

NR LISTED 4/19/93

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 3417-3421 Magnolia Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: North Little Rock

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Pulaski code: AR 119 zip code: 72114

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-local

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
		objects
		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.

Cathryn A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

10-6-93
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: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Public Works</u>
<u>GOVERNMENT</u>	<u>Fire Station</u>
Current: <u>GOVERNMENT</u>	Sub: <u>Fire Station</u>
<u>VACANT/NOT IN USE</u>	<u>N/A</u>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Mediterranean

Other Description: N/A

Materials:	foundation	<u>Stone/Concrete</u>	roof	<u>Ceramic tile</u>
	walls	<u>Stone</u>	other	<u>C o n c r e t e</u>
				<u>reservoirs</u>
				<u>Field stone</u>
				<u>d r i v e w a y ,</u>
				<u>walkways and</u>
				<u>walls</u>

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: Locally.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1938-1943

Significant Dates: 1938

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen
Works Progress Administration

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:

- X State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2.5

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>15</u>	<u>567300</u>	<u>3849480</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of Block 33, Park Hill Addition to the City of North Little Rock, Arkansas

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

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

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 10/06/93

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-98

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 Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex is composed of a total of nine structures, six of which are historic. Constructed in 1938 in a joint effort between the Park Hill Water Company and the Works Progress Administration, the complex is defined by the field stone clad two-story Fire Station and the one-story field stone Water Company office which face Magnolia Street. Both buildings are covered with red tile roofs and feature decorative cast concrete details influenced by the Mediterranean style. Other historic structures include two 100 ft. by 44 ft. concrete reservoirs flanking the Water Company office and two flat-roofed field stone pump houses located just west of the Water Company office. Three non-historic structures have been constructed to the rear (west) of the complex. Original field stone driveways, sidewalks and walls are found throughout the property.

Elaboration

Constructed in 1938 by a partnership of the Park Hill Water Company and the Works Progress Administration, the Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex contains a total of nine structures, six of which are original.

The Fire Station (A) and office for the Water Company (B) were designed by the Little Rock architectural firm of Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen. Construction of the complex was under the sponsorship of the Park Hill Water Company who provided the building materials. The W.P.A. furnished most of the labor for construction of the complex.

The Park Hill Fire Station building was opened for public inspection on July 31, 1938. The two-story building is covered by a gabled roof of variegated red tile with a two-story hipped roof bay on the northern elevation. Field stone covers the exterior walls.

The eastern or front elevation contains the fire truck entry. Originally this garage opening was flush with the wall and consisted of two sets of slender four-paneled folding doors. Each panel featured fourteen light panes over a low solid wood panel. An extension to the garage opening was constructed in 1960 to accommodate a new fire truck which was longer than the garage. The garage extension utilizes similarly colored and shaped field stone wall material on the narrow wall spaces between the garage opening and a single glass entry door. A flat roof tops and extends past the edge of the garage extension. A simple iron railing runs around the front and sides of the roof of the extension in an attempt to continue the subtle Mediterranean influence seen in the building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

The second story of the facade is highlighted by a central round-arched window flanked by slender arched windows. All three windows feature cast concrete keystones. The original windows were casement. The current aluminum sixteen-over-eight and nine-over-six double hung windows were installed in the late 1970s when all original windows on the building were replaced. A small cast concrete lion head set into a concrete panel is located on either side of the centered second story windows.

The principal entry door to the Fire Station is located in the narrow eastern-facing elevation of a two-story hipped roof bay on the northern elevation. The original heavy wood door with decorative cast concrete surround is located on the ground floor of this bay. The second story features a single window with an original small iron balconet.

The northern elevation of the Fire Station is dominated by a two-story hipped-roof bay. The northern side of the bay is lighted by two c. 1979 double-hung windows on either far end of the bay wall. Two second story windows on this northern elevation bay are located directly above first floor windows.

The western elevation contains a large center window flanked by smaller windows on both the first and second story. The narrow western elevation of the two-story northern bay features a single double hung window on the first story and a small double-hung window on the second story.

The first story of the southern elevation contains an entry on its western end and features three double-hung windows spaced evenly on the remaining expanse of the wall. The second story is fenestrated by four evenly spaced double-hung windows.

The eastern or front elevation of the Park Hill Water Company office consists of a center front facing gable end of the main body of the building. A recessed entry is accessed by a set of five field stone steps with wrought iron railing. A wide cast concrete door surround features thirteen round decorative panels, also of concrete. The original heavy wood door with a ten-light upper window remains. Small recessed windows flank the entry.

The northern and southern elevations of the Water Company office are denoted by hipped-roof bays. The front or eastern facing elevation of these bays features a centered recessed round-arched panel with a cast concrete lion head flanked by slender spiraled Corinthian capped columns. The northern elevation of the bay on the north is fenestrated by a single large window (all windows on the building are currently boarded). Another large single window is found on the northern side of the main body of the building. A small shed roof addition fills in the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 3

northwest corner of the northern elevation.

The western elevation features a small entry accessed by three field stone steps and covered by a small gable roof supported by wood brackets.

The southern elevation features two large windows on the main body of the building. The hipped-roof bay on the southern elevation features the familiar large window on its western and southern sides.

Located to the north and to the south of the Water Company office are two historic concrete ground storage reservoirs (C & D). The reservoirs measure 100 ft. by 44 ft. and have a capacity of 185,000 gallons of water each. Two flat-roofed field stone clad historic pump houses are located west of the Water Company office (E & F).

Of the six historic structures (A - F) located on the property being nominated, only the Fire Station is still used. A new one million gallon ground concrete storage reservoir (H) and adjacent warehouse and underground pumping facilities (I) were constructed in the late 1970s and the two historic reservoirs are no longer used. Located on the western edge of the complex, the new storage reservoir and warehouse is not highly visible from the front (east) of the property; however, they are included and are non-contributing.

Original field stone driveways, sidewalks and walls are found throughout the complex (they were not included in the scope of the original survey and therefore were not counted).

The Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex remains a integral part of the streetscape in its Magnolia Street location in the historic Park Hill residential area.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Summary

Criteria A and C, local significance

The Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company complex are being nominated under Criterion A and C with local significance. Constructed in 1938, the project was a joint effort of the Park Hill Water Company and the Works Progress Administration in a suburban development outside of the boundaries of the city of North Little Rock. The Park Hill Fire Station is a two-story building with field stone wall material and red tile roof. The Park Hill Water Company office is a one-story field stone building with red tile roof and decorative cast concrete detailing characteristic of the Mediterranean style. The entire complex includes a total of nine structures. Two historic reservoirs and two historic field stone pump houses contribute to the significance of the property.

Elaboration

In 1921, during the greatest period of growth of the railroad industry-based city of North Little Rock, Arkansas, real estate developer and businessman Justin Matthews began a suburban residential development on the crest of a hill overlooking the commercial downtown and the Arkansas River. He called this development Park Hill.

Justin Matthews was trained as a pharmacist, but made a large amount of money in the cotton seed oil business. He moved to Little Rock in 1911 from the southern Arkansas town of Monticello and immediately began investing his money in real estate.

Most of the land Matthews purchased was located on the north side of the Arkansas River, just north of the boundary of the city of North Little Rock. Matthews' first real estate development was around 1912 with the construction of a two-story commercial structure which covered the entire east side of the 200 block of North Little Rock's Main Street.

In 1913 Matthews organized a concept of forming improvement districts in Argenta (the name was changed to North Little Rock in 1917) which eventually led to the paving of over 152 blocks of streets. An editorial in the North Little Rock Times in 1944 spoke of the effects of the paving project on the city, stating, "This large amount of city pavement lifted us out of the mud and water. A transformation of our city immediately began to take place. Cheap shacks gave way to modern, attractive homes and our community rapidly changed from a gloomy, dusty or muddy backward town into a beautiful modern city".

Although Justin Matthews did not live in North Little Rock (he lived in Pulaski Heights, Little

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 2

Rock's first suburban development) and his motives for improving the city north of the river were to improve the development prospects for of his own land, he can be credited with improvements that played an instrumental role in the growth of North Little Rock. In 1914 he spearheaded a much needed sewer and drainage system. Matthews is also credited with masterminding the construction of the Broadway Bridge over the Arkansas River in 1923.

The first few blocks of Park Hill were platted in 1921. Matthews' own company, called the Matthews Land Company and later the Justin Matthews Company built the houses in Park Hill, most of which were modest, aimed at first-time homeowners. Although Matthews' master plan for Park Hill was to comprise 1600 acres, the areas were cautiously developed section by section. In 1927 he opened the "Edgemont" area of Park Hill which was planned to be on a much grander scale with rambling period revival homes on the crest of the hill overlooking North Little Rock and the Arkansas River.

An advertisement by the Justin Matthews Company in 1928 stated that more than 80 per cent of the lots in the original Park Hill had been sold. Park Hill had indeed been successful. An elementary school was constructed in the mid-1920s. A small commercial area consisting of neighborhood grocery, drug store, theater, and shops sprang up along the Arkansas-Missouri Highway which ran north/south through the middle of Park Hill.

The 1928 advertisement stated that city services were already installed capable of serving 20,000 people. Although Park Hill did have a water system, there was no organized fire department.

By the late 1930s there were over 300 buildings, most of which were single-family residences ranging from modest bungalows to rambling period revival homes. The residents of Park Hill had no interest in becoming annexed to the city of North Little Rock, and in 1936 formed a group for the purpose of establishing a fire department.

The Park Hill Water Company was located in the 400 block of Magnolia Street in the western section of Park Hill. Under the sponsorship of the Park Hill Water Company, plans were set into place to construct a fire station, an office for the Water Company and new water system reservoirs.

The Little Rock architectural firm of Brueggeman, Swaim and Allen were contracted to design the complex. In the late 1930s, the Brueggeman firm (principal, Edward F. Brueggeman) was well known for their work in the Central Arkansas area. Some of their designs included the Monterey style Pruniski House and the McCord House in Park Hill, the Koehler Bakery building in the 700 block of North Little Rock's Main Street, and the Knoop House on Ozark Point in

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Pulaski Heights' Hillcrest section. The firm was best known for their designs for Malco theater buildings nationwide in the 1930s. In the early 1940s the Brueggeman firm designed the Park Hill Community Center and a large portion of Camp Joseph T. Robinson, both in North Little Rock.

The design of the Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company complex was intended to blend with the surrounding residential areas (although there were only five homes in the 400 block of Magnolia at the time the complex was constructed). The North Little Rock Times reported in a 1939 article on the opening of the Fire Station, "The structure, in many respects, has the appearance of a new two-story home added to the suburban district".

Sponsored by the Park Hill Water Company, construction of the project was assisted by the Works Progress Administration. Most of the labor on the project was provided by the WPA. The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the subsequent advent of such federal public works programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA) brought a public fire station and water company complex to the small community of Park Hill in 1938. The WPA -- an organization that hired unemployed adult men and women to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The WPA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); other agencies under its direction included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum Bayou. Among its various other projects, the WPA constructed or repaired a number of public utility facilities throughout the state, and the Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company was erected as part of this statewide effort.

The appearance of the buildings is characterized by field stone wall material with decorative cast concrete trim and detailing. Both the Fire Station (A) and Water Company office (B) feature hipped roofs covered with red variegated tiles. Both buildings feature arched windows. Inset arched panels with lion head and decorative swirled columns are found on the Water Company building. The completed complex included a two-story Fire Station (A), a small one-story office for the Water Company (B), two field stone pump houses (E & F) and two 100 ft. by 44 ft. concrete water reservoirs (C & D). Original field stone driveways, sidewalks and walls are found throughout the complex.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Unlike other developments outside of the city limits, the Park Hill residents never formed any type of community government. Park Hill existed on its own until 1946 when it was annexed to the city of North Little Rock along with several other outlying communities.

The Water Company office is now vacant, as are the two historic field stone pump houses. The two original concrete reservoirs have not been used since construction of a one million gallon reservoir on the western edge of the property in the late 1970s.

The Fire Station has remained in continuous use since its construction. A small extension to elongate the garage area was built in the early 1960s to accommodate a new, longer fire truck. Original casement windows were replaced in the late 1970s.

Despite alterations to the Fire Station, the Park Hill Fire Station and Water Company Complex is an important part of the streetscape and retains its historic significance to the historic Park Hill community.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Arkansas Gazette, April 14, 1928; December 4, 1927; February 12, 1985.

Arkansas Democrat, February 12, 1985.

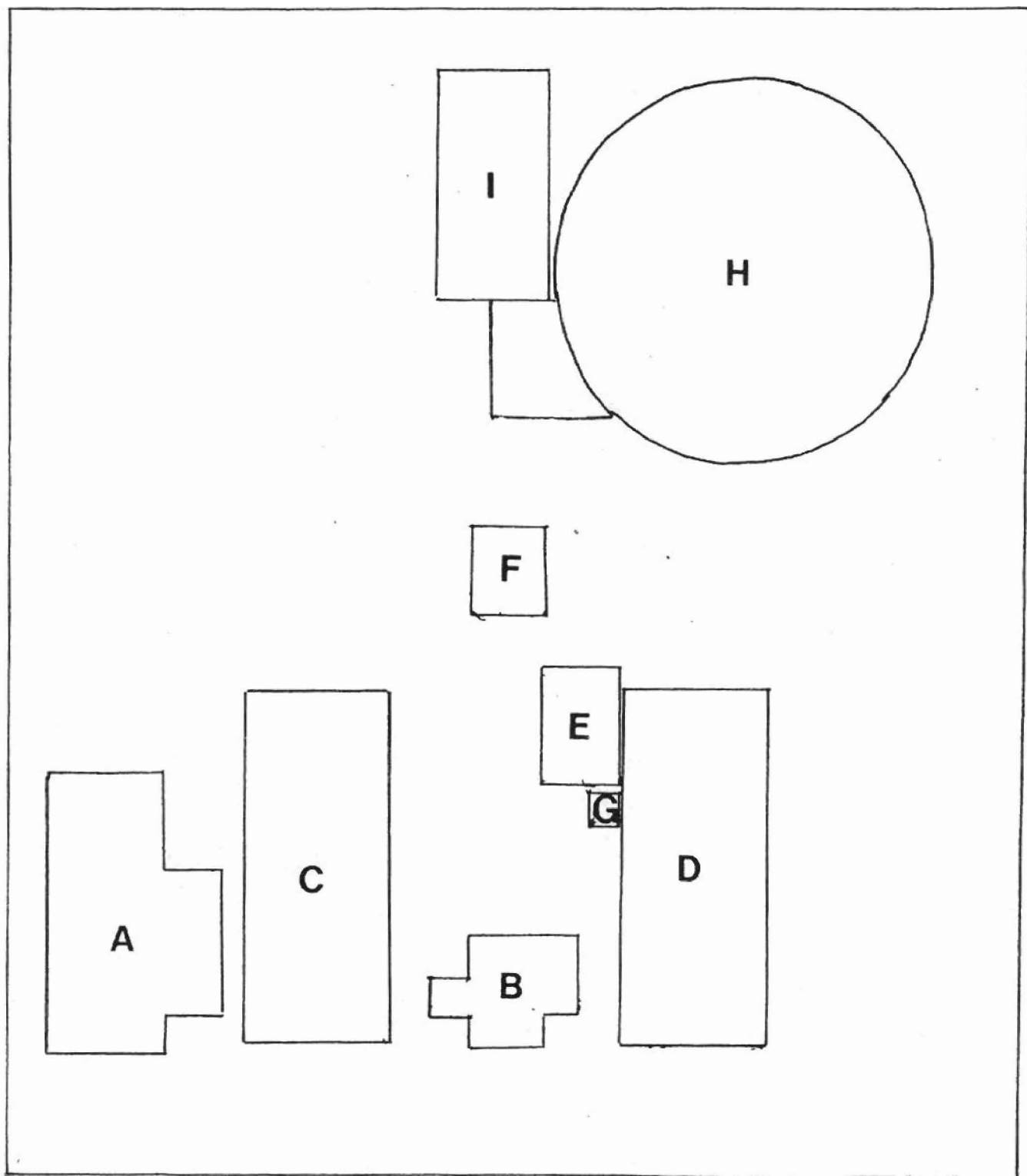
Information supplied by Fred Glover, Director, North Little Rock Water Department, July, 1993.

North Little Rock Times, articles on the following dates: September 26, 1936; July 28, 1938; July 29, 1939; February 15, 1946; March 29, 1946.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Little Rock and North Little Rock, 1939 and 1947.

PARK HILL FIRE STATION & WATER COMPANY COMPLEX

P O P L A R S T R E E T



M A G N O L I A S T R E E T

Historic Structures- A - F
Non-Contributing Structures- G - I



Scale 1" : 40'

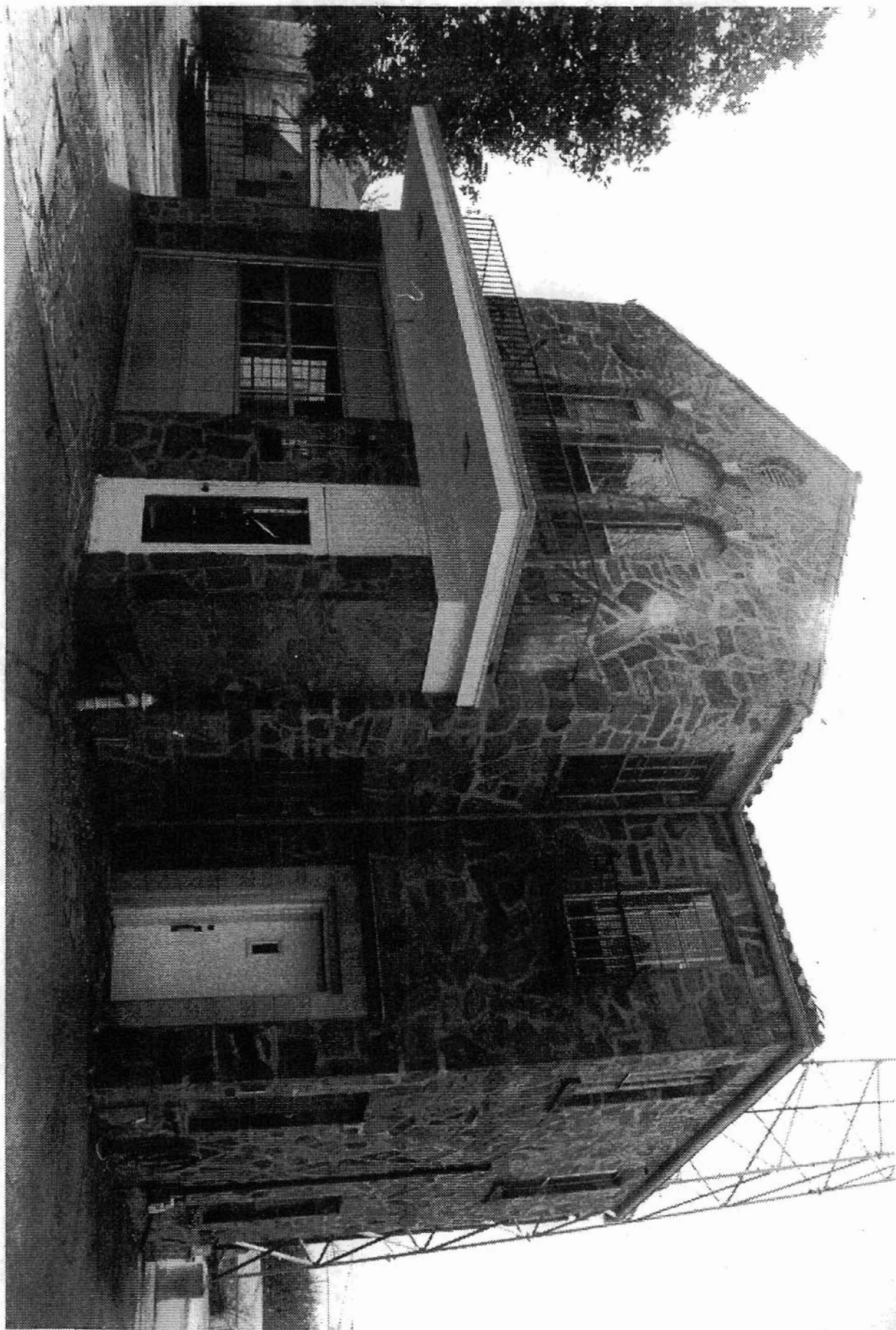


PARK HILL FIRE STATION, 1000
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, PALASKE, ARKANSAS
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AHPO
view from east
A

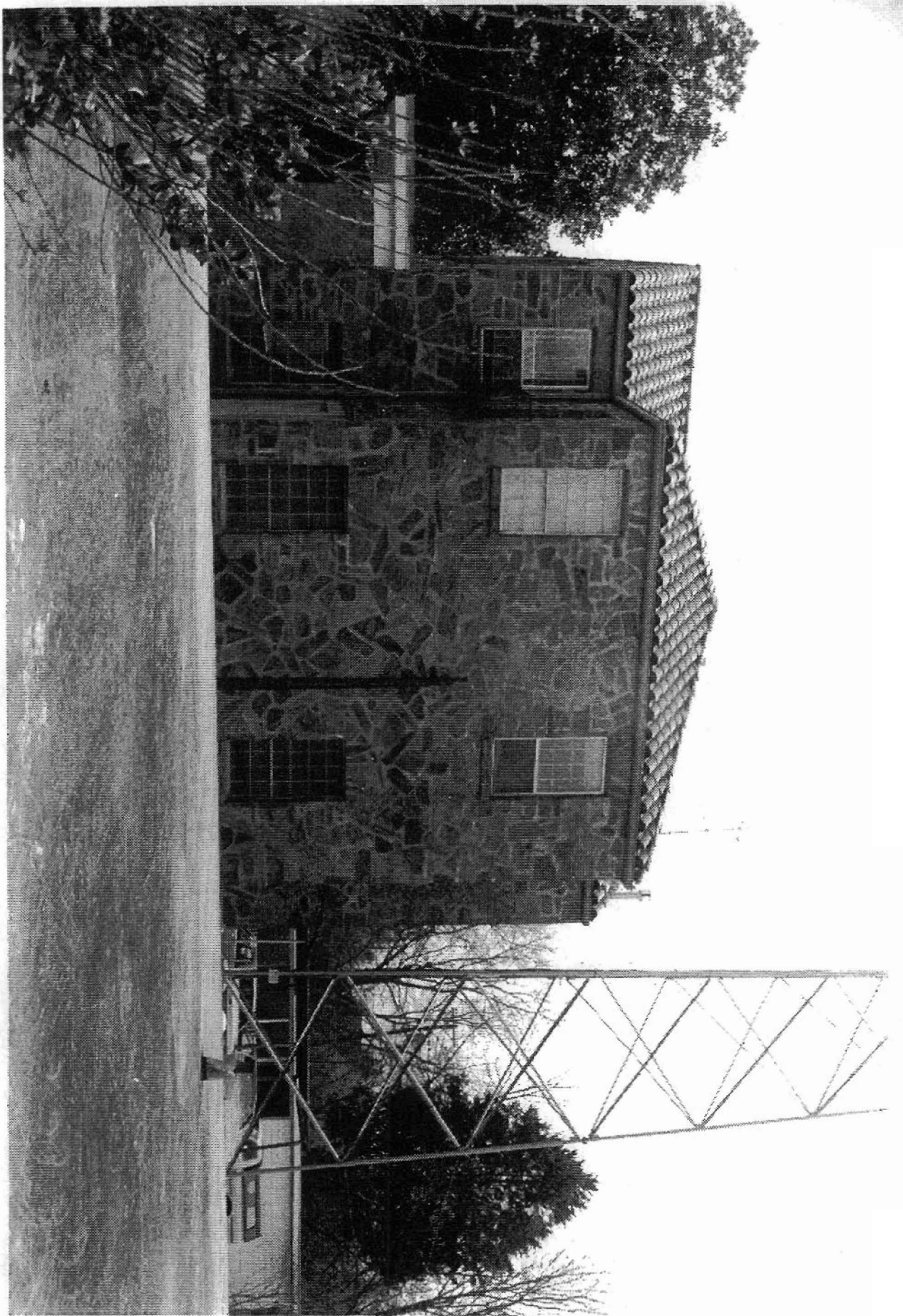




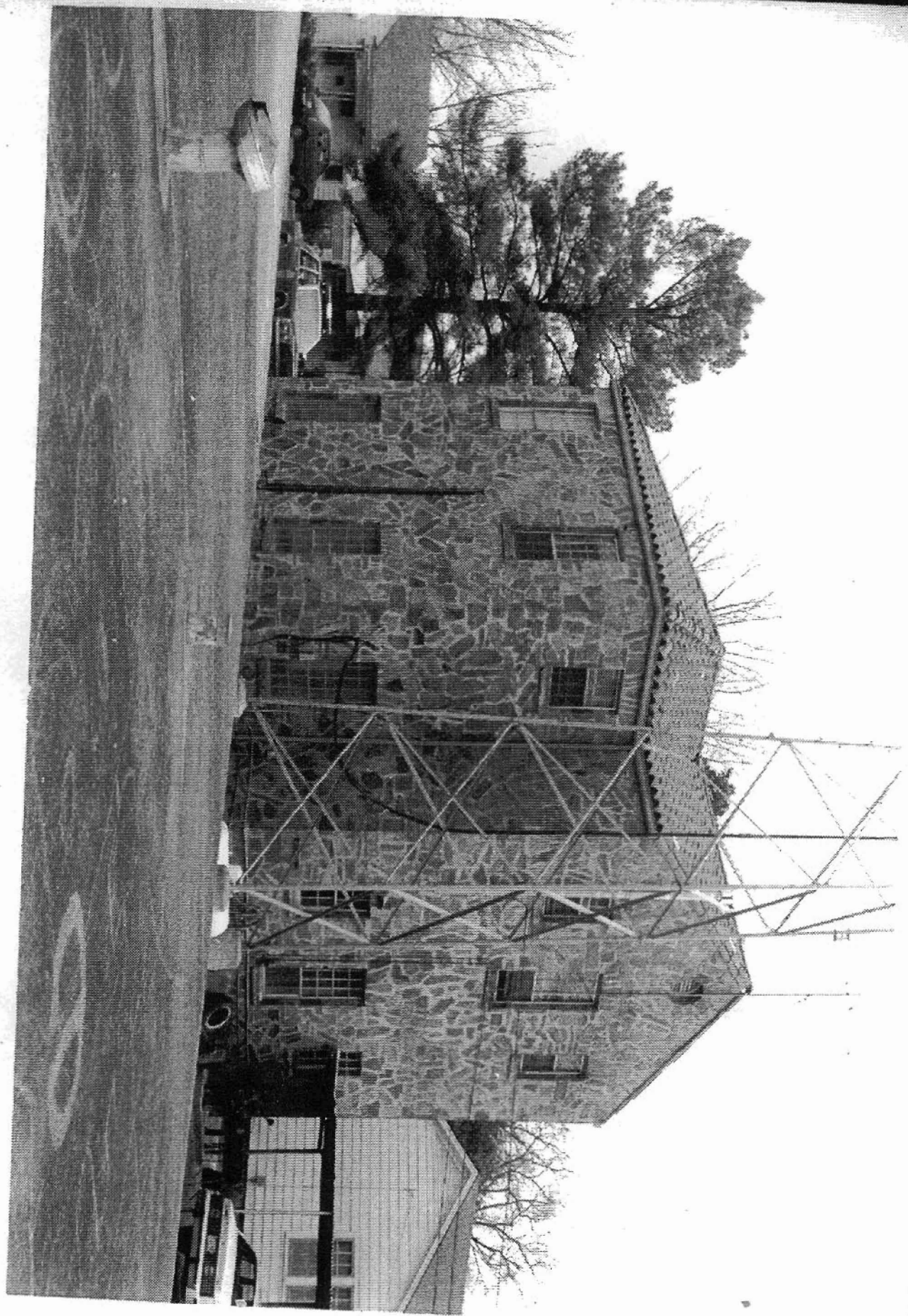
negative on file AHPP
View from Southeast
A.
April 1993
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
Natch Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas



PARK FIRE STATION & WATER COMPANY (unpaved)
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photographs by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AHPP
view from north east
A



Pack Hill Fire Station & Water Company Complex
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photograph by SANDRA Taylor Smith
April, 1983
negative on file AHV
view from the north
A



Park Hill Fire Station & Water Company
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
Photograph by SANDRA Taylor Smith
April, 1983
negative on file AHP
view from northwest
A

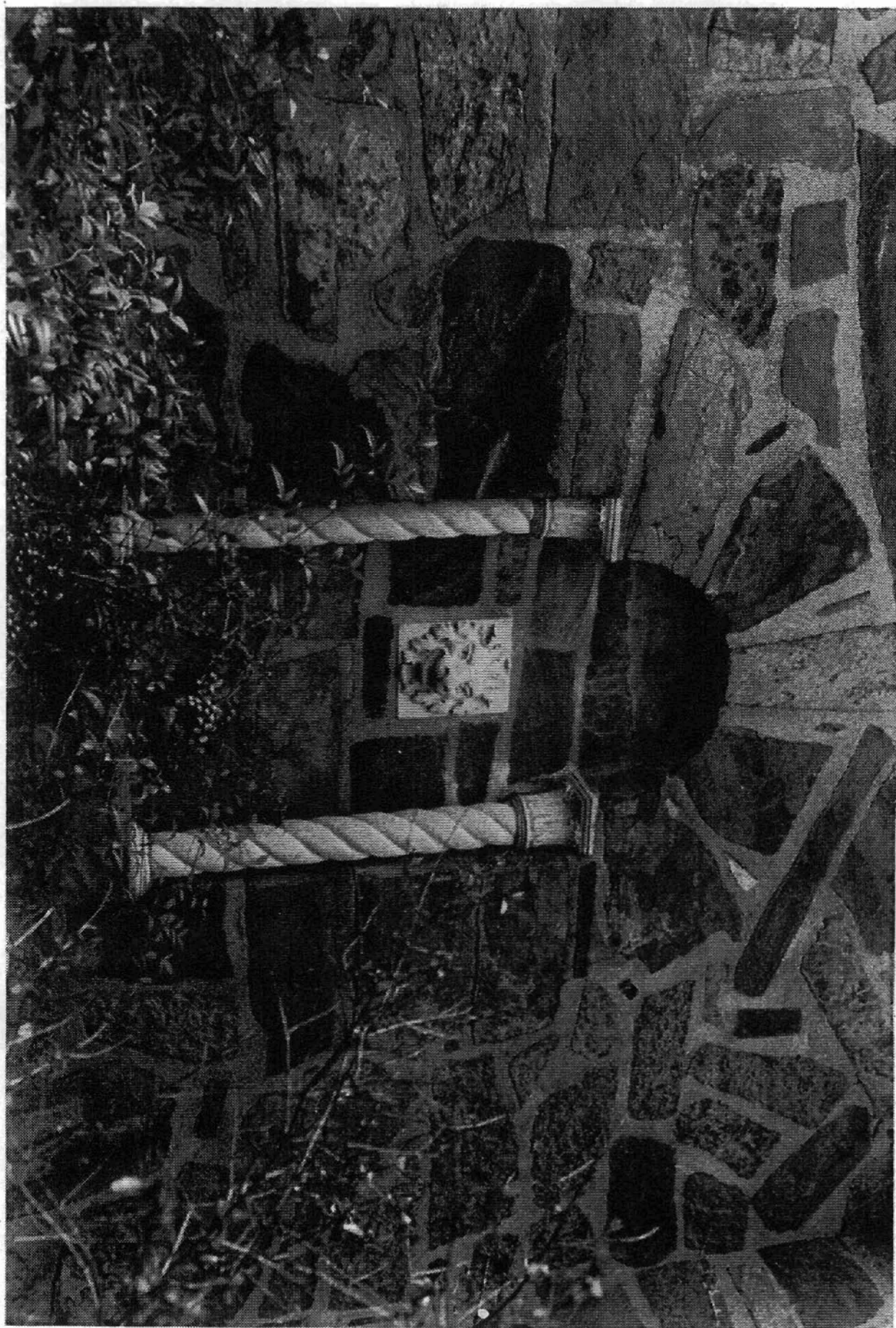
16X



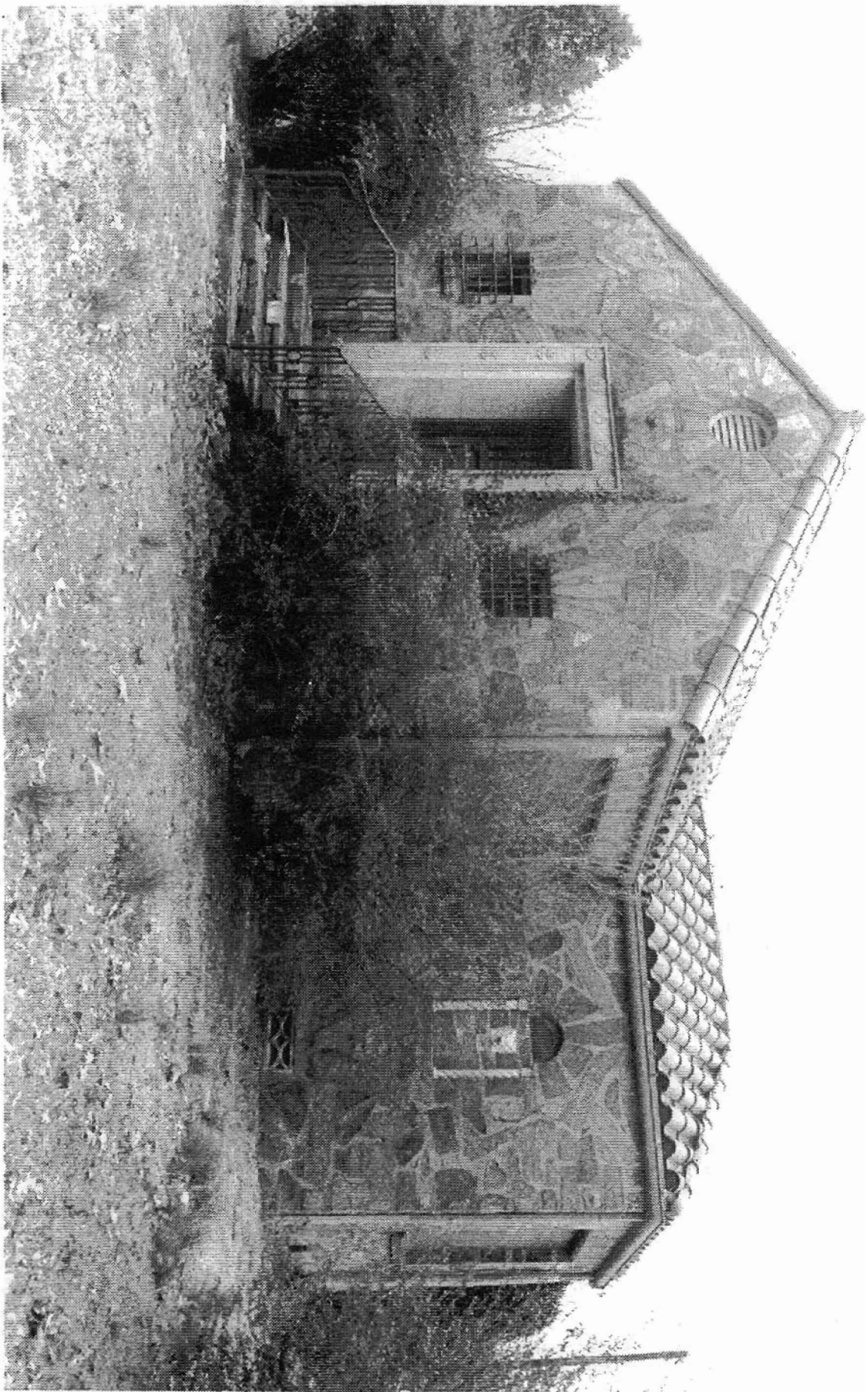
Park Hill BARE Station, water company complex
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AHPD
View from southeast
A



PARK-HILL RESTAURANT
North Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas
Photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
Negative on file at AARP
view from east
drive way in front of structure A

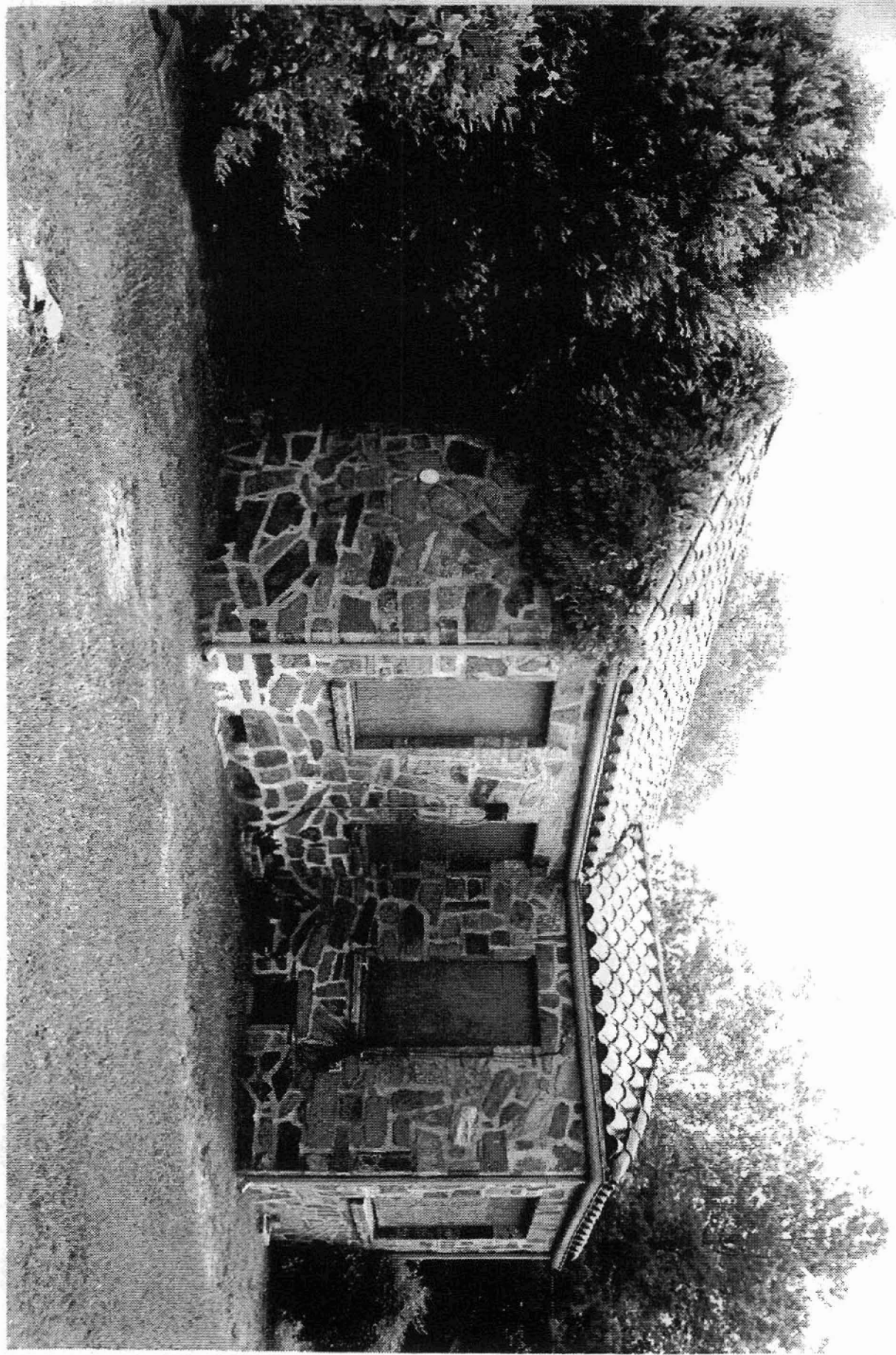


WATER TREATMENT STATION & WATER COMPANY COMPLEX
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, PULASKI, ARKANSAS
PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDRA TAYLOR SMITH
APRIL, 1983
NEGATIVE ON FILE AH00
VIEW FROM EAST
DETAIL - B



PARK Hill Fire Station & Water Company Company
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993

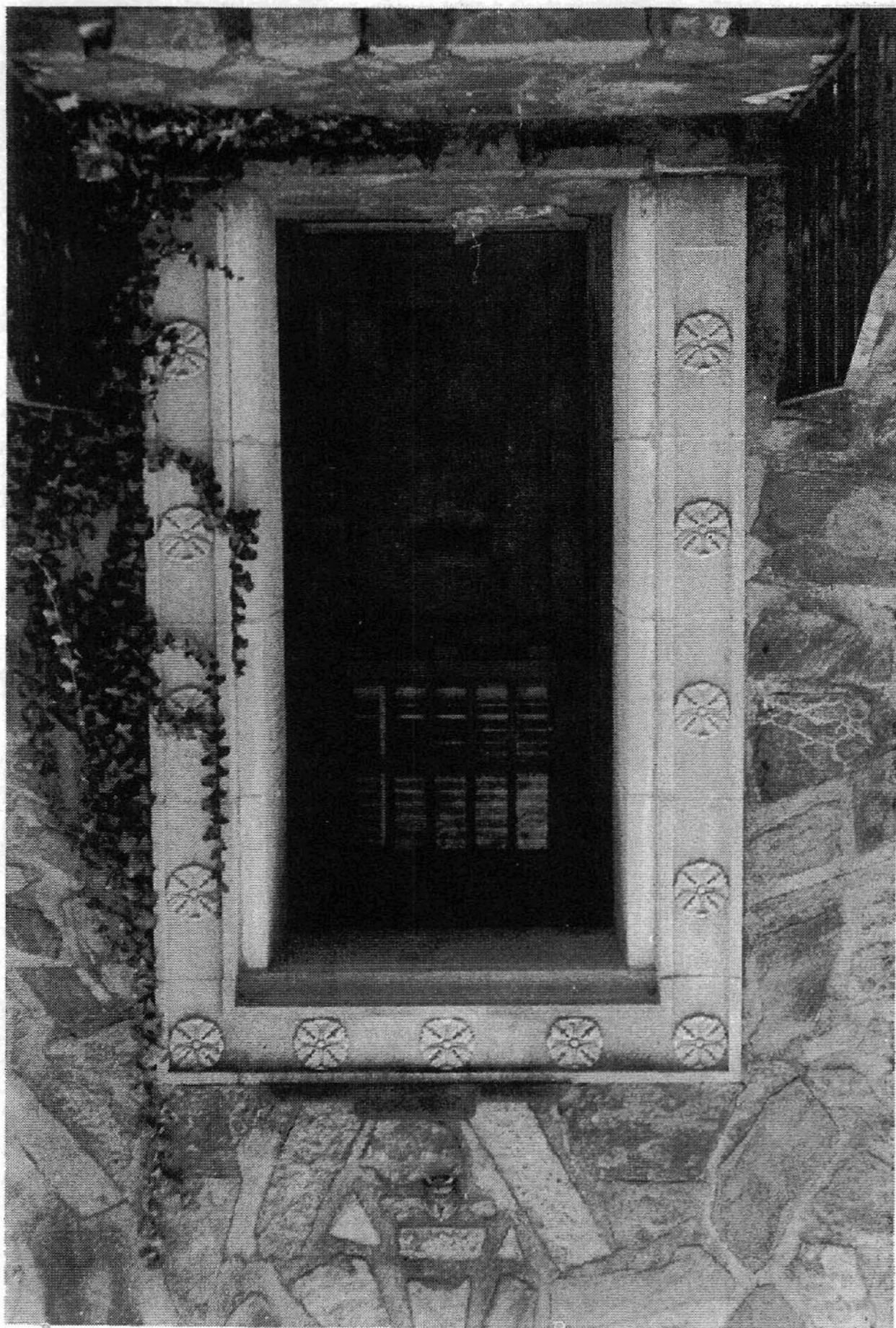
Negative on file A488
View from northeast
B



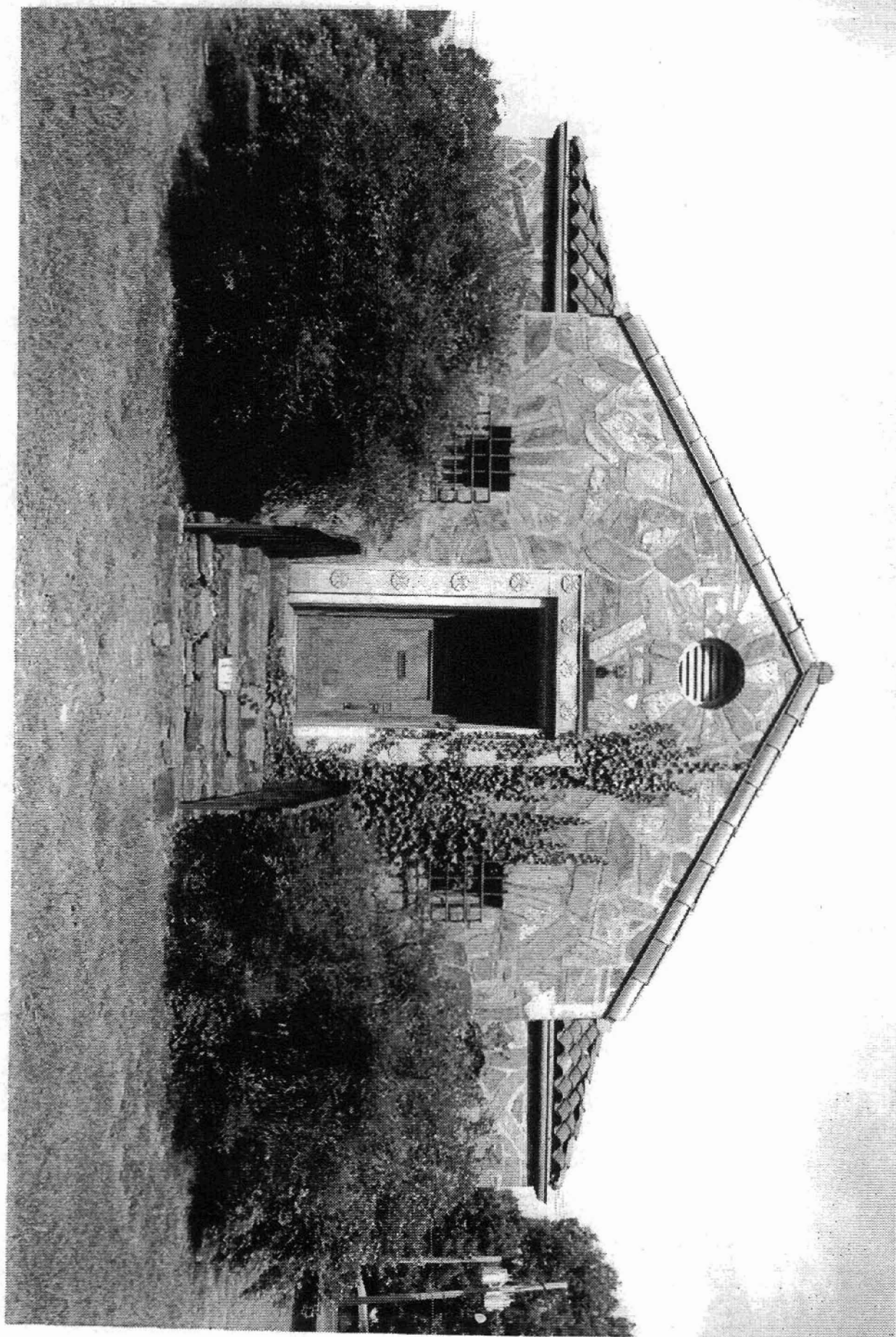
100121X

Old Hill site station & water company
near Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
Photography by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AH00
view from southwest

B



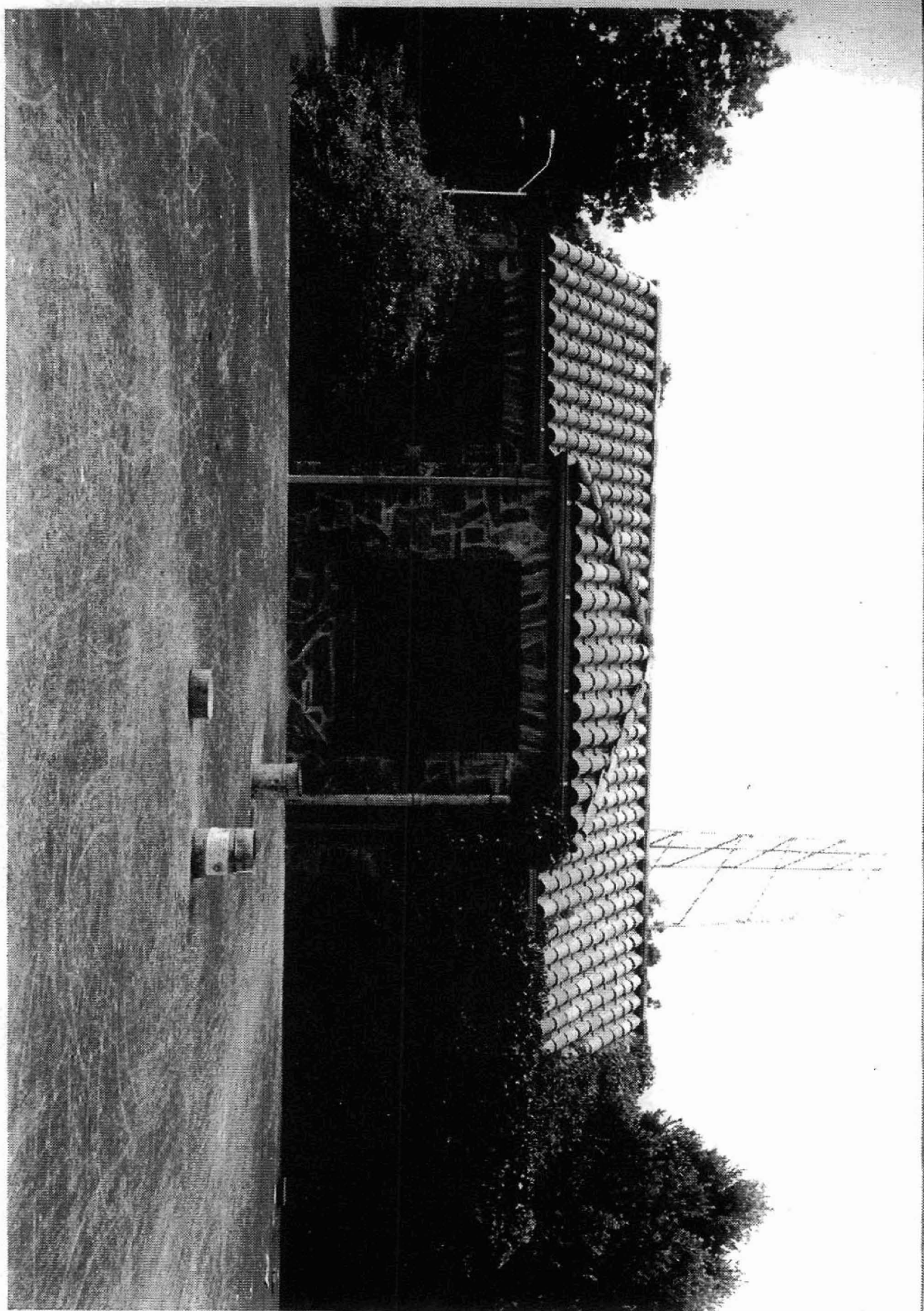
Park Hill Fire Station & Water Company complex
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
Photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative at AHP
view from east
Bentley



CHALK HILL RESECTATION: water company
north Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AHOP
view from EAST
B



North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AHPD
view from southwest
C & B



North Little Rock, Delash, Arkansas
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AHP
view from north
D. B.



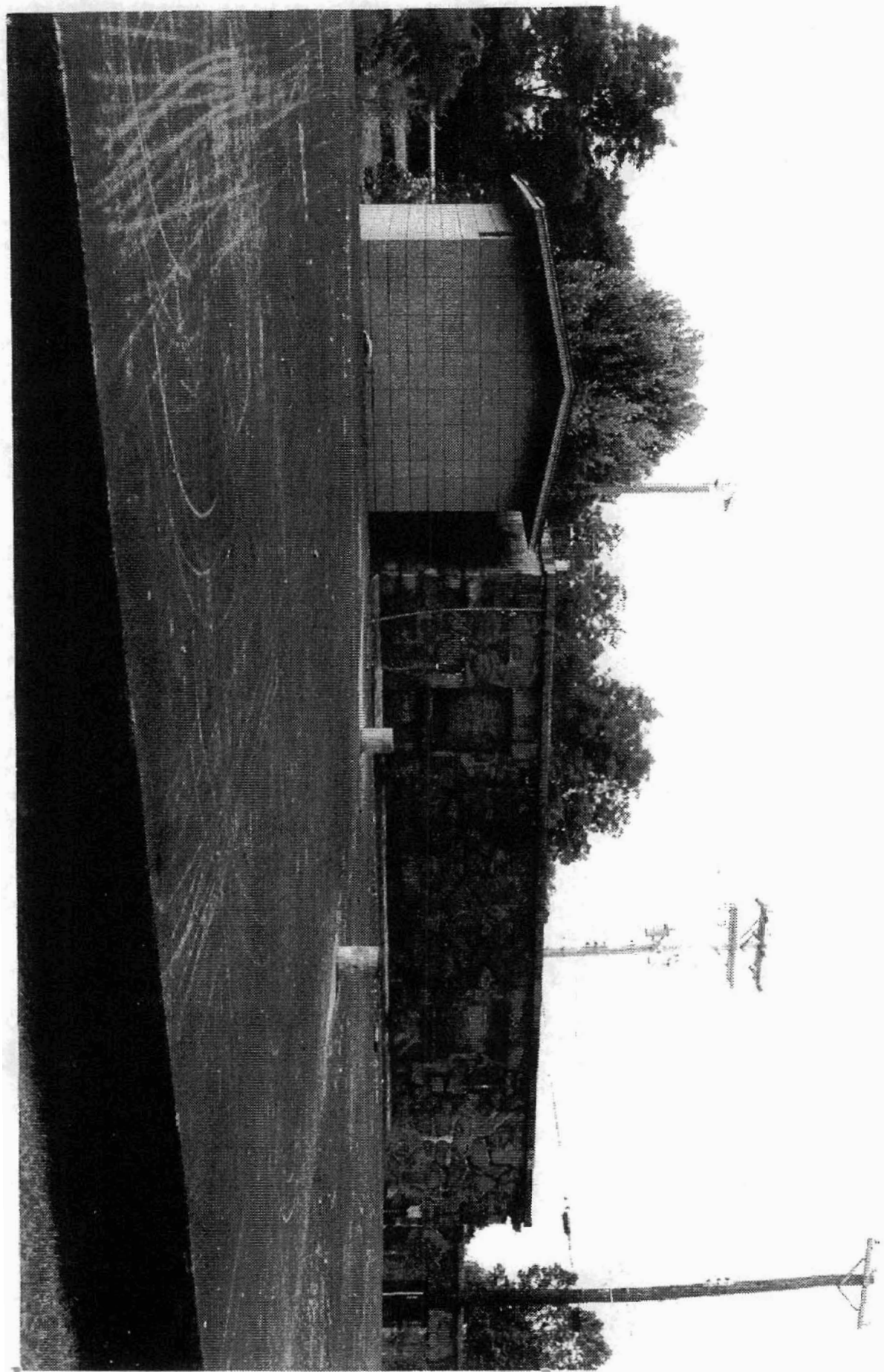
Pack Hill Fire Station & water company complex
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AHPP
view from southeast

B



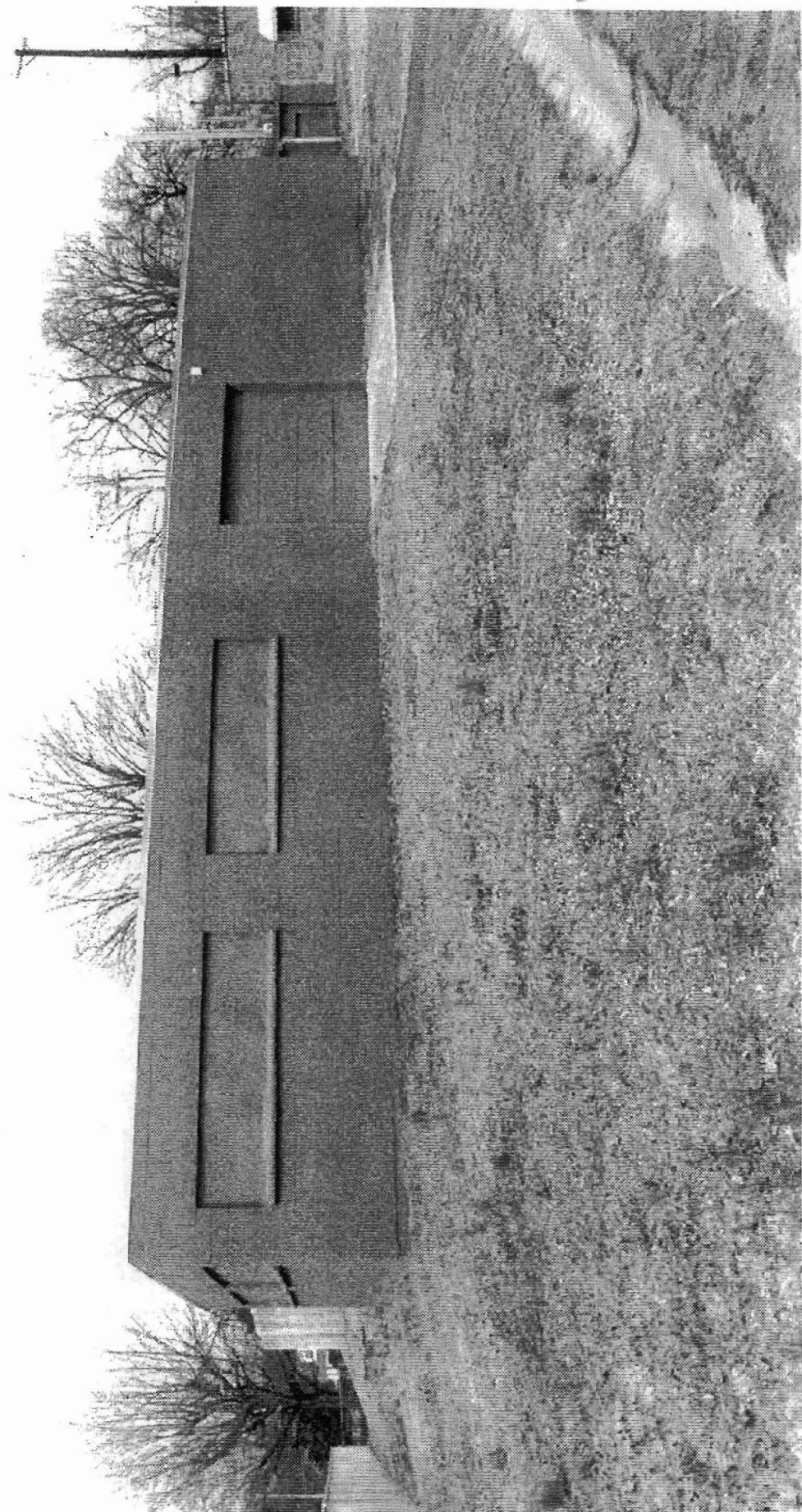
Park Hill Fire Station & Water Company
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file HHP
View from north
F

index



PARK HILL WATER COMPANY, FIRE STATION
NORTH LITTLE ROCK, PULASKI, ARKANSAS
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file #H00
view from north
D, 6, E

4X



Pine Hill Fire Station & water complex
North Little Rock, Pulaski, Arkansas
photograph by Sandra Taylor Smith
April, 1993
negative on file AHOP
view from south
I