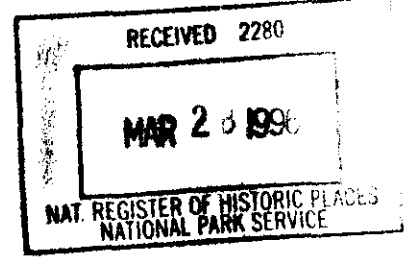


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

## 1 Name of Property

historic name Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building

other names/site number n/a

## 2 Location

street & number 804 Grant Street [n/a] not for publication

city or town Princeton [n/a] vicinity

state Missouri code MO county Mercer code 129 zip code 64673

## 3 State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant [ ] nationally [ ] statewide [X] locally.  
(See continuation sheet for additional comments [ ])

Signature of certifying official/Title *Claire F. Blackwell* 25 March 96  
Claire F. Blackwell/Deputy SHPO Date

Missouri Department of Natural Resources  
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

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4 National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- [X] 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  
See continuation sheet [ ].

Signature of the Keeper *Edson A. Beall* Date 4-26-96

Entered \_\_\_\_\_  
National Register

**5 Classification**

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	1	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district			
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure			
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	0	0	structures
		0	0	objects
		1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing.

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

**6 Function or Use**

Historic Function

SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

no style

Materials

foundation concrete  
walls brick  
roof asphalt  
other wood

**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**

**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**

Property is:

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or grave.

**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.

**Areas of Significance**

Social History

**Periods of Significance**

1935-1946

**Significant Dates**

1935

**Significant Person(s)**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation**

n/a

**Architect/Builder**

unknown/Shiple, Glen

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9 Major Bibliographic 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 Data**

**Acreege of Property** less than one acre

**UTM References**

A. Zone	Easting	Northing	B. Zone	Easting	Northing
15	450420	4472140			

C. Zone	Easting	Northing	D. Zone	Easting	Northing
---------	---------	----------	---------	---------	----------

[ ] 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 see continuation sheet

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 location.

A 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 Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma

street & number Route 1, Box 721 telephone 405/547-2402

city or town Perkins state OK zip code 74059

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
Mercer County, MO**

**Summary:** The Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building, 804 Grant Street, Princeton, Mercer County, is located on a single lot, measuring 80' x 136', in a residential area on state highway 136, the east-west route through Princeton. The floor plan is rectangular, measuring 30' x 32'. The primary feature of the structure is its crenelated parapet which extends around the east, north and west elevations of the building. The structural system is reinforced concrete, with an exterior veneer of red brick. The crenelated parapet is capped by pre-formed concrete blocks. The asphalt roof is flat. There have been no significant alterations to the building; an addition constructed in 1952 and removed in 1988 did not affect the building's original design or materials.

**Narrative:** *The front (north) elevation of the building is dominated by a protruding center bay, in which double doors are recessed. In the upper third of each paneled wooden door each there are four glass panes. Metal light fixtures flank each door. Flanking the protruding bay, on each side, there are two double hung sash windows, with the upper sash of each containing eight panes, while the lower sashes are single pane. Concrete steps lead from the street to a stoop which sits in front of the protruding bay. Above the door, an concrete entablature reads "American Legion".*

The west and east elevations are similar in appearance, with two exceptions. Both elevations have two large double hung windows, of identical treatment as those on the north elevation, which are nearly centered on the wall. The exceptions concern the west elevation which has a smaller double hung window toward the south end of the wall, and the foundation is exposed, along with four basement windows, two of which have been boarded up.

The crenelated parapet does not extend to the south elevation. There are two windows and two doors along this wall, all of which have been boarded up. There is a concrete slab to the rear of the building which served as the foundation for an addition constructed in 1952 and removed in 1988. The slab is the only addition to the building lot.

The interior consists of a meeting room, measuring 23' x 30', a kitchen area, and a restroom.

The interior walls are in need of replacement plaster and the interior oak flooring is damaged by termites and dry rot. The exterior is in generally good condition, with some minor brick replacement and tuckpointing work needed.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

**Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
Mercer County, MO**

**Summary:** The Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building, 804 Grant Street, Princeton, Mercer County, is significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History. Constructed in 1935 by volunteer labor, primarily World War I veterans, the building was conceived as "a public memorial to the soldiers and sailors who served in the war against Germany in 1917 who enlisted or were conscripted from Mercer County." The building was constructed under provisions of a 1919 act of the state legislature which allocated matching funds up to \$1,000.00 for the construction of World War memorials in the state's counties and municipalities. Although a number of counties constructed memorials under the act, very few memorial buildings were constructed. The building served as the meeting place for the Legion and its auxiliary until 1977; it also served the community for a variety of functions. The period of significance extends from 1935 to 1946, the arbitrary fifty year limit. While the building was constructed as a commemorative property and its significance derives, in part, from its construction as a memorial, its primary function was its use as a social and meeting hall.

**Narrative:** On May 6, 1919, H.B. 505 was approved by the Missouri General Assembly. Among the provisions of the act, it stated that, "In appreciation of the services rendered by the citizen soldiery of Missouri in the war against Germany and her allies and for the purpose of preserving the records and perpetuating the memory of their heroic achievements, a memorial building, monument or other suitable testimonial shall be created or placed in some building at the county seat of such counties or at such places designated by the county courts of said county and in such cities not part of a county. The exact nature of such memorial shall be determined by the county court of the county or by the *municipal assembly of said city.*" (*Missouri Laws, 1919*) The act further provided that, when the county or municipality had raised \$250.00 for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the act, a like sum, not to exceed \$1,000.00, would be allotted by the state. The act appropriated \$115,000 for the erection of memorials and monuments in the state.

By 1925, according to a survey conducted by Sarah Guitar and published in the *Missouri Historical Review*, "there [were] but few counties in Missouri which have not paid tribute in some visible and lasting way to their soldier dead." Memorials included monuments, buildings, plaques, drinking fountains, one bandstand, arches, gateways, and columns. However, in her survey, Guitar only identified sixteen memorials which had been completed under the terms of H.B. 505 eight years after the law was approved. These were:

- Atchison County--memorial building
- Callaway County--columns at the entrance to Soldiers' Memorial Park, Fulton, with tablets containing veterans names
- Carter County--a monument in Van Buren
- Clay County--a statue on the courthouse square in Liberty
- Cole County--a monument on the courthouse square in Jefferson City
- Lawrence County--a monument on the Verona public square
- Maries County--a memorial on the Vienna courthouse square
- Miller County--a memorial in Iberia
- Mississippi County--a monument in the Charleston courthouse park
- Phelps County--a memorial drinking fountain
- Pike County--a memorial gateway at the city cemetery in Bowling Green

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 3

Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
Mercer County, MO

Reynolds County--a memorial in Centerville (only \$350.00 were allotted by the state)  
Scotland County--a memorial drinking fountain in Memphis  
Scott County--a memorial drinking fountain in Benton  
Vernon County--a memorial building in Nevada  
Webster County--a memorial in Marshfield

By 1925, only Atchison County and Vernon County had constructed memorial buildings under the terms of the act. However, memorial buildings funded by other sources were constructed in Jasper County, in both Carthage and Joplin; in Ripley County, in the county seat of Doniphan; and in Texas County, in Houston and Licking. In Jackson County, a community center funded by a \$150,000 bond issue was planned.

Atchison County was the first county to take advantage of the state's offer of matching funds. Immediately on being informed of passage of the act, county officials in Rock Port wired state officials in Jefferson City pledging \$1,000.00 towards a building to serve as a memorial and a community center. Allegedly in less than two hours, \$25,000.00 was pledged for the memorial. The Atchison County Memorial Building (NRHP 1987) was completed in 1921.

Officials in Mercer County, in extreme north central Missouri, were slower to act, but in July 1935, the American Legion in Princeton received a check for \$1,000.00 under the terms of the 1919 act to complete "the Legion home constructed recently as a memorial to Mercer County soldiers and sailors who died in the World War." The remainder of the cost of construction was raised by the citizens of Mercer County through a variety of fund raising activities, including bake sales, minstrel shows, and community dinners. The lot on which the building stands was donated by Harry Klingensmith, and the building was constructed completely with donated materials and labor from the community. Construction began in November 1934, and a banquet was held on March 6, 1935 to celebrate the completion of the building. The post was named in honor of Leo Ellis, the first man from the county to die in the Great War, killed by shrapnel in September 1918 in the Argonne Forest.

The building constructed for the American Legion featured a crenelated parapet which wrapped around three elevations, giving the facility a fortress-like appearance. Although the Princeton building is *relatively small, measuring only thirty feet by thirty-two feet, it shares at least one design feature with the National Guard armory constructed in 1910 in Nevada, Vernon County: its crenelated parapet or battlement.* According to Dianna Everett, in her study of National Guard armories, "castellated" Gothic Revival" was the most popular style for armories from 1880-1910; the crenelated parapet was only one feature of this type. The Nevada armory also housed an American Legion post from 1922.

From its construction, the Legion building served as not only the meeting place for the Legionnaires but also the meeting place of the Legion Auxiliary and the location of other community functions. In 1952, the membership of the Legion had swelled to over one hundred, and an addition was constructed to accommodate the expanded membership. The forty by one hundred foot addition was again built entirely with donations and by volunteer labor. The County Court approved the donation of steel beams from abandoned bridges for the framework. The foundation and sidewalls were constructed of block and concrete. The windows were steel-framed, and the roof was flat in keeping with the design of the

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 4

Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
Mercer County, MO

original building. The addition was completed in five years and was used as an additional meeting room, a banquet hall, a square dance hall, and for other community functions. In addition, it served as a kindergarten class room from 1960 to 1965, since the grade school had no facility for these students during that time period. A hardwood floor was laid over the cement in 1960, and the addition was also used as a roller rink until the mid 1970s, with the original building serving as a warehouse for the skates and as a canteen.

However, there were problems with the addition from its completion. Because the roof of the addition was so flat, there was a continuous water problem and from its construction there was trouble with a leaking roof. In 1988, the addition was declared unsafe and demolished. The cement pad is still intact to the south of the original building.

Eleven years before the addition was demolished, however, the Legion held its last meeting in the building; the final meeting was held on September 7, 1977. Lack of funding for the much needed repairs to the roof and furnace was cited as the cause of abandonment. The building has since been used to store the hospital equipment the veterans needed for their members. Various members maintain the grounds to this day.

In addition to the above, this building is significant not only because it was built as a memorial to World War I veterans, but because the current owners wish to continue the tradition and keep it as a standing monument to all veterans of the county.



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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 5

Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
Mercer County, MO

"American Legion Being Formed," Princeton Post, June 18, 1919, p. 1.

"American Legion Boys Ready for Banquet," Princeton Telegraph, February 27, 1935, p. 1.

"American Legion Home Started," Princeton Telegraph, November 21, 1934, p. 1.

"The Army and Navy Boys Have a Feast," Princeton Post, October 8, 1919, p. 1.

"Barn Dance Frolic Will Be Staged Here," Princeton Post, March 27, 1935, p. 1.

Becker, Linda; and Millstein, Cydney. "Leon Ogier Post No. 2 of the American Legion."  
Architectural/Historic Survey of Nevada, Vernon County, MO. 1991. Copy in Missouri Cultural  
Resource Inventory, Jefferson City, MO.

Everett, Dianna. "Historic National Guard Armories: A Brief, Illustrated Review of the Past Two  
Centuries." United States, Department of Defense, Legacy Resource Management Program;  
and Historical Services Division, Office of Public Affairs, National Guard Bureau. N.d.

Gentry, Gerald. "History of the American Legion Hall Addition." Unpublished, n.d.

Guitar, Sarah. "Monuments and Memorials in Missouri," Missouri Historical Review 18 (July 1925):  
553-603.

A History of the Boys of Mercer County, Missouri: A Fond Tribute to Our Heroic Sons Who Took Part in  
the World War, 1917-1918-1919. Princeton, MO: W.H. Lowry, n.d.

Hubbard, Elbert. Past Commander, Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion. Interview with Randi  
Ferguson, Princeton, MO.

"Ladies Organize a Legion Auxiliary," Princeton Post, March 10, 1920, p. 1.

"Legion Boys Enjoy Big Feast in New Home," Princeton Post, March 13, 1935, p. 1.

"Legion Boys Get 100 New Members," Princeton Post, September 24, 1919, p. 1.

"Legion Conducts Memorial Day Service," Princeton Post, June 5, 1935, p. 1.

"Legion Gets A \$1000 Gift from the State," Princeton Post, July 17, 1935, p. 1.

"Legion Minstrels Play to Packed House," Princeton Post, March 3, 1919, p. 1.

"Legion Sponsoring a Beauty Pageant," Princeton Post, July 17, 1935, p. 1.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 6

**Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
Mercer County, MO**

"Legion Team Wins First Game When Hichman Steals Home," Princeton Post, June 30, 1920, p. 1.

"Legionnaires Prepare for Turkey Feed," Princeton Post, February 27, 1935, p. 1.

Missouri Laws, 1919.

Stiritz, Mary M. "Atchison County Memorial Building." National Register of Historic Places Inventory--  
Nomination Form. 1987.

"Victory Medals for Boys Who Served in the World War," Princeton Post, November 3, 1920, p. 1.

"Warriors Honor Mercer County's First Martyr, Leo Ellis," Princeton Post, July 2, 1919, p. 1.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Lot 6, Block A, of Granlee's First Addition to the City of Princeton, Mercer County, MO.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary includes the entire city lot historically associated with the property.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

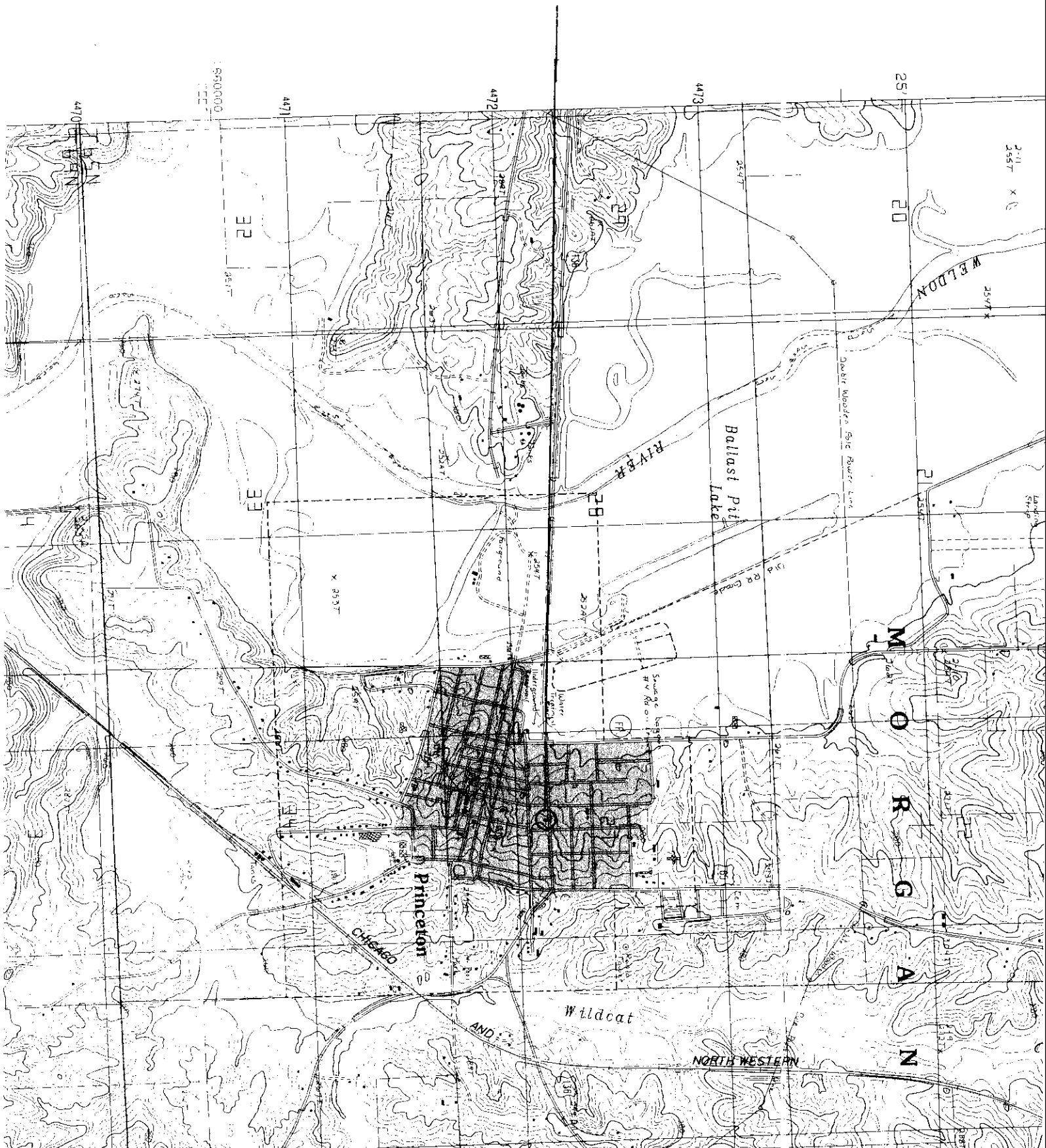
Section 11 Page 7

Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
Mercer County, MO

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

1. Randi Ferguson, Cultural Representative  
Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma  
1005 East Elm Street  
Princeton, MO 64673  
816/748-4755  
February 1, 1996  
Original draft, items 1-11
  
2. Allen Tatman  
Cultural Resources Inventory Coordinator  
Department of Natural Resources  
Division of State Parks  
Historic Preservation Program  
P.O. Box 176  
Jefferson City, MO 65102  
573/751-7861  
February 21, 1995  
Editor and revisions, item 7
  
3. Steven E. Mitchell  
National Register Coordinator  
Department of Natural Resources  
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573/751-7800  
February 23, 1995  
Editor, items 1-11; revisions, item 8

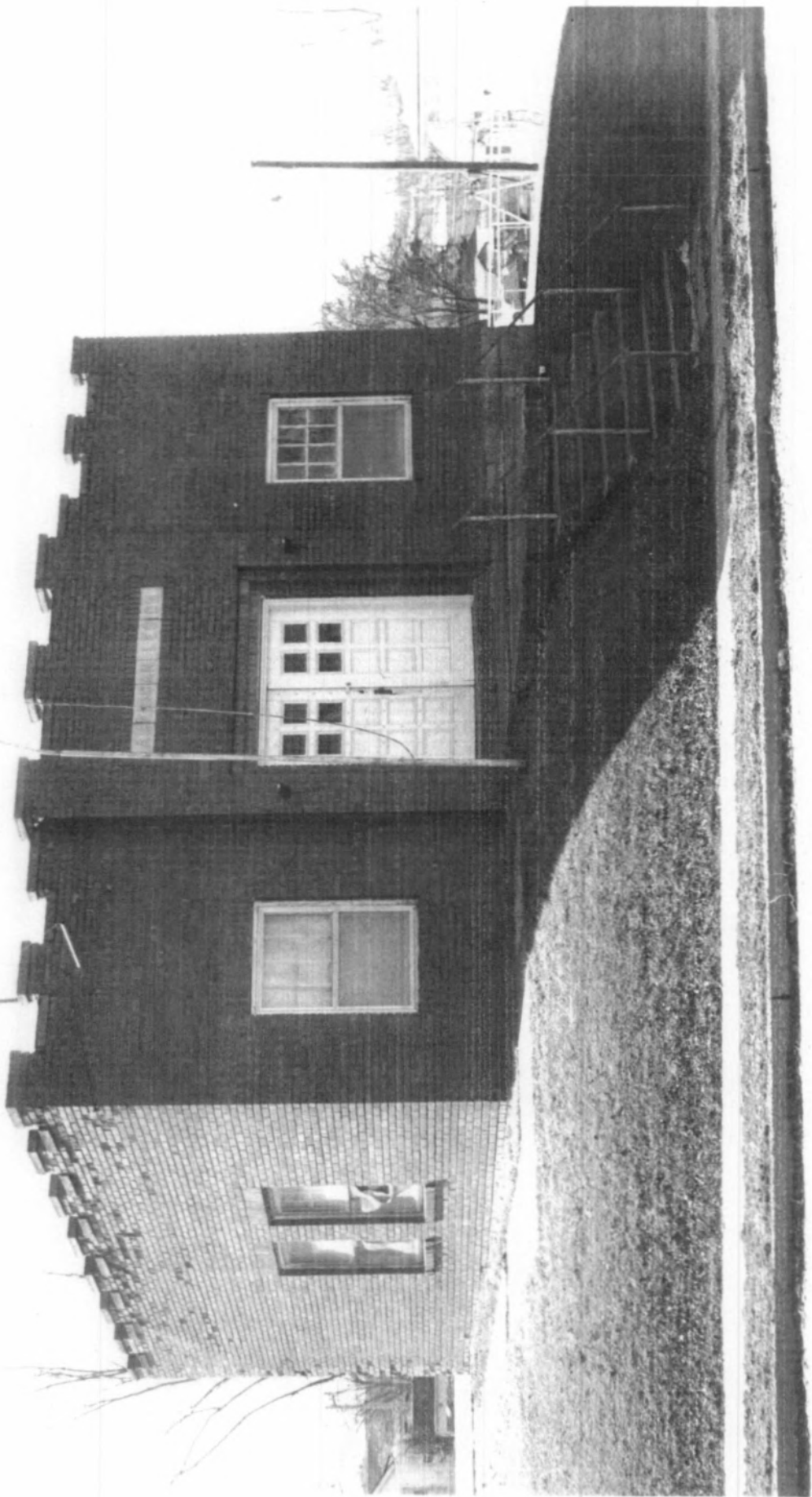
LEO ELLIS POST #22 AMERICAN LEGION BUILDING  
MERCER COUNTY, MO  
15/450420/4472140



11/11/96

Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
804 Grant St., Princeton, Mercer County, MO  
Randi Ferguson  
February 1996

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, 1005 E. Elm St., Princeton, MO 64673  
cavea facing southwest  
#1 of 6



Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion P-10119  
804 Grant St., Potosi, Mercer County MO

Randi Ferguson

February 1996

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, 1005 E Elm St.,  
Potosi MO 64673

Area facing southeast

# 2 of 6





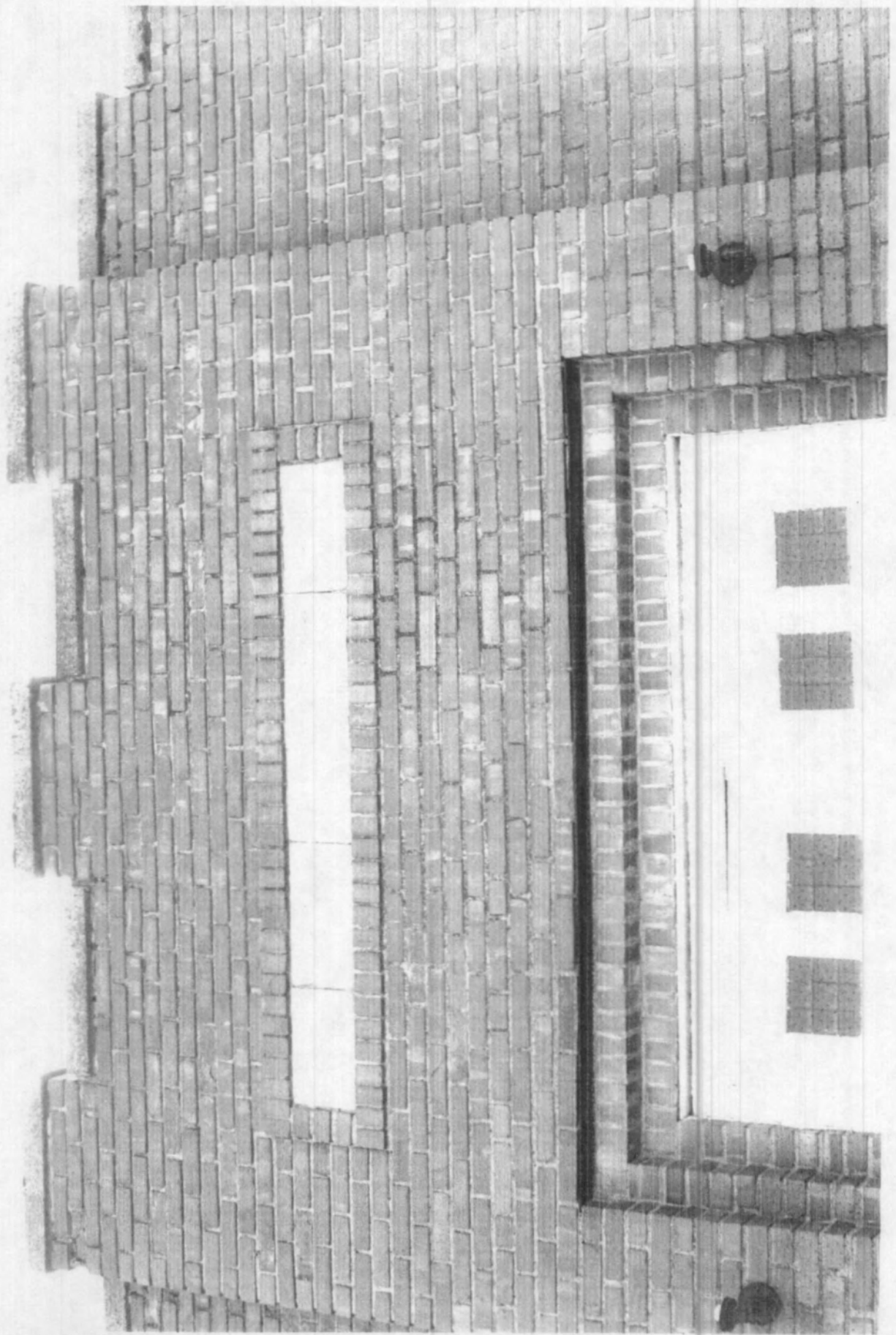
Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
804 Grant St., Parmer, Mercer County, MO

Rand, Ferguson

February 1996

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, 1005 E Elm St., Parmer, MO 64673  
Green facing south

#3 of 6

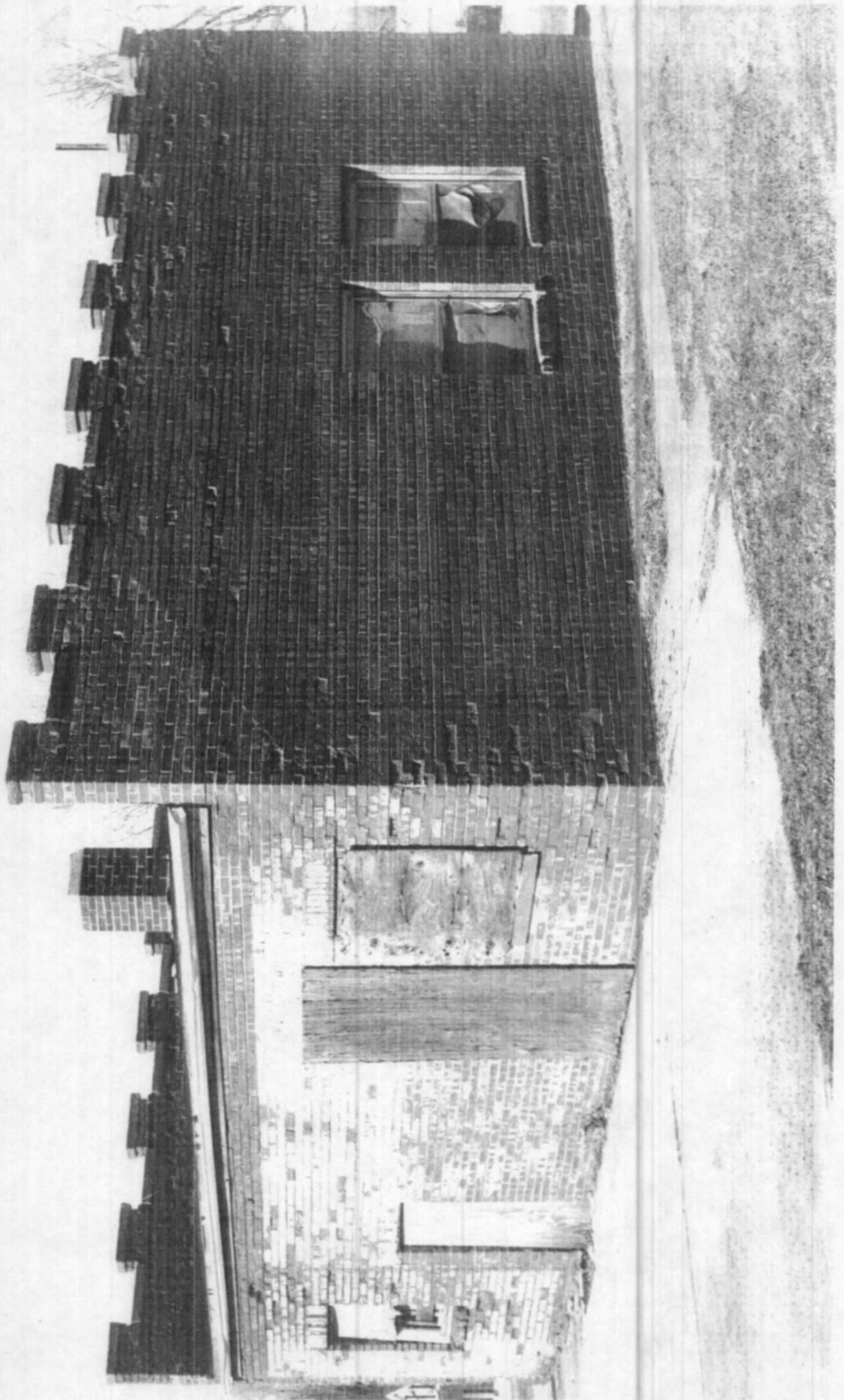


Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
804 Grant St., Prineston, Mercer County, MO  
Randi Ferguson

February 1996

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, 1005 E. Elm St., Prineston MO 64673  
Camera facing northwest

#4 of 6



Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
804 Grant St., Pawcaton, Mercer County, MD

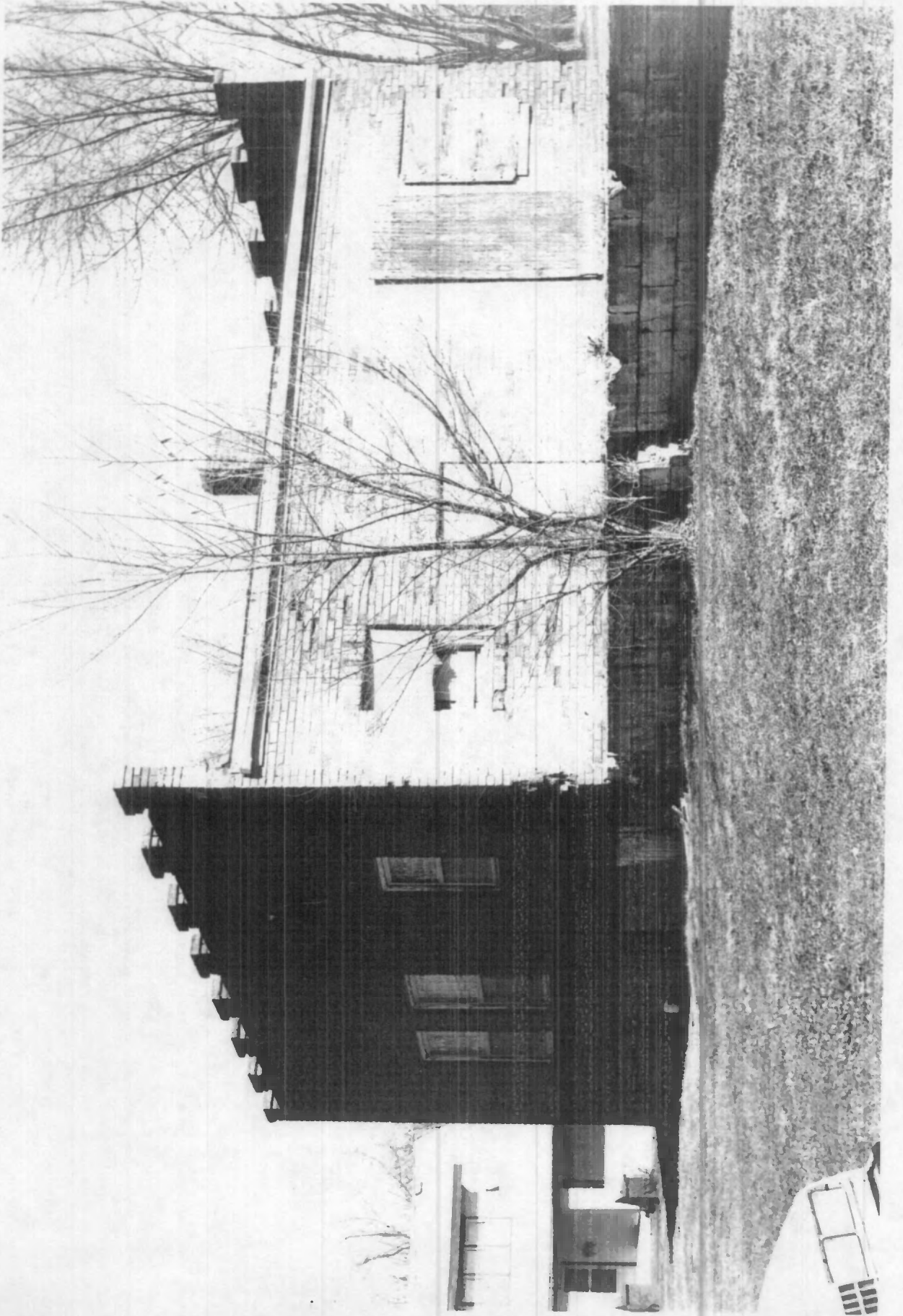
Rand: Ferguson

February 1996

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, 1005 E. Elm St., Pawcaton MD 64673

Camea facing northeast

#5 of 6



Leo Ellis Post #22 American Legion Building  
804 Garnett St, Pawnee, Mercer County MO

Rand. Ferguson

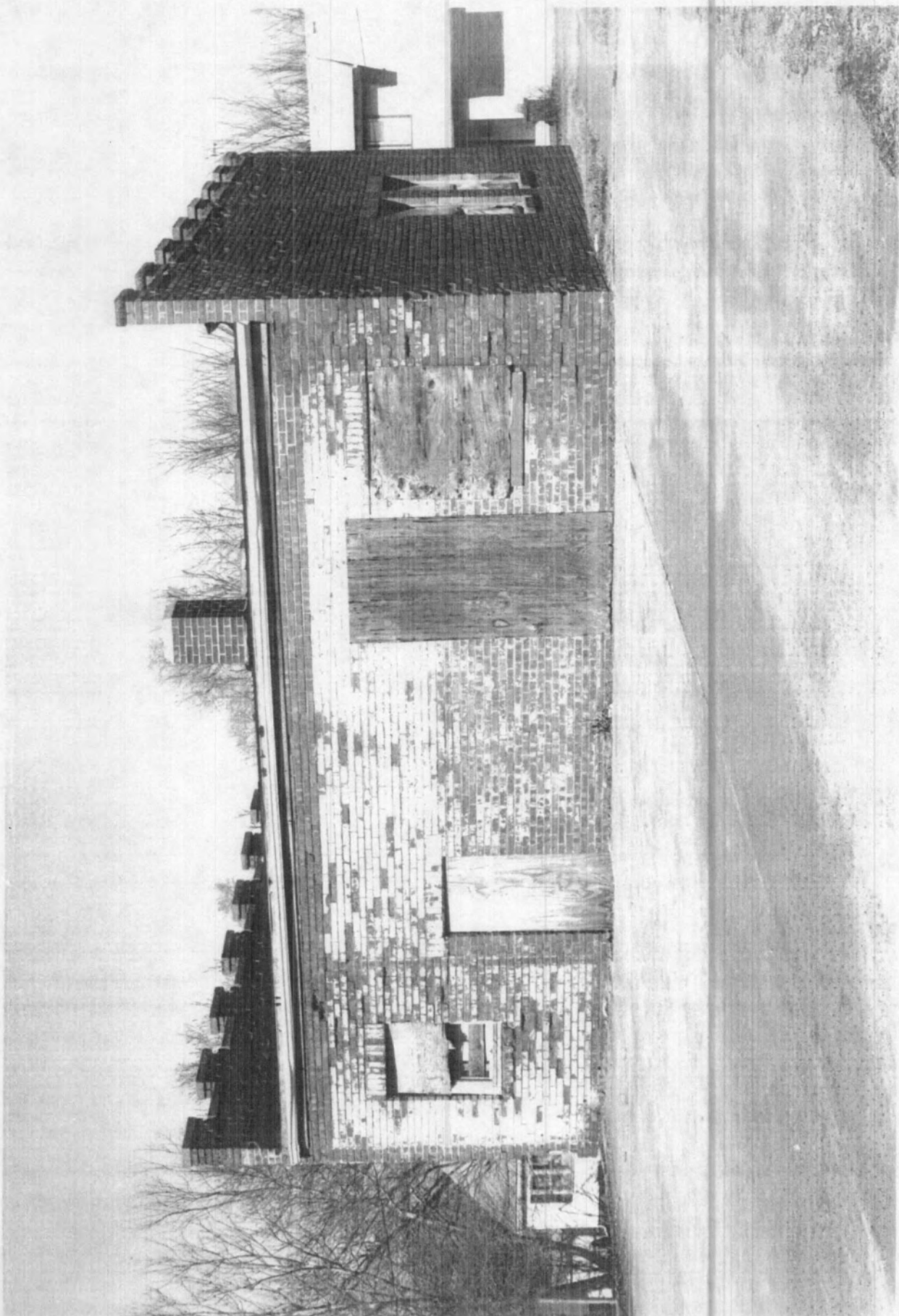
February 1996

Java Tribe of Oklahoma, 1005 E. Elm St, Pawnee MO 64673

camera facing northeast

#6256







EXTRA  
PHOTOS



AMERICAN LEGION





