

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bill Clinton Birthplace

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: 117 South Hervey Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Hope

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Hempstead code: AR 057 zip code: 71801

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

1

 buildings

 sites

 structures

 objects

1

0 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater
Signature of certifying official

4-4-94
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the
National Register
____ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the
National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: Single dwelling

Current: VACANT/NOT IN USE

Sub: _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Other

Other Description: American Foursquare

Materials:	foundation	<u>Brick</u>	roof	<u>Asphalt</u>
	walls	<u>Asbestos</u>	other	<u>Wood porch</u>
				<u>columns upon</u>
				<u>brick piers</u>

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: National.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): C,G

Areas of Significance: POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period(s) of Significance: 1946-50

Significant Dates: 1946

Significant Person(s): Clinton, William Jefferson 3rd (Bill)

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Garrett, Dr. H. J. S.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

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The interior, though always relatively simple, retains much of its original detail. A relatively elaborate wood staircase, located against the northern wall of the first floor living room, features turned balusters and a massive, panelled wood newel post. The small pantry features some built-in cupboards, and the upstairs retains virtually all of its original wood finishes, including stained flooring and painted beaded board in the hallway and the nursery.

The alterations to the building are largely limited to the replacement of the original wood siding with asbestos plate and the replacement of a northern, second storey window with a small, hooded balcony that served an as-yet undetermined purpose. Despite the deterioration suffered over the past several years while the property has remained unoccupied, the Bill Clinton Birthplace is in fair condition and scheduled for restoration in the near future.

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another house in Hope for the next three years. She left Hope when she remarried and relocated to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where her son would spend the remainder of his childhood and adolescence, graduating from Hot Springs High School in 1964.

In the fall of that same year Bill Clinton matriculated at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where he both excelled academically and made his first direct contact with the world of politics, working for U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright during his junior and senior years. He won a Rhodes Scholarship to study in Oxford, England, where he spent the next year. He then returned to the United States to study for the bar at Yale Law School. It was during his stay in New Haven that he met Hillary Rodham, a fellow classmate and the woman he was to marry in 1975.

The Clintons relocated to Fayetteville, Arkansas so that he could accept a position teaching constitutional law there. During this period Bill Clinton, a Democrat, put together his first political campaign, running unsuccessfully for U.S. Congress in 1974. However, in 1976 he ran a successful campaign for state attorney general, and moved to Little Rock to execute the responsibilities of that office.

In 1978, Bill Clinton conducted his second successful political campaign in Arkansas, gaining the distinction of being the nation's youngest governor at the age of 32. However, two years later he was defeated by the Republican candidate, Frank White, due largely to the ambitious progressive agenda he pushed upon a state that was unprepared for so much change. Thereafter he adopted a more moderate political stance and was re-elected the state's governor in 1982, a position for which he successfully campaigned three more times, his last re-election occurring in 1990.

In October of 1991, Bill Clinton announced his candidacy for the office of President of the United States. Over the course of the next eleven months, Bill Clinton campaigned vigorously and battled considerable adversity, ultimately winning sufficient delegates to be nominated as the Democratic party's candidate at the July convention of 1992. Throughout the balance of the summer and into the fall he continued to run an aggressive campaign with his vice-presidential running mate Al Gore, the former U.S. Senator from Tennessee, finally prevailing in his pursuit on election day, November 3rd, 1992. With this election, Bill Clinton achieved what his late mother Virginia Kelley remembered as his goal from childhood, the Presidency of the United States.

Without question, there are several properties that have come to be associated with President Bill Clinton and his long political career. In addition to the Old State House in Little Rock (from the

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front steps of which he announced virtually all of his political campaigns), the current state capitol, in which he occupied the Governor's Office for a total of twelve years, and the Governor's Mansion in Little Rock, where he lived during his gubernatorial tenure, there are the other residences in Little Rock, Fayetteville, Hot Springs and Hope. However, the precedence of any of these over his birthplace becomes problematic when one first considers the significance of the site of his birth over any of the other private residences, where the significance of such influences as his education and the growth of his ambitions is far less defined. Furthermore, the selection of any one of the public buildings raises the issue of the other governors with whom those same properties are also associated and the fact that none of these are as exclusively associated with Bill Clinton as his birthplace. It is this same argument which also precludes the consideration of his current residence, the White House in Washington, DC, in this context.

By virtue of the above arguments, therefore, it becomes evident that the Bill Clinton Birthplace in Hope, Arkansas remains the single property most significantly and exclusively associated with President Bill Clinton's humble beginnings, the inner strength he learned from his mother, and the dedication to purpose that has sustained him throughout his distinguished political career. For these reasons the Bill Clinton Birthplace is eligible under Criterion B with national significance.

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Bibliography

Ifill, Gwen, "Tenacity and Change in a Son of the South," *The New York Times*, Thursday, July 16, 1992, p. A1.

Interview with Virginia Kelley, Spring, 1993, Hope, Arkansas.

Shribman, David, "Clinton, Arkansas's Best-Known Overachiever, Widens His Horizons to Include the White House," *The Wall Street Journal*, Tuesday, October 8, 1991, p. A24.

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Summary

Located at 117 South Hervey Street, the Bill Clinton Birthplace is a two-and-one-half storey, wood frame residence designed in a style known as American Foursquare. As the style denotes, its fundamental floor plan is square, though an original single-story, hipped roof porch runs across the western or front facade. Its hipped, asphalt shingle roof and asbestos plate shingle walls rest upon a continuous brick foundation.

Elaboration

The residence located at 117 South Hervey Street, better known as the Bill Clinton Birthplace, is a two-and-one-half storey, wood frame residence designed in a style known as American Foursquare. As the style denotes, its fundamental floor plan is square, though an original single-story, hipped roof porch runs across the western or front facade. An original brick masonry chimney stack, located just to the north of the roof's peak, has been taken down and capped below the current roofline, though most of the stack remains in place. The hipped, asphalt shingle roof and asbestos plate shingle walls rest upon a continuous brick foundation.

The western or front elevation consists of a sheer, symmetrically fenestrated wall that is dominated by the single story, hipped roof porch that extends almost the full width of the facade. The porch's hipped roof is supported upon two pyramidal wood columns that in turn rest upon brick piers. The wall beneath is fenestrated with two twelve-over-one wood windows that flank a central, single-leaf entrance. The second storey above is fenestrated with three symmetrically-placed windows, two of which contain wood sash windows while the southernmost window features a modern aluminum window frame. The central, hipped dormer above contains a single, four-pane wood window.

The northern and southern elevations are relatively simple. The northern elevation's second story features three window openings at its eastern end, lighting what was the nursery room behind. The first storey contains a single-leaf entrance at the eastern end, a pair of wood sash windows toward the center and a single, smaller window at the western end. The southern elevation is fenestrated with two groups of three wood sash windows each on the first storey and two asymmetrically-placed single windows above.

The eastern elevation is fenestrated with two symmetrically-placed windows on the first storey and wood sash windows at the northern end of the second storey, also lighting the nursery room.

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 03/29/94

Street & Number: 323 Center Street, Suite 1500 Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
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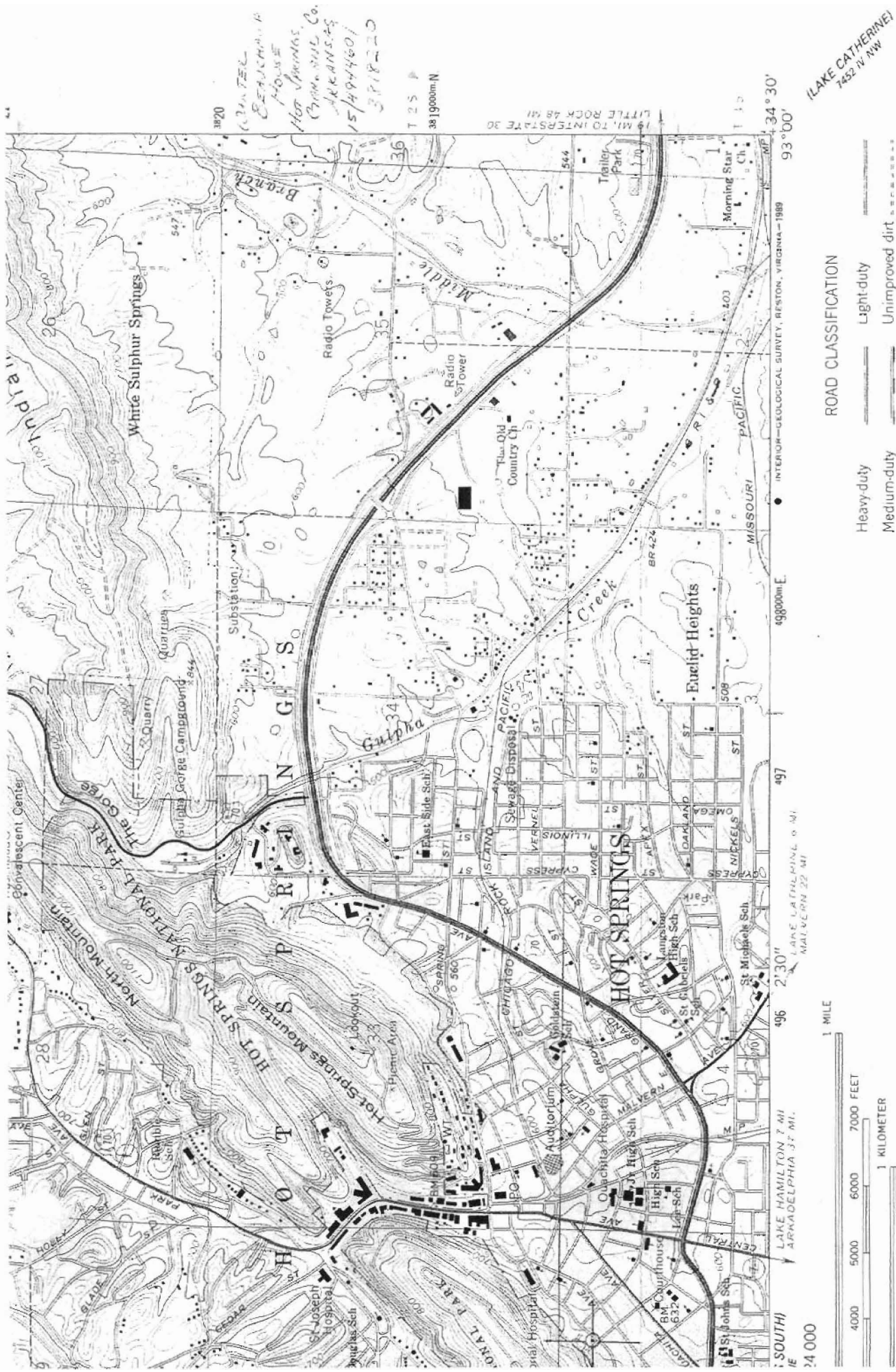
The house at 117 South Hervey Street that has become known as the Bill Clinton Birthplace was probably constructed c. 1915; its architect or builder remains unknown. It is eligible under Criterion B with national significance by virtue of its status as the birthplace of President Bill Clinton. Though the period of significance (1946-50, the years Bill Clinton lived in this house) is less than fifty years, and though birthplaces are not generally eligible, the Bill Clinton Birthplace is of extraordinary significance through both its direct associations with the current President of the United States and its status as the single extant property most directly associated with his youth and early development.

Elaboration

Hope, in addition to becoming a regional transportation hub with the arrival of several intersecting railroad lines after the Civil War, also became a regional cotton processing and marketing center in southwest Arkansas. The importance of this crop to the entire county was evidenced by the large number of cotton gins that dotted the countryside throughout during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. By the first decades of the new century Hope was a prosperous and bustling community that supported a wide variety of businesses, industries and professions.

The residence at 117 Hervey Street in Hope, Arkansas was originally built for Dr. H. J. S. Garrett, who settled here after residing for a time in France and purportedly based the house design upon that of a residence he had occupied while living there (however, this building type, known as American Foursquare, became extremely popular throughout the United States after the turn of the century, and particularly in railroad towns where new tastes and fashions of all kinds arrived quickly). Young Virginia Cassidy's family purchased this home around 1940, while she was still in high school. Within the next few years she met and married William Blythe, a traveling salesman.

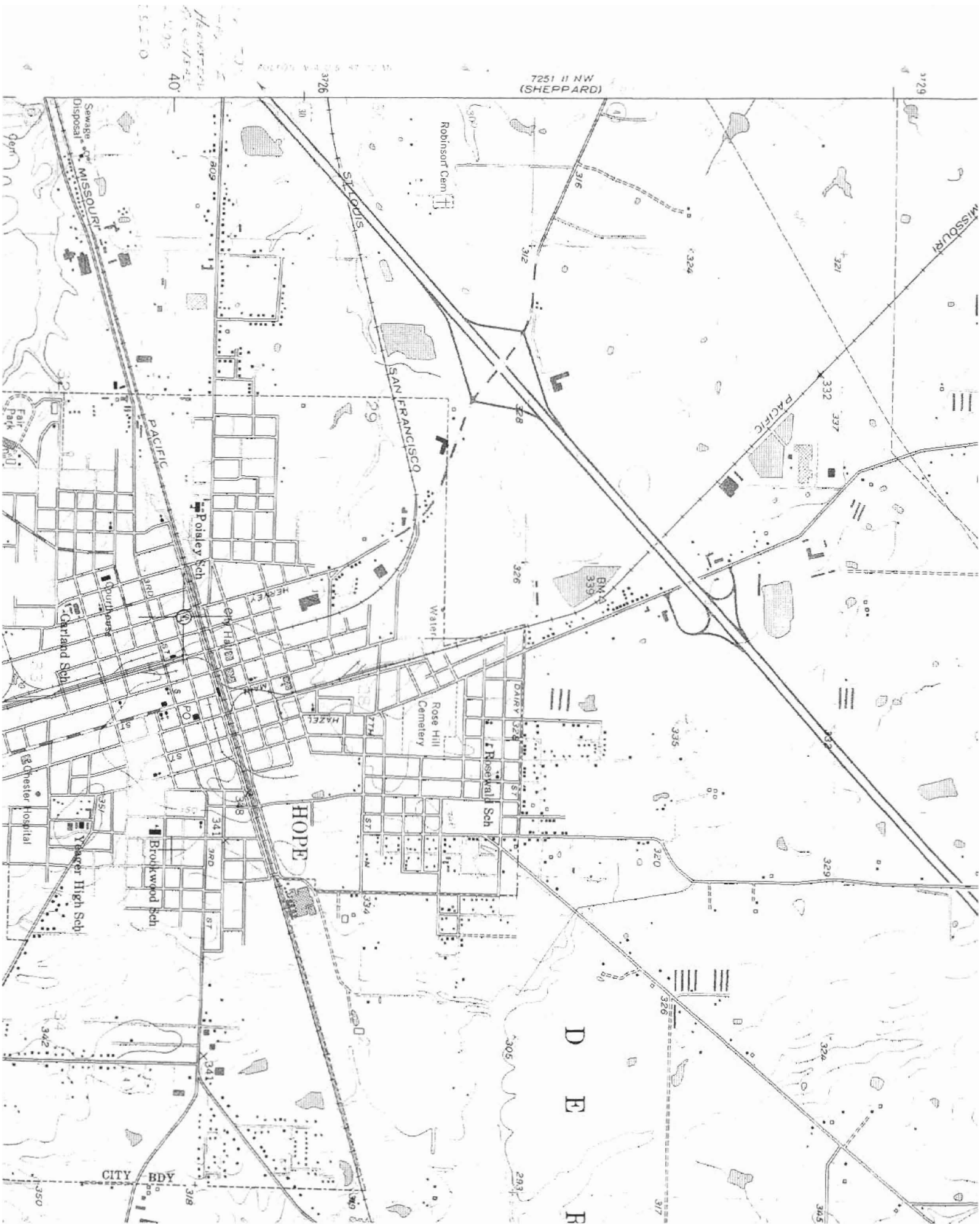
Virginia Cassidy was three-months pregnant with their first child when her husband died after his car veered off a rain-slicked backroad during a business trip. She lived in this house with her parents during the remainder of her term, giving birth to William Jefferson Clinton 3rd on August 19, 1946. She raised him here -- with her parents help -- for the first two years of his life. However, she left him in her parents care after his second birthday so that she could attend nursing school in New Orleans, learning the trade of nurse anesthetist so that she could support herself and her young son. She returned in 1950 and left 117 South Hervey Street to reside in

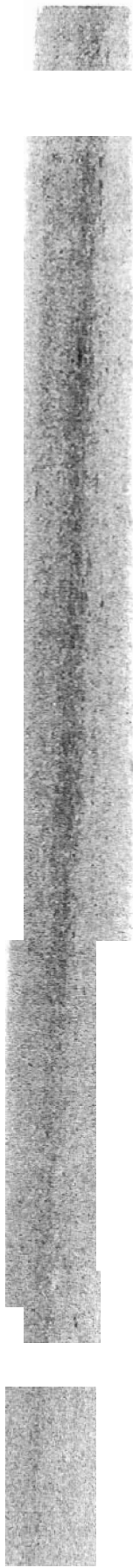
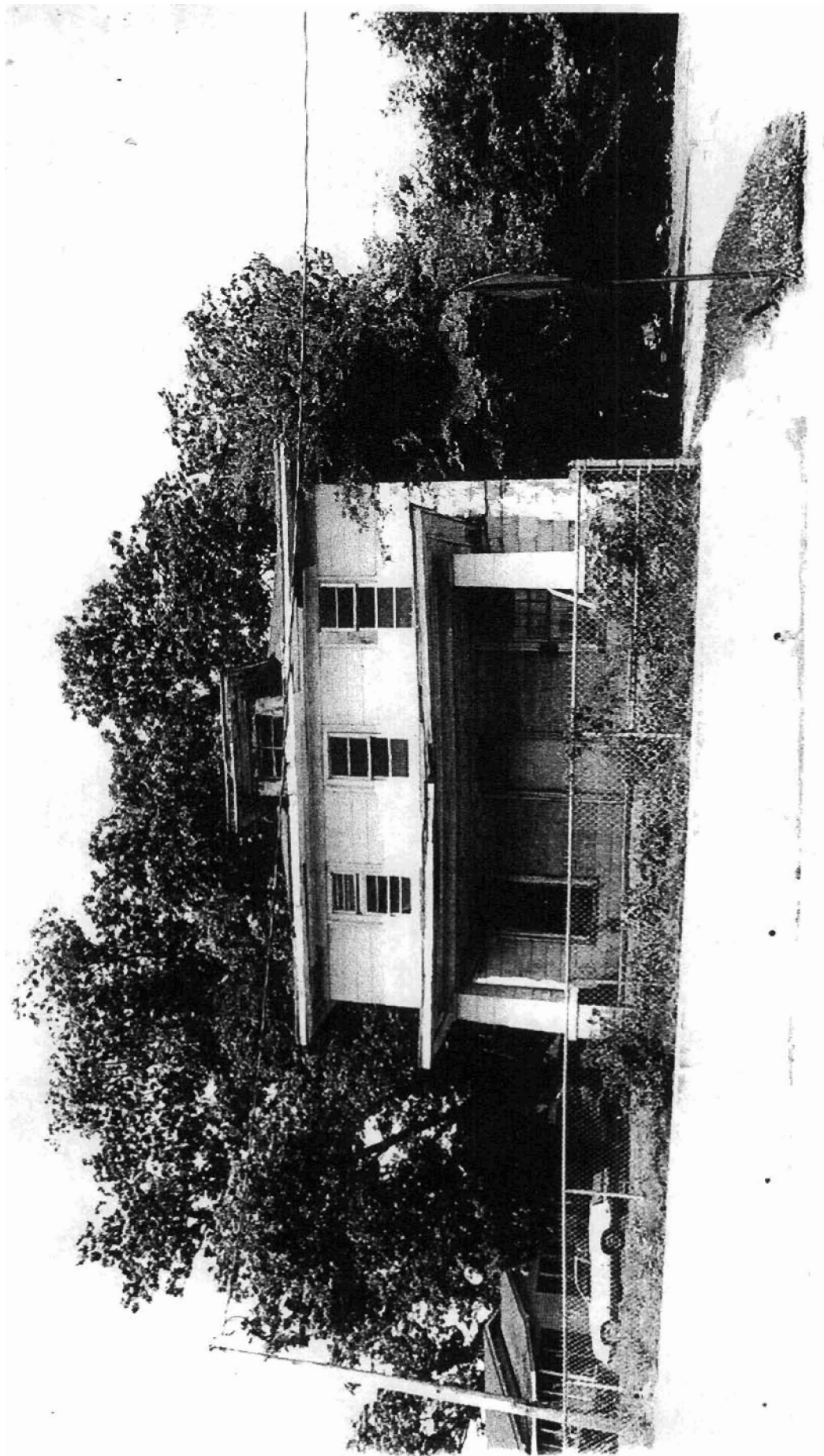
VAL 20 FEET
ICAL DATUM 0

AL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
ON, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
ND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

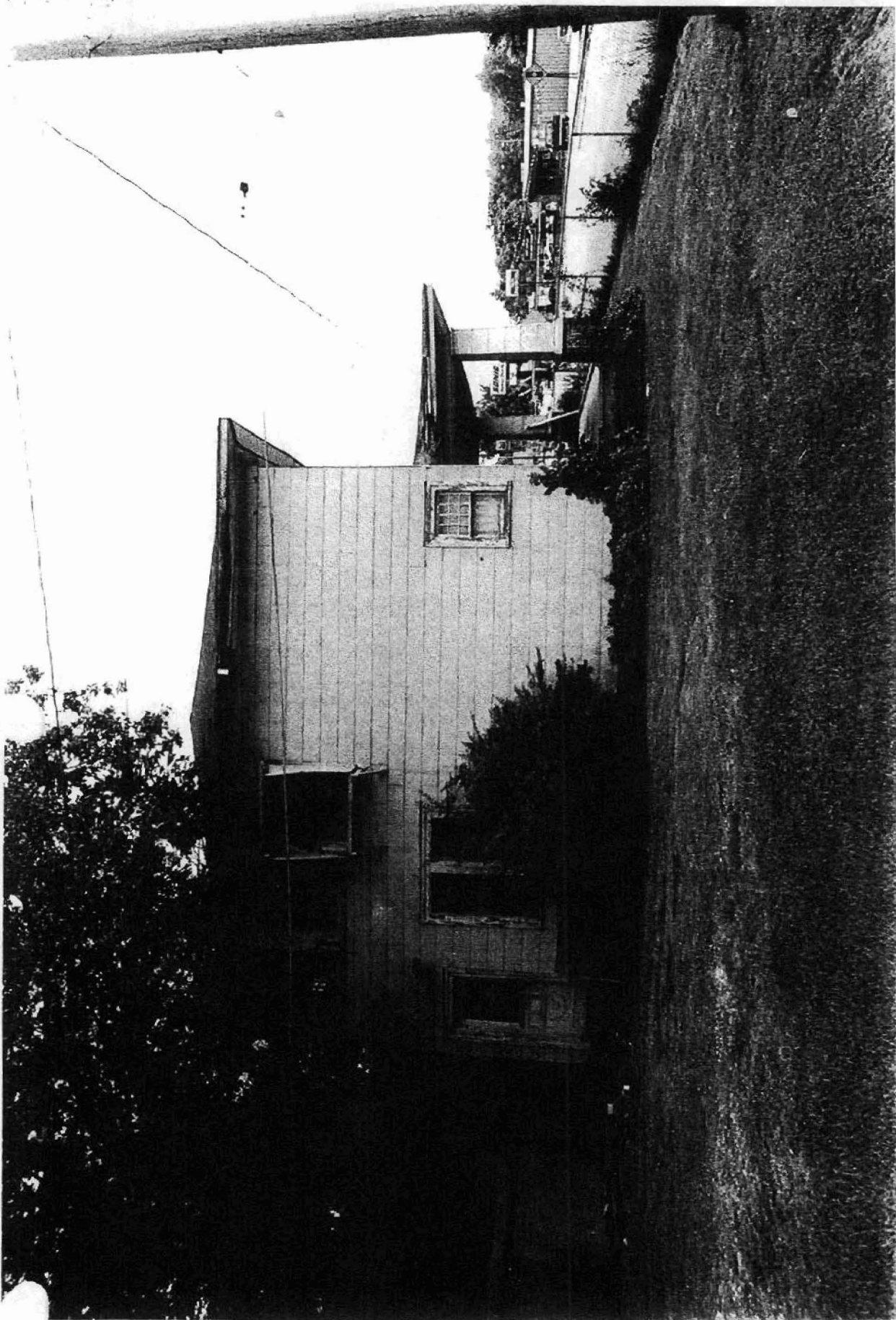
HOT SPRINGS NORTH, ARK.
34093-E1-IF-024

1966
PHOTOREVISED 1976





THE CLINTON BRIDGE
HOPE, HENRISTAD CO, ARKANSAS
PROPOSED BY D. BAKER
JAN, 1993
NEARBY ON FIRE AT AHP
VIEW FROM WEST



Bill Clinton Birthplace

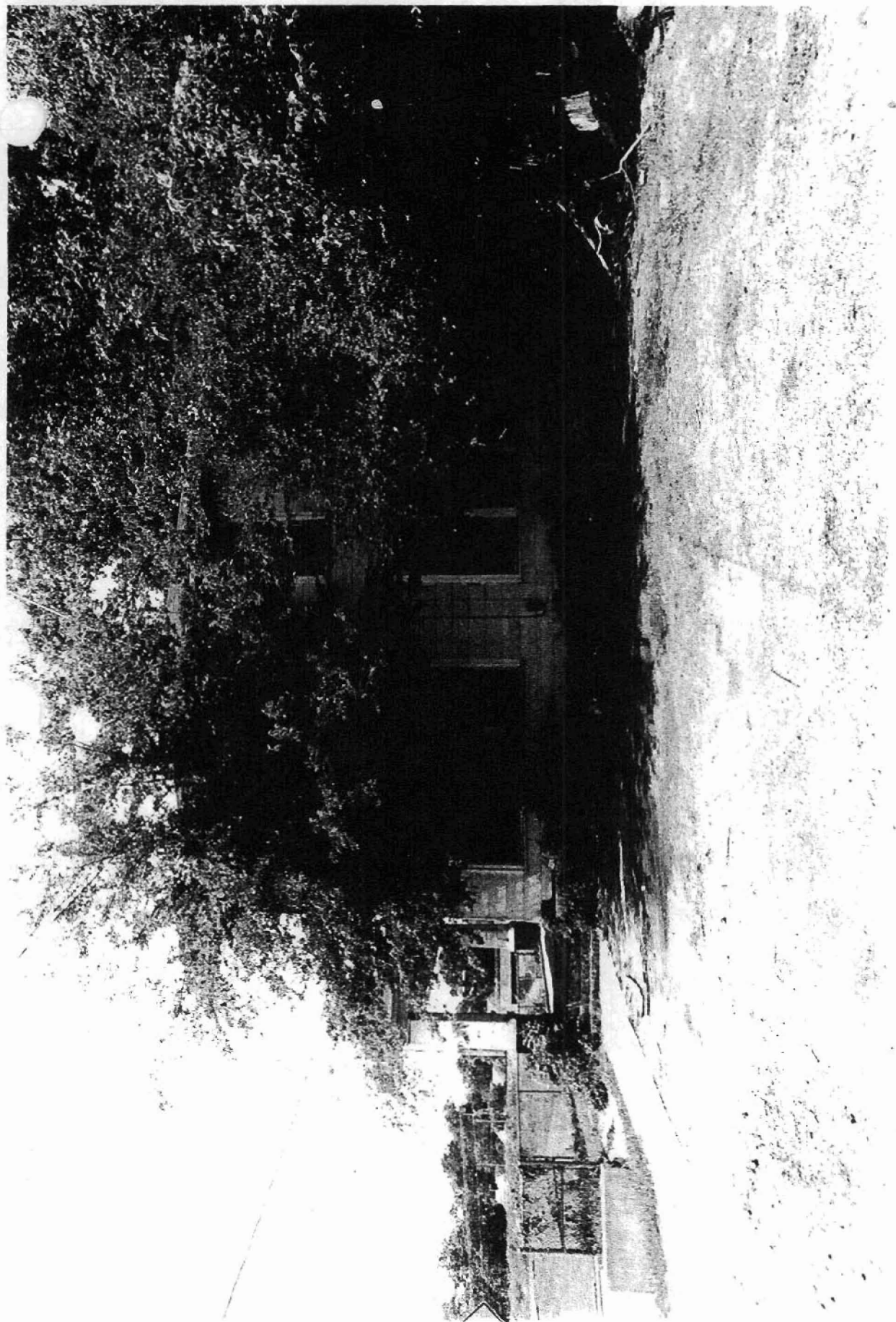
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Don Baker

June 1993

Negative on file at AHP

View from North



Bill Clinton Birthplace

Hape, Hempstead Co, Arkansas

Photographed by Don Baker

June 1993

Negative on file at AHPP

View from South



111 Clinton Birthplace

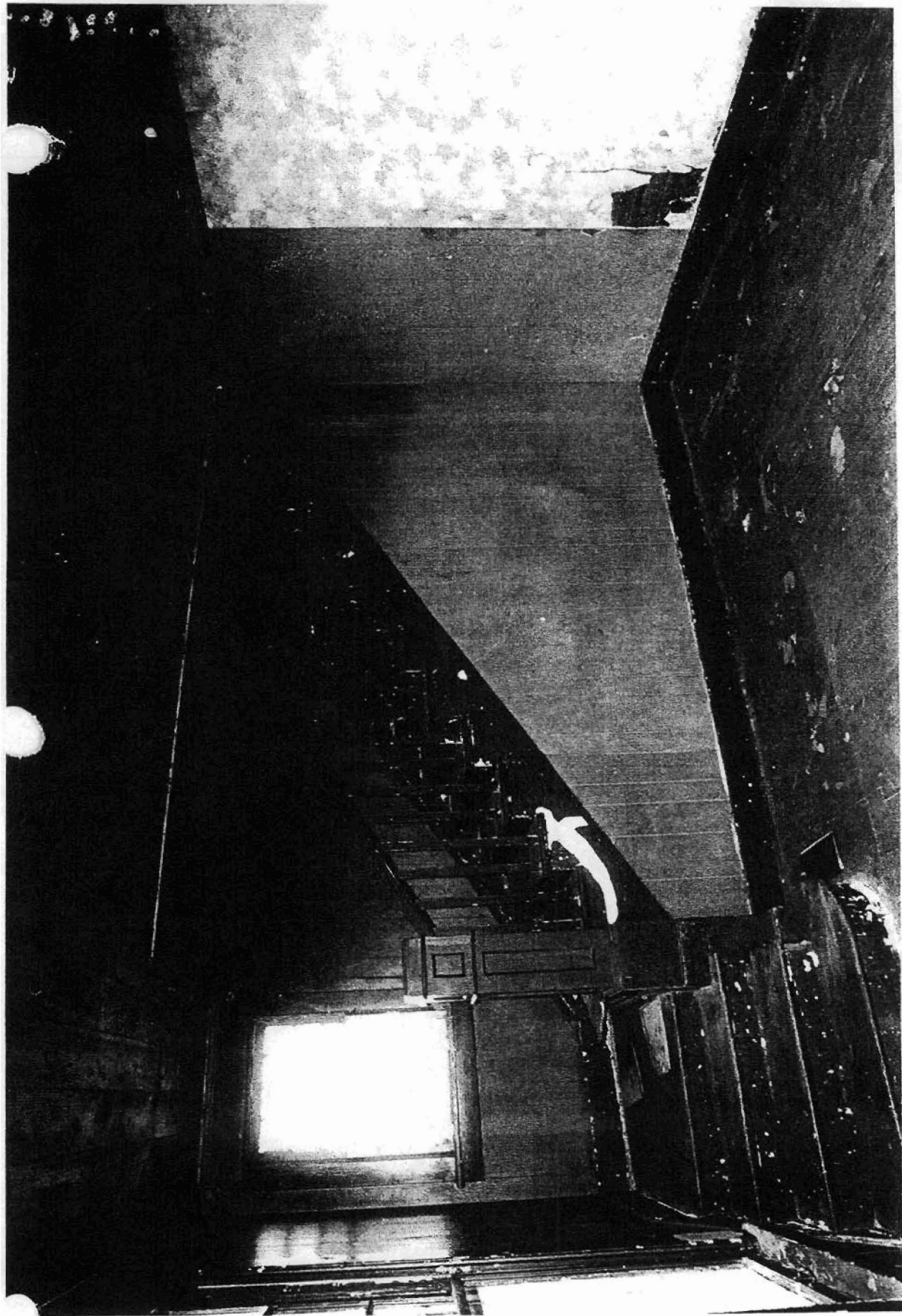
Hope, Hempstead Co., Arkansas

Photographed by Don Baker

June 1993

Negative on file at AHPP

View of Living Room



Bill Clinton Birthplace
Hope, Hempstead Co, Arkansas
Photographed by Don Baker
June 1993
Negative on file at AHPP
View of Staircase