

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
ENTRY -- NOMINATION FORM

listed:

NR

7-25-77

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS.

NAME

HISTORIC MacArthur Park Historic District

OR COMMON

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

See Verbal Boundary Description

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Pulaski

CODE
119

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☒ DISTRICT

☐ PUBLIC

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ AGRICULTURE

☒ MUSEUM

☐ BUILDING(S)

☐ PRIVATE

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☒ COMMERCIAL

☒ PARK

☐ STRUCTURE

☒ BOTH

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

☒ EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

☒ ENTERTAINMENT

☒ RELIGIOUS

☐ OBJECT

☐ IN PROCESS

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ NO

☐ MILITARY

☐ OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pulaski County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Spring and Markham Streets

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Little Rock

Arkansas

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commercial and Statistical Review of Little Rock, Arkansas. Little Rock:

Reilly and Thomas, compilers and publishers, 1883.

Historic Districts. Washington: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1975.

Historic Resources Survey Manual, (Revised edition); by the New York Division
for Historic Preservation, Albany: Office of Parks and Recreation, 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 5,6,7,6,9,0 3,8,4,4,5,7,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 1,5 5,6,6,6,2,0 3,8,4,3,4,7,0

B 1,5 5,6,7,5,6,0 3,8,4,3,3,3,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 1,5 5,6,6,7,8,0 3,8,4,4,7,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

North/south along Interstate 30 on McGowan Street from Fifth (Capitol) Street south to Sixteenth Street. From Sixteenth and the Interstate, west one block to McAlmont Street. South on McAlmont Street for one-half block to Sixteenth Street. West on Sixteenth Street to Bragg Street. North on Bragg to Fifteenth Street. West on Fifteenth Street to the alley between Scott and Main Streets. North/south along the alley between Scott and Main Streets from Fifteenth to Tenth Street. At Tenth Street east one-half block to Scott. North on Scott to Ninth Street. East on

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mike Shinn and Sandra Taylor, Historians

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

6-8-76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

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 X

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 Anne Bartley - State Historic Preservation Officer DATE June 6, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE one

One of the most famous landmarks in Little Rock and pivotal structures in the district is known as the Pike-Fletcher-Terry House (Photo #1). Entered on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, the Greek Revival structure was constructed in 1840 for General Albert Pike. The house has functioned as a residence all but about twenty years of its existence. During the 1870's and 1880's it was used as the fashionable Arkansas Female College. The full width of the north elevation of the house is marked by a two-storey portico supported by six large Ionic-style columns. The original low-hip roof was replaced with the present high-hipped roof with dormers in the latter part of the 19th century. Because the Pike-Fletcher-Terry House is a significant structure both historically and architecturally, it commands as much widespread interest as any other structure in the state.

Another outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture in the district is Trapnall Hall (Photo #2). Built in 1843 by Frederick Trapnall, an influential lawyer from Kentucky, the house has always been noted as a center of hospitality. Trapnall Hall is a one-storey, five-bay main structure with one side wing (on the east elevation) plus a three-bay portico centered on the main structure with a closed-in, shed-roofed extension across the rear of the side wing. The exterior walls of the house are solid brick, three bricks thick. The interior walls on either side of the wide center hall are also of solid brick construction. In 1929 the property was given as a memorial to the Junior League of Little Rock who restored the structure to its original elegance. In February, 1976, Trapnall Hall was given to the state to serve as the official Governor's Reception Hall. It is now being maintained and operated for all citizens' use.

Constructed in 1842, Curran Hall (Photo #3) is also an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture. Reportedly designed by the noted Greek-Revival architect, Gideon Shryock, Curran Hall possesses the delicate symmetry typical of his style. A small, central portico, covered with a low, hipped roof and bracked by four squared Doric Columns and two Doric pilasters, marks the north elevation of the brick structure. A low, hipped roof covers the structure.

In 1840 a lawyer and successful land speculator built a brick residence in the center of two blocks of land on East Sixth Street. Constructed according to Absalom Fowler's own design, the house reflects the classic designs of Thomas Jefferson. The Absalom Fowler House (Photo #4) has many unusual features some of which are a wide hall which runs across the front of the house rather than through the center and an attached

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west wing which housed the kitchen and the servant quarters, in place of the traditional outbuildings. The two-storey structure features a one-storey portico on the north elevation supported by Ionic columns. The Absalom Fowler House is now the property of the Catholic Diocese of Little Rock and is used as a nursery school.

Four additional antebellum structures in the MacArthur Park Historic District are located in the vicinity of the above described antebellum structures. Located at 605 East Sixth Street, the Cook House (Photo #5) appears typical of antebellum Greek Revival architecture. The frame, one-storey structure is characterized by the symmetry and simplicity definitive of the style. A flat-roofed portico supported by Doric-capital columns and pilasters marks the north elevation of the house. The Geyer House (Photo #6) at 523 East Seventh Street was constructed ca. 1850. This one-storey, frame structure features a flat-roofed portico supported by Doric-capital posts set into brick bases. Located further southward at 516 East Ninth Street (Photo #7) is a one-storey, hip-roofed, frame structure with portico. This structure differs in having two single-door entries on the facade (south elevation). Located at 417 East Tenth Street, the Kadel Cottage (Photo #8) was constructed ca. 1859. The one-storey hip-roof structure features a bracketed cornice around the entire house. A hip-roof portico supported by Doric-capital columns marks the north elevation of the frame structure.

Another pivotal structure in the MacArthur Park Historic District is the Old Arsenal (Photo #9), located in MacArthur Park. Construction completed in 1840, the Old Arsenal is a two-storey, brick, rectangular structure with a full basement. A three-storey, crenellated tower, octagonal in shape and 25 feet in diameter, is located at the center of the north elevation of the building. Richard B. Lee, a Virginia architect, designed the Federal Style building. John Wormley Walker was the master-builder in charge of construction. A wood veranda runs the full length of the first floor on the south elevation, the roof being supported by wood columns. A two-storey veranda runs along the north elevation from the ends of the building, terminating at the octagonal tower in the center of the structure. Virtually all alterations have been to the wooden, exterior portions of the building. Some balustrades have been removed from the first floor verandas and new exterior stairways to the central door of the octagonal tower have been installed. Restoration work on the building was begun in 1942 and completed in 1958 by the City of Little Rock. The building now houses the Museum of Science and Natural History.

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The Garland-Mitchell House (Photo #10), built in 1873, is a Second Empire Style galleried house which is sometimes referred to as a "Steamboat Gothic" structure. The dominant feature of the two-storey frame structure is a two-storey, ell-shaped gallery which covers most of the east facade and north elevation. Square-cut posts with curved brackets are used for support on both the first and second storeys. The ground-floor porch railing has turned balusters while the second storey has a continuous band of open cut woodwork beneath the porch railing. The Garland-Mitchell House is covered in clapboard with bracket-topped pilasters at each corner. Continuous around the structure is a bracketed cornice and frieze with dentil-like trim. The truncated hip roof of the main structure and the gable roof of the kitchen wing are covered with wide panels of red tin. The residential structure has recently been painted its original colors of cream with gray trim.

Built in 1881, the Villa Marre (Photo #11) is a structure of elaborate Victorian Second Empire Style architecture with Italian influence. The exterior is of solid brick construction with stone trim and a slate roof. Distinguishing features of the structure include a tower at the center of the west elevation and a mansard roof. Following years of deterioration, the Villa Marre was purchased by the present owner in 1964. Numerous additions and alterations which had been made through the years were corrected to coincide with the original design and construction. The Villa Marre stands as an outstanding example of restoration and adaptive use. It is a museum open for public tours and houses the offices of the Quapaw Quarter Association.

Another representative of Second Empire architecture is the William L. Terry House (Photo #12). Built in the 1880's, the house is an ell-shaped, two-storey frame structure. A balustraded porch, supported by Dravidian posts, bends around the east and north elevations of the House. The house is enhanced by several interesting details. The house is maintained as a residence.

The Welch-Cherry House (Photo #13) was constructed in 1884. The brick structure features arched cut-stone window heads. A one-storey flat-roofed porch on the east facade features a decorative cut-work railing and supportive brackets. The structure remains in good condition and is now adaptively used as apartments.

The Mills House (Photo #14), another example of Second Empire architecture, was constructed in 1883. The two-storey brick structure features dentiled, bracketed cornices, drip-mold, segmental-arched window heads and steep-

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pitched gabled rooflines. T-shaped in layout, the house has been adapted for use as a commercial photography studio.

Probably the most outstanding example of Second Empire architecture in the MacArthur Park Historic District is the Lincoln House (Photo #15). Completed in 1878 the house took six years to build. Features of note are the bracketed cornices, irregular roofline and drip-mold, segmental arched window heads. The home is still used as a residence and remains in the Lincoln family.

The Karcher House (Photo #16), built circa 1879, is a two-storey, frame structure reflective of Second Empire architecture. A one-storey, flat-roofed porch is an ell-shape covers the north elevations of the house. The porch is supported by decorative bracketed posts which constitute the only basic ornamental feature of the house. The house stood prey to fire and vandalism for a number of months and in 1974 was marked for demolition. The present owners restored the front section of the house as apartments and painted the exterior its original colors. After knocking down the damaged rear sections of the house, eight more apartments designed to blend in with the original section of the house were added.

The Holtzman-Vinsonhaler House (Photo #17) was constructed ca. 1890 by W. O. Holtzman, a contractor, who built several homes in the Quapaw Quarter area. In 1906 the house was remodeled by the Vinsonhaler family. At this time the Colonial Revival porch was added and the house painted yellow. The Holtzman-Vinsonhaler House is marked by various designs and sizes of arched windows and by squared and rounded turrets. Restoration of the house took place in the early 1970's for adaptation as apartments. The exterior appears much the same as in 1906.

A significant example of Queen Anne architecture in the MacArthur Park Historic District is the Chisum House (Photo #18), built in 1894. It embodies many of the Victorian period characteristics of irregular shape, towers and multiple gables and bays and a variety of textural usage. Of frame construction, the Chisum House features a multi-gable, high-hip roof. The structure has been adapted to accommodate apartments.

The Hanger House (Photo #19), built in 1889, is a Queen Anne Victorian style, two-storey, frame structure with a hip roof. A one-storey porch runs across the east elevation and around the south elevation to where it intersects with a bay on that elevation. A Japanese "moongate" arch graces the entry, which is located on the north end of the east elevation. The exterior of the Hanger House is covered in narrow clapboard with decorative bands of octagonal wood shingles above the porch roof, under

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the front gables and around the lower portion of the bay windows. In 1972 the present owners purchased the Hanger House and have carefully restored the structure to its original appearance. The exterior of the house has been restored to its original colors, which are red and light brown.

Linking structures within the MacArthur Park Historic District generally fall into the 1870 - 1890 period. An architecturally significant linking structure in the area is located at 515 Rock Street (Photo #20). This one-storey frame structure was constructed ca. 1870 and features decorative brackets along cornice lines of the house and arched windows. Built in the early 1880's as rent houses by the owner of Curran Hall, the structures at 604 and 608 East 6th Street (Photo #21) are characterized by scalloped shingling, decorative turned posts supporting the porticos and steep-pitched gable roofs. Located at 908 and 904 Rock Street (Photo #22) are two one-storey 1880's frame structures. The structure at 904 Rock Street features a rounded portico on the northeast corner with turned posts, decorative brackets and spindlework. Another 1880 Victorian structure with decorative trim is located at 1302 Cumberland (Photo #24). Constructed ca. 1890, the brick structure at 512 East Ninth Street (Photo #25) features rounded corner turrets, elaborate stained glass and a variety of textural components.

Two historically and architecturally significant churches stand in the area. Located within three blocks of each other, these two structures are the oldest churches in the district. The First Lutheran Church at 320 East Eighth Street (Photo #26) was built ca. 1888. The brick structure is Gothic in architectural style with a large bell tower on the southeast corner. St. Edward's Catholic Church at 823 Sherman (Photo #27) is a Gothic style brick structure designed by prominent Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson.

Three historically and architecturally significant schools in the district remain in use. Kramer Elementary School at Eighth and Sherman (Photo #28) was constructed in 1895. It is the oldest public school building in Little Rock. The building is of brick construction with stone trim around the windows and at the foundation. Rodney Parham School at 15th and Vance Streets (Photo #29) is a large brick structure of classical design. The third school was constructed ca. 1900. Located at 1401 Scott (Photo #30) the building was constructed as Little Rock High School. The west elevation of the large brick structure is marked by an elaborate entry featuring Corinthian columns. All three of these structures are still used for educational purposes.

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Examples of compatible intrusions in the MacArthur Park Historic District are the structure at 410 East Seventh (Photo #31) and the Arkansas Arts Center in MacArthur Park (Photo #32). Incompatible intrusions include Cumberland Towers at 311 East Eighth (Photo #33) and Parkview Towers at Eleventh and Commerce (Photo #34), both apartment buildings.

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Inventory of Historically or Architecturally Significant Structures
Located Within the MacArthur Park Historic District

1. Pike-Fletcher-Terry House (411 East Seventh) entered on the National Register of Historic Places 8-21-72: Greek Revival, 2 2829
1/2 stories, brick construction; 1840.
2. Trapnall Hall (423 East Capitol) entered on the National Register 4-13-73: Greek Revival, 1 storey, brick construction; 1843. 2782
3. Curran Hall (615 East Fifth) entered on the National Register 1-1-76: Greek Revival, 1 storey, brick construction; 1842. 2777
4. Absalom Fowler House (503 East Sixth) entered on the National Register 6-4-73: Greek Revival, 2 1/2 stories, brick construction; 1840. 7805
5. Cook House (605 East Sixth): Greek Revival 1 storey, frame construction; c.1860's.
6. Geyer House (523 East Seventh) Greek Revival, 1 storey, frame construction; c.1850. 2800
7. 516 East Ninth, Greek Revival, 1 storey, frame construction; c.1850. 2800
8. Kadel Cottage (417 East Tenth) Greek Revival, 1 storey, frame construction; c.1859. 2800
9. United States Arsenal Building (MacArthur Park, Ninth and Commerce) entered on the National Register 4-17-70: Federal, 2 storey with tower, brick construction; 1840.
10. Garland-Mitchell House (14th and Scott) entered on the National Register 6-10-75: Second Empire (locally referred to as "Steamboat Gothic"), 2 stories, frame construction; 1873.
11. Villa Marre (1321 Scott) entered on the National Register 6-15-70: Second Empire with Italian influence, 2 stories, brick construction; 1881.

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12. William L. Terry House (1422 Scott) entered on the National Register 1-1-76: Second Empire, 2 stories, frame construction; c. 1880.
13. Welch-Cherry House (7th and Rock) Second Empire, 2 stories, brick construction, 1884.
14. Mills House (523 East 6th) Second Empire, 2 stories, brick construction, 1883.
15. Lincoln House (7th and Cumberland) Second Empire, 2 stories, brick construction; 1878.
16. Karcher House (503 East 7th) Second Empire, 2 stories, frame construction, c.1879.
17. Holtzman-Vinsonhaler House (500 East 9th) Victorian, 2 1/2 stories, brick construction; c.1890.
18. Chisum House (1320 Cumberland) entered on the National Register 12-4-75: Queen Anne Victorian, 2 1/2 stories, frame construction; 1894.
19. Hanger House (1010 Scott) entered on the National Register 3-15-74: Queen Anne Victorian, 2 1/2 stories, frame construction; 1889.

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MacArthur Park Historic District - Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Paragraph 5 should be changed to the following:

The MacArthur Park Historic District runs north/south along Ferry Street from Fifth (Capitol) Street south to Ninth Street. At Ninth and Ferry the line turns east to McGowan Street. The district then runs north/south along McGowan to Thirteenth Street where it turns west for one block to McAlmont Street. From Thirteenth and McAlmont the district runs south to Sixteenth Street where it turns west for two blocks to Bragg Street. At Bragg Street the district turns north for one block to Fifteenth Street and turns west to run from Fifteenth Street to the alley between Scott and Main Streets. The western boundary of the district runs north/south along the alley between Scott and Main Streets from Fifteenth Street to Ninth Street at which point it turns east for one-and-one-half blocks to Cumberland where it again turns north to Fifth Street where it turns east and extends to Ferry Street.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

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MacArthur Park Historic District - Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

The "Inventory of Historically and Architecturally Significant Structures Located Within the MacArthur Park Historic District," Item 7, pages 7 and 8 is amended to include the following:

20. Sowell Cottage (214 East 14th) transitional Greek Revival/Victorian, one story, frame construction; c. 1868. This cottage originally served as a farm house prior to increased development of the area in the 1880's and 1890's when Scott and Cumberland Streets came to be considered quite fashionable. It was constructed by Jason Sowell, and later occupied by Irma Culbert who married Charles Lincoln, a prominent Little Rock businessman. The house was later owned by Oscar and Katie Chisum and Joe P. and Mattie Waldenburger.

*Jason Sowell - died. I found house
for him. Sowell - owned many years.*

18 SIGNIFICANCE

Period		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Frozen in the heart of modern Little Rock is Victorian Little Rock, and pivotal to the Victorian section of the city is the MacArthur Park Historic District. With boundaries roughly following the city street plan of East Capitol on the north, Main Street on the West, Fifteenth Street to the south and Interstate 30 on the east (see map for exact boundaries), the MacArthur Park Historic District is the oldest and most historic, intact, residential neighborhood in Arkansas. Composed of picturesque and often flamboyant antebellum and Victorian homes set along tree-shaded streets, the district generates an atmospheric feeling for historic time and place. Furthermore, much of Little Rock's development between 1838 and 1900 can actually be seen in the old structures which continue to stand in the neighborhood. The aesthetic ideals and social patterns of 19th century Little Rock came vividly to life in the MacArthur Park Historic District where modern intrusions, incompatible in scale and design with the older buildings have not yet marred the visual continuity of the built and natural landscape.

Speculation and politics, as well as a favorable geographic location, were the prime factors contributing to the settlement of Little Rock after 1819. In 1821 Little Rock was made the Arkansas territorial capital; a decade later the small town was incorporated. In 1838, two years after Little Rock became the capital of the State of Arkansas, a United States Arsenal was built on the thirty acres that now comprise MacArthur Park. One of the original arsenal buildings, the Tower Building (Photo #9), still stands and is the oldest structure in the MacArthur Park Historic District. The Tower Building is a two-storey, Federal style structure, which in 1880 was the birth site of General Douglas MacArthur. The United States government relinquished the arsenal for perpetual use as a city park in 1893, and today MacArthur Park forms the nucleus and sets the atmosphere of Little Rock's most historic residential district.

Early settlement in Little Rock took place along the Arkansas River, giving the town an east-west orientation. However, by 1840 Little Rock was one of the largest towns west of the Mississippi (population 1,531) and was expanding south from the river into the space included within the boundaries of the MacArthur Park Historic District. A number of Greek Revival mansions were constructed in the district around 1840. Several of these large homes continue to grace the neighborhood. The Absalom Fowler House (Photo #4) was built by the successful lawyer and land speculator Absalom Fowler in 1840, and is currently used as a Catholic nursery school.

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Frederick Trapnall, another lawyer and politician, built Trapnall Hall (Photo #2) in 1843. One of the earliest attempted restorations found in the MacArthur Park Historic District, Trapnall Hall now serves as the official reception center for the State of Arkansas. The Pike-Fletcher-Terry House (Photo #1), constructed in 1840, has housed two of Arkansas' most distinguished personages; Albert Pike, lawyer, poet and Masonic philosopher and later John Gould Fletcher, the only Arkansan who has won a Pulitzer Prize for literature. Several other antebellum houses are located in the district, making the MacArthur Park Historic District one of the largest concentrations of pre-Civil War buildings remaining in Arkansas.

Arkansas historian, Ira Don Richards¹, believes that the growth of Little Rock before 1860 was hampered by three major economic drawbacks. First, an efficient transportation network did not develop to serve the river city. Only small durable steamers could ply the troublesome Arkansas River, and the railroad would not come to the town until after the Civil War. The major western trails which passed through Little Rock were more apt to funnel settlers and adventurers to the fertile Red River Valley and the gold fields of California than bring in new permanent residents for the town. Secondly, the city's financial system was primitive and could not provide the capital needed for solid growth and development. Finally, the hinterland of Little Rock was largely a virgin wilderness which did little to foster the city's retail and export trade. These economic conditions are reflected in the antebellum structures which survive within the MacArthur Park Historic District; almost all were the homes of lawyers, men who could thrive on the political life in town and who could make a profit off shrewd land investment in what essentially was a frontier region. Little Rock's emergence as an important commercial center lay in the future.

A comparison of population figures for 1860 (3,727) and for 1870 (12,380) gives some indication of the dramatic growth Little Rock experienced in the wake of the Civil War. The population was enlarged by an incoming tide of refugees and black freedmen. Also, many of the Union troops, who had spent time in the city during its occupation, decided to make Little Rock their new home. Easy credit, free spending and northern capital combined to create a building boom which equalled the population increase.

The railroad (Memphis and Little Rock Railroad) came to the city in 1869. Four years later the Arkansas River was spanned with the impressive Baring Cross Bridge, the city's first railway bridge. In May, 1869, over 100 buildings, many of them brick, were under construction in Little Rock. Much of the older town disappeared during this burst of building activity. Charles Squier in the City Directory of 1872 informs us that "the dilapidated structure of the original settler is fast giving way to spacious

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and lofty blocks of brick." While urbanity was a product of post-war Little Rock, at least one feature associated with city life predated the sectional conflict -- the city had installed its first street lights in 1860.

The population and economic booms of the late 1860's and early 1870's accelerated the southward movement of the city. A pictorial map of Little Rock in 1871, entitled "A Bird's Eye View of Little Rock" pictures impressive, new Second Empire homes crowding the blocks of the MacArthur Park Historic District as far south as Ninth Street. The economic upsurge of this period is still chronicled through the grand Second Empire homes which survive in the district. The brick, two-storey Lincoln House (Photo #15) built in 1872 - 1878 for wholesale druggist Charles Lincoln, perfectly retains the decorative, exterior ornament which has made it a local showplace for over a century. Noted architectural historian Fred Nichols believes the Second Empire architecture of the Lincoln House to be of national significance.² The Garland-Mitchell House (Photo #10), built in 1872 at what then constituted the outskirts of Little Rock at Scott and Fourteenth Streets, is an excellent example of "Steamboat Gothic" architecture. The home has quartered two governors of Arkansas, Augustus Garland and Charles Brough. The one-storey, wood frame Cook House (Photo #5) was erected by 1871 and is a fine example of a vernacular cottage embellished with Second Empire trim. The occupation of Mr. Cook reflects the increasing variety of services found in Little Rock as it evolved into a city -- he was the town's first full-time undertaker. Over 19 fine examples of Second Empire architecture remain in the MacArthur Park Historic District. Many are well preserved as is the case for the Lincoln House (Photo #15); others such as the Mills House, now a photography studio located at 526 East Sixth (Photo #14) and the Garland Mitchell House (Photo #10) (now divided into apartments) have been authentically restored for a variety of adaptive uses. All recall Little Rock's post Civil War boom when the village capital of Arkansas began to offer the diversity and assume the appearance of a city.

An over-extension of the city's economic resources coupled with the nationwide panic of 1872 temporarily curtailed Little Rock's rapid development. However, several factors contributed to an economic upsurging which brought about even greater periods of growth and prosperity in the 1880's and 1890's. By the middle of the 1880's Little Rock was the hub of a rail network which was beginning to efficiently connect the city with the rest of the state. Meanwhile, the Arkansas frontier had been pushed back before the rapid expansion of agricultural, timber and mining industries. The rural areas began to look down the newly laid railroad tracks to Little Rock as their wholesale and distribution center. While never really suited for

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the role of a major cotton center, Little Rock did become the nation's fourth largest inland cotton market during this period. In reality the retail and wholesale business formed the backbone of the city's economy. The regional character of the city increased when Little Rock became the home for the branch offices of many of the nation's leading firms.

By the early 1880's the entire area enclosed within the boundaries of the MacArthur Park Historic District (except the arsenal grounds) was a formal grid of streets along which were clustered closely-packed Victorian homes.³ The scene has changed little over the last ninety years. A passage from The Commercial and Statistical Review of Little Rock Arkansas (1883) provides an atmospheric if somewhat flowery description of residential neighborhoods in the city:

"The streets are broad and are bordered on either side with handsome shade trees, while lovely cottages and splendid residences greet the eye on every hand. The cottages are... nestled each among the trees and flowering plants...with pretty verandas and tastefully corniced gables, smiling through the leaves in bright clean dress...The more stately residences and their private park surroundings express the highest development of art and culture."⁴

This quote not only provides an attractive description of the city's residential neighborhoods, but also makes a fundamental statement about the social patterns which existed in those neighborhoods -- in this instance, the MacArthur Park Historic District. Simply put, the city was still rural and informal enough to accept the people of different classes living within the confines of one neighborhood. The scale of houses in the MacArthur Park Historic District ranges from huge two-storey Queen Anne mansions to small Victorian and vernacular cottages. Occupationally, banker and baker could be found on the same block, and socially, descendants of the town's founding fathers would live next to German immigrants and ex-Union men.⁵ Although Cumberland and Scott Streets could be said to have formed an elite district, the MacArthur Park Historic District, as a whole, formed a neighborhood that represented a variety of occupational and social classes.

One of the numerous remaining houses which date from the last quarter of the 19th century is the Villa Marre (Photo #11). It is a two-storey, richly detailed, Second Empire home which was built in 1881 by Angelo Marre, an active member of one of Little Rock's most promising professions, saloon keeping. Today the fully restored Villa Marre is the headquarters of the Quapaw Quarter Association, Little Rock's most active local

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preservation organization. The Robert Butler House (Photo #35) is a small Victorian cottage at 609 Rock Street which was built by printer Robert Butler in 1888. In 1889 a magnificent Queen Anne mansion was built by cotton planter and gin owner Frederick Hanger (Photo #19) on Scott Street. In contrast, two small rent houses were constructed at 604 and 608 East Sixth in the late 1880's or early 1890's (Photo #21).

The MacArthur Park Historic District experienced its maximum period of development as a residential district around the year 1900. Meanwhile Little Rock was rapidly expanding to the south and southwest of the MacArthur Park neighborhood. The newer residential areas, such as the tract housing located south of the MacArthur Park area and the elite mansions of the Broadway Street district, being built to the southwest of the MacArthur Park Historic District, were characterized by a more clear-cut delineation of neighborhoods based along economic and class lines. In 1907 the hilly country to the west of Little Rock, known as Pulaski Heights, was opened up for development, beginning the westward expansion of the city. The MacArthur Park Historic District was overshadowed by the new residential neighborhoods, and sank into an era of decline and neglect. Ironically, the popularity of the newer areas may have been the proverbial blessing in disguise, because it saved the MacArthur Park Historic District from extensive redevelopment.

The Tower Building and the Pike-Fletcher-Terry House are among the few buildings in the MacArthur Park Historic District that have long been recognized as being local historic landmarks. Unfortunately, Little Rockians (in company with most of the rest of the nation) have only recently developed the wisdom and awareness concerning historic districts that is illustrated in the following statement by noted preservationist Dr. William J. Murtagh:

"While pivotal structures tend to survive, when sole emphasis is placed upon (noted) historic structures, their sense of time and place is lost if the lesser, connecting, average or anonymous historical structures are destroyed."⁶

Luckily, so far, the MacArthur Park Historic District has escaped major damage to its historic and atmospheric integrity. While the fabric remains intact, a number of intrusions dot the district. In the 1920's and the 1930's several small brick, two-storey apartment buildings were erected on the northern fringe of the district. These structures are compatible with the historic buildings in both scale and material of construction (brick);

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therefore they do not harm the visual quality of the district. In the 1960's and early 1970's four high-rise apartment buildings were built in the district. Their size, design and overall appearance make these apartment buildings some of the few obtrusive intrusions in the neighborhood. In the early 1960's Interstate 30 intruded into the eastern portion of the MacArthur Park Historic District and not only isolated the district from a historic sister neighborhood which lies to the east of the freeway but also destroyed the continuous harmonious historic residential atmosphere. Another freeway route is planned to pass through the southern section of the MacArthur Park Historic District. Already, a two-block-wide swath of housing has been cleared for the freeway, leaving behind a tree-covered open space which is now, ironically, compatible with the aesthetic sensibilities expressed by Victorians. Several incompatible business structures are located on the periphery of the district. An expansive business district, which borders the northern and western boundaries of the MacArthur Park neighborhood, coupled with non-protective zoning and the impending freeway constitute the major threats to the present integrity of the district. While as Italian preservationist, G. C. Argon, has written "preservation is not always compatible with the growing needs of the present," it should be kept in mind that "there is no sensible contradiction between wishing to spare good buildings and being a protagonist of contemporary architecture"⁸ and having growth and development in an area.

Once the historic significance of the MacArthur Park Historic District is defined, a more subtle and subjective problem arises. What are the aesthetic and atmospheric qualities that make the MacArthur Park Historic District much more than the sum of its parts? The variety found in the Greek Revival and Victorian architecture; the lush green open spaces; a scale which is human enough to invite personal involvement; and the sense of communion with an ongoing past all contribute to the district's pervasive feeling of beauty and atmosphere. It has been said that without our old neighborhoods "we are perpetual juveniles starting over and over, a people without a memory," and art critic Paul N. Perrot believes that "for a sense of place to survive, interdependence among historic buildings is essential." Perhaps inwardly, the feeling of poetic fulfillment, which stems from the discovery of worn, brick sidewalks, venerable trees, inviting lawns, and incredibly picturesque homes, schools and churches, together forming a complete landscape that was created 100 years ago, adds value to the MacArthur Park Historic District. While not "draped in the majesty of centuries," as Plutarch described the temples on the acropolis, the MacArthur Park Historic District does possess a subtle refinement which only seems to accrue with the passing of years, and is, indeed, unique in the State of Arkansas.

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Value judgments concerning the overall worth of the historic properties composing the MacArthur Park Historic District are changing for the better in Little Rock. Communication has been the key factor in transforming the attitudes of private citizens and business and governmental interests from that of apathy to one of burgeoning preservation consciousness. The leading voice for historic preservation in Little Rock has been the Quapaw Quarter Association. Formed in 1961, "the basic purpose of the Quapaw Quarter Association is to encourage restoration and preservation of architecturally significant structures."¹⁰ For a number of years the Quapaw Quarter Association has publicized the preservation of historic Little Rock through its informative and well-written bi-monthly newspaper, The Quapaw Quarter Chronicle. The Association also presents special plaques to buildings which exhibit outstanding architectural or historical character. Recently, at the request of the Quapaw Quarter Association, the Little Rock City Board of Directors voted to create a city Historic District Commission with powers to establish a historic district that roughly covers the same area as the MacArthur Park Historic District.

Other civic and business organizations have demonstrated a willingness to cooperate with and to help promote historic preservation in Little Rock. For example, Little Rock Unlimited Progress, a downtown promotional organization; Old Town Properties, a private partnership investing in the area; and Neighborhood Housing Services, a partnership among federal government, city government and local private interests, are all sensitive to the goals of historic preservation. Furthermore, fully a dozen major adaptive restorations in the MacArthur Park Historic District house the offices of Little Rock professionals, most of this phenomenal activity occurring within the last two years.

Finally, individual citizens are actively conducting a large number of private restoration projects in the MacArthur Park Historic District. The size and uniqueness of the homes in the area, an interest in the historic preservation and restoration of houses, and the idea of developing a downtown community are some of the factors which have drawn dozens of "urban homesteaders" into the MacArthur Park neighborhood.¹¹

Intertwined with the history of 19th century Little Rock, the MacArthur Park Historic District is a residential neighborhood, unsurpassed in Arkansas for age and unbroken visual continuity. Reflecting the social patterns of earlier generations, the district is currently the scene of a new social phenomenon; it is the object of a historic preservation movement which embraces a wide variety of private, business and governmental interests. Most importantly, the virtual completeness of the MacArthur Park Historic

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District, in terms of significant historic structures, less significant but equally historic linking structures and important historic landscape features, evokes subtle atmosphere which brings the past to life.

Footnotes

1. Dr. Ira Don Richards is the source used in this article for economic interpretation of Little Rock's development, see, Storey of a Rivertown; Little Rock in the Nineteenth Century, Little Rock: Ira Don Richards, 1969.
2. Dr. Nichols' statement about the Lincoln House was made during a tour of Little Rock's historic neighborhoods on January 24, 1976.
3. 1887 pictorial "Map of Little Rock," Little Rock; Gazette Printing Company.
4. Commercial and Statistical Review of Little Rock, Arkansas, Little Rock: Reilly and Thomas, compilers and publishers, 1883.
5. The source for this information was the street by street survey found in The Quapaw Quarter; A Guide to Little Rock's 19th Century Neighborhoods, Little Rock; The Quapaw Quarter Association, 1976.
6. William J. Murtagh, "Aesthetic and Social Dimensions of Historic Districts," Historic Districts, Washington: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1975, p.9.
7. G. C. Argan, "A Policy for the Preservation of Historic Centers," Historic Districts, Washington: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1975, p.17.
8. Historic Resources Survey Manual (Revised edition); prepared by the New York Division for Historic Preservation, Albany; Office of Parks and Recreation, 1974.
9. Jane Kay Holtz, "Urban 'Monuments' Part of the Nation's Memory," Arkansas Gazette, Sunday, April 4, 1976.
10. Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, March-April, 1976, p.2.
11. "Trend of the Times, Migration to Downtown Little Rock," Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, March-April, 1974, p.4.

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Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, "Resolution of Little Rock Annexation," March-April, 1976.

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MacArthur Park Historic District - Little Rock, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Verbal Boundary Description should be changed to the following:

The MacArthur Park Historic District runs north/south along Ferry Street from Fifth (Capitol) Street south to Ninth Street. At Ninth and Ferry the line turns east to McGowan Street. The district then runs north/south along McGowan to Thirteenth Street where it turns west for one block to McAlmont Street. From Thirteenth and McAlmont the district runs south to Sixteenth Street where it turns west for two blocks to Bragg Street. At Bragg Street the district turns north for one block to Fifteenth Street and turns west to run from Fifteenth Street to the alley between Scott and Main Streets. The western boundary of the district runs north/south along the alley between Scott and Main Streets from Fifteenth Street to Ninth Street at which point it turns east for one-and-one-half blocks to Cumberland where it again turns north to Fifth Street where it turns east and extends to Ferry Street

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MacArthur Park Historic District
Little Rock, Arkansas

UTM Reference

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(B) 15/ 567 560 / 3843 330
(C) 15/ 566 620 / 3843 470
(D) 15/ 566 780 / 3844 700



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SOURCE United States Geological Survey

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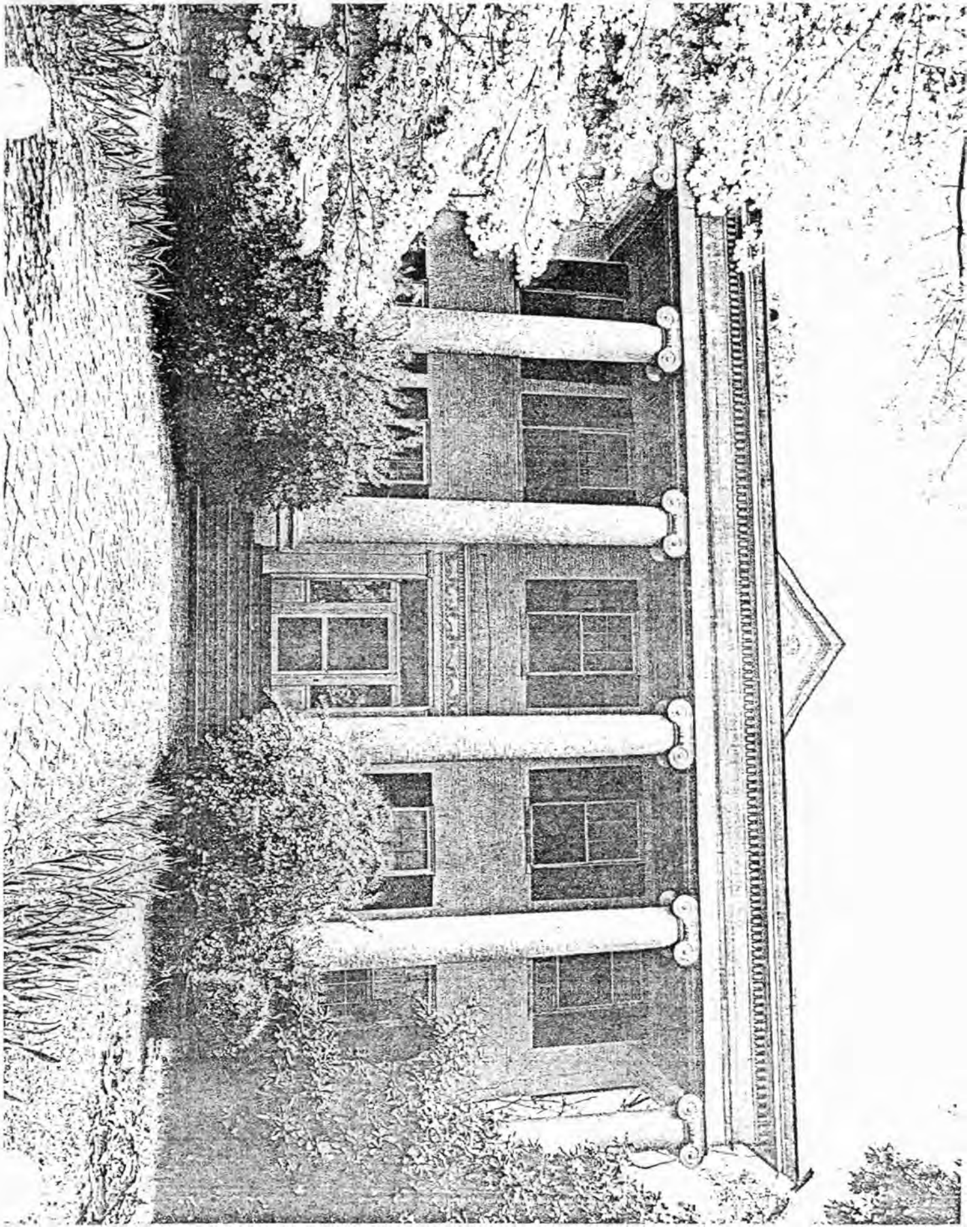
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4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

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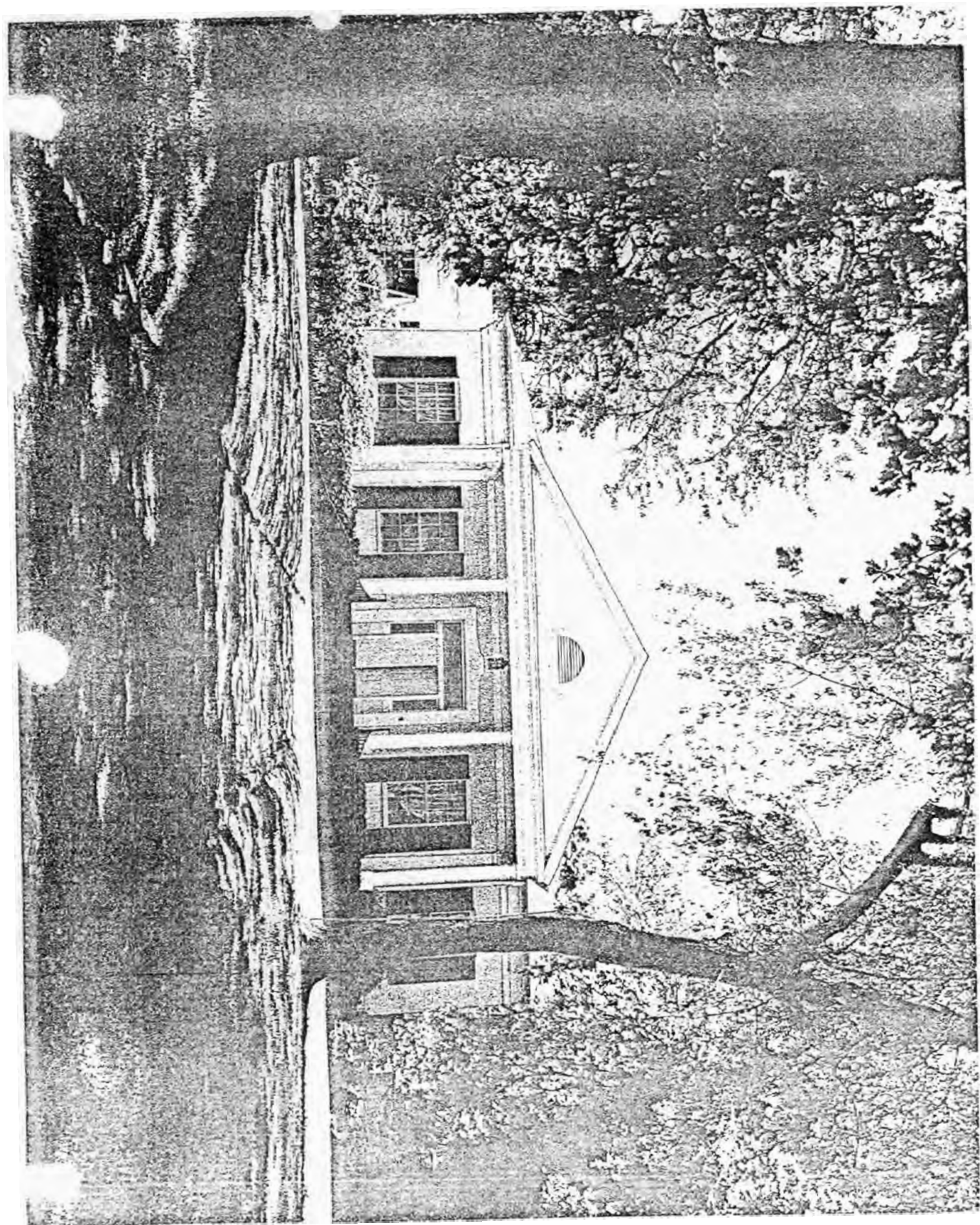
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Trapnall Hall, viewed from the north

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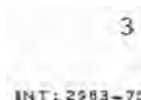
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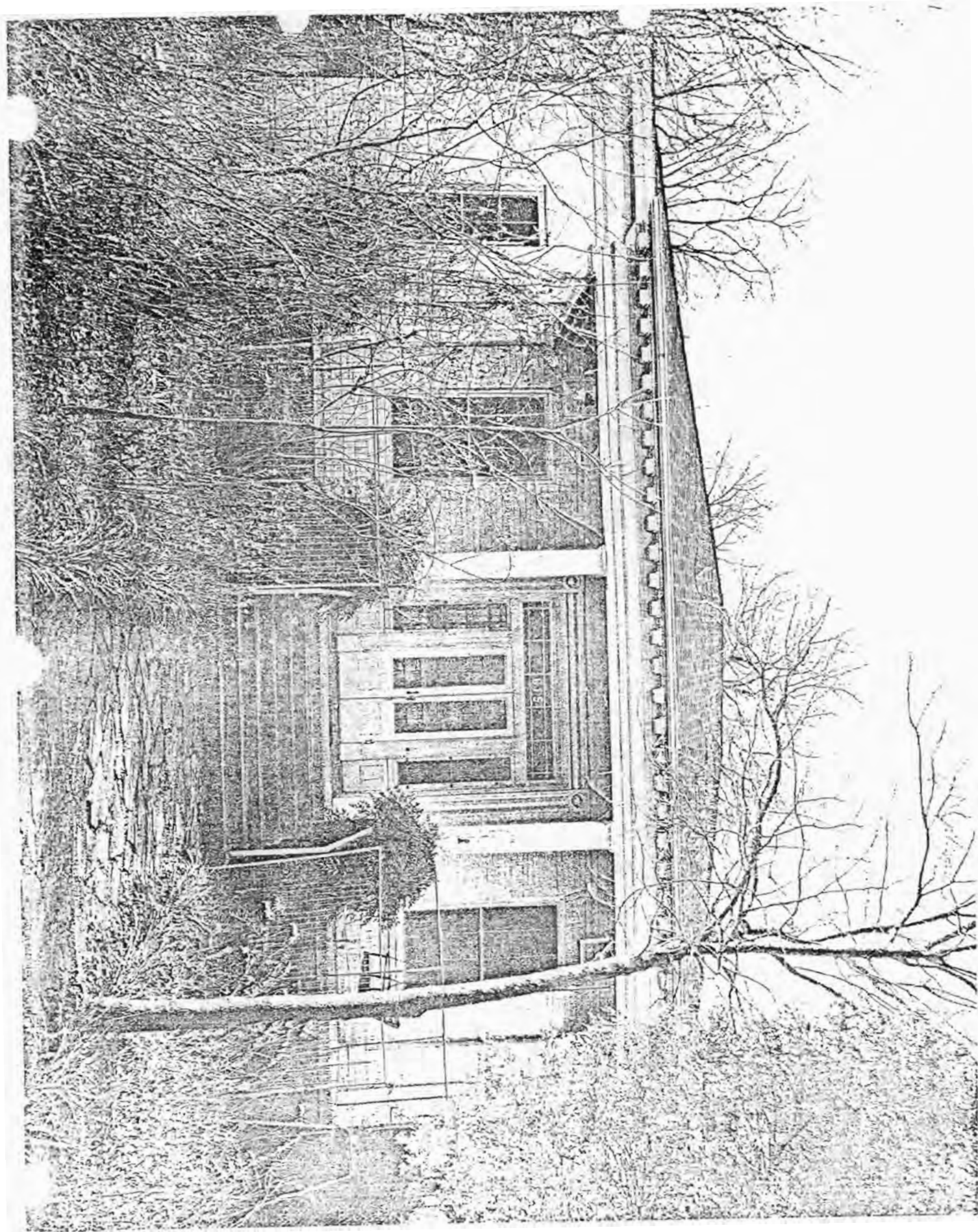
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Curran Hall, viewed from the north





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Absalom Fowler House, viewed from the northeast

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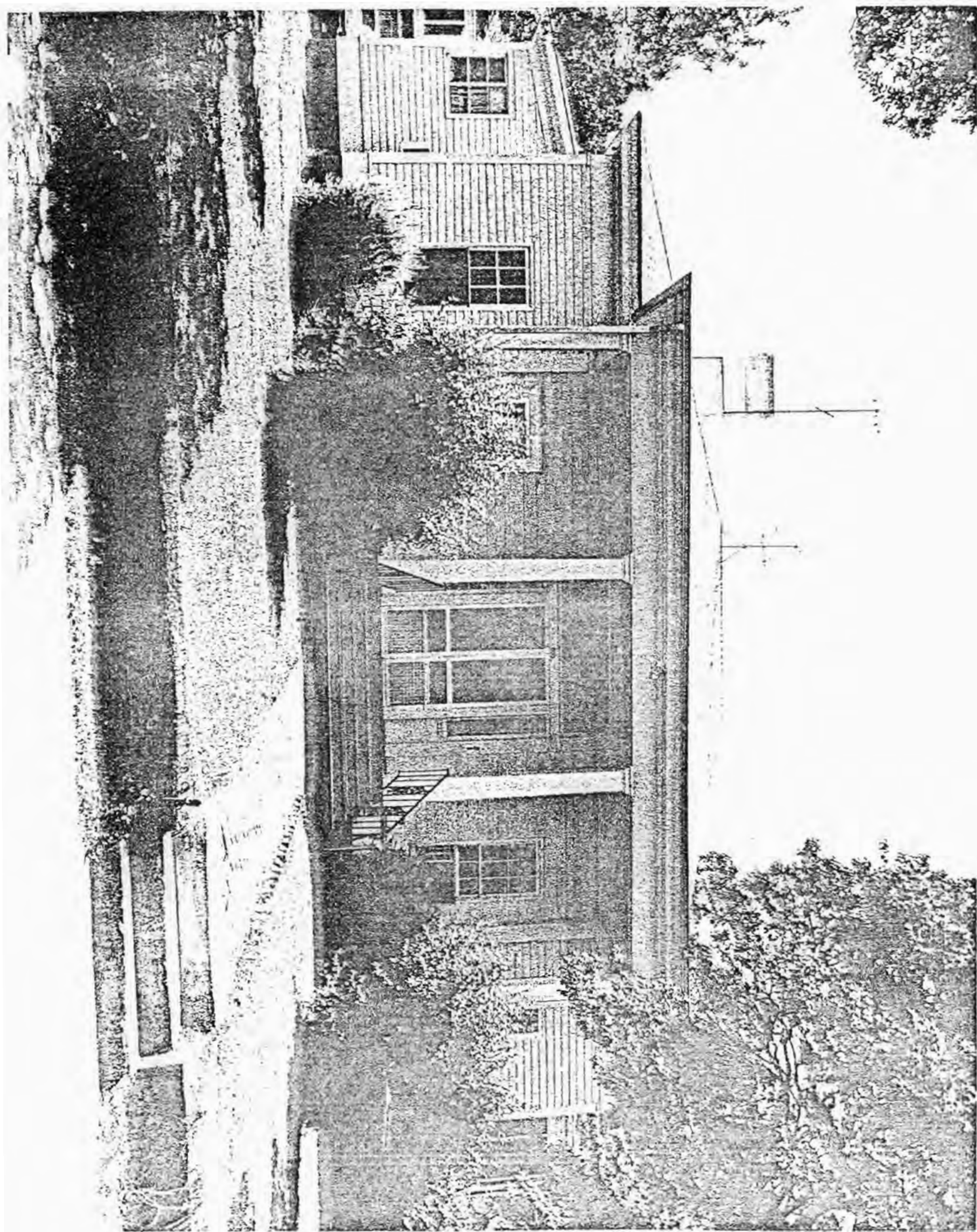
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Cook House, view from the north

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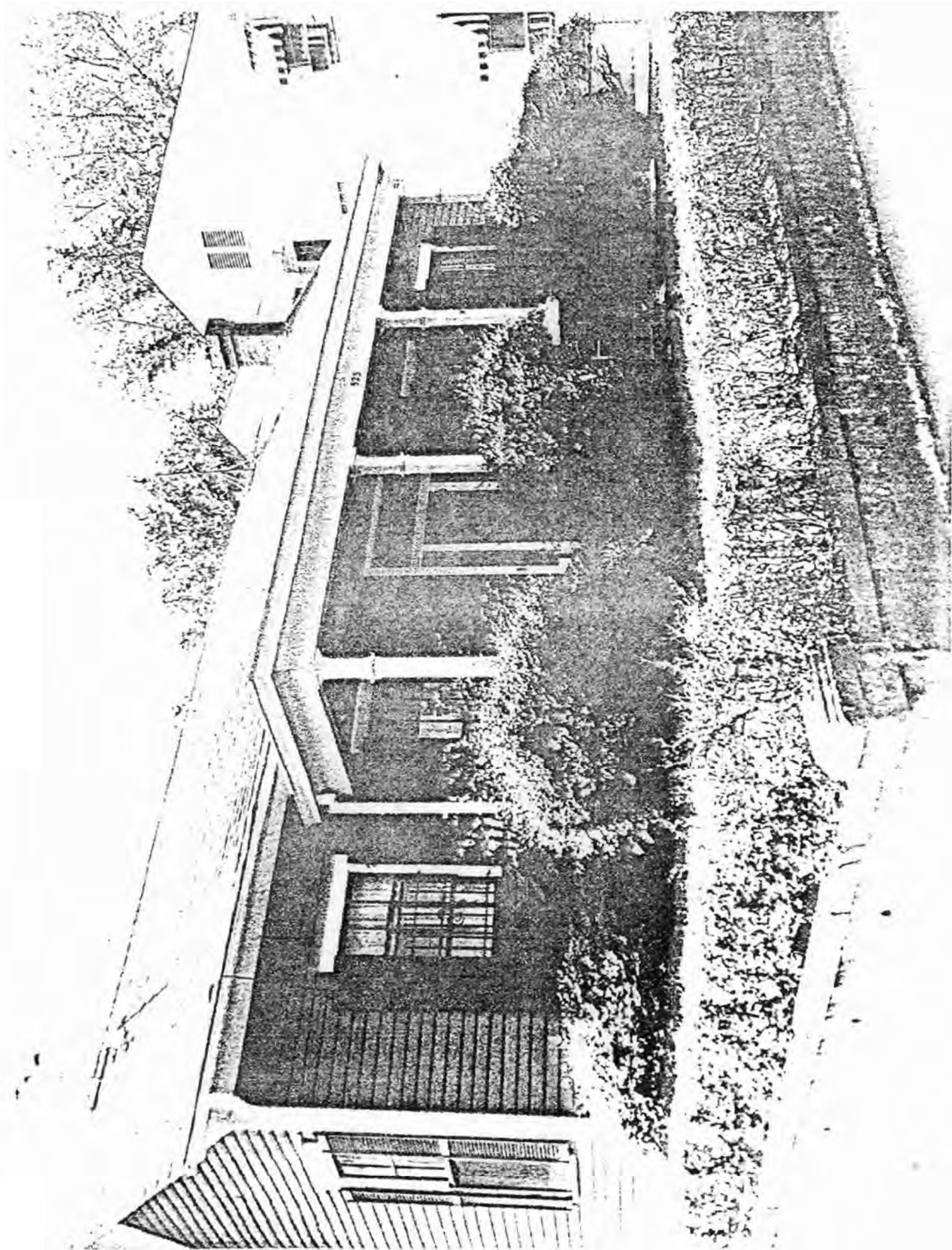
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Geyer House, viewed from the northeast

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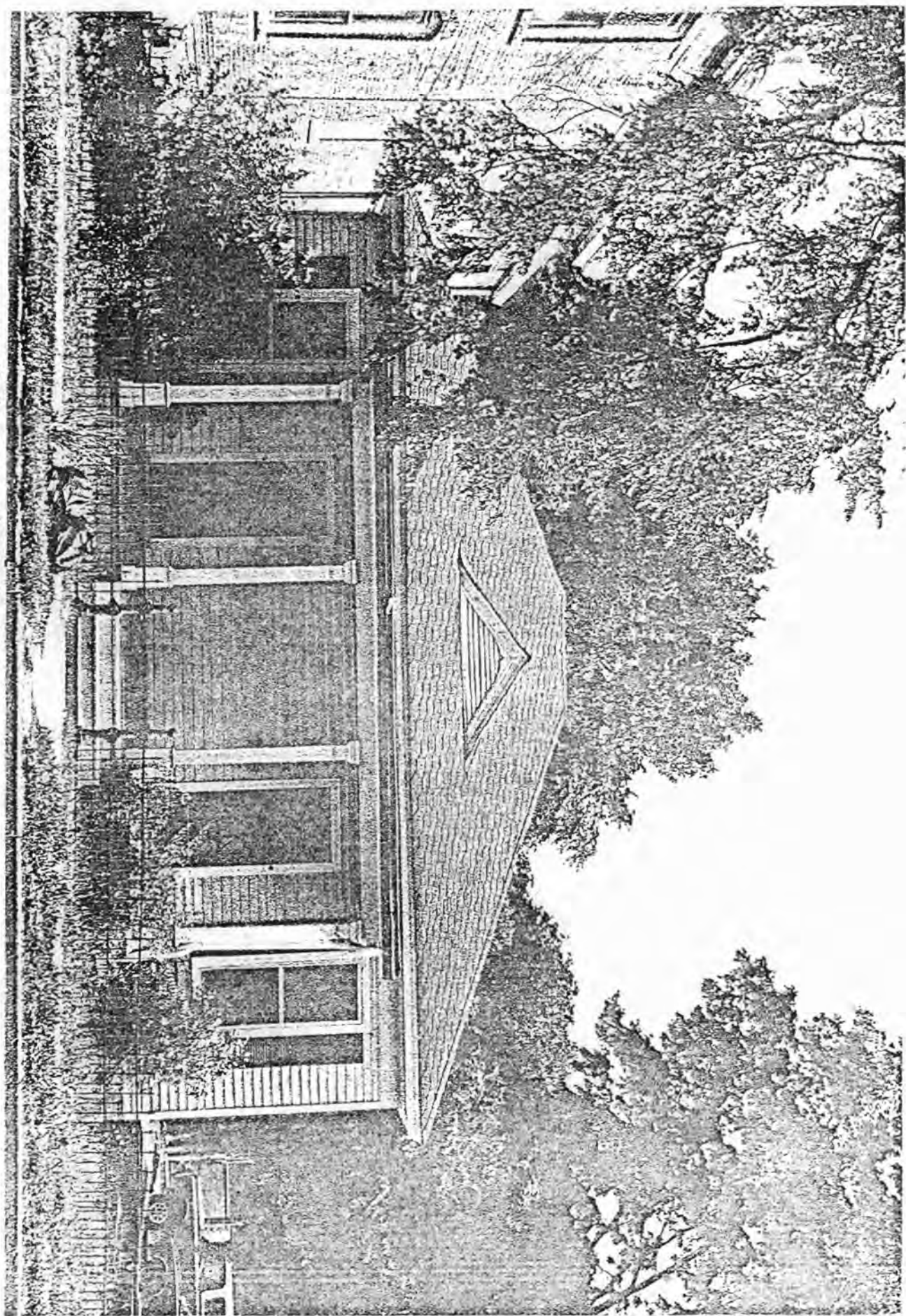
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516 East Ninth, viewed from the south

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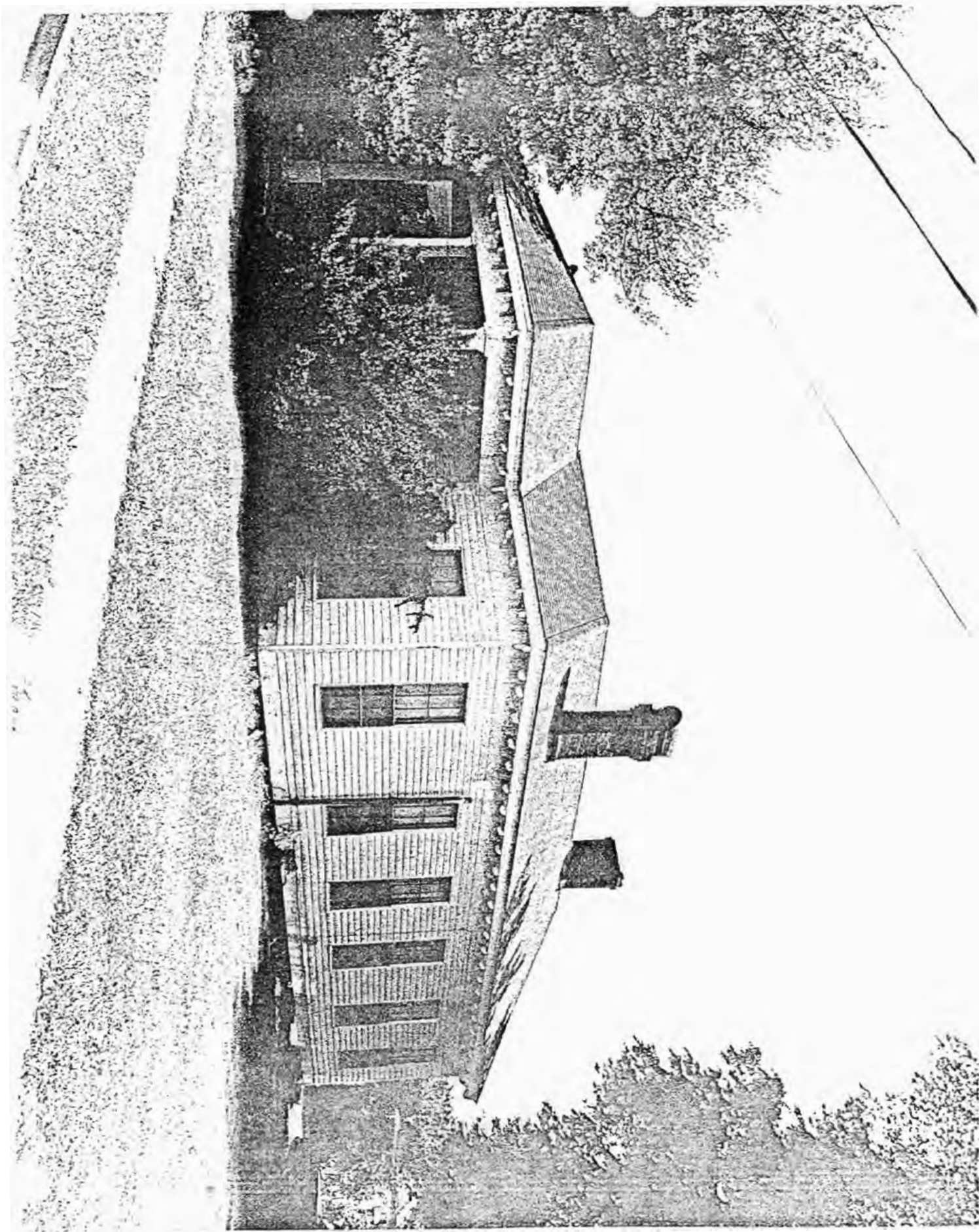
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Kadel Cottage, viewed from the northwest

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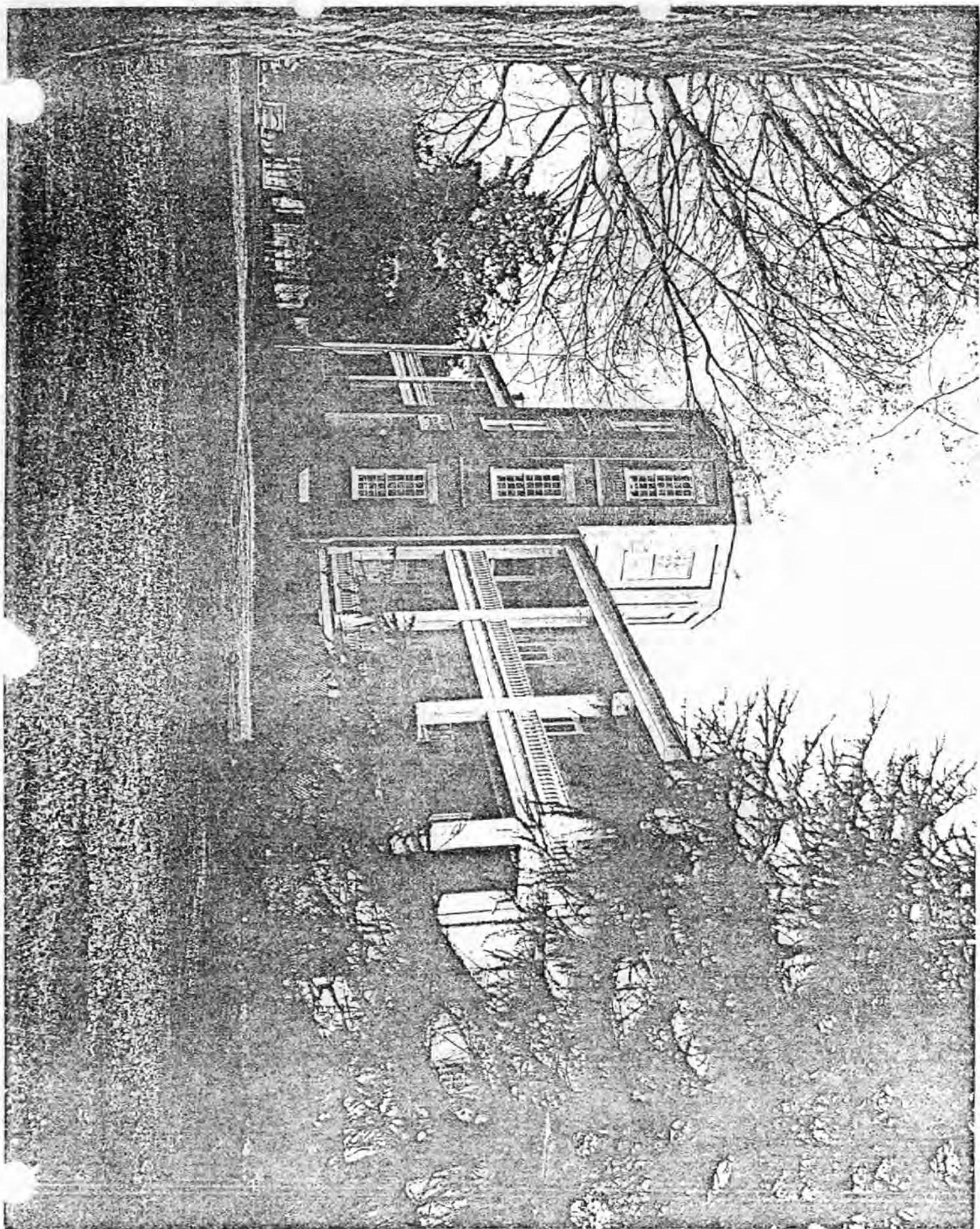
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United States Arsenal Building, viewed from the northwest

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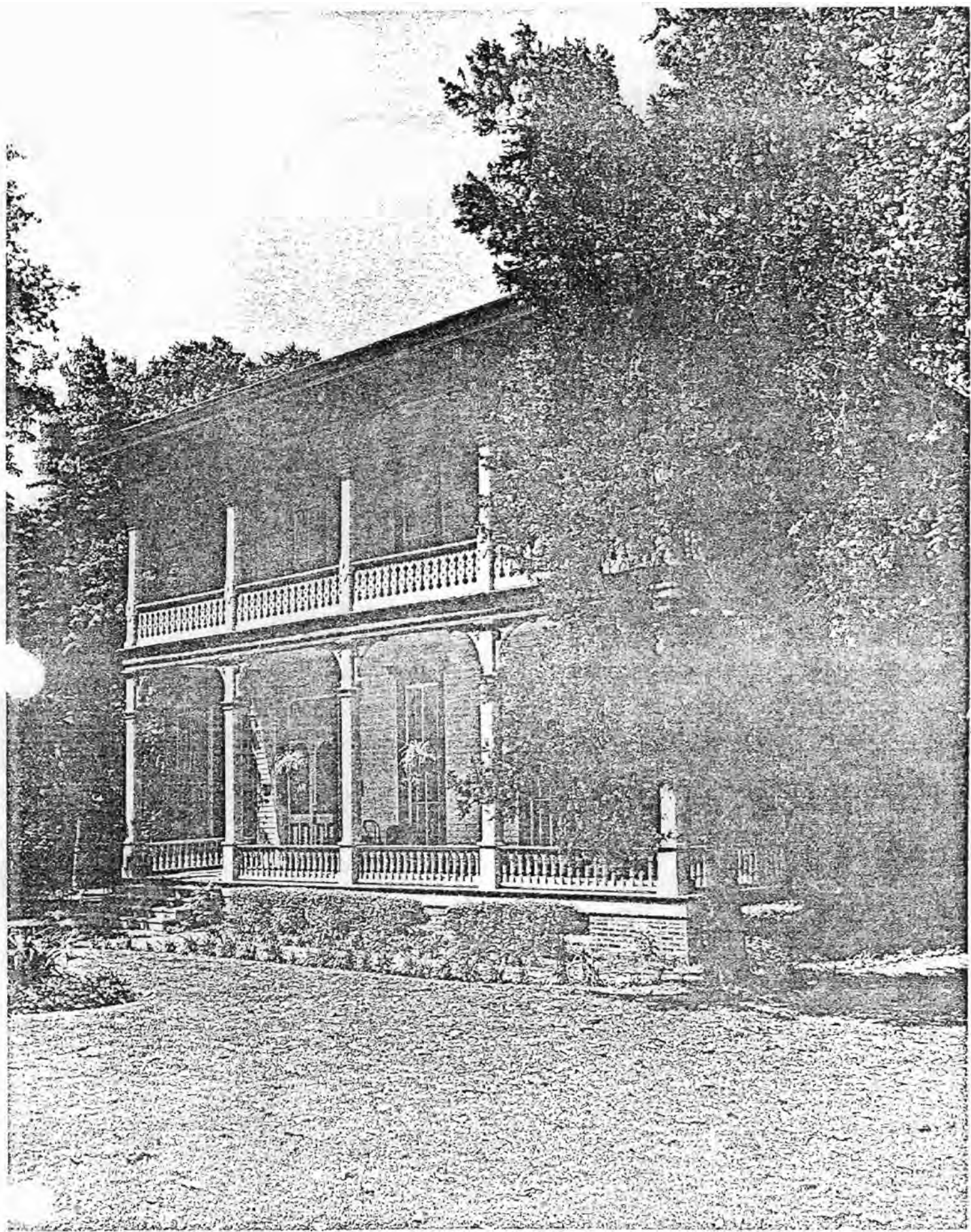
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Garland-Mitchell House, viewed from the northeast

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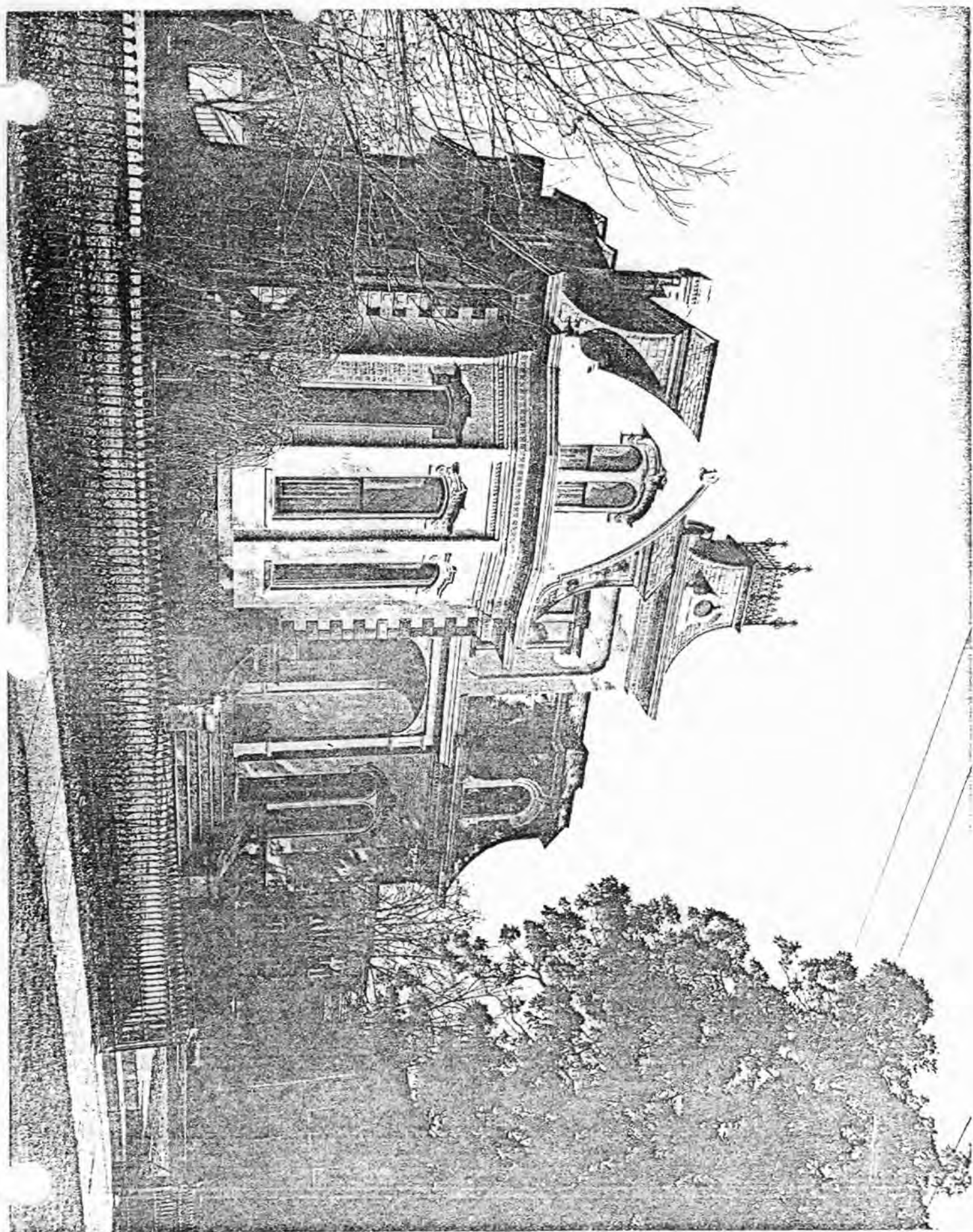
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Villa Marre, viewed from the northwest

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DATE OF PHOTO April, 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

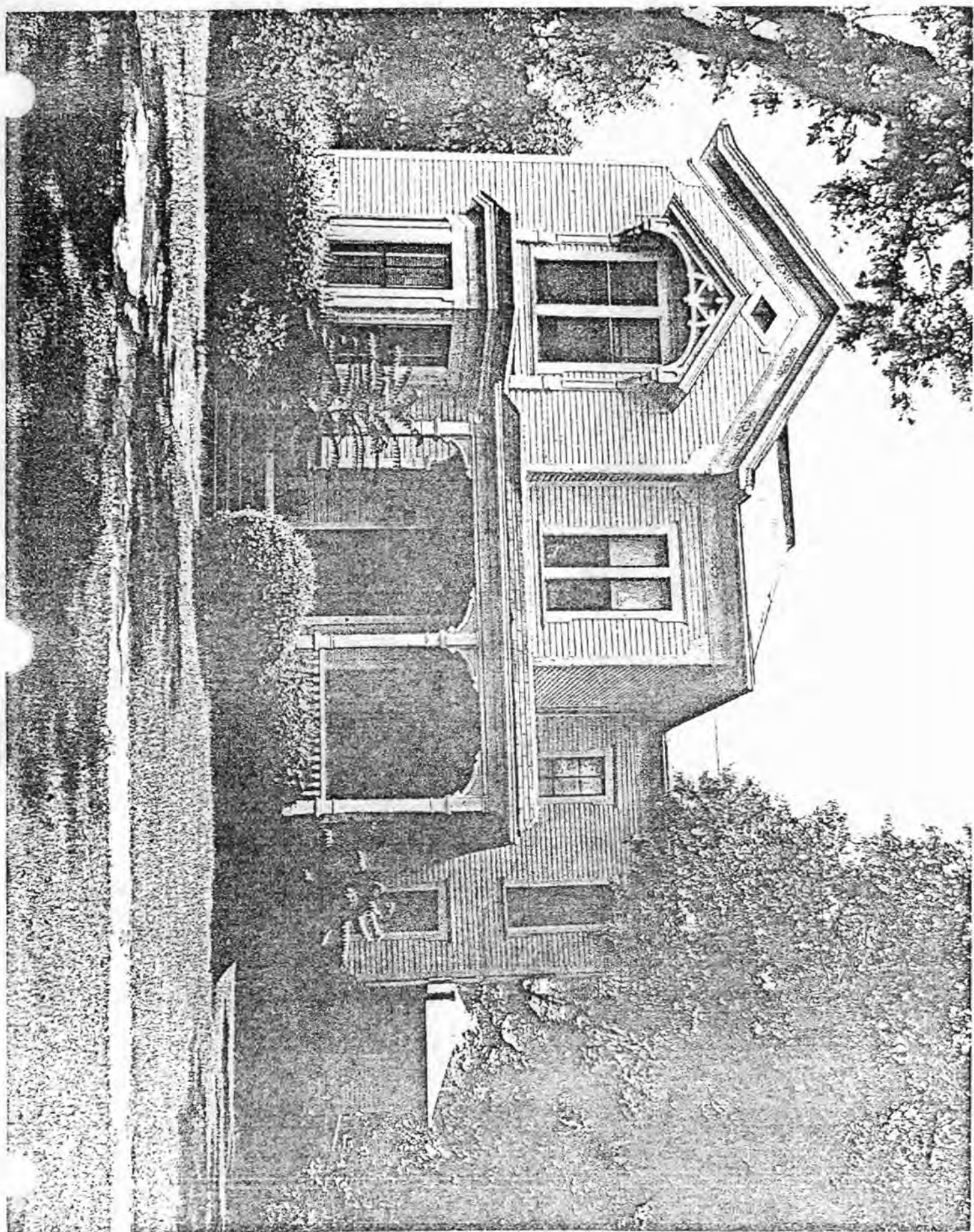
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO

William L. Terry House, viewed from the east

12

INT: 2983-75



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

MacArthur Park Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Bob Dunn

DATE OF PHOTO April 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Welch-Cherry House, viewed from the southeast

13

INT: 2983-75



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1 NAME

HISTORIC
MacArthur Park Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Little Rock

____ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Pulaski

STATE

Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

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4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Mills House, viewed from the northeast

14

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 MacArthur Park Historic District Additional Documentation

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by E. Capitol Avenue on the north, E. 15th Street on the south, Ferry and McGowan on the east, Cumberland and Scott on the west ☐ not for publication

city or town Little Rock ☐ vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Pulaski code 119 zip code 72202

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.)

Steph Hunt
Signature of certifying official/Title

6-30-15
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

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

170

51

buildings

32 (vacant lots)

sites

structures

objects

170

82

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

1 (NHL): 17 (NR)

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store, restaurant

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: fire station

EDUCATION: school, college

RELIGIOUS: religious facility, church school

RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation

HEALTH CARE: hospital

DEFENSE: military facility

LANDSCAPE: park

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, professional, restaurant, specialty store

SOCIAL: meeting hall

GOVERNMENT: fire station

EDUCATION: college

RELIGIOUS: religious facility, church school

RECREATION AND CULTURE: theater, museum, outdoor recreation, monument/marker

LANDSCAPE: park

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival, Gothic RevivalLATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, 2nd Empire, Queen Anne, RomanesqueLATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Classical RevivalLATE 19th AND EARLY 20th CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: International, Ranch, Post-Modern

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE

walls BRICK, WOOD: weatherboard STONE: Granite, Sandstone

roof ASBESTOS, METAL

other CEMENTIFIC BOARD

Narrative Description

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

8. 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** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **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)

STATE

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1849-1960

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)**Cultural Affiliation** (Complete if Criterion D is marked)**Architect/Builder**

Gideon Shryock, Charles L. Thompson, Frank Gibb, George Trapp, Richard B. Lee - architects

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

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

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 DataAcreage of Property 192 Acres**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>15</u>	<u>566942</u>	<u>3844882</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>15</u>	<u>567378</u>	<u>3844806</u>

3	<u>15</u>	<u>567551</u>	<u>3844030</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<u>15</u>	<u>567089</u>	<u>3843743</u>

☒ See continuation sheet**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Sandra Taylor Smith, Preservation Consultant</u>		
organization	<u>City of Little Rock Department of Planning and Development</u>	date	<u>5-15-14</u>
street & number	<u>723 W. Markham Street</u>	telephone	<u>(501)371-4790</u>
city or town	<u>Little Rock</u>	state	<u>AR</u> zip code <u>72201</u>

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 locationA **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	<u>Multiple ownership</u>		
street & number	<u></u>	telephone	<u></u>
city or town	<u></u>	state	<u></u> zip code <u></u>

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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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

BACKGROUND

The MacArthur Park Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 7-25-77. It was the first historic district in Little Rock listed in the National Register and one of the earliest district listings in Arkansas. Almost forty years later, MacArthur Park Historic District is a vibrant and thriving part of downtown Little Rock. Changes have occurred resulting from a variety of events including construction of a highway corridor through the middle of the district in 1985 and destruction as a result of a tornado that swept through downtown Little Rock in 1999 and subsequent new construction.

This nomination of the MacArthur Park Historic District provides an updated and expanded description of the district and its buildings. It is based on comprehensive surveys conducted in 2007 and updated in 2014. Evaluation of updated surveys by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program determined the integrity of the properties within the MacArthur Park Historic District since its original documentation in 1977.

SUMMARY

The MacArthur Park Historic District contains the most cohesive grouping of extant historic residential buildings in Little Rock. The district's period of significance, 1840 to 1960, spans the period when development in Little Rock was expanding south from the Arkansas River to the period of its decline. The centerpiece and namesake of the district is the thirty-nine acre MacArthur Park. The large majority of the buildings in the district are residential with a few commercial buildings, three historic church buildings, and three historic school buildings. The character of the buildings in the MacArthur Park Historic District is largely derived from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with a pronounced number of buildings deriving from the Victorian era. Highly stylized versions of more than seventeen different architectural influences are seen in the historic district. The MacArthur Park Historic District contains seventeen buildings and one monument previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places individually or as part of the Charles L. Thompson Design Collection – A Thematic Group. One property, the Little Rock Arsenal Building is a National Historic Landmark. Of the 239 buildings in the MacArthur Park Historic District, 170 (71%) contribute to the historic significance of the neighborhood. As a group, the buildings in the district retain the historic character of the late 19th and early 20th century neighborhood.

ELABORATION

Little Rock is located near the geographical center of Arkansas in Pulaski County on the south bank of the Arkansas River. The MacArthur Park Historic District is a predominantly residential area that encompasses portions of several additions, including the Original City of Little Rock. The district is named after its centerpiece, MacArthur Park, a thirty-nine acre park which contains the 1840 Federal style Little Rock Arsenal Building and the Arkansas Arts Center complex. The district is characterized by a typical 19th century grid street pattern on generally flat terrain.

Throughout the MacArthur Park Historic District, broad tree-lined streets are bordered by curbs and sidewalks that date primarily from the late 19th and early 20th century and are constructed of concrete. The

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Section number 7 Page 2

commercial district in downtown Little Rock is located a few blocks to the south, along the Arkansas River, and Main Street which runs one and two blocks parallel to the western boundary of the district. Interstate-30 is located on the eastern edge of the district. Interstate-630 runs at an angle through the southeast part of the historic district between E. Eleventh and E. Twelfth Street. I-630 is recessed as it runs through the historic district. Bridges over I-630 at S. Cumberland and S. Commerce connect the southern and northern portions of the district. The southern boundary of the district extends to E. 15th Street. The eastern boundary runs along S. Cumberland Street from E. Fifth through E. Ninth Street and S. Scott Street from E. Ninth to E. Fifteenth Street.

The district's focal point is MacArthur Park, located in the east central portion of the district. The park encompasses thirty-nine acres. The Little Rock Arsenal Building, constructed in the early 1840s is the only extant building of more than thirty constructed on the site in the 1840s by the U.S. Army. In 1936, through Works Progress Administration funding, the Museum of Fine Arts was constructed in MacArthur Park. The Arkansas Arts Center constructed a building around the original building in 1966 and a large addition in 2004. The park contains a 1.7 acre lake, playgrounds, gardens, gazebos, and walkways.

While the architectural character of the MacArthur Park Historic District predominantly derives from the late 19th century and early 20th century, there are buildings in the district constructed as early as 1840. The historic district contains a wide variety of styles and types of buildings. The majority of the oldest extant buildings in Little Rock are contained in the boundaries of the MacArthur Park Historic District. The dominant building type in the district is residential. However there are three historic church buildings, three historic school buildings, and few historic commercial buildings scattered throughout the district.

Federal

Located in MacArthur Park, the Little Rock Arsenal Building is a pivotal structure in the historic district. The two-story brick building with full basement was completed in 1840. It was designed by Virginia architect Richard B. Lee. A two-story wood porch supported by two-story wood columns spans the full width of the front (north) elevation. A three-story, octagonal tower with a crenellated top is located at the center of the north elevation of the building. Owned by the city of Little Rock, major restoration work was begun in 1942 and completed in 1950 for use as a museum. Currently the building houses the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 07-25-70, the Little Rock Arsenal was listed as a National Historic Landmark on 4-19-94.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 6-4-73, the Absalom Fowler House at 503 E. Sixth Street is a two-story brick building which combines features of Federal and Greek Revival styles. Constructed in 1840, the house features a one-story flat roof porch supported by Ionic-capped columns in the center of the north elevation. A decorative balustrade surrounds the top of the truncated hipped roof. Unusual features of the house include a wide hall which runs across the front of the interior rather than through the center and an attached wing on the west elevation that housed the kitchen and servants quarters, in place of

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traditional outbuildings. The house is now the center of the multiple-building Fowler Square Apartments, occupying a section of the block with fronts on both E. Sixth and E. Seventh Streets.

Greek Revival

Seven houses in the MacArthur Park Historic District are Greek Revival in style. One of the most notable buildings in the district is the Pike-Fletcher-Terry House at 411 E. Seventh Street (listed in the National Register of Historic Places 8-21-72). This large, two-story Greek Revival house was constructed in 1840. A two-story portico supported by six Ionic-capped columns spans the width of the front (north) of the house. The original low hipped roof was replaced with the present steep hipped roof in the latter part of the 19th century. The house is set back from the traditional line of housing in the block and its property extends to E. Eighth Street on the rear. The Pike-Fletcher-Terry House has been restored and is occupied by the Arkansas Arts Center Decorative Arts Museum.

Another outstanding example of the Greek Revival style in the district is Trapnall Hall at 423 E. Capitol Avenue (Listed in the National Register of Historic Places 4-13-73). Constructed in 1843, the brick house is one-story, with a wing on the east elevation. A prominent three-bay portico covered by a gable roof is centered on the front (north) and is supported by Doric-capped columns. Owned by the State of Arkansas, Trapnall Hall is the official receiving center for the governor and is rented for public and social events.

The Walter-Curran-Bell House, locally known as Curran Hall, at 615 E. Capitol Avenue is a Greek Revival style house situated on the northern edge of the district. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places 1-1-76, it was designed by noted architect Gideon Shryock and constructed in 1842. A central portico is covered with a low, hipped roof and supported by square Doric-capped columns. A low, hipped roof covers the brick house. Owned by the City of Little Rock, Curran Hall has been restored and a two-story wing connected to the house on the rear elevation was constructed in 2002. The building houses the Little Rock Visitor Information Center and the Quapaw Quarter Association, a Little Rock non-profit dedicated to the preservation of historic buildings.

Four additional homes in the MacArthur Park Historic District were constructed in the antebellum period. The Cook House at 605 E. Sixth Street is a one-story frame building with a centered portico supported by Doric-capped columns. The Geyer House at 523 E. Seventh Street was constructed c. 1850. It is a one-story frame house featuring a flat-roofed portico supported by Doric-capped posts set into brick bases. Another early house in the district with characteristics of the Greek Revival style, is the Holtzman House #1 at 516 E. Ninth Street. This one-story frame house features the symmetrical façade with porch supported by columns typical of the Greek Revival style. Kadel Cottage at 417 E. Tenth Street, constructed c. 1859, is another one-story hipped roof house featuring a symmetrical façade with centered porch supported by Doric-capped columns. The Kadel Cottage features a bracketed cornice around the entire house.

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Gothic Revival

Two historic church buildings in the MacArthur Park Historic District represent the Gothic Revival style. They are located within three blocks of each other. The First Lutheran Church at 314 E. 8th Street was constructed in 1888. The two-story brick building features characteristics of the Gothic Revival style in its tall steeple and multiple turrets and towers. St. Edwards Catholic Church (National Register of Historic Places 12-22-82) at 823 S. Sherman Street is a two-story brick Gothic style building designed by prominent Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson and constructed in 1901. The building exhibits architectural details typical of the Gothic Revival style in its pointed-top arched windows, turrets and tracery above entry doors.

Italianate

Characterized by an asymmetrical or L-shaped building plan, wide eaves heavily decorated with brackets, cornices and other trim, the Italianate style is well represented in the MacArthur Park Historic District. Twelve houses are significant examples of the Italianate style while there are a number of others that have minor characteristics of the style.

Constructed in 1867, the Kempner House at 521 Rock Street is an outstanding example of a two-story frame version of the Italianate style. Designed in a traditional central-hall plan, The Kempner House is embellished by Italianate style arched windows, decorative brackets on the cornice and decorative wood porch posts.

The Garland-Mitchell House, located at 1404 S. Scott Street (Listed in the National Register of Historic Places 6-18-75), was built in 1873. It is distinguished from other Italianate homes in Little Rock by its two-story wrap-around porch which spans across the front (east) and north elevations set under the main hipped roof. Square-cut posts with curved brackets are used for support on both the first and second stories of the porch. First floor porch railings have turned balustrades while the second story porch railing has a continuous band of open cut woodwork. A bracketed cornice and frieze with dentils wraps around the house.

The most outstanding example of the Italianate style in the MacArthur Park Historic District is the Lincoln House at 301 E. 7th Street. The two-story brick house was begun in 1872 and completed in 1878. The Lincoln House features a full range of Italianate style characteristics including a decorative cornice with brackets, tall paired segmental-arched windows with hood moldings, iron cresting on the main roof and on roofs of porches. The Lincoln House remains virtually unaltered from its original appearance.

A two-story T-shaped adaptation of the Italianate style in the district is the Mills House, at 523 E. Sixth Street. Constructed in 1883, the two-story brick house features a dentiled, bracketed cornice, segmental-arched window headers. The flat-roofed front (north) porch is supported by square wood columns with decorative wood brackets and balustrade.

Another representative of the Italianate style is the Terry-Jung House at 1422 Scott Street (National Register 1-1-76). Constructed in 1885, the house is an L-shaped, two-story frame structure with a truncated hipped

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roof and cross gables. The front gable bay features a three-part bay window on the first floor and a pair of double-hung windows with a decorative wood hood. A wide cornice is marked by decorative wood ornament and the one-story wrap-around porch is supported by cut-wood columns and features decorative wood brackets.

The two-story Welch-Cherry House at 700 S. Rock Street was constructed in 1881 for the minister of the adjacent Gothic Revival style First Lutheran Church. The L-shaped brick house features cast-stone hood moldings over the windows and decorative wood brackets and balustrade on the porch.

The Samuels-Narkinski House at 515 Rock Street is a good example of a one-story interpretation of the Italianate style. Wide bracketed cornice and arched windows frame with hipped roof.

Two apartment buildings in the district display characteristics of the Italianate style. The Caroline Row Apartments at 1002 S. Cumberland and the Brooks Apartments at 217-219 E. Tenth Street are two-story brick buildings with characteristic Italianate style arched windows.

Second Empire

The Villa Marre at 1321 S. Scott Street was constructed in 1881. Listed in the National Register on 6-15-70, it is a two-story brick house designed in the Second Empire style with Italian influences. A distinctive, slate-covered Mansard roof and tower with iron cresting characterizes the house. The exterior of the Villa Marre is widely recognizable from its use in the television show "Designing Women" which aired from 1986 to 1993.

Queen Anne

The Queen Anne style characterizes the MacArthur Park Historic District. The Holtzan-Vinsonhaler House at 500 E. Ninth Street was constructed in c. 1898 by W.O. Holtzman, a contractor who built several homes in downtown Little Rock. In 1906 the house was remodeled by the Vinsonhaler family and at this time the Colonial Revival porch was added. The Holtzman-Vinsonhaler House is denoted by various designs and sizes of windows, many of which are arched, and by squared and rounded turrets. The house appears much as it did in 1906.

Another significant example of the Queen Anne style in the district is the Chisum House at 1320 S. Cumberland Street. Built in 1894, the house embodies many of the characteristics typical of the Queen Anne style including irregular shaped towers, multiple gables and bays and a variety of textures on the exterior. The Chisum House was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 12-4-75.

Built in 1899, the Frederick Hanger House at 1010 S. Scott is a two-story frame structure with a hipped roof. A one-story porch runs across the front (east) elevation and wraps around to the south elevation. A Japanese "moongate" arch graces the entry which is located on the north end of the porch. The exterior of the Hanger House is covered in narrow weatherboard with decorative bands of octagonal wood shingles above the front

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

porch, in front gables, and around the lower portion of bay windows. The house was carefully restored to its original appearance in 1972 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 3-15-74.

The two-story house at 424 E. Sixth Street features decorative concrete block exterior walls. Constructed c. 1890, the house is distinguished by a rounded corner turret with conical roof and front second-story bay window with conical roof.

Folk Victorian

A number of homes in the MacArthur Park Historic District fall into the Folk Victorian category. Although simpler in form and scale, the majority of these houses feature Victorian era decoration and are modest interpretations of the elaborate Queen Anne style. Examples of the Folk Victorian style house in the MacArthur Park Historic District include 515 Rock Street which is a one-story frame house constructed c. 1870 that features decorative brackets along the cornice and arched windows. Other structures that fall into this category include the houses at 604 and 608 E. 6th Street. Both houses are one-story frame and are characterized by scalloped shingling, decorative turned posts supporting porches and steeply-pitched gable roofs. The house at 904 Rock Street features a rounded porch on the northeast corner with turned posts, decorative brackets and spindle work. The Holtzman-Vinson-Vogler House at 412 E. Ninth Street is a one-story brick Queen Anne style featuring rounded corner turrets, elaborate stained glass windows, decorative spindlework on the wrap-around porch, and a variety of textural components.

Romanesque Revival

Kramer School at 715 S. Sherman Street was constructed in 1895. The two-story brick building with full basement features a prominent cut-stone entry porch with round-arched opening on the front (west). The building features a cut-stone foundation and detailing. Round-arched window tops and round and square towers characterize the building. Kramer School was renovated in 1997 using Historic Federal Tax credits for use as an apartment building.

Colonial Revival

The popularity of the Colonial Revival style in the early 20th century is well evidenced in the MacArthur Park Historic District. Some of the earliest examples of Colonial Revival style details are seen in a number of one and one-half story Colonial Revival style houses found in the district. These houses represent Colonial Revival style elements applied to the familiar asymmetrical Queen Anne style house form. Decorative Colonial Revival features such as Palladian, semi-circular, or oval windows in gable ends and classical columns supporting porch roofs were applied to many of these homes such as the one and one-half story house at 510 E. 8th which features an asymmetrical floor plan with steep hipped roof and front gable bay. Round Doric-capped columns support the porch. The house at 1314 S. Cumberland features a fanlight vent in its front-facing gable end. The house at 1410 S. Rock Street is another one and one-half story version of the asymmetrical Queen Anne style form detailed by Colonial Revival style elements. The house features a cross-gable roof, cut-away bay windows and round Doric-capped columns supporting the porch.

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Two-story Colonial Revival style houses followed the same transitional pattern from the Queen Anne style as smaller houses at the turn of the century. With designs increasingly turning away from the Queen Anne style in favor of the simpler Colonial Revival style two-story homes with asymmetrical floorplans and decorative features indicative of the Colonial Revival style were built in large numbers in the area contained in the MacArthur Park Historic District.

The Bracy Manning House at 620 E. 6th Street is an early example of the two-story Colonial Revival style in the district. Constructed c. 1898, this two-story brick house features a prominent Palladian window on the second story and cast-stone detailing. A flat-roof front porch is supported by round Doric-capped wood columns on square bases.

The Nash Rental Houses at 409 E. Sixth and 601 Rock are two-story versions of the Colonial Revival style with emphasis on Colonial Revival detailing in their prominent front porches with two-story Ionic-capped columns. Designed by Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson, the houses feature a prominent front-facing gable bay with fanlight window over the second story window and brackets under eaves. These houses were listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 12-22-82.

The house at 1011 S. Rock Street is a good example of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. Constructed c. 1903, the house features a front-facing gambrel roof typical of this sub-type of the Colonial Revival style. Signature Colonial Revival details are seen in the fanlight window over second-story windows and full front porch supported by round Doric-capped columns.

American Foursquare

Johnson Rental houses at 514, 516 and 518 E. Eighth Street are examples of the American Foursquare style house found in the MacArthur Park Historic District. These houses are two-stories with a square floorplan and covered by hipped roofs. Flat-roofed front porches are supported by round Doric-capped columns.

Classical Revival

The best examples of the few Classical Revival style buildings in the MacArthur Park Historic District are seen in the Eastside School and Auditorium buildings. Both are two-story brick buildings with flat roofs and distinguished by two-story Classical porches. The Eastside School building was designed by Arkansas architect Frank W. Gibb and constructed in 1904. It has a two-story porch on its west elevation with dentiled pediment denoted and is supported by two-story fluted Corinthian-capped columns. The Eastside School Auditorium, designed by Arkansas architect Charles L. Thompson and constructed in 1911, features a Classical entry on the south elevation with full entablature supported by two-story round Doric-capped columns.

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Also designed by architect Charles L. Thompson, the Hunter Memorial United Methodist Church building at 712 E. Eleventh Street was constructed in 1909 and features modest Classical Revival details on its south elevation which features three bays separated by brick pilasters with cast-concrete caps, second story arched-top windows with cast concrete keystones, and a wide, cast-concrete cornice. An addition to the building was constructed in the 1960s. The building has been used for a local theater company and it currently houses a production company.

Craftsman

The majority of the Craftsman style influence seen in the MacArthur Park Historic District is in its apartment buildings. The Rainwater Building at 510 E. Capitol Avenue, was constructed in 1914 as apartments. It is a three and one-half story brick building covered by a low-pitched tile gable roof with wide eaves. The building features horizontal emphasis indicative of the Craftsman style in its bands of casement windows.

Other two-story apartment buildings with Craftsman style influence are scattered throughout the district. Buildings such as the Beverly Apartments at 406 E. Seventh Street, the Florentine Apartments at 524, E. Sixth, and the St. Clair Apartments at 500 E. Sixth feature typical Craftsman style characteristics such as wide eaves, low-pitched rooflines, and horizontal bands of windows. These buildings were constructed in the 1920s during the height of the popularity of the Craftsman style in Little Rock.

The duplex at 1412-1414 S. Scott Street features a front-facing clipped gable roof and faux half-timbering. A full-width front porch is supported by square brick columns. The Fire Station Building at 1201 S. Commerce, constructed in 1917 features a prominent low-pitched clipped gable roof with wide eaves and extended rafter tails. The building incorporates multiple textures including stucco in faux half-timbering, brick and stone. The Baer House at 1010 S. Rock Street (Listed in the National Register 4-7-95) is a two-story single family Craftsman style house. Designed by architect Charles L. Thompson, and constructed in 1915, this house features faux half-timbering in gable ends, exposed rafter tails, and grouped windows with horizontal emphasis.

Rarely found in the MacArthur Park Historic district, a one-story brick Craftsman Bungalow is located at 722 S. Sherman Street. This 1920s brick house and features faux-half timbering in its gable ends and extended rafter tails.

Period Houses

Very few "period houses" were constructed in the 1920s in the MacArthur Park Historic District. One example is the one-story brick house at 1301 S. Cumberland which has characteristics of the English Revival style. This house features steep roof slopes, a prominent front chimney and arched openings typical of the English Revival style.

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Art Deco

The University of Arkansas School of Medicine Building at 1215 McMath Avenue was constructed in 1935. The five-story brick building was designed by Arkansas architect George Trapp. Slight Art Deco style details are seen on its center entry is surrounded by cast concrete and the building features cast-concrete insets on upper walls. The building was renovated and an addition constructed in the 1990s for use by the University of Arkansas at Little Rock Bowen School of Law.

Commercial

Few early 20th century commercial buildings remain in the MacArthur Park Historic district. The building at 400-406 E. Ninth Street on the northeast corner of E. Ninth and S. Rock is a one-story brick building constructed c. 1905 facing west. The southwest corner of the building was angled in 1950 and a one and one-half story addition was constructed on the east side of the building, featuring two storefronts with plate-glass windows and single entry topped by transom windows. Residential space is located on the second story of the building.

The Kindervater Building at 407 E. 9th Street is a two-story brick commercial building with flat roof while a plate glass window on the first floor is flanked by single entry doors. The building was constructed in 1921 for commercial use on the ground floor with living space on the second story. The Pritchard Grocery Store Building at 314 E. Sixth Street was constructed in the late 1930s. It is a plain one-story brick building with center entry flanked by display windows.

Mid-Century

Apartment buildings comprise the majority of mid-century construction in the historic district. The majority of these buildings were constructed in a Minimal Traditional style with little detailing. The Penzel Place Apartments at 623 S. Sherman and 608-612 E. Seventh Streets are two-story rectangular buildings covered with a low hipped roof. Two small hipped roof porches supported by decorative wrought-iron posts are located on the front of each of the buildings.

The Phillips Apartments at 922-924 Cumberland Street was constructed c.1948 and is an L-shaped two-story brick building with hipped roofs. Minimal Traditional in style, the siting of the building on its corner lot provides a large green space on its front.

The apartment building at 418-422 E. Fifteenth Street was built c. 1949 and is an irregular-shaped building with vernacular characteristics of the International style in its flat roof, smooth, unornamented wall surface. Metal casement windows are set flush with outer walls and have no decorative detailing. Three low-pitched hipped roof porches supported by wrought iron columns denote entry doors. Several other apartment buildings were constructed in the years immediately following World War II.

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Two mid-century commercial buildings constructed in the district in the period following World War II and 1960 include the Modern style Price Chiropractic Clinic Building at 200 E. Thirteenth Street. This building was constructed in 1955 and is one-story with low flat roof and large expanses of plate glass windows. Similar in appearance, the Oden Optical Company building at 112 E. Eleventh Street is a one-story brick building with flat roof and plate-glass windows.

A few homes were constructed in the district during the mid-century period. The house at 501 E. Seventh Street is typical of the Minimal Traditional style seen constructed throughout Little Rock in the years immediately following the end of World War II. Built c.1949, this one-story house is brick veneered with a gable roof with close-raked eaves. Wide double-hung eight-over-eight windows, vertical board in side-facing gable ends and a centered gable roof porch supported by decorative wrought-iron posts characterize this house.

The typical sprawling Ranch style house was not conducive for construction on narrow lots in downtown Little Rock. Taking advantage of a corner lot, the house at 1020 S. Commerce is a wide Ranch style form with a low hipped roof and attached carport. The house has brick veneer on the lower one-half of the house with horizontal board on the upper portion.

Schools

St. Edwards School is located at 815 E. Ninth Street. Constructed in the mid 1950s, this is the only one of the three school buildings in the historic district that continues to function as a school. The brick building features contemporary style rooflines and a Googie style porch roof on the front (south) elevation. A two-story brick building connected to the E. Ninth Street building was constructed at 815 S. Sherman Street in 2007.

Post 1960

The area contained in the MacArthur Park Historic District contains a handful of buildings constructed since its period of significance. Cumberland Towers at 311 E. Eighth and Parkview Towers and 1200 S. Commerce are both high-rise apartment buildings constructed in the 1960s. Other multi-family residential construction includes the apartment building at 1016 McGowan Street, a three-story brick building constructed for housing for students of the nearby law school in the early 21st century.

The Arkansas Arts Center complex is located in the northwestern part of MacArthur Park. The original building was constructed in 1937 for the Little Rock Museum of Fine Arts. In the early 1960s a larger building was constructed around the original Art Deco façade. Another large addition was constructed in 2004.

A pocket of commercial development at the corner of E. 9th Street and McGowan Street was spurred by construction of Interstate 30. Located at the Ninth Street exit of this major corridor, a gas station, franchise

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restaurant signature building types such as a Waffle House and a Pizza Hut building are located on this eastern edge of the district.

More recent commercial building construction include the two-story brick Fish Factory Building at 1200 S. Scott Street, built in 2003, and a substation of the Little Rock Police Department, built in 2006 at 301 E. Capitol Avenue.

New single family homes in the historic district include the houses at 618 S. Rock and 617 S. Cumberland. Both of the houses are two-story brick with similar height, shape, scale, and materials as adjacent residences. The most unique recent architecture in the MacArthur Park Historic District is a result of a tornado in 1999 that tore through the southeast portion of the area. A number of vacant lots in this area have seen new construction of homes. The houses at 1414 S. Rock and 1418 S. Rock feature shotgun style form and metal roofs. The house at 324 E. Fifteenth Street is two-stories locally referred to as the "Cube House" for its square shape with flat roof. Other new construction in the southern area of the MacArthur Park Historic District as a result of the tornado includes the modern style house at 320 E. Fifteenth Street and the two-story neo-Craftsman style duplex at 1421 S. Cumberland.

Most of the buildings in the MacArthur Park Historic District are in good to excellent condition. There have been several factors to which the good condition and appearance of the neighborhood can be attributed. Begun in 1961, Quapaw Quarter Association, a non-profit organization has been the advocate for historic buildings in downtown Little Rock. The area encompassed in the MacArthur Park Historic District is often referred to as the "Quapaw Quarter District". Recognizing the importance of protecting Little Rock's most significant collection of historic buildings, the city of Little Rock established a local ordinance historic district with the same boundaries of the MacArthur Park National Register District in 1981, establishing authority for design review. The Commission carefully protects the architectural character of the neighborhood surrounding MacArthur Park, giving careful consideration to all proposed changes in the district.

The MacArthur Park Historic District is distinguished as Little Rock's most concentrated collection of mid-to-late 19th century houses in the city. Greek Revival and Federal style buildings constructed in the 1840s and Italianate and Queen Anne style houses constructed in the latter decades of the 19th century distinguish the area from other historic neighborhoods in Little Rock. The greatest period of growth represented in the MacArthur Park Historic District peaked around the early 20th century. However examples of many styles popular in first one-half of the 20th century are represented in the historic district.

Integrity

The buildings comprising the MacArthur Park Historic District strongly retain integrity of location, design, workmanship, materials, feeling and association. The historic district contains a number of individually

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significant buildings, but is most notable through its collective late 19th century and early 20th century appearance. Careful consideration of changes to the historic district by the Little Rock Historic District Commission has protected and enhanced the historic character of the district, while allowing for growth and new construction.

Although construction of Interstate 630 through the southeastern section of the district dramatically altered the continuity of the neighborhood, the area contained in the MacArthur Park Historic District retains much of its original appearance. Much of the original building stock remains and offers an excellent collection of popular architectural styles in the period spanning from 1840 to 1960.

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PU2776	621 E. Capitol	NC
PU2777	615 E. Capitol	IL
PU2779	501 S. Sherman	NC
PU2780	523 E. Capitol	NC
PU2781	519 E. Capitol	C
PU2782	423 E. Capitol	IL
PU2783	401 E. Capitol	C
PU2784	500 S. Rock	C
PU2785	315 E. Capitol	NC
PU3499	311 E. Capitol	C
PU2787	620 E. 6 th	C
PU2788	610 E. 6 th	C
PU2791	524 E. 6 th	C
PU2792	504 E. 6 th	C
PU2793	500 E. 6 th	C
PU2794	424 E. 6 th	C
PU2795	414/418 E. 6 th	C
PU2796	410 E. 6 th	C
PU2797	521 S. Rock	C
PU2798	314 E. 6 th	NC
PU2799	315 E. 6 th	C
PU2800	319 E. 6 th	NC
PU2801	601 S. Rock	IL
PU2802	409 E. 6 th	IL
PU2803	411 E. 6 th	C
PU2804	410 E. 7 th	NC
PU3142	503 E. 6 th	IL
PU2806	519 E. 6 th	NC
PU2807	521 E. 6 th	NC
PU2808	523 E. 6 th	C
PU2809	605 E. 6 th	C
PU2810	607 E. 6 th	C
PU2812	621 S. Cumberland	C
PU2813	308 E. 7 th	C
PU2814	624 S. Rock	C
PU2815	623 S. Rock	C
PU2816	406 E. 7 th	C

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PU2817	518 E. 7 th	NC
PU2818	615/623 S. Sherman	C
PU2819	608/612 E. 7 th	C
PU2820	616 E. 7 th	C
PU2821	624 S. Ferry	C
PU2822	715 S. Sherman	C
PU2823	523 E. 7 th	C
PU2824	517 E. 7 th	C
PU2825	511 E. 7 th	NC
PU2826	507 E. 7 th	C
PU2827	503 E. 7 th	C
PU2828	501 E. 7 th	NC
PU2829	411 E. 7 th	IL
PU2830	700 S. Rock	C
PU2831	307 E. 7 th	C
PU2832	301 E. 7 th	C
PU2833	723 S. Cumberland	C
PU2834	308 E. 8 th	C
PU2835	314 E. 8 th	C
PU2836	314 E. 8 th	C
PU2837	500 E. 8 th	C
PU2838	510 E. 8 th	C
PU2839	512 E. 8 th	C
PU2840	514 E. 8 th	IL
PU2841	516 E. 8 th	IL
PU2842	518 E. 8 th	IL
PU2843	301 E. 8 th	C
PU2844	801 S. Rock	NC
PU2845	415 E. 8 th	C
PU2846	419 E. 8 th	C
PU2847	423 E. 8 th	C
PU2848	507 E. 8 th	C
PU2849	511 E. 8 th	C
PU2850	513 E. 8 th	NC
PU2851	515 E. 8 th	C
PU2852	519 E. 8 th	C
PU2853	521/523 E. 8 th	C
PU2854	801 S. Sherman	C
PU2855	800 S. Ferry	C

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PU2856	722 S. Sherman	C
PU2857	400/406 E. 9 th	C
PU2858	408/410 E. 9 th	C
PU2859	414 E. 9 th	NC
PU2860	420 E. 9 th	NC
PU2861	500 E. 9 th	C
PU2862	508 E. 9 th	C
PU2863	512 E. 9 th	C
PU2864	514 E. 9 th	C
PU2865	516 E. 9 th	C
PU2866	524 E. 9 th	NC
PU2867	600 E. 9 th	IL
PU2868	600 E. 9 th	C
PU2869	307 E. 9 th	C
PU2870	311 E. 9 th	C
PU2871	900 S. Rock	C
PU2873	407 E. 9 th	C
PU2874	411 E. 9 th	NC
PU2875	415 E. 9 th	C
PU2876	900 S. Commerce	C
PU2877	721 E. 9 th	NC
PU2878	215 E. 9 th	NC
PU2879	401 E. 9 th	NC
PU0265	920 S. Scott	C
PU2882	924 S. Cumberland	C
PU2883	923 S. Cumberland	IL
PU2884	924/926 S. Rock	C
PU2885	920 S. Commerce	C
PU2886	1024 S. Cumberland	NC
PU2887	1019 S. Cumberland	C
PU0275	1024 S. Scott	C
PU0272	1000 S. Scott	NC
PU2890	205 E. 10 th	C
PU2891	209/211 E. 10 th	C
PU2892	215 E. 10 th	C
PU2893	219 E. 10 th	C
PU2894	1000 S. Cumberland	C
PU2895	1001 S. Cumberland	C
PU2896	1002 S. Rock	C

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PU2897	401 E. 10 th	C
PU2898	407/409 E. 10 th	C
PU2899	417 E. 10 th	C
PU2900	419 E. 10 th	C
PU2901	1101 S. Cumberland	NC
PU2902	315 E. 11 th	C
PU2903	1101 S. Rock	C
PU2904	1020 S. Commerce	C
PU2906	318 E. 11 th	C
PU2907	312 E. 11 th	C
PU2908	1023 S. Cumberland	C
PU2909	1321 S. Scott	IL
PU2910	1301 S. Cumberland	C
PU2911	1302 S. Cumberland	C
PU2912	1301 S. Scott	C
PU2914	200 E. 13 th	C
PU2915	214 E. 14 th	C
PU2916	1320 S. Cumberland	IL
PU2917	1323 S. Cumberland	C
PU2918	308 E. Daisy Bates	C
PU2921	1402 S. Commerce	C
PU2925	1400 S. Rock	C
PU2926	311 E. Daisy Bates	C
PU2927	309 E. Daisy Bates	C
PU2928	1401 S. Cumberland	C
PU2929	1401 S. Scott	C
PU9756	1414 Park Lane	C
PU2932	1423 S. Commerce	C
PU2933	418/422 E. 15 th	C
PU2937	1422 S. Scott	IL
PU2938	1404 S. Scott	IL
PU2942	908 McGowan	NC
PU2943	913 McMath	NC
PU2944	923 McMath	C
PU2947	1215 McMath	C
PU2950	620 S. Ferry	C
PU2951	618 Ferry	C
PU2952	616 S. Ferry	C
PU2953	506 S. Ferry	C

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PU2955	718 E. 10 th	NC
PU2956	720 E. 10 th	NC
PU2957	1007 McMath	C
PU2960	514 S. Sherman	C
PU2961	716 S. Sherman	C
PU2962	812/816 S. Sherman	C
PU2963	1409 S. Commerce	C
PU2965	1419 S. Commerce	C
PU2966	1420 S. Commerce	C
PU2970	1004 S. Commerce	C
PU2971	1002 S. Commerce	C
PU2972	910 S. Commerce	C
PU2973	904/908 S. Commerce	C
PU2974	818 S. Commerce	C
PU2975	816 S. Commerce	NC
PU2976	511 S. Rock	C
PU2977	515 S. Rock	C
PU2978	609 S. Rock	C
PU2979	619 S. Rock	C
PU2980	809 S. Rock	C
PU3505	901 S. Rock	NC
PU2982	913 S. Rock	NC
PU2983	1011 S. Rock	C
PU2984	1009 S. Rock	C
PU2985	1015 S. Rock	C
PU2986	1019 S. Rock	C
PU2987	1116 S. Rock	C
PU2988	1112 S. Rock	C
PU2989	1104 S. Rock	C
PU2990	1018 S. Rock	C
PU2991	1014 S. Rock	C
PU2992	1010 S. Rock	IL
PU2994	920 S. Rock	NC
PU2995	912/914 S. Rock	C
PU2996	908 S. Rock	C
PU2997	904 S. Rock	C
PU2998	620 S. Rock	C
PU2999	610 S. Rock	NC
PU3000	909 S. Cumberland	C

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PU3001	913 S. Cumberland	C
PU3002	915 S. Cumberland	C
PU3003	1003 S. Cumberland	NC
PU3004	1015 S. Cumberland	NC
PU3005	1017 S. Cumberland	C
PU3006	1107 S. Cumberland	C
PU3007	1305 S. Cumberland	C
PU3008	1309 S. Cumberland	C
PU3009	1311 S. Cumberland	C
PU3010	1315 S. Cumberland	C
PU3011	1319 S. Cumberland	C
PU3012	1405 S. Cumberland	C
PU3013	1409 S. Cumberland	C
PU3014	1415 S. Cumberland	C
PU3023	1410 S. Rock	C
PU3025	1314 S. Cumberland	C
PU3026	1022 S. Cumberland	C
PU3027	1014 S. Cumberland	C
PU3028	1008 S. Cumberland	C
PU3029	1011/1013 S. Scott	C
PU3030	1015 S. Scott	C
PU3031	1315 S. Scott	NC
PU3032	1412/1414 S. Scott	C
PU3150	503 E. 9 th	IL: NHL
PU3034	501 E. 9 th	NC
PU3035	1201 S. Commerce	C
PU0260	113 E. 9 th	NC
PU0261	904 S. Scott	C
PU0263	914 S. Scott	C
PU0264	916 S. Scott	C
PU0273	1004 S. Scott	C
PU0274	1010 S. Scott	IL
PU5617	618 S. Rock	NC
PU5618	617 S. Cumberland	NC
PU5619	1016 McGowan	NC
PU5620	712 E. 11 th	NC
PU5621	515 E. Capitol	NC
PU5622	301 E. Capitol	NC
PU8659	805 Sherman	NC

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PU8660	1414 S. Rock	NC
PU8661	1418 S. Rock	NC
PU8662	320 E. 15 th	NC
PU8663	324 E. 15 th	NC
PU8668	1200 Commerce	C
PU9944	1421 S. Cumberland	NC
PU2930	1200 S. Scott	NC

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SUMMARY

The MacArthur Park Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 25, 1977. Enumeration and evaluation of the individual properties within the district was not provided in the 1977 registration form. A comprehensive survey of all resources in the district was conducted in 1988 and in 2007 and edited in 2014. This nomination documents significant changes and development in the area contained in the district since 1977. The MacArthur Park Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C, with state significance. The period of significance spans from 1840 to 1960.

ELABORATION

Within the heart of 21st century Little Rock resides the Victorian era history of the city. The most cohesive grouping of buildings pivotal to that history is located in the MacArthur Park Historic District. This district is the oldest, most intact historic residential neighborhood in Little Rock. The district's boundaries roughly follow the city street plan of E. Capitol Avenue on the north, E. Fifteenth Street on the south, Ferry and McGowan streets on the east, and S. Scott Street and S. Cumberland streets on the west.

Composed of picturesque antebellum, Victorian-era, and early 20th century homes set along tree-shaded streets, the MacArthur Park Historic District is a visual connection to the city's history. Most of Little Rock's residential development between 1838 and 1900 is reflected in the district's buildings. Houses in the district are set close together on tree-lined streets with curbs, planting strips, and sidewalks. The centerpiece of the district is MacArthur Park, a 39-acre city-owned park, which remains the social and visual center of the neighborhood. New construction, compatible in scale and design with the older buildings for the most part, has blended with the visual continuity of the built and natural landscape in the district. The aesthetic ideals and social patterns of 19th century Little Rock are vividly represented in the buildings in the MacArthur Park Historic District.

Arkansas became a state and Little Rock its capital in 1836. That same year, the United States government began building an arsenal at the request of Little Rock residents. A thirty-acre tract on the southern edge of the small frontier town was selected for the site of the arsenal. The first building on the grounds was the Arsenal Tower Building, completed in 1840. The two-story, Federal style brick building, listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 7-25-70 and as a National Historic Landmark on 4-19-94, stands as one of the oldest structures in the MacArthur Park Historic District.¹

The Arsenal land was traded by the United States government in 1890 for land on top of Big Rock Mountain on the north side of the Arkansas River. In 1892 the government relinquished the Arsenal land for perpetual use as a city park. The former Arsenal land became Little Rock's first public park and all of the military buildings except the Arsenal Building were removed.

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In 1942, the Little Rock Arsenal Building became the home for the Museum of Natural History and Antiquities. Also in 1942, the name of the park was changed to honor General Douglas MacArthur, had been born in the Arsenal Building in 1880. Later the building housed the Arkansas Museum of Science and History. It now houses the MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History.

On the park grounds west of the Little Rock Arsenal Building, the Museum of Fine Arts was opened in 1937. The original Art Deco style facade of the Fine Arts building was incorporated into a new, expanded facility constructed to house the Arkansas Arts Center in 1963. One of the leading cultural institutions in the state, the Arts Center features a permanent collection of various works of art along with occasional special exhibitions and also offers arts education classes, a research library, as well as housing the Arkansas's Children Theater.² MacArthur Park couples the arts and education with open green spaces, dog parks, walking trails, and a fishing lake to provide the public with an unique inter-city park. In addition to creating an inviting atmosphere MacArthur Park forms the nucleus of Little Rock's most historic residential district.

The settlement of Little Rock and its choice as the state's capital was a combination of speculation, politics, and a prime geographic location. Early settlers in the central Arkansas River valley region were limited to the low-lying, swampy land on the north side of the Arkansas River. The Quapaw Nation had a standing claim on the land south of the river until 1818. Facing a declining population, the Quapaw signed a treaty with the United States in 1818 relinquishing their claim on a tract of land south of the Arkansas River and roughly east of what is now Rock Street.³ The next year in 1819 the Territory of Arkansas was established and Arkansas Post, the oldest settlement west of the Mississippi River became the territorial capital. Almost immediately efforts were made to find new better capital site, closer to the center of the state and on higher ground without the flooding problems that plagued Arkansas Post.

Long before Little Rock was officially designated the capital of Arkansas Territory, speculators began laying claim to the newly opened land on the southern side of the river. Eventually two different groups of speculators claimed the same tract of prime river front acreage. Both groups platted out a city (one named Arkopolis and the other Little Rock) and even began selling lots. The two sides finally reached an agreement and the city of Arkopolis disappeared and Little Rock prevailed.⁴ The surviving street grid followed the river's shoreline, giving the town a slightly askew east-west orientation.

By 1840, Little Rock was one of the largest towns west of the Mississippi River with a population of 1,531. It was expanding south from the river into areas included within the boundaries of the MacArthur Park Historic District. A number of large estate-size homes were constructed in the district around 1840. Two houses from large estates remain. One example is the Federal style Absalom Fowler House at 503 East Sixth (National Register 6/4/73) built by the successful lawyer and land speculator Absalom Fowler in 1840. The Pike-Fletcher-Terry House at 411 E. Seventh and listed in the National Register of Historic Places 8-21-72, is a large, two-story Greek Revival style constructed in 1840. The house has been home to two of Arkansas's most distinguished personages; Albert Pike, lawyer, poet, and Masonic philosopher, then later John Gould

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Fletcher, the only Arkansan to win a Pulitzer Prize for literature.

Frederick Trapnall, another lawyer and a politician, built Trapnall Hall (National Register 4-13-73) in 1843. The one-story Greek Revival style house was one of the earliest restorations to be undertaken in the area. Trapnall Hall serves as the official receiving hall for the Governor of Arkansas and is rented for special events and occasions.

Curran Hall, listed in the National Register 1-1-76, is a one-story, brick home built in 1842. Located at 615 E. Fifth Street, Curran Hall is another example of surviving Greek Revival design. The house fell into severe disrepair and was slated for demolition in 1996 when it was purchased by the Little Rock Visitor Information Center Foundation. After six years of careful renovation at a cost of over \$1.4 million, the house was formally opened as Little Rock's first official Visitor Information Center on May 18, 2002. Several other outstanding antebellum houses located in the district, make the MacArthur Park Historic District one of the largest concentrations of pre-Civil War buildings remaining in Arkansas.

Arkansas historian, Dr. Ira Don Richards, proposed that the growth of Little Rock before 1860 was hampered by three major economic drawbacks. "First, an efficient transportation network did not develop to serve the river city. Only small durable steamers could ply the troublesome Arkansas River, and the railroad would not come to the town until after the Civil War. The major western trails which passed through Little Rock were more apt to funnel settlers and adventurers to the fertile Red River Valley and the gold fields of California than bring in new permanent residents for the town. Secondly, the city's financial system was primitive and could not provide the capital needed for solid growth and development. Finally, the hinterland of Little Rock was largely a virgin wilderness which did little to foster the city's retail and export trade."⁵

These economic conditions are reflected in the antebellum structures which survive within the MacArthur Park Historic District; almost all were the homes of lawyers, men who could thrive on the political life in town and could make a profit through land investment in what essentially was a frontier region.

An indication of the dramatic growth that Little Rock experienced in the wake of the Civil War is reflected in the comparison of population figures for 1860 at 3,727 to 12,380 in 1870. The population was enlarged by an incoming tide of refugees and black freedmen. Also, many of the Union troops, who had spent time in the city during its occupation, decided to make Little Rock their new home. Easy credit, free spending and northern capital combined to create a building boom which equaled the population increase.

The first steamboat to reach Little Rock was the "Eagle" on March 19, 1822. The visit was just an unplanned stop-over on the way to deliver supplies to the Dwight Cherokee Missionary further up the Arkansas River.⁶ But it was not until snag boats were utilized to clear the river channel that steamboat travel became practical and profitable. By the 1870s the sight of numerous steamboats moored along the Little Rock shoreline was common place. This would prove to be the last decade for the steamboat and its dominance over the

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transporting of people and freight.

More reliable transportation came to central Arkansas when the Memphis and Little Rock Railroad arrived in 1857. The tracks actually terminated opposite Little Rock on the north side of the Arkansas River. Passengers and cargo had to be ferried across the river to Little Rock. In the single month of May 1869 over one-hundred buildings, many of them brick, were under construction in Little Rock. Four years later the Arkansas River was spanned on December 1873 with the impressive Baring Cross Bridge, the city's first railway bridge. An upper deck was soon added to the bridge to accommodate wagons and foot traffic. Much of the older town disappeared during this burst of building activity and expansion. While urbanity was a product of post-war Little Rock, Charles Squier in the Little Rock City Directory of 1872 states that "the dilapidated structure of the original settler is fast giving way to spacious and lofty blocks of brick."

The population and economic booms begun in the late 1860s accelerated an expansion of the city southward. An 1871 pictorial map of Little Rock entitled "A Bird's Eye View of Little Rock" pictures impressive, Italianate style homes crowding the blocks of the MacArthur Park Historic District as far south as Ninth Street.⁷ The economic upsurge of this period is still chronicled through the grand Italianate style homes which survive in the district.

The brick, two-story Lincoln House at 301 E. Seventh Street, begun in 1872 and completed in 1878, was built for wholesale druggist Charles Lincoln. The house features a full range of Italianate style details and is virtually unaltered. Noted architectural historian Fred Nichols believes the Second Empire architecture of the Lincoln House to be of national significance.⁸

The Garland-Mitchell House (National Register 6-10-75), built in 1872 at what then constituted the outskirts of Little Rock at Scott and Fourteenth streets, is an excellent example of the Italianate style "Steamboat Gothic" architecture. In addition to its picturesque architecture, the home has housed two governors of Arkansas, Augustus Garland and Charles Brough.

Numerous examples of Italianate style architecture remain in the MacArthur Park Historic District. Many are well preserved as is the case for the Lincoln House; others such as the Mills House at 526 E. Sixth Street and the Garland Mitchell House have maintained their original appearance. All of these structures recall Little Rock's post-Civil-War boom when the small-town capital of Arkansas began to offer the diversity and assume the appearance of a city.

An over-extension of the city's economic resources coupled with the nationwide financial panic of 1872 temporarily curtailed Little Rock's rapid development. However, several factors contributed to an economic upsurge which brought about even greater periods of growth and prosperity in the 1880s and 1890s. First, by the middle of the 1880s Little Rock was the hub of a railroad network which for the first time efficiently connected the city with the rest of the state and the country.

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Second, the rapid expansion of agricultural, timber and mining industries pushed back the Arkansas frontier. These rural areas began to look down the newly laid railroad tracks to Little Rock as their wholesale and distribution center. And third, while never really suited for the role of a major cotton center, Little Rock did become the nation's fourth largest inland cotton market during this period. Retail and wholesale businesses formed the backbone of the city's economy.

By the early 1880s the entire area encompassed within the boundaries of the MacArthur Park Historic District (except the arsenal grounds) was a formal grid of streets along which were clustered closely-packed Victorian homes. The scene has changed little over the past 140 years. A passage from The Commercial and Statistical Review of Little Rock Arkansas (1863) provides a description of residential neighborhoods in the city:

"The streets are broad and are bordered on either side with handsome shade trees, while lovely cottages and splendid residences greet the eye on every hand. The cottages are. . . nestled each among the trees and flowering plants. . . with pretty verandas and tastefully corniced gables, smiling through the leaves in bright clean dress. . . The more stately residences and their private park surroundings express the highest development of art and culture."⁹

This quote not only provides a picturesque description of the city's residential neighborhoods, but also makes a fundamental statement about the social patterns which existed in the neighborhoods of the MacArthur Park Historic District. Simply put, the city was still rural, but informal enough to accept the people of different classes living within the confines of one neighborhood. The scale of houses in the MacArthur Park Historic District ranges from large, two-story Queen Anne mansions to small Victorian and vernacular cottages. Occupationally, banker and baker could be found living on the same block. Socially, descendants of the town's founding fathers would live next to German immigrants and ex-Union men.¹⁰ The area in the MacArthur Park Historic District, as a whole, formed a neighborhood that represented a variety of occupational and social classes.

The one-story, wood frame Cook House at 605 E. Sixth Street was erected by 1873 and is an example of a vernacular cottage with a centered Greek Revival style porch. The occupation of Mr. Cook reflects the increasing variety of services found in Little Rock as it evolved into a city—he was the town's first full-time undertaker.

One of the numerous remaining houses which date from the last quarter of the nineteenth century is the Villa Marre, individually listed in the National Register 6-15-70. It is a two-story, richly-detailed, Second Empire home, built in 1881 at 1321 Scott Street by Angelo Marre, an active member of one of Little Rock's most promising professions, saloon keeping. Today the fully restored Villa Marre is privately owned, but for many years was home to the Quapaw Quarter Association, a local historic preservation advocacy organization.

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The Robert Butler House is a small Victorian cottage at 609 Rock Street which was built by printer Robert Butler in 1888. In 1889 a magnificent Queen Anne mansion was built by cotton planter and gin owner Frederick Hanger on Scott Street. In contrast just a block away, two small rent houses were constructed at 604 and 608 East Sixth in the early 1890s. "While pivotal structures tend to survive," quoting noted preservationist Dr. William J. Murtagh, "their sense of time and place is lost if the lesser, connecting, average or anonymous historical structures are destroyed."¹¹

The MacArthur Park Historic District experienced its maximum period of development as a residential district around the year 1900. At the same time, Little Rock was rapidly expanding to the south and west of the MacArthur Park neighborhood. The newer residential areas, such as the track housing located south of the MacArthur Park area and the large homes in the Governor's Mansion Historic District (National Register 9-13-78) being built to the west of the neighborhood surrounding MacArthur Park, were characterized by a more clear-cut delineation based along economic and class lines.

The hilly country to the west of Little Rock, known as Pulaski Heights, was opened for development in 1892, beginning the further westward expansion of the city. Eventually, the MacArthur Park neighborhood was overshadowed by new residential neighborhoods. Shifts in socio-economic patterns in downtown Little Rock in the late 1950s began an era of decline and neglect in the MacArthur Park neighborhood. As a result little development occurred in the area, although a large number of the buildings remained occupied. To survive the decline in the area, many of the large homes were divided into apartments.

Interstate-30 was constructed through Little Rock in the early 1960s. It runs north/south along the eastern portion of the MacArthur Park Historic District. Not only did the new four-lane highway isolate the MacArthur Park neighborhood from a historic sister neighborhood which lies to the east of the Interstate, but it destroyed the continuous harmonious historic residential atmosphere in the area east of MacArthur Park. Commercial development at the exits on I-30 began in the late 1960s. A small pocket of buildings constructed at the E. Ninth Street exit contains a gas station, and signature-style Waffle House and Pizza Hut.

While the neighborhood surrounding MacArthur Park has experienced major changes since 1960 through the construction of two interstate highways, the majority of its fabric remains intact. In the 1960s two high-rise apartment buildings were built in the district. Their size, design and overall appearance make these apartments some of the few out-of-scale buildings in the neighborhood.

A proposal in 1971 to rezone the blocks surrounding MacArthur Park for commercial was unsuccessful. Julius Breckling, Director of Little Rock Parks and Recreation said in an article in the *Arkansas Gazette* on August 15, 1971, "MacArthur Park is one of Little Rock's most prized possessions culturally and historically. Without reservation it will increasingly become more important to our urban way of life."¹²

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An east/west cross town route first appeared as a concept in a master street plan and highway improvement for Little Rock in the early 1930s. However, the first contract was not awarded until 1964 and the first section of roadway was not opened until April 1969. The final section of Interstate 630 from Center Street to I-30 was dedicated and opened on September 30, 1985.¹³ This last portion cut through the southeastern section of the MacArthur Park Historic District. Although a two-block-wide band of housing was cleared, the completion of I-630 freeway gave Little Rock a major city appearance and provided for an increase in traffic and transport capacity and efficiency, badly needed for the city's continued growth. At the same time the destruction of historic houses for the construction of a modern highway brought the historic buildings it affected increased attention to Little Rock's downtown architectural heritage. Because the MacArthur Park Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and federal funds were being used for the construction of I-630, there was consideration given to detrimental effects on the area. Through much of downtown Little Rock, I-630 is recessed below street level with corrugated concrete side panels designed to minimize traffic sound. The mitigation in construction of I-630 through the MacArthur Park Historic District marked the first use in Arkansas of the National Register of Historic Places as a tool for protection of historic resources.

Another blow to the integrity and continuity of the historic areas of downtown Little Rock came on January 23, 1999, in the form of an F-3 tornado. This storm moved through the historic residential sections of downtown Little Rock. In the MacArthur Park Historic District, the high winds destroyed and damaged homes across the southeastern edge of the district. Where possible, damaged homes were repaired and renovated. But some structures were badly damaged or there was not enough left to repair. All that remained were vacant lots, empty holes in the neighborhood.

New construction beginning in 2011 is particularly evident in the southern edge of the district where five new homes have been constructed. Four of the new homes are an eclectic modern design. Other new buildings in the district are similar in scale, materials and with elements of their surround historic buildings.

Since the MacArthur Park Historic District was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, appreciation and support for historic properties has grown in Little Rock. Communication has been the key factor in transforming the attitudes of private citizens, business, and governmental interests from that of apathy to one of burgeoning preservation consciousness. The leading voice for historic preservation in Little Rock has been the Quapaw Quarter Association, Formed in 1961, "the basic purpose of the Quapaw Quarter Association is to encourage restoration and preservation of architecturally significant structures."¹⁴

The Quapaw Quarter Association has for a number of years publicized the preservation of historic Little Rock through a newsletter, has presented special plaques to buildings which exhibit outstanding architectural or historical character and presents the annual Spring Tour in historic neighborhoods throughout Little Rock. The Little Rock City Board of Directors voted to create a local ordinance historic district with authority to establish a historic district that exactly covers the same area as the MacArthur Park Historic District National

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Register of Historic Places listing. The Commission's design review process ensures that physical changes in the district are compatible to the historic and architectural character of the buildings and historic district as a whole.

Throughout the MacArthur Park Historic District historic buildings have been adapted to house the offices of many Little Rock professionals. Individual citizens are continuously undertaking private restoration projects in the district. The size and uniqueness of the homes in the area, an interest in the historic preservation and restoration of houses, and the idea of developing a downtown community are some of the factors which have drawn dozens of "urban homesteaders" into the MacArthur Park neighborhood.¹⁵ By the early 21st century the neighborhood surrounding MacArthur Park had become a thriving area and commercial and residential development continues.

The variety of architecture found in the MacArthur Park Historic District and the abundance of lush green open spaces is accessible enough to invite personal involvement. Intertwined with the history of 19th century Little Rock, the MacArthur Park Historic District physically reflects the social patterns of earlier generations and slower times.

In terms of significant historic structures, less significant but historic buildings, and important historic landscape features link the various styles and building types throughout the neighborhood, unsurpassed in Arkansas for uniqueness, age, and visual continuity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The National Register of Historic Places registration form for the MacArthur Park Historic District, originally listed on 7-25-77, is being revised and updated under Criteria A and C with state significance. In addition to its strong sense of time and place conveyed through the wide array of architectural styles, the MacArthur Park Historic District is a significant representation of the history of the building and development of Arkansas's capital city.

(Footnotes)

¹ Roy, F. Hampton, Sr., and Charles Witsell, Jr., with Cheryl Nichols. *How We Lived: Little Rock As An American City*. Little Rock: August House, 1984, p. 52.

² "Arkansas Arts Center," *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. Found at <http://encyclopediaofarkansas.net>, accessed 5 April 2014.

³ Ross, Margaret, ed. "The Quapaw Line and Little Rock of the 1800s," *Gazette*, 30 March 1959, p. 4A.

⁴ Lester, Jim, and Judy Lester. *Greater Little Rock*. Norfolk, VA: The Donning Company, 1986, p. 20.

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⁵ Dr. Ira Don Richards is the source used in this article for economic interpretation of Little Rock's development, see, "Story of a Rivertown; Little Rock in the Nineteenth Century," Little Rock: Ira Don Richards, 1969.

⁶ Roy, F. Hampton, Sr., and Charles Witsell, Jr., with Cheryl Nichols. *How We Lived: Little Rock As An American City*. Little Rock: August House, 1984, p. 21.

⁷ 1887 pictorial "Map of Little Rock," Little Rock; Gazette Printing Company.

⁸ Dr. Nichols' statement about: the Lincoln House was made during a tour of Little Rock's historic neighborhoods on January 24, 1976.

⁹ *Commercial and Statistical Review of Little Rock, Arkansas*, Little Rock: Reilly and Thomas, compilers and publishers, 1883.

¹⁰ The source for this information was the street by street survey found in The Quapaw Quarter; A Guide to Little Rock's 19th Century Neighborhoods. Little Rock; The Quapaw Quarter Association, 1976.

¹¹ William J. Murtagh, "Aesthetic and Social Dimensions of Historic Districts," Historic Districts, Washington: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1975, p.9.

¹² James Reed Eison, "MacArthur Park Then and Now", *Pulaski County Historical Review*, Volume XXXII, Fall 1984, p. 51-56.

¹³ Arkansas State Highway Commission, *Arkansas Highways Winter 1985*, Winter 31, Number 4, pp. 8-9

¹⁴ Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, March-April, 1976, p. 2.

¹⁵ "Trend of the Times, Migration to Downtown Little Rock," Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, March-April, 1974, p.4.

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UTM REFERENCES

- 5) 15 566663E 3843680N
- 6) 15 566762E 3844461N

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the MacArthur Park Historic District begins at the intersection of E. Capitol Avenue and Ferry Street. It runs south along Ferry Street to its intersection with E. 9th Street. At this point, the boundary turns and runs east along E. 9th Street to McGowan Street where it runs south along McGowan to 13th Street where it turns and runs west for one block to McMath Avenue. From 13th and McMath, the district runs south to 16th Street where it turns west for two blocks to Bragg Street. At Bragg Street the district turns north for one block to 15th Street and turns to run west from 15th Street to the alley between Scott and Main Streets. The western boundary of the district runs north along the alley between Scott and Main Streets from 15th Street to E. 9th Street. At this point the boundary turns and runs east to Cumberland Street where it then turns and runs north to E. Capitol Avenue. At E. Capitol Avenue, the boundary turns to runs east to its intersection with Ferry Street.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The area that comprises the MacArthur Park Historic District contains some of the oldest extant buildings in Little Rock. The district is a cohesive group of primarily residential buildings built from the 1840s through the 1950s. The centerpiece of the district is MacArthur Park, a 39-acre city park containing the National Historic Landmark Little Rock Arsenal Building. A major interstate highway borders the district on its east and another runs through the southern portion of the area. Although these major traffic corridors have disrupted the historic continuity of some areas in the district, as a whole the MacArthur Park Historic District maintains a high degree of integrity.

LITTLE ROCK QUADRANGLE ARKANSAS 7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

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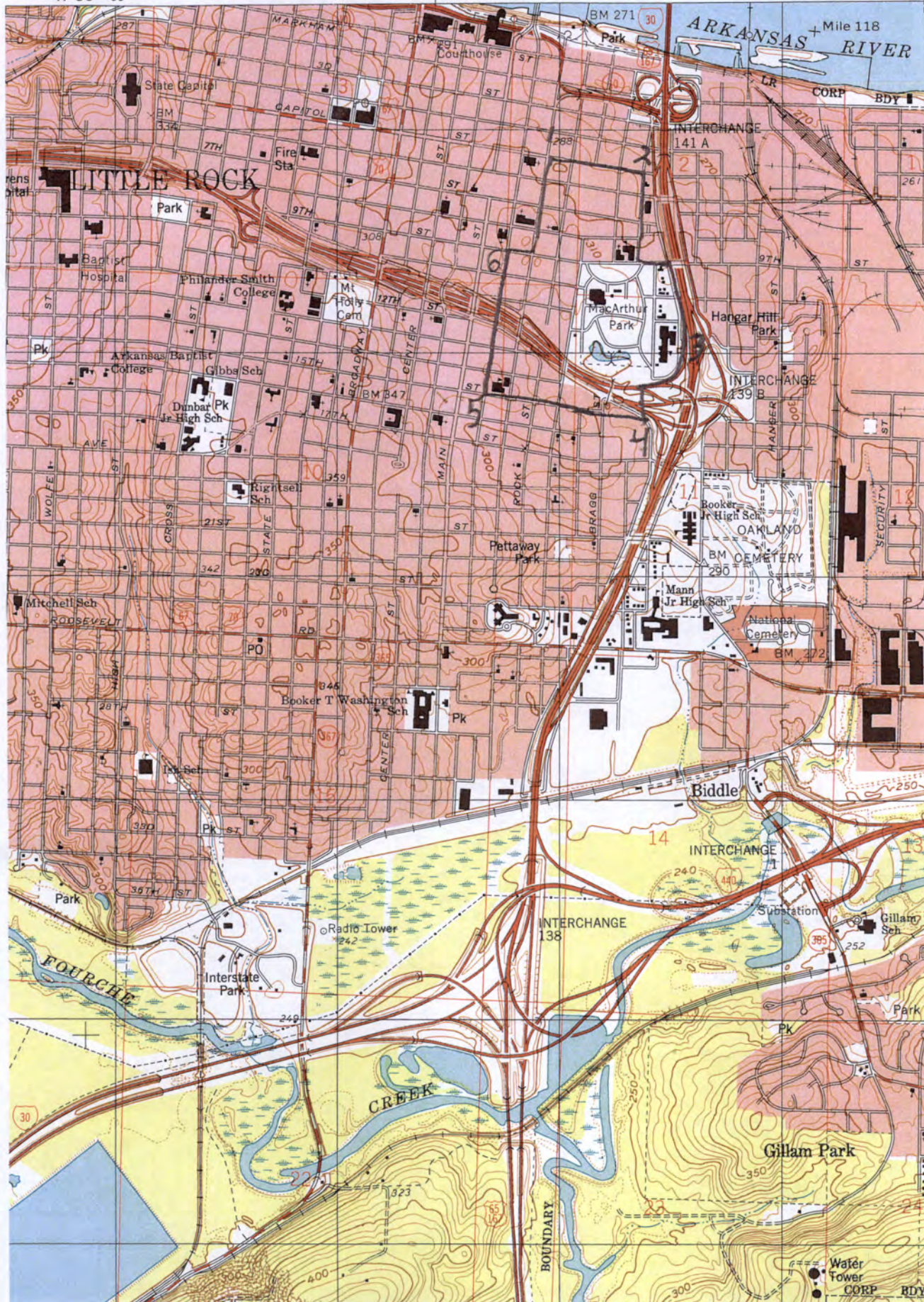
96°

1 230 000 FEET 96°57'

96°58'

92°15' W

34°45' N
2 070 000 FEET



MacArthur Park
Historic District
Little Rock, Arkansas
45 AR
with references
1) 15/566942/384480
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5) 15/566663/384363
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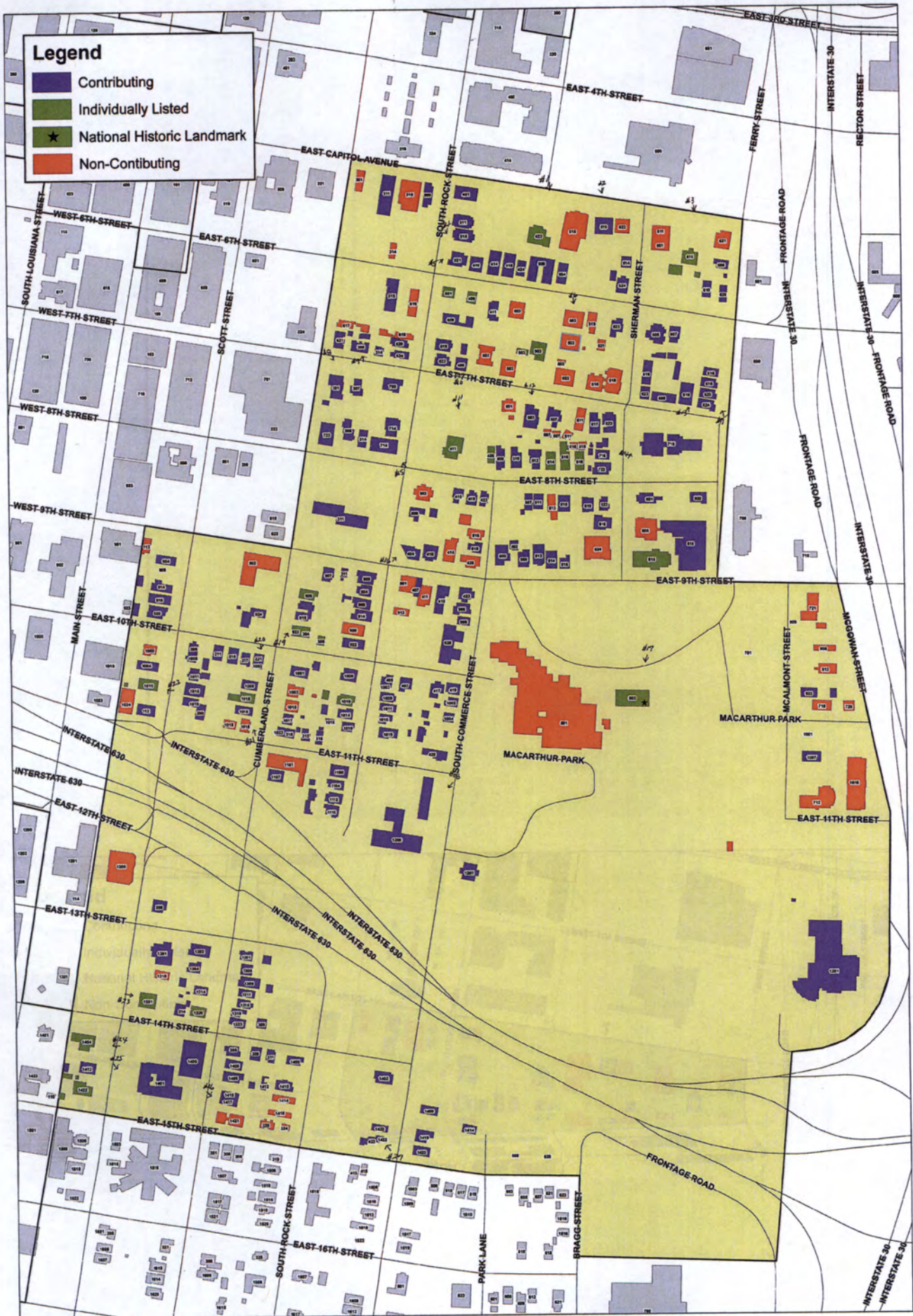
34°44'

34°43'

34°42'

42°30' N

34°40'



Contributing and Non-Contributing Structures
MacArthur Park National Register Historic District
Little Rock, Arkansas



This map was prepared under contract by the Planning and Development Department of the City of Little Rock, Arkansas. It is based on data provided by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Commission and the National Register of Historic Places. The map is for informational purposes only and does not constitute a legal document. For more information, contact the Planning and Development Department at (501) 325-1234.

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