via a single-leaf entrance and lit by a small pair of stationary windows in the shed-roof section and a larger wood sash window to the south of the entrance. A large kitchen fan vents the interior to the north.

The northern elevation is composed of two pair of symmetrically-placed windows on the first

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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such rural resort hotels the emphasis was upon clean if simple interior bedrooms that were intended for sleeping and little else. The visitors, who came to this area for the waters, were expected to enjoy both the purported medicinal properties of the springs and the recreational opportunities afforded by the beautiful, unspoiled rural landscape surrounding the resort. Even the common spaces were primarily for eating and nighttime social functions, with the bulk of the guests' free time spent out of doors or in other structures nearby that were devoted to the treatment of certain ailments or the pursuit of specific recreational activities.

Like many such resort communities, the local folklore includes several amusing stories regarding such topics as famous visitors purported to have spent time at Bogg Springs and even criminal activities that occurred nearby, usually in conjunction with moonshining during the Prohibition years. One such story recounts the 1921 killing of a local neer-do-well by a law enforcement officer named John Shorter, who had been deputized by the local sheriff and assigned to chaperone the weekly Wednesday night dance at Bogg Springs, which was often attended by both guests and local residents from the surrounding area (not surprisingly, illegal liquor was frequently smuggled into these events, and thus the need for the active presence of the law). Shorter was set upon by three local ruffians with whom he had exchanged gunshots earlier in the evening when he discovered a cache of moonshine. Shorter shot and killed one of his assailants during the ensuing scuffle and slightly wounded another, though not before he was clubbed about the head and shoulders with a wooden chair. Initially murder charges were filed against Shorter, but they were later dropped. Another local legend maintains that Pretty Boy Floyd stayed at the hotel for a brief period shortly before he was apprehended by the authorities.

The resort enterprise at Bogg Springs suffered the same fate as all others of its ilk. The growing skepticism in America regarding the legitimate medicinal properties of such natural mineral springs and the obsolescence of secluded recreational locations that occurred as a result of the repeal of Prohibition in 1933 doomed the financial viability of such commercial resort communities. Though many local residents -- and occasional tourists -- recall the operation of the resort through the 1930's, its fortunes mirrored those of such other rural Arkansas resort communities as Bella Vista and Monte Ne, both of which fell on hard times by the end of the 1930's, a situation that only worsened after the end of World War II. The resort fell into disuse thereafter, and was finally bought by the American Baptist Convention in 1962 for use as a religious campground, a function that it continues to serve today.

Though of simple and functional design, the Bogg Springs Hotel remains the only standing structure with sufficient physical integrity to retain its visual association with the historic Bogg Springs resort community of the early twentieth century. As such it is eligible under Criterion A with local significance. It is also eligible under Criterion C due to its historical importance

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as one of the few known surviving examples in Arkansas of the architecture of one of the rural resort communities found literally throughout the state during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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floor and two single windows above that flank a central, double-leaf entrance to the second floor. The entrance is accessed via a wooden stair that runs along the wall to the east. The southern elevation is composed of three window bays on each floor, each containing a single window, and placed in a roughly-symmetrical pattern.

The significant exterior details are limited to the exposed rafters running beneath the projecting cornice, the panelled wood front doors with half-lights and a two pane transom, and the six-over-six wood sash windows.

The interior, though always simple, remains intact. The horizontal wood plank walls survive throughout the entrance and lobby areas behind the front entrance doors, as they do throughout the original dining room to the north, the utility and storage rooms to the south, and the hallways and bedrooms upstairs.

The alterations to the building are limited to the filling of the openings between the original front porch piers, the addition of some bathroom and shower spaces inside, and the historic addition of the kitchen to the rear. Though somewhat deteriorated, the building is stable and in good condition.

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**Summary**

Criteria A and C, local significance

The Bogg Springs Hotel is locally significant under Criteria A and C through its status as both the last surviving structure from the Bogg Springs resort community with any degree of physical integrity and the last known surviving resort hotel building in all of Polk County. Though simply designed inside and out, the Bogg Springs Hotel appears much as it looked when constructed 1904-07, and is in good condition.

**Elaboration**

The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries witnessed the heyday of the commercial development of the resort industry in the United States. Though it was a movement of virtually national proportions, such development concentrated in the mountainous regions of the country, largely due to the tendency for such areas to offer such natural sources of water as streams, lakes, pools, rivers, and especially springs containing a high mineral content that were often purported to possess healing powers, both scientifically-documented and magical. The states of Maine, Vermont, New York, Colorado, West Virginia, California and Arkansas enjoyed the largest growth of this industry. The rural locations of these waters also offered an escape for urban residents. Though large resort facilities and communities sprang up as part of the commercialization of these sites, virtually all were encircled by such rustic surroundings as mountains, forests, streams and lakes, and thus could also draw visitors through the additional recreational opportunities afforded thereby.

The first recorded European settlement around the abundant natural springs that would become known as Bogg Springs occurred in 1888 as a local manifestation of this nationwide phenomenon. A Captain Smith built the first hotel near the springs in that year to accommodate the visitors already making the journey to partake thereof. Smith later replaced that first structure with a larger hotel building (according to local residents, the foundations of these first two hotels are visible above-ground, and both sites are within a mile of the extant structure). According to one source, just after the turn of the century a Mr. Jones purchased the property from Smith and built the existing structure on a site closest to several of the springs. The community of Bogg Springs grew around this structure with the construction of a number of individual cottages and homes built by people who came to the springs regularly (though a few of these smaller buildings survive, most have been severely altered over the years and are no longer eligible for listing on the National Register).

Construction on the Bogg Springs Hotel was begun in 1904 and completed by 1907. Like many

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**Bibliography**

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"John Shorter Suffering, But Expected In Mena," *Mena Star*, August 19, 1921.

Lane, Inez, "Springs," *The Looking Glass*, Vol. 1, No. 15, July 10, 1975, p. 14.

"Officer Won In Battle For Life At Bog Springs," *Mena Star*, August 18, 1921.

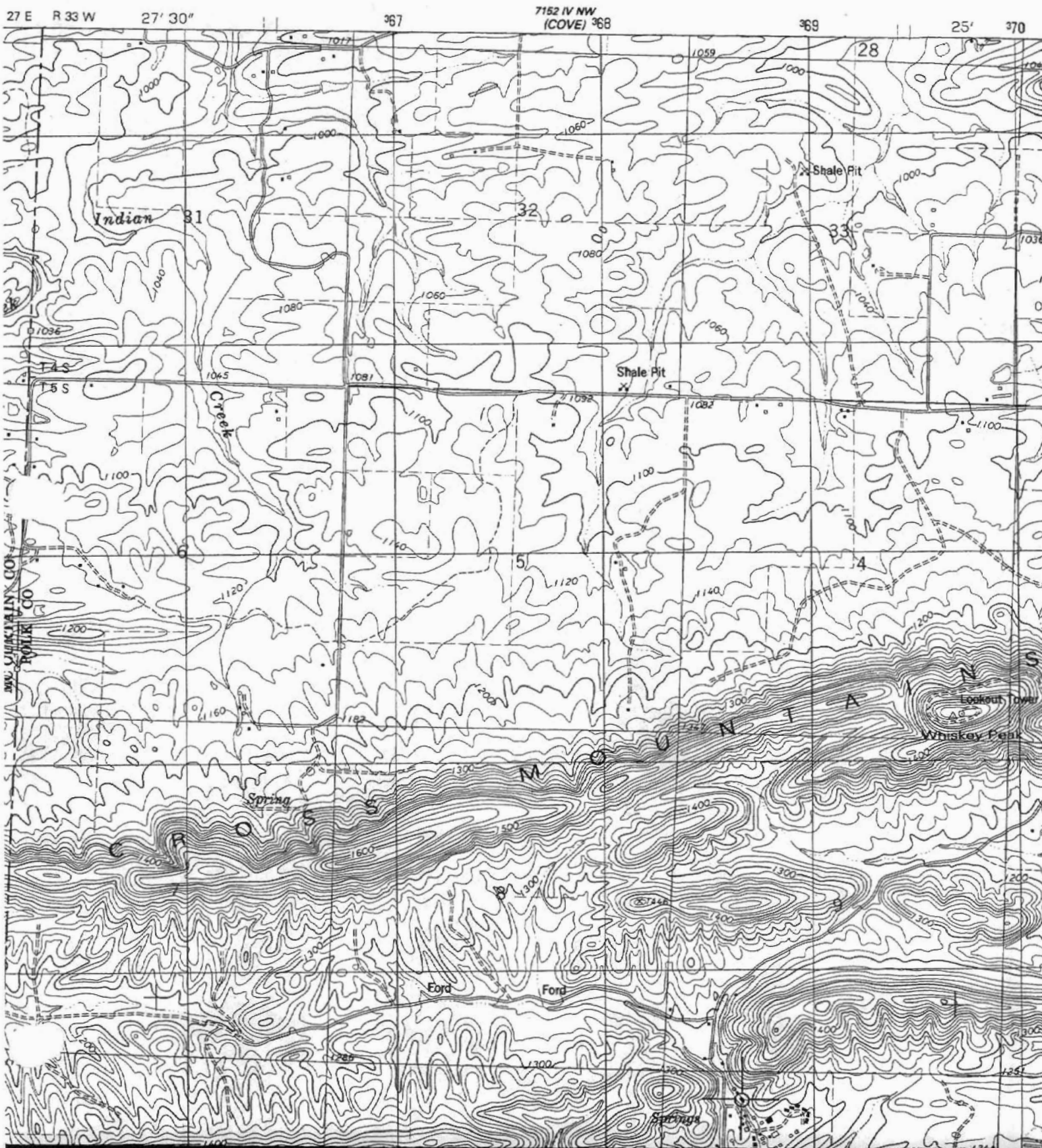
Rutherford, Bob, "Bogg Springs Baptist Encampment," *Rural Arkansas*, August, 1991, pg. 13.

"Shorter Freed of Murder Charge," *Mena Star*, August 20, 1921.

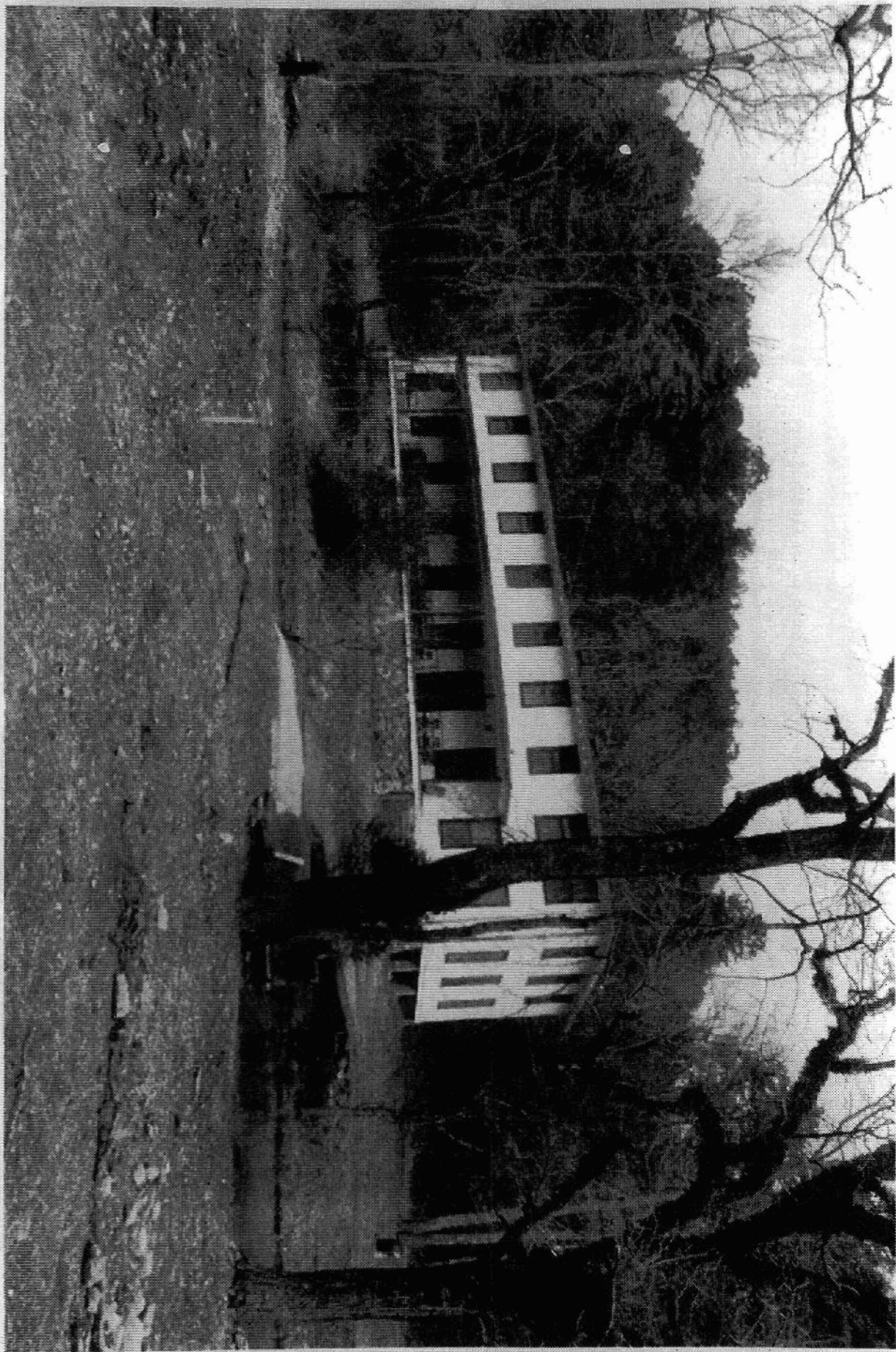




BOGG SPRINGS HOTEL  
BOGG SPRINGS, POLK CO, ARKANSAS  
15/36260/5277320

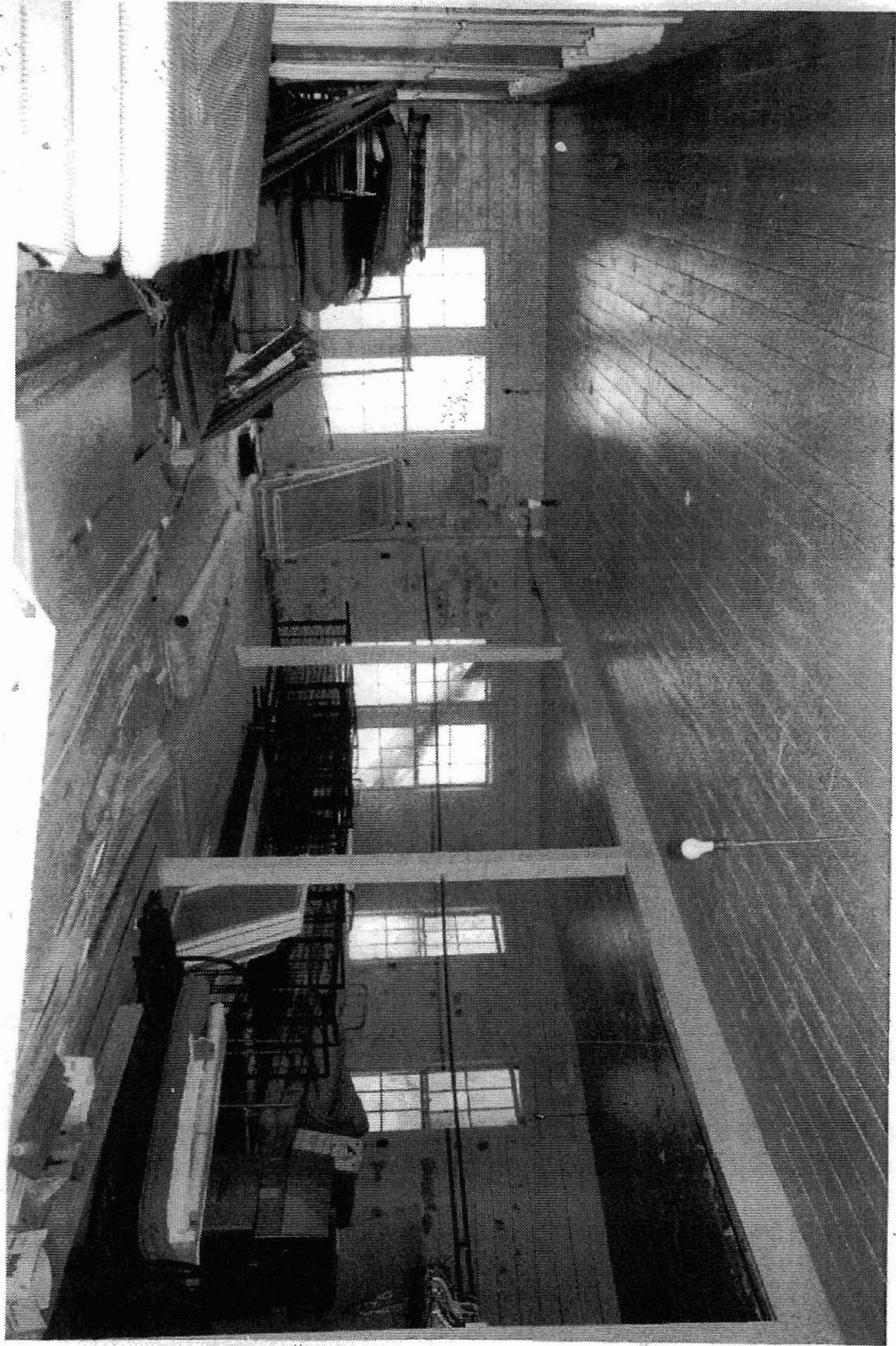






Egg Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by M. Christ  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from Southwest





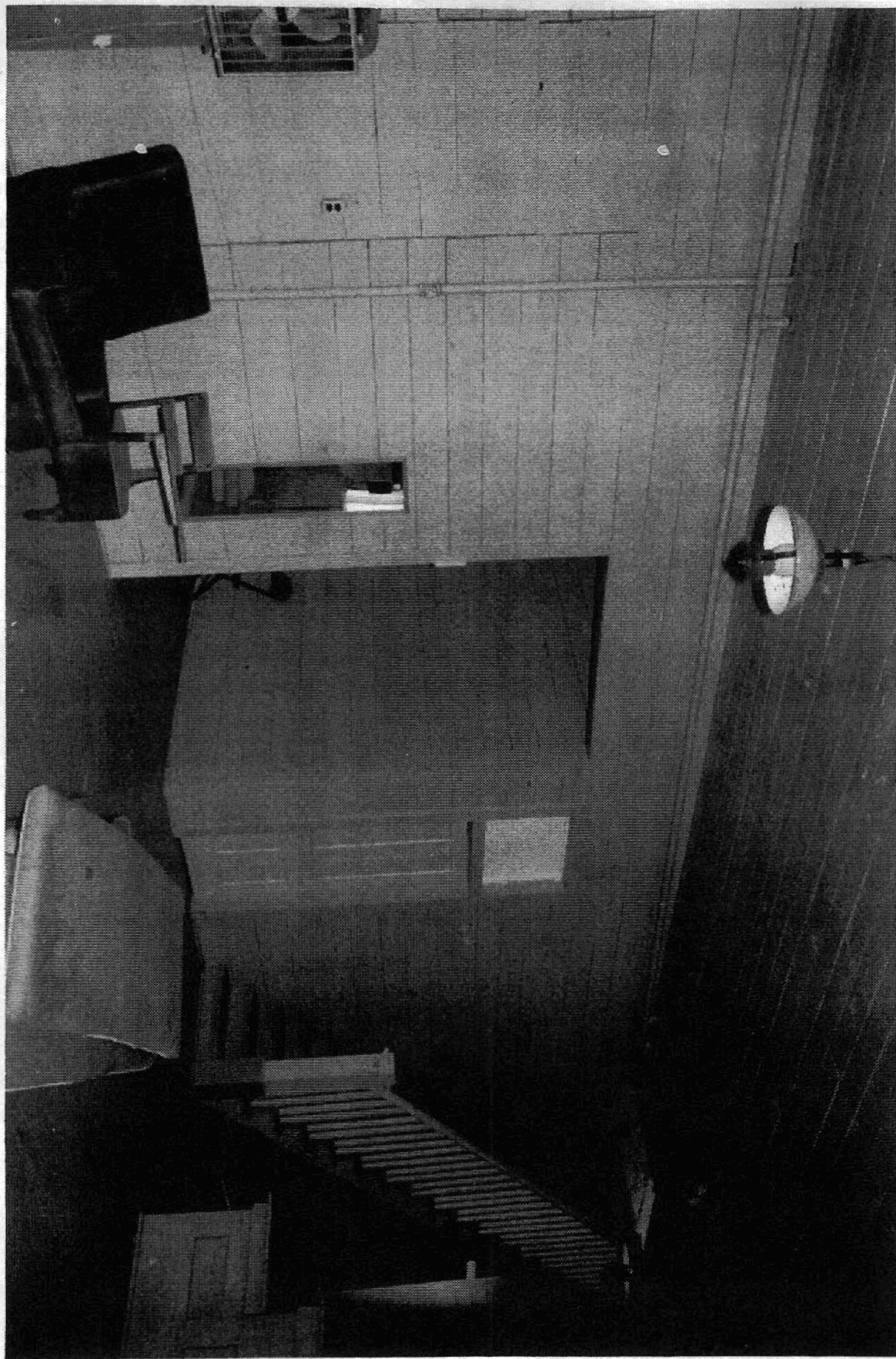
Boggy Springs, Polk County, Arkansas

Photo by K. Story

Photographed 3-17-93

Negative on file at AHPP

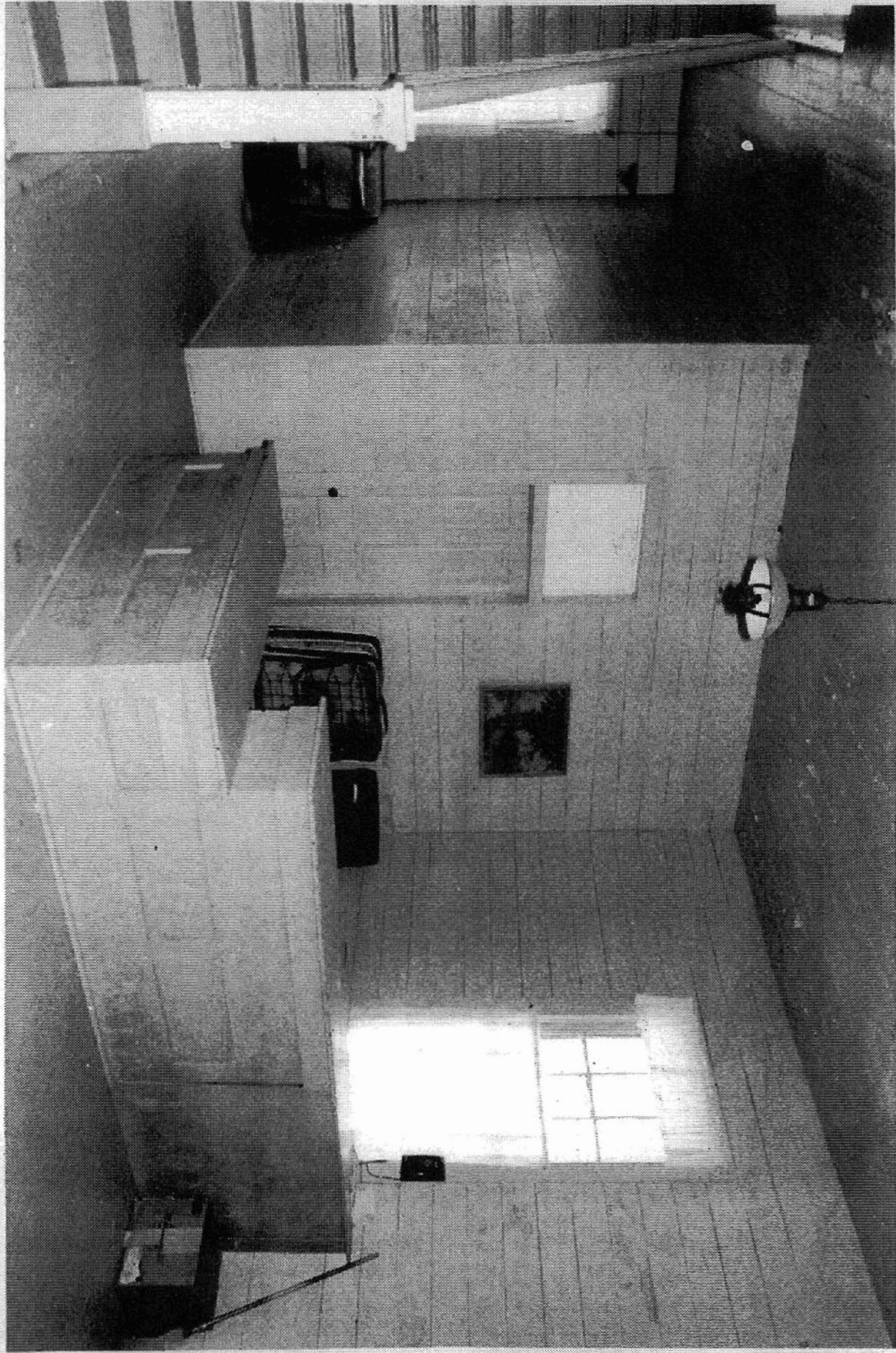
View of downstairs room at north end of building





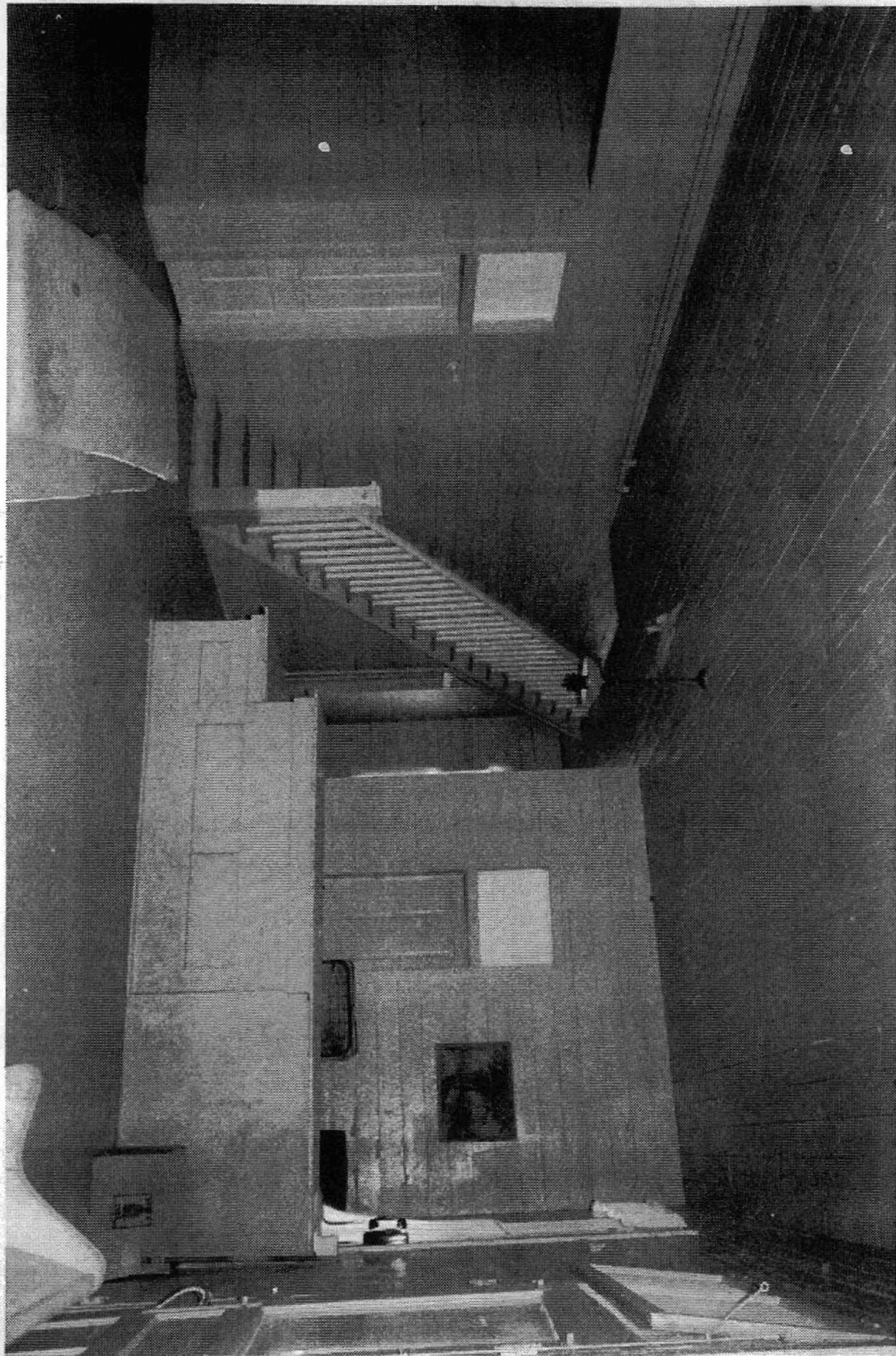
Boys Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by K. Story  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Detail of lobby





Boggs Springs Resort Hotel  
Boggs Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by K. Story  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Lobby detail

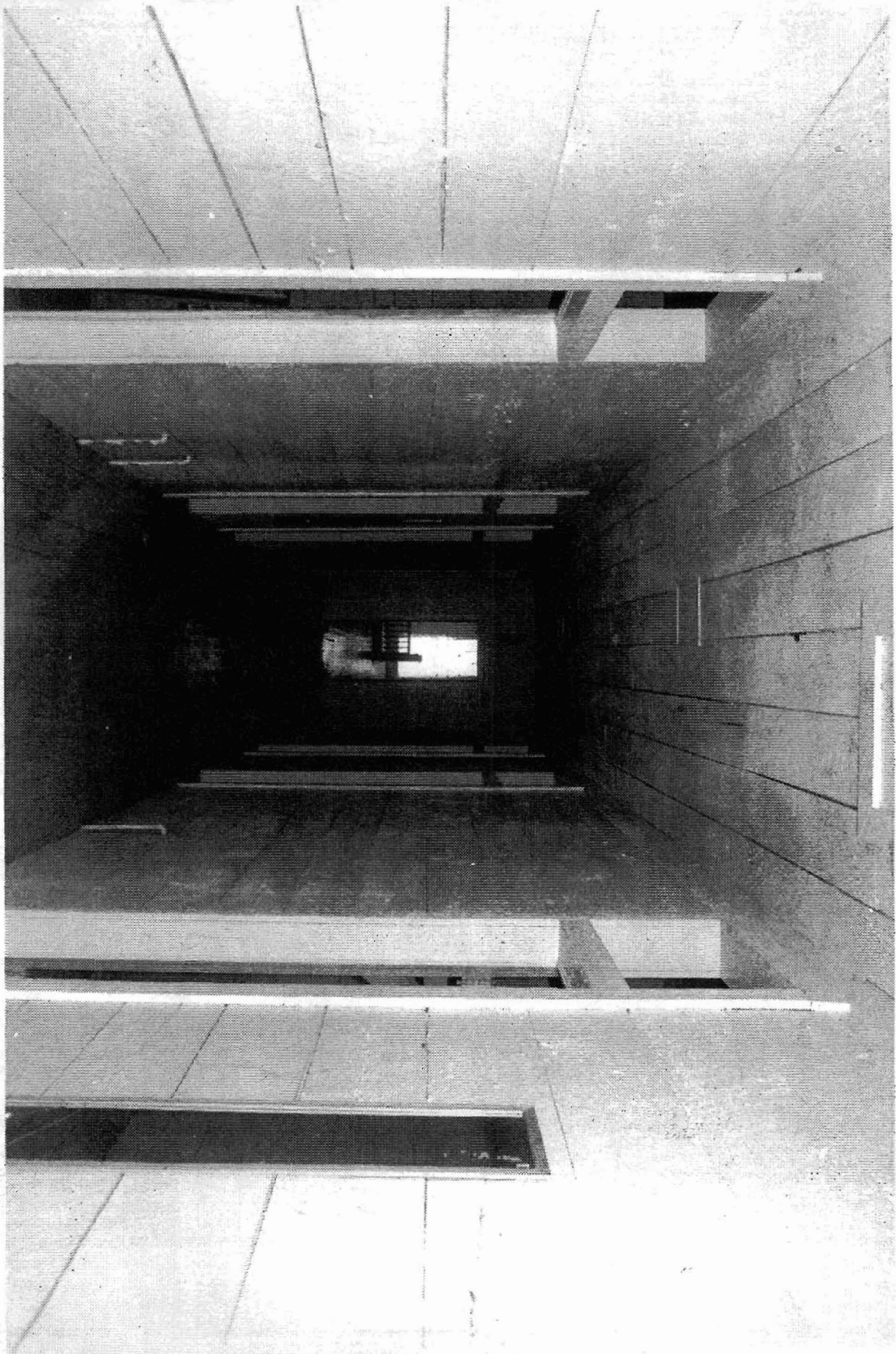




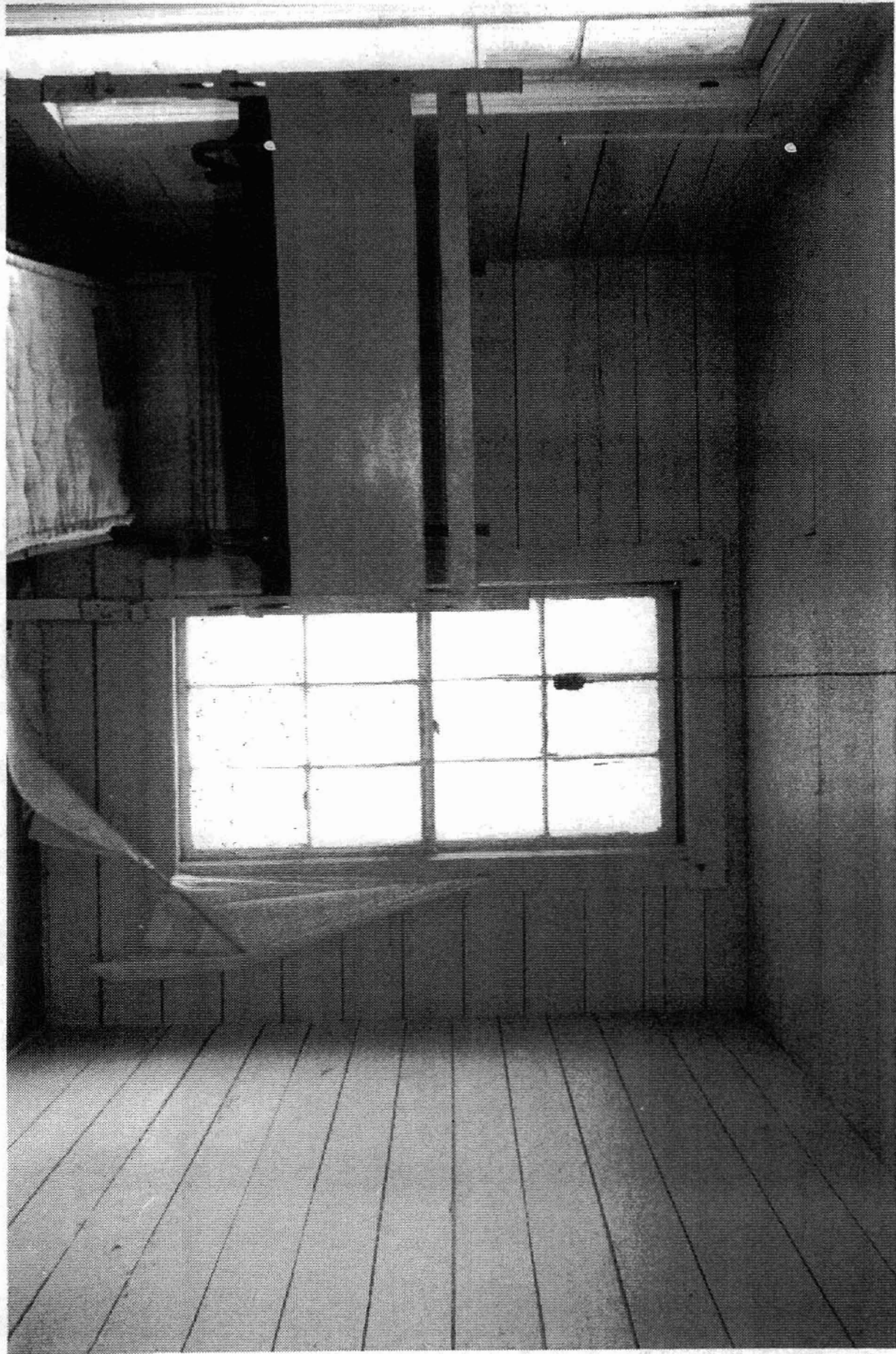
Berry Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by K. Story  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Lobby detail

Boys Springs Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by K. Story  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Lobby detail



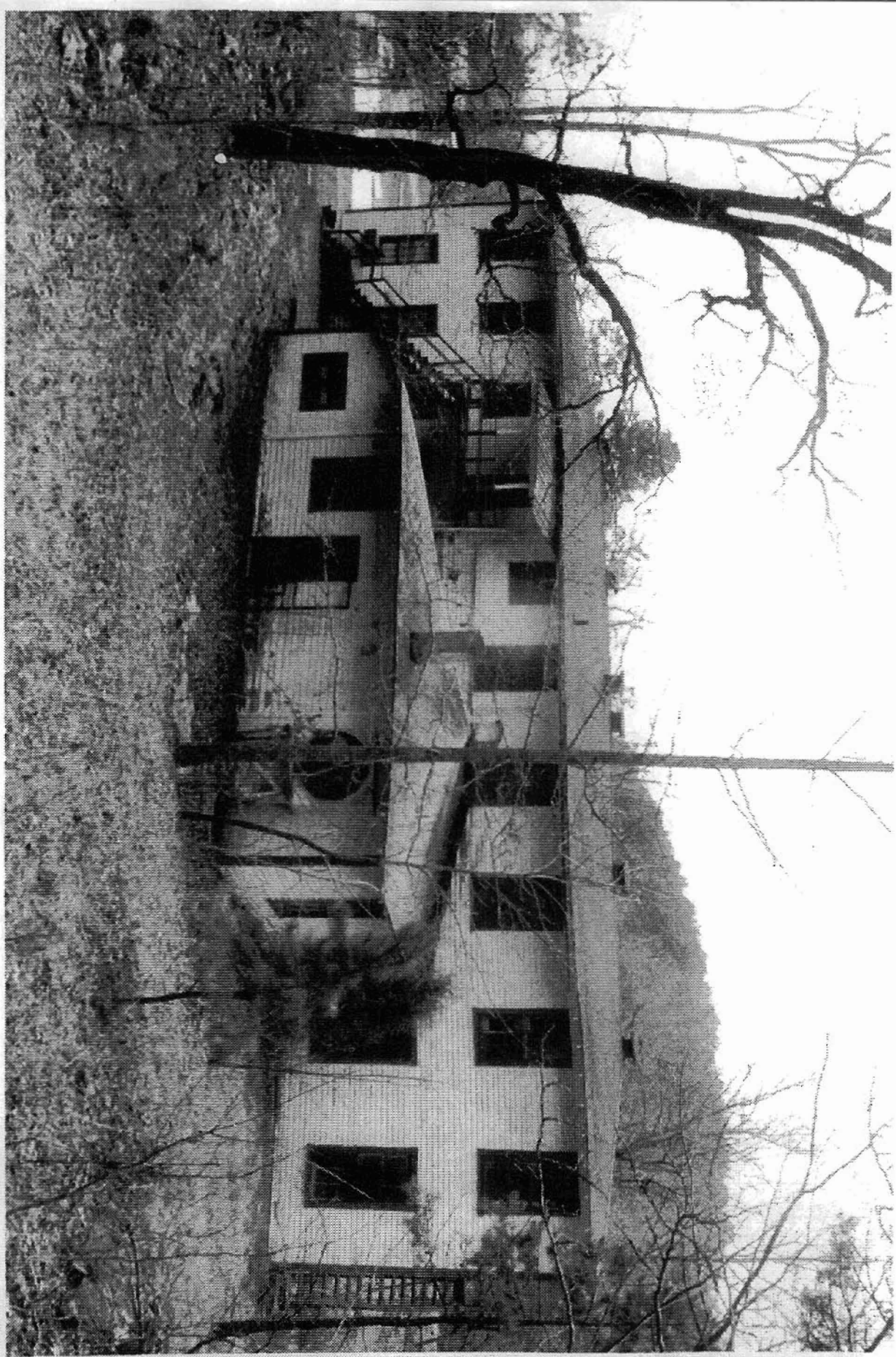


Bagg Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by K. Story  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Upstairs hallway detail





Boggs Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by M. Christ  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Upstairs room detail

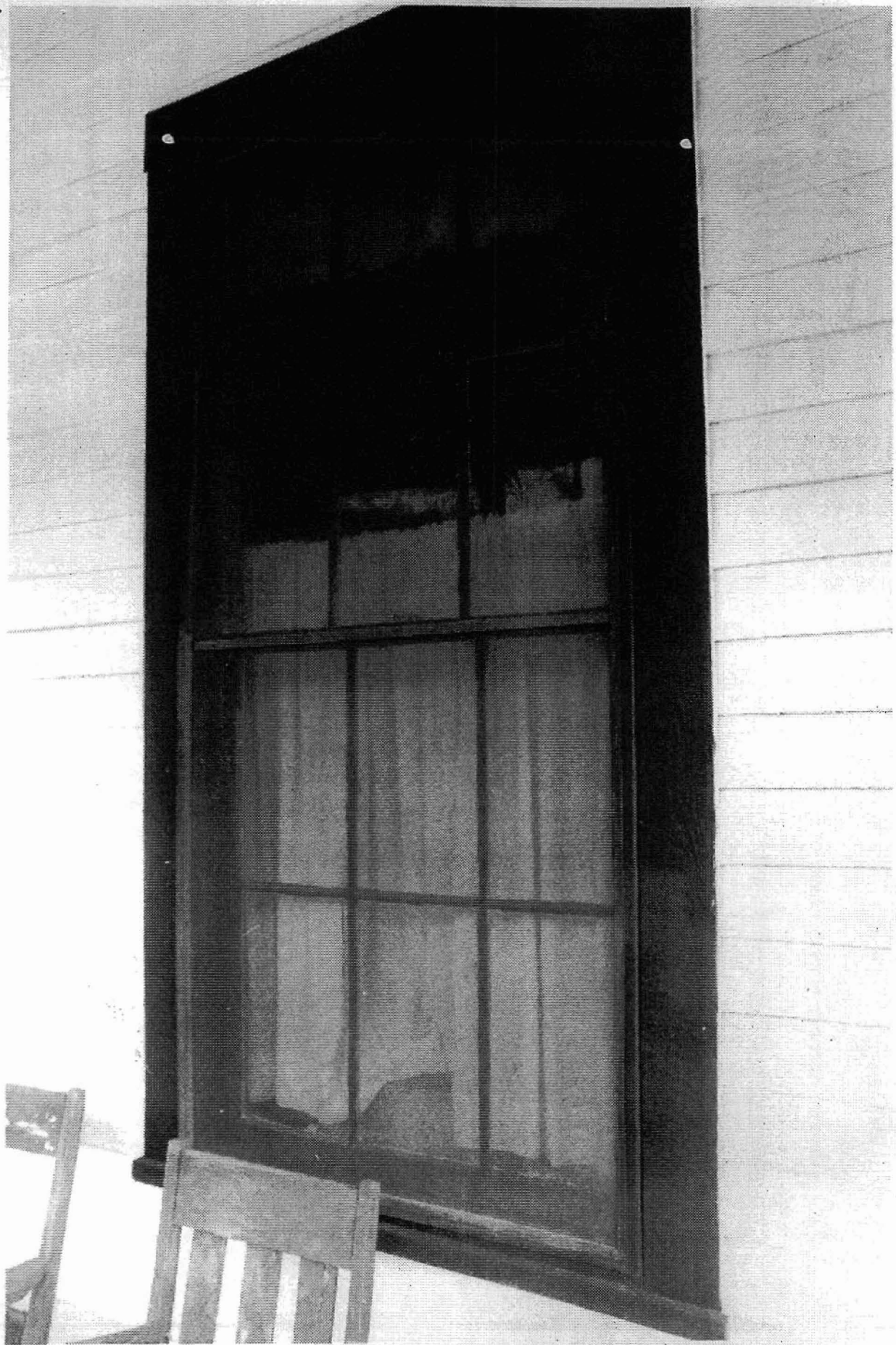


Boggy Springs, Polk Co., A. Kansas  
Photo by M. Christ  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from northeast



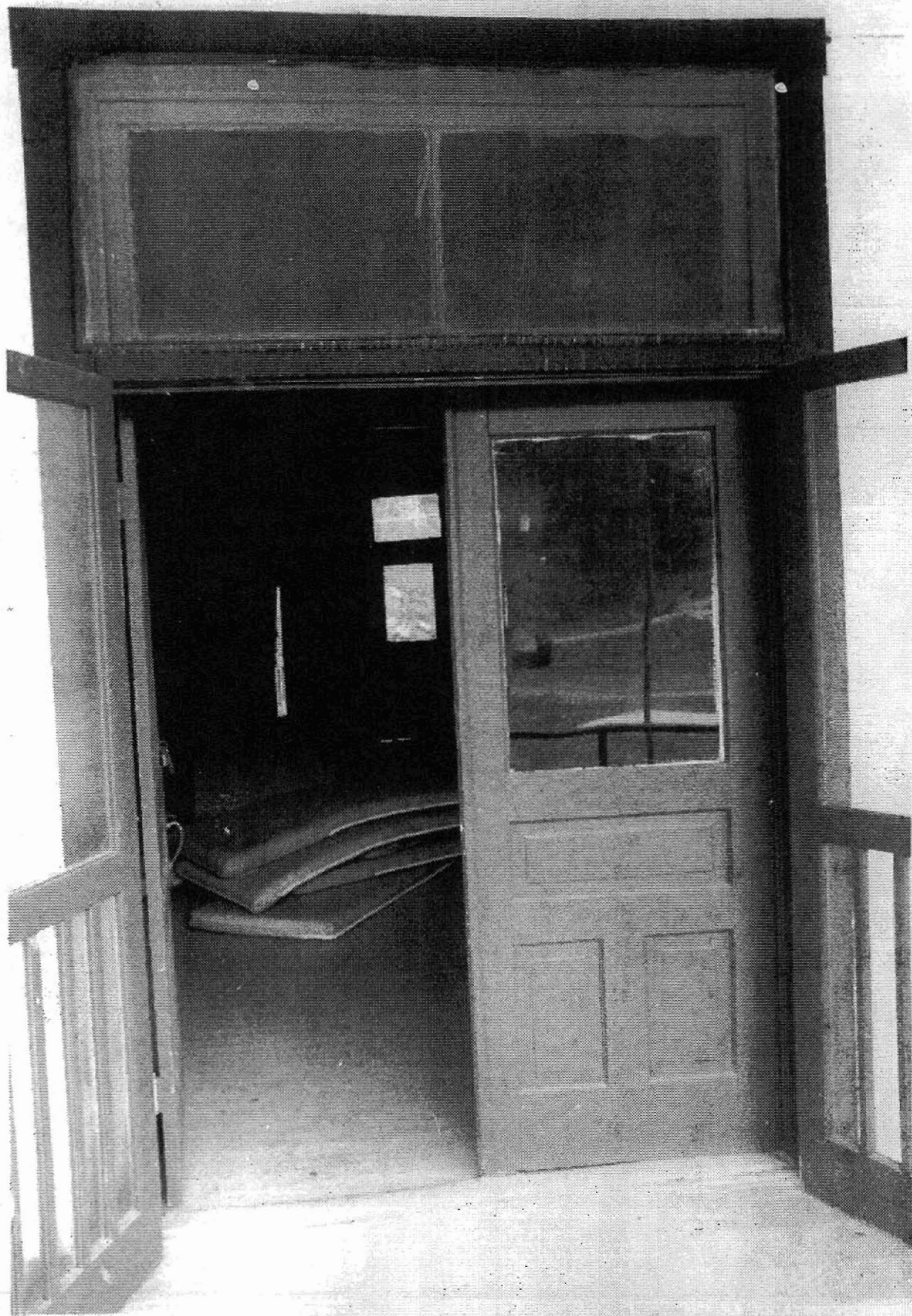


Cogg Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by M. Christ  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Detail of Support Piers





Cogg Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by M. Christ  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Window detail





Boggy Springs ~~Resort~~ Hotel  
Boggy Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by M. Christ  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
Front door detail



Boggy Springs, Polk County, Arkansas  
Photo by M. Christ  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from North





Bogg Springs ~~Resort~~ Hotel  
Bogg Springs, Polk Co., Arkansas  
Photo by M. Christ  
Photographed 3-17-93  
Negative on file at AHPP  
View from South