

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee	
COUNTY: Fentress	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Sgt. York Historic Area (Representative Joe L. Evins)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Pall Mall

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 38577 COUNTY: Fentress CODE: 049

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Pall Mall STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Fentress County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Jamestown STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The small village of Pall Mall in the Cumberland Mountains of Tennessee is typical of the mountain towns of this area. It is unique in that it was the home of Sgt. Alvin C. York, hero of World War I. Located in the "Valley of the Three Forks of the Wolf River," Pall Mall was the home of York from his birth until his death, and the only time he spent away from there was during his service in the War. The Sgt. York Historic Area consists of several remaining sites and buildings associated with his life, described below. The numbers correspond to those on the attached USGS map.

(1) Francis Asbury Williams House. This three-room log and frame house was the birthplace of Gracie Williams, who was to become the wife of Sgt. York. It was here that York called upon Gracie during their courting days. The original one-room log portion was built shortly after 1800 by Francis A. Williams, great-grandfather of Gracie Williams and one of the earliest settlers in the valley. It is perhaps the oldest building remaining in Fentress County. The two-room frame addition was added in the late 1800's.

(2) John Frogge House. A two-story frame house with a stone chimney on either end, this house was built about 1850 by John Frogge, a lawyer and prominent citizen of the community. The house has a two story front porch, with the top story covered by clapboard on the ends. This was an important social center of the community because of its size, and because of Frogge's position as local lawyer. Because Pall Mall was located several miles from the county seat, Jamestown, which could only be reached with great difficulty over sometimes impassable mountain roads, county court sessions were held in the Frogge house from around 1850 to the 1920's. It was here that Sgt. York attended to legal matters during the period preceding his service in World War I.

(3) York Springs. York Springs, a brook-sized spring flowing from the base of a mountain, was the site of the first settlement in the area by Conrad Pile, great-great grandfather of Sgt. York, who came to the area in the late 18th century and lived there until his death in 1849. Above the spring in the rock facing of the cliff is a large cave in which Conrad Pile lived for several months while he was building his cabin just a few yards west. In this cabin, now razed, was born Sgt. York. York's father was a blacksmith and for a while had his shop in the cave in which York himself worked as a young man.

(4) Erasmus (Ras) Pile House. This two story frame house, typical of those built by the upper middle class of rural Tennessee, was built about 1880. It was the home of Ras Pile, a descendent of Conrad Pile. Across the road from the house stood the country store which Pile operated and which was the community gathering place. It was in this house that Gracie Williams dressed for her wedding with Alvin York, and from this house the wedding procession began to the rock ledge in the woods several hundred yards to the north where the wedding took place.

04970002-003

04970003-003

04970007-002

04970008-006

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Tennessee	
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(Number all entries) 7. DESCRIPTION (cont.) p.2.

059770000002
 (5) Marriage Rock. On this rock in the woods on June 7, 1919, Alvin C. York and Gracie Williams were married by Governor A. H. Roberts of Tennessee. It was shortly after his return from the war, and Sgt. York was a national celebrity. York had chosen this place for the wedding because it had been a favorite meeting place of theirs during their courtship. Approximately 2,000 people attended the services, bringing food of all types for a wedding feast. The food was spread upon long tables made from wire stretched upon poles. It was near this location that many of the famous shooting matches occurred.

059770000003
 (6) York's First House. Following their marriage, the Yorks lived for several months with his mother in the house where York was reared. This house, now gone, stood immediately to the east of the log house in which York had been born. In 1920, York built the small, one-story frame house just east of his boyhood home. This was the first house of their own in which the Yorks lived following their marriage. They lived here for about two years.

059770000004
 (7) Wolf River Methodist Church. It was while attending this church that Alvin York, then considered a boisterous and worldly young man who enjoyed his drinking and gambling, was converted. He was active in religious activities here for many years until York Chapel was built. The cemetery in which York and many of the early settlers including the Piles and Williamses are buried, is across the road from this church.

059770000005
 (8) Williams-Pile House. This two-story frame house, one of the largests in Pall Mall, was built in 1896 by Elijah Williams, descendent of Francis Asbury Williams and a relative of Mrs. York. Williams was a prosperous farmer and logger who had extensive land holdings. One of Williams' daughters married Rev. Rosier Pile, who was perhaps Sgt. York's closest friend. It was he who counseled with York when York was deliberating the issue of whether or not he could conscientiously enter the army. After marrying Williams' daughter, Pile lived here until his death. York was working on this farm when he left to go to war.

059770000006
 (9) Post Office. Built by York around 1920, this small one-story frame and stone building was used by York as a general store which he operated for several years. He was influential in having the Pall Mall post office moved into the building where it remains today.

059770000007
 (10) York Chapel. This small frame building was built in 1926 by York to serve as a meeting place for the Church of Christ in Christian Union which York and Pastor Pile had established. Most of the funds were raised by York. He attended church services here until his death, and his funeral services were conducted from this building.

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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.) p.3.

0499700015003

(11) York Bible School. A large, T-shaped building constructed of native stone, this building was erected in 1941-43 by York from some of the proceeds of the movie based on his life. It was his plan to establish a graded Bible school with regular sessions where children of all ages could be taught the Bible. This plan never materialized. Until about 1960, summer sessions were conducted by itinerant ministers. Approximately 100 people of all ages attended the sessions. The building is now vacant.

0499700015003

(12) York Grist Mill. Driven by water from the Wolf River, this mill was built by James Conley and William Rankin in 1880 and operated by them until 1890. At that time it was bought by Steve Pile and operated by him and his son until 1943, when it was purchased by Sgt. York, who operated it until his health failed in the 1960's. Both flour and corn meal were ground at the mill. In 1968, the State of Tennessee purchased the mill. It is now open as a museum and will be developed as a part of the Pickett State Park.

0499700015003

(13) Sgt. York Home. A large, two-story frame house of the Tennessee vernacular style, this house was built in 1922. Funds were raised by public subscription under the leadership of the Nashville Rotary Club and the Nashville Banner. Donations from grateful citizens across Tennessee, as well as many from other states, were collected. York lived here until his death in 1964, and Mrs. York still resides here.

0499700015003

(14) Sgt. York Grave. York is buried in the cemetery of the Wolf River Methodist Church, where his ancestors and many of the other early settlers of the valley are buried.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The Sgt. York Historic Area encompasses the relatively small area in which one of Tennessee's greatest heroes was born and spent his life.</p> <p>Alvin C. York was born in this valley on December 13, 1887. During his youth, he was considered to be quite worldly, never refusing either a drink or a fight. During this period of his life he developed the expert marksmanship which was later to make him world famous. He was known to be the best rifleman in the valley, winning practically all the turkey shoots which were common at that time.</p> <p>By 1915, York was a completely sincere and earnest religious convert. When World War I came along, he entertained honest scruples against fighting and especially against taking life. On being drafted, he went to Camp Gordon, Georgia, and was later granted leave to think it out with himself as to where his greatest obligation lay. After two days of wrestling with his conscience in the mountains, he came down to announce that he was going to war.</p> <p>It was in the Battle of the Argonne Forest on October 8, 1918, that York performed the feat that was to make him famous. Finding himself in the midst of enemy machine gun nests, York almost single handed wiped out the German machine gun nests, killing 25 men and capturing 132 prisoners in the process. General John J. Pershing described York as "the greatest soldier of the war." Marshall Foch said that his accomplishment was the greatest by any private soldiers of all the armies of Europe. He was awarded many decorations, including the Congressional Medal of Honor and the French Croix de Guerre with palm.</p> <p>York returned to this country amid enthusiastic welcomes from the people and from Congress and high officials. There were offered to him contracts of various sorts, for lectures, personal appearances, and endorsements, that would have made him rich. He declined all offers to commercialize his war achievements, and announced his determination to devote the remainder of his life to the promotion of better educational facilities for the young people of his beloved mountains. As a result of his efforts, the York Industrial Institute was begun at Jamestown, and he was for several years one of its directors, giving liberally of his time to raise funds.</p>			

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Money came to York in 1941 from a contract for the motion picture rights to the story of his life, a picture that brought Gary Cooper his first Academy Award for his portrayal of York. Continuing in his determination to better the educational facilities for the children of the area, York spent much of his money from the movie to building a Bible school where he hoped that children of all ages could be taught the Bible.

Using his influence, York worked to better the living conditions of those in his valley. Among the improvements he helped to bring about was a new highway to replace the mountain trail through Pall Mall, and a new post office. For the remainder of his life, York was the central figure in his community, the person to whom the citizens turned for help for all kinds of problems in their lives.

York thus was not only a war hero, but a humanitarian who sought to improve the living conditions of those around him. The area in which he lived and worked is, therefore, a significant area.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cowan, Sam K., Sergeant York and His People (New York and Loudon, 1922).

Skeyhill, Tom (Ed.), Sergeant York: His Own Life Story and War Diary (New York, 1928).

Nashville Banner. June 8, 1919; September 2, 1964.

Interview with Mrs. Alvin C. York, March 8, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	36° 32' 47"	84° 58' 40"		"	"	
NE	36° 33' 27"	84° 57' 51"		"	"	
SE	36° 32' 43"	84° 56' 47"		"	"	
SW	36° 32' 23"	84° 57' 35"		"	"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **680**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Herbert L. Harper, Director of Field Services

ORGANIZATION: **Tennessee Historical Commission** DATE: **3/15/73**

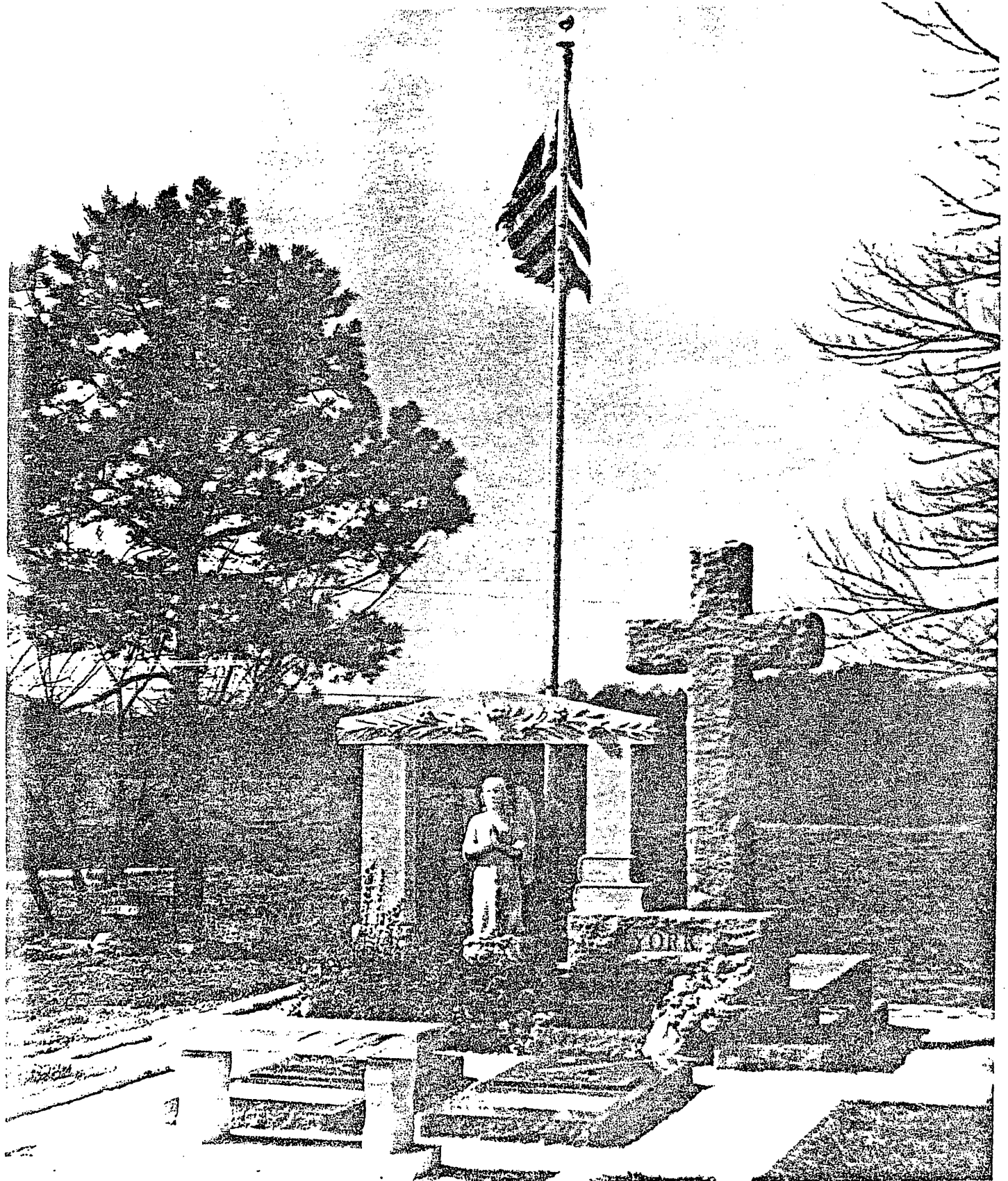
STREET AND NUMBER:
403 7th Avenue, North

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Michael J. Smith</u></p> <p>Title: <u>Executive Director</u> <u>Tennessee Historical Commission</u></p> <p>Date: <u>March 19, 1973</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

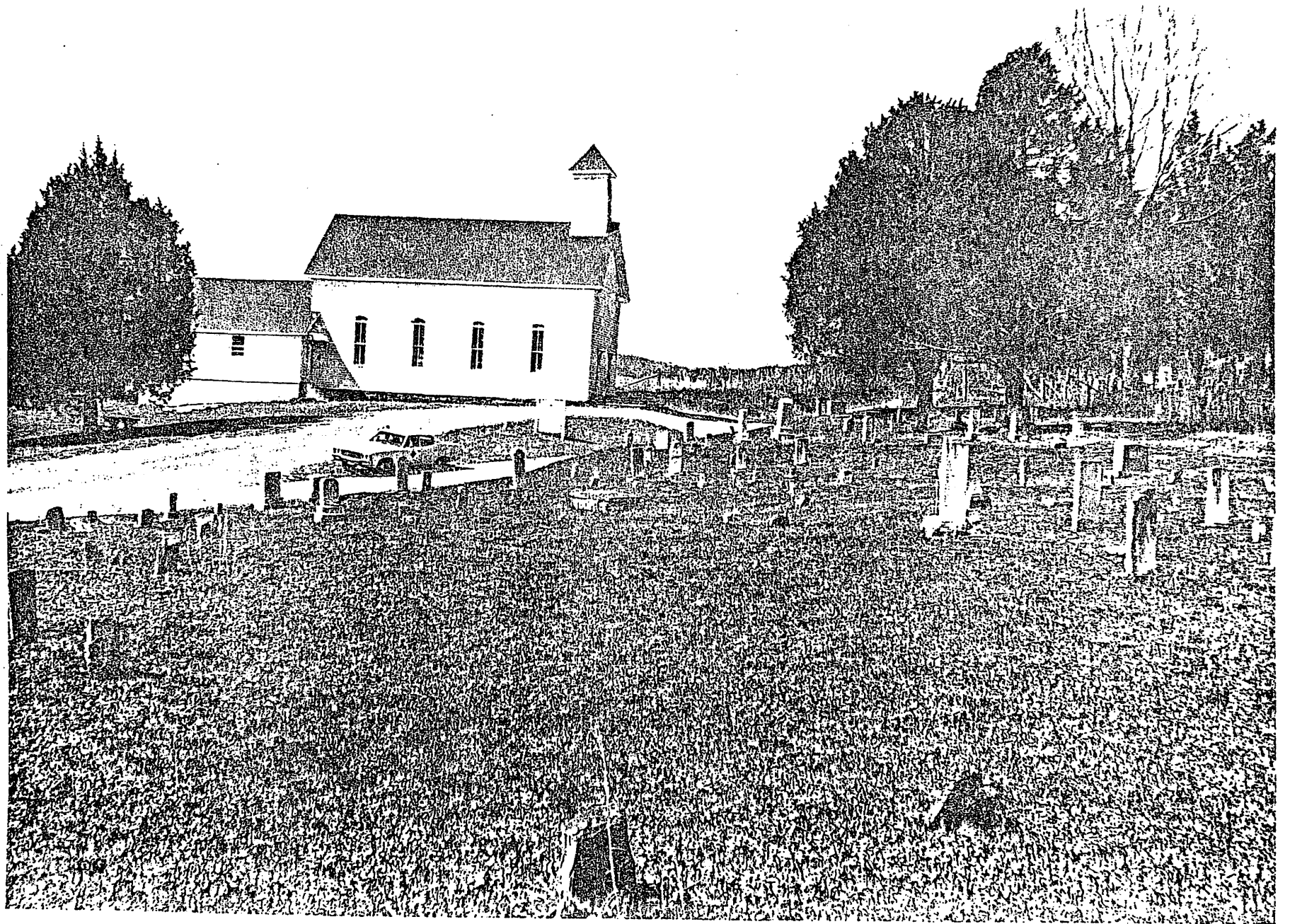
1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Sgt. York Historic Area		

2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Tennessee	Fentress	Pall Mall
STREET AND NUMBER		

3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Herbert L. Harper	March, 1973	Tennessee Historical Com.

4. IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Monument at Sgt. York's burial place



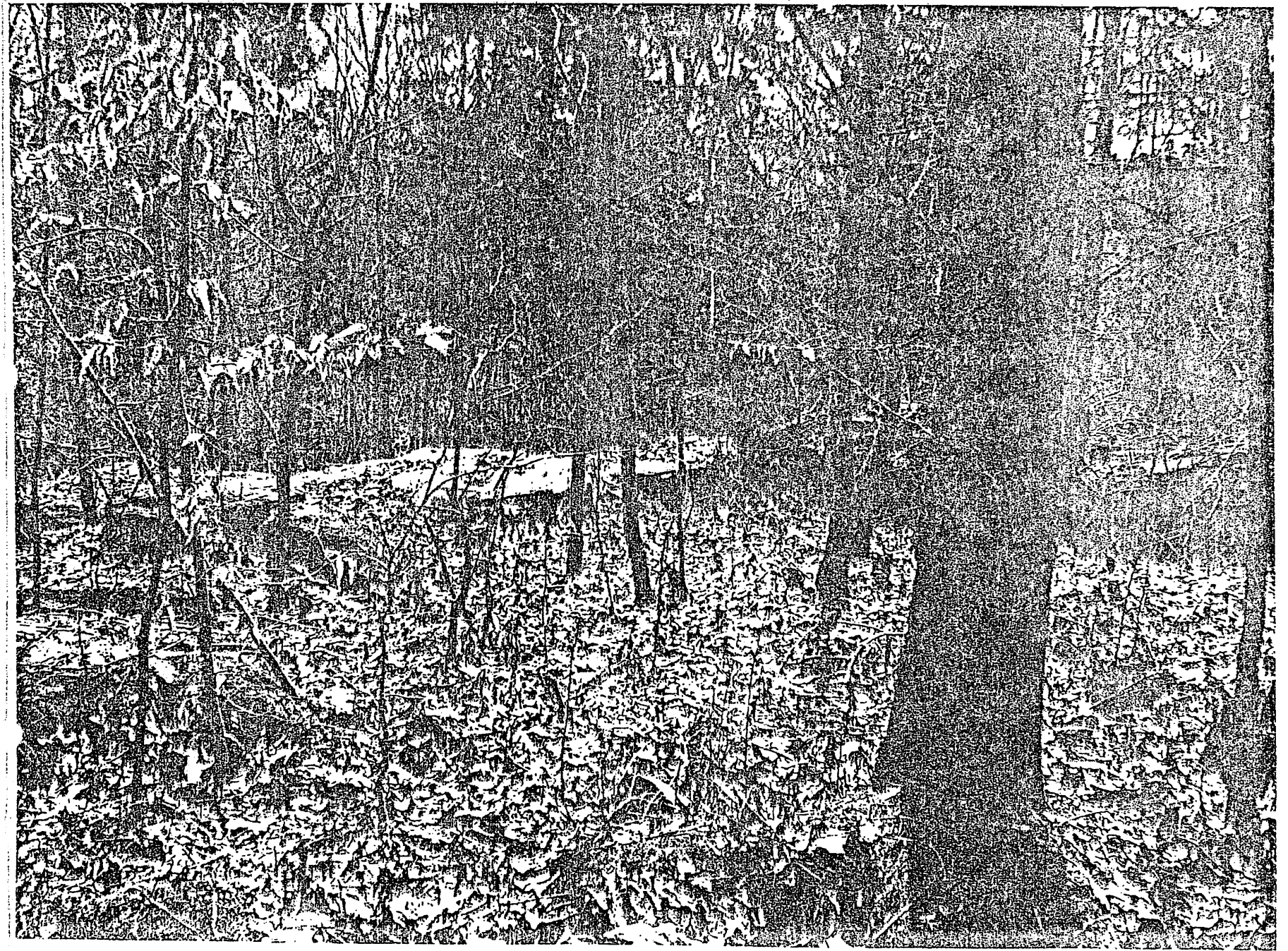
FORM 10-301 A
(6/72)

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East elevation of Wolf River Methodist Church with cemetery
in foreground



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Rock ledge upon which Sgt. Alvin C. York and Gracie Williams were married by Tennessee Governor A.H. Roberts

IN E



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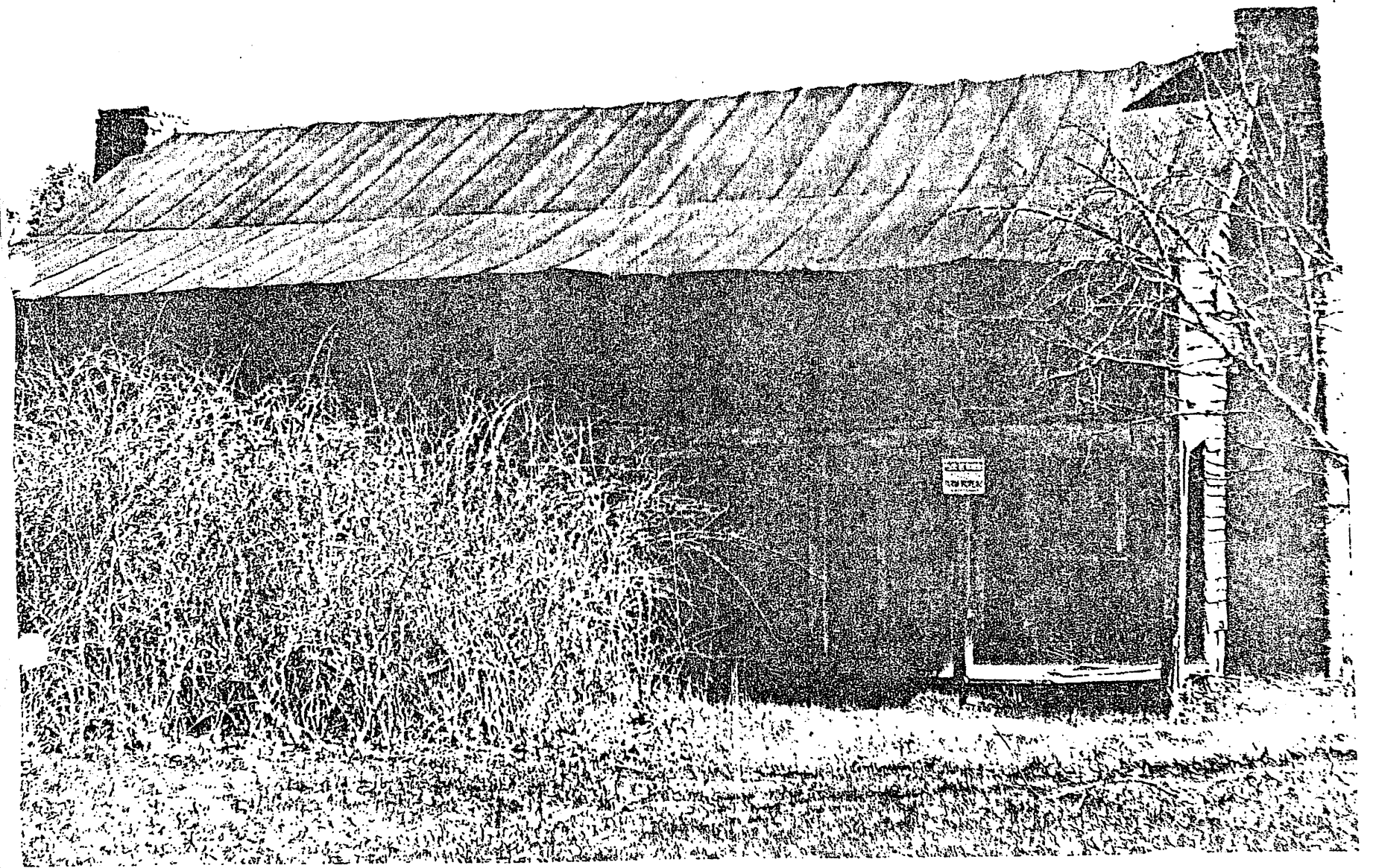
Front and east elevations of York Chapel



FORM 10-301 A
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View looking west toward the Francis Asbury Williams house



(6/72)

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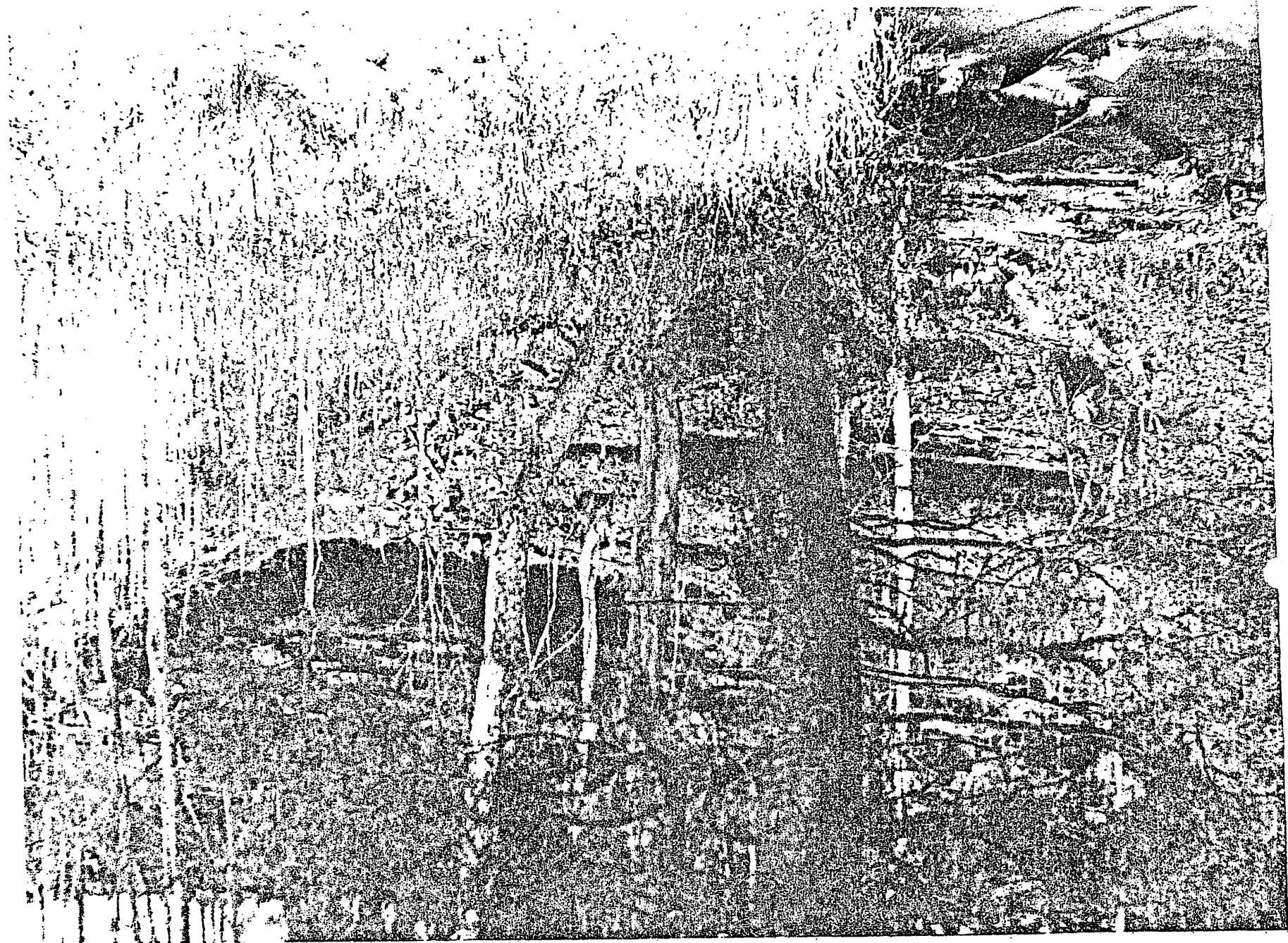
March, 1973

Tennessee Historical Com.

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Front elevation of the John Frogge house



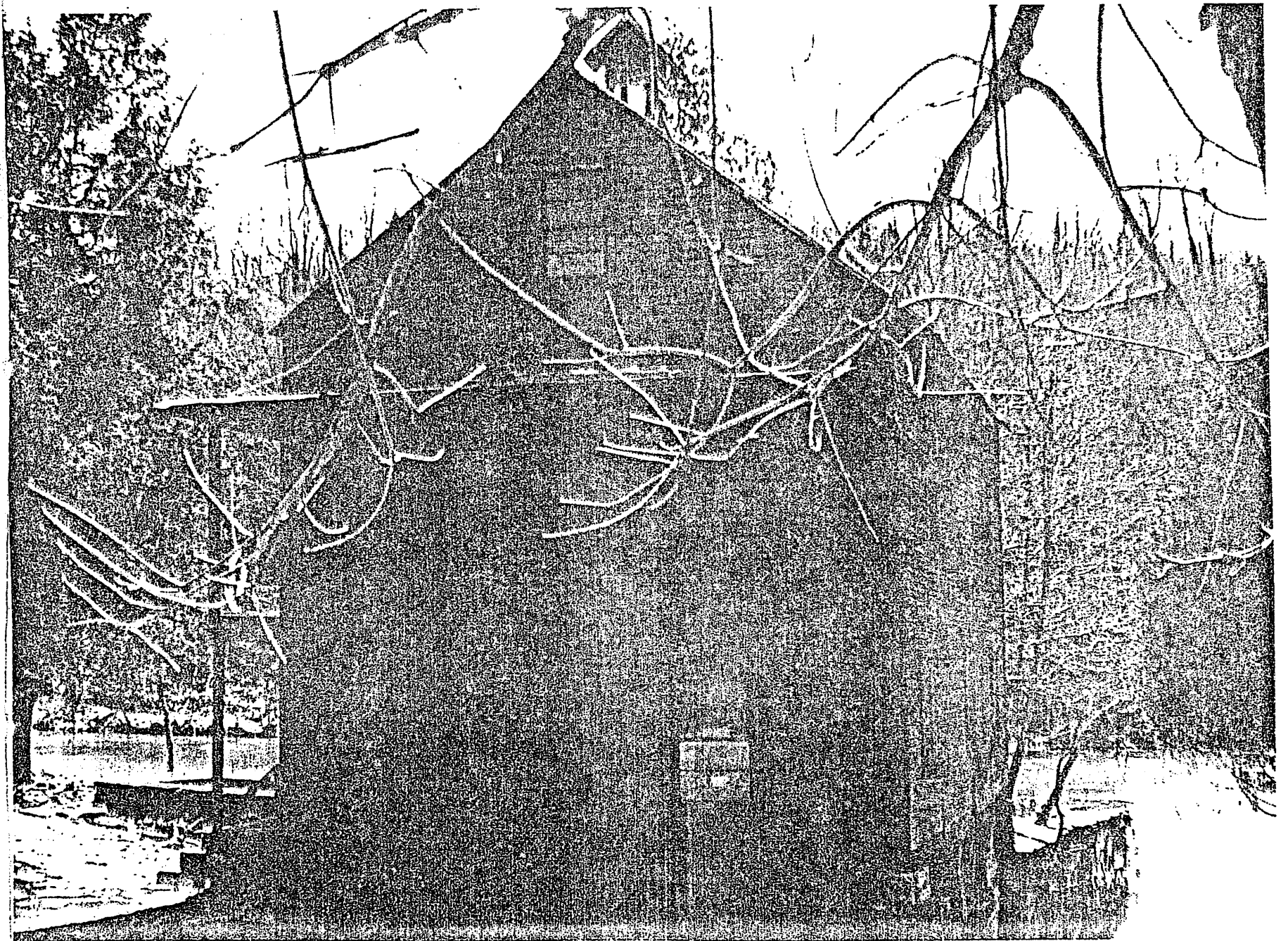
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Looking east toward York Springs, showing cave in upper background.



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Front elevation of York Grist Mill with Wolf River
in the background



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Front and south end elevations of the Williams-Pile house

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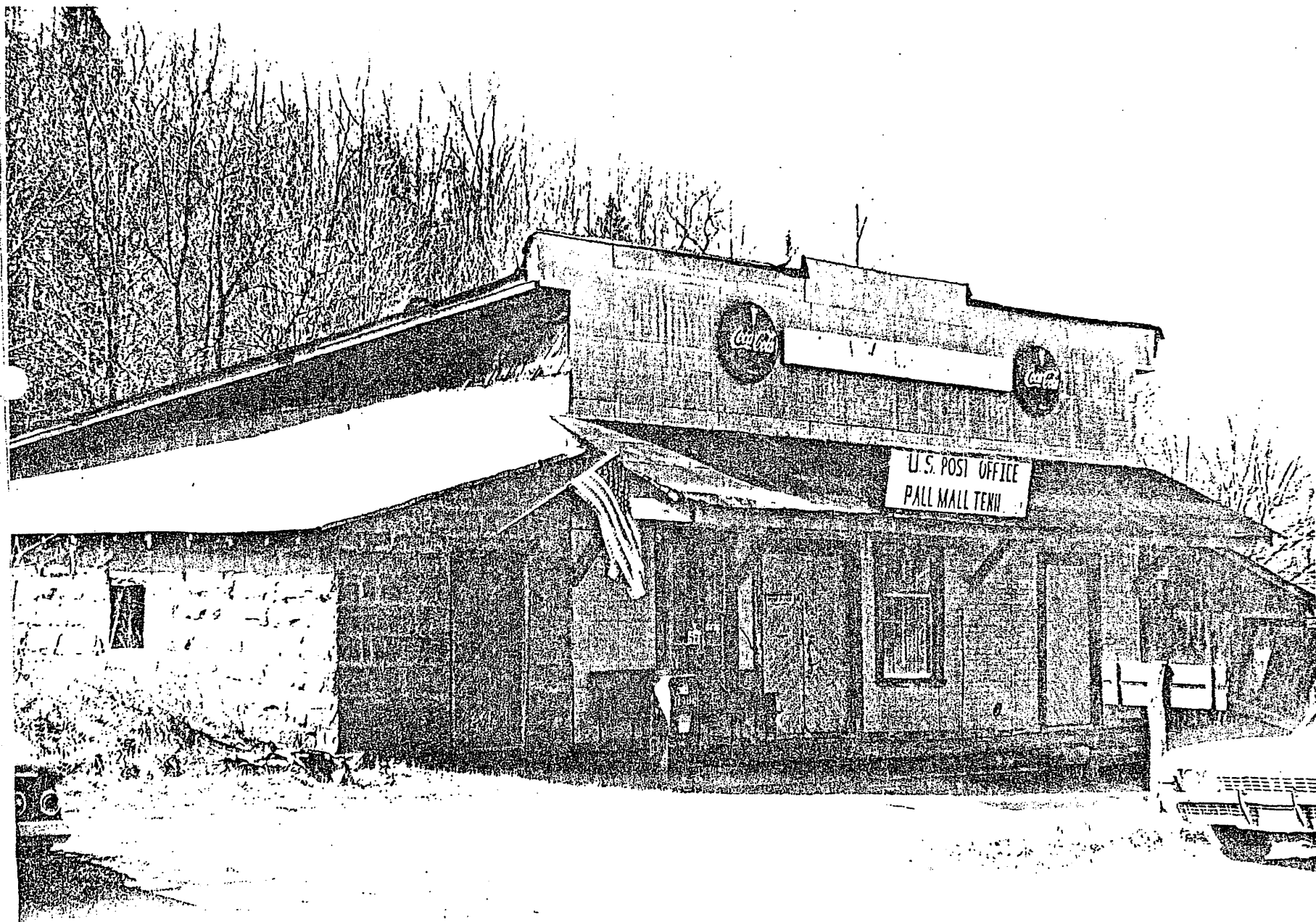


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Front and north end elevations of the first house built
by Sgt. York after his marriage



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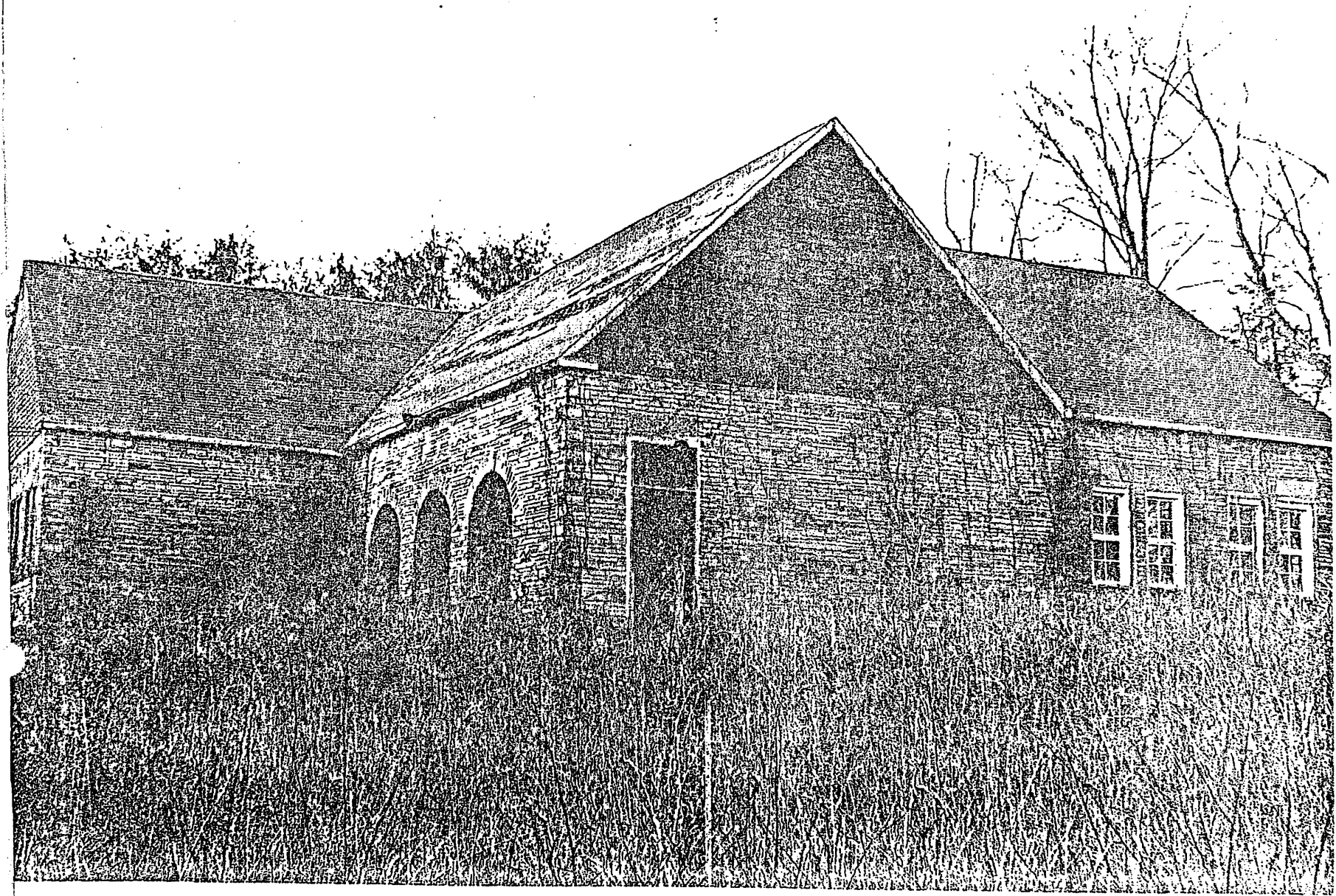
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Front elevation of Pall Mall post office



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Front and west end elevations of house in which Sgt. York lived from 1922 until his death

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

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Sgt. York Historic Area		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Tennessee	Fentress	Pall Mall
STREET AND NUMBER		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Herbert L. Harper	March, 1973	Tennessee Historical Com.
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

East elevation of York Bible School

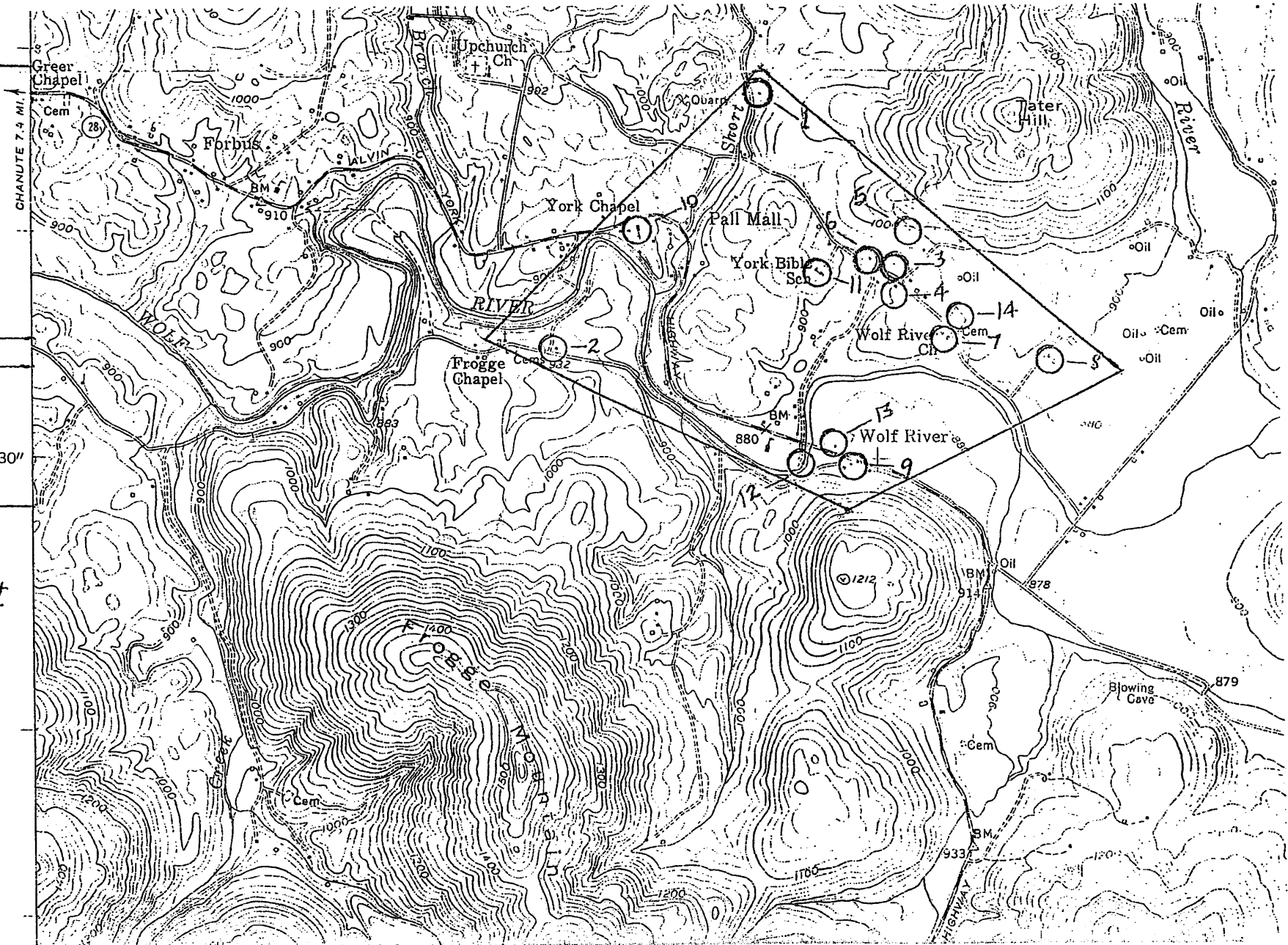
36° 33' 27"

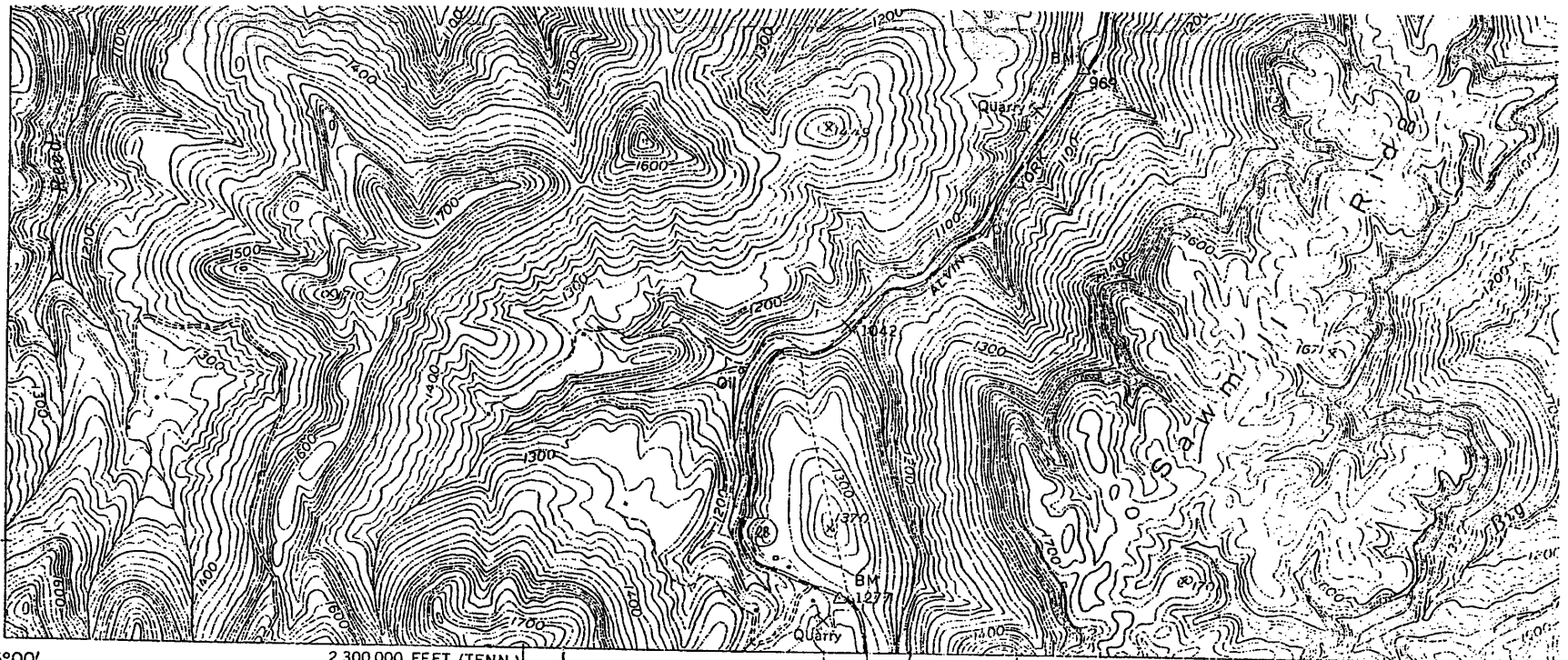
6° 32' 47"

6° 32' 43"

6° 32' 23"

607 ACRES[±]





Sgt. York
Historic
REA

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by stereophotogrammetric methods. Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1954
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Tennessee coordinate system, and Kentucky coordinate system, south zone
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

JAMESTOWN 6.3 MI.
GRIMSLEY 18 MI.

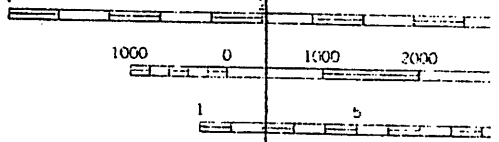
1 1/2"
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH

APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION 1954

84° 58' 40"

84° 57' 35"

84° 57' 35"



CONTOUR IN
DATUM IS M

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH MAP
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL
SURVEY, TENNESSEE DIVISION OF
AND KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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

STATE Tennessee	
COUNTY Fentress	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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1. NAME			
COMMON:		Sgt. York Historic Area	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Pall Mall			
STATE: Tennessee	CODE 47	COUNTY: Fentress	CODE 049
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. Map - Pall Mall Quadrangle			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1954			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			