

11-45-P080-61

Listed in the N.R. 6-10-82

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee Instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sectionsI
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LISTED
6-10-82

CY0034

1. Name

historic Pfeiffer House and Carriage House

and/or common Janes House and Barn

2. Location

street & number 10th & Cherry Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Piggott

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

state Arkansas

code

05

county

Clay

code

021

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

☐ public
☒ private
☐ both
Public Acquisition
☐ in process
☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied House
☒ unoccupied Carriage
☐ work in progress House
Accessible
☒ yes: restricted
☐ yes: unrestricted
☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture
☐ commercial
☐ educational
☐ entertainment
☐ government
☐ industrial
☐ military☐ museum
☐ park
☒ private residence House
☐ religious
☐ scientific
☐ transportation Carriage
☒ other: House-Storage

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Thomas Janes

street & number 10th & Cherry Streets

city, town Piggott

N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clay County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Piggott

state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date N/A

N/A federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent ☐ deteriorated
☒ good House ☐ ruins
☒ fair Carriage House ☐ unexposed
House

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

*-Carriage House

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Visually shielded from Cherry Street by generous screen planting including a row of pines, the Pfeiffer House and Carriage House occupy an entire block, a one-acre large site, in the residential section of Piggott, a rural town located in the northeast corner of Arkansas. The house is situated on the southeast corner of the property, across the street from the local elementary school, with the carriage house, commonly referred to as "the barn", set back on the northwest extremity of the lot. Built in 1910 by J.D. Templeton and acquired by the Pfeiffer family just four year later, the house reflects an interest in the Colonial Revival style of its period. This two-story wood frame house, raised slightly above grade on brick piers (original to the structure) and a concrete block foundation wall (constructed circa 1950), is characterized by the slightly asymmetrical, boxlike massing typical of this type of house in central and eastern Arkansas. It is faced with horizontal weatherboard, enriched by corner boards and cornice mouldings, and capped by a hip roof with cross gables. The "barn", built the same year as the house, is a simple wood frame structure well suited to its original function as a carriage house and stable.

The principal (east) elevation of the house is the most architecturally ambitious of the building's facades, possessing a number of features that convey the essence of its Colonial Revival inspired esthetic. The northeast corner of this elevation projects slightly forward under a cross gable with boxed returns that articulate the roof line and decorative attic vent that embellishes the gable. The first floor of this part of the elevation features a projecting rectangular shed-roofed window bay; a single window pierces the second floor facade. The projecting northeast corner is offset by the one-story porch that wraps around the southeast corner of the house, embracing the corner with a sweeping curve. Steps originally made of wood replaced circa 1950 by poured concrete leading up to the porch follow the lines of this curve. The porch is supported on simple Tuscan-like columns which carry an unembellished frieze. A boxed cornice punctuates the porch's shed roof. The turned balusters that comprise the porch railing are repeated in the balustrade of the second floor balcony which extends from the projecting bay to the southern edge of the house. Square piers accentuate the rhythm of this balustrade. Classically detailed surrounds frame both the balcony door and the principal entrance door which is pierced with large oval light and embellished with delicate egg and dart moulding. A continuous frame holding three double-hung one-over-one light window appears to the south of the balcony door and a small square window located to the north of the door lights the house's central hallway. A single gable-roofed dormer with boxed cornice and articulated pediment pierces the roof at the southern side of the front elevation.

The side (north and south) elevations of the Pfeiffer House reflect the principal elevation in detail and proportion. The south elevation is distinguished by the continuation of the front porch. The two-story gable-roofed bulk of the house rises behind this element and features the peak of one of the house's cross gables with its boxed returns. The north elevation of the building is a three-bay affair with a center gable-roofed bay projecting slightly beyond the flanking walls. Articulated much in the same way as the other gable ends of the house, this central bay is enriched by its prominent boxed gable returns and their relationship to the cornice moulding below. An exterior brick chimney with corbeled cap appears directly to the east of the center bay. Rectangular one-over-one light double hung windows in the side elevations reiterate the design of the front windows.

EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 2

The rear (west) facade of the house is characterized by the contrast between the two-story component of the house and a one-story hip-roofed kitchen wing with a cross-gable roofed arm. Though this element is original to the building, another one-story element located at the southwest corner of the house is a circa 1950 addition.

Attention to detail in the original one-story rear section is impressive and harmonious with that of the entire house. Again, returns and cornice mouldings articulate the broad west gable end of the house and a square vent penetrates the gable attic.

In plan, the Pfeiffer House consists of a series of dwelling rooms surrounding a central stair. The stair's paneled newel posts and balustrade are quite simple and rectilinear with proportionately heavy pendants embellishing the stairwell. This feature of the house has a distinctively craftsman-influenced character not suggested by the building's exterior. Pressed metal ceilings in a variety of patterns appear in every room of the house. The extent to which these ceilings were employed is unusual in Arkansas residential architecture and is visually overwhelming.

Although it has been slightly altered and it presently serves as a storage facility and garage, the Pfeiffer "barn" clearly recalls its original function as a carriage house. It is a simple, essentially rectangular structure faced with long weathered, vertically hung random length cypress boards and covered with a shed roof that gently slopes away from the "barn's" front (east) elevation. Originally, the upper level of the building was a hay loft.

At ground level, a central pentagon-shaped opening leads to the central passage that bisects the structure on an east/west axis. A single opening to the south elevation offers access to the original staff area. The only other original openings in the structure are a small window that appears on the front elevation in the staff area and doors to the original loft and harness room that were once used for transporting hay.

A narrow wood stair at the northeast corner of the front elevation leads to the loft entrance. About 1920, this loft space was remodeled into a one-room, split-level apartment. The lower level of the apartment, situated above the northern half of the first floor stable, functioned as a living room while the upper level, the south half of the space, provided a sleeping alcove and kitchen with a separate partitioned bathroom. Randomly placed window openings were cut into the building to service the apartment during the 1920 renovation. The loft space, though deteriorating, remains much the same today as it did in the 1920s. A new roof placed over the structure in 1978 affords the old carriage house some additional protection and preservation.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below									
— prehistoric	— archeology-prehistoric	— community planning	— landscape architecture	— religion						
— 1400-1499	— archeology-historic	— conservation	— law	— science						
— 1500-1599	— agriculture	— economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	— sculpture						
— 1600-1699	— architecture	— education	— military	— social/						
— 1700-1799	— art	— engineering	— music	— humanitarian						
— 1800-1899	— commerce	— exploration/settlement	— philosophy	— theater						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	— communications	— industry	— politics/government	— transportation						
		— invention		— other (specify)						

Specific dates 1927-1940 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

The Pfeiffer House and carriage house in Piggott represents a significant link between Arkansas and the famous American novelist and Nobel Prize for Literature winner, Ernest Hemingway. From 1927 to 1940 Hemingway was married to Pauline Pfeiffer of Piggott and frequently visited in this house, the home of Pauline's parents. On extended visits, the author used the remodeled carriage house as a writing studio and there in the winter of 1928 he wrote much of his acclaimed second novel, A Farewell to Arms. The period of significance extends from 1927 to 1940, the duration of Pauline and Ernest's marriage, because the financial support provided by Pauline and the wealthy Pfeiffer family, especially Pauline's Uncle Gus, was extremely important to Hemingway in this stage of his mature creative life.

ELABORATION

Pauline Pfeiffer attended Catholic schools in St. Louis and graduated from the University of Missouri at Columbia with a degree in journalism. In 1926 she met Ernest Hemingway in Paris, where she was living while on assignment as a fashion writer for Vogue magazine. The Pfeiffers were an ardent Catholic family and Ernest converted to Catholicism in order to marry Pauline shortly after his divorce from his first wife in 1927. Pauline had two sons, Patrick and Gregory, during their twelve year marriage.

Pauline's father, Paul Pfeiffer owned large land holdings in the fertile bottomlands around Piggott, and he and his brother Gus Pfeiffer (who had a controlling interest in Richard Hudnut perfumes) had established the Piggott Custom Gin Company. Pauline's wealth and the generosity of her family were an important factor in this period of Hemingway's life because, according to his biographers, Hemingway became viturally free of money worries for the first time in his life. Uncle Gus couldn't have been more generous. He paid the rent for an apartment in Paris, supplied the purchase price for the couple's Key West House, financed elk hunting trips to Montana, set up trust funds for the two young sons (and Hemingway's son by his first wife as well) and most important, financed Hemingways first African safari, out of which he gleaned material for his book The Green Hills of Africa.

The Pfeiffer family maintained close ties and the Hemingways sometimes stayed for extended periods in Piggott. Virginia, Pauline's sister, had remodeled the upper level of the carriage house into a studio and Ernest, finding it a quiet place conducive to creativity, often slept and wrote there during visits to Piggott. It was in the carriage house in the winter of 1928 that he wrote much of his acclaimed second novel A Farewell to Arms, which he later dedicated to Gus Pfeiffer.

EXP. 12/31/84

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 2

Family members recall Hemingway's swapping tales with local men around a potbellied stove in the back of Reeves Drugstore, undoubtedly taking mental notes for future stories. In general, though, his contact with local townspeople was limited because his Bohemian appearance -- full beard, sandals, informal attire -- caused most of them to regard the author somewhat suspiciously.

As is well known, Hemingway was an enthusiastic outdoorsman and sports such as hunting and fishing are important themes in his works. He enjoyed the countryside around Piggott, often going quail and duck hunting with Pauline's family and with a few local men. The area was renowned for good quail hunting, and Hemingway shot his first quail there. His letters reveal an affection for the area. In one of them, written on a gloomy February day in Paris in 1934, he wrote of his fervent wishes to be out of that city. "Me, I like it better out on the ranch, or in Piggott, Arkansas in the fall, or in Key West."

Some of Hemingway's biographers feel that the last years of his marriage to Pauline were unhappy ones and point to evidence in his fiction that his estrangement from her was motivated, at least in part, by resentment of her wealth and her desire for a luxurious lifestyle. Both "The Short Happy Life of Francis McComber" and "The Snows of Kilimanjaro" depict bad marriages held together by a despicable financial binding.

The period of significance for the Pfeiffer property extends from 1927 to 1940, the entire duration of Hemingway's marriage to Pauline. This partial exception to the fifty-years old criterion seems amply justified in view of the outstanding contribution to American literature of Hemingway, who had been termed the most influential writer of his generation, and the importance of the association with the Pfeiffer family in furthering Hemingway's career.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property One acre

Quadrangle name Piggott

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	6
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2	1	3	4	0	0
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4	0	3	0	4	2	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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Verbal boundary description and justification
City of Piggott.

All of block 12 Baer's 2nd addition to the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ethel Goodstein, Architectural Historian, Jean Sizemore, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date March, 1982

street & number Suite 500 Continental Building telephone 501 371-2763

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas

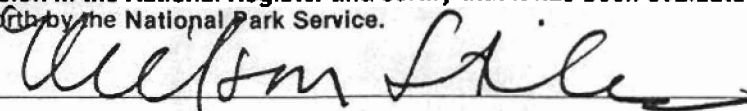
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title

date 3/5/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 9

Page 1

Baker, Charles. Hemingway; A life Story. New York, 1969.

Davidson, Scott. By Force of Will: Life & Art of Ernest Hemingway. New York, 1977.

Miller, Madeline Hemingway. Ernie; Ernest Hemingway's Sister Sunny Remembers.
New York, 1975. Crown Publishing Company, Inc. N.Y. 1975.

Roden, Mike. "Papa at Piggott." Arkansan, March 1980, p. 19-21.

Cox, Irene - Personal interview in Piggott, November 6, 1976.

Hampton, Ralph - Personal interview in Piggott, November 6, 1976.

Janes, Bea - Personal interview in Piggott, November 6, 1976.

McNeil, May - Personal interview in Piggott, November 6, 1976.

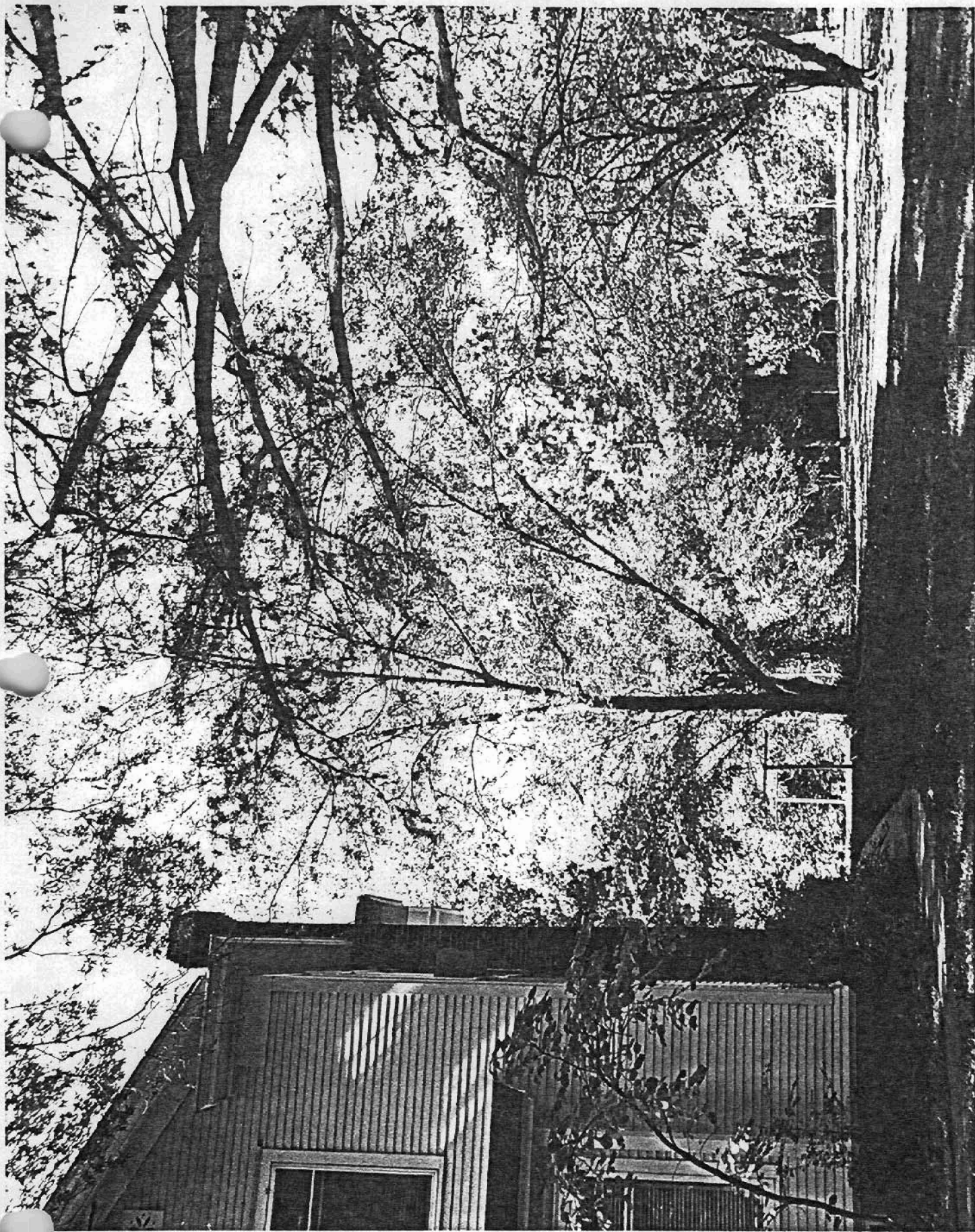
Pfeiffer, Karl & Matilda - Personal interview in Piggott, November 6, 1976.

Spanse, Aliene - Personal interview in Piggott, November 6, 1976.

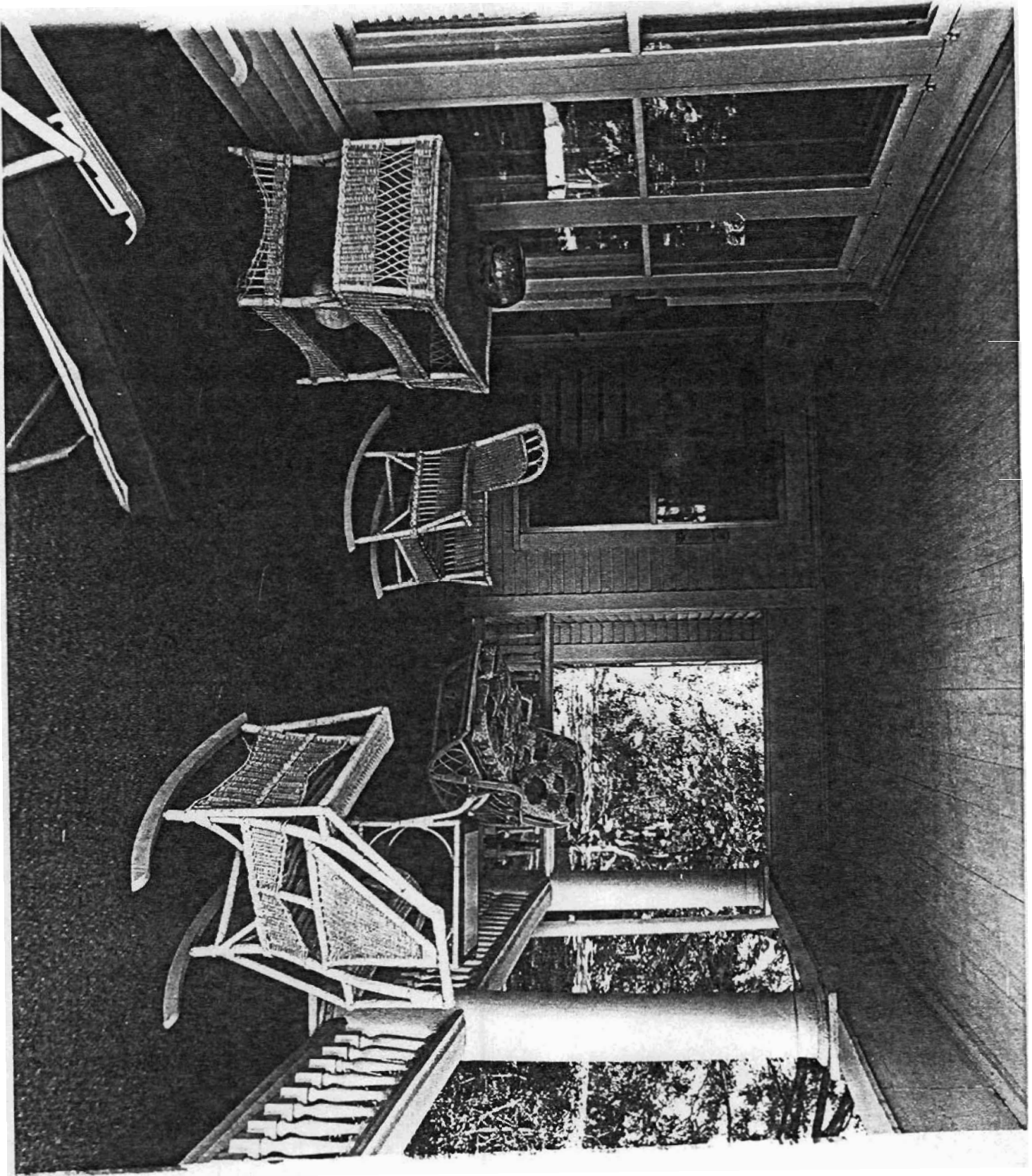


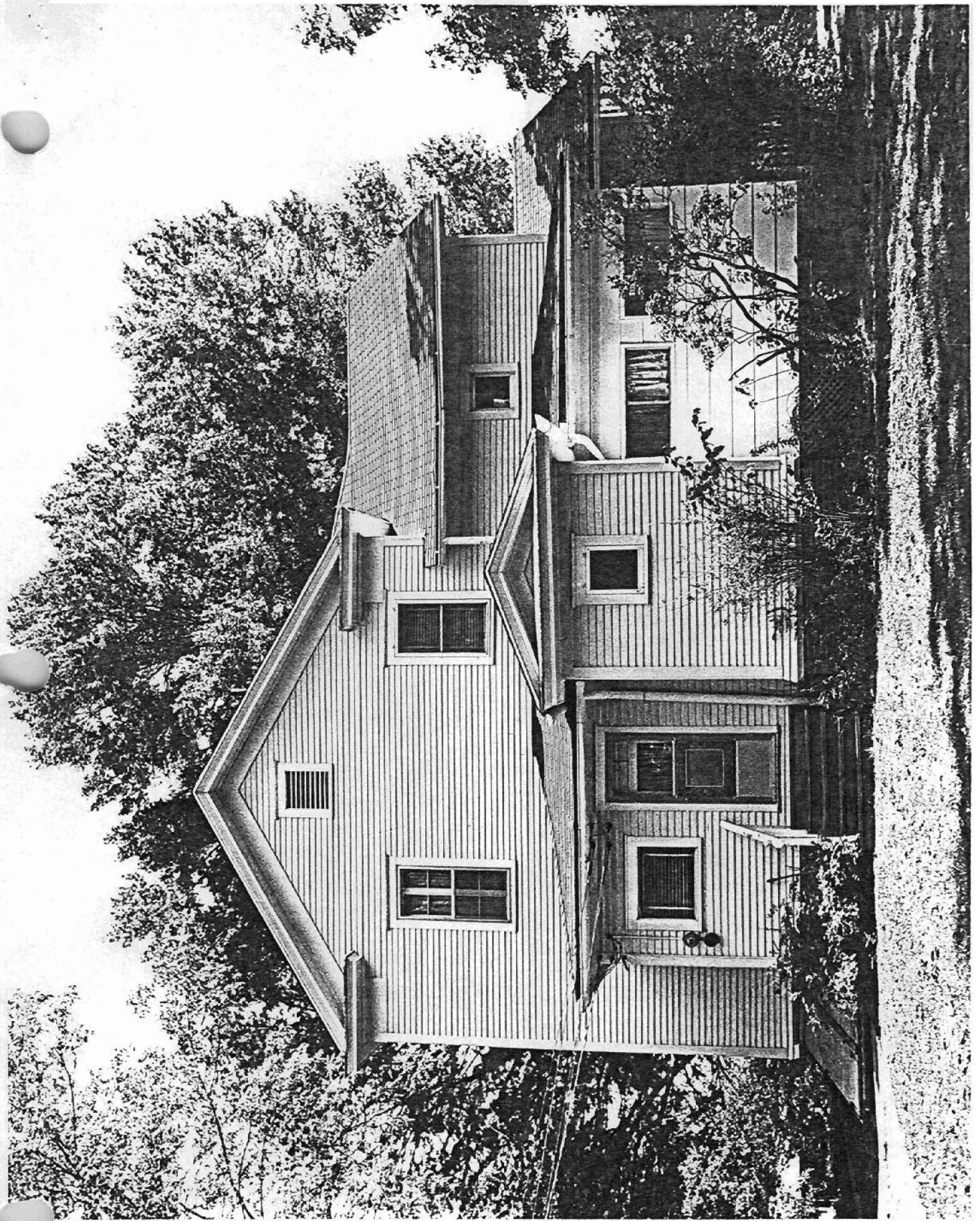
pfeiffer House & Carriage House
Piggott, Arkansas
Bob Dunn
Ark. Historic Preservation Program
Front/East elevation of carriage house
Number 15 of 16

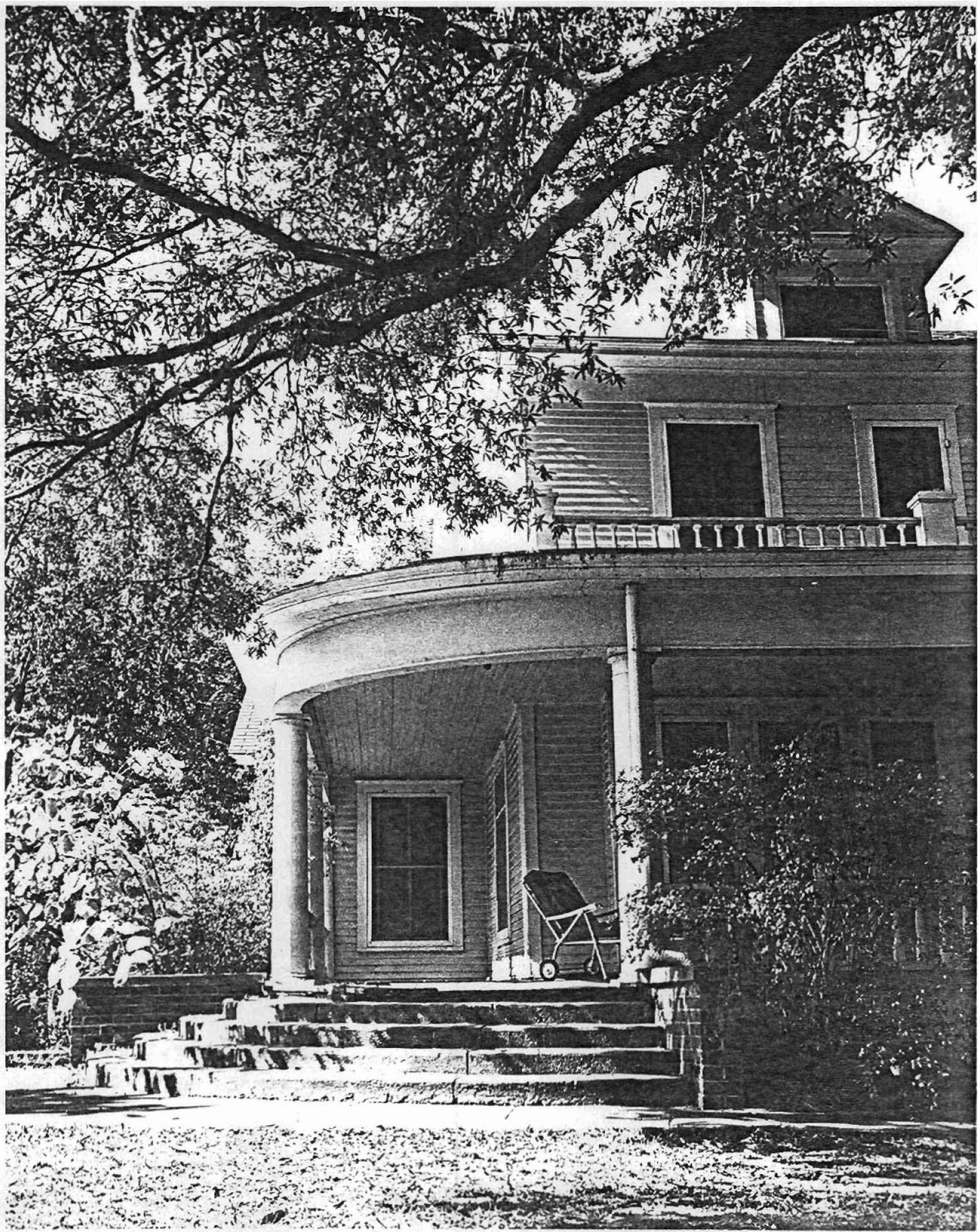






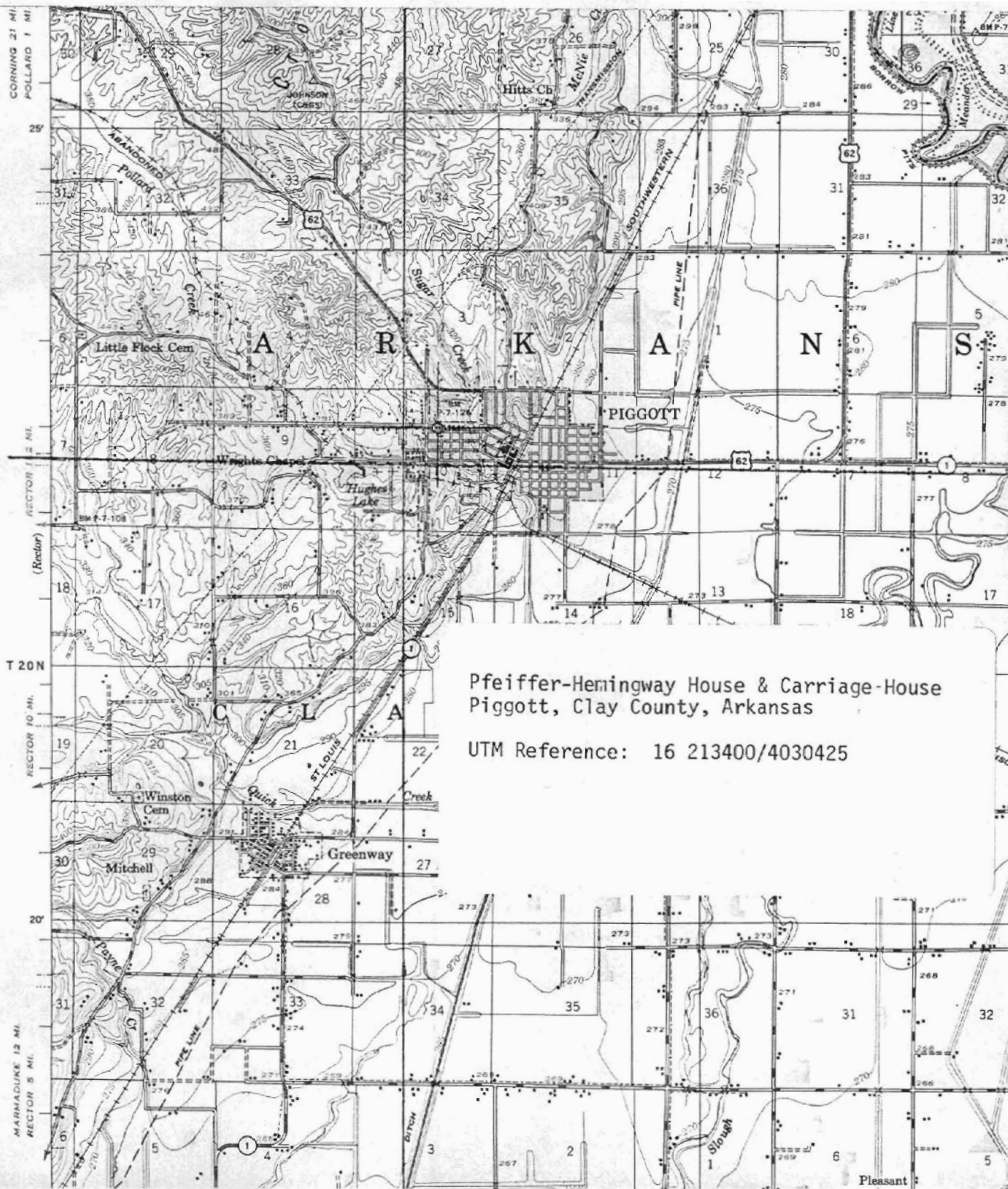












Pfeiffer-Hemingway House & Carriage-House
Piggott, Clay County, Arkansas

UTM Reference: 16 213400/4030425