

PH 0668117

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 5 1978
DATE ENTERED	NOV 2 1978

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Mimosa Hall
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER One mile west of FM 134

CITY, TOWN

Leigh

STATE
Texas

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

VICINITY OF

CODE
048

COUNTY
Harrison

CODE
203

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
D. V. Blocker, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Leigh

VICINITY OF

STATE
Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harrison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Marshall

STATE
Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Inventory

DATE
1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Texas Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN
Austin

STATE
Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Designed by its owner, John Johnston Webster, Mimosa Hall was completed in 1844 and constructed by slave-masons trained by Webster, their master. The imposing Greek Revival structure served as the focal point for Webster's plantation, and even though the plantation's size has diminished from 3000 to 300 acres, it still retains much of its original character.

Tall brick pedestals with wrought iron urns mark the entrance to the plantation and a circular driveway provides an easy access to the house. When approaching from this driveway, the structure is obscured by the numerous mimosa trees which line the driveway, but as the road circles around to the main entrance, the house suddenly becomes visible revealing its fine masonry and balanced proportions.

Displaying a symmetrical five bay facade, the front or north elevation is dominated by a pedimented two-story portico with two large supportive cyprus columns. The main entrance is complimented with sidelights and features fretwork at the top corners and decorative molding above the door. Although smaller than the main entrance, the second floor door exhibits similar detailing to the ground floor entrance. The original balcony was removed in 1932 when Mrs. D. V. Blocker bought the balcony now attached to the house from the old Porterfield house in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Displaying a suspended light fixture from its ceiling, the portico is flanked on each side by flat arched windows. The ground floor's 2/2 windows are taller than their second story counterparts; however, all of the openings are symmetrically placed and protected with wood shutters.

Originally a one-room deep structure with central hall plan, Mimosa Hall has experienced numerous changes and additions throughout its history. Although the north facade remains virtually unchanged, the east and west facades incorporate many new architectural elements and also maintain the building's symmetry. For example, the cornice terminates the gable roof on the north side and extends to the east and west facades in the form of eave returns. When the two-story rear addition was attached in 1932, the cornice and eave returns were constructed to closely resemble the original detailing. Exterior chimneys pierce the peak of the gable roof on the east and west facades, and interior chimneys rise from the southeast and southwest corners of the rear addition.

The rear facade has undergone the greatest amount of alterations. Casement windows with non-operable shutters perforate the second floor and an unusual round-arch opening pierces the ground floor of the facade near the southwest corner. A one-story connecting wing united the original detached kitchen with the main house in 1905. Almost thirty years later, a two-story rear addition was built incorporating part of this wing. A modern kitchen and family room were attached at the rear about 1941 and the old kitchen became the family dining room. In 1954 garages were the final additions onto the rear.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1844

BUILDER/ARCHITECT John Johnston Webster

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of Harrison County's earliest brick structures, Mimosa Hall represents a fine example of the Greek Revival plantation house of 19th century Texas. Nestled among numerous mimosa trees from which its name was derived, the imposing structure was constructed by John Johnston Webster to serve as the main house for his large plantation. The house has remained in the hands of Webster's descendants since its completion in 1844 and has served as an important social center in eastern Harrison County for many years.

John Johnston Webster, an affluent planter and builder, migrated to Harrison County in 1839. After acquiring large amounts of land, he and his slave-masons began constructing Mimosa Hall in 1840. His ability as a builder became known throughout the area and his talents were in great demand. Completion of Webster's own house was delayed when he and his slaves constructed a house for another Harrison County farmer/planter. Upon completion of this house in 1843, Webster turned once again to Mimosa Hall, and the following year, his home was finished.

The front facade has undergone little alteration since its completion; however, the replacement of the original second story balcony with the "Jefferson Davis Balcony" has received considerable local attention. Attached onto Mimosa Hall in 1932, the balcony was originally affixed to the Porterfield house in Vicksburg, Mississippi. Jefferson Davis delivered a major address from the balcony during the seige of Vicksburg and when it was attached to Mimosa Hall, it became known as the "Jefferson Davis Balcony."

Mimosa Hall has been the meeting place for numerous parties and social gatherings throughout the years. Jefferson Davis' birthday is celebrated annually at the building.

Because of the tradition associated with the building and the lack of major alterations to the front facade, Mimosa Hall has been featured in many county historical homes tours and once provided the setting for a motion picture.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Abney, Mrs. James K., historical monograph prepared for National Register application, filed at the Texas Historical Commission.

Lale, Max S., letter outlining history of Mimosa Hall, filed at the Texas Historical Commission.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 6 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Scottsville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 5	3 9 2 6 4 0	3 6 0 6 0 8 3	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

located one mile west of FM 134 on a private road--the immediate area surrounding the house is enclosed with fence and includes approximately 6 acres.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Joe Williams, Project Director
David Moore, Research Assistant

DATE April 18, 1978

ORGANIZATION Texas Historical Commission

STREET & NUMBER P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE (512) 475-3094

CITY OR TOWN Austin

STATE Texas

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE 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 *[Signature]* DATE 4/21/78

TITLE _____

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 4/21/78

ATTEST: *[Signature]* DATE Oct 23, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

CHEF OF REGISTRATION



Mimosa Hall
One mile west of FM 134

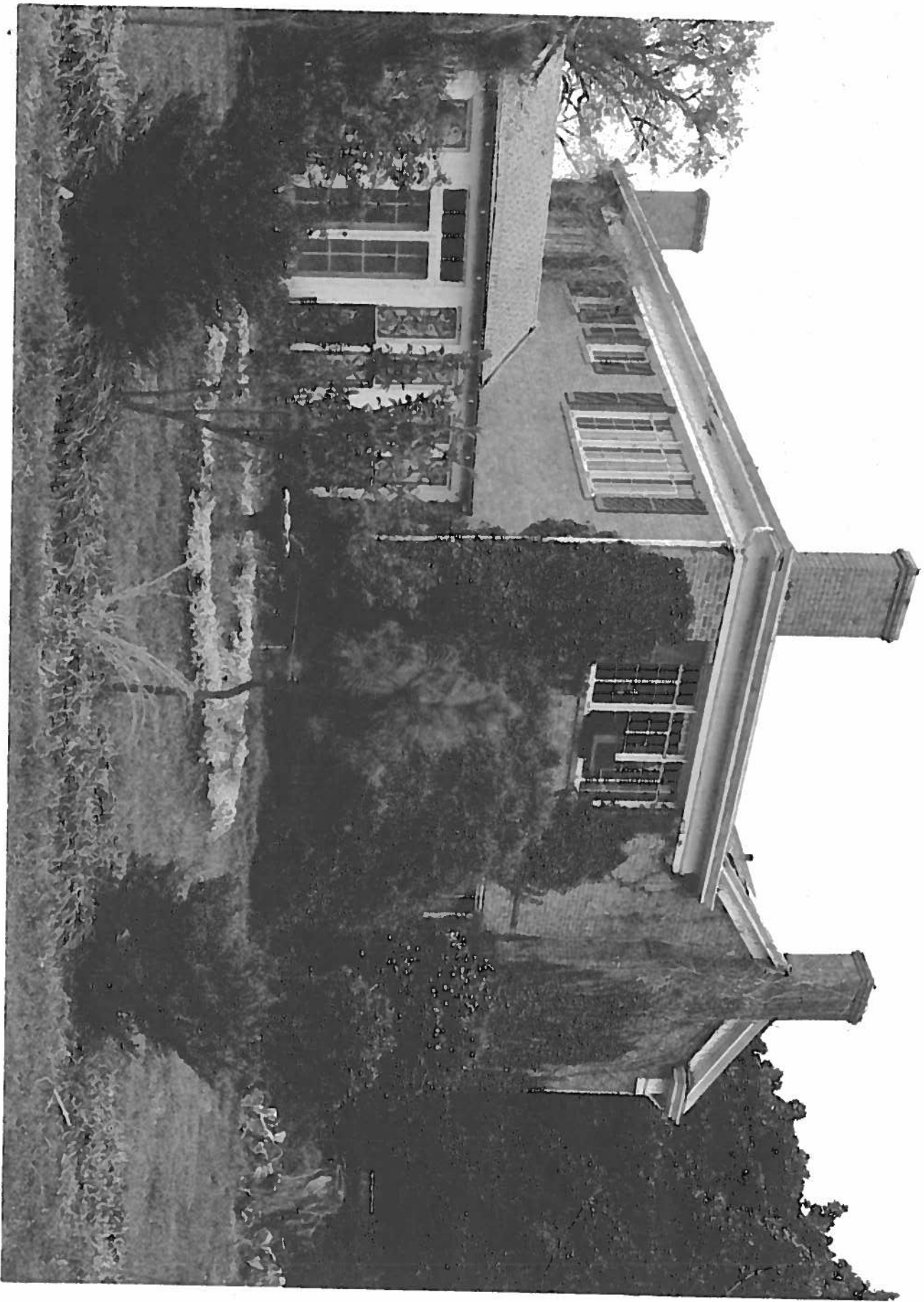
MAY 5 1978

near Leigh, Harrison County, Texas

Stanley Klein March 1977
negative filed at the Texas Historical Comm.

Northwest Oblique

NOV 2 1978

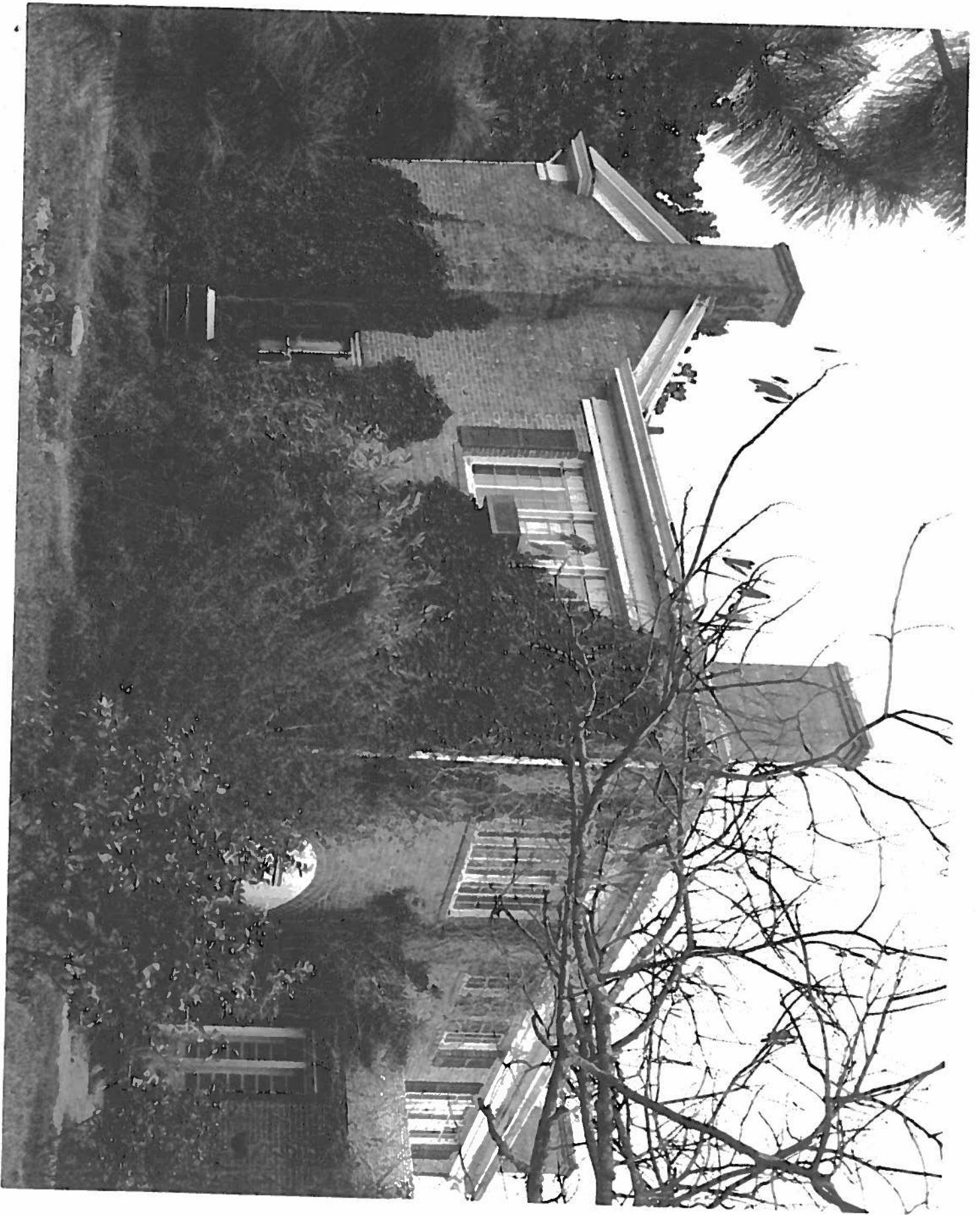


MAY 5 1978

Mimosa Hall
One mile west of FM 134
near Leigh, Harrison County, Texas

Stanley Klein March 1977
negative filed at the Texas Historical Comm.
Southeast Oblique

NOV 2 1978



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

MAY 8 1978

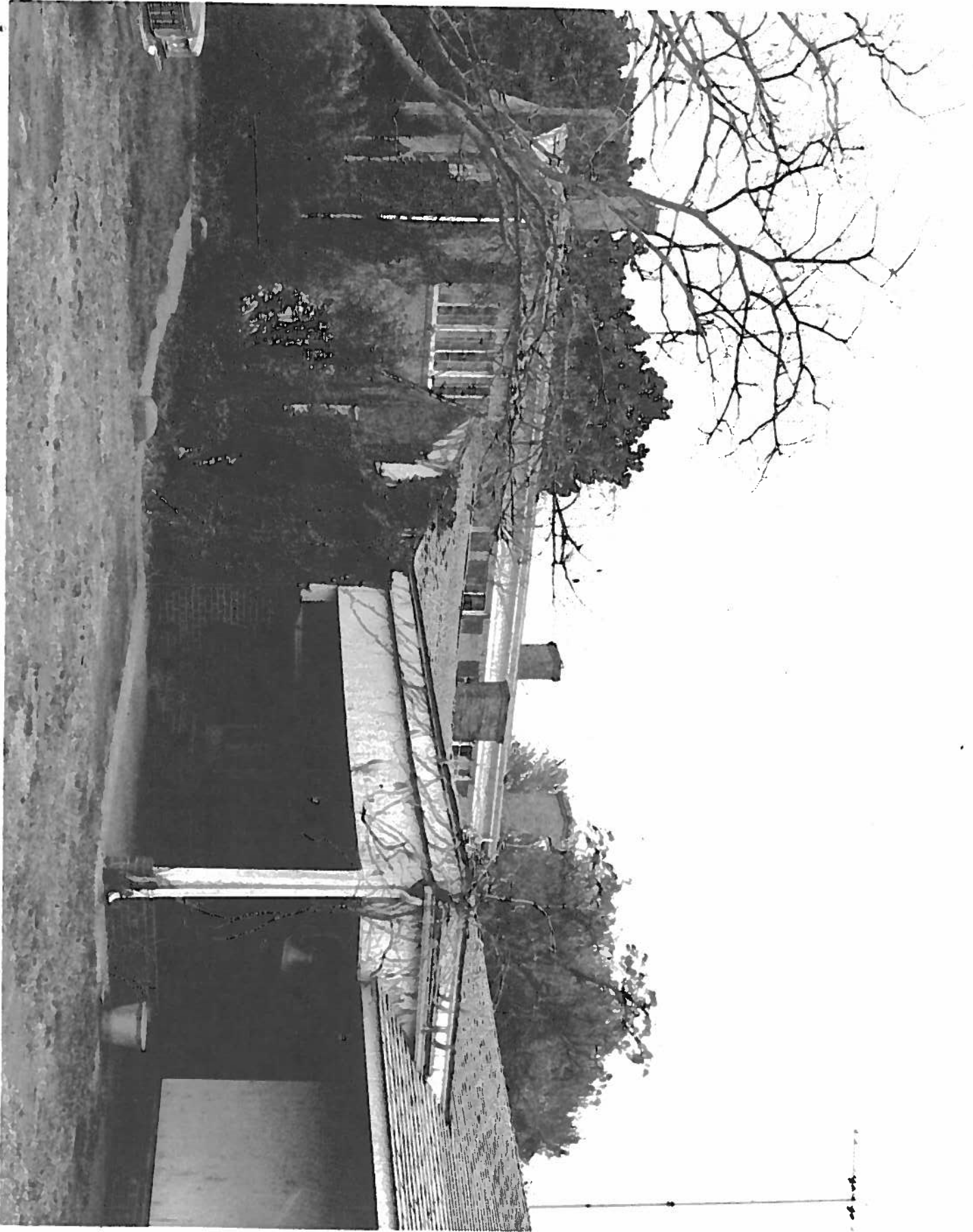
Mimosa Hall

One mile west of FM 134
near Leigh, Harrison County, Texas

Stanley Klein March 1977
negative filed at the Texas Historical Comm.

Southwest Oblique

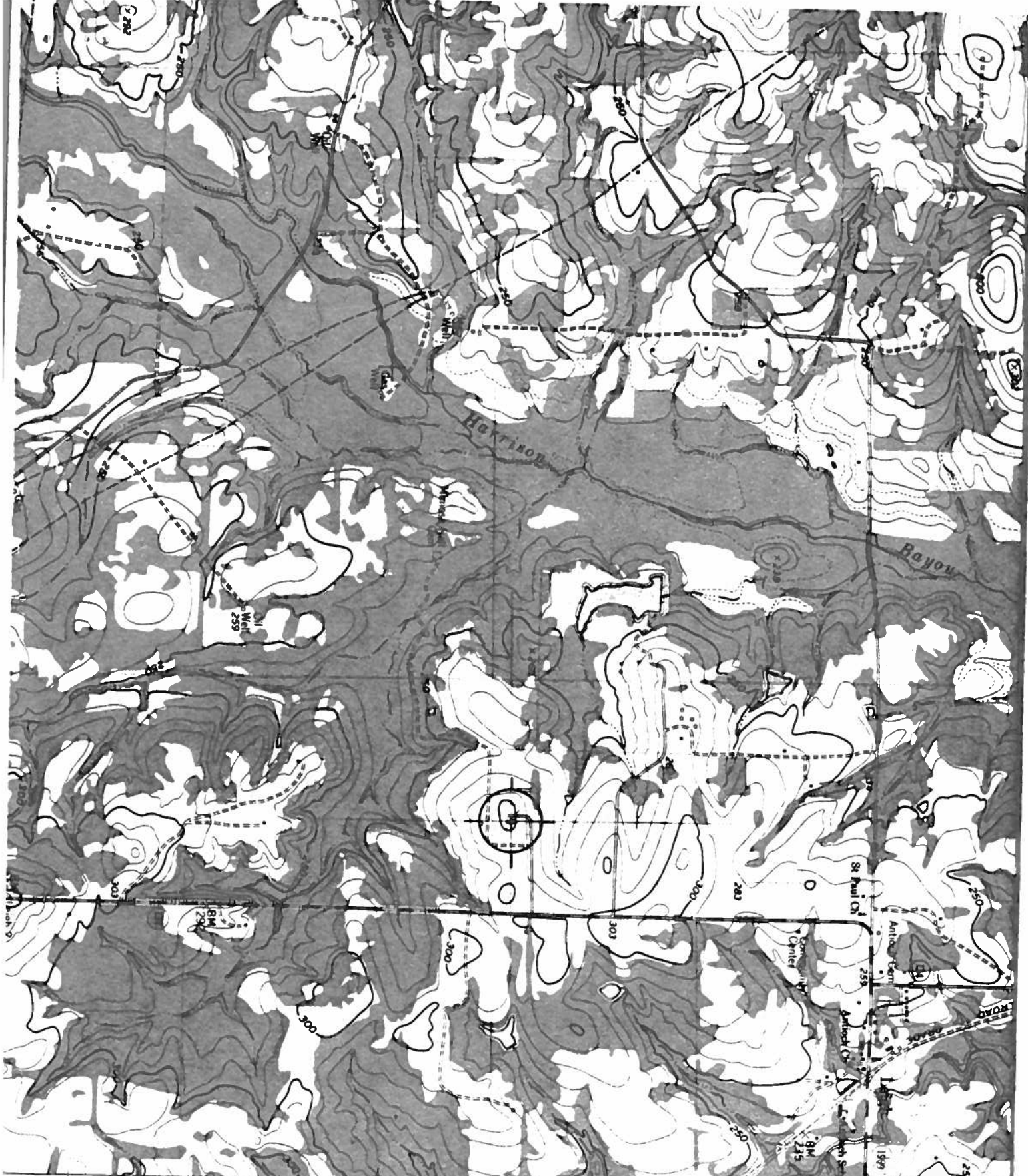
MAY 8 1978



MAY 5 1978

Mimosa Hall
One mile west of FM 134
near Leigh, Harrison County, Texas

Stanley Klein March 1977
negative filed at the Texas Historical Comm.
Southwest Oblique



MIMOSA HALL
ONE MILE WEST OF FM 134
NEAR LEIGH, HARRISON COUNTY, TEXAS
UTM REFERENCE: 15/392680/3606083

FEET

