

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clover Bend Historic District

other names/alternate number _____

2. Location

street & number Highway 228☐ not for publication N/Acity, town Clover Bend☐ vicinity N/Astate Arkansascode ARcounty Lawrencecode AR 075zip code 72433

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

5

Noncontributing

_____ buildings
_____ sites
_____ structures
_____ objects
_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

7-31-90In 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

EDUCATION/school

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL/meeting hall

RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility

GOVERNMENT/firehouse

COMMERCE/TRADE/Restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Cast concrete

walls Other: novelty siding

Cut stone

roof Asphalt shingle

other _____

Other: Plain/Traditional

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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Summary

The Clover Bend Historic District consists of five buildings, one of which is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The five buildings include the Clover Bend High School (listed), the gymnasium, the home economics building, the FFA building, and the cafeteria. With the exception of the cafeteria, all the buildings are of frame construction with novelty siding sheathing the walls. All of the roofs are gable and covered with composition shingle. The cafeteria is also of frame construction, but covered with cut stone.

Elaboration

Clover Bend High School

The Clover Bend High School is a T-shaped, one-story structure built in the Plain/Traditional style in 1937. The gable and hip roof is covered with composition shingle and the entire building is supported by a continuous cast concrete foundation. In the center of the roof is a cupola. The walls are covered in, and always have been, novelty siding. There are three awning porches, two with hipped roofs, and one with a shed roof. The four brick chimneys are all located in the center four-square portion of the building. The windows are all double-hung with nine-over-nine and one-over-one pane arrangements. The school faces south toward Highway 228 and is the focal point of the campus. The high school was listed on the National Register in 1984.

Clover Bend Gymnasium

The gymnasium is located just west of the high school. It is a one-story, irregularly shaped building of frame construction with a continuous cast concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered in composition shingle. Two exterior brick chimneys are located on the west side of the building. Two interior brick chimneys are located at the south end of the gym in the front lobby area. One other interior brick chimney is located at the back of the gym at the corner of the stage area. The windows that are left are hoppers with a six-pane arrangement. The other windows have been boarded up because of vandalism. There is a one-bay, central front porch with a gable roof and columns on the southern elevation. Two other porches are awnings each with a shed roof; one is located on the eastern elevation of the building and served as an entrance. The other is on the western elevation; it probably served as an entrance or exit as well.

The interior of the building is virtually intact. The bleachers are essentially a large set of steps on each side of the gym that extend the entire length of the gym. On the northern end is the stage area. Before the construction of the cafeteria, the students were served lunch on the stage. Also, for an unknown period of time, the gym housed elementary classrooms. The locker rooms are located underneath the bleachers on each side of the gym. There are four entrances to the locker rooms, one on each end of the bleachers. The gym is currently used for community activities.

Home Economics Cottage

The Home Economics Cottage was originally used for Home Economics classes and, after the school closed, as a restaurant for a brief period. It now stands unoccupied. The cottage is located just northeast of the high school and east of the gymnasium. It is a one-story, rectangular building of frame construction with a continuous cast concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered with composition shingle. Two exterior brick chimneys are located at each end of the building (the northern and southern elevations). A third interior brick chimney is located in the southwestern corner of the building. A one-bay porch with a gable roof is located on the northeastern corner of the building. A second awning porch with a hipped roof is located on the southwestern corner of the cottage. Large double-hung windows with a six-over-six pane arrangement light the classrooms and

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provide an abundance of natural light.

The interior is equipped with a kitchen area, appropriate for home economics classes, cupboards, a fireplace, and chalkboards.

Smith-Hughes Building

The Smith-Hughes Building was originally used for agricultural classes, but is now used as the community fire department. It is a one-story, L-shaped building of frame construction with a cast concrete foundation. The gable roof is covered with composition shingle. The one interior brick chimney is located at the front of the ell projection of the building. The one porch is a quarter-front porch with a shed roof on the eastern (front) elevation. The windows are double-hung with nine-over-nine and six-over-six pane arrangements.

Food Service Center

The Food Service Center was originally used as a cafeteria and as a community canning center. It is now used as a restaurant. This one-story, rectangular building is of frame construction with a continuous cast concrete foundation. Unlike the other campus buildings which are covered with novelty siding, the Food Service Center is covered with cut stone. The gable roof is covered with composition shingle. There are two interior brick chimneys, one located centrally within the building, and one at the southern end. Two one-bay porches are located at the northern and southern corners of the eastern elevation. Each of these porches has a rounded roof. A third porch with a shed roof is located on the western elevation. The roofs on each porch are supported by posts. All the windows are double-hung with a six-over-six pane arrangement. The windows on the northern and southern ends of the building have been boarded up. Although the building was constructed in 1942, it is being included in the district.

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Summary

The campus of the Clover Bend High School stands in its original location as an excellent example of Depression-era government construction and as a symbol of what the Farm Security Administration accomplished in the area of Clover Bend.

Elaboration

In 1936 the Resettlement Administration, predecessor of the Farm Security Administration, purchased 5,600 acres from a small group of owners for \$164,000.00. Clover Bend had originally been one plantation, but at the time of the Resettlement Administration's purchase a small number of people owned it and most of the people in the area were tenant farmers, hired hands, or sharecroppers. The FSA also operated other farm projects including the Dyess (which is listed on the National Register), Kelso, Plum Bayou, Lakeview, Lake Dick, Central and Western Arkansas Valley, Northwest Arkansas, Biscoe, Desha, Townes, Lonoke, Trumann, St. Francis River, and Chicot Farms.

The Clover Bend project was divided up into 91 units of 40 to 65 acres each, depending upon the size of the family that was to live there. One four- or five-room house was built on each unit, along with a barn, a poultry house, and other outbuildings. Many of the homes and barns, although altered, are still standing and are recognizable from the road. The annual payments to the government or the nearby Walnut Ridge banks, averaged about \$200 a year and included insurance, taxes, and interest. Many of the farms families, out of necessity, took out subsistence loans and loans for purchasing livestock and equipment. To avoid borrowing money, some farmers shared equipment and swapped work. Each farmer was required to plant eleven acres of cotton, ten acres of corn or beans, five acres of pea hay, three acres of lespedeza, one acre of sorghum, and a half an acre of sweet potatoes. A co-op gin and potato drying bin were built as part of the project. An abundance of pumpkins were also raised; the residents canned and sold them through combined efforts, hence the nickname "Pumpkin Center" was attached to Clover Bend.

The Farm Security Administration encouraged a community and team atmosphere. The farm supervisors and home economists worked together with the families to produce profitable and cheerful farms. The ladies of the project were required to attend monthly meetings similar to home extension club meetings. They were referred to as "Unit Meetings" because the area was divided up into the units of Lower Clover Bend, Upper Clover Bend, Center Unit, and the "Y" Unit. The FSA also aided and encouraged families to landscape and beautify yards, the school, etc. They planted shade trees, flowers, shrubs, etc. In the summer of 1939, the Clover Bend Home Demonstration Club received the second place award for community beautification.

Alice French, probably the most celebrated and famous citizen of Clover Bend, was a well-known writer around the turn of the century. She wrote under the name Octave Thanet and many of her writings involved the Arkansas community in which she lived. She had a home, Thanford, along the Black River. Miss French was quite active in the community and she is known in the community for her philanthropy, it is therefore appropriate that the FSA used Thanford, after moving it farther away from the river, as a recreational center and project headquarters. Several families were also housed there for a brief period of time. The French home was listed on the National Register, but it has since been demolished.

In 1941 the FSA declared the Clover Bend project a success and turned the farms over to the families who owned them. The Clover Bend project was one of the most successful in Arkansas. Its success was attributed to the fact that most of the families had always lived in the area; therefore, they were well acquainted with the land and all its characteristics. Many of the other projects and farms were populated with people who had to move from the hills and settle in an unfamiliar delta.

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The Clover Bend school itself opened in 1937-38 with approximately 500 students enrolling. About a third of the students were from families of the project. The first recorded graduation was in 1940-41. That same year the eagle was adopted as the school mascot and the school news was published in the Walnut Ridge Times Dispatch. Some of the teachers lived with families until a teacherage was built. The location of that teacherage is unknown.

The Clover Bend school campus is significant architecturally as it is an excellent example of the Depression-era government construction. It is also significant as an outstanding representative of the successful public works programs the government established throughout the nation to aid impoverished Americans, and also because Clover Bend was one of the most successful Farm Security Administration's projects in Arkansas.

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Bibliography

"History of Clover Bend," *Lawrence County Historical Quarterly*, by Reta Covey, Volume 2: Summer 1979, No. 3, p. 5.

"Clover Bend Farms," *Lawrence County Historical Quarterly*, by Inez Harris and Willene Kirkland, Volume 2: Summer 1979, No. 3, p. 17.

"The History of Clover Bend," *Walnut Ridge Times Dispatch*, by W. E. McLeod, January 5, 1939.

"Special To the Post-Dispatch," portion of the WPA Writers' Project, 1941.

The WPA Guide to 1930's Arkansas, compiled by workers of the Writers' Program of the WPA in Arkansas, University Press of Kansas, 1941, 1987.

"Clover Bend Farms," *Arkansas Gazette*, by Richard and Louise McCue, June 29, 1941.

"Clover Bend Project Farm Families Prove An Optimistic Group," *Arkansas Gazette*, March 3, 1940.

Records of projects in Arkansas published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration.

1984 nomination of the Clover Bend High School to the National Register of Historic Places.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

AGRICULTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

c. 1937

1937 - 1940

1937 - 1940

Significant Dates

N/A

N/A

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Farm Security Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	5
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6	7	1	7	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	8	3	4	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

1	5
---	---

6	7	1	8	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	9	8	3	6	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

D

1	5
---	---

6	7	1	9	2	0
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3	9	8	3	3	3	0
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☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Angela K. Albright, National Register Assistant

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date July 17, 1990

street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 telephone (501)371-2763

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

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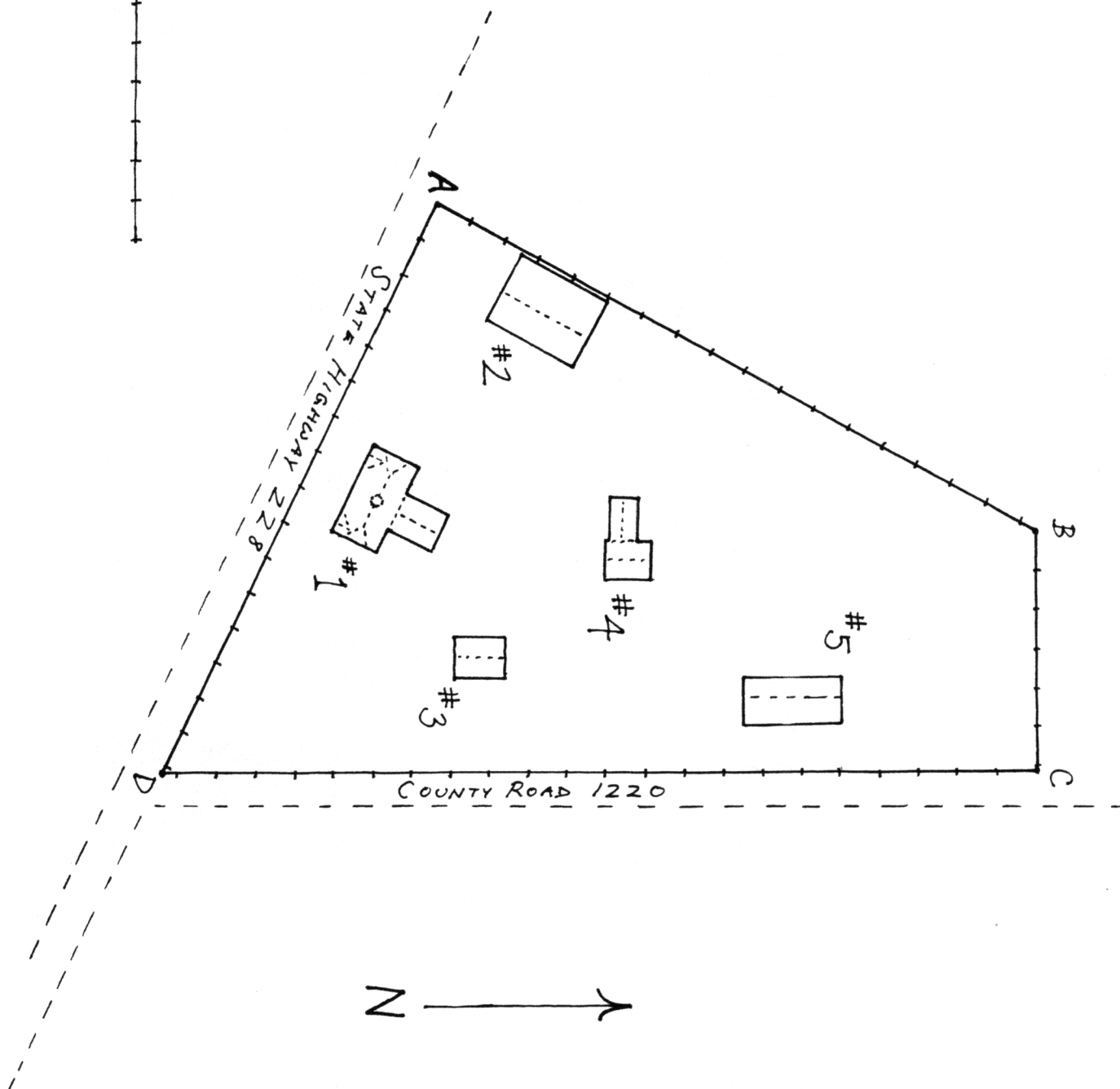
Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the intersection of the northern edge of State Highway 228 with the western edge of County Road 1220, proceed northerly along the latter edge for a distance of 1,125 feet; thence proceed westerly along a perpendicular line for a distance of 312.5 feet; thence proceed in a southwesterly direction on a line running along the northwestern elevation of the gymnasium building for a distance of 875 feet to a point formed by its intersection with the northern edge of State Highway 228; thence proceed easterly along said edge for a distance of 812.5 feet to the point of beginning, comprising in all approximately 11 acres.

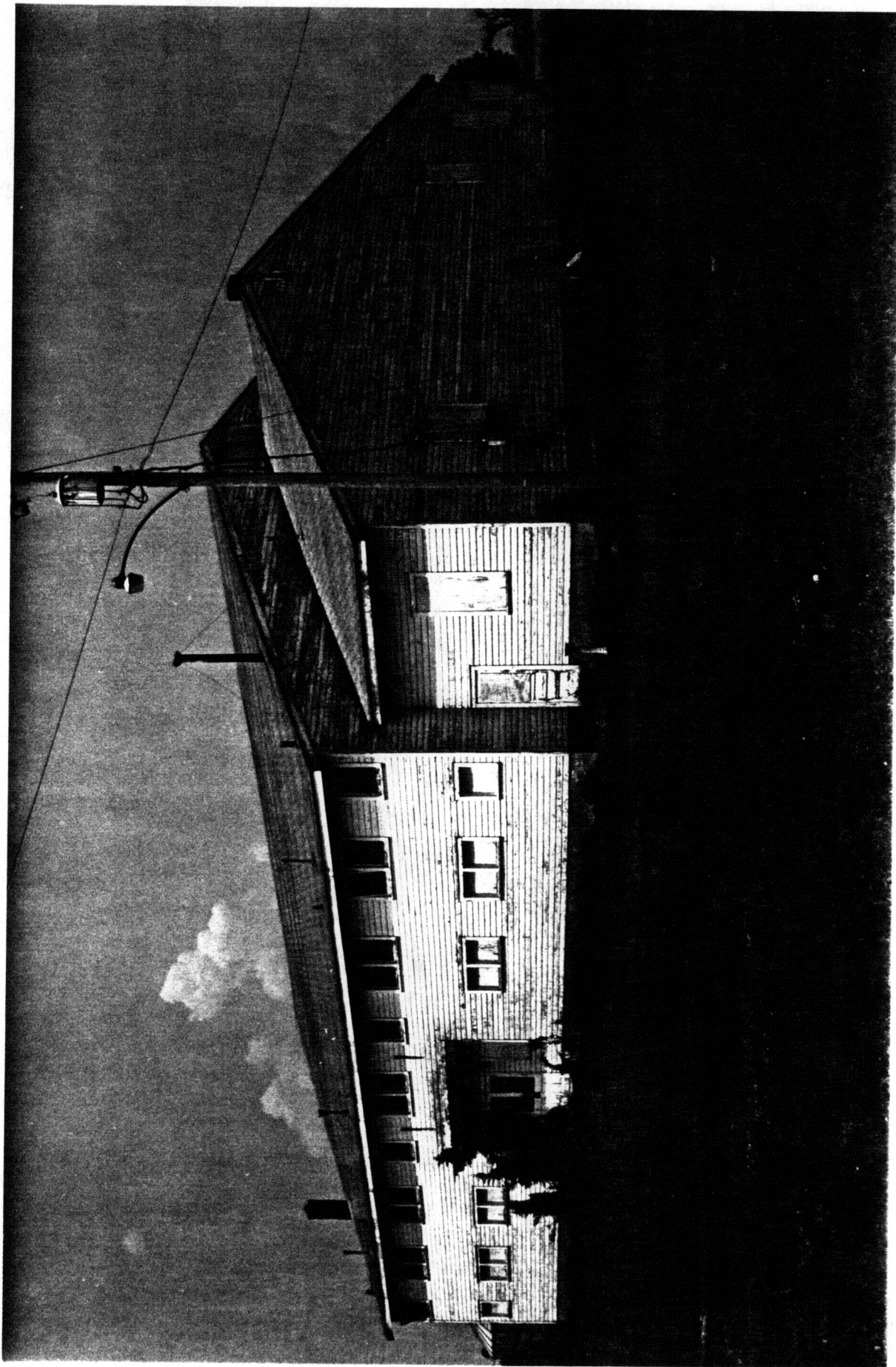
CLOVER BEND HISTORIC DISTRICT

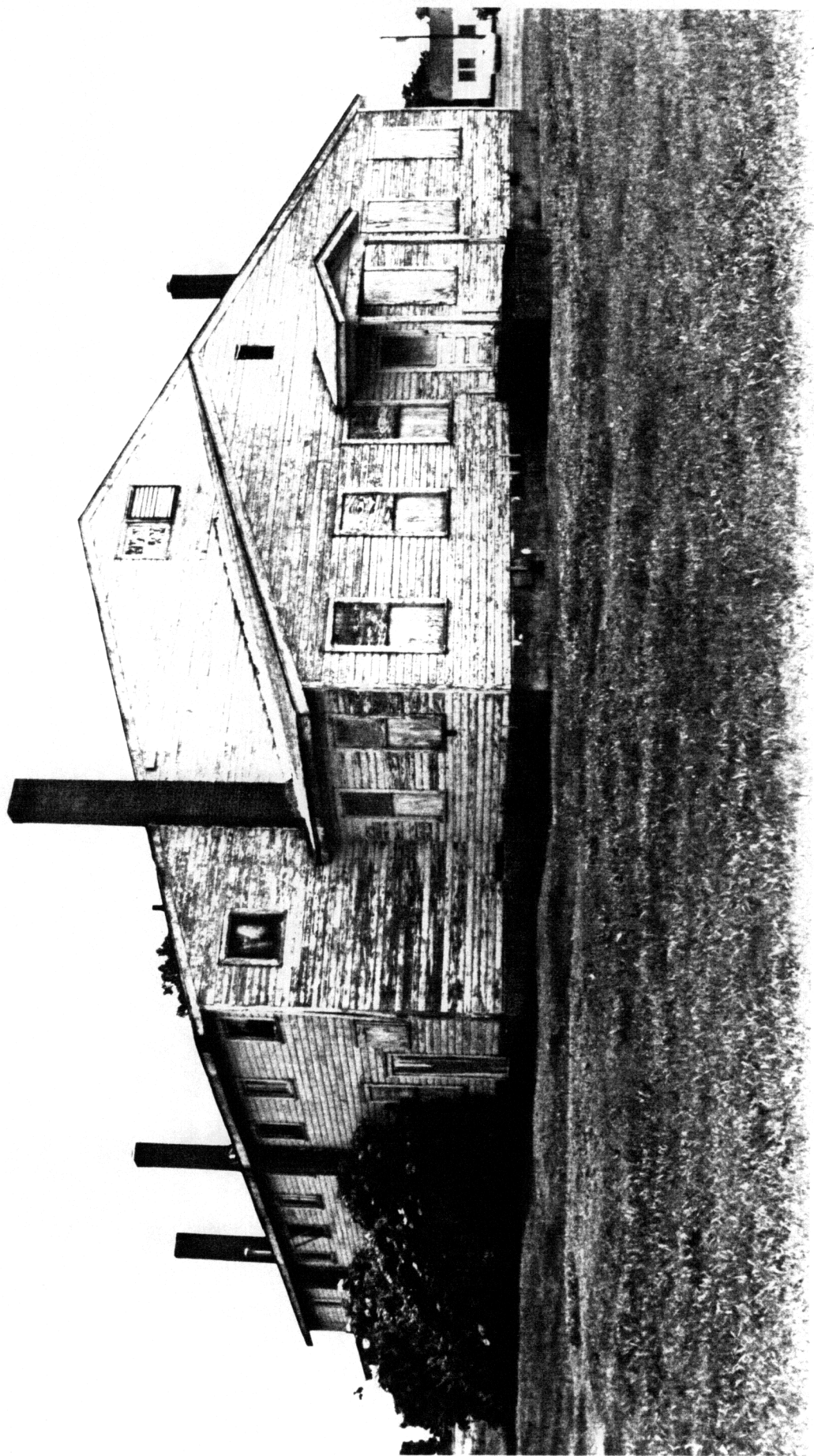
SCALE: 1"=200'

BOUNDARY:

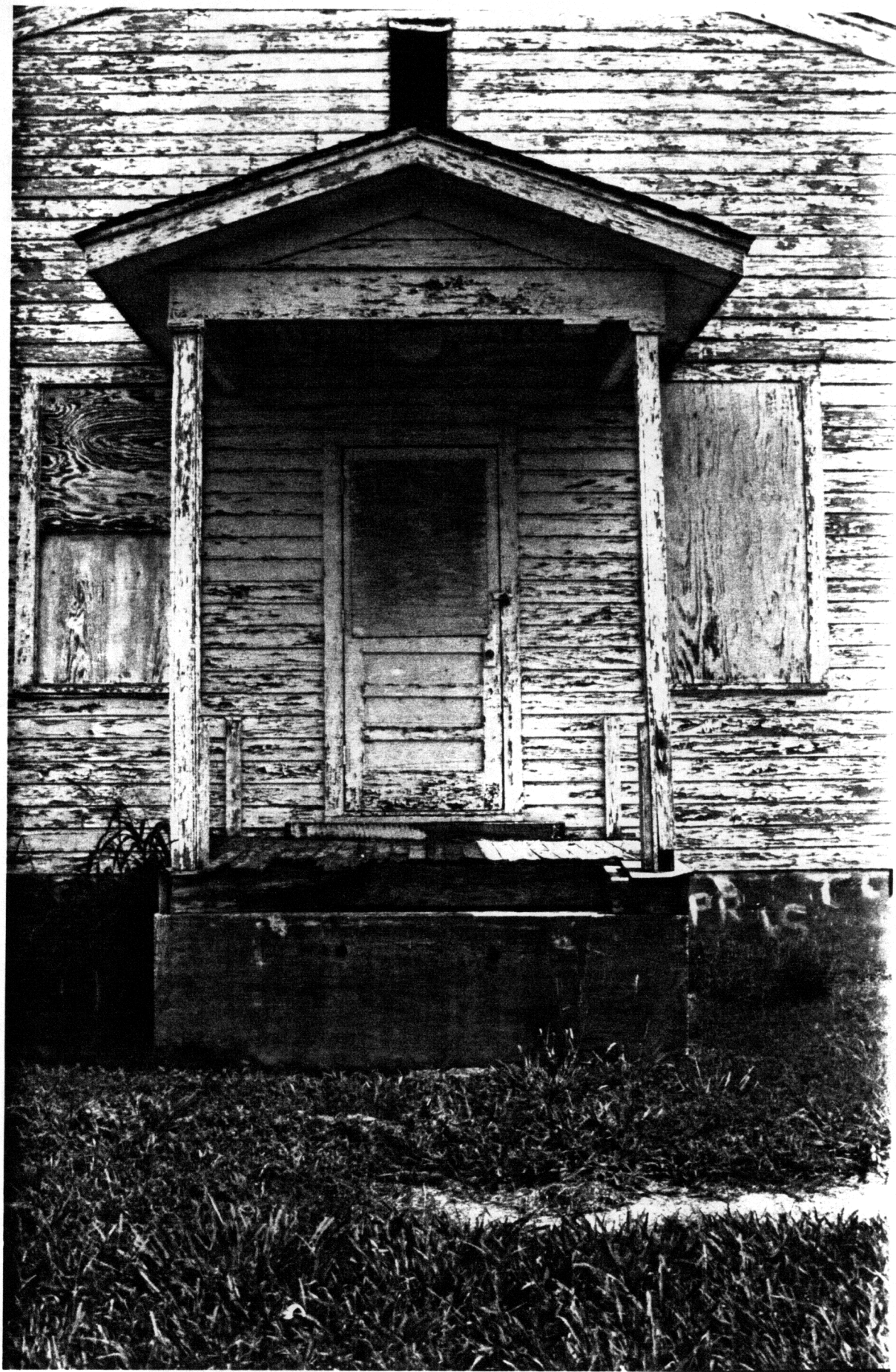


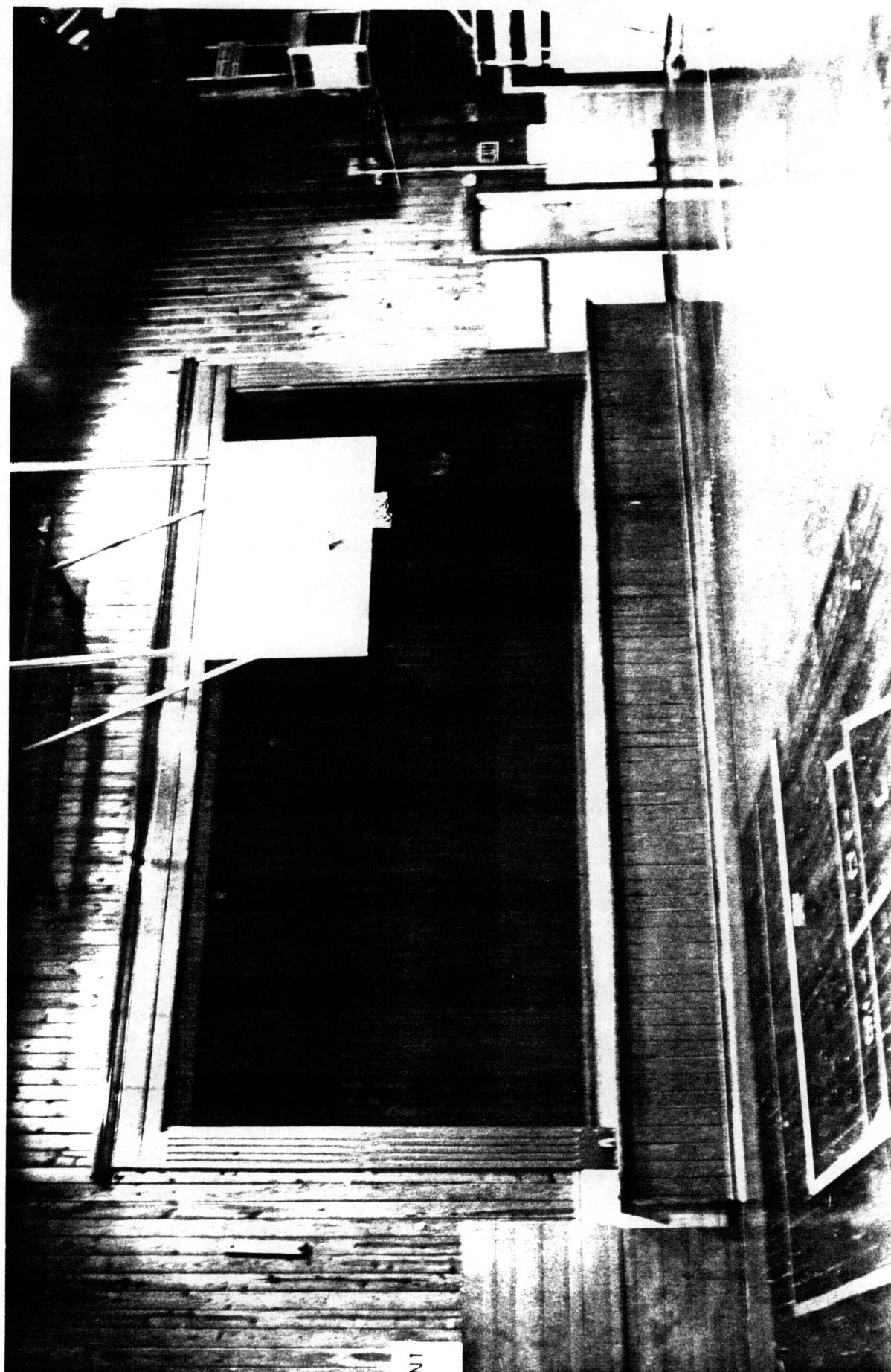


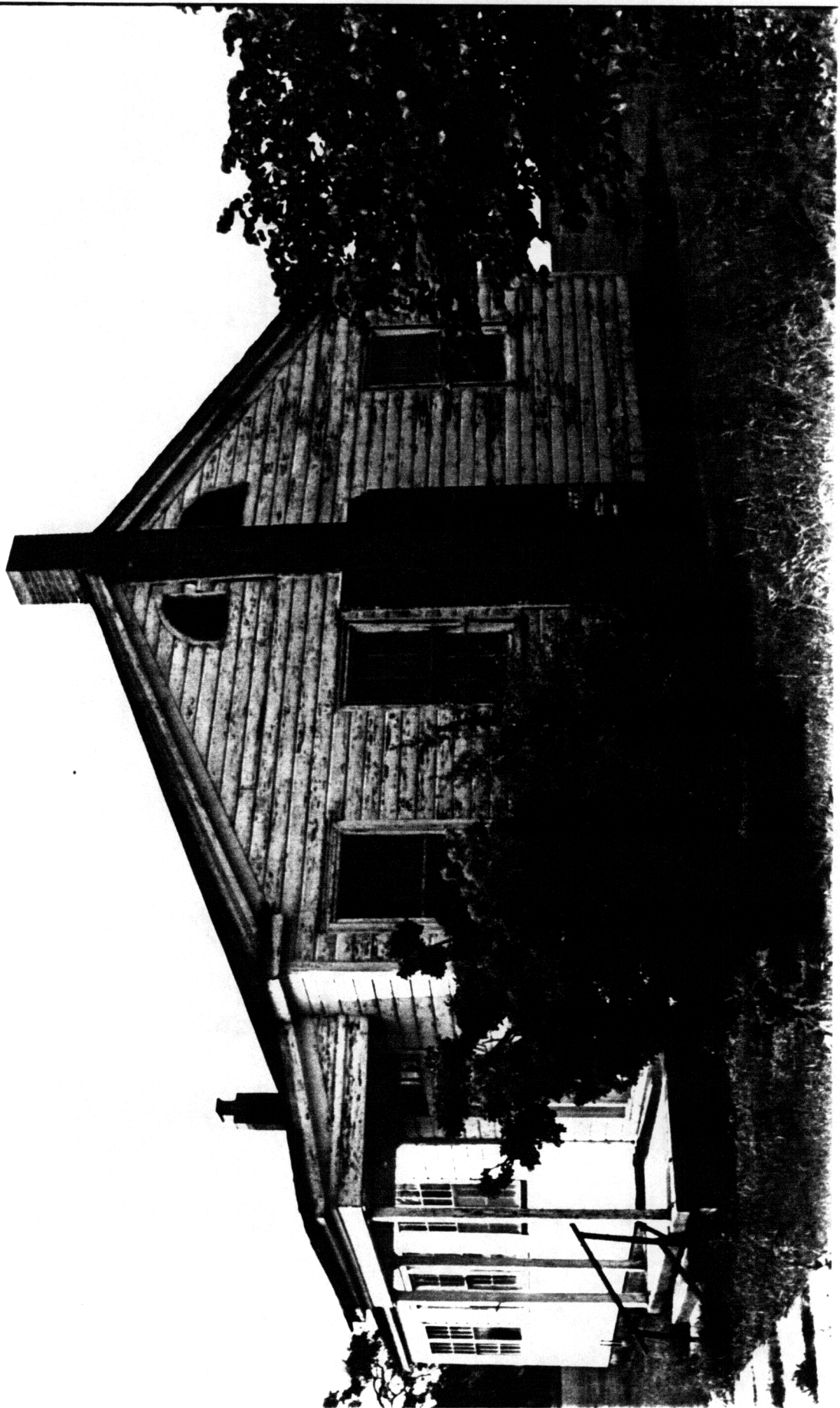


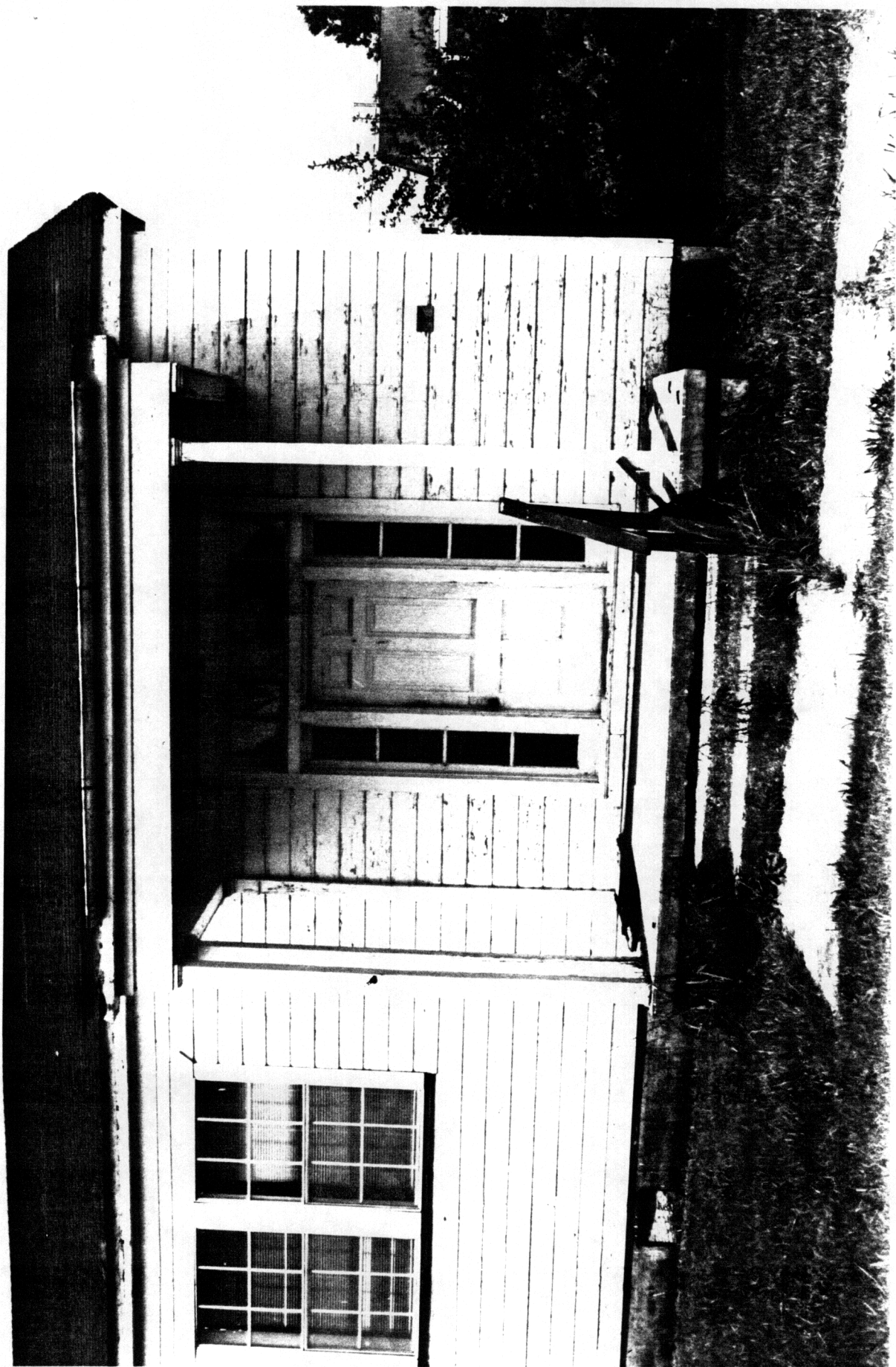


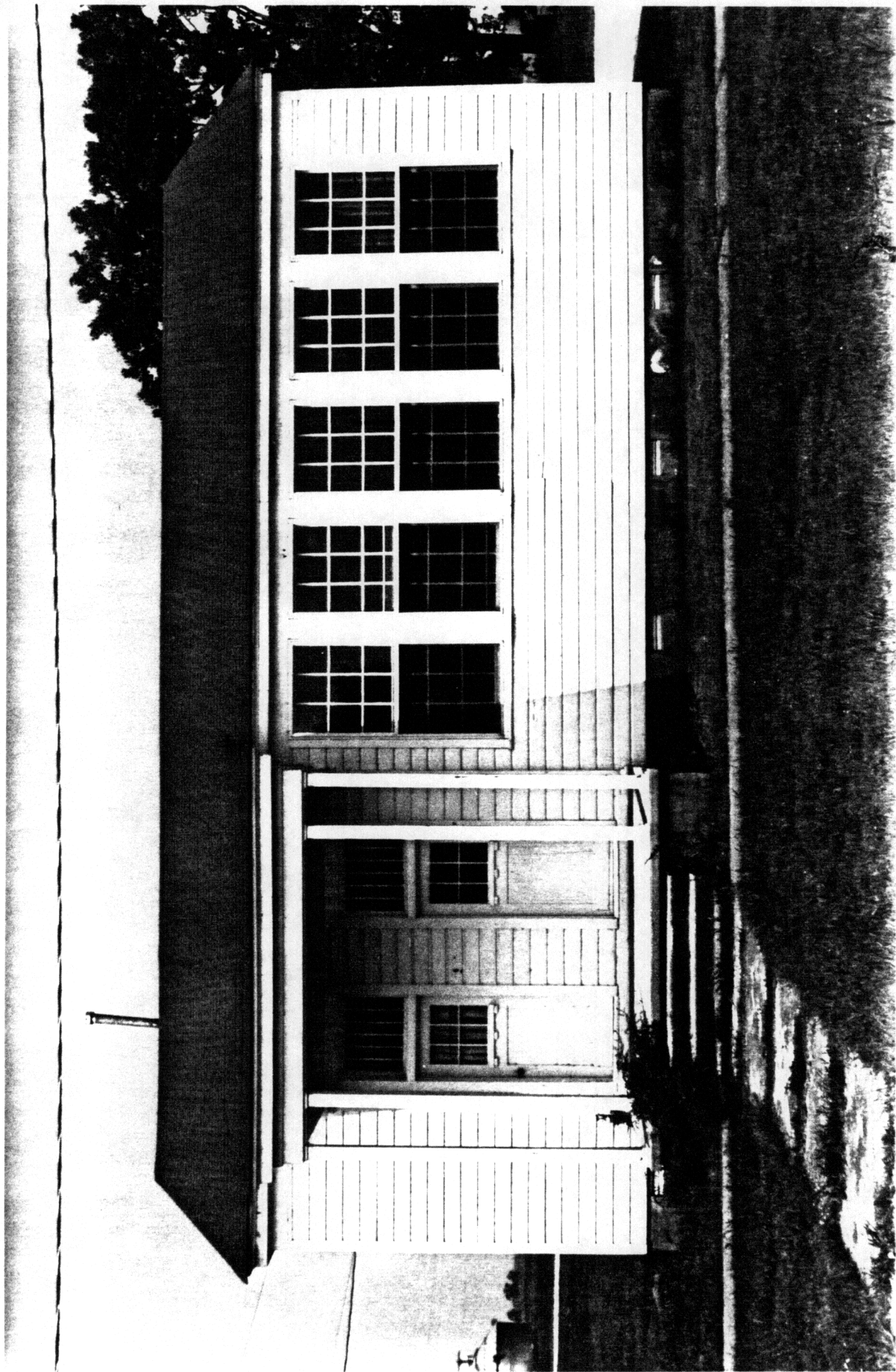


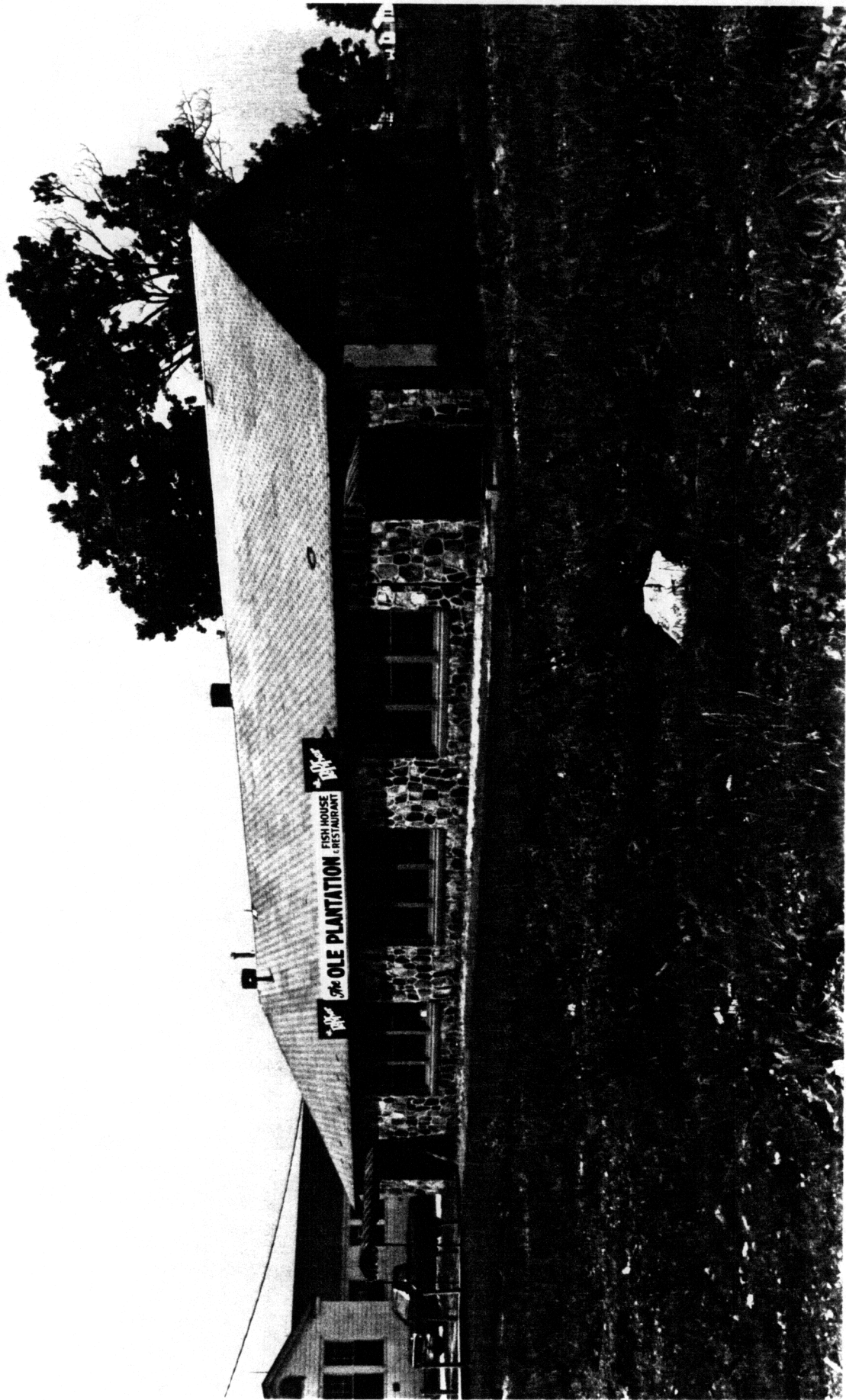












Clover Bend Historic District
 Clover Bend, Arkansas
 Lawrence County
 A) 15/671710/3983430 B) 15/671830/3983650
 C) 15/671920/3983650 D) 15/671920/3983330
 Alicia Quadrangle
 1:24000

