

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: Immaculate Heart of Mary School

other name/site number: N/A

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2. Location

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street & number: Off S.R. 365; N. of Blue Hill Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Marche Community

vicinity: X

state: AR

county: Pulaski

code: AR 119

zip code: 72118

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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 Slater _____ 8-5-93
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

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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: Religion _____ Sub: church school _____

Current : Religion _____ Sub: vacant/storage _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Craftsman

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt
walls 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: Local.

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1925

Significant Dates: 1925

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Makowski, George

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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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: _____

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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>560280</u>	<u>3859350</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point 15 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the building, proceed east to a point 15 feet southeast of the southeast corner; then proceed north to a point 15 feet northeast of the northeast corner; then proceed west to a point 15 feet northwest of the northwest corner; then proceed south to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

Due to the close proximity of an adjacent nonhistoric building, this boundary reflects all of the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Patrick Zolner, National Register Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 07/19/93

Street & Number: 323 Center, 1600 Tower Bldg. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Summary

Located in the Marche community in Pulaski County, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School is a single-story, wood-frame parochial school constructed in 1925. The Craftsman-style building remains in good condition.

Elaboration

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School is a single-story frame parochial school constructed in 1925 under the supervision of the head carpenter, George Makowski. The Craftsman-style building is supported by a continuous brick foundation, and the frame walls are sheathed with false-bevel novelty siding. A gable-on-hip design was employed for the roof, and it is covered by composition shingles. There are no extant chimneys.

A broad, centrally placed porch supported by two square brick columns and covered by a low-pitched gable roof defines the front, or western, elevation. The porch is slightly raised, and the concrete deck is accessed by five concrete steps with a short brick stoop to the inside of both columns. False half-timbering over vertical boards (instead of the more typical stucco) and three decorative beams adorn the porch roof gable end. The central entrance is comprised of double-leaf, five-panelled wood doors with a four-pane transom. A six-over-six, double-hung window is symmetrically placed on each side of the porch. The gable-end on the roof also contains three false beams as well as a pair of wood louvered vents.

The northern elevation is fenestrated by a single six-over-six double-hung window placed near the northwest corner and two rows of windows, containing six and four of the six-over-six windows respectively, that are separated by a porch and entry. Although narrower than the front-elevation porch, this porch is also supported by two brick columns and has similar gable-end detail. The double-leaf entrance is identical to the one on the front elevation.

A single six-over-six double-hung window is positioned at both corners of the rear, or eastern, elevation, with a row of six identical windows in between.

Due to the slope of the grade, the southern elevation of the structure rests upon a raised foundation. A porch and entrance is placed on this elevation directly opposite its northern elevation counterpart. The porches are similar; however, this porch has a raised concrete deck and two tall brick columns that are narrower in width. Otherwise, the gable-end treatment and the entrance are the same as found on the other two porches. The wall to the east of the porch is not fenestrated, but the longer wall to the west is lighted by a row of six six-over-six double-hung windows with a separate window at the western corner.

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As originally constructed, the interior was composed of two large classrooms, a smaller classroom, a cafeteria, a cloakroom to either side of the front entrance, and a storage attic. The only principal alteration to this arrangement has been the removal of the wall between the smaller classroom and the cafeteria to provide storage space for the parish's lawn care equipment. Otherwise, the interior is remarkably intact and retains the original pressed-metal ceiling, blackboards, and door and window moldings. The doorways are comprised of panelled wood doors and large transoms, and the interior walls are sheathed with a form of beadless, novelty siding.

There are no outbuildings included in this nomination.

Located on Blue Hill Road in Pulaski County, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School is in good condition.

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Summary

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance as the best example of a Craftsman-style, wood-frame school building in the Marche community.

Elaboration

The Immaculate Heart of Mary School was constructed in 1925 by Polish immigrants who had first settled in the area that was to become the Marche community in 1877. The establishment of the Polish colony is credited to Count Timothy von Choinski, who was born in the province of Posen, Poland, circa 1817. Choinski was born into aristocracy and was educated at two German universities, one of which he later joined as a member of the faculty. In 1847, he married Loccadia Barbara Dembinski, and they had ten children together.

Since the late 1700's, Poland had been divided largely between Prussia, Austria, and Russia, and the Poles had staged four revolts since Choinski was a teenager. Following an insurrection in 1863, the Polish people were stripped of the majority of their remaining civil rights, and even members of the Polish aristocracy were deprived of participation in political affairs. The Polish language was banned from schools, and children were taught either German or Russian. Many of the insurgents were executed or exiled. To avoid this possible fate, Count Choinski and his family emigrated to the United States and settled in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1869 (1873 according to one account). Choinski gained employment first as a teacher in the public schools and later as a professor of German at Engelman's Academy. As the years passed, the family grew to dread the harsh winters on Lake Michigan, and Choinski made several trips to the South in search of a milder climate. It was on these trips that he first thought of establishing a Polish colony. Although an aristocrat by birth and a university professor by occupation, Choinski recognized that most of his countrymen had been farmers and were now forced to work as laborers under less than ideal conditions in the cities. In the South, Choinski saw agricultural potential and the chance to build their own community where they could practice and preserve their native customs.

Count Choinski was authorized to act as the land agent for the approximately 500 Polish families that had agreed to join the proposed colony. Although he was initially attracted to western Arkansas and Eastern Texas, it proved difficult to contact the owners of the desired land. Choinski then read an article about Arkansas in a Polish newspaper published at Chicago by W. Dieniewicz. The article described the vast tracts of land along the right-of-way that were for sale, but failed to mention the names of railroad agents to contact. Choinski decided

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to write a letter to the editor of the *Arkansas Gazette* requesting information on purchasing at least 50,000 acres of woodland in one tract, with good soil, with both banks of a river or smaller stream, near a railroad, and with a good site for a future town with manufacturing potential. Naturally, he also requested that the land be reasonably priced. The *Arkansas Gazette* published the letter, providing an equal chance to the competing railroad agents and other interested landowners.

Colonel W. D. Slack, land commissioner for the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railway, responded to the letter, and Choinski travelled to Little Rock to inspect the railroad company's lands. He returned again on May 22, 1877 with 22 other colonists. Although they first expressed an interest in the company's holdings in Conway or Pope counties, the Polish contingent eventually decided on land near the Faulkner and Pulaski county line, which included the townsite of Bartlett, later known as Warren. 11,000 acres of the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad land was purchased in addition to an adjacent tract of 11,000 acres from the St. Louis, Iron Mountain, and Southern Railroad Company.

Beginning around 1870, Judge Liberty Bartlett had unsuccessfully tried to develop an industrial town at the location, but never filed a plat with the Pulaski County circuit clerk. Bartlett did not have title to the land, but based his claim on an agreement with the railroad that gave him an option to purchase the property. On June 22, 1875, the Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company asserted its claim to the property by filing a plat for the town of Warren, located on the same site. Warren was conceived as a recreational area for people on picnic excursions from Little Rock. Park facilities, including a large, covered dancing pavilion and a "Flying Dutchman" circular swing, were constructed in April, 1876. Although not a failure as a recreation area, Warren never developed into a permanent town. It would soon become, however, the trading center for the new Polish colony.

The Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad provided the transportation for the colonists and on September 26, 1877, a special train left Chicago carrying 330 people representing 169 Polish families. Another group of 100 families were scheduled to leave a few days later. Unfortunately, many of the families were disappointed when the train arrived at Warren. Told that there was an existing townsite, many of the colonists thought there would be houses they could occupy immediately. Instead, they found the dancing pavilion, a couple of concession shacks, and an abandoned sawmill. In a 1938 interview, Mrs. Helen Schnable, a daughter of Count Choinski, further described the housing situation at Warren:

At the time my father arrived in Arkansas, his stopping point then was called Warren. It had a defunct sawmill building and such cabins as go with an

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industry of that kind, and a two-story 14-room rough board shack with its cracks covered with cleats, which did not keep out the wind. The sole inhabitant was an old man operating a small grocery, and the only place, beside the sawmill, the 14-room shack and cabins, to receive a crowd of people, was a picnic dance hall.

Also, when told of the agricultural potential of the colony, most of the immigrants, accustomed to farming practices in Poland, did not realize that the land was covered with virgin timber that would have to be cleared. Many became disillusioned at the prospect of building a home and community under these conditions, and some believed that they had been deliberately misled by the colony's promoters. Some that could afford the fare left on the same train that had brought them, while others found jobs in Argenta as railroad construction workers.

Nevertheless, some 75 to 100 families remained to build the colony as originally planned. The dancing pavilion was enclosed to provide more shelter, and the Choinskis, who had invested their life savings in the colony, assumed much of the burden of feeding the people during this time. Despite the opinions of some of the colonists who had left, it appears that Colonel Slack and the Little Rock and Fort Smith railroad were sincere in their desire that the venture succeed. On the day after the colonist's arrival, wagons were sent by the railroad to assist the Poles in hauling lumber, supplies, etc. Each family was given the opportunity to select a homestead, usually 80 acres but sometimes 40, and were given a good price with several years to pay. By the fall, most of the families had constructed a cabin or some form of shelter and had acquired their housing utensils and farm equipment from Little Rock.

As an agricultural colony, Count Choinski's dream was a success, although an actual town never did develop on the site of Bartlett/Warren. Most of the families lived in a radius of several miles from the townsite, which consisted of a general merchandise store operated by Max Malachowski and a depot. The name "Marche," which is French for market or market place, was officially given to the town in 1896 with the establishment of a post office. Max Malachowski was appointed postmaster by President Grover Cleveland, and he served in that capacity until the office was abolished in 1930.

The center of community gatherings, both religious and social, took place at the Catholic Church. By November, 1878, a small wood-frame chapel had been erected and a priest, Reverend Anthony Jaworski, appointed to oversee the colonist's spiritual needs. The new Immaculate Heart of Mary church, as it was known, was constructed on top of a hill that was named "Jasna Gora," Polish for Sky Blue Mountain (today it is known as Blue Hill). A larger frame structure was built in 1896, and it served the needs of the parish until 1932, when it was

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destroyed by fire. Construction on a new buff-brick, Gothic Revival-styled church (designed by Charles Thompson and placed on the National Register, 12/22/82) began in that year, and it was dedicated by the bishop in May, 1933. A rectory was also constructed at this time.

Until 1925 when the subject school building was constructed, classes were taught by a nun in one room of a small building. According to a series of interviews with Annie Stozek Sarna in 1975-1976, the curriculum for the eight school grades consisted of arithmetic, geography, Bible and catechism, and "letters." Interestingly, the morning classes were taught in Polish, and the afternoon classes taught in English. It is ironic though, that a people intent on preserving their own customs and way of life would neglect to teach the subject of history. Sarna, who was born at Marche in 1897 and attended school before the current structure was erected, recalled few children in those days actually completed the eighth grade. The boys usually attended until they had received their First Communion and had learned their catechism, while the girls stayed in school until they were old enough to work in the fields. Arrangements were made by the nun, however, to hold classes in the summer and break for the autumn, so the children could spend their "holiday" assisting their parents in harvesting the crops. Although owned by the church, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School was a member of the Pulaski County Rural School District (1936), which paid for the cost of heating fuel. In 1935, the new school had 120 pupils enrolled. This school building served until 1959 when a new facility was constructed. Classes through the eighth grade are still held today.

Essentially unaltered since construction, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School reflects the evolution of the Polish colony's built environment from the first, crude structures intended for temporary shelter to a contemporary building with design influences from the nationally popular Craftsman style. As it is the best example in the Marche vicinity of a wood-frame school building with Craftsman influences, the Immaculate Heart of Mary School is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance.

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Bibliography

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Hebb, L. E. "Pioneer Settlers of Marche Still Retain Customs of Native Poland." *Arkansas Democrat* (magazine section). June 21, 1936. (typewritten copy of the article from the Federal Writer's Project files)

Information supplied by Theresa Kaplon, April 1993.

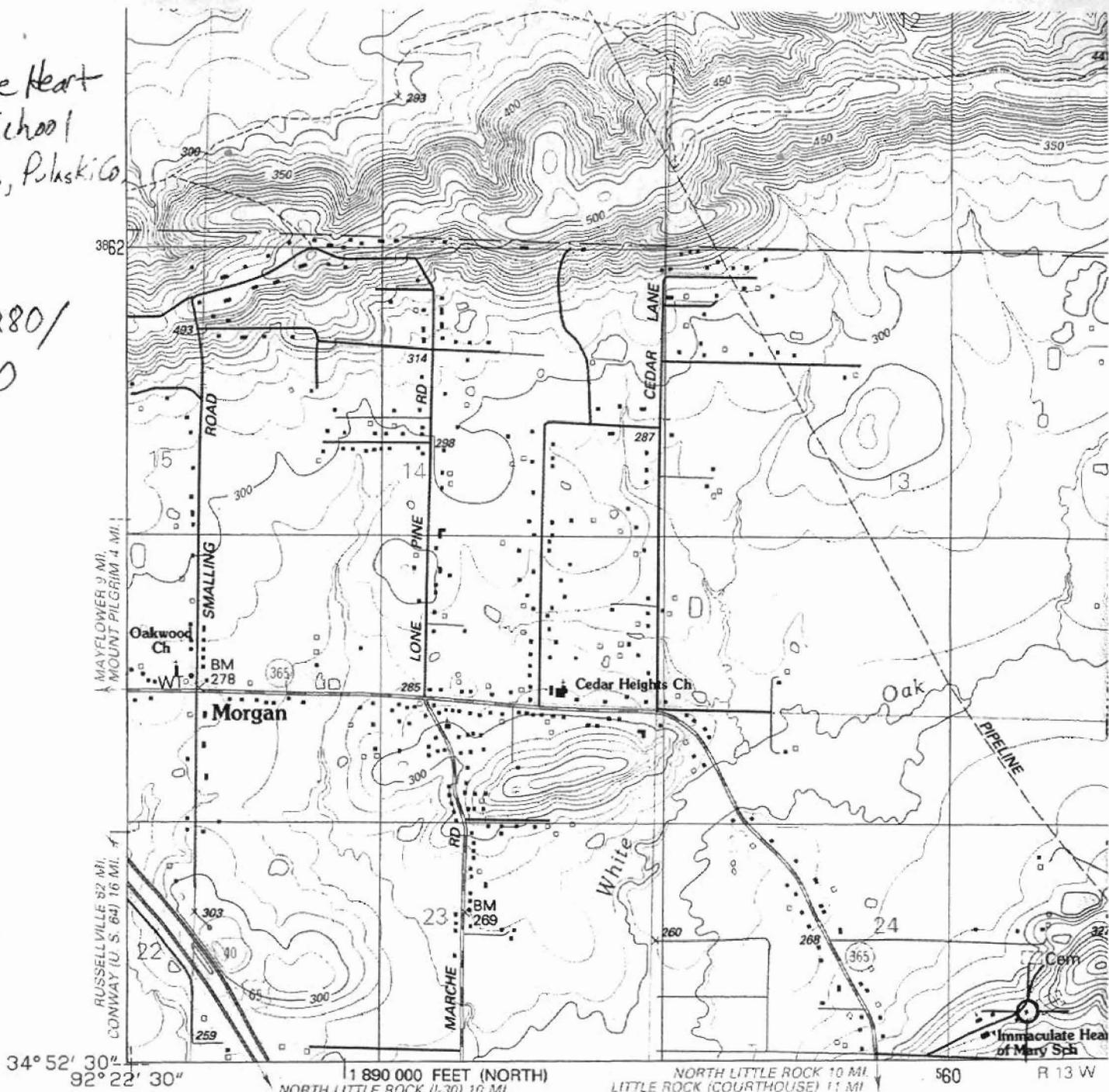
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Sarna, Jan, ed. "Marche, Arkansas: A Personal Reminiscence of Life and Customs." (unpublished manuscript of a series of interviews conducted between 1975-1976).

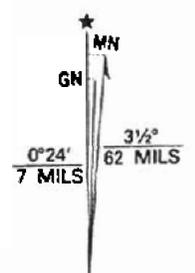
Immaculate Heart
 Mary School
 Marche vic., Pulaski Co.
 Arkansas
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34° 52' 30" 92° 22' 30" 1 890 000 FEET (NORTH) NORTH LITTLE ROCK (I-30) 10 MI. NORTH LITTLE ROCK 10 MI. LITTLE ROCK (COURTHOUSE) 11 MI. 560 R 13 W

(PINNACLE MOUNTAIN)
 7553 IV SW

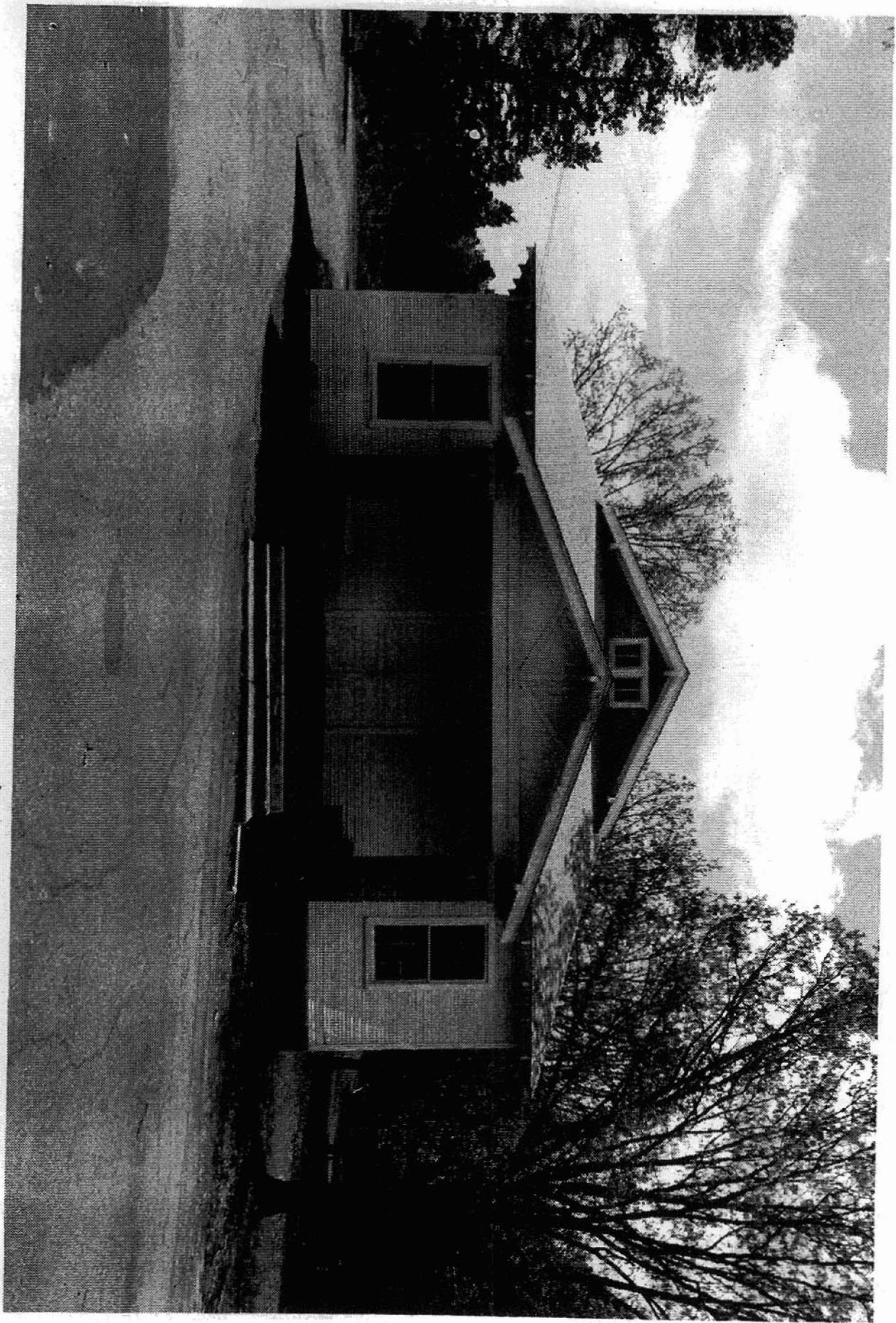
Produced by the United States Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1984. Field checked 1985. Map edited 1987
 Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1954
 Projection: Arkansas coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic)
 10,000-foot grid ticks: Arkansas coordinate system, north and south zones
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 15
 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 7 meters south and 14 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1987 MAGNETIC N DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SH

1

2



Commercial West of 1100y school

Public Co. Arkansas

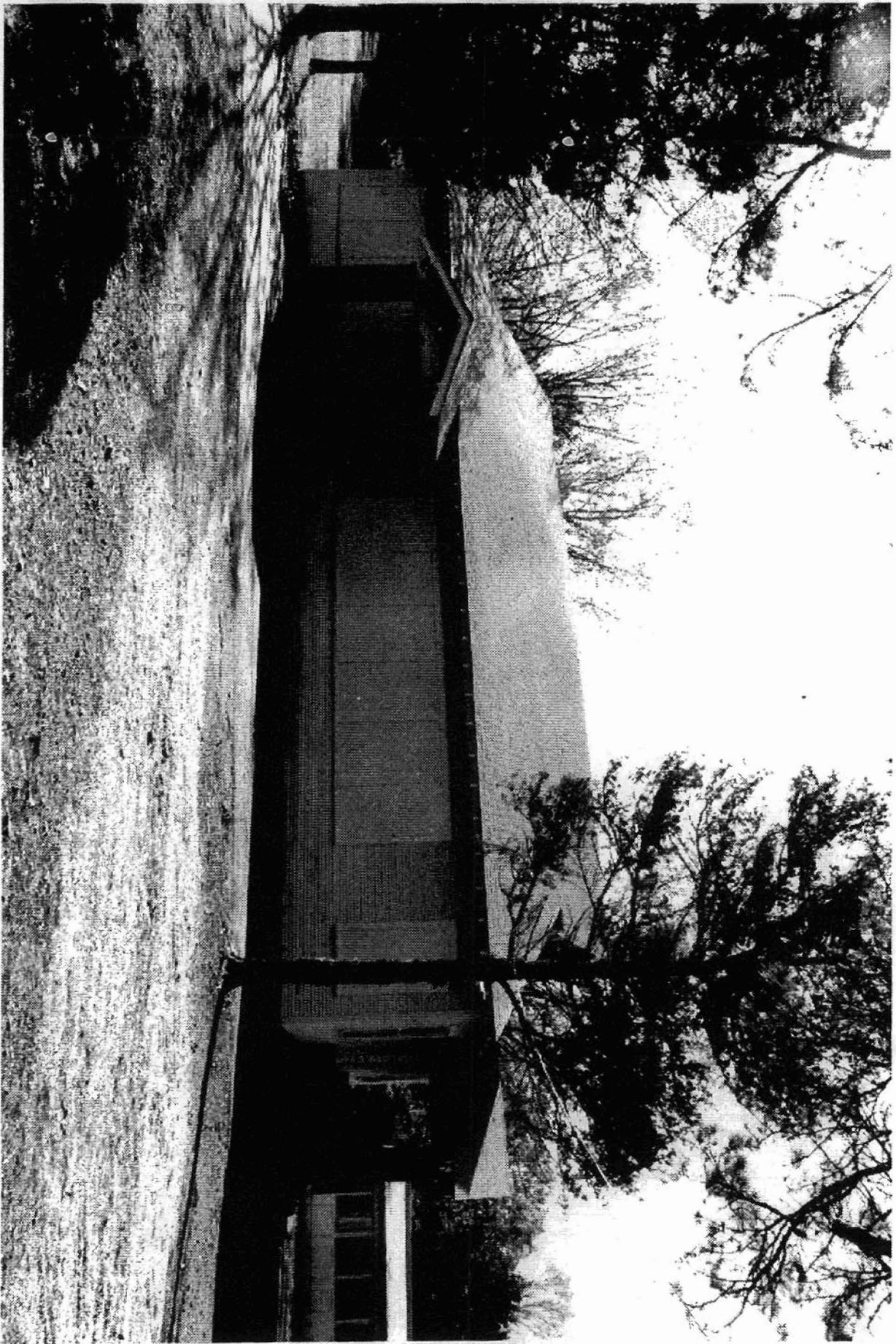
Photograph by Patrick Zoller

April 1993

Volume article of AAP

View of land elevation from
the west

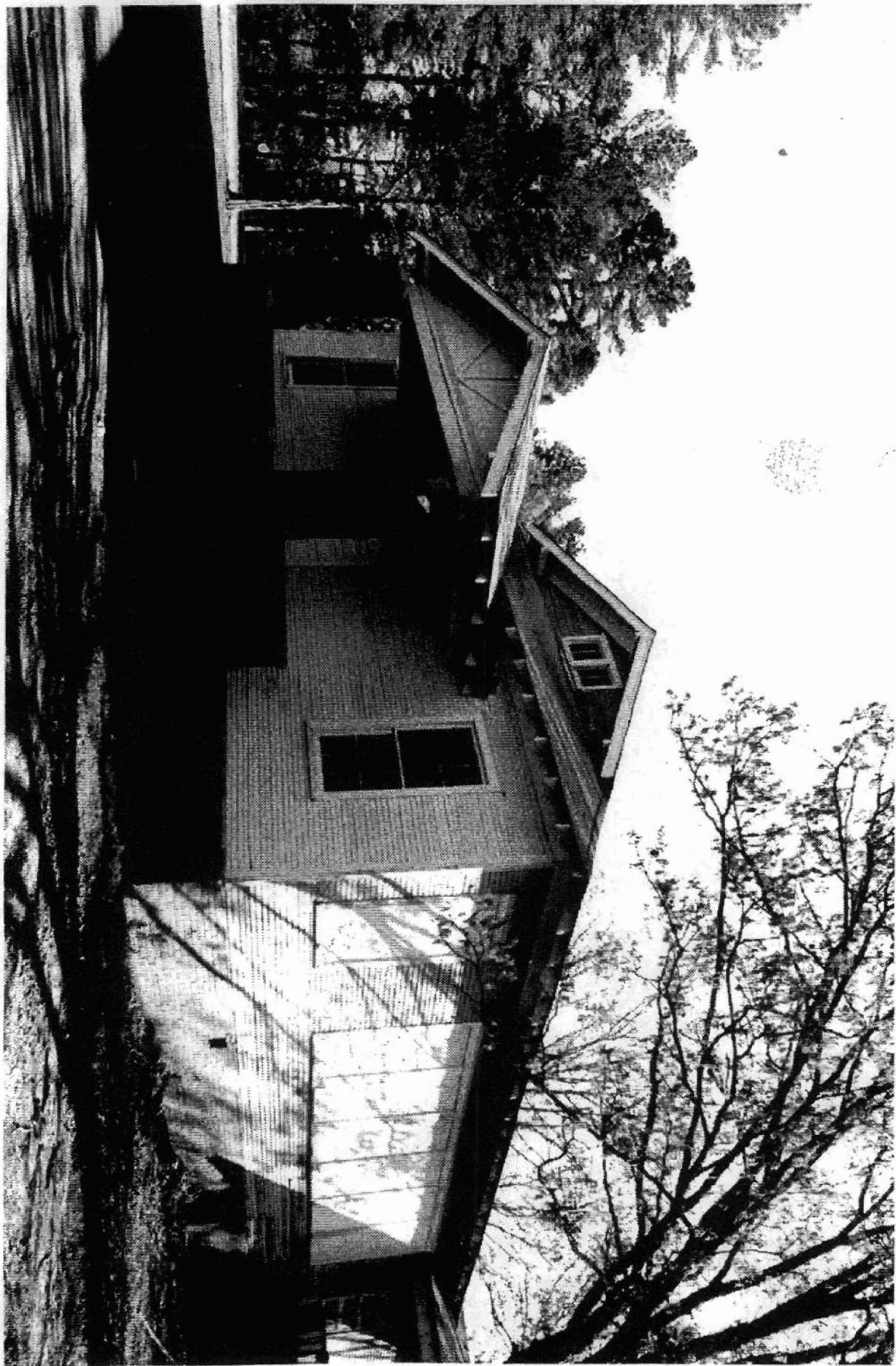




Pulaski Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zolher
April 1993
Negative on file at AHP
View of the northern elevation



Immuclose near or very close
Bluski Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zollner
April 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View from the southeast



UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Pulaski Co., Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zolner
April 1993
Negative on file at AHP
View from the southwest



Pulaski Co., Arkansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolher
April 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View of window configuration
from the interior

COLD DRINKS

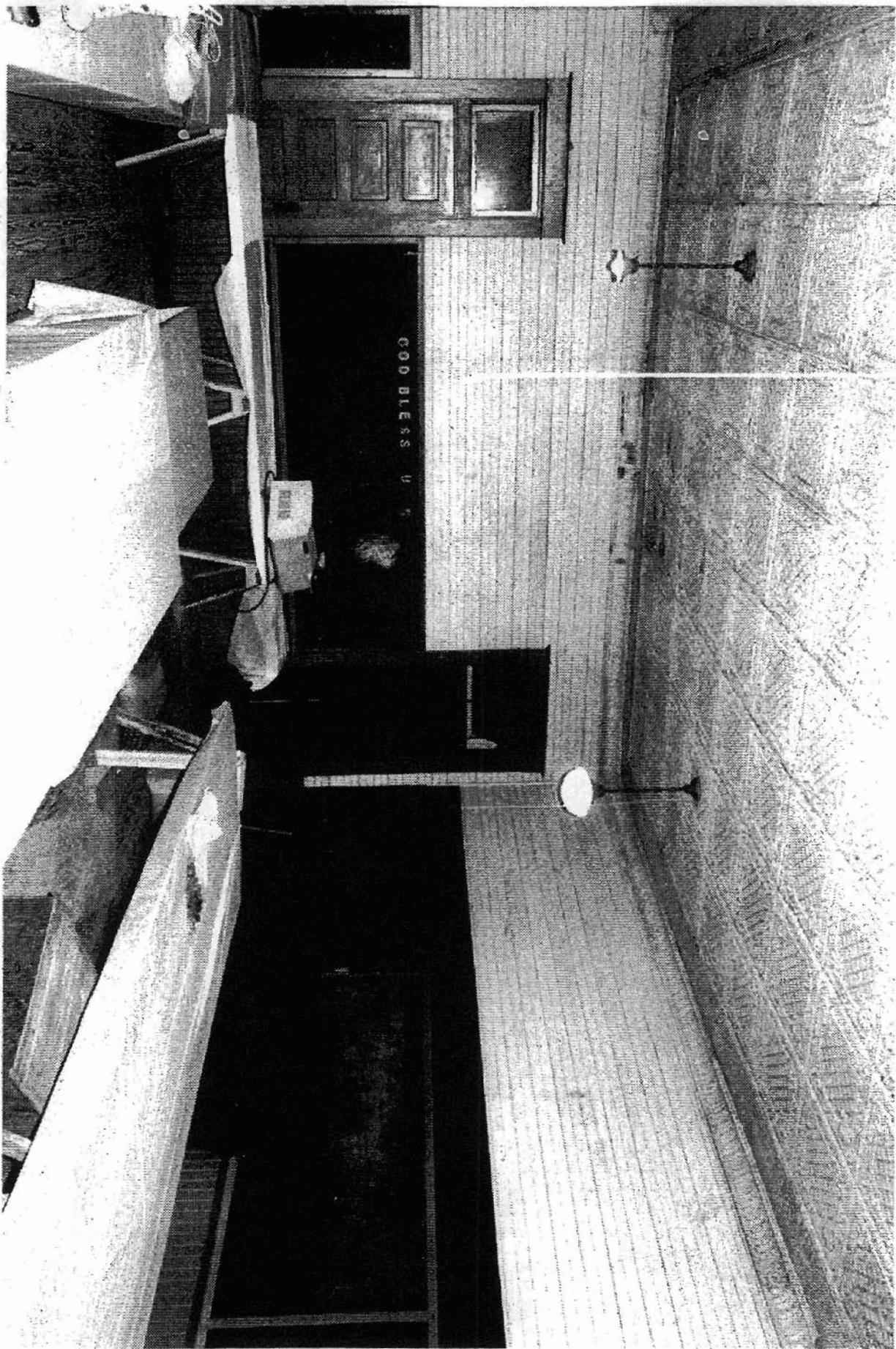


... on my window

Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zolher

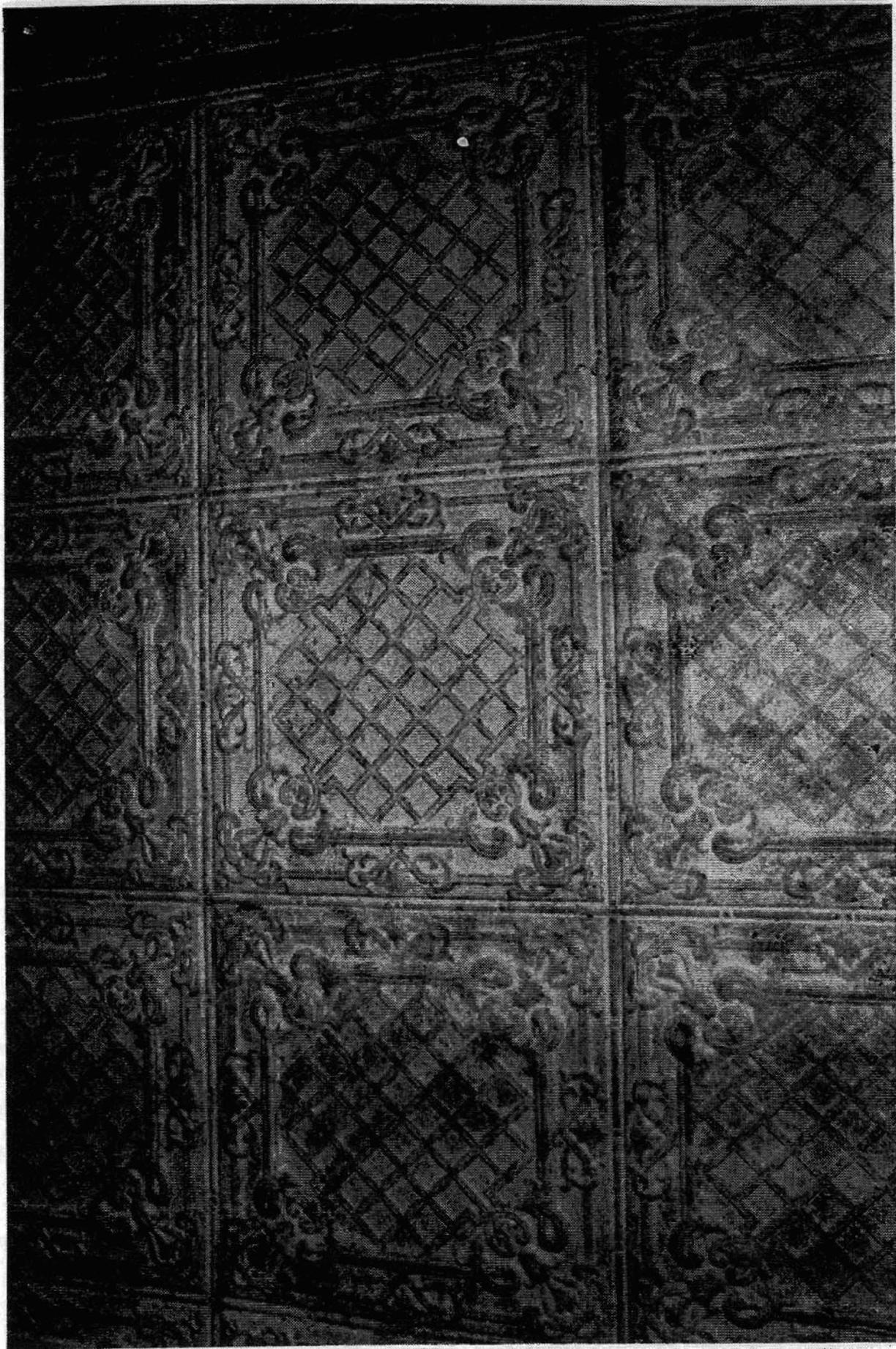
April 1973

Negative on file at KHP
View of interior doorway



Arkansas
Photograph by Patrick Zolher
April 1993

Negative on file at AHP
View of classroom from
the east



Forest Co., Kansas
Photographed by Patrick Zolner
April 1993
Negative on file at AHPD
View of ceiling