

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name National Guard Armory

other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street &amp; number DeQueen and Maple Streets

☐ not for publication N/A

city, town Mena

☐ vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Polk

code AR 113

zip code 71953

## 3. Classification

## Ownership of Property

- ☒ private  
☐ public-local  
☐ public-State  
☐ public-Federal

## Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)  
☐ district  
☐ site  
☐ structure  
☐ object

## Number of Resources within Property

## Contributing

1  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1

## Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
0  
Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register N/A

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  
☒ 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 ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

Date

4-29-91

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 the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Defense/Armory

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture/Gymnasium**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Fieldstone

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concretewalls Stoneroof Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1930-31

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Kyle, Derwood F.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

☒ See continuation sheet

### Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of property Less than one

### UTM References

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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☐ See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description** Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the western edge of DeQueen Street with the southern edge of Maple Street, proceed westerly along latter edge to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the buildings western elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the building's southern elevation; thence proceed easterly along said line to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the western edge of DeQueen Street; thence proceed northerly along ☐ See continuation sheet said line to the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

☐ See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian / Shirley Gooden, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 4/10/91

street & number 225 East Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501) 324-9346

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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## Summary

The National Guard Armory, constructed 1930-31 and located at the southwest corner of DeQueen and Maple Streets, is a fieldstone and concrete masonry armory building consisting of a large, single story function area to the west and a smaller, two story office section to the east. It is designed in a rough, local stone masonry tradition common to the mountainous regions of the state.

## Elaboration

The National Guard Armory, constructed 1930-31 and located at the southwest corner of DeQueen and Maple Streets, is a fieldstone and concrete masonry armory building consisting of a large, single story function area to the west and a smaller, two story office section to the east. It is designed in a rough, local stone masonry tradition common to the mountainous regions of the state. Its plan is basically rectangular, with the two story front section projecting slightly beyond the northern and southern walls of the auditorium to the west. Two brick chimneys rise from the southern slope of the auditorium's gambrel roof, one to the west and the other abutting the rear of the two-story section to the east. Asphalt shingles cover the gambrel roof, while a built-up tar roof covers the flat roof behind the stone and concrete castellated parapet. The walls are faced with random fieldstone and the structure rests upon a continuous concrete foundation.

The eastern or front elevation is composed of four paired window bays placed symmetrically around a projecting central entrance bay. The entrance bay is accessed through a central, double-leaf door set into an opening faced with brick arranged in corbels that recede from the wall. Above the door, a pair of six-over-six wood sash windows light the rooms behind, and a concrete sign that reads "National Guard Armory" finishes the elevation. Two concrete buttresses flank the entrance, windows and sign. The walls to either side are lighted with pairs of six-over-six wood sash windows on both floors that are divided by tall, thin stone buttresses.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical. Each consists of nine bays, with the two eastern bays containing six-over-six wood sash windows and the seven bays to the west being separated by tall, thin buttresses. The only difference between the two elevations is that while the western bay of the southern elevation features the same pair of six-over-six wood sash windows seen elsewhere in the auditorium walls, the western bay on the northern elevation is accessed via a large, overhead rolling garage door.

The western elevation is blank with the exception of four, symmetrically-placed triple-hung wood sash windows.

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There are few significant exterior details of note. The castellated parapet, the brick facing around the door and window openings and the decorative buttresses along the walls provide the only relief from the rustic aspect of the random fieldstone walls.

The interior of the armory is of the simplicity and functionality typical of such structures. The entrance foyer or vestibule contains a pair of fifteen-pane doors that lead into the auditorium behind and a quarter-turn wood staircase with a turned wood balustrade. The auditorium is floored with wood strip flooring and covered with an open, metal truss ceiling.

There have been virtually no alterations to the National Guard Armory and it is in good condition.

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## Summary

## Criterion C, local significance

The National Guard Armory is eligible under Criterion C with local significance as the best example in Mena of the rough, fieldstone masonry construction tradition that is commonly found in the mountainous regions of northern and western Arkansas and that continues to influence new construction in those areas today.

## Elaboration

As was the case with a number of relatively isolated, small Arkansas towns that were settled in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the western Arkansas railroad community of Mena could boast of several official and semi-official military organizations that were organized primarily to preserve local community. Such organizations as the "Home Guards" drilled regularly and were occasionally called into service. By 1921, the first Mena National Guard Unit was federally recognized as Battery D, 142nd Field Artillery, part of the Fifth Arkansas Infantry. They trained at Camp Pike in North Little Rock that summer, and earned some distinction there in spite of their "youth."

It was not until 1931 that they obtained a facility of their own in Mena, however. In 1930 the state of Arkansas (under which all state National Guard units were organized) agreed to finance the greater part of the construction cost of a new armory building in downtown Mena and let the contract for its construction. Derwood F. Kyle of Pine Bluff was the architect of the new building, and Walter Vernon of Fort Smith served as the contractor. The total cost of the site and the building came to \$24,000, and the building measured 70' by 125'. The building was designed not only to serve the National Guard unit and provide a storage facility for their ordinance, but also as a community and recreational center with rest rooms.

The National Guard Armory in Mena is unique architecturally due to its employment of the native Arkansas stone masonry tradition in service to what is essentially an Art Deco armory building, similar in all other respects to a number of other armories constructed around the state during this period. Though always of masonry construction, other Art Deco armories are virtually always of a buff-colored brick and ornamented with the stylized, geometric detail typical of the Art Deco. The Mena armory, on the other hand, due to its reliance solely upon the texture and random linearity of the fieldstone for its ornament, exploits thereby the medieval aspect lent the design by the castellated parapet and the wall buttresses. The end result is an armory that, though not nearly as architecturally-sophisticated as the fancier, more erudite Art Deco designs elsewhere in the state, presents a far more formidable and permanent aspect to the viewer.

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The National Guard Armory in Mena stands as the finest example locally of construction in the native fieldstone masonry tradition indigenous to the mountainous regions of the state since the first European settlement began in the northern and western sections of the state. Furthermore, it is a remarkably successful rendering of a modern and popular architectural style in this vernacular construction technique. It is thus being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

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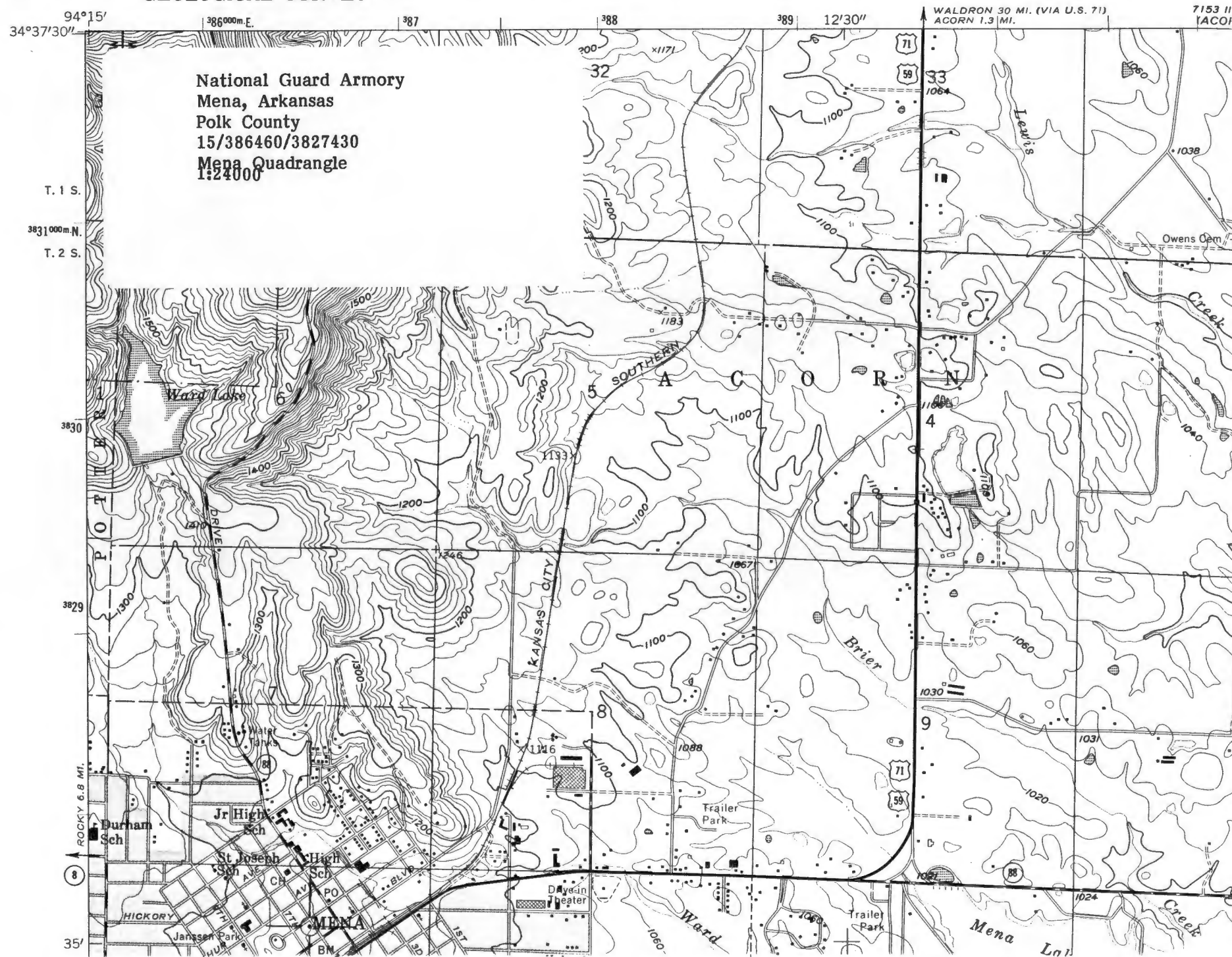
**Bibliography**

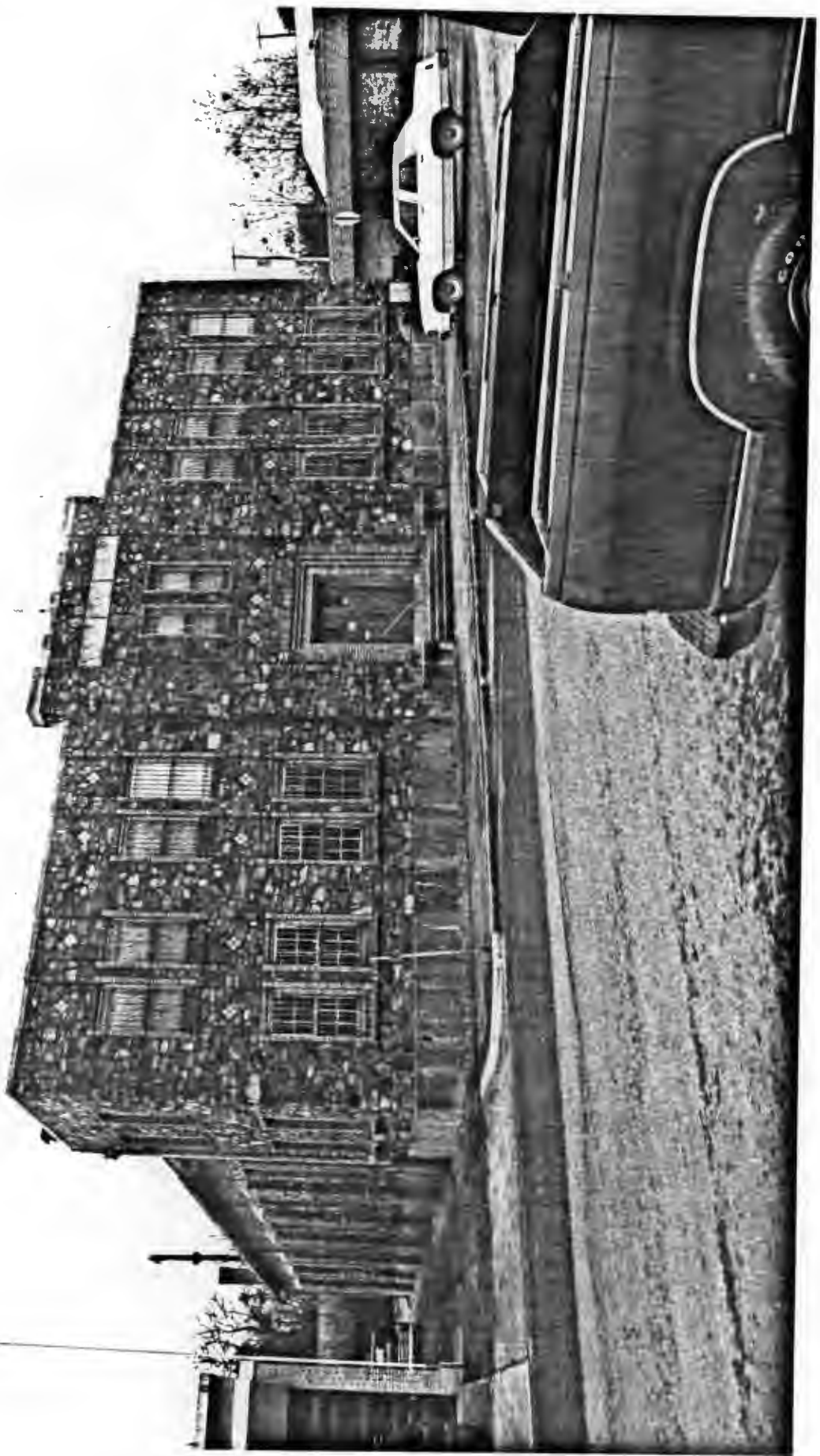
*Mena Star*, Mena, Arkansas: February 13, 1930; April 17, 1930; December 25, 1931; August 27, 1936; January 15, 1941; August 19, 1971.

Owen, Gene, "Letters to the Editor," *The Looking Glass*, Hatfield, Arkansas; November, 1984; January, 1985; February, 1985.

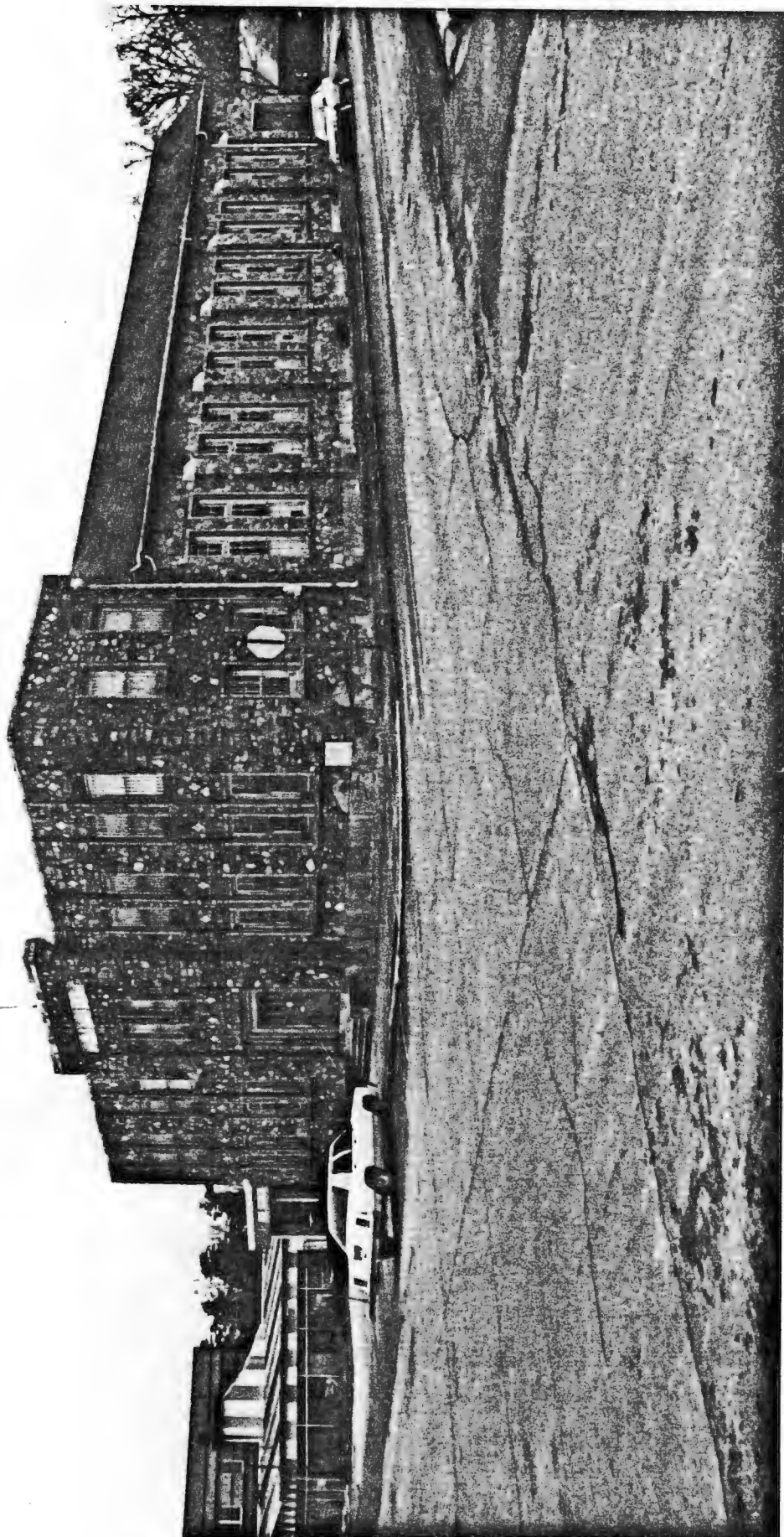
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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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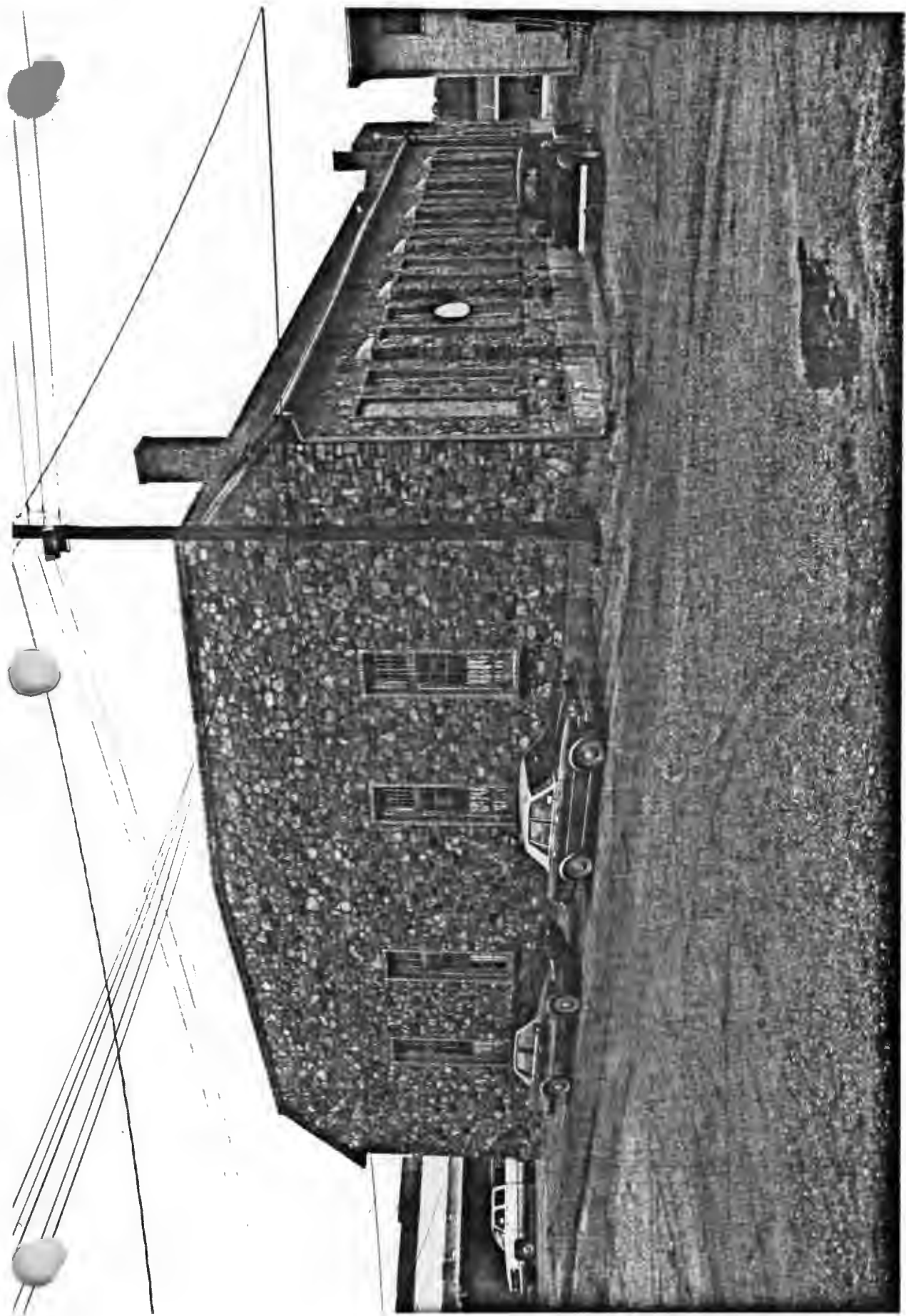


MEHA NATIONAL LEADS HISTORY  
MEHA, ARIZONA  
PREPARED BY P. J. JONES  
VOLUME 1991  
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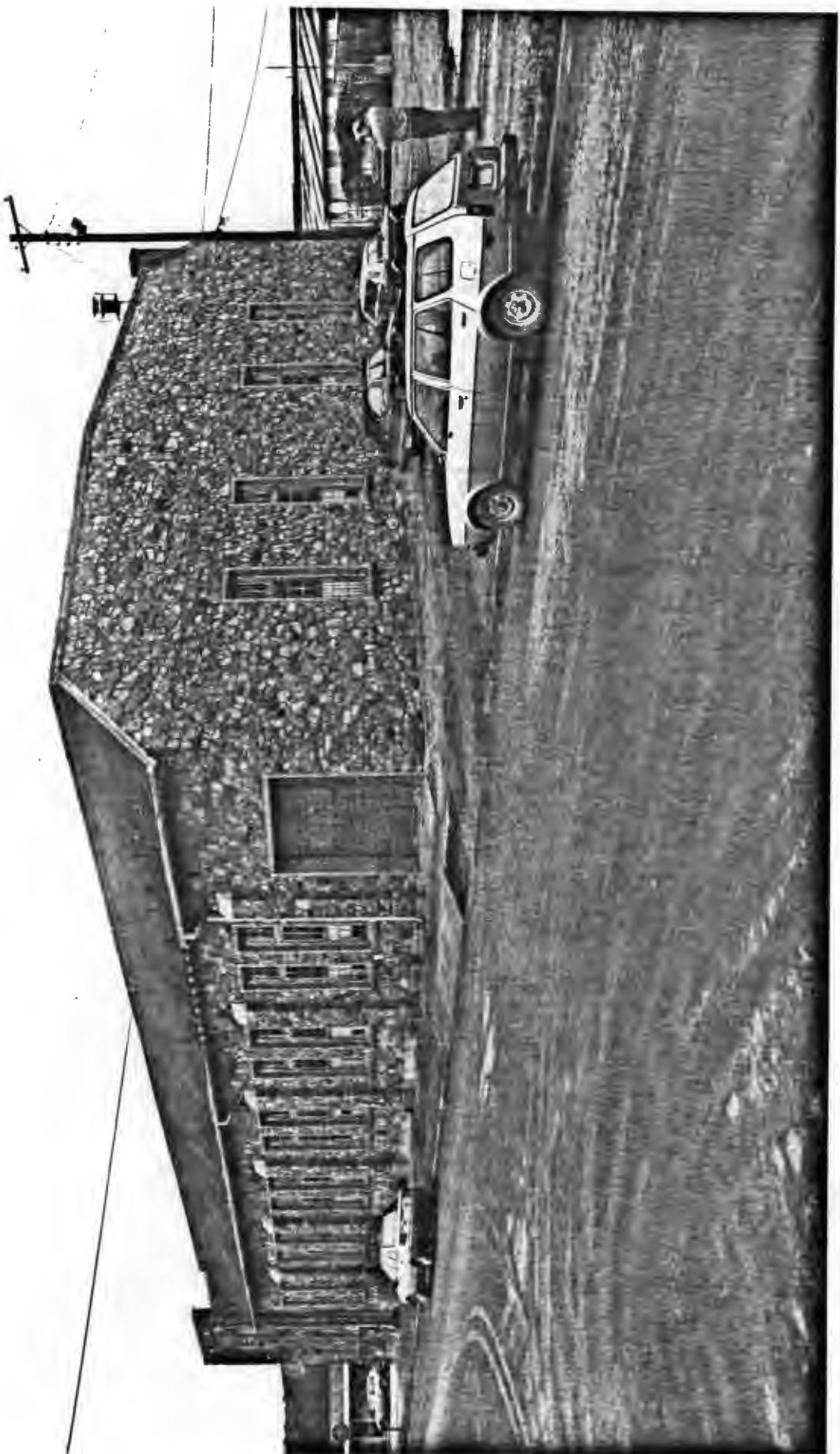
THE NATIONAL GUARD  
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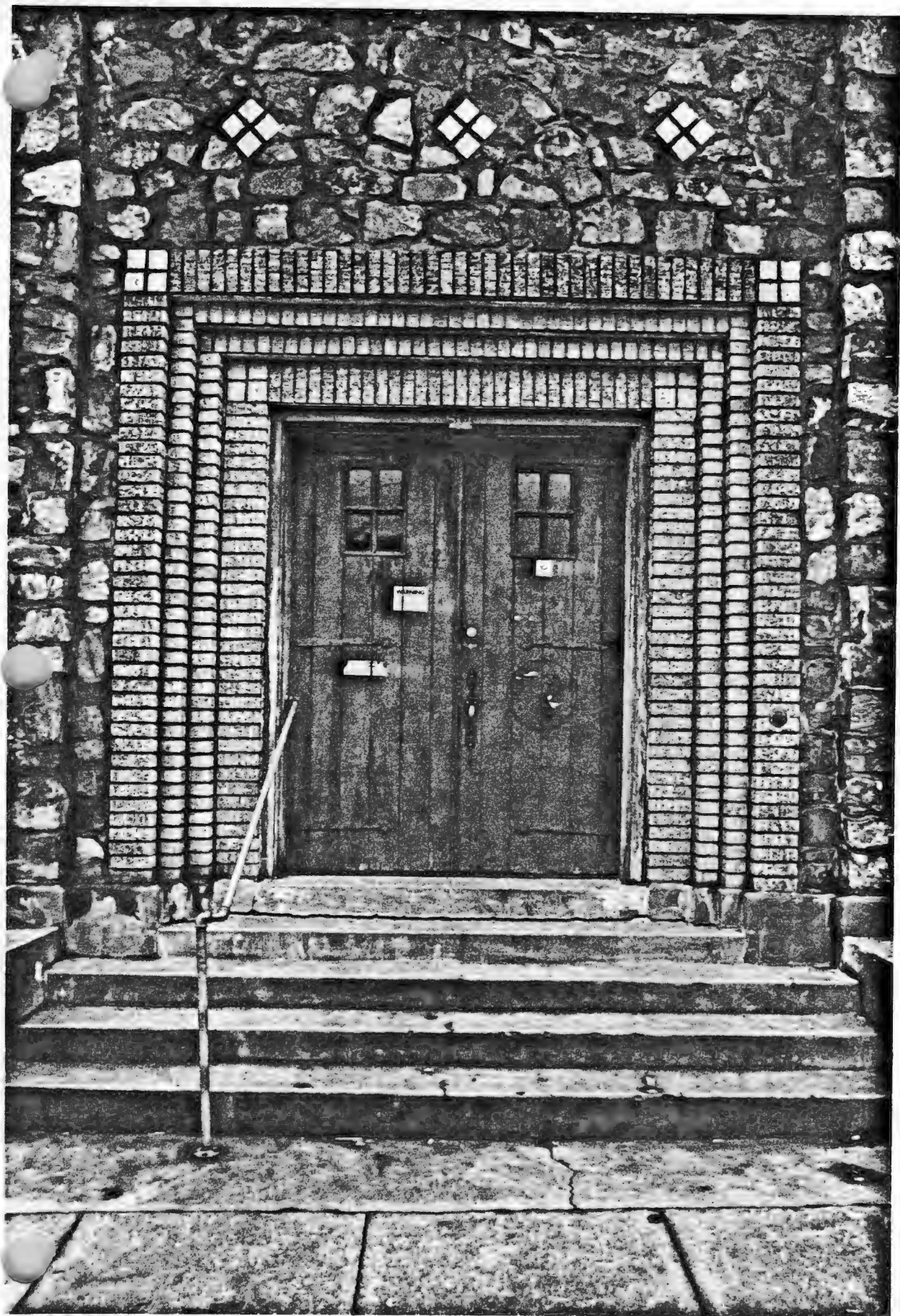


1. 2000-2001 Survey  
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January 1991  
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HON. HARVEY PARNELL

GOVERNOR

BRIG. GEN. E. L. COMPERE

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DUPWARD F. KYLE ARCHT.

WALTER M. VERNON CONTR

A.D. 1930

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WENNA ARTISTS  
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JANUARY 1991  
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January, 1991

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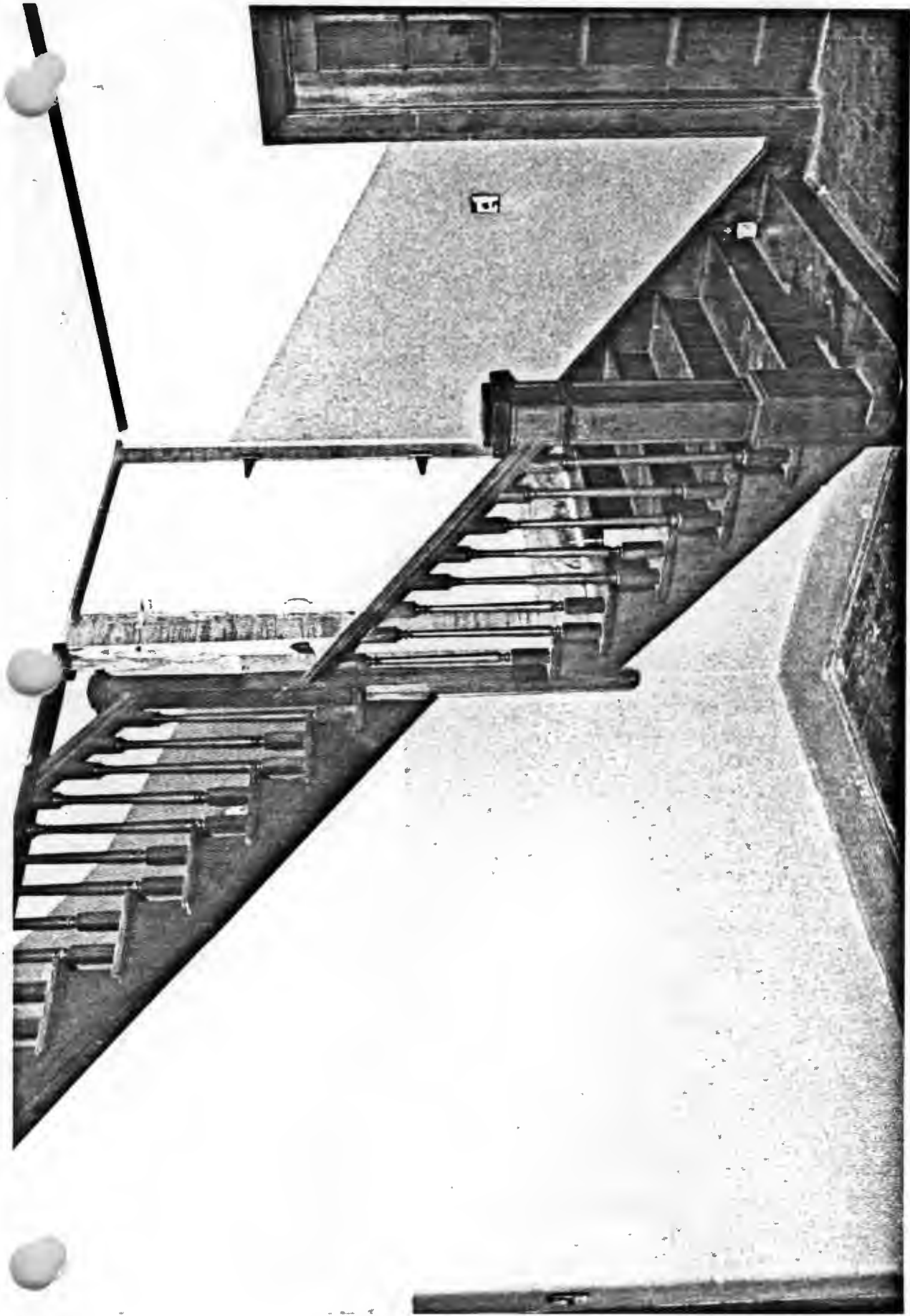
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PLANTATION AND FOREST  
MANAGEMENTS  
RECORDED BY J. J. JOHNSON  
VOLUME 1901  
RECORD ON THE AT-AT  
VIEW OF INTERIOR SYMBIOSIS, DOR



MISSOURI BIRD - COPY  
MENA, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY D. DOLINER  
JANUARY, 1991  
VEHICLE ON FIRE AT AIRPORT  
VIEW OF INTERIOR STAIRCASE