

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: St. Joe Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Depot

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Southern side of U. S. Route 65

not for publication: N/A

city/town: St. Joe

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Searcy code: AR 129 zip code: 72675

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> 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: Historic Railroad Depots of Arkansas, 1870-1940

#### 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.

Carly H. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

8-11-93  
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: TRANSPORTATION

Sub: Rail-related

Current: COMMERCE/TRADE

Sub: Specialty Store

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

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

Other Description: Plain Traditional

Materials: foundation Wood/Concrete block roof Asphalt/Metal  
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  
TRANSPORTATION  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1912-1943

Significant Dates: c. 1912

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

See "Historic Railroad Depots of Arkansas, 1870-1940," Section H.

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: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>517800</u>	<u>3987060</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 southern edge of U. S. Highway 65 with a line running parallel with the building's eastern elevation and located 50 feet to the east thereof, proceed southerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's southern elevation; thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's western elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of approximately 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running along the southern edge of U. S. Highway 65; thence proceed easterly 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**

The St. Joe Missouri and North Arkansas (M & NA) Railroad Depot is a single story, wood frame depot designed in the simple, Plain Traditional style common for such simple, wood frame depots. Its gable-on-hip roof covers an essentially rectangular plan, augmented only by the typical telegrapher's bay on the northern elevation.

**Elaboration**

The St. Joe Missouri and North Arkansas (M & NA) Railroad Depot is a single story, wood frame depot designed in the simple, Plain Traditional style common for such simple, wood frame depots. Its gable-on-hip roof covers an essentially rectangular plan, augmented only by the typical telegrapher's bay on the northern elevation. Two red brick chimneys, now removed, formerly rose through the gable peak near the center of the building. Its wood and concrete block foundation and weatherboarded walls support a combination asphalt shingle and standing-seam metal roof.

The northern or trackside elevation is highlighted by the projecting telegrapher's bay placed toward its western end. The front of the telegrapher's bay is fenestrated with a bank of three two-over-two wood windows, while a single narrower window of identical sash configuration lights each of its side walls. Two single-leaf doors flank either side of the telegrapher's bay, and a single window completes the elevation to the west, while two more identical windows extend toward the east, followed by the former location of a large, rolling wooden freight door, now filled. The southern elevation opposite is simpler, as it features only a single-leaf entrance placed toward the western end and an intact rolling wooden freight door placed toward the east, with a four wood frame windows interspersed in between.

The eastern elevation is accessed via a central rolling wooden freight door with three-pane transom and a smaller, single-leaf door to the north. The western elevation retains the northernmost of its original two wood sash windows, though it is now covered with plywood. The southern original window has been removed to allow for a modern freight entrance.

The significant exterior details are limited to the broad, projecting eaves and the simple stick work trim that runs horizontally beneath and above the original windows.

The interior has been changed somewhat in its conversion from an active depot to a feed store; however, it retains a substantial amount of original door and window trim, and much of its

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original beaded-board wall sheathing.

The St. Joe Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Depot has suffered only the removal of its two original chimneys, the replacement of one of its western windows with a modern freight loading door, and the partial removal of some interior partitions; otherwise it is in good condition.

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### Summary

Criteria A and C, local significance

The St. Joe Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Depot is locally eligible under both Criteria A and C as one of the few remaining wood frame M & NA depots in the entire state, and as the only known example remaining on its original site in Searcy County.

### Elaboration

The Searcy County community of St. Joe -- incorporated in 1902 as a direct consequence of the arrival of the fledgling St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad -- can actually trace its origins as such to around 1870, the first documented instance of European settlement (local folklore claims a settlement date of 1860, but this cannot be documented). By 1871, St. Joe -- located on one of the principle overland routes through the Ozark Mountains to southwestern Missouri -- could boast of at least one store and a few other small businesses. Geologists visiting the area after the Civil War to search for both valuable minerals and natural springs soon discovered the rich zinc deposits surrounding St. Joe. Though some mining interests came to St. Joe hoping to find such precious metals as silver, it was the actual presence of significant zinc deposits that transformed St. Joe into one of the zinc mining centers in the Ozarks. Until 1902, however, this natural resource remained largely unexploited due to the lack of adequate transportation to ship the ore out of the mountains and to processing centers.

The arrival of the St. Louis and North Arkansas Railroad in 1902 (which by 1906 had emerged from the first of what would be many financial reorganizations as the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad) and the completion of the line between Leslie to the south and Seligman, Missouri to the north in the following year signalled the beginning of two decades of relative prosperity for St. Joe. The railroad brought with it the means for the shipping of the zinc ore, and mining operations around St. Joe increased dramatically thereafter. The town center shifted approximately 1/2 mile to the east, to the intersection of an old wagon road with the new railroad line. A small commercial district grew along this roadway immediately to the north of the tracks and perpendicular thereto, providing a variety of services to the workers and train passengers that now passed through St. Joe on the railroad.

Unfortunately, due to the severe drop in ore prices that occurred in 1918, the zinc mining boom died a quick death soon thereafter. The mines in both St. Joe and Harrison had folded by 1919, and were not to reopen again. Indeed, the fortunes of most of these Ozark Mountain mining towns paralleled those of the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad that served them: in spite of a spurt of optimistic growth early in the second decade of the twentieth century (during which



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the St. Joe depot was constructed), the Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad was in receivership by 1916, and continued to be plagued by financial problems until the final abandonment of the line in 1962.

It was during the brief period of new construction that the railroad hoped would inspire greater passenger and freight traffic that it built its new depot in St. Joe. Typical of most of the M & NA's depots, the St. Joe depot is a single-story building that is capped by a gable-on-hip roof; it is not elaborately ornamented, which was also typical of M & NA depots. The Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad Depot in St. Joe is eligible under Criterion A for its associations with this particular railroad line and its own colorful -- if not entirely successful -- history. It is also eligible under Criterion C as the best extant example of a railroad depot of wood frame construction. This passenger and freight railroad depot is associated with the Railroad Growth and Development in Arkansas, 1870-1940 historic context as a structure financed and erected under the auspices of one of the most regionally-significant early twentieth-century railroads in the state.

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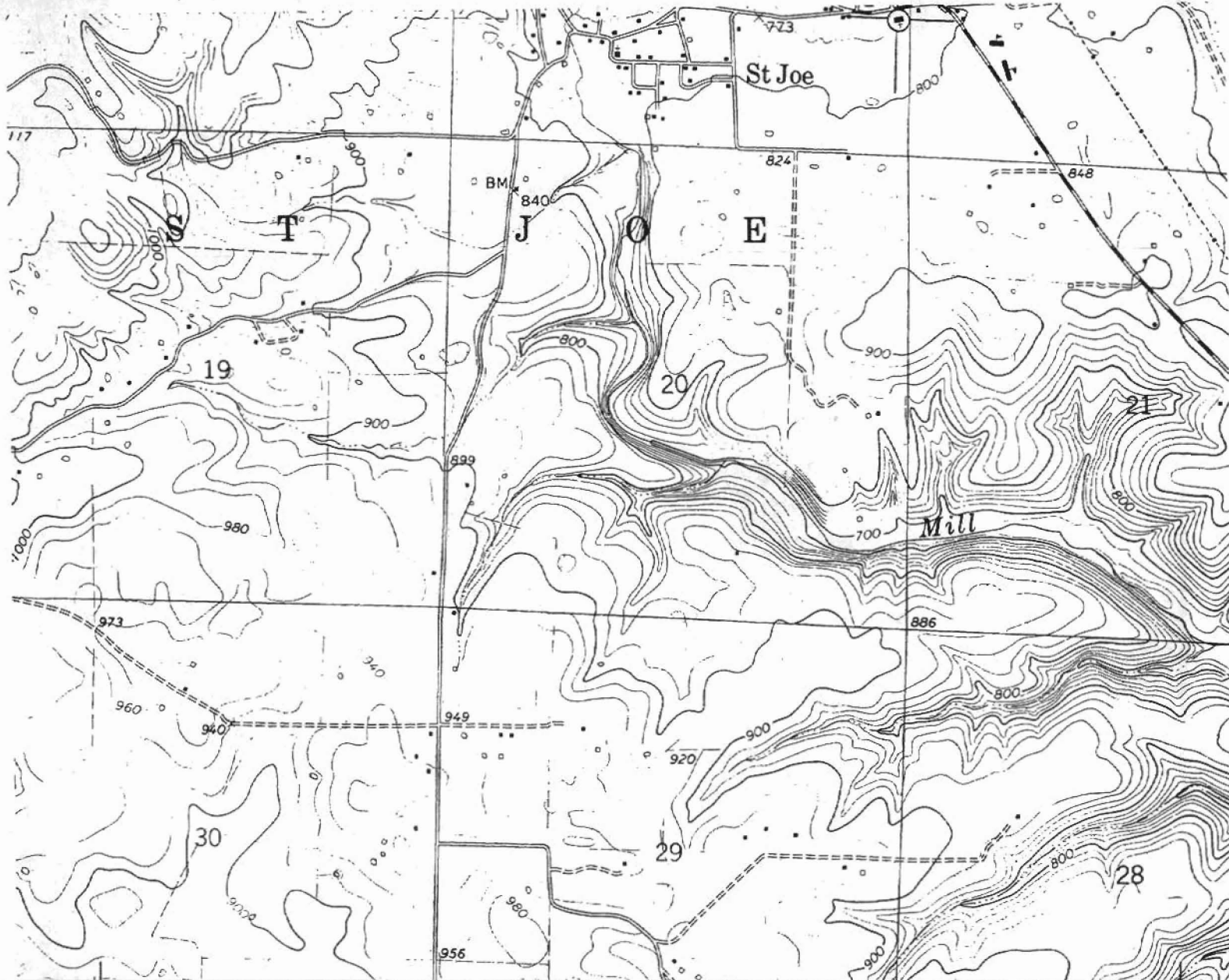
**Bibliography**

Fair, James R., Jr., *The North Arkansas Line*, (Berkeley, CA, 1969).

Handley, Lawrence R., "Settlement Across Northern Arkansas As Influenced By The Missouri and North Arkansas Railroad," *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 33, No. 4, Winter, 1974, pp. 273-292.

McInturff, Orville J., *Searcy County My Dear*, (Marshall, Arkansas, 1963).

"Rotomac," "Arkansas Rambles," *Arkansas Daily Gazette*, July 7, 1881, pg. 2, col. 3.



7 W. 50' 516 (SNOWBALL 1:62 500) 518 47'30"

SCALE 1:24 000

1 1000 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET

1 5 0 1 KILOMETER

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET

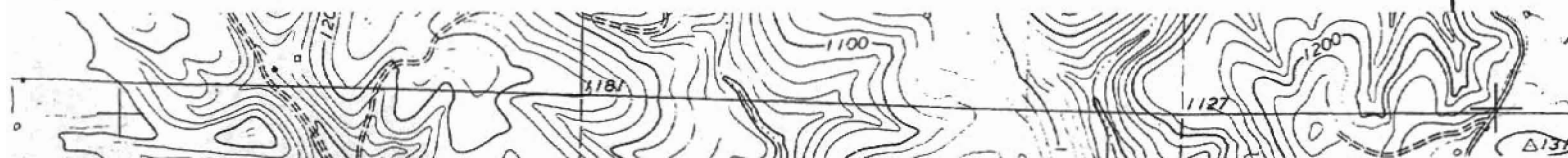
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

*St. Joe, Mo. 1:24,000*

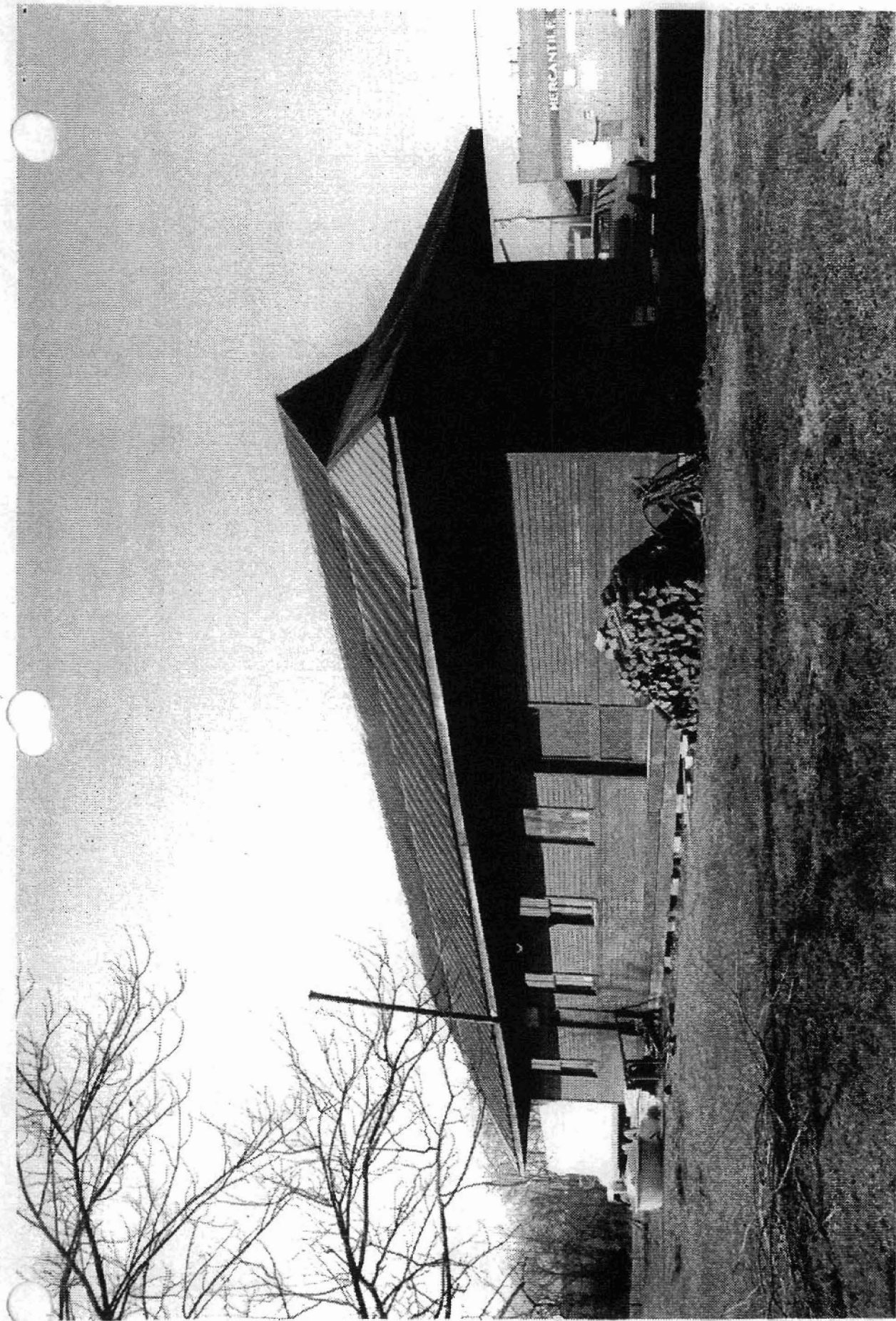
*St. Joe, Mo. 1:24,000*

*15/517800/473000*

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST







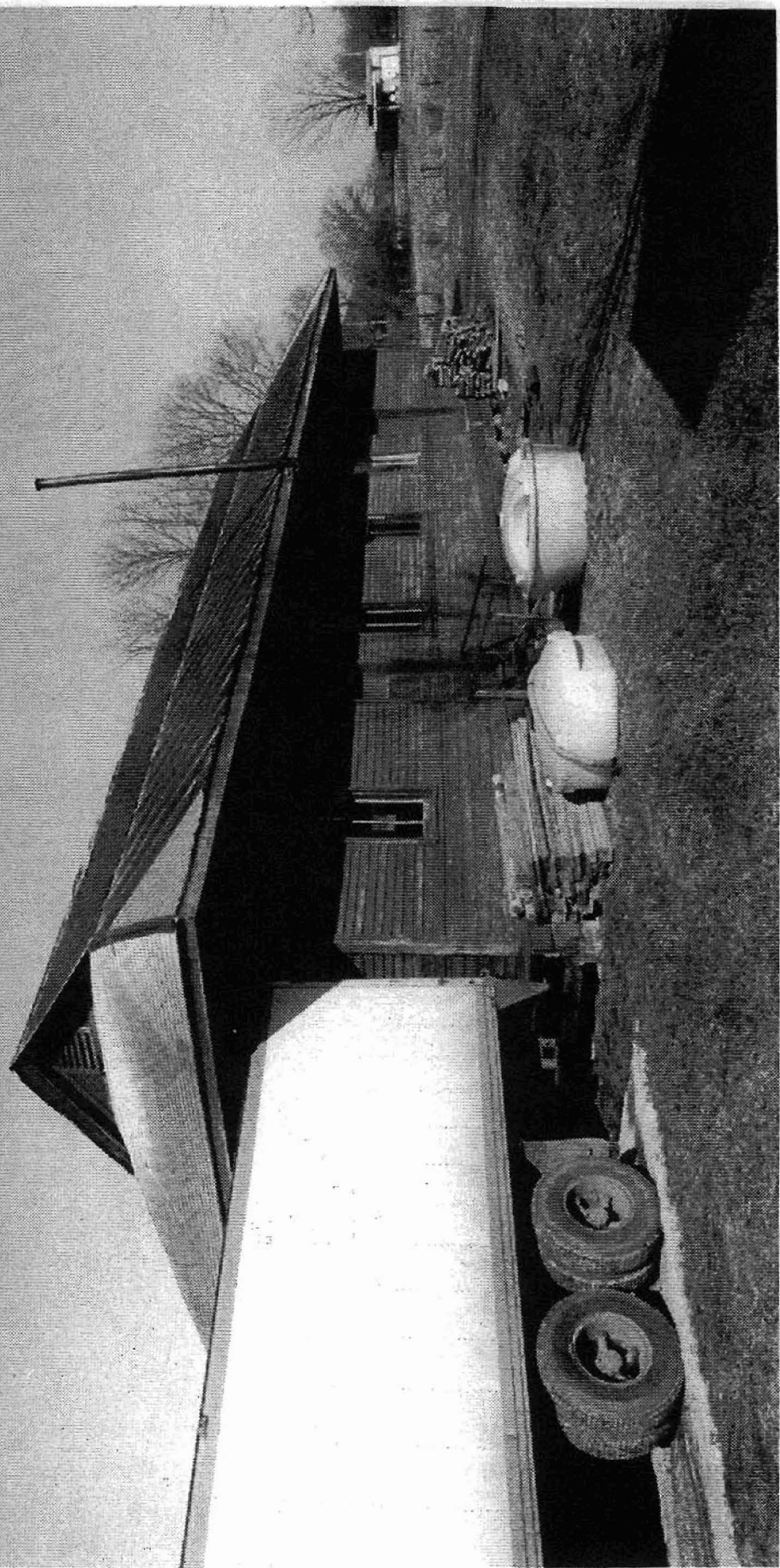
Dr. Vol. Musgrave - A. Arkansas RR Depot  
Dr. Vol. Stearns Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by P. Zollner  
January, 1993  
Measure On Tie At ARRP  
View From Southwest





3. Joe Missouri v N. Arkansas RR Depot  
St. Joe, Denver Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by P. Zollner  
January, 1993  
Negative on file at AHP  
from ~~Journal~~ Northwest



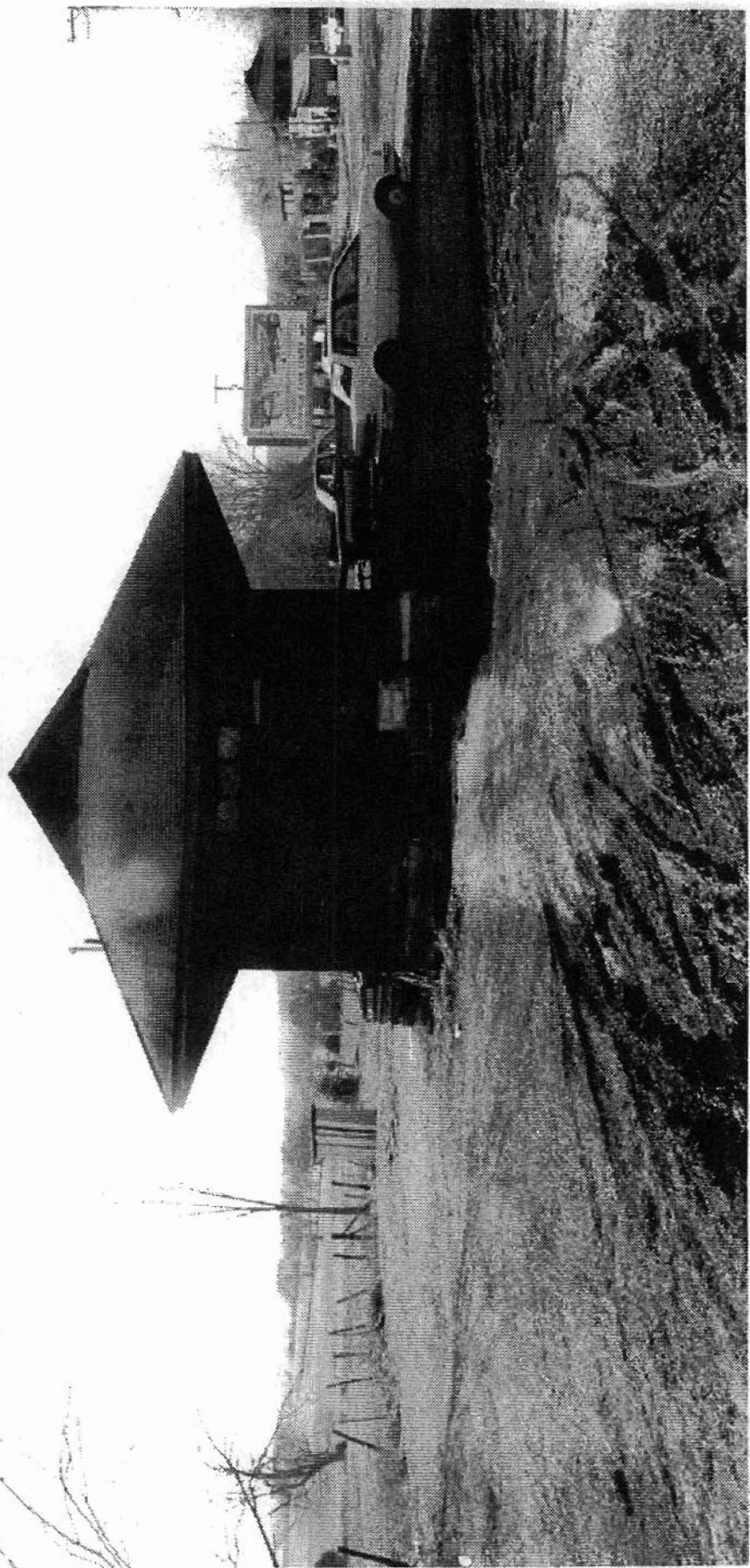


Mr. Joe Wheeler, North Arkansas RR Depot  
Mr. Joe Wheeler Co., Arkansas  
Photographed by P. Zollner  
January, 1993  
Negative On File At ARPP  
Please From Photographs

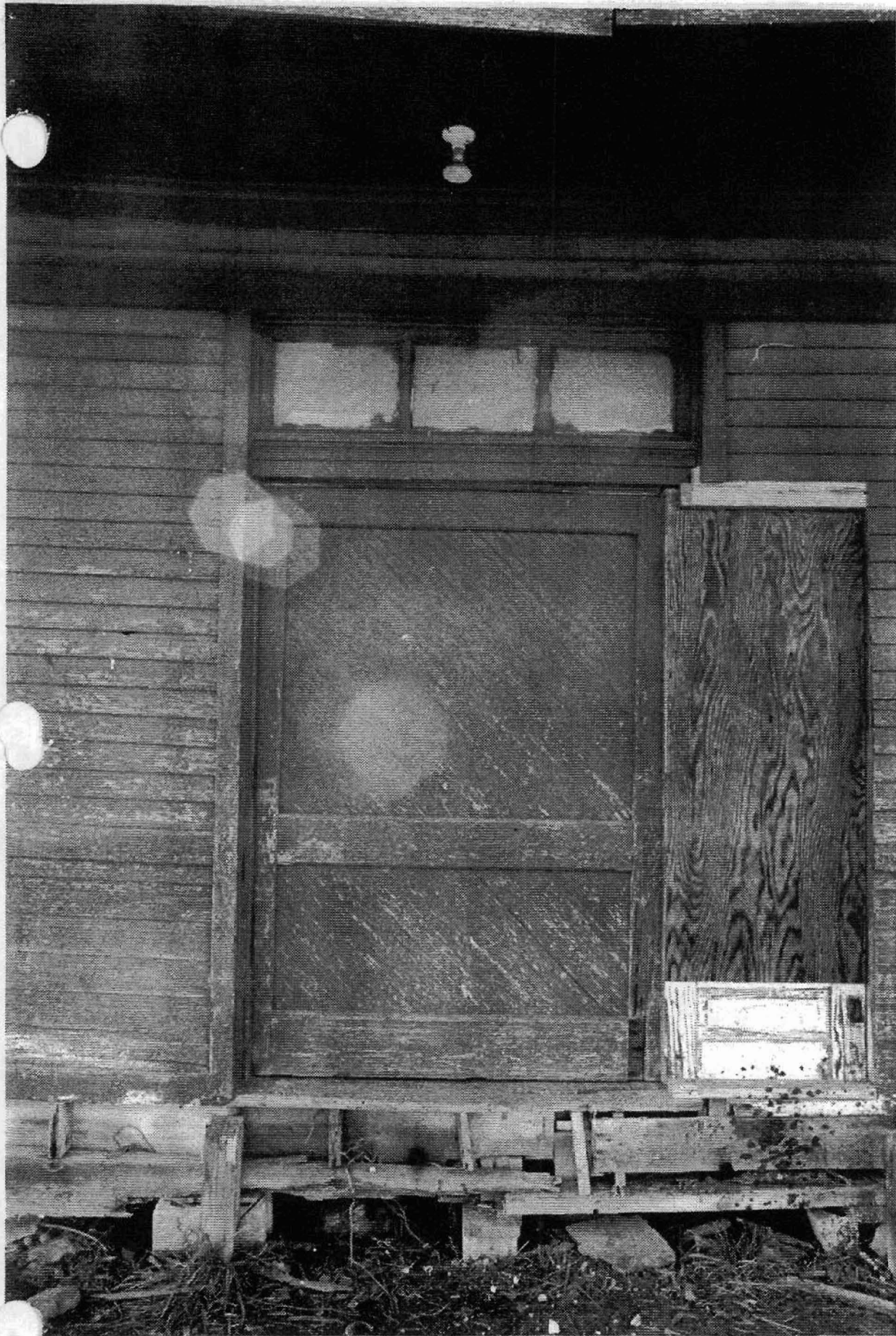


Dr. Joe Winston, N. Arkansas Rt 2005  
Dr. Joe, Denver Co, Arkansas  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
January, 1993  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM NORTH



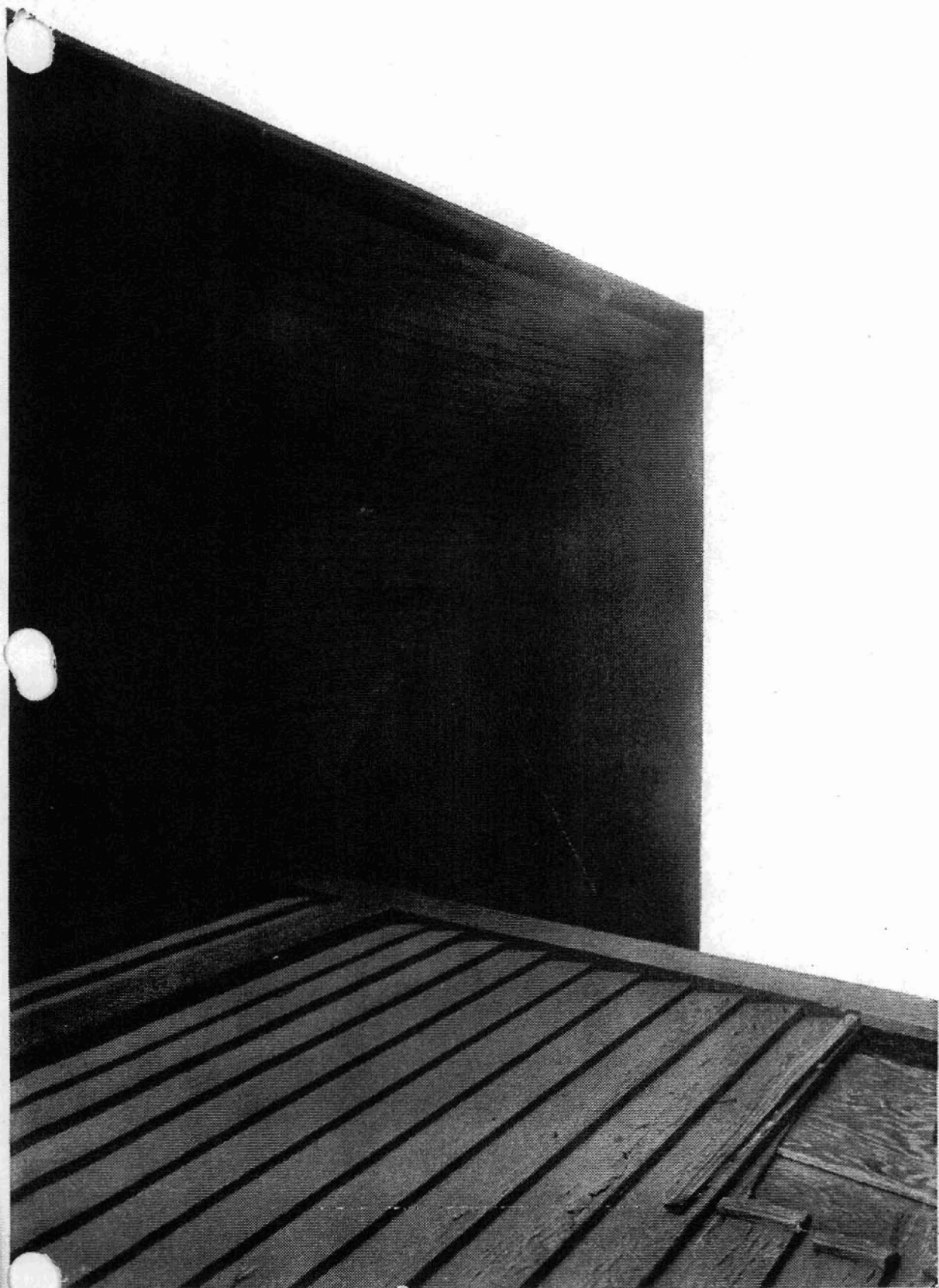


Dr. Joe Missoua, N. Arkansas RR Depot  
St. Joe, Henry Co., Arkansas  
Photographed By P. Zollner  
January, 1983  
Negative On File At ALPP  
Video From East



Dr. Joe Brewer + W. Arkansas RR Depot  
Dr. Joe Brewer Co., Arkansas  
Photographed By P. Zollner  
January, 1953  
Negative On File At ARPP  
FBI/AR Don Detrick





Dr. Joe Missouri + N. Arkansas RE DEPT  
J. Joe, LEADER CO., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY P. ZOLLNER  
JANUARY, 1993  
MEMORIAL ON THE AT RHPD  
POENICE DETAIL