

New Edinburg Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Cleveland County, Arkansas

County and State

NP 10-900

(O)

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name New Edinburg Commercial Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Highway 8☐ not for publicationcity or town New Edinburg☐ vicinitystate Arkansascode ARcounty Clevelandcode 025zip code 71660

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

Contributing

Noncontributing

10

1

buildings

sites

structures

objects

10

1

Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE TRADE: General Store

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Hotel

TRANSPORTATION: Road-related

COMMERCE TRADE: Specialty Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: Fire Station

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

VACANT/NOT IN USE

COMMERCE TRADE: Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY MOVEMENTS: Craftsman influences

OTHER : Minimal Traditional; Central Hall House with Craftsman influences;

Barn-like style; Plain Traditional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Weatherboard; METAL;

BRICK; ASBESTOS

roof METAL; ASPHALT

other BRICK

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.

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3. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

Period of Significance

ARCHITECTURE: 1898-1951

EXPLORATION SETTLEMENT: 1835-1951

Significant Dates

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEETS.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cleveland County Herald (Bicentennial Addition). 14 March 1973.

Cleveland County Homepage (<http://www.rootsweb.com/~arlevel/history.htm>).

Cleveland County Potpourri - Recollections From History and Folklore: A Project of the Cleveland County Schools and the Cleveland County Bicentennial Committee. 1976

Dougan, Michael. Arkansas Odyssey: A Saga of Arkansas from Prehistoric Times to Present. Little Rock: Rose Publishing Company, 1993.

King, Marvin. Interview by author 30 May 2001 and 11 June 2001.

Lucas, Silas Emmet. Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Southern Arkansas. Chicago, Nashville, & St. Louis: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1890. Reprint, Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1978.

** Multiple phone conversations were conducted with residents of New Edinburg.

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 5.25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>15</u>	<u>570286</u>	<u>3735476</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
B	<u>15</u>	<u>570367</u>	<u>3735553</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>15</u>	<u>570459</u>	<u>3735441</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>15</u>	<u>570413</u>	<u>3735349</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Running parallel to Highway 8 on the Northeast and Southwest sides, the New Edinburg Commercial Historic District is located on the New Edinburg Quadrangle Map and contains approximately 5.25 acres more or less being located in Section 16 Township 11 South, Range 11 West. The boundary begins at the western corner (point A) of the Lash Store and continues approximately 600 feet southeast to the south corner of Smith's Service Station (point D) where the boundary then turns and commences approximately 420 feet northeast to the northeast corner of the Parrot Grocery Store (point C). The boundary then turns northwest, running parallel to Highway 8 approximately 600 feet, where it stops at the north corner of the New Edinburg Hotel (point B). The boundary then continues approximately 400 feet southwestward to its point of origin (point A).

(Points correspond with the quad map.)

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Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The selected boundary contains the highest concentration of buildings, built for commercial purposes, that were constructed before 1951 and still possess a high degree of integrity and contribute to the significance of the New Edinburg Commercial Historic District. Any nearby buildings that were excluded were done so because of their less than 50 years construction date or because they were residential buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kara Mills Oosterhous

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

date

street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street

telephone (501) 324-9787

city or town Little Rock

state AR

zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name

street & number

telephone

city or town

state

zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

The New Edinburg Commercial Historic District is located along the north and south sides of Highway 8 in Cleveland County. Although the town of New Edinburg was established in 1860, these "commercial" buildings reflect the growth and commerce associated with New Edinburg during its prosperous time from the turn of the century until the early 1920s. Located within this district are eleven buildings, ten of which were constructed for income producing purposes.

The streetscape of New Edinburg and the buildings themselves closely resemble how they would've appeared in 1920s, 30s, and 40s as they have been altered little. The only thing that differs now is that the stores, which were once thriving businesses, now stand vacant; and the town of New Edinburg, which once bustled with activity, is now a quiet and quaint town reminiscent of busier times.

ELABORATION

The New Edinburg Commercial Historic District, located along Highway 8 in Cleveland County, is comprised of ten buildings, all of which were constructed between 1898 and 1940. With the exception of one residential building, all buildings were constructed for commercial purposes. These "commercial" buildings reflect the growth and commerce associated with New Edinburg during its prosperous time from the 1890s until the early 1920s.

The buildings within this district sit parallel to Highway 8 on both the north and south sides. Within the district four buildings are located to the south of Highway 8 and six buildings are located to the north. The New Edinburg Commercial District is unique because it contains six buildings that served as general stores or mercantiles, one café, one service garage, and one hotel - which is amazing considering that New Edinburg was never incorporated and never reached a population greater than 200 people.

North Side of Highway 8 (beginning at the northern end of the district):

New Edinburg Hotel (contributing - ca. 1898; moved ca. 1915)

Originally constructed as an "I - House" in 1898 by Tom Clemons, the New Edinburg Hotel served as a hotel for the town of New Edinburg. Originally a two-story front porch spanned the façade of the building and it was trimmed with very simple gingerbread detailing. At the time of its construction the hotel was located right along the dirt road (now Highway 8) which passed through town. A historic photograph taken in 1900 shows the hotel with the "ell" off of the rear. Narrower wood siding differentiates the "ell" from the main portion of the house. It is possible that some time between 1898 and 1900 the rear "ell" was added.

Circa 1915 the house was jacked up, loaded onto logs, and mules were used to "skid" the hotel backward to its present-day location approximately 50 feet from the road. After it was moved the Stewart Family purchased and

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occupied the home and occasionally the upstairs rooms were rented out. It is most probable that the front porch and craftsman door & sidelights were added at the time the Stewart family purchased the building (ca. 1915). At a later date, circa 1950s, asbestos plate shingles were added.

Originally constructed as a rectangular "I-House" with a two-story full front porch and with a gable roof, the New Edinburg Hotel displayed four-over-four and nine-over-one windows. The present-day appearance of the hotel is that of an "L" with a rear ell added ca. 1889. The weatherboard-clad building sits atop a continuous brick foundation and is topped by gable roofs and pierced by two brick chimneys. Rake molding and fascia boards further delineate the roofline of the building, which also displays a Craftsman style, one-story, front porch. The New Edinburg Hotel served in this capacity until ca. 1910 when it was then converted to a single-family residence. Presently the building is unoccupied.

Stewart Cash Store (contributing - ca. ? & ca. 1934)

The Stewart Cash Store was constructed in two phases - the oldest portion of the building (construction unknown) is located to the rear of the present-day building and it originally served as a post office. Circa 1934 Florene Stewart retired from her position as postmaster, which she had held since 1914, and at this time she and her husband Leslie had the post office building moved to the rear of the property. Circa 1934 the Stewarts added a new room and car canopy - both designed in the Craftsman style - to the front of the original structure so that the building could better serve as a mercantile.

The present-day appearance of this rectangular building is designed in the Craftsman style. Clad in weatherboard, the building sits atop cast concrete piers and is topped by a metal-clad gable roof that is pierced by a brick chimney. Located beneath the car canopy, which is supported by battered post on piers, is a chamfered entrance flanked by two-over-one windows as well as a ribbon of two-over-one stationary windows. Other fenestration consists of small single pane windows located beneath the eaves of the gable roof on the ca. 1934 portion of the building and four-over-four windows on the original section of the building also identified by a stoop entry on the rear elevation.

The Stewart Cash Store served as a general store from 1934 until it closed ca. 1975. Among the many commodities sold here were groceries, farming supplies, and gasoline (which was sold until 1973/1974).

Hamaker - Hearnberger Store (contributing - ca. 1920)

Constructed circa 1920 in the Craftsman style, the Hamaker - Hearnberger Store sits atop a brick pier foundation and is crowned by a metal-clad gable roof that extends towards highway 8 forming a car canopy that is supported by battered columns on piers. Sheathed in weatherboard this building is fenestrated with small single pane windows located under the eaves of the roof and one-over-one windows that flank the chamfered front entrance. Located to the rear of the building on each side is an entrance.

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Originally known as the Hamaker store, this building was purchased ca. 1950 by E. B. "Beau" Hearnberger. The store sold an assortment of commodities including: animal food, plumbing supplies, canning goods, branding materials, tobacco, coal oil, gas, and deli meat. Mrs. Hearnberger worked in the store's deli area where she made sandwiches; aiding her in her cooking endeavors was a pot bellied wood stove that also heated the store in the winter. One of Bobbie Hearnberger Dunlap's fondest memories was walking from school with friends to the store to purchase candy and ice-cream.

Cathey Café & Barbershop (non-contributing - ca. 1928)

Constructed ca. 1928 the Cathey Café and Barbershop is a weatherboard-clad building that sits atop cast concrete piers and is topped with a gable roof. Because of the false front and parapet which were added ca. 2000 the Cathey Café and Barbershop is noncontributing to the district. However, it is still an important component to the history of New Edinburg. Fenestration is confined to two doors and various types of windows including stationary single pane windows and double-hung one-over-one, six-over-six, and four-over-one windows.

Cathey's Café and Barbershop was the only café in New Edinburg for many years. Located in the back corner of the café was a "barbershop" with John P. Bale serving as local barber.

Parham Store (contributing - ca. 1920)

Constructed circa 1920 the weatherboard-clad Parham store sits atop cast concrete piers and is topped by a gable roof sheathed in metal. Constructed in the Craftsman style the historic section of the building is fenestrated with single pane stationary windows and a ribbon of four two-over-two windows that flank the front door. A car canopy supported by battered columns on piers delineates the front of the building. Located to the rear of the building is a metal addition that now serves as a residence for the current owner; despite its size it does not detract from the historic portion of the building.

The Parham Store served as a general store for many years. Various types of supplies and goods could be purchased from the store including gasoline - which is evidenced by the concrete pad where the tanks would have stood in front of the store.

Parrot Grocery Store (contributing - ca. 1900)

The Parrot Grocery Store is probably the oldest building within the district. Constructed circa 1900 this weatherboard clad building that sits atop a brick pier foundation presents a flush façade and is topped by a metal-clad gable roof. The façade of the building is defined by double doors flanked by two-over-two double-hung windows. Although some of the windows are no longer intact their openings are still present.

According to long time residents of New Edinburg, the Parrot Store building originally functioned as the Old Methodist Church before it was moved to its present location in the early to mid 1900s and used as a Grocery Store.

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South Side of Highway 8 (beginning at the northern end of the district):

Lash Store (contributing - ca. 1920)

Constructed in 1920 for Henry Lash, the weatherboard clad building sits atop a pier foundation. Crowned with a metal gable roof, this building presents a flush façade that is defined by double doors flanked by a ribbon of one-over-one windows. Other fenestration includes two doors and single pane stationary windows located beneath the eaves of the roof.

The Lash store never sold gas but it did sell general merchandise. Circa 1945, the Lashes added an addition of the rear of the building that was approximately the size of the original portion of the building. This addition served as a movie theater. The addition was removed in approximately 1994 due to deterioration. The Lash store operated from approximately 1920 until it closed ca. 1950.

Haskins Blacksmith Shop (contributing - ca. 1936)

Constructed ca. 1936 for Creed Haskins the Blacksmith Shop served the citizens for many years under first the ownership of Mr. Haskins, and second, that of Mr. Robert Frye. The Blacksmith Shop is a very plain rectangular building of frame construction. Sheathed in metal it sits atop a continuous concrete foundation and is topped by a metal roof. Fenestration is minimal and is confined to large "barn-like" doors.

Frye Store (contributing - ca. 1920)

Constructed circa 1920 for Mary and C. V. Frye, the Frye Store is a weatherboard-clad building which sits atop piers. A metal clad gable roof covers the building and extends towards highway 8 forming a car shelter that is supported by battered columns on piers. A ribbon of four two-over-one windows flank the front entrance comprised of double doors. Other fenestration includes doors located near the back of the building and double-hung windows of various light/pane configurations including three-over-one, and six-over-one. Some of the windows have been replaced near the rear of the building but these changes do little to compromise the integrity of the building.

Gill Residence (contributing - ca. 1948)

The Gill Residence is the only building within the district constructed for purely residential purposes. The Gill Residence is a rectangular building of frame construction sheathed in buff brick and topped with a gable roof. Multi-panned stationary windows sheltered beneath metal awnings flank a stoop entrance.

Smith Service Garage (contributing - ca. 1940)

The Smith Service Station is a building of frame construction sheathed in sheets of metal. Constructed circa 1940, its barn-like appearance is derived from the metal gambrel roof that tops the building. All window openings have been covered with metal and a smaller shed addition is located on the west elevation of the building.

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Originally constructed for Howard Smith to serve as a garage where vehicles were repaired, the building now serves as the New Edinburg Volunteer Fire Department.

Originally located between the Frye Store and the Gill residence were two additional buildings - the Tipton Cash Store (construction date unknown - although, the local paper mentions that it was remodeled in 1927) and the Old Post Office (construction date unknown) - both of which were torn down in the 1990s and are marked by vacant lots.

Integrity

The New Edinburg Commercial Historic District possess a strong sense of integrity as almost all of the building look exactly as they did during the 1900s, 20s, 30s, and 40s. The ambience of days gone by is captured in this town which is now very quiet and possess a very strong feeling of what New Edinburg "used to be" giving the town a very strong sense of place. Virtually all of the buildings retain their original architectural features and materials used in their construction displaying the workmanship employed by past builders. This grouping of buildings defines new Edinburg as they are prominently displayed along Highway 8.

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SUMMARY

Located along Highway 8 in Cleveland County, the New Edinburg Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with local significance, under **Criterion C**. The New Edinburg Commercial Historic District is one of Arkansas' rare gems in that it is primarily a collection of commercial buildings located in a rural area - of which almost all are general stores, constructed around the same time, whose designs were influenced by the Craftsman style. The majority of these buildings have changed very little since their date of construction and although simplistic they display local craftsmanship. New Edinburg was and is a rural town whose history is directly tied to these buildings and the families who constructed them, as many of them were decedents of early Cleveland County pioneers; therefore, the New Edinburg Commercial Historic District is also being nominated under **Criterion A** as a grouping of buildings best reflects the history of commerce in New Edinburg, a small rural community.

ELABORATION

Cleveland County

The area of present-day New Edinburg has been part of numerous counties. In 1819, most of what is now Cleveland County was located in Clark County. By the time Arkansas reached statehood in 1836, the area of what would later be known as New Edinburg, became part of Union County. Another transition occurred in 1840 when this area became part of Bradley County. Changes occurred once again in 1873, near the end of the Reconstruction era when Dorsey County was created out of Bradley County. Twelve years later, in 1885, Dorsey County was renamed Cleveland County in honor of President Grover Cleveland.

In 1834, two of the earliest pioneers explored this region - John Harvie Marks II and his father-in-law Nathaniel Barnett. Record books for 1835 and 1836 reflect that Marks purchased 5,320 acres in the vicinity of present-day New Edinburg. From 1835 on, people began settling in the area of present-day Cleveland County, many of them making a living from agriculture. In 1885 the following was said, "Cotton and corn are staple crops. Some tobacco, sorghum, peas, potatoes, etc. are raised . . . Apples, peaches, plums grow abundantly. . . Little attention has yet been paid to stock raising." However, with the implementation of the "Cotton Belt" railroad in this region (1882) - the lumber industry also became a very lucrative business. Towns such as Rison and Kingsland were railroad towns and prospered with the coming of the railroad.

New Edinburg

The area of New Edinburg was being settled as early as the mid to late 1830s. William Walker erected one of first public buildings, the "Free House Church" in 1838. Both "negro slaves" and "white settlers" attended this church and were separated by a slight partition. Another building of importance opened its doors on 9 November 1854, it was known as the first Masonic Lodge "Huey Lodge No. 78" in the county. However, it wasn't until 1860 that James McDaniel bought Lot 7 - which was in the SW/NE section - which he divided in to

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town lots. These lots could be purchased at Eagle Creek - a settlement located approximately a mile and a half east of the site. John H. Cherry, a merchant of Marks' Mills, chose the name New Edinburg for the site.

After its establishment in 1860 New Edinburg began to prosper; however, because of the Civil War, the growth of the town subsided considerably. Ironically enough, it was during the Civil War that New Edinburg gained notoriety with the battle of Marks' Mills. On 26 April 1864 a Federal wagon train, loaded with supplies and escorted by approximately 1,000 to 1,500 troops was returning from Camden to Pine Bluff when they were ambushed at Marks' Mills by an overwhelming force of confederates. Some of the whites and nearly all of the African Americans were killed, and a large number of whites were taken prisoner.

After the Civil War the town began to experience revitalization. In 1867, E. P. Marks moved to New Edinburg and opened a drug store, he was followed by J.J. T. Kendrick who opened a general store, and in 1877, W. D. Attwood also started his business enterprises in New Edinburg. It was Attwood who built one of the first (possibly the first) brick building in New Edinburg and it was known as Attwood & Co. To meet the growing educational needs of the community the Masonic Lodge was chosen as the first building to hold a public school (ca. 1870). By 1876, New Edinburg was one of few post offices in the county with James F. Fowler serving as postmaster. According to Goodspeed by 1890 New Edinburg had a population of 200 and it was "enterprising and growing, the seat of considerable trade." In 1889 it was even considered as a possible site for the relocation of the county seat; however, Rison was chosen as the site for the new courthouse.

By the turn of the century New Edinburg was a small but thriving community eking a living off of the land. Sometime after 1882 (when the "Cotton Belt" railroad came to Cleveland County) a spur line the "Saline River Railroad" connected New Edinburg with Draughton a stop on the "Cotton Belt Railroad" thus providing the citizens of New Edinburg with more exposure to the outside world. In 1898, Tom Clemons constructed one of New Edinburg's earliest hotels, "The New Edinburg Hotel." While the town of New Edinburg was doing well economically it still failed to meet the educational needs of the community. In 1903, the people began to encourage better schools and a two story, four room, frame school was built in New Edinburg with Mr. W.R. McEwen as superintendent overseeing 115 students. The first student to graduate was R. E. Crump. By 1909, New Edinburg boasted one of thirty-one public high schools in Arkansas. The building of the new school gave an impetus to new building of all kinds, and many substantial homes and commercial buildings were constructed during this era.

From 1900 until ca. 1925 New Edinburg continued to prosper and grow as much as a small town in South Arkansas could. In 1910, due to the expanding lumber industry and the productiveness of the land, Cleveland County boasted a population of 12,481, which reflected a major population growth in Cleveland County (in comparison to the 1880 census). For the citizens of New Edinburg, cotton continued to be the crop around which many families' lives revolved. During the early to mid-1900s, there were two Cotton Gins in New Edinburg and one "out in the country," and many of the stores which can still be seen along Highway 8 were where farmers obtained their supplies, wives their groceries, and children their penny candy. The late teens and

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early 1920s were a very prosperous time for New Edinburg and it was during this time that many of these stores were constructed amidst the smattering of other stores - such as the Attwood Store - which predated their construction.

The mid-1920s and 1930s were a hard time for southern farmers particularly. While other states in the United States experienced prosperity during the mid 1920s; Arkansas experienced a disproportionate number of state bank failures. The winter of 1926-27 was one of unprecedented cold weather in Arkansas and massive flooding in the spring of 1927 followed it. Conditions did not improve by 1929. The worst drought to ever hit the south and southwest occurred during the summer of 1929 and the full effect of this drought was felt during the winter of 1929-30 when produce, canned goods, and feed began to run out. By January of 1931 the Red Cross was overwhelmed by the demands for aid in parts of Arkansas, distribution of food was delayed for days. The situation was so bad that in England, Arkansas, 500 farmers march on the local grocery store and demand food. Like other town's whose economy was dependent upon agriculture, New Edinburg suffered during the late 1920s through the 30s. Farmers struggled, as cotton could not be sold for an amount equal to the cost of production, therefore there was nothing to finance the next year's crop. Local banks faced ruin and farmers, faced with falling prices, often redoubled their efforts to enlarge their crops. However, in 1931, the Bank of New Edinburg was the only bank in all of Cleveland County not to close its doors for an extended amount of time. They only closed for 1/2 a day so that the employees to regroup and reorganize. Cleveland County like all other Arkansas Counties suffered during the Great Depression.

New Edinburg's growth and future was further halted with the entrance of the United States in World War II in 1941. Some of New Edinburg's young men left to fight in the war while others contributed to the war effort in some manner. After the end of the war in 1945, many of New Edinburg's young citizens returned home only to find themselves packing to move to more urban areas in the county and in the state to earn a living some other way besides farming. Slowly but surely many of the businesses in New Edinburg closed down during the 1960s and 1970s.

Today Highway 8 still passes through New Edinburg and several of the buildings that once housed prosperous businesses during the early and mid 1900s still stand, although unoccupied, they serve to remind us of a different era in Arkansas history. The original owners have long since passed, but many of their children and grandchildren still live in the vicinity and recall the stories told to them by their parents and grandparents. New Edinburg's history is rich and its legacy lives on in the buildings and people that remain.

Significance

The New Edinburg Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places, with local significance, under **Criterion C**. The New Edinburg Commercial Historic District is a collection of primarily commercial buildings located in a rural area - of which almost all are general stores, constructed around the same time, whose designs were influenced by the craftsman style. The New Edinburg Commercial Historic District is also being nominated under **Criterion A** as a grouping of buildings best reflects

New Edinburg Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

Cleveland County, Arkansas

County and State

United States Department of the Interior

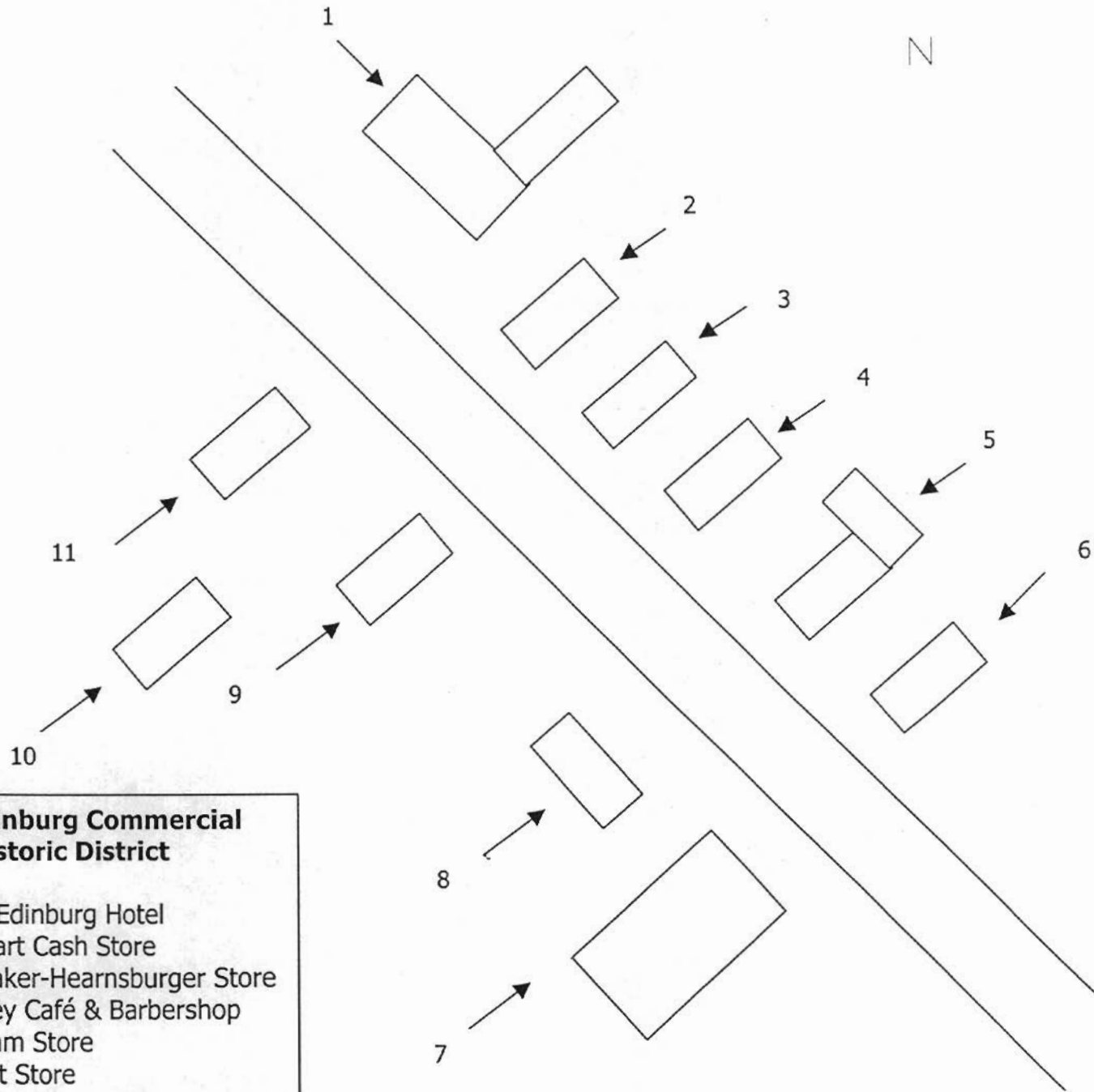
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

the history of commerce in New Edinburg, a small rural community. The majority of these buildings have changed very little since their date of construction and although simplistic they display local craftsmanship and a small town's entrepreneurial spirit.

The New Edinburg Commercial Historic District



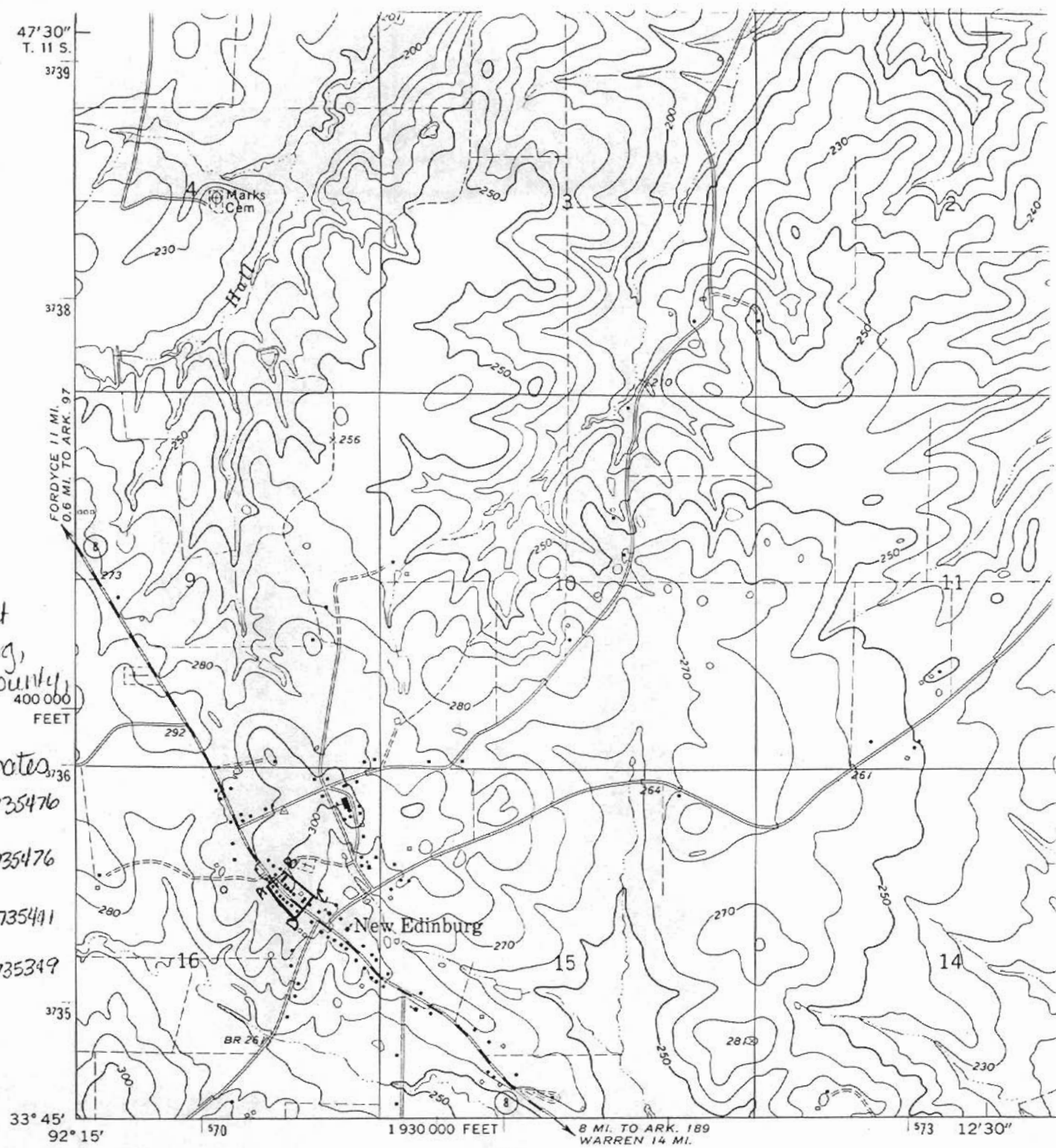
New Edinburg Commercial Historic District

1. New Edinburg Hotel
2. Stewart Cash Store
3. Hamaker-Hearnsburger Store
4. Cathey Café & Barbershop
5. Parham Store
6. Parrot Store
7. Smith Service Garage
8. Gill Residence
9. Frye Store
10. Haskin's Black Smith Shop
11. Lash Store

47°30"
T. 11 S.
3739

New Edinburg
Commercial
Historic District
New Edinburg,
Cleveland County,
Arkansas

UTM Coordinates
15/570286/3735476
15/570367/3735476
15/570459/3735441
15/570413/3735349



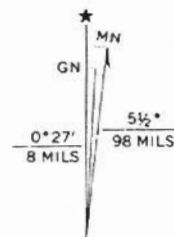
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1968. Field checked 1970

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 15, shown in blue

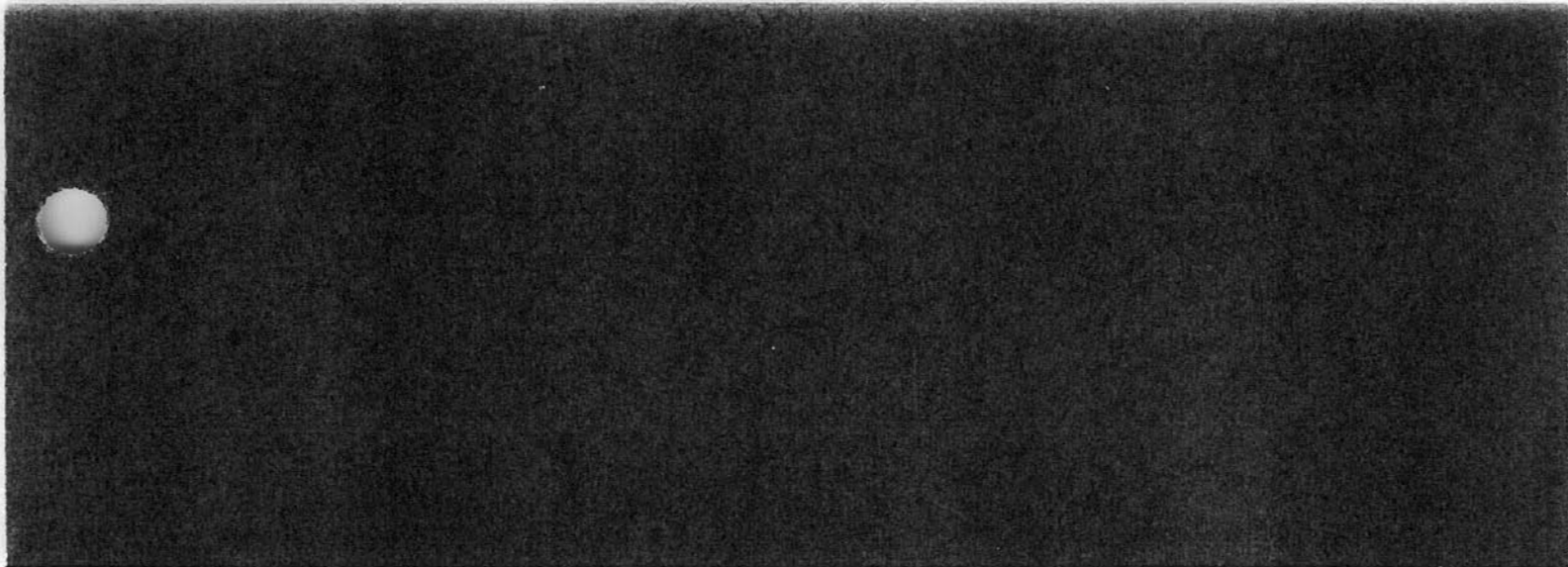
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

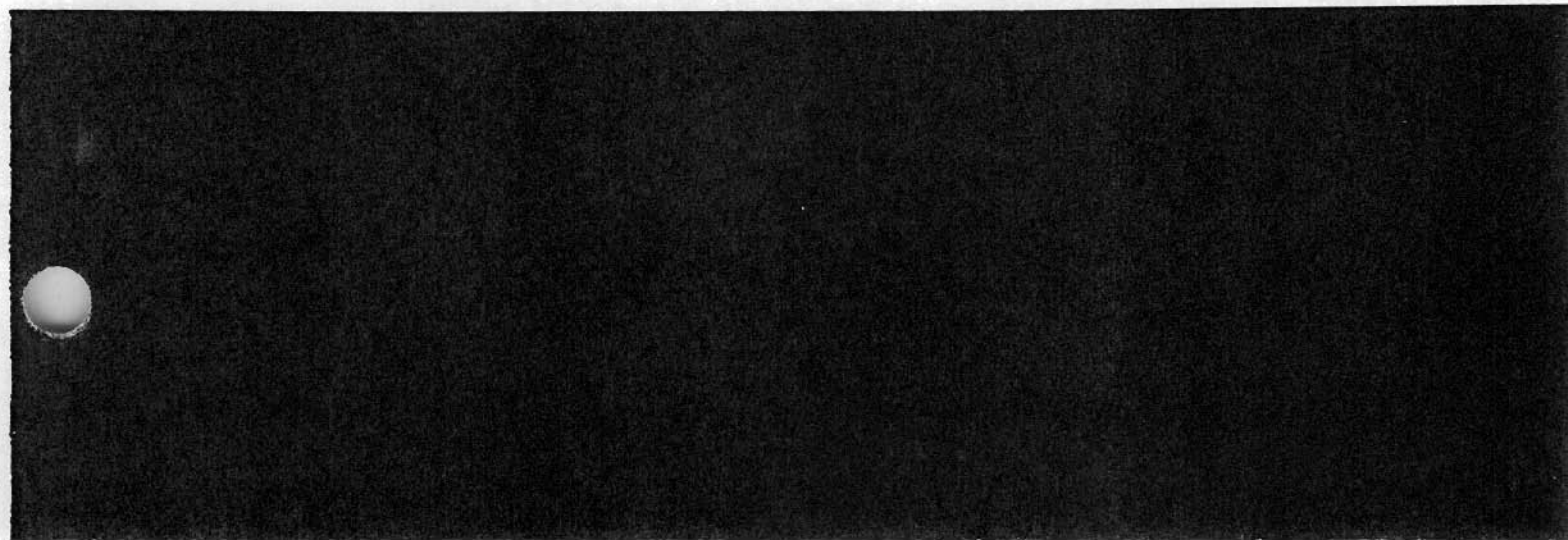
Map photoinspected 1982
No major culture or drainage changes observed

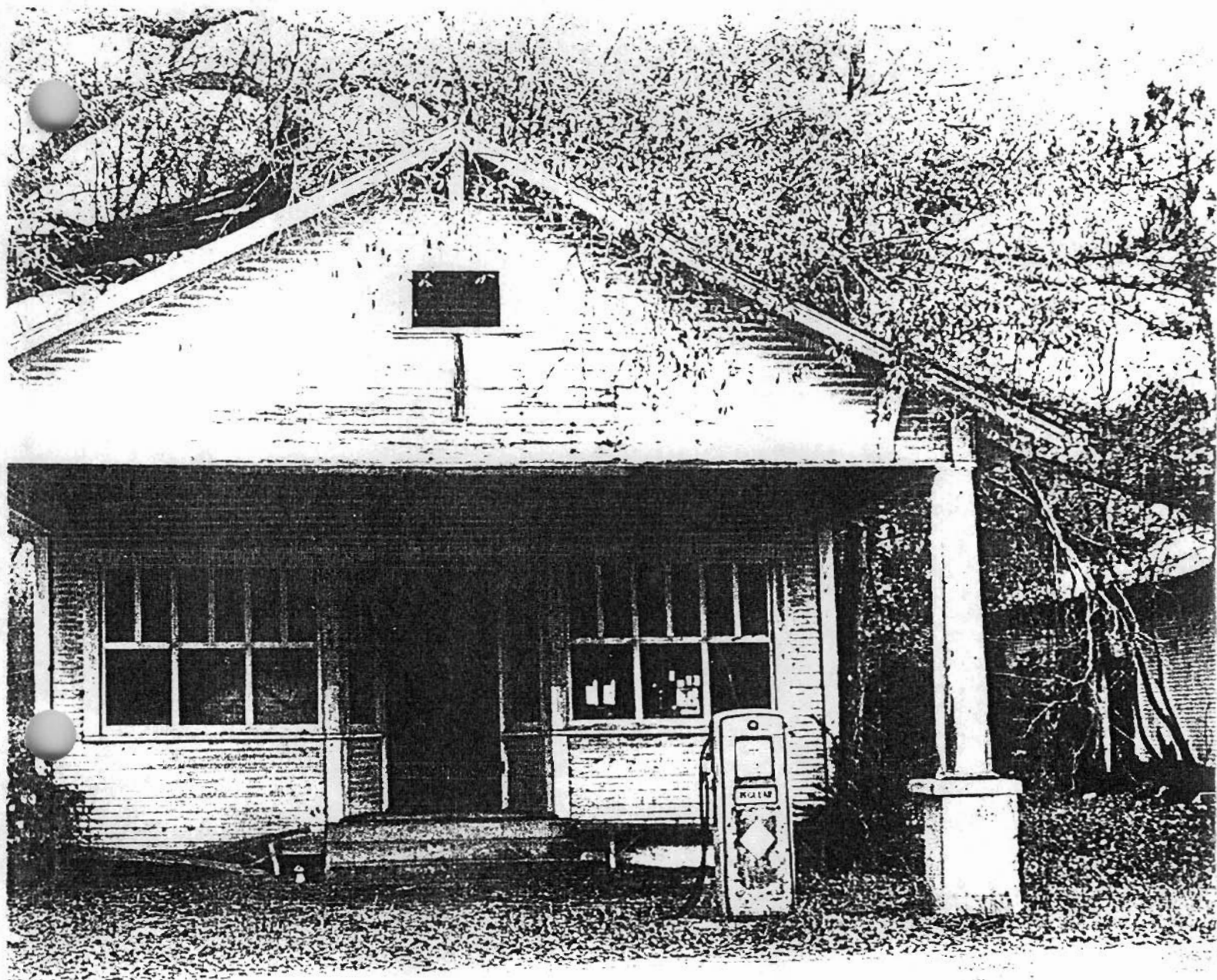


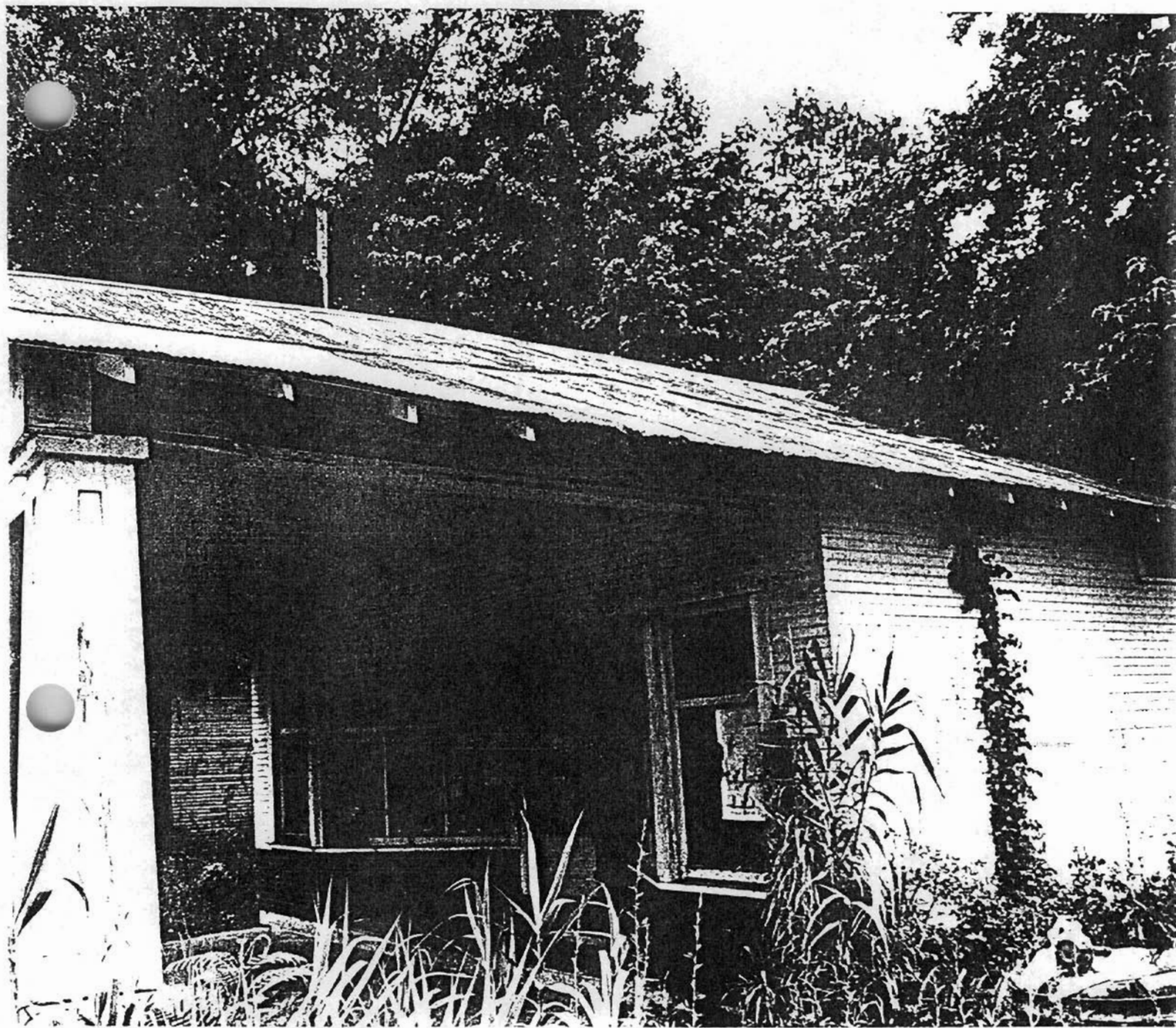
UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



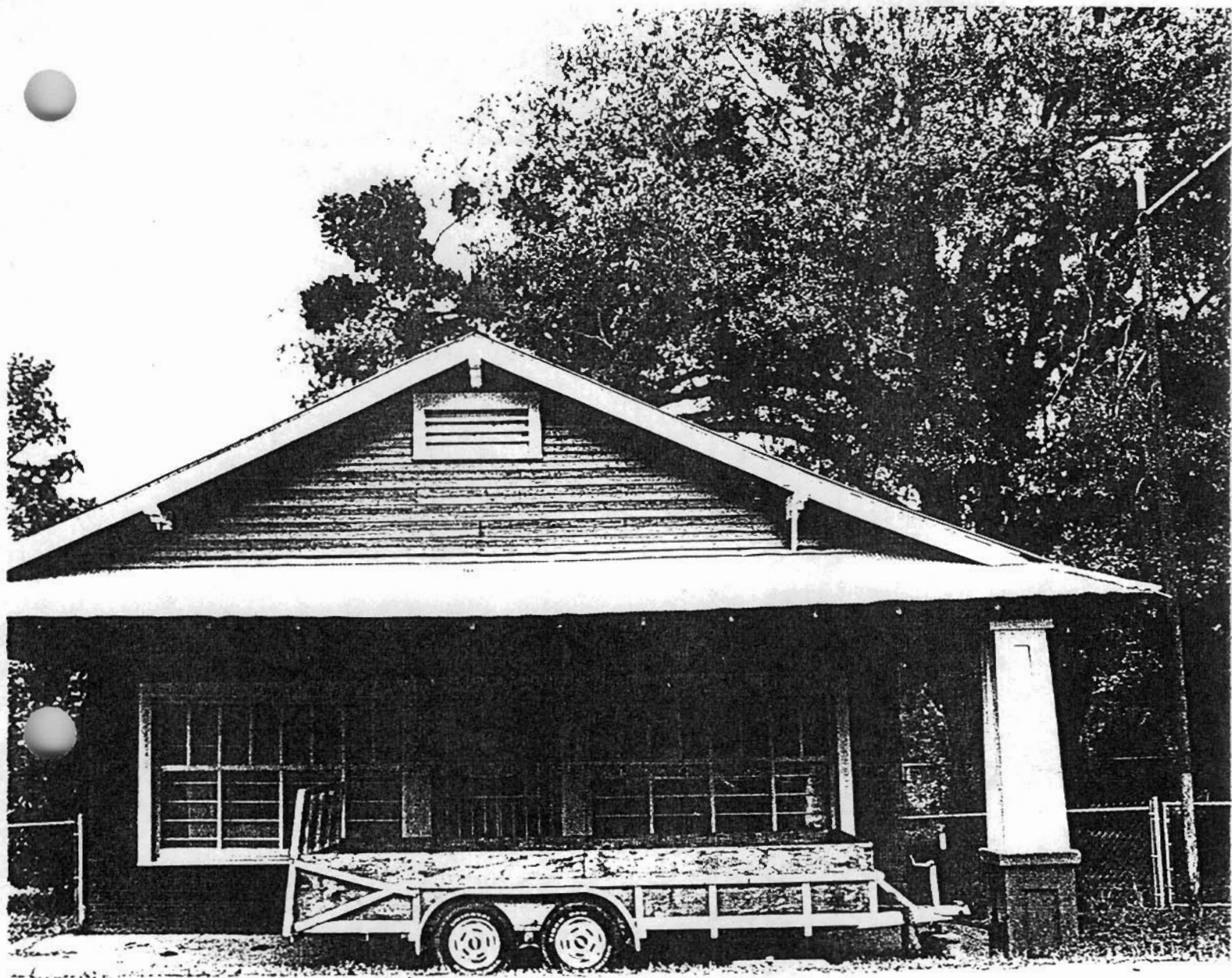


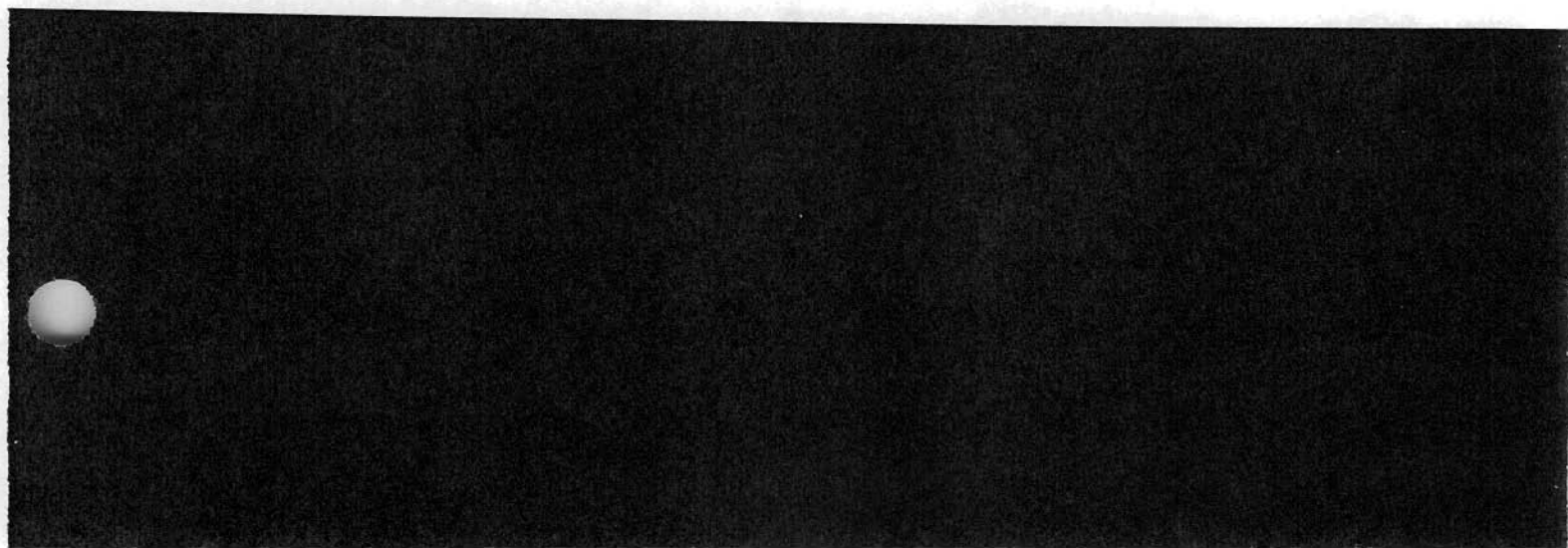
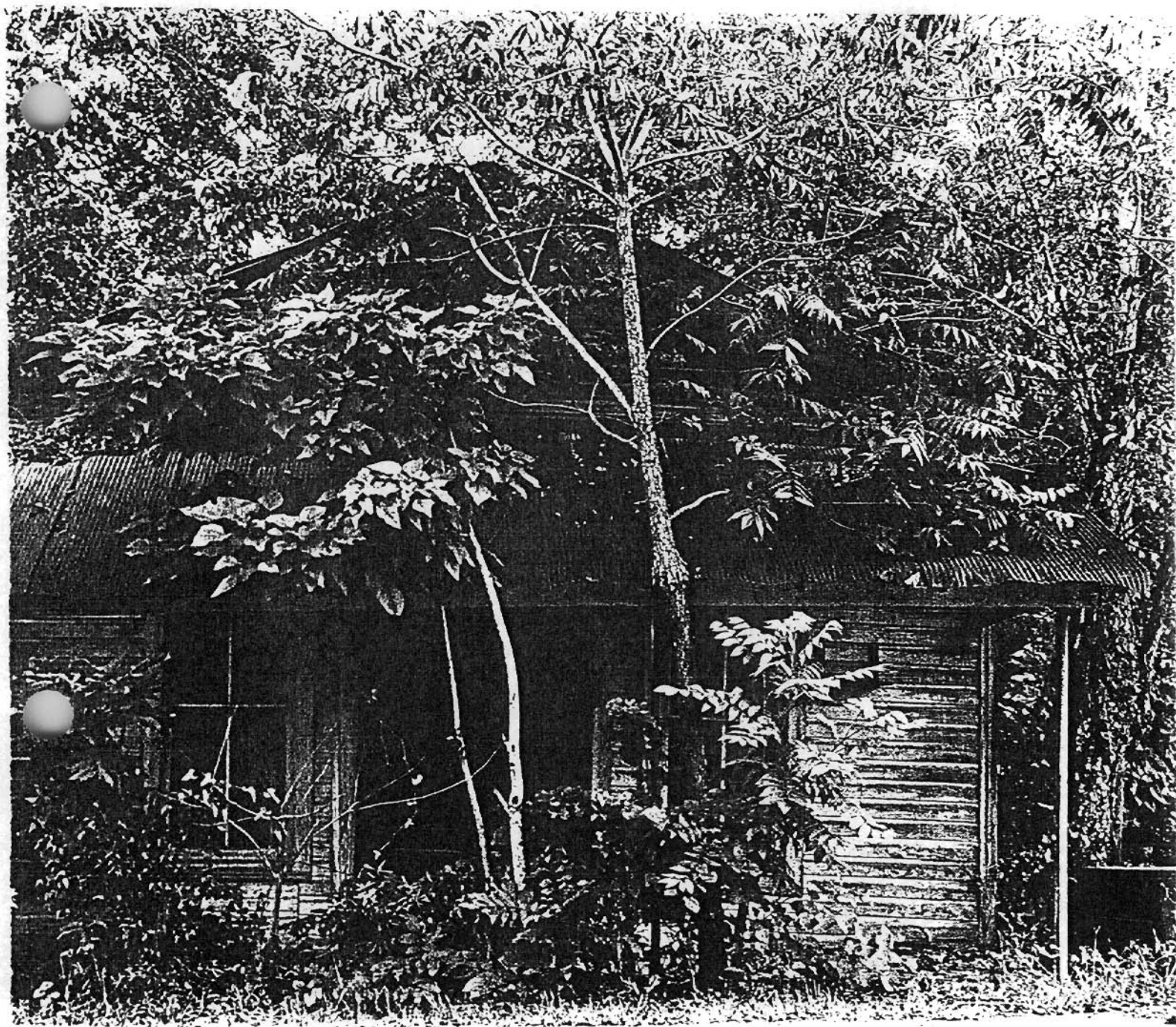


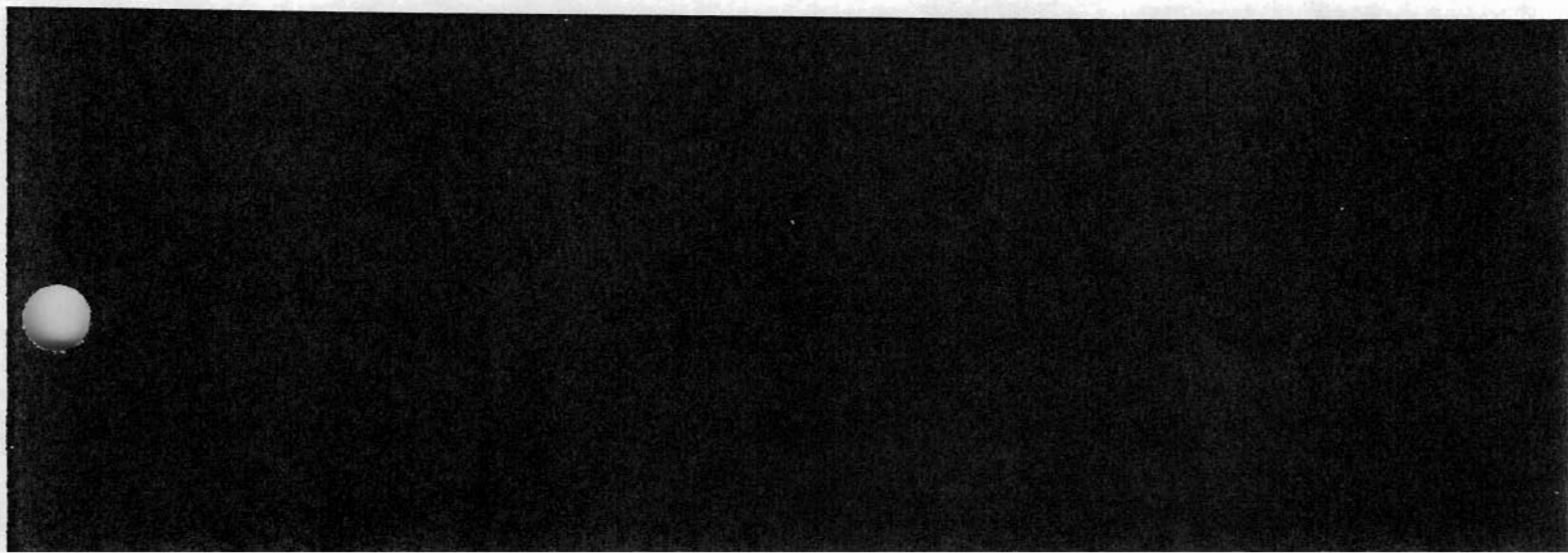


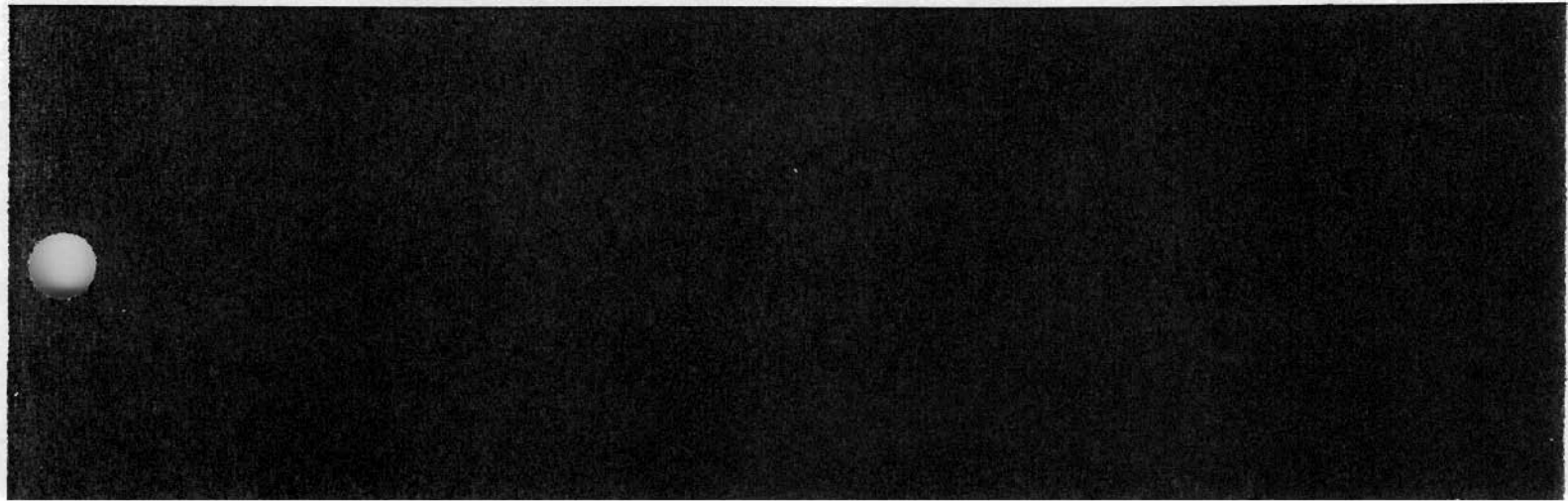
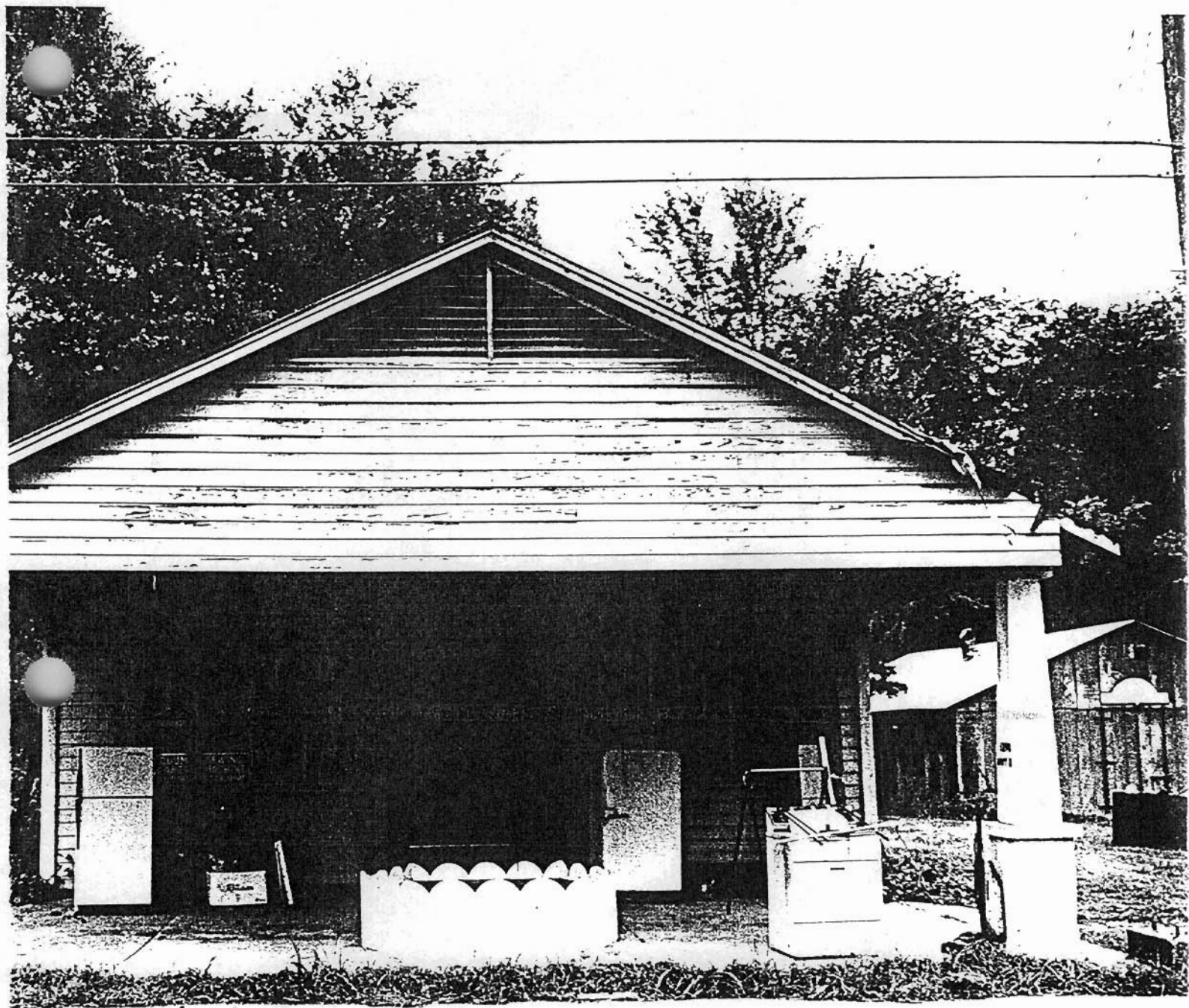


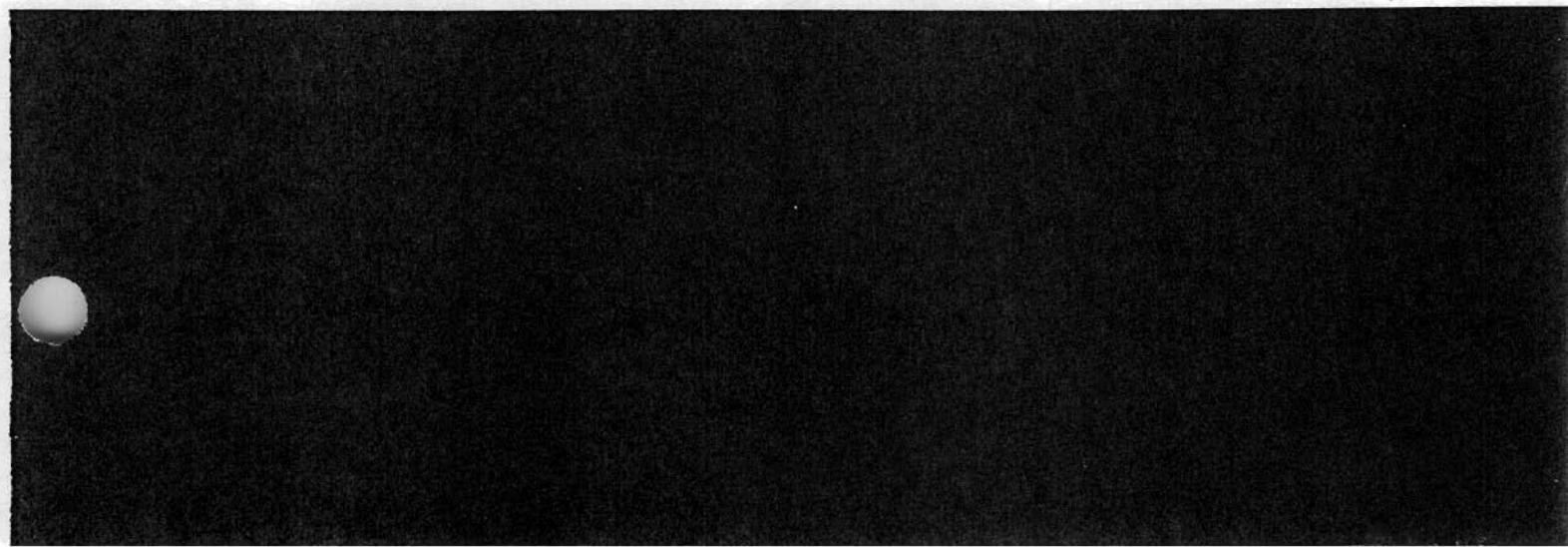














NEW EDINBURG COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

RESOURCE NO	HISTORIC NAME	CONTRIBUTING
CV0034	NEW EDINBURG HOTEL	C
CV0035	STEWART CASH STORE	C
CV0036	HAMAKER-HEARNSBERGER STORE	C
CV0037	CATHEY CAFÉ & BARBERSHOP	NC
CV0038	PARHAM STORE	C
CV0039	PARROTT GROCERY STORE	C
CV0040	LASH STORE	C
CV0041	HASKINS BLACKSMITH SHOP	C
CV0042	FRYE STORE	C
CV0043	GILL RESIDENCE	C
CV0044	SMITH SERVICE GARAGE	C
CV0045	NEW EDINBURG COMMERCIAL HISTO	I