

NRListed 7/20/92

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Walker Homestead Historic District

other name/site number: Resource #WH1545

2. Location

street & number: County Road 56

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Garner

vicinity: X

state: AR county: White

code: AR 145

zip code: 72052

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: District

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>6</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u>2</u>	<u> </u> sites
<u>8</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> objects
	<u>0</u> Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Cathryn A. Buford
Signature of certifying official

6-24-92
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined eligible for the
National Register

_____ See continuation sheet.

_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register

_____ removed from the National Register

_____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date
of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic:	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
	<u>Agriculture</u>		<u>Subsistence</u>
	<u>Processing</u>		<u>Storage</u>
Current :	<u>Domestic</u>	Sub:	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
	<u>Agriculture</u>		<u>Subsistence</u>
	<u>Processing</u>		<u>Storage</u>

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Other: Dogtrot

I-House

=====

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation Stone: Sandstone roof Metal: Steel
walls Wood: Weatherboard other Brick
Wood: Log

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

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

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1850-1930

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

See "Historic and Architectural Resources of White County, Arkansas," Section H.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # _____

☐ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property _____

UTM References

A

Zone	Easting	Northing
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B

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

C

Zone	Easting	Northing
------	---------	----------

D

Zone	Easting	Northing
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☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

☒ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jill Bayles, Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 22 March, 1990

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

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

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Description

While the structures and landscape features found at the Walker Homestead are a diverse group they are all representative of the evolution of a typical White County homestead from the Development Era, through the Railroad Era, and into the Boom and Bust Era. This district is located on the south side of County Road 56 approximately one mile east of State Road 267. The eight resources located within the boundaries of the approximately eight acre district are all considered to be contributing. Standing structures within the district include the William Walker, Sr. House, Billy Walker House, commissary building, tenant house, cotton seed barn, and cotton gin. Landscape features include the remains of a potato barn and an iron fence around the Billy Walker House.

William Walker, Sr. House (#1)

The William Walker, Sr. House was the first building to be built by the Walker family at this site. It was initially constructed c. 1850. Before a second pen and open hallway were added to form a dog-trot, the original building was one-story tall, square in shape, gable roofed, and constructed of hand-hewn logs. All of the original logs are 18' 1.5" in length, are square notched, and chinked with hand-rived horizontal battens. Even though this house was built c. 1850 and is presently unoccupied, it is still in fair condition. The building's original entrance faces north toward County Road 56.

Two four-over-four double-hung sash windows are located on the west elevation of the original pen. The lower portion of this side has been clad with board and batten while the upper portion is covered with weatherboard. A 9' 2.75" hall (originally open, but now enclosed) is located on the east elevation of the original pen. The exterior of the enclosed hall is clad with novelty siding and is relieved by a double door which is situated east of center. This hall is attached to another square log pen which was added at a later time. This pen is constructed of logs which are 18' long, chinked with hand-rived horizontal boards and joined with half-dovetail notching. The north elevation of this pen is relieved by a paired window from which all sash has been destroyed.

A brick chimney is located at the gable end of the east elevation, with weatherboarding covering the upper portion. Both gable roofs of this building are now covered with corrugated steel. The remnants of a double-hung sash window are the pen's only openings on its south elevation. A single square, board and batten, pen is attached to the south elevation of the original pen. The only windows in this pen are located on the south elevation and in both cases all sash has been

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removed. An interior end metal flue is located at the apex of the gable. The east and west elevations of this room are each relieved by a single door. The door on the east elevation opens onto a deteriorated shed roof porch which extends the length of this side of the building and continues across the full length of the enclosed hall. A single door, which is located west of center in the enclosed hall, also opens onto this porch. Only one simple wooden post is left to support the porch roof. The entire structure rests on a pier foundation which consists of both stones and wooden blocks.

Billy Walker House (#2)

The Billy Walker House is approximately one hundred and fifty feet northeast of the William Walker, Sr. House. Constructed c. 1900, the Billy Walker House is an example of a vernacular house with Greek Revival details. It is still in good condition. The original portion of the building is two-stories tall, single-pile with central hall, and has a one-story rear ell wing. The building is built of balloon frame construction clad with weatherboard. Its main facade, which faces south, is dominated by a two-story porch which stretches across three-quarters of the building. It has a shed roof from which a central, bracket-supported, triangular pediment rises. Six box columns with simple capitals support each of the porch floors. A centrally placed side-gable door leads provides access to each of the porches.

Facade fenestration consists of symmetrically placed two-over-two double-hung sash windows. The west elevation of the two-story portion of the building is relieved only by two-over-two double-hung sash windows and gable returns. Continuing along this elevation towards the north is the western side of the rear ell. A large stucco clad chimney separates the main block of the building from this wing. The side-gable entrance found on this wing is crowned by a shed roofed stoop which was a later addition. This entrance is located slightly north of center and is flanked by paired windows. While the windows north of the door are similar in light arrangement to ones found on the south elevation, the other windows are four-over-four double-hung sash windows. Fenestration on the north elevation of the ell consists of two double-hung sash windows which have different light arrangements. One has four-over-four sash while the other has two-over-two sash. Only one gable return is left on this side of the building; the other was removed when a porch was enclosed. This original porch was located on the east elevation of the rear ell. It has a shed roof, modern aluminum sash windows, and has been clad with novelty siding.

Extending from the north elevation of the two-story portion of the house is a shed roof room which has a paired two-over-two double-hung sash window on its east elevation. Slightly north

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of these windows is an exterior chimney which has been covered with stucco and the age of which is therefore impossible to determine. Attached to the north elevation of this room is another shed roof room which was probably a porch originally but which has since been enclosed and clad with novelty siding. It is adorned with modern aluminum sash windows and an aluminum screen door which provides access to the north elevation of the room. The roofline has exposed wooden rafters. The east elevation of the two-story portion of the building is similar to the west elevation opposite in that it has two-over-two double-hung sash windows and gable returns. There is, however, a stucco clad interior end chimney present. The entire roof of the building is covered with composition shingles and the entire structure rests on a brick pier foundation.

Commissary Building (#3)

Approximately thirty feet northwest of the Billy Walker House is the Commissary Building which was probably constructed at the same time. It is a one-story, shotgun style building, two room deep and of box construction. It is clad with board and batten siding. It is currently unoccupied and is in fair condition. This gable roofed building has been covered with corrugated metal. A brick chimney rises out of the building's interior on the gable's eastern slope.

The entire building sits on a stone pier foundation. The door on the building's south elevation is flanked by four-over-four double-hung sash windows. A shed roofed porch extends the length of this original section of the structure and is supported by simple wooden posts. The windows on the west elevation of the building are similar to ones found on the south elevation. A centrally placed door on the structure's north elevation opens onto a shed roof porch which extends across three-quarters of the original portion of the building. Like the porch at the opposite end of the building it too was supported by simple wooden posts. Only one, however, survives on this porch. A shed roof addition extends the length of the structure's east elevation. A single four-over-four double-hung sash window adorns the south elevation of the addition while two four-pane pocket windows are situated on the east elevation.

Cotton Seed Barn (#4)

The Cotton Seed Barn is located approximately one hundred and ten feet northwest of the Commissary Building. While its floorplan is irregular in shape, it is covered by a single corrugated metal gable roof. This one-and-a-half-story building is of frame construction covered with board and batten siding. Side drives extend the length of both the east and west elevations.

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The east drive, however, has been partially enclosed. What was possibly originally a central drive has been partially filled in with the addition of a single door. The building does not have any other openings. It was constructed c. 1915 and is in fair condition.

Cotton Gin Building (#5)

A Cotton Gin is located approximately sixty feet northwest of the Cotton Seed Barn. It was built c. 1930, and has experienced the ravages of time; it is greatly deteriorated. The western third of the structure has been demolished and the interior has been gutted. The exterior of the structure is clad with corrugated metal and is supported by wood frame construction which rests on a brick pier foundation. A shed roofed addition is attached to the north elevation of the building. The entire east elevation of the main portion of the structure is open although this was probably not original.

Tenant House (#6)

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The surviving Tenant House is located approximately eight hundred feet west of the William Walker, Sr. House. It is heavily overgrown and in fair condition. This one-story, side-gable with corrugated metal roof building was originally clad with weatherboarding and constructed c. 1910. Some of this has been replaced with novelty siding. Originally, two brick interior end chimneys rose from the gable peak. The eastern chimney, however, has been replaced by a metal flue.

This single pile with central hall building rests on stone piers. A shed roof porch, supported by a single remaining wooden post, stretches three-quarters of the length of the building's north elevation. The door leading into the central hall is flanked by single four-over-four double-hung sash windows. One of the east elevation windows on the original portion of the structure has been covered over but the other is fenestrated like those on the building's north elevation. A shed roof, box construction addition extends the length of the structure's south elevation. The window on the east elevation of the addition is similar to the ones on the east side of the building's main block. A shed roof, rear half-porch extends from the center of the building westward. Its roof is supported by three simple posts. A paired pocket window is located on the west elevation of the box addition. North of this and located on the main portion of the building is a single four-over-four double-hung sash window.

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Potato House Foundations

Approximately fifty feet east of the William Walker, Sr. House is the cast concrete foundation of a potato barn. The building was originally approximately one hundred feet long and forty feet wide and oriented north-south.

Cast Iron Fence

A cast iron fence is located approximately twenty feet south of the Billy Walker House. It also extends along both the east and west elevations of the house. The fence was made by the Stewart Iron Works.

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The William B. Walker Homestead survives as one of the few intact farmsteads the buildings and layout of which reveal the typical evolution of an early White County farm as it adapted to the changing technologies and social conditions that shaped such larger rural farming enterprises into the twentieth century. As such, it is eligible under both Criterion A through its associations with those broader changes in local farming practices and the evolution of that industry, and under Criterion C as an intact and representative example of the building types and overall farm layout that attended the full course of that evolution.

Elaboration

The records of the United States Land Office (originally deposited in Little Rock, now on file at the White County Courthouse) reveal that William Brown Walker received his first parcels of land within Section 32, Township 7 North, Range 7 West on June 23, 1841 via Choctaw Certificate No. 967. His gravestone (within the Gum Springs Cemetery, located approximately two-and-one-half miles to the northeast) reveals a birthdate of May 25, 1811, which would make him thirty years of age by 1841. William Walker came to Arkansas from Fayette County, Tennessee, the 1840 census records of which reveal him to have living in his household two additional males (the oldest of which was between 10 and 15 years of age, and thus could have been a son) and two women, the youngest of which was between 15 and 20 years of age, and was probably a younger sister. However, the 1850 census records for Fayette County reveal a family of five males and two females, revealing the speed with which his family was growing and the fact that though he had obtained title to the property in White County, Arkansas, he had yet to move his family from Tennessee. Thus it is known that he settled in White County after 1850 and that he brought an extended family of at least seven other members with him when he settled this property.

It is thus not surprising to assume that he would have constructed a large, log single pen residence for himself and his family by 1850. This vernacular building type was common throughout Arkansas as the preferred residential structure for early settlers of European cultural background emigrating from the Southern states to the east, and especially from the mountainous regions of such states as Kentucky, Virginia and Tennessee. This structure itself would reveal the standard evolution of this building type, with the later addition of the eastern pen (also log) and the dog-trot, a frame kitchen ell to the rear, and the later enclosure of the dog-trot to create an extra room. It appears that the family used this building continuously as their sole residence until the construction of the much larger frame residence across the road c. 1900.

It was the building campaign of 1900 that fully reveals the increasing fortunes and prosperity

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of the Walker family. Their success in the growing of cotton resulted in the construction of a large, two-story wood frame residence across the county road from the earlier, more modest, single-story log structure, a cotton gin on the property and an adjacent cotton barn for storage. The new house, with its full-length, two-story front porch, two-over-two wood sash windows and residual Greek Revival details clearly manifests a far more ambitious attempt to create an architectural presence that bespeaks substantial financial success. The characteristically simple cotton processing and storage facilities also attest to this success, though the fact that the Walker family would invest in a cotton gin of their own also indicates their desire to control the costs and processing of all the cotton grown on the farm, a desire that became even more urgent by the situation that required the construction of the last two buildings.

The end of the slave economy, coupled with the growth and consolidation of smaller farms into the hands of more prosperous planters, gave birth to the tenant farming system, an institution founded on the idea of the landowner contracting with non-landholding farmers, or tenants, to farm a part of his property in exchange for a rent of some kind, usually a percentage of the tenant farmer's annual crop yield. This system tended to entrap the tenant farmers in a cycle of debt, partially through the tendency of Southern farmers to depend solely on a single crop -- cotton -- during the years after the Civil War and into the first quarter of the twentieth century, and hence to depend on the rising and falling prices of what soon became an international and turbulent cotton market. Of course, tenants were also frequently - though not always -- entrapped by landowners who abused the system in the name of seeking to protect the collection of the fees due them. The two principal ways in which this was done was by the erection of rental residences for the tenants and by the establishment of the institution that became known as the plantation store or commissary. The residences were rented to the tenants at a rate significantly lower than the tenant could obtain on the open market but at a rate high enough to keep him in debt to the landowner. The plantation store was owned and run by the landowner, and the tenants were able to purchase such farming equipment and supplies as plows, harnesses, tools, seed and fertilizer on credit, also to be charged against their annual crop yield. This system gave the landowner virtually total control over the tenants, allowing him to adjust the prices of both housing rent and supplies depending upon the quality of the growing season and the current market price for cotton, and always toward the end of keeping the tenants in enough debt that they would have to stay on and work another season to pay off what they owed. Both an original (c. 1910), architecturally-simple tenant residence and the equally functional commissary (c. 1900) survive on the property, and are included as an integral part of this district.

As such, all these structures both comprise a unit that is symbolic of the changes in the rural farming economy in this region during its period of significance and maintain their status individually as good representative examples of their particular architectural types. As such, the Walker Homestead Historic District is eligible under Criteria A and C.

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Acreage of property: Approximately eight

UTM References:

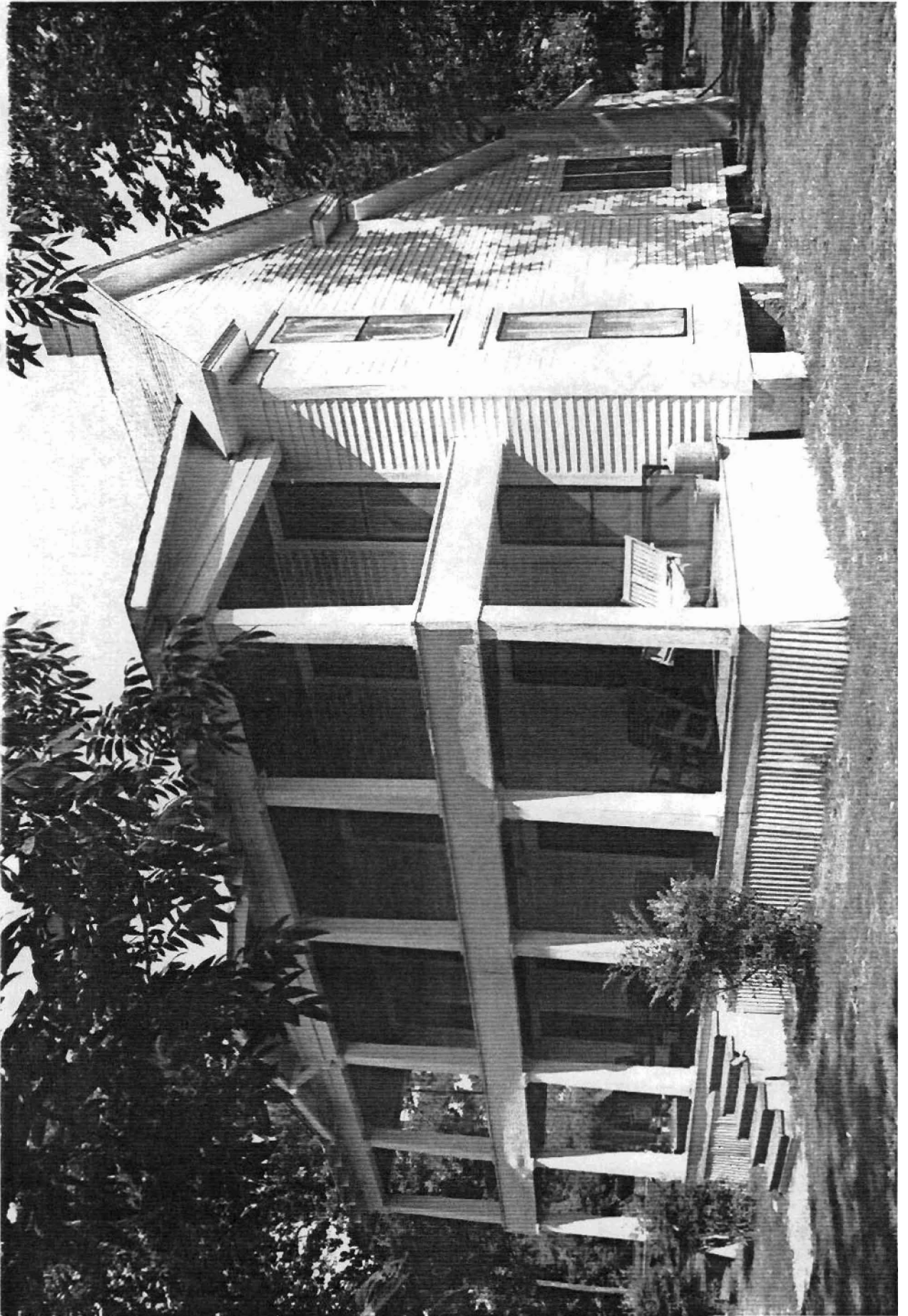
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C	15/611240/3894310	D	15/611250/3894420

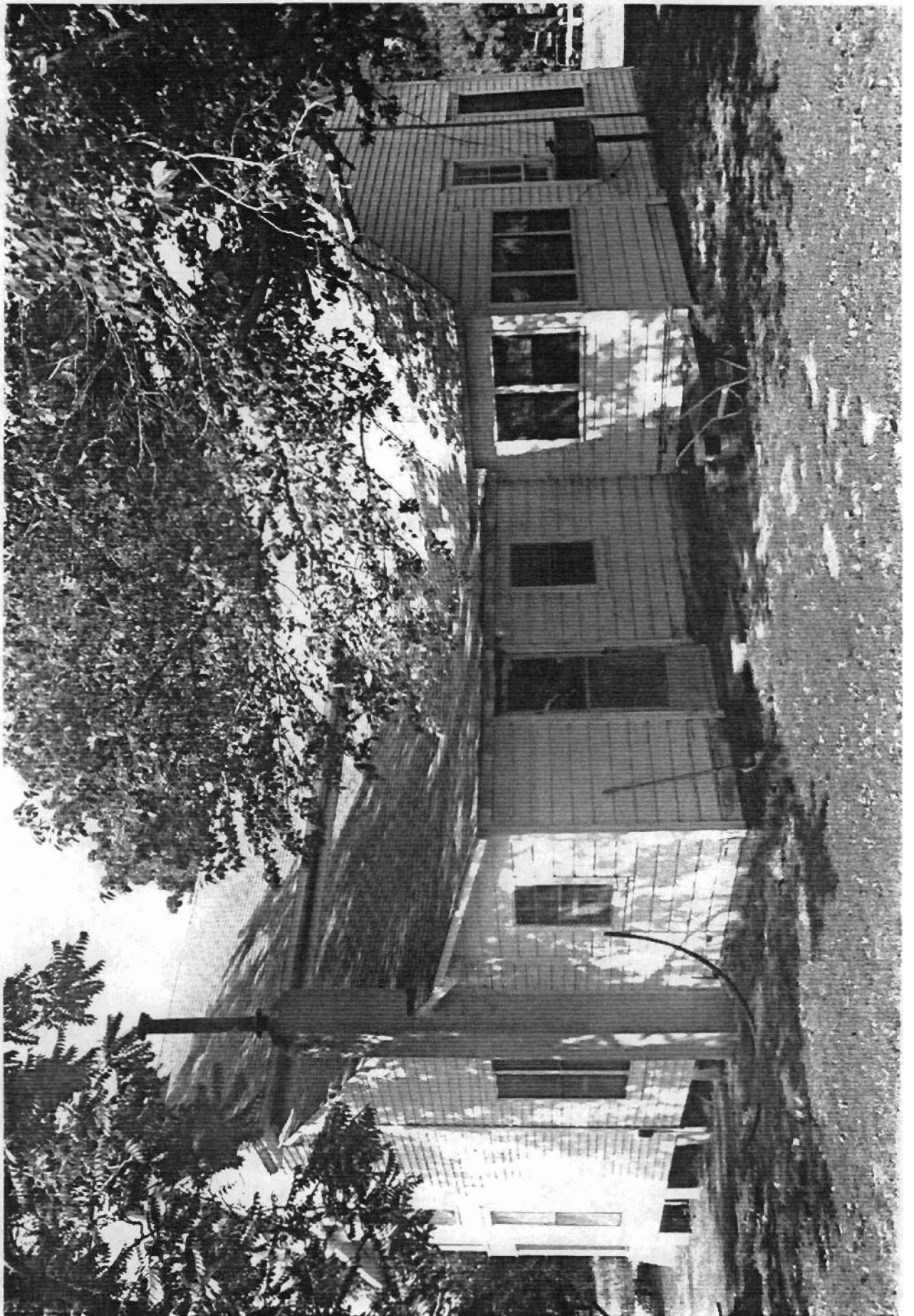
Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the point formed by the intersection of the southern edge of County Road #56 with a perpendicular line running parallel to the western elevation of the associated tenant house (#6) and located 25 feet to the west thereof, proceed southerly along said line for a distance of 275 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the southern elevation of the associated potato barn foundation; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of 1,050 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the eastern elevation of the Billy Walker House (#2); thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of 350 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the northern elevation of the associated cotton gin (#5); thence proceed westerly along said line for a distance of 1,050 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the western elevation of the associated tenant house; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of 45 feet to the point of beginning.

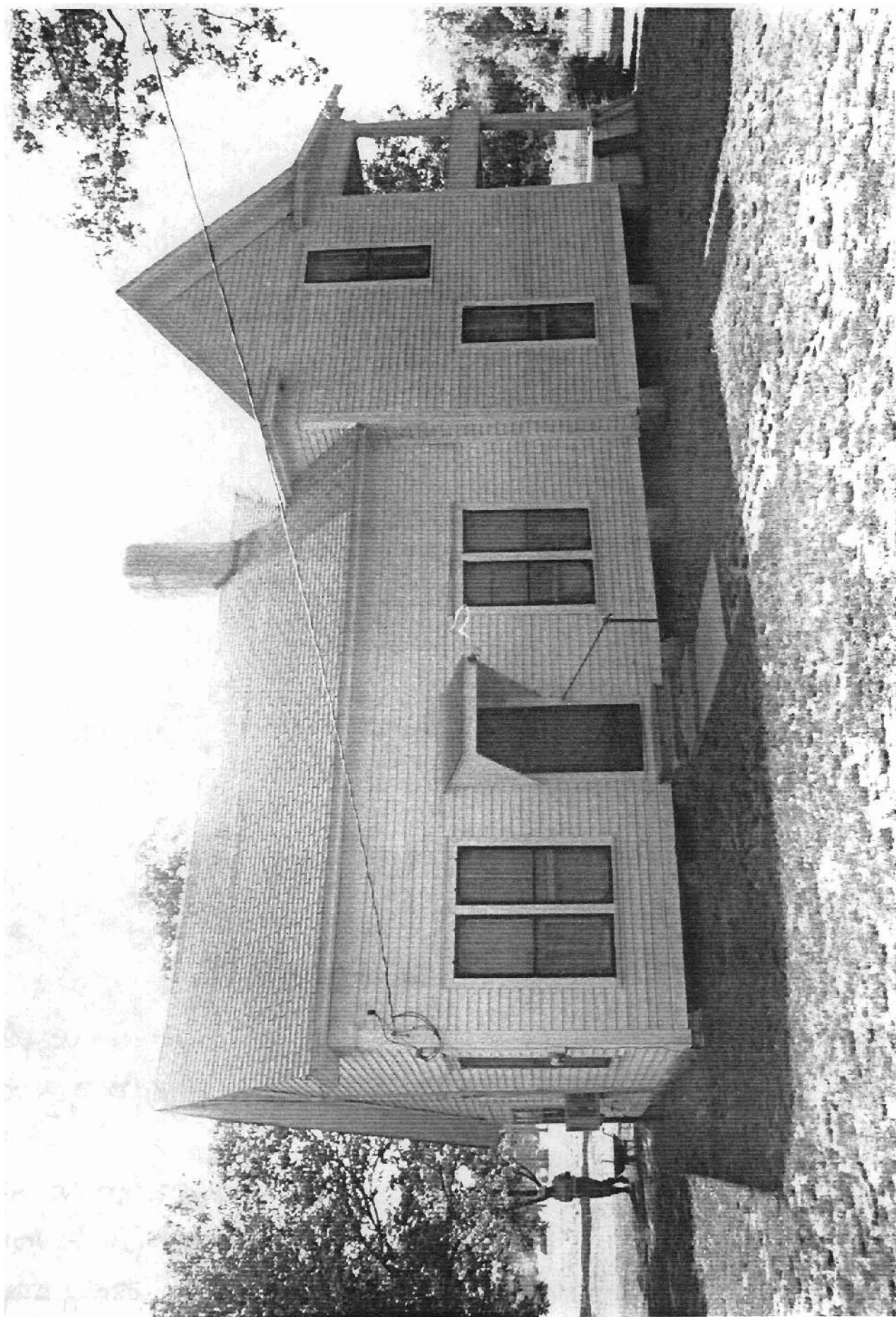
Boundary Justification:

This original lot has been subdivided during the non-historic period, resulting in an indefinite current lot boundary; therefore, this boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource that retains its integrity.

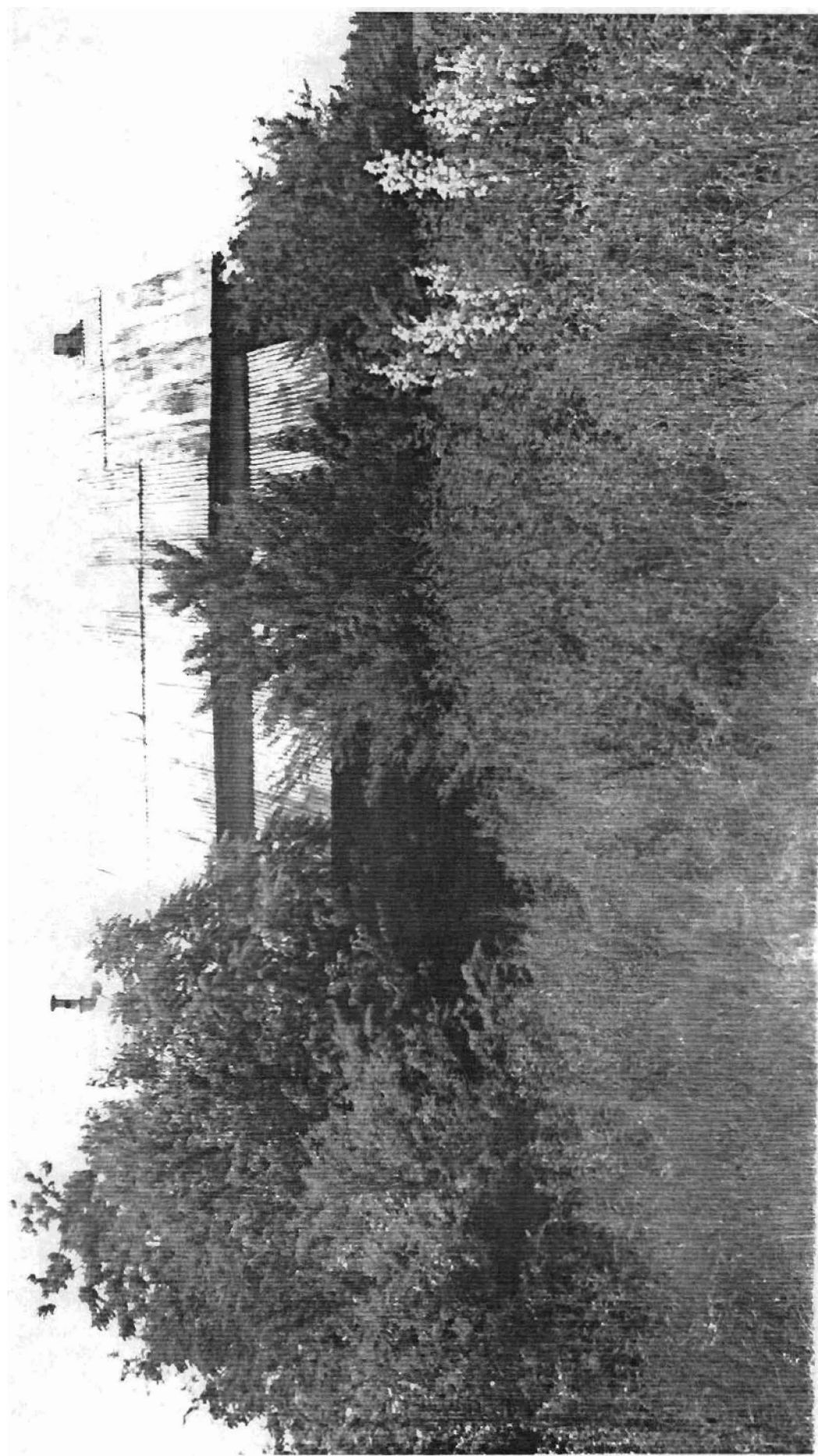
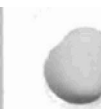
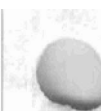








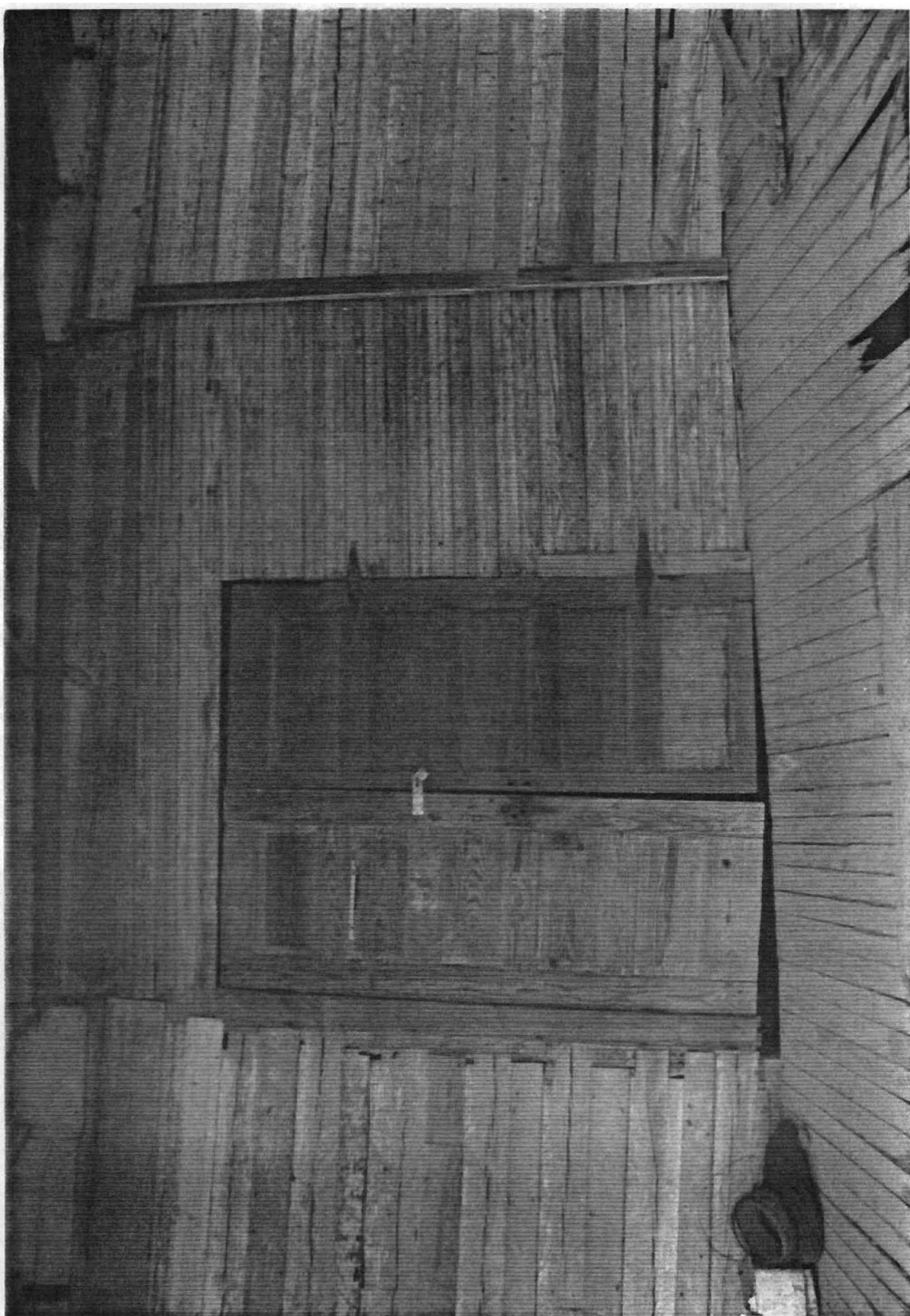


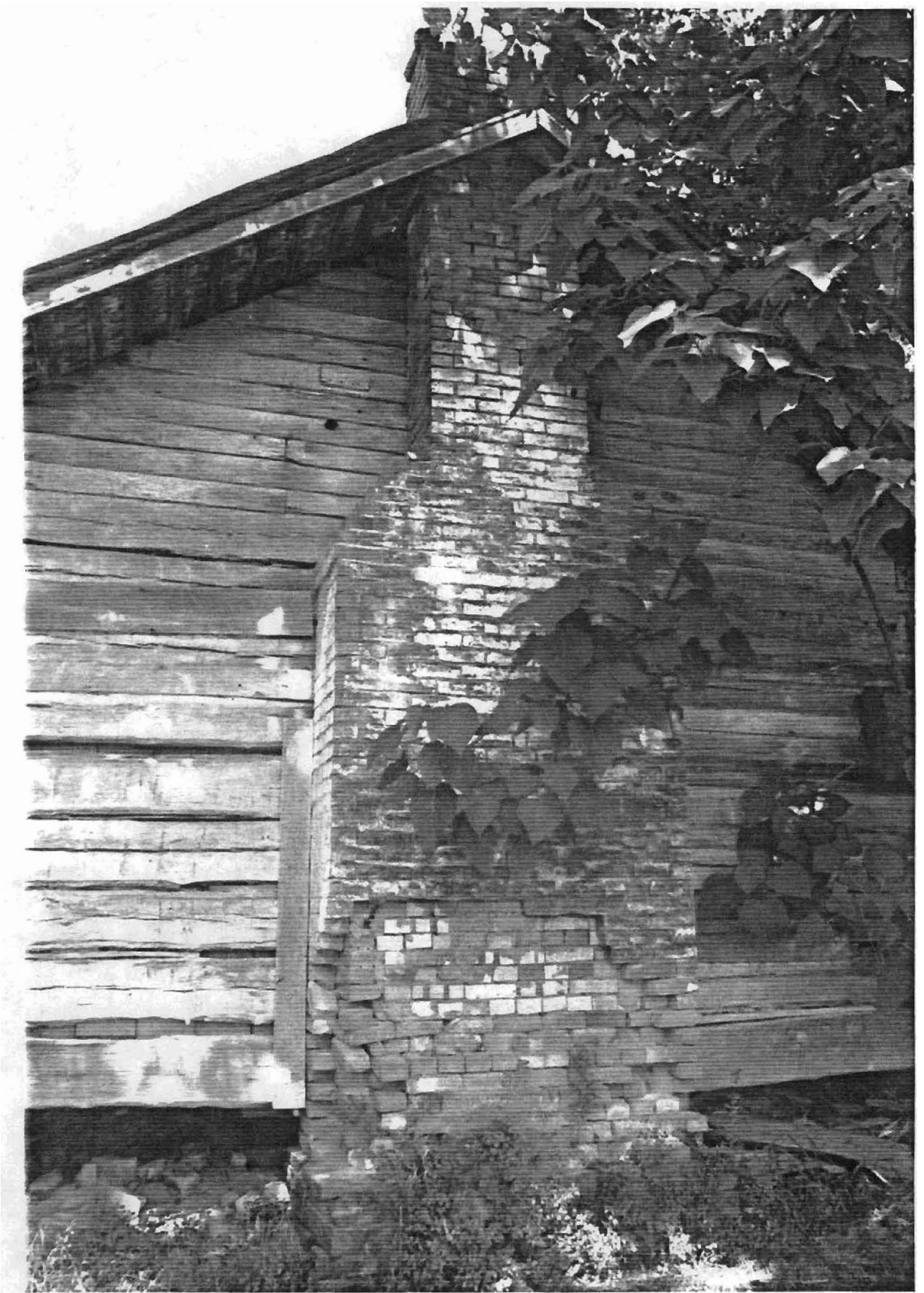


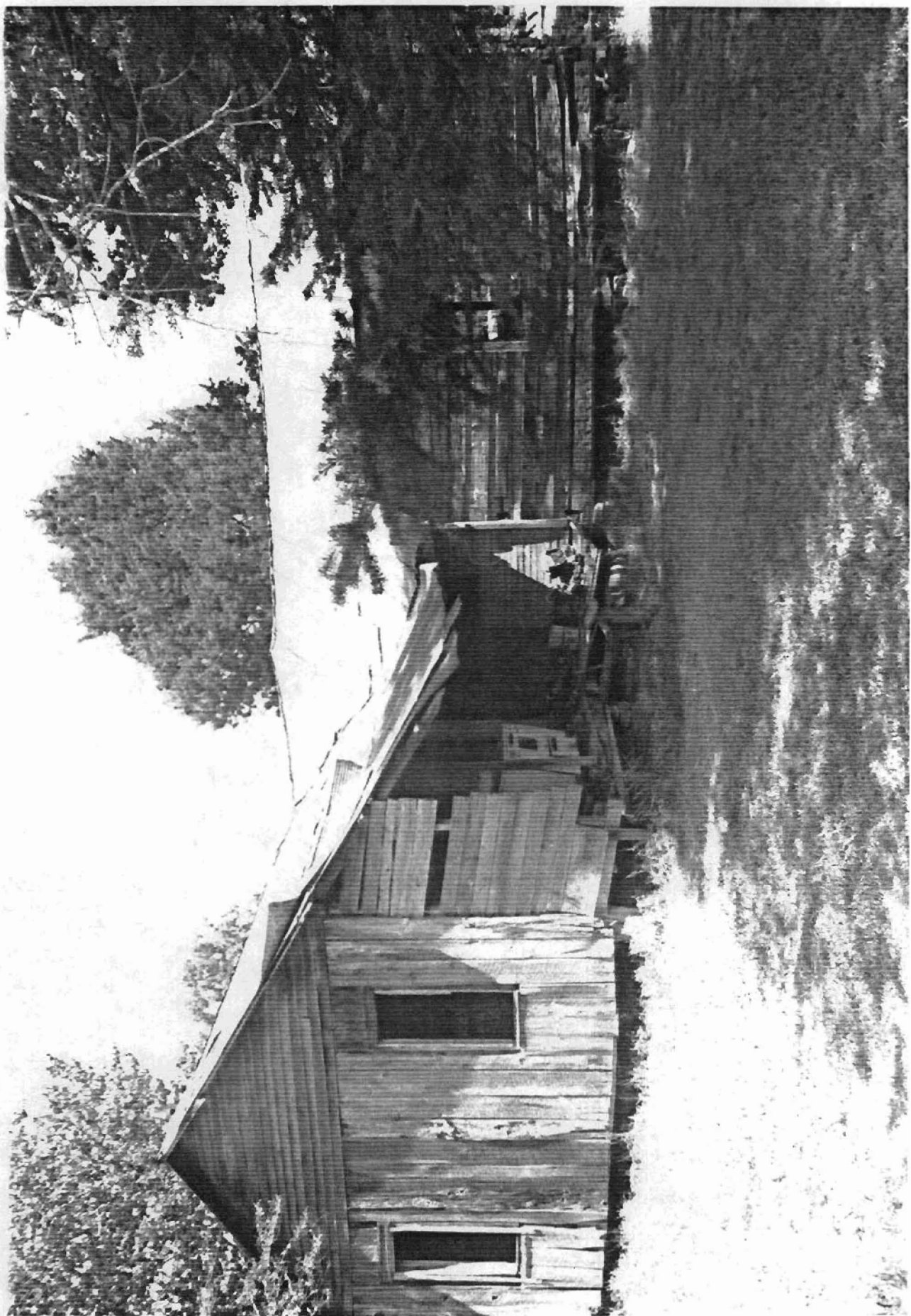






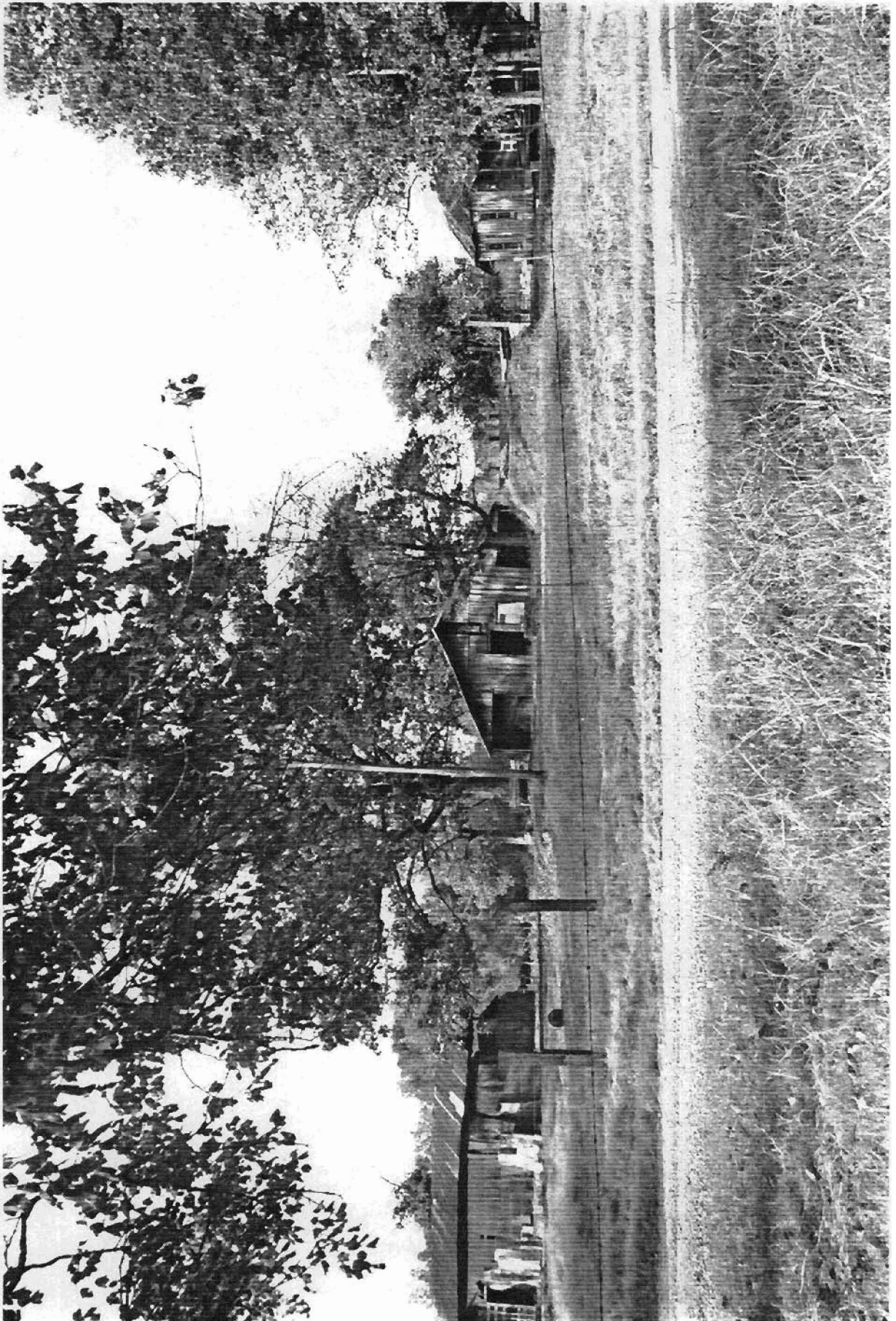




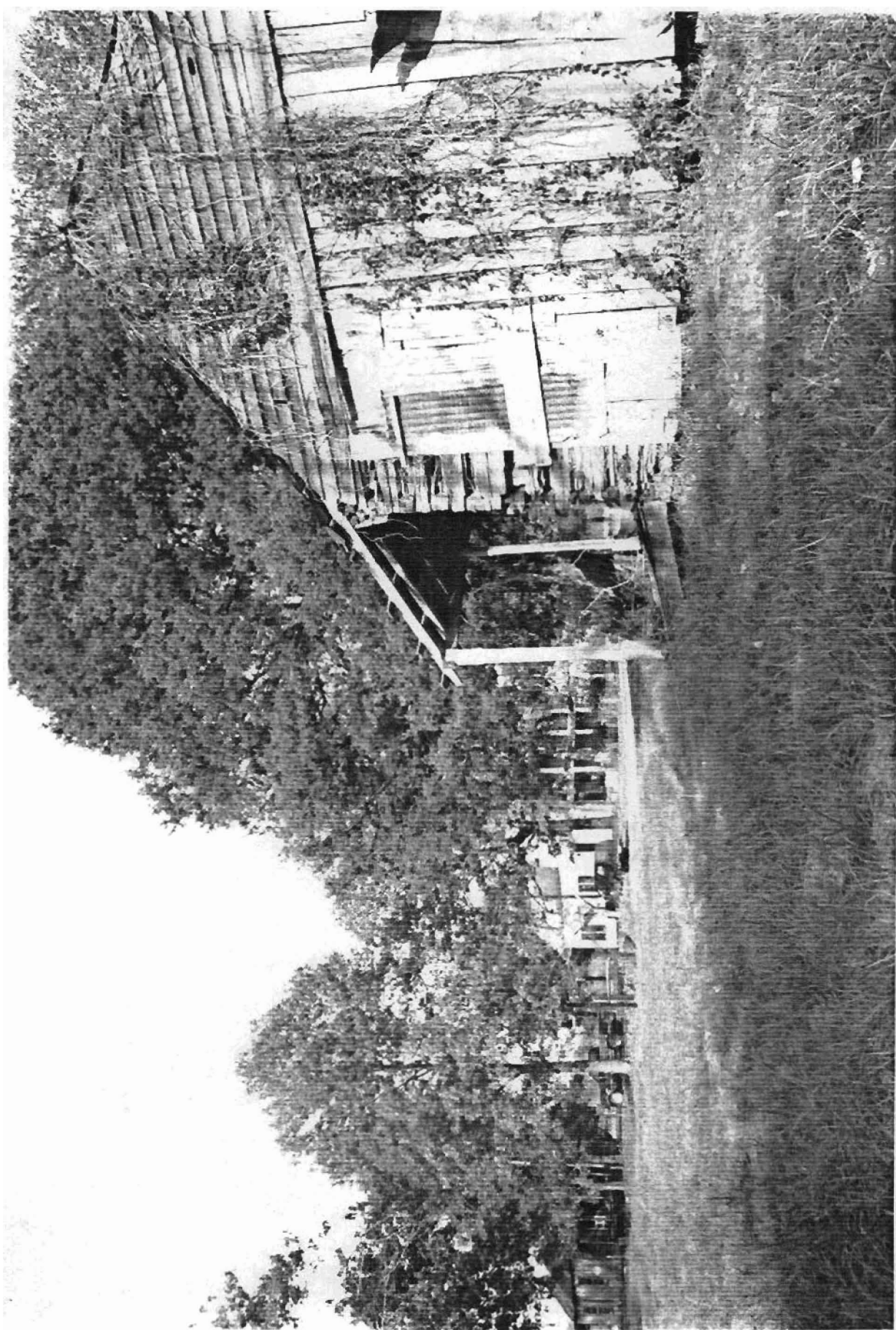




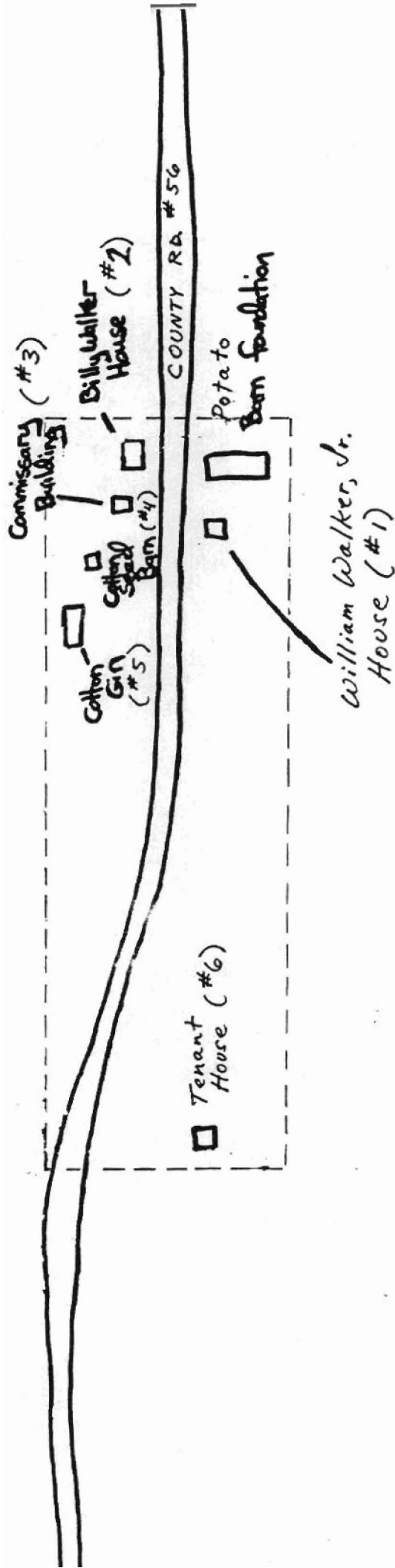








Walker Homestead Historic District
 Garner vic., Arkansas
 --- District Boundary
 Scale: 1" = 200'



NA



Historic and Architectural Resources
of White County, Arkansas
White County, Arkansas
Resource # WH1545

UTM A. 15/611580/3894420

B. 15/611580/3894300

C. 15/611240/3894310

D. 15/611250/3894420

Garner Quadrangle

1:24000

