JITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NAT CHAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Fort Logan H. Roots is located on a high promontory facing due south overlooking the Arkansas River. original inception it was intended as a regional military training facility which accounts for the physical layout of the post. The focal point of the grounds is an eleven acre quasi-elliptical parade and training field around which the edifices of the post are located. True to military custom there is a systematic location of quarters with the officers' quarters located on the southwest rim of the ellipse, the senior enlisted men located on the southeast rim, and the enlisted barracks situated on and due north of the centrally located parade field. Service facilities such as the stables, firehouse, quartermaster's building, shops, bakery and guardhouse are located northeast of the rim along the principal ascending approach to the post.

The construction of the post was essentially of two phases. The original construction of 1896 included the aforementioned edifices. Subsequent additions in the years 1905-1907 included two groups of enlisted barracks astride the existing enlisted quarters. A bachelor officers' quarters adjacent to the original officers' quarters was added as well as a post exchange and gym aside the enlisted quarters. These phases of construction completed the orderly development of the post prior to its redesignation as a Veterans Bureau health facility in 1921. Subsequent to that time approximately fifty additional buildings have been constructed to support the hospital facility, and their growth has been to the rear of and along a northwest axis from the enlisted quarters on the north rim of the parade grounds.

The architectural character of the original and succeeding buildings is in keeping with the military architecture of the times. The edifices are utilitarian in construction, and with few notable exceptions they are devoid of ornamentation.

Solid red brick masonry walls prevail throughout with trussed slate roofs of gable or cross-gable configuration. Windows are slender, double hung with segmented arches of brick and projecting cast stone sills.

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7. Description (Continued - Page 2)

Of special note is the original enlisted barracks building. It consists of a three story brick building with square plan and a high hipped slate roof with a center gable on the front and rear elevations. Extending off two sides of the central edifice are the elongated two and one-half story barracks proper. Single chimneys are located at each end and are noteworthy in appearance. The chimney pierces the cornice; however, it does not continue to the ground. The chimney side is divided into five alternating panels and projecting reliefs which terminate at the second floor line.

The pediment is distinguished by a fascia which terminates at each edge of the roof into a quasi-pendant of stone resembling a barber's stand. The gable facade is given relief by the use of recessed panels in the brickwork which are flush with the face of the lower stories. A two story porch is continuous along the entire front. The upper porch has been enclosed since the original construction.

The officers quarters represent a slight departure from the architecture of the post. Each edifice is a two and one-half story duplex of red brick resting on a rubblework foundation which projects approximately four feet above grade. A one story porch extends across one-fourth the facade from each side. It terminates at the projecting parlor rooms fronting the edifice. A later alteration extended the porches across the entire facade.

The double hung windows with brick segmented arches and cast stone sills are consistent with the prevailing motif; however, the windows located in the pediments are noteworthy. Two double hung windows with semicircular overhead lights are separated by a brick mullion. Three course brick, semicircular arches over each window intersect over the brick mullion. Each course projects further outward than the lower course, thereby giving depth to the arch. This architectural feature appears only in the officers' quarters.

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7. Description (Continued - Page 3)

Briefly summarized the architecture of Fort Roots is basically plain and utilitarian in character. A consistent motif lends unity to the original buildings. Overall order to the plan is achieved through the systematic grouping of the buildings about a centrally located parade field. Most exterior alterations have been confined to the officers' quarters in the forms of enclosure and extension of porches and modification of some window casements.

It would indeed be difficult to define a single style of architecture for Fort Roots. Elements of Romanesque Revival are evident in the officers' quarters, while elements of the Greek Revival style predominate in several of the larger structures. One of the best examples of the Greek Revival style on the post is exhibited in the portico of the post exchange and gymnasium.

Periodic maintenance has kept the original buildings in good condition and has contributed to the exceptional preservation of the original physical appearance of Fort Roots.

The boundaries of the area are defined by West Drive on the west, Scenic Drive on the southwest, Main Circle Drive on the south, East Drive on the southeast running to the northeast and turning northwest to Hill Road, then turning southwest along Hill Road to its junction with First Street. The boundary continues north along First Street to a point beyond Building 15 (the old Powder Magazine), then turning southwest until intercepting North Drive which defines the north boundary of the Ft. Roots historic_district.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Established in 1893 as an Army post, historic Fort Roots is situated on Big Rock Mountain on the north bank of the Arkansas River. This six hundred (600') foot high promontory was so named to distinguish it from the Little Rock, located just across the river. Big Rock Mountain is topped by a plateau on which this 19th century military post was built.

In 1887 Big Rock Mountain was acquired by the Mountain Park Cottage Site and Improvement Company. This Little Rock land company built the Mountain Park Hotel, a luxurious resort hotel which operated from 1888 until 1893. Several special features that were somewhat unusual for the time were offered. These included three parks with picnic area, pavilions for dancing and refreshments and a fruit orchard and vineyards.

The company had plans to sell sites for summer cottages near the hotel, and to make the place an outstanding resort. However, their ambitions for the Mountain Park were never realized, for in 1893 the property was sold to the United States Government as the site for a permanent Army post. Military structures replaced the hotel.

The history of Fort Roots began early in 1890 when General John Schofield, of the War Department in Washington, suggested that the Army close the hundreds of small posts and arsenals in the United States and establish a dozen major military posts situated near the railroads. This would facilitate quick deployment of troops to any point in the country.

In August, 1890, work came from Washington that the Arsenal at Little Rock was to be closed not later than October 1, 1890. Then began a series of meetings by the City leaders to decide what should be done with

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8. Significance (Continued - Page 2)

the property. During these meetings it was also decided that Little Rock would ask that one of the twelve Army posts be established in the area.

Arkansas' Senator James K. Jones and Congressman William L. Terry started the movement in Washington. Congress was asked to establish a military installation at Little Rock on land provided by the city. In exchange the city was to receive the old Arsenal grounds. On December 15, 1891, Senator Jones introduced a bill donating the grounds to the city for a park. Congress also passed a bill to establish a military post at Little Rock, provided the city would furnish 1,000 acres of land within ten miles of the city.

The Board of Improvement for City Park District was formed to select a suitable site for the proposed fortress. Colonel Logan H. Roots served as chairman of the commission with Judge Eben W. Kimbell as secretary. Several sites were proposed by the Board of Improvement in the area around Little Rock.

Major General Nelson A. Miles of the Commanding Department of the Missouri was authorized to inspect the proposed sites and select the one best suited for a military post. In February, 1893, General Miles selected Big Rock Mountain as the site of Fort Roots. The Big Rock site had 1,100 acres and included the plateau, providing a commanding view of the city and surrounding countryside.

Deeds were recorded at Little Rock to transfer the Arsenal property to the city, and Big Rock property to the Army. These were filed by Maj. Steven W. Groesbeck, Judge Advocate of the Army, who arrived on March 18, 1893. Rights were reserved for a public highway and a railroad along the foot of the bluff.

In August, 1894, Congress appropriated \$194,760 to construct the military post at Big Rock. The appropriation included \$117,500 for construction; \$6,460 for regular supplies; and \$70,800 for transporting the Army to the post. Congressman W. L. Terry notified Little Rock that

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8. Significance (Continued - Page 3)

the Quartermaster General had authorized the money to be spent, and Captain R. R. Stevens was placed in charge of the work. On August 23, he received orders to advertise for bids on the work.

Plans for the mountain fortress included a hospital, quartermaster stable, storehouse, guardhouse, three double sets of officers' quarters, a double barracks, two mess halls and one double outbuilding. Frederick Kepler of Chicago submitted the successful bid for construction on the buildings. He agreed to complete the job in twelve months for the sum of \$107,746.00. On the morning of December 3, 1894, a 44-gun salute was fired from the highest point of Big Rock to signal the beginning of work on the new fort. Thomas Lafferty stuck the first pick in the ground and 25 men began work on the post road. Grading of the area began on December 10, and a full force of men were working by the first of the new year. The Army was thus installed on the prominence of Big Rock.

By 1896 twenty buildings had been completed. These included barracks, kitchens, mess halls, lavatories, a guard house, a bakery, a store house, stables, officers' quarters, a hospital and a powder magazine. Most of these structures were centered around a parade grounds of 11.7 acres.

In April of 1897, an order from the War Department was published as follows:

By direction of the President of the United States, the military post near the city of Little Rock, in Pulaski County, Arkansas, will hereafter be known and designated as Fort Logan H. Roots in honor of the Late Brevet Lieutenant Colonel L. H. Roots, United States Volunteers.

Logan Holt Roots was born on March 26, 1841, on an Illinois farm. At 17 he entered Illinois State Normal University as the youngest male student. After graduating as valedictorian in the class of 1862, he enlisted in the Union Army and was made an officer in the 81st Regiment Illinois Volunteers.

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8. Significance (Continued - Page 4)

During his military career Colonel Roots participated in the seige of Vicksburg and accompanied General William T. Sherman on his march through Georgia to the sea. As a staff officer of General Sherman, he was present at the Grand Review of the troops by the President in May, 1865. The following August, Roots was commissioned Brevet Lieutenant Colonel for his meritorius services during the war. Colonel Roots was honorably mustered out of the service on May 31, 1866. During his last year of military service Colonel Roots was stationed in Arkansas. After buying a cotton plantation, he remained in the State to make it his home.

In 1867 Colonel Roots was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the First District of Arkansas. As a progressive liberal Republican, he represented Arkansas in the Fortieth Congress as its youngest member. During his two terms in Congress he sponsored several bills of great importance and beneficience to his Constituents. In later years the Colonel served as Vice-President of the National League of Republican Clubs.

At the time of his death in 1893 Logan Roots was recognized as the wealthiest man and leading financier in Arkansas. His financial success was tied closely to the First National Bank, of which he served as both president and director. One contemporary source stated that "his ability and reputation made this bank unexcelled and unquestionably the leading bank of this section of the country." Colonel Roots also served as the first president of the Arkansas State Banker's Association.

When Little Rock sought to acquire a permanent military post in the early 1890's the citizens turned to Colonel Roots to represent their wishes in Washington. As Chairman of the Board of Improvement for City Park District, Roots was instrumental in securing the Big Rock Mountain site to house the proposed fort. According to the Arkansas Gazette of May, 1893, "to his influence with the powers then in being at Washington in a great measure was due the fact that Little Rock secured the Arsenal Park and the new military post."

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8. Significance (Continued - Page 5)

Though Colonel Roots died on May 30, 1893, long before the Big Rock fortress became a realtity, it was his efforts that secured the site and future post. Four years after his death his work in behalf of his adopted city was publicly recognized when the Big Rock post was designated Fort Logan H. Roots.

Construction of the fort proceeded according to schedule until the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898. Operations were stopped when the regiment of troops occupying the post were ordered to Puerto Rico. In the following months the President called for 1,600 troops from Arkansas to serve in the war against Spain. Many regiments arrived at Fort Roots, received training in military maneuvers, and were shipped on to other places of service.

The next period of intense activity for the Fort Roots garrison came in February of 1912 when the base commander received notice to have his troops ready to move to the Mexican border. Francisco ("Pancho") Villa, the Mexican revolutionary leader, was causing international tensions to mount. In March, 1914, four companies of the Ninth Infantry departed for duty at Laredo, Texas. Two years later 25 companies of the Arkansas National Guard were mobilized. After spending a month at Fort Roots this group was ordered to Deming, New Mexico.

In early 1917, the European war far overshadowed the troubles on the southern border. In April mobilization of the first Arkansas Infantry was begun, and a few days later orders were issued to establish an officers! training camp at Fort Roots. After spending a 90-day training period at the fort, graduates were commissioned as company officers for the 87th Army Division.

Men of the Second Arkansas Infantry were trained at the fort, and were reorganized into the 142nd Field Artillery in the autumn of 1917. While in training, the men dug up quite a supply of stones from the field. These stones were used to construct a permanent monument in memory of the conversion of the Second Arkansas Infantry into the 142nd Field Artillery. The monument still stands at Fort Roots.

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8. Significance (Continued - Page 6)

During the time Fort Roots was used as an officers'training school, First Lieutenant George C. Marshall served at the fort. This young officer later achieved the rank of General, served as Chief of Staff, and was Secretary of State.

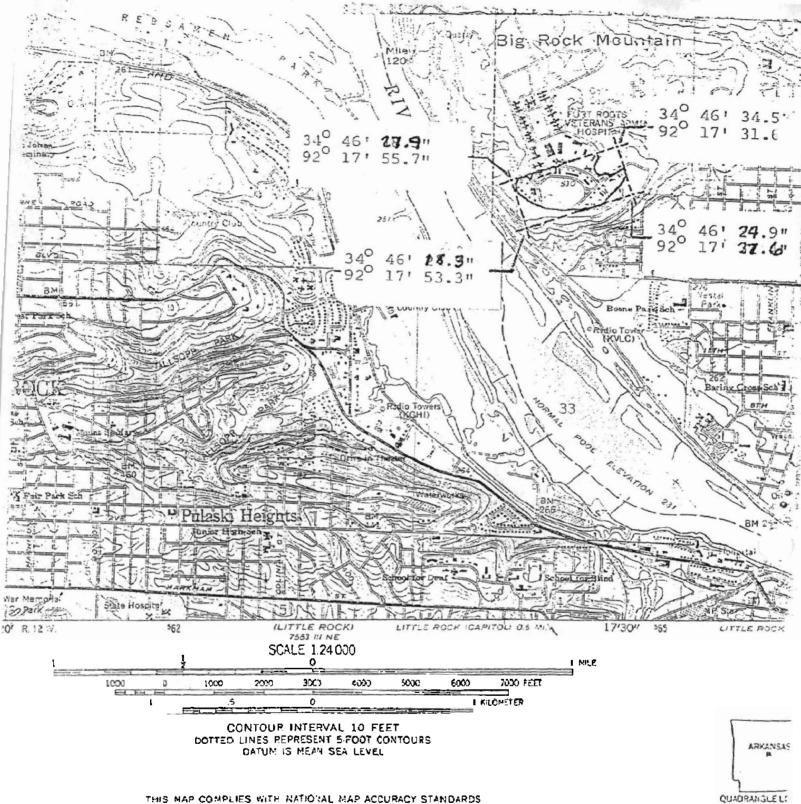
Near the end of World War I Fort Roots was used an an Army hospital. With the cessation of hostilities the need for a military post was no longer justifiable; therefore, the Army turned the grounds and buildings over to the Public Health Service for use as a hospital.

In October of 1921, the Fort Roots Military Post was released to the Veterans Bureau by the Public Health Service. On December 1, 1921, the Veterans Bureau reopened Fort Roots as a neuropsychiatric treatment center for veterans. At that time the hospital center consisted of a group of permanent type barracks buildings surrounding a large parade ground.

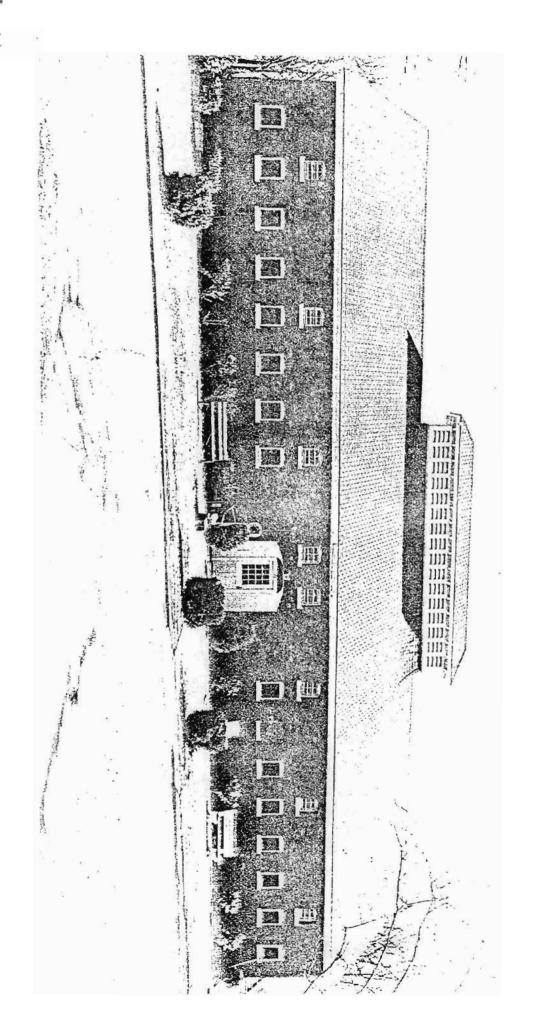
During its 50 year history as a veterans hospital, the Fort Roots facilities for treatment have been vastly enlarged and improved. Fort Roots has grown until now it is one of the largest neuropsychiatric hospitals in the United States. It consists of 1,110 acres of land with 15 large ward buildings and 76 other structures. It might be said that it is a community within itself, for it maintains its own police and fire department, shops, dining halls, recreational buildings, libraries and other educational facilities.

Despite the drastic changes which have occurred in the hospital's physical plant during the last half century, Fort Roots still retains many remnants of its military past. The II acre parade grounds in the center of the post along with several brick buildings built around the turn of the century are continual reminders of the hospital's military history. The architectural uniformity of an unadorned military style sets the original post apart from later medical buildings. Fort Roots is representative of the architectural style of a late 19th century American military post.

Arkansas Gazette, May 31, June 6, 28, 1893; July 31, 19 12, 1972. he Hill Echos (Veterans Administration Hospital, North Rock), April-July, 1965; May, 1970. Reynolds, Clifford P., ed. Biographical Directory of t Congress, 1774-1961. Washington, D. C.: Gove Printing Office, 1962.	ŗ
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Suite 1030 - Plaza West - McKinley and Lee CITY OR TOWN: Tittle Rock STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: Director, Office of Archeology and Historical Park Service of this nomination is:	O5 CATION
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THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

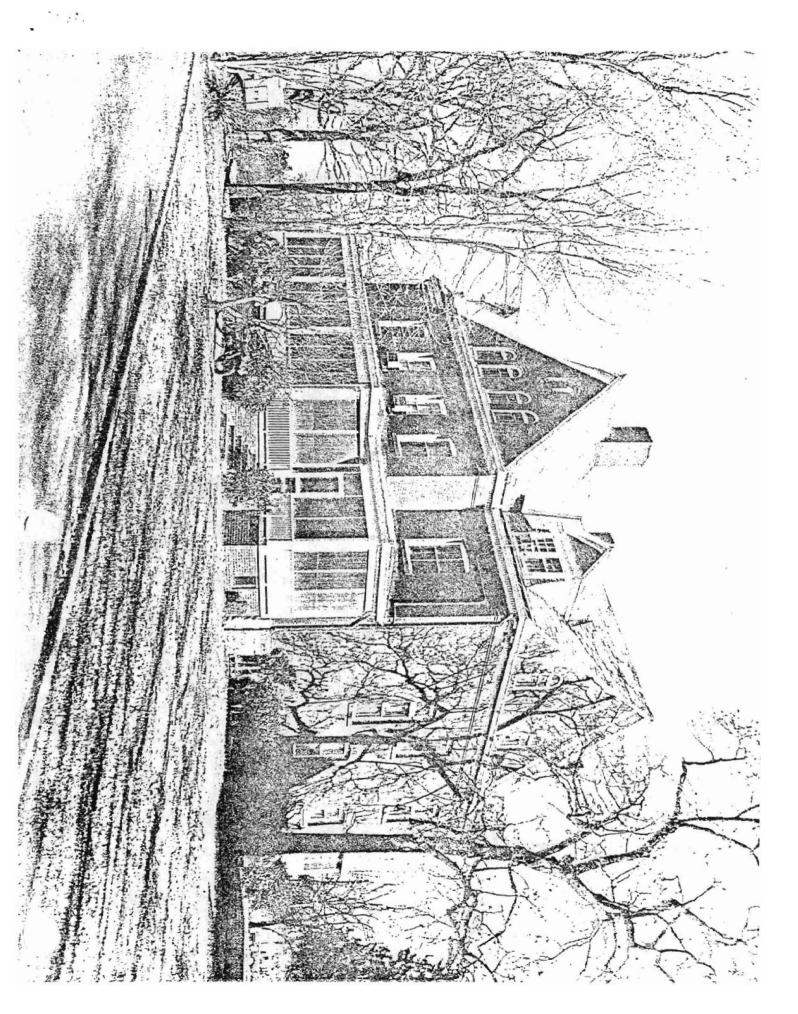
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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2. LCCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
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STREET AND NUMBER		
Senic Hill Drive 3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
Robert Dunn	February, 1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
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Stable, viewed from #8	the southeast.	RECEIVED 1
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FORM 10-301 A (0.72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Robert Dunn	February, 1974	Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Duplex officers' quarters, viewed from the southeast. ? # 10

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Arkansas, Pulaski County Fort Logan H. Roots



FORM 10-301 A (6/72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

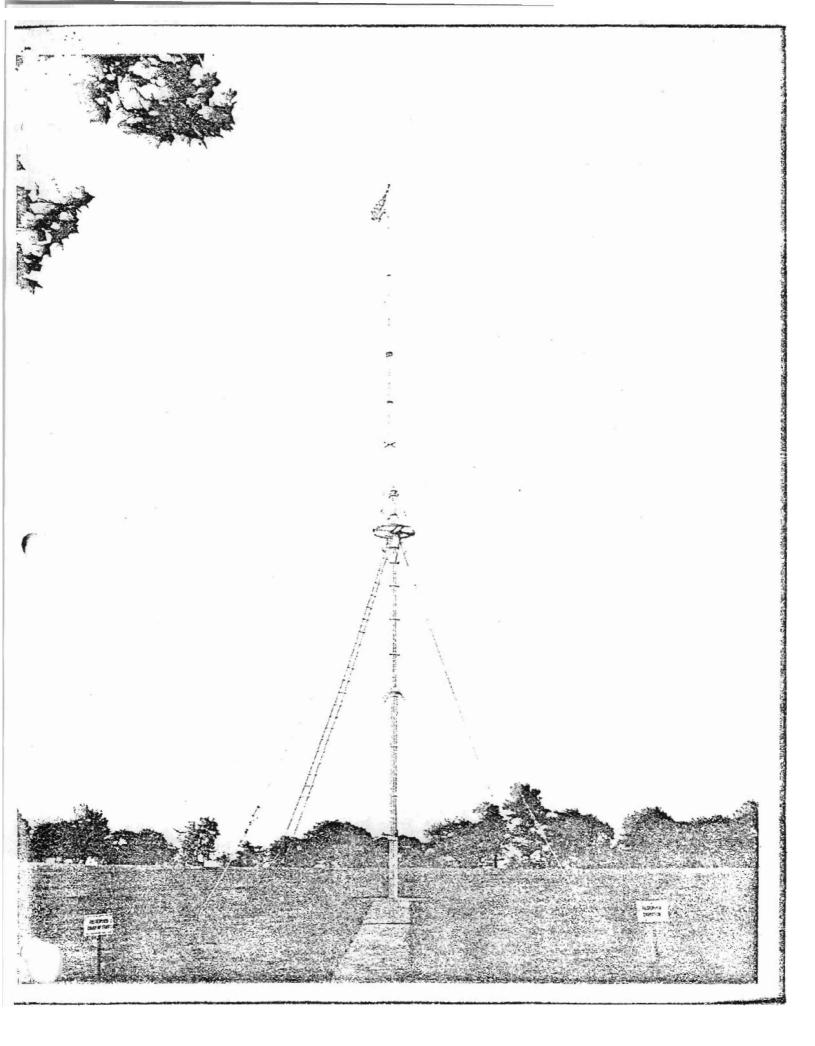
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PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	Arkansas Historic
Robert Dunn	February, 1974	Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		47A
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Parade grounds, viewed from the south.





FORM 10-301 A (6,72)

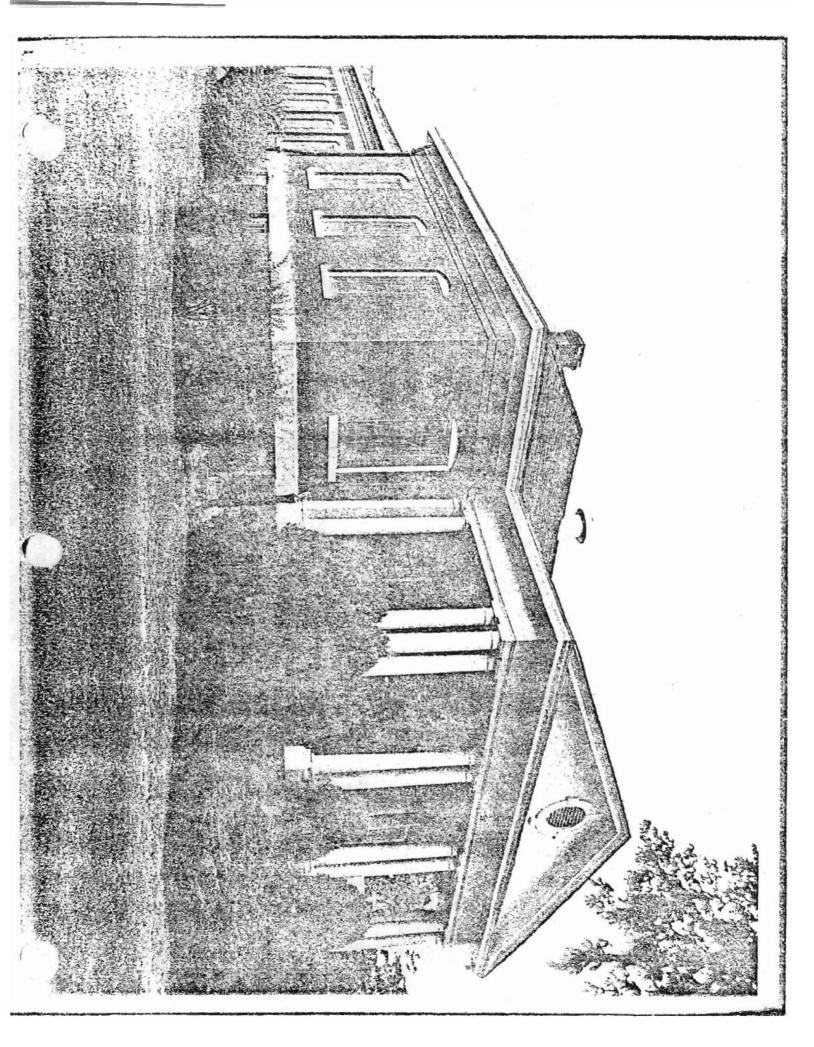
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PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Flagpole, # 19, viewed from the north.



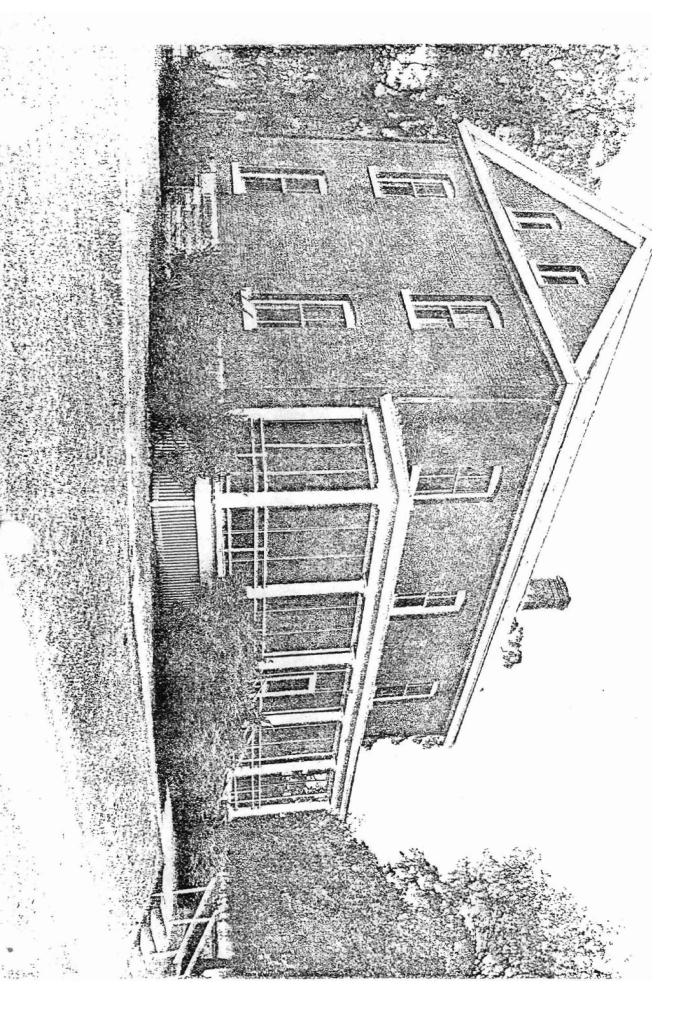
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Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
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Post Exchange, # 22, viewed from the south.



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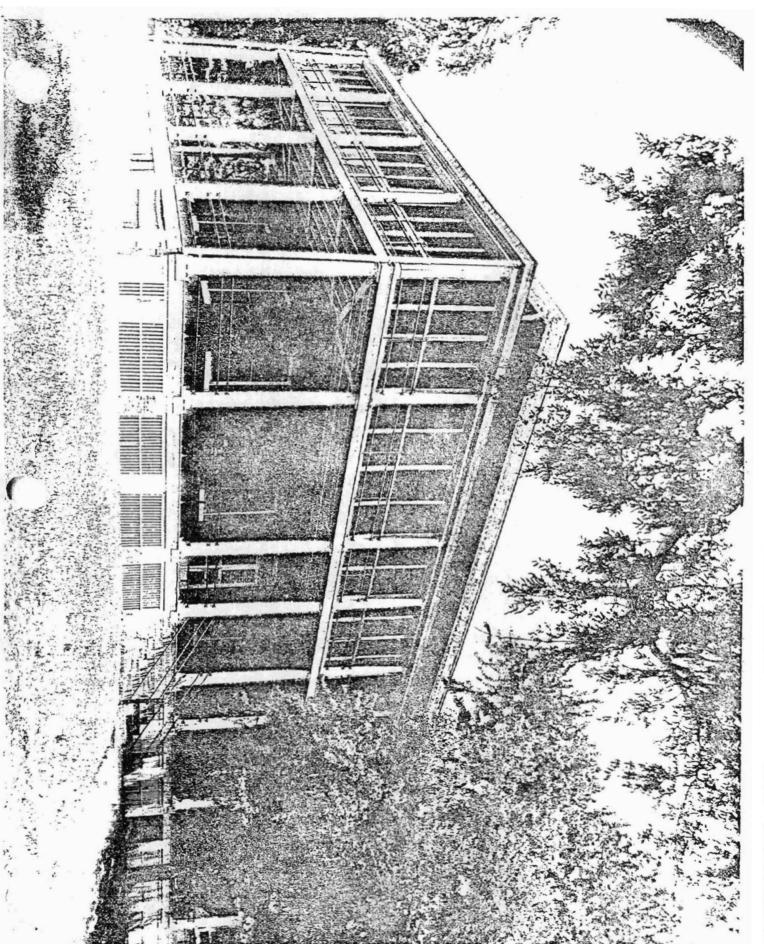
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Administration Building, # 21, viewed from the northeast.

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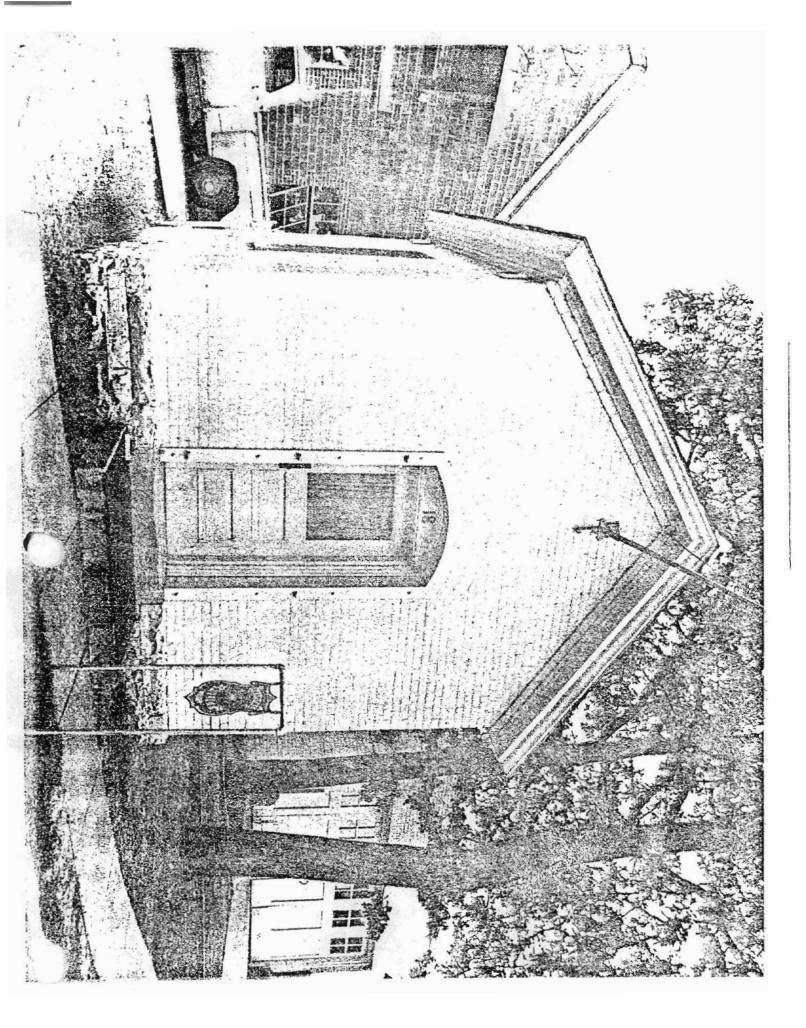
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PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic
		Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Hospital, # 9, viewed from the southeast.



4.6 Poura mill

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

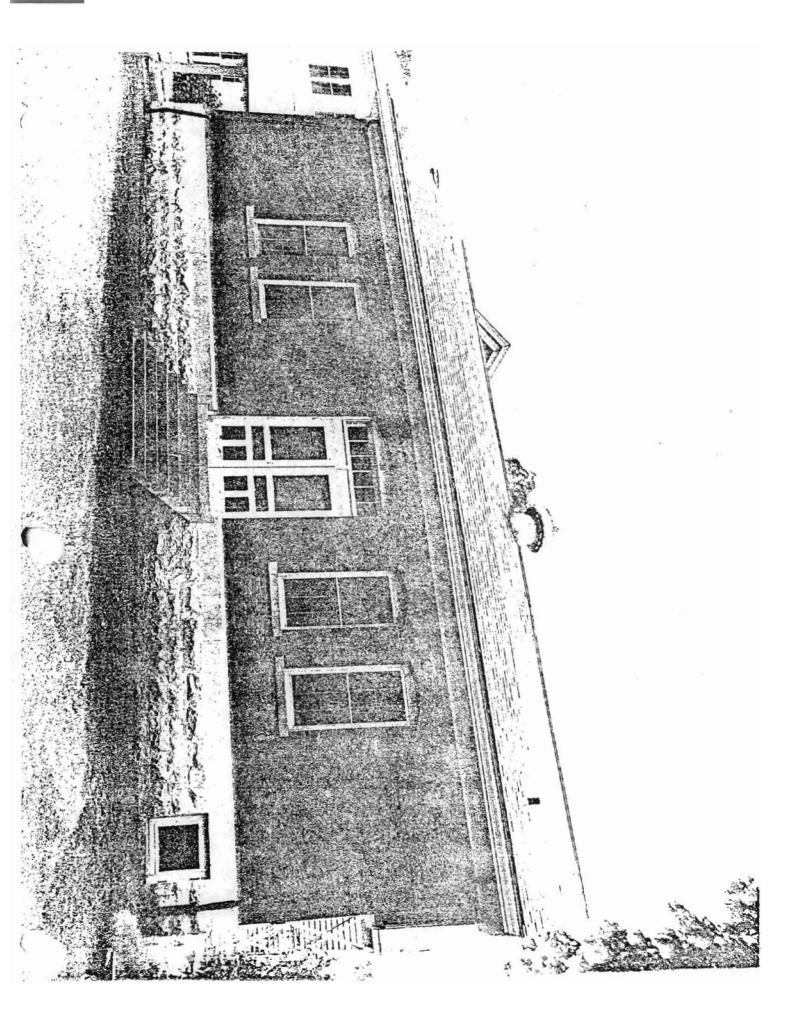
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Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
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Powder Magazine, # 15, viewed from the northeast.

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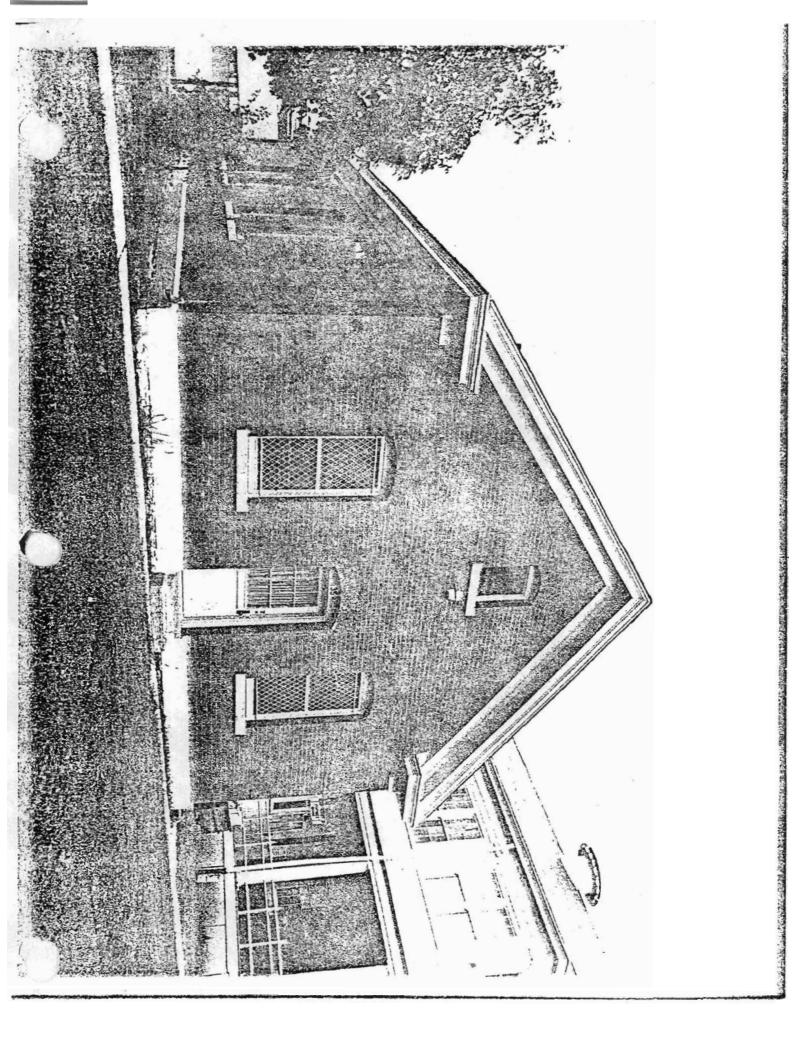
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Arkansas	Pulaski	North Little Rock
Scenic Hill Drive		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
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Lavatory, # 27, viewed from the north.



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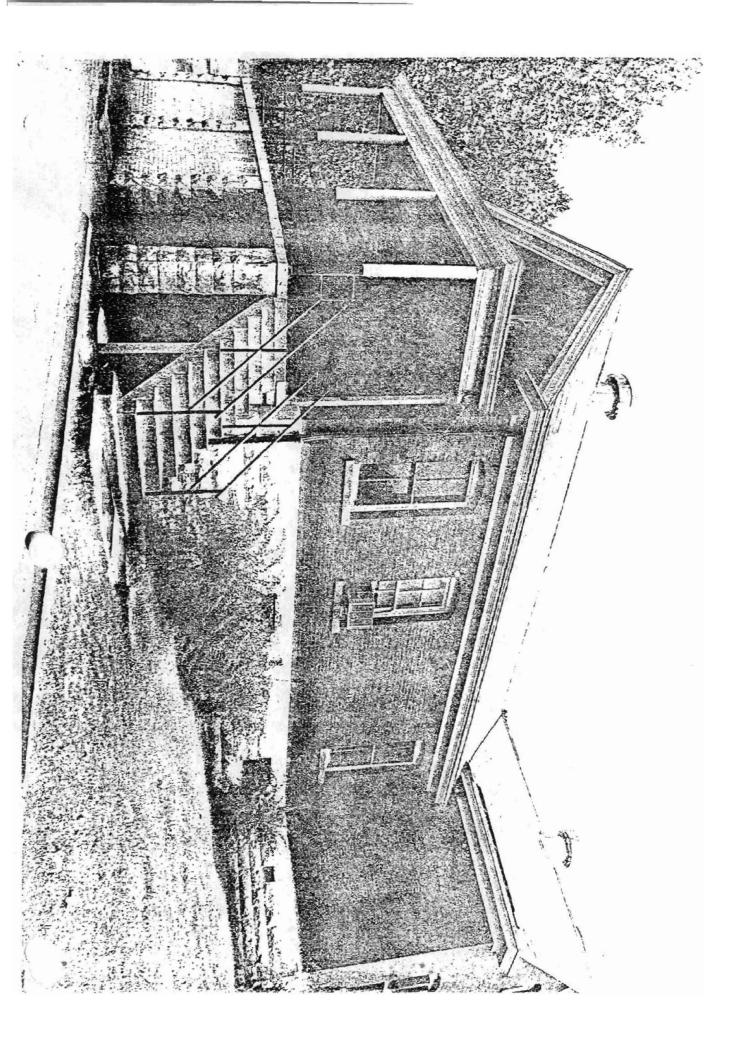
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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state Arkansas	Pulaski	North Little Rock
Scenic Hill Drive 3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
4. IDENTIFICATION		
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Lavatory, # 24, viewed from the west.



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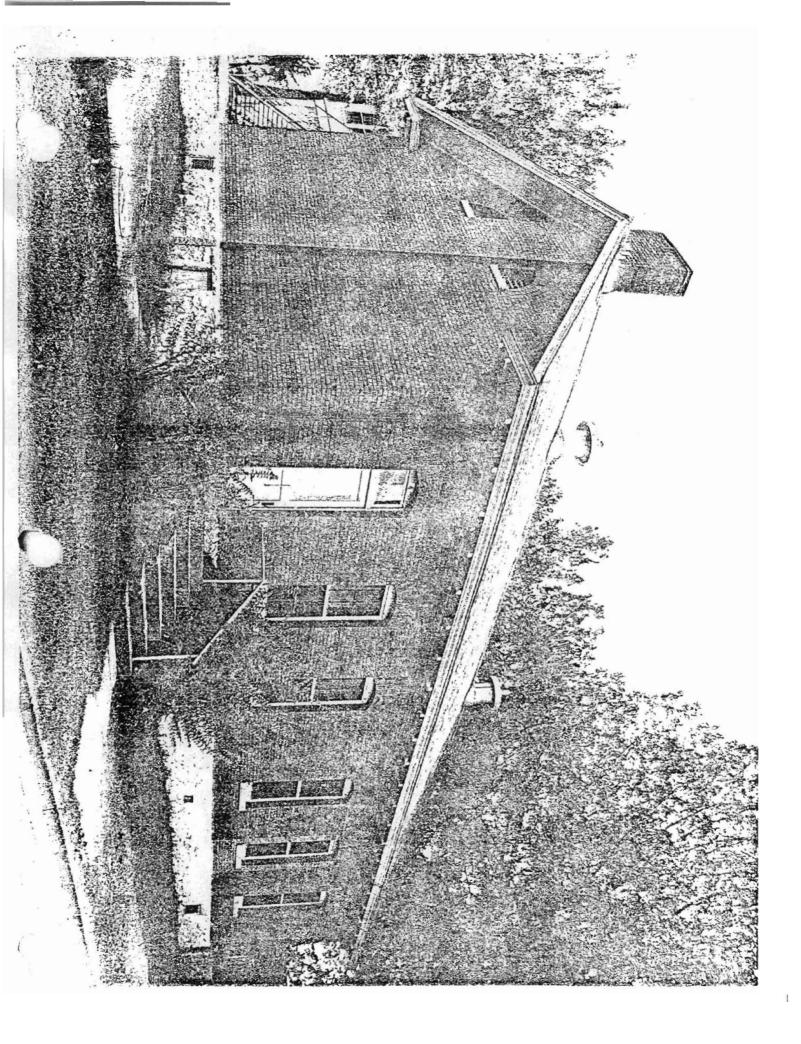
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Arkansas	Pulaski	North Little Rock	
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Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program	
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Mess Hall/Kitchen, #28, viewed from the north.



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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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Arkansas	Pulaski	North Little Rock
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Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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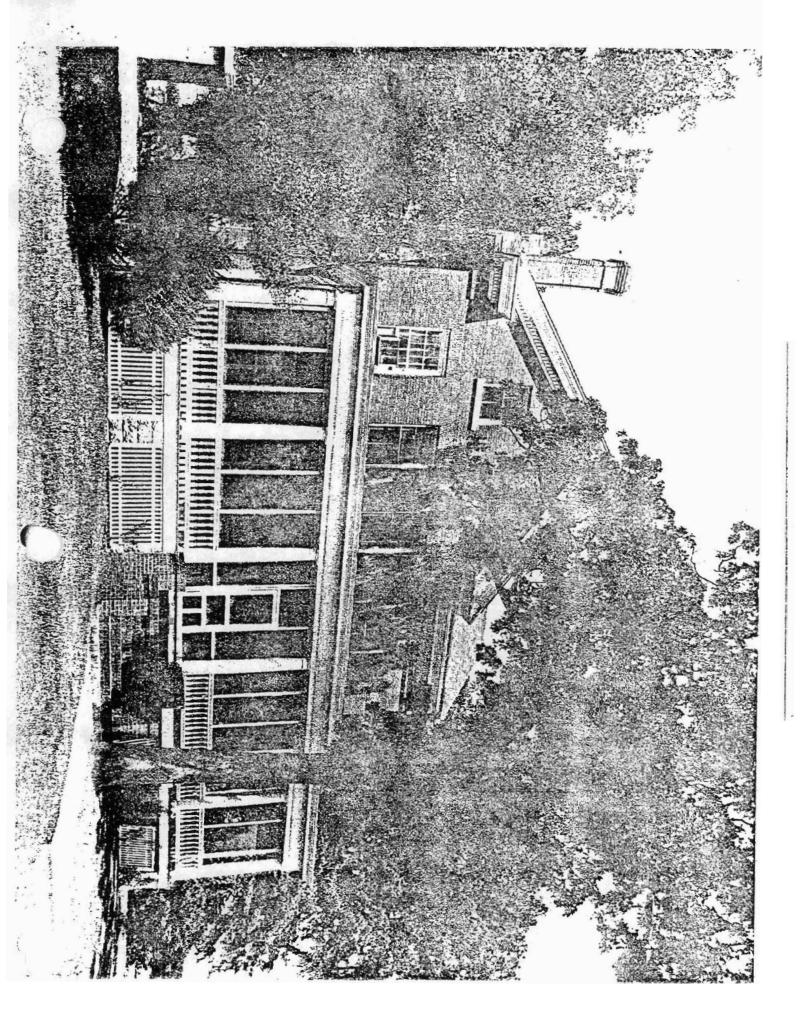
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Mess Hall/Kitchen, # 4, viewed from the north.

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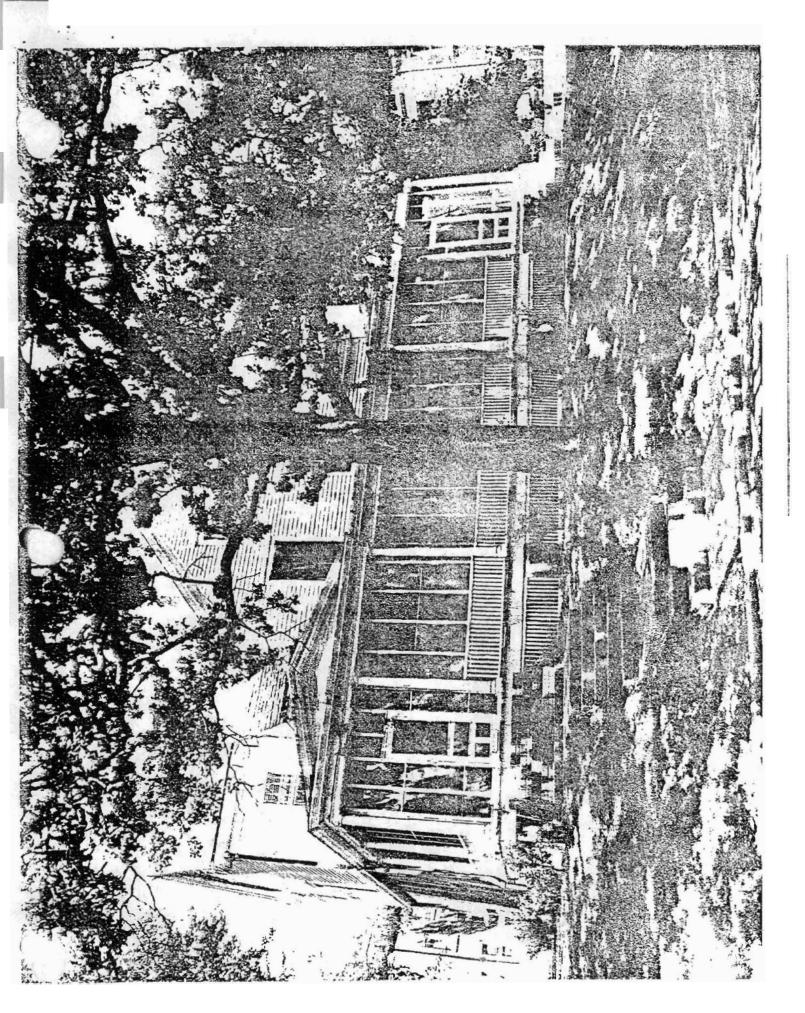


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Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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Commanding General's Quarters, # 17, viewed from the south.



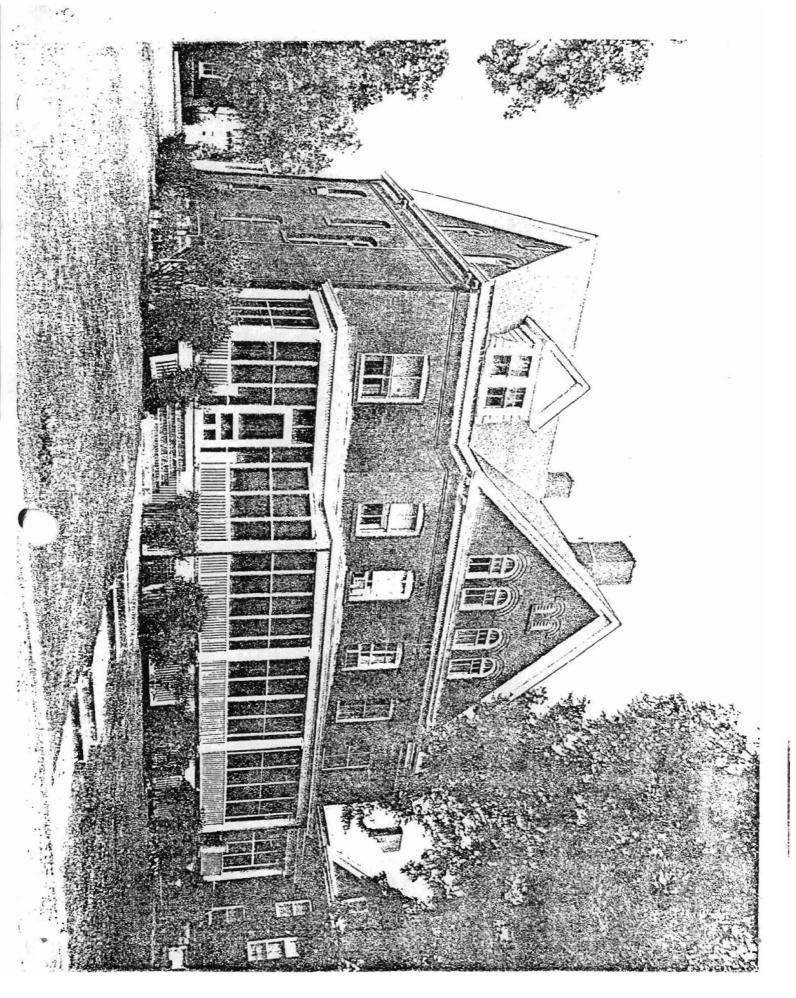
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Duplex Officers' Quarters, # 16, viewed from the southeast.



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PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	HEGATIVE FILED AT
Robert Dunn	1974	Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Duplex Officers' Quarters, # 11, viewed from the southeast

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