

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NR LISTED
JAN 27 1999
AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Wee Pine Knot

Other Name/Site Number: BE3549

2. Location

Street & Number: 319 Spring Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Sulphur Springs

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Benton

Code: 007 Zip Code: 72768

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Buildings
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Sites
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	Structures
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Objects
		Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: Benton County Multiple Property Survey

Wee Pine Knot
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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.

Catherine A. Slaton
Signature of certifying official

12-14-98
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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 _____
- _____ determined eligible for the National Register _____
- _____ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- _____ removed from the National Register _____
- _____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date Of action

Wee Pine Knot
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Current : Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Rustic
Craftsman

Materials: foundation Concrete roof Composition Shingle
walls Unpeeled logs other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Wee Pine Knot in Sulphur Springs, Benton County is a one-story, wood shingle and unpeeled log Craftsman bungalow with Rustic influences, built between 1918 and 1919 by Mr. Warren Prickett of Bonomi, Louisiana. The house features a side gable roof with pedimented dormer, half-timbering, double-hung wooden windows and rustic tree trunk posts on the full front porch. Stacked rock quarried from Sulphur Springs has been used on the front facade for porch support piers, unique porch half-walls and patio piers extending east and west from the house. An exterior composite chimney to the east features a stacked rock base with buff brick flue. The interior of the house features dark Craftsman woodwork and flooring of number one pine. The Wee Pine Knot is situated on a slight rise at the intersection of Spring and Duff Streets in a residential neighborhood of small homes from the turn of the century, modern 20th century brick Ranch homes and a scattering of small 20th century commercial buildings. Its large open lot contains a concrete fish pond, an unpeeled log garage dating from the construction of the home, a modern cinderblock outbuilding and a concrete root cellar. The property was altered on the interior in 1995 with the modernization of the kitchen and the removal of a door from the kitchen to the former maid's room at the rear of the house. This renovation project resulted in the replacement of three original double-hung windows on the west facade with modern metal windows. The home is in excellent condition and retains its historic rustic character.

Elaboration

The Wee Pine Knot in Sulphur Springs was built c. 1919 as a summer home for Mr. Warren Prickett of Louisiana. It was sited on a slight rise one block east of the Kansas City, Fort Smith and Southern depot, which has been destroyed. It is within walking distance of Sulphur Springs' commercial area and a large

Wee Pine Knot
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

city park to the west. The home is a one-story Craftsman bungalow with Rustic influences featuring shingled wall cladding, unpeeled log detail around the front door, unfinished log porch supports, an uncoursed stone and brick composite chimney and an unusual stacked rock balustrade on the front porch. The home has remained a single family residence since its construction and the only exterior alterations have been the removal and replacement of three original windows with modern metal windows in 1995. Wee Pine Knot remains in excellent condition.

The north, or front facade is reached by seven concrete steps from street level through an iron gate within a cinderblock wall that borders the front of the house. Two stacked rock rounded piers that once held glass gazing globes flank the sidewalk leading to the house. Two similar stacked rock piers topped with concrete lions are at the base of seven steps on the full front porch. Two square uncoursed rock piers on a concrete wall, topped with carved granite caps and connected with a thin chain, extend from a patio at the east corner of the house to the full front porch. Two more rock piers east of the centered front stairs hold unfinished log porch posts stained dark brown. A balustrade composed of rocks stacked in an open design span the two piers. Two more piers and stacked rock balustrade extend to the west on the other side of the front steps. The concrete wall and two rock piers connected with chains projects to the west past the house. An unpeeled section of log carved with "Wee-Pine-Knot" hangs from the porch soffit in front of the entrance.

Fenestration begins at the northeast corner of the house with a large fourteen-over-one double-hung window set within half timbering. The central entry extends forward about one foot. Two narrow eight-over-one windows adjoin the eight-light wooden front door. A section of shingled wall lies above and below the windows surrounded with half-timbering. Unpeeled logs cover the remainder of the entry section. Four-light sidelights over a wooden panel decorated with a small span of dentil work flank the eight-light front door. A three part transom above the door consists of four lights over each sidelight and ten lights over the entry. The main wall of the house at the northwest corner contains a second fourteen-over-one window with half-timbering. A gabled attic dormer is located in the middle of the roof. Two ten-light fixed windows lie within a recessed section of shingled wall beneath a pediment of unpeeled logs and half timbering.

The western facade is fenestrated north to south with a pair of eight-over-one windows in half-timbering. The wall projects forward about two feet and contains a modern one-light sliding metal window and one short one-over-one metal window. The gable end of the house at the attic story is clad with unpeeled logs above the wood shingles. A single fourteen-light fixed window opens just at the projection of the wall. Four stacked rock piers line the yard in front of the west facade.

The south, or rear elevation is the least elaborate of the home. It is fenestrated west to east with a single leaf one-light wood door adjoining a small six-light casement window. A single eight-over-one window opens to the west of a ribbon of three one-over-one windows. A second door with one frosted glass panel opens onto a concrete stoop. A second ribbon of three one-over-one windows extends to the southeastern corner of the home. Half-timbering surrounds all the windows on this facade.

Wee Pine Knot
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

The east elevation contains two one-over-one windows at the southeast corner. A set of ten-light french doors opens into a bedroom. A composite chimney of buff brick and stacked uncoursed rocks is flanked by two narrow ten-light french doors. The gable-end of the house is sheathed in unpeeled logs and contains one fourteen-light fixed window. A pair of moose antlers adorns the wall above the wider french doors. Half-timbering is used on this elevation also.

Several structures lie to the rear of the house. A concrete L-shaped root cellar which is thought to be original to the home is situated at the southwest corner of the house. A c. 1919 garage is covered in the unpeeled logs found on the house, however the bark has worn off the rounded wood sheathing. Two vertical plank doors open into the garage on the north end. A concrete fish pond lined with large crystals along the outer rim is to the southwest. The pond is a shallow round structure with a granite bench beside it. The bench seat was found in the yard and is thought to be part of the Oak Lawn Hotel which once stood on the lot of the Wee Pine Knot. A small section of the foundation of the hotel is found to the west of the house. A small cinderblock storage building with a plastic gable roof lies to the south of the house past the root cellar. All structures but the cinderblock outbuilding are considered contributing to this nomination.

The interior of the home displays sturdy Arts and Crafts influenced woodwork of number one pine. The wood used in molding, floors and beams was very hard pine from the area with a burlled grain. The house is situated north/south on its raised lot but the rooms flow east/west in an open circular pattern for maximum air circulation. The home contains ten-foot ceilings with numerous, wide windows and French doors and has deep eaves all around for shade. It was strategically placed on the property with the bedroom to the east facing the sunrise. By evening, with the bright sun having moved to the west side of the house, the bedroom had cooled for evening sleeping. The living room ceiling is lined with wide pine beams above a stacked rock fireplace with plain pine mantelpiece. The room is halved by a stick work half-wall with hinged bench seats. A third bench seat is situated under the large northeast window beside the fireplace. A built-in bookshelf with breakfront doors is directly in front of the entry. The dining room to the east displays pine ceiling beams. The kitchen was remodeled in 1995 and contains modern cabinets and appliances.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Wee Pine Knot
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: C. 1919

Significant Dates: C. 1919

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and period of significance noted above:

The Wee Pine Knot was built as a summer home c. 1919 and reflects the sturdy Rustic influences of structures built as getaways in cooler resort areas. This one-story Craftsman Bungalow is embellished with unpeeled log and wood shingle wall sheathing, stacked rock porch piers and chimney, and french doors to let the summer breezes flow. At the time it was built the house was on the cutting edge of architectural fashion and reflected the progressive tastes of its owner, Mr. Warren Prickett, a well-traveled man of influence. For its Craftsman and Rustic architecture the Wee Pine Knot is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance.

Elaboration

The city of Sulphur Springs in Benton County has been variously known as the "City of Delight" and the "Beauty Spot of the Ozarks". The northwest Arkansas town was surveyed in 1885 and laid out by S.B. Robertson for Hibler & Cox. Mr. Hibler had purchased 40 acres of land from Zebulon Whinery in 1884 with an eye toward developing the town into a resort based on exploitation of the mineral springs. The group of springs found there included white sulphur, potash sulphur, magnesia, chalybeate, nitre and intermittent freestone. At the turn of the century coal mining was prevalent, thriving in neighboring states, Kansas and Missouri. Coal workers bore the brunt of their occupation, developing respiratory ailments. Natural healing from sources such as the springs provided the lure needed to develop a busy resort community. Thousands of patients were dispatched annually to the town for arthritis and respiratory treatment.

In 1889 a natural lake formed by Butler Creek was drained in the town, resulting in the discovery of three more mineral springs which prompted Mr. Hibler to christen the town Sulphur Springs. In this year a train line on the Kansas City, Fort Smith and Southern Railroad was built from Split Log, Missouri and the town experienced a boom in growth. By 1890 Sulphur Springs

Wee Pine Knot
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

was legally incorporated.

Mr. Hibler constructed an 11 acre park revolving around the springs and Lake LaBelladine, with islands to entertain the tourists. The park featured a tabernacle, dance hall, roller rink, golf course and miniature train. The lake was host to fishing tournaments and swimmers and several elaborate hotels and bath houses were built to accommodate visitors. The Kilburn Hotel was considered the largest in Northwest Arkansas in 1909. Sulphur Springs was thriving and the flow of the mineral springs was such that it could supply 10,000 people with water. It was in this atmosphere in the heyday of the American bath and spa era that Mr. Warren Prickett came to town to construct his summer home. Mr. Prickett was General Southern Manager of Long Bell Lumber Company of Kansas City, Missouri. After the death of Mr. Prickett in 1934, his wife moved to the home year round. In later years her health began to fail so she moved to her daughter's house in Georgia where she died. Since that time Wee Pine Knot has remained a single-family home.

In 1912 the Sulphur Springs Electric Light Company was destroyed by fire. The loss of this source of employment and the southern extension of the Kansas City Railroad caused a drop in tourism revenues and population after World War I. In 1924 the John Brown University purchased the Park Reserve and the school was installed in the Kilburn Hotel. In order to protect his students John Brown abolished town dances and all mixed bathing in the City Park and pronounced his intent to construct a "jazzless, danceless" university. The struggling town continued to suffer under Reverend Brown's oppression. U.S. Highway 71 was put through the golf course in the Park Reserve in 1926. The 1930s saw the destruction of several of the elegant hotels and bath houses in town and a significant drop in tourism. By 1956 the dam on Lake LaBelladine in the park had washed out and John Brown University put the Reserve up for sale. The saving grace came from Mr. Aubrey Johnson, Sulphur Springs resident who purchased the park and entered into a contract with the city to buy back the park. The park acreage was increased in 1957 to 16½ acres when Mrs. Minnie Williams left 4½ acres to the city. The dam was rebuilt in 1976 using concrete and the lake was returned to the citizens. The city is not the bustling boom town it was at the turn of the century but its charm and natural beauty remains intact with the Park Reserve at its core to remind one of its resort town heritage.

Architectural and Historical Significance

The Wee Pine Knot is being nominated to the National Register with local significance under Criterion C for its unusual Rustic influences on its Craftsman Bungalow core. The house remains on its original site one block from the former Kansas City Southern Railroad Depot where tourists disembarked to partake of the mineral springs and entertainments offered by the many hotels and bath houses which lined the streets. Wee Pine Knot survives as a representative of Sulphur Springs' halcyon days as a thriving resort town. The unpeeled logs, wood shingled wall sheathing and unfinished log porch supports on stacked rock balustrades are features found on structures built to evoke cottages in the country for those wishing to escape the stress of the city at a summer getaway.

Wee Pine Knot
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Information submitted by Sherilyn J. Walters, Sulphur Springs, December 17, 1997.

Sulphur Springs Centennial Committee. *Sulphur Springs 1890-1990*.

Benton County Heritage Committee. *Benton County History*. Curtis Media Corporation, Dallas, Texas. 1991.

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 -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: One acre.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>369060</u>	<u>4038840</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point on the southwest corner of the intersection of Spring and Duff Streets, proceed south 70' along sidewalk to rear property line of 319 Spring Street. Then proceed east 200' along rear property line to fenceline on Black Street, turning north for 70' to southeast intersection of Spring and Black Streets. Then proceed west along the sidewalk to point of

Wee Pine Knot
Name of Property

Benton County, Arkansas
County and State

origin.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the Wee Pint Knot in Sulphur Springs.

11. Form Prepared By

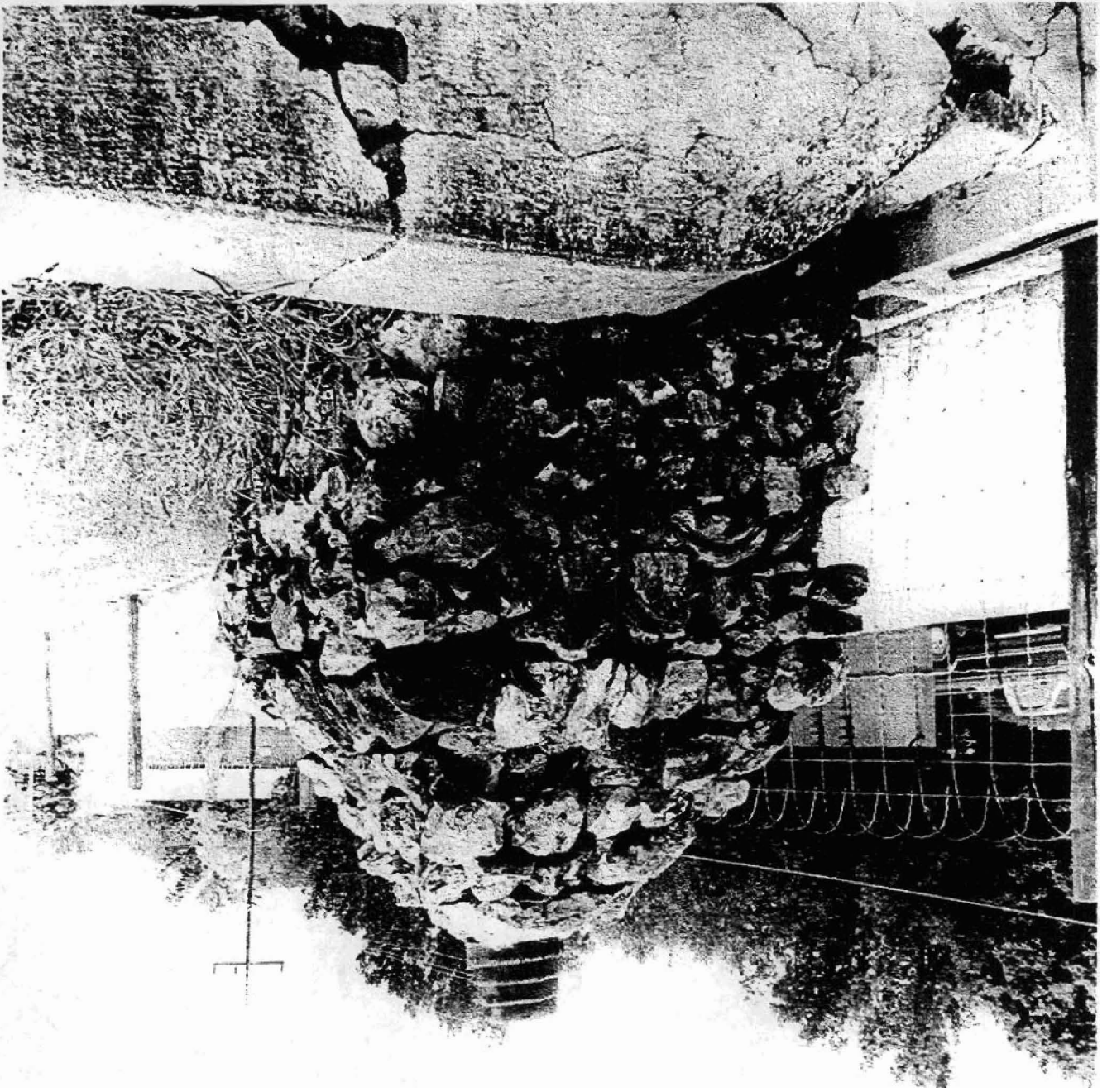
Name/Title: Sherilyn Walters/edited by Holly Hope/Survey Historian

Organization: _____ Date: 12/10/97

Street & Number: P.O. Box 163 Telephone: (501) 298-3218

City or Town: Sulphur Springs State: AR ZIP: 72768

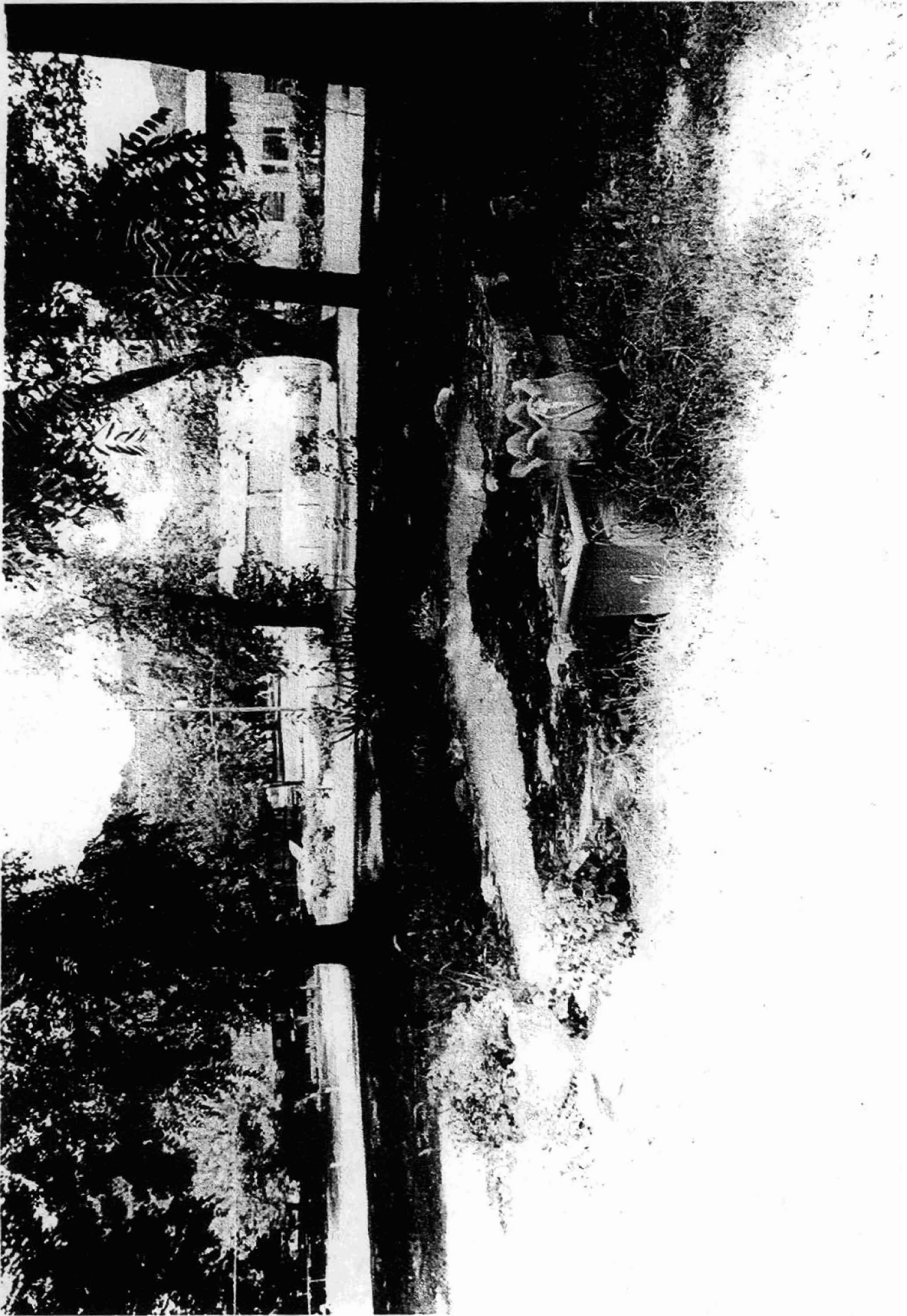


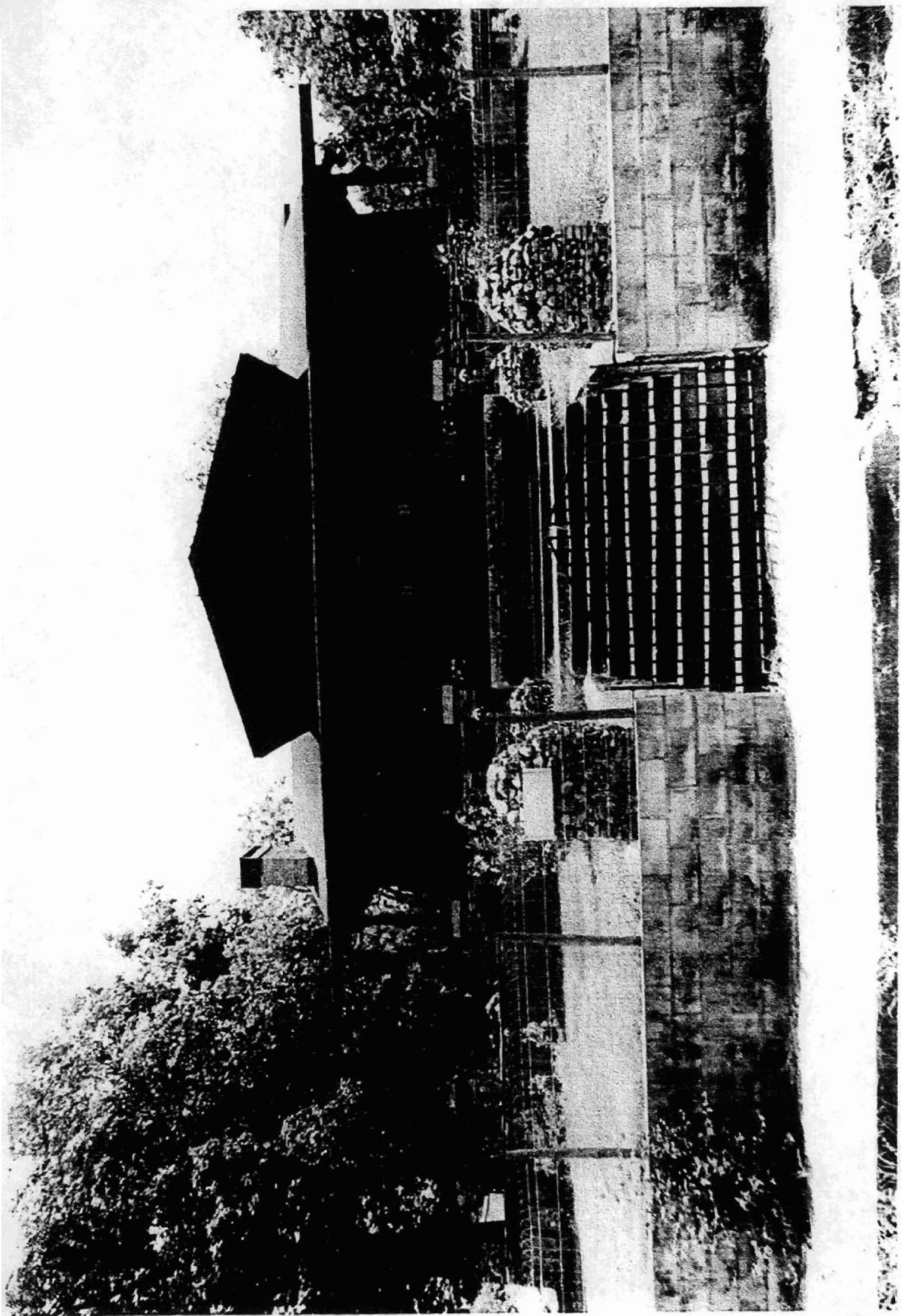


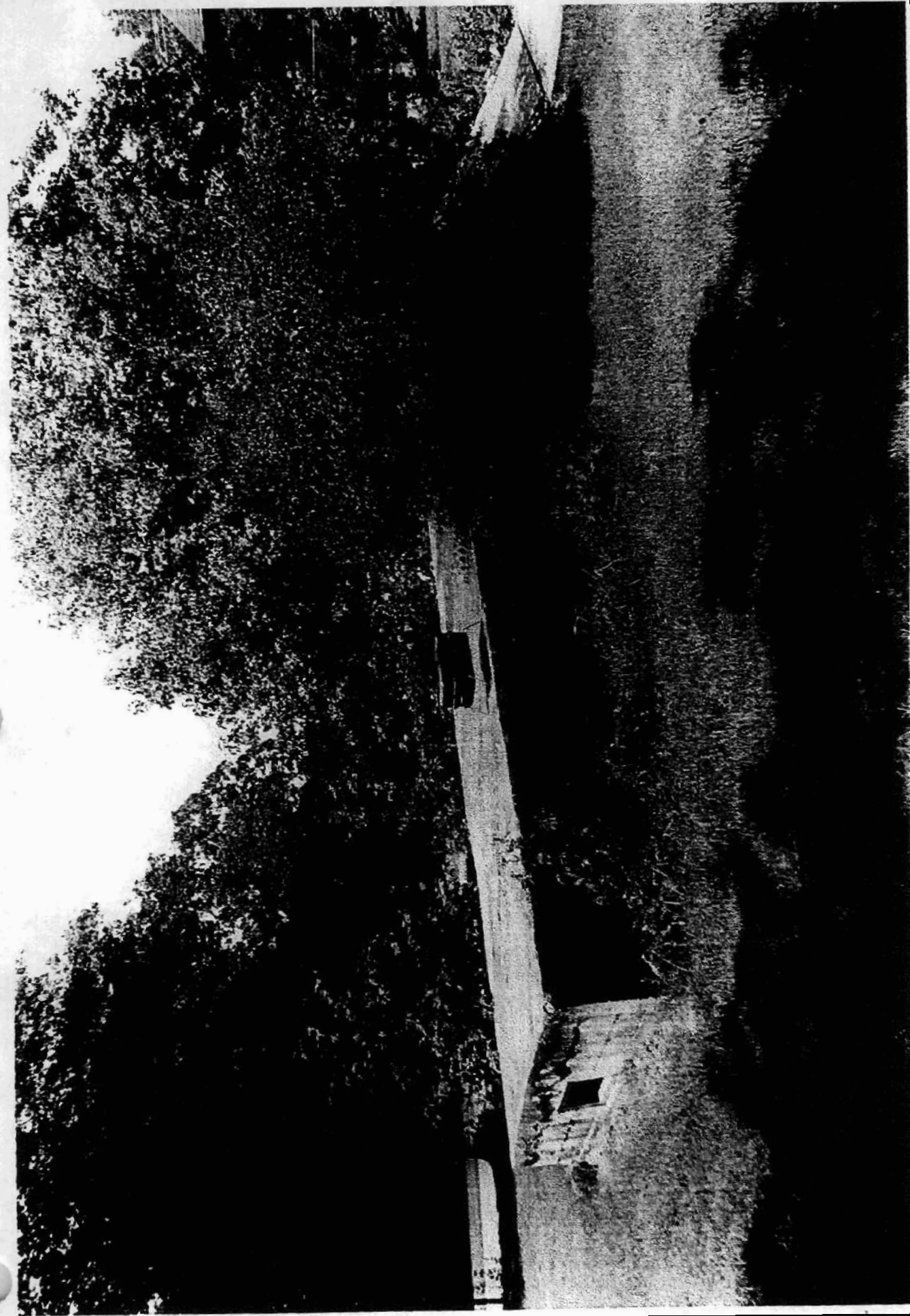
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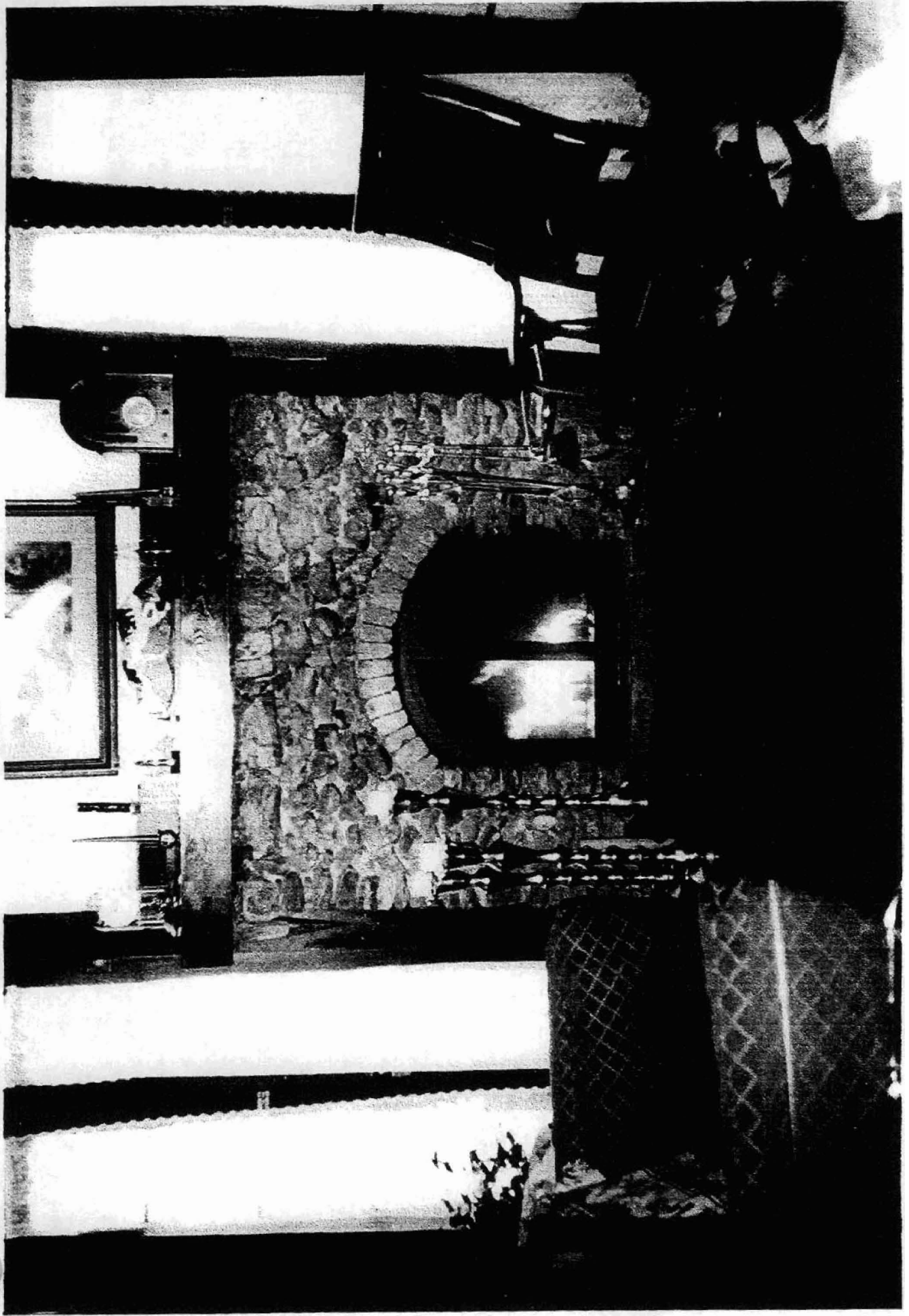


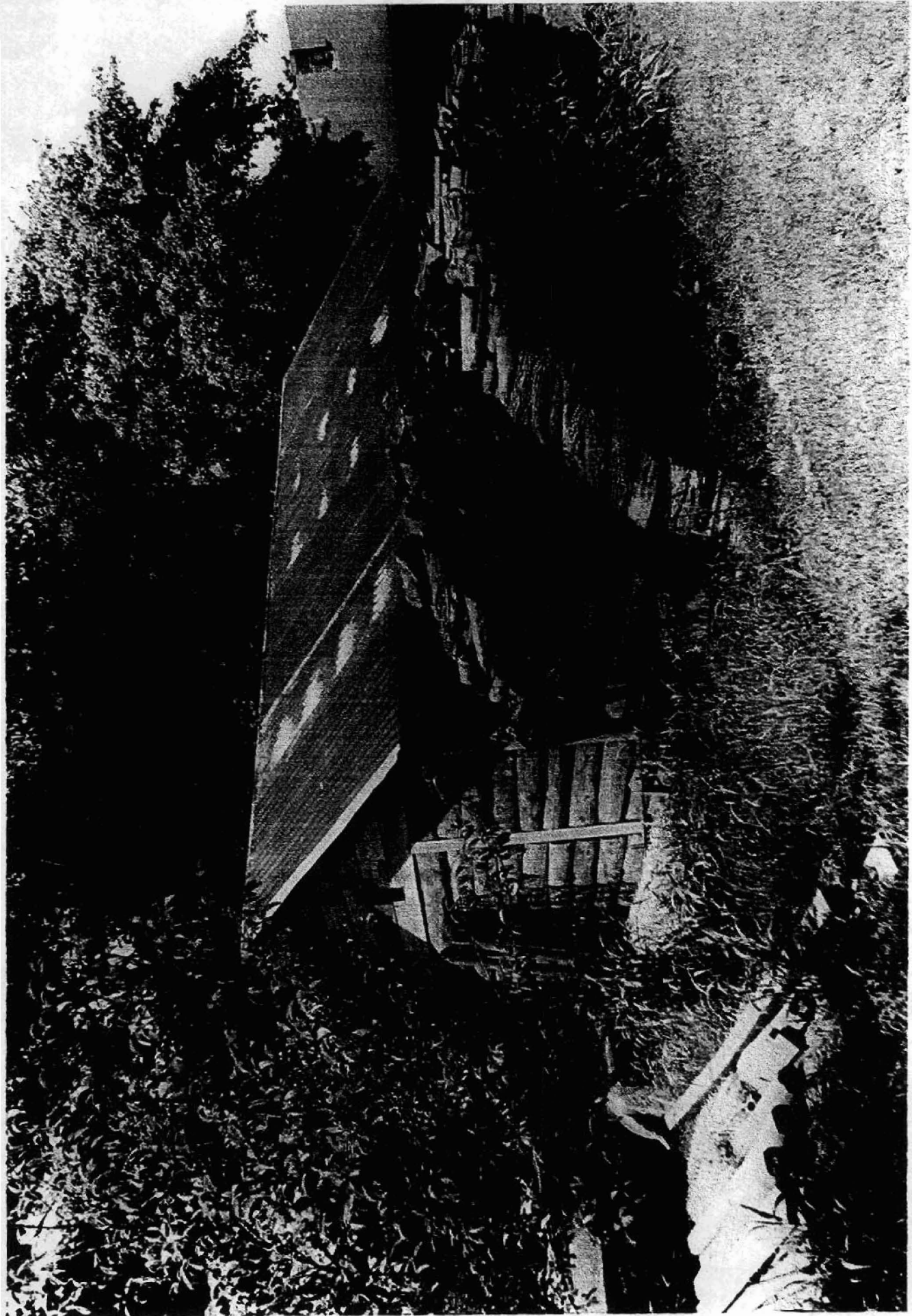




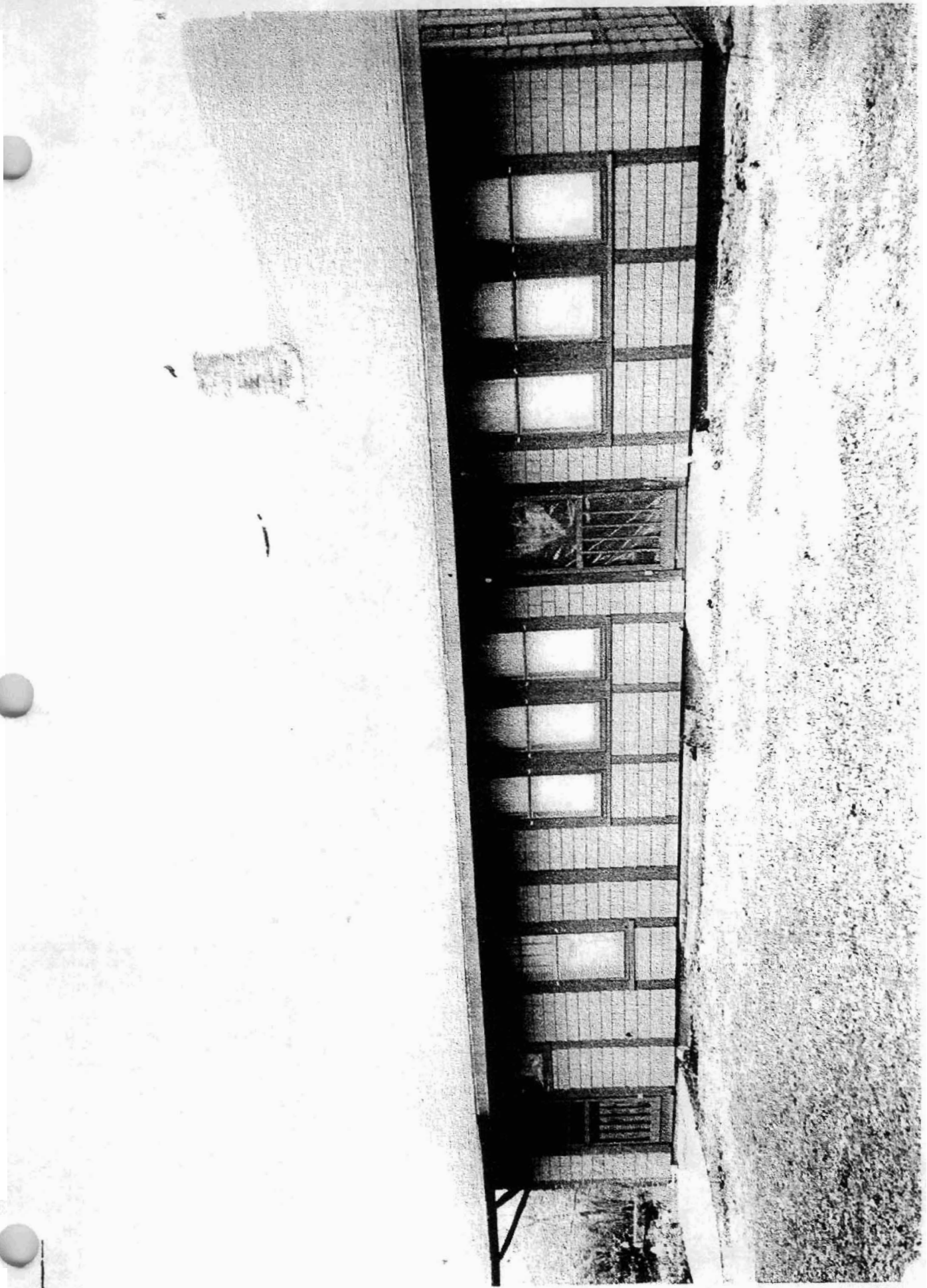
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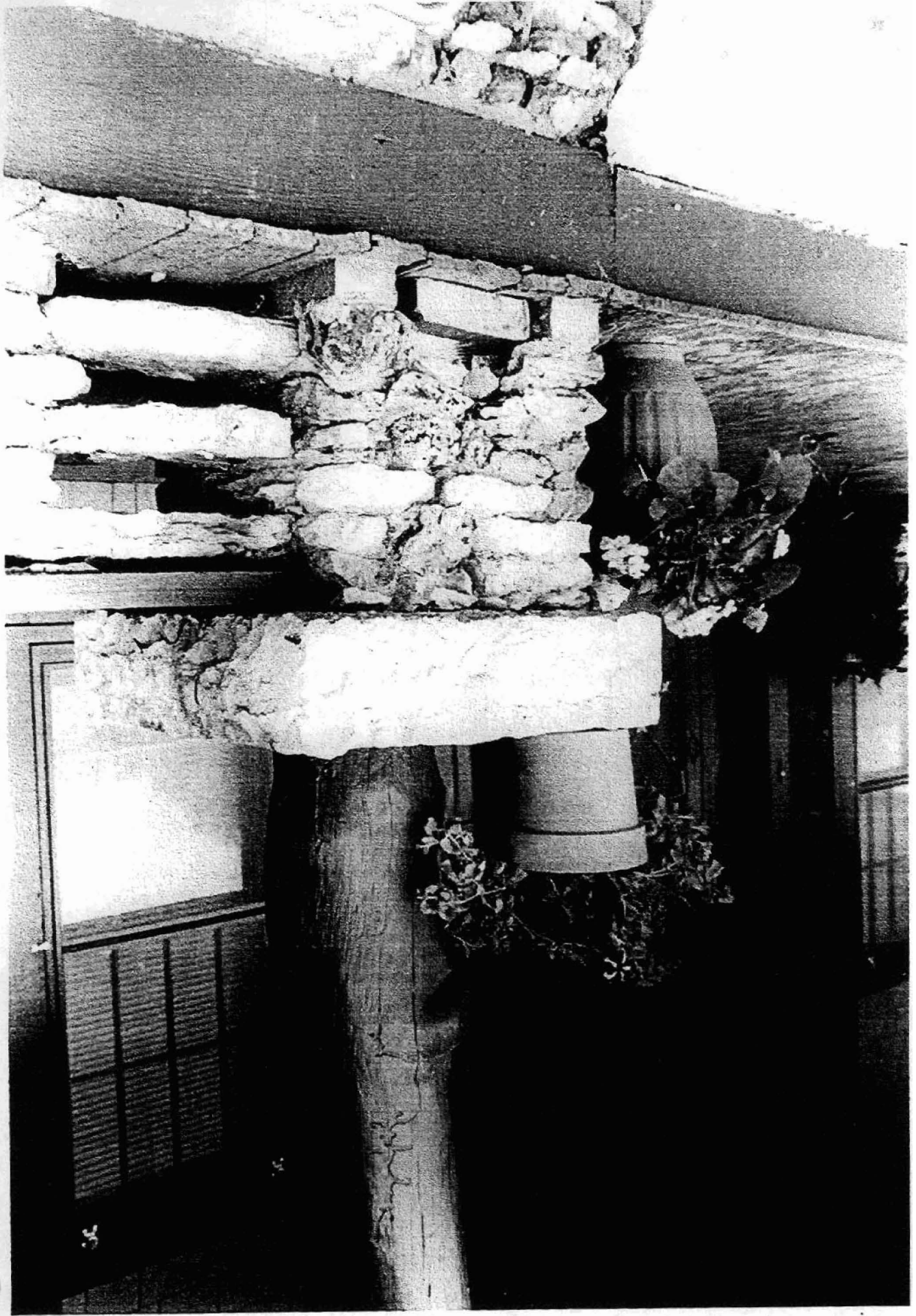






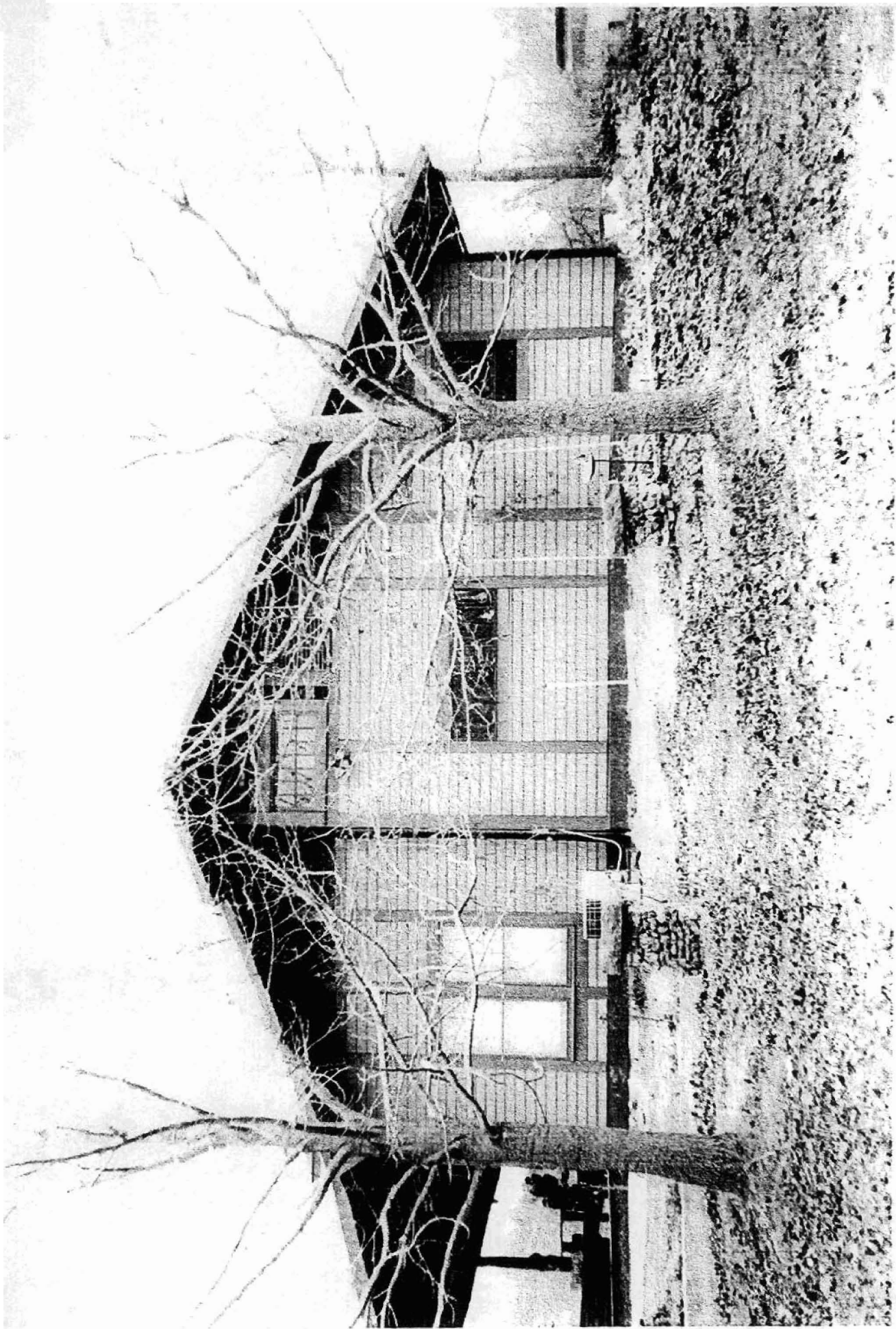




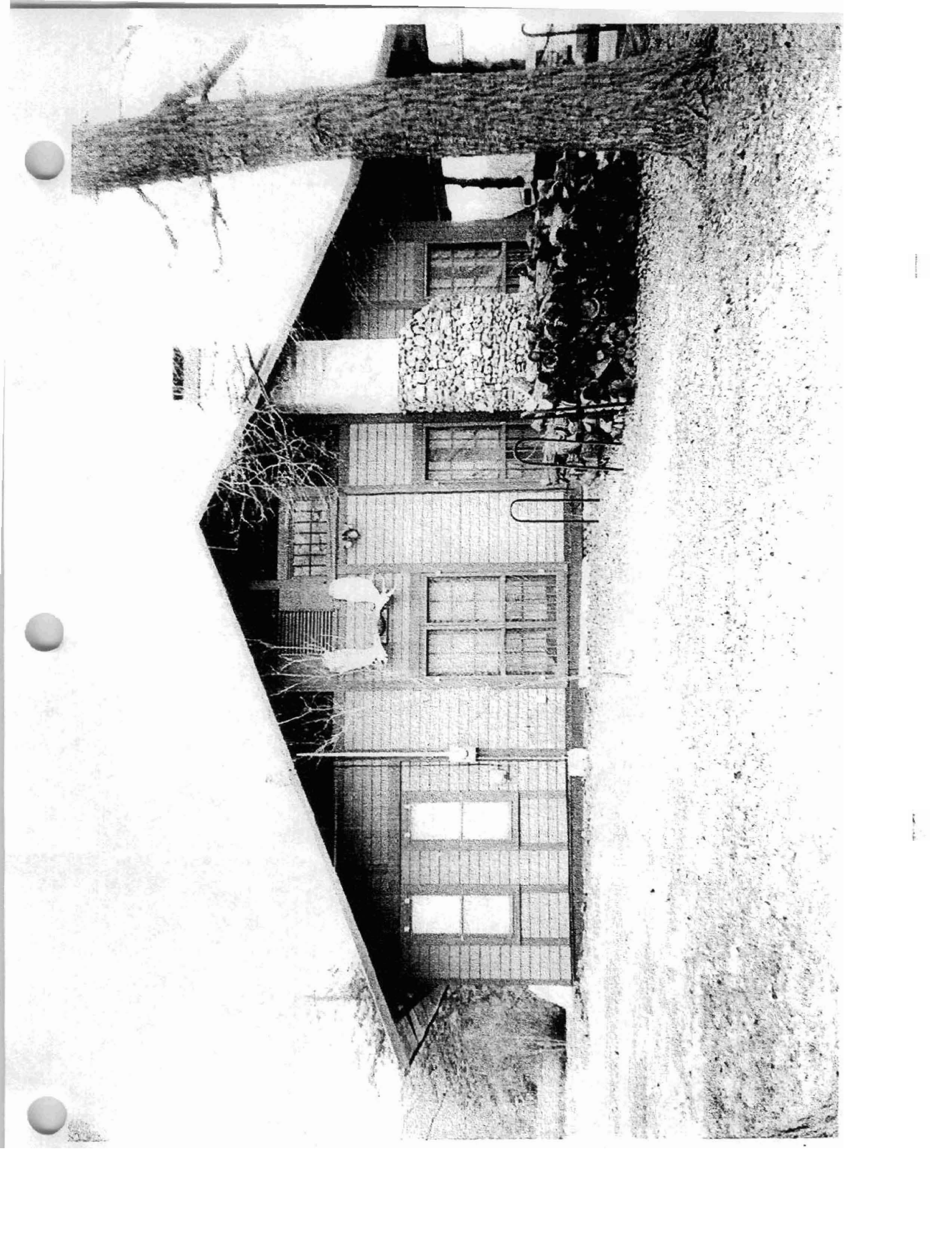


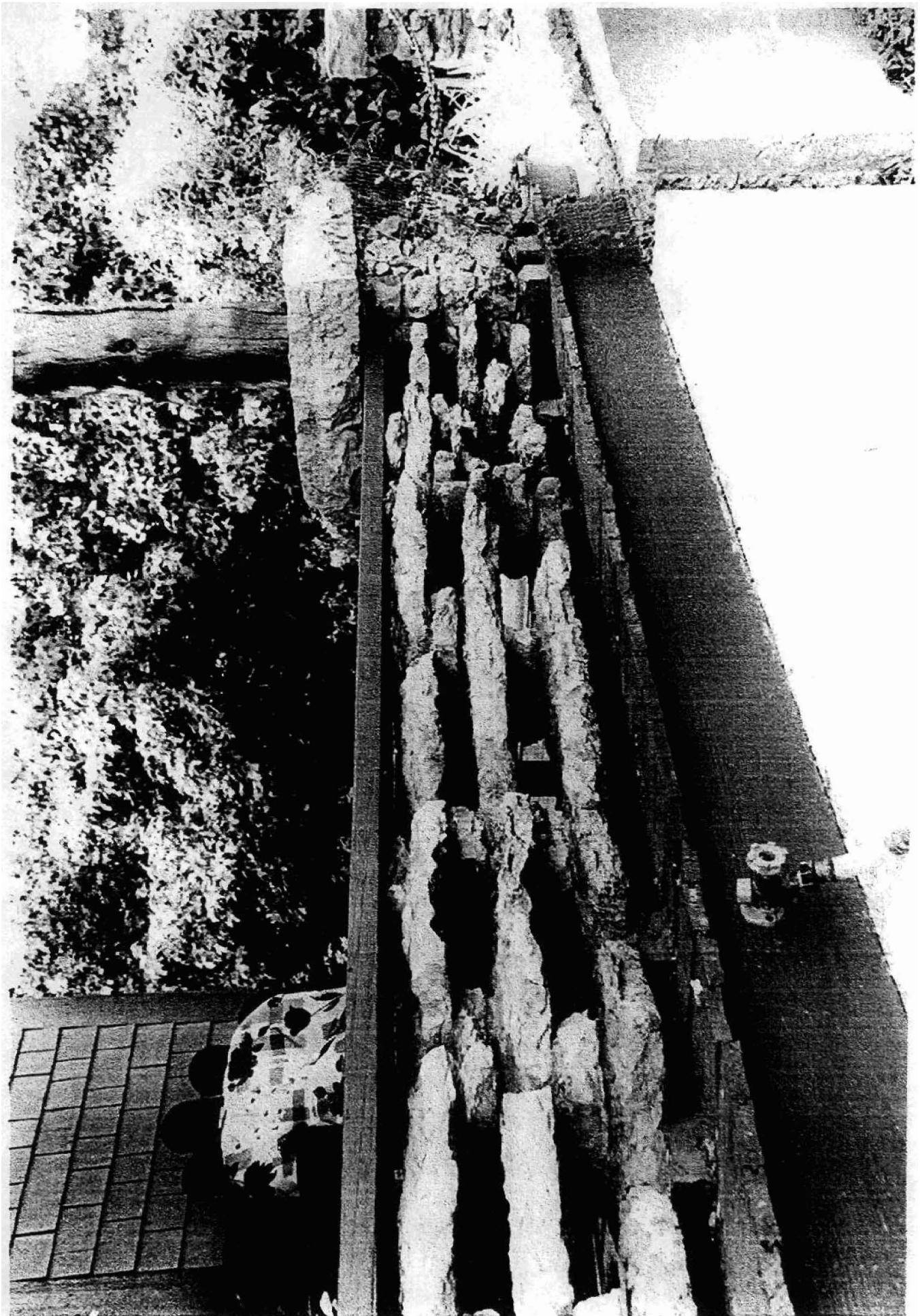










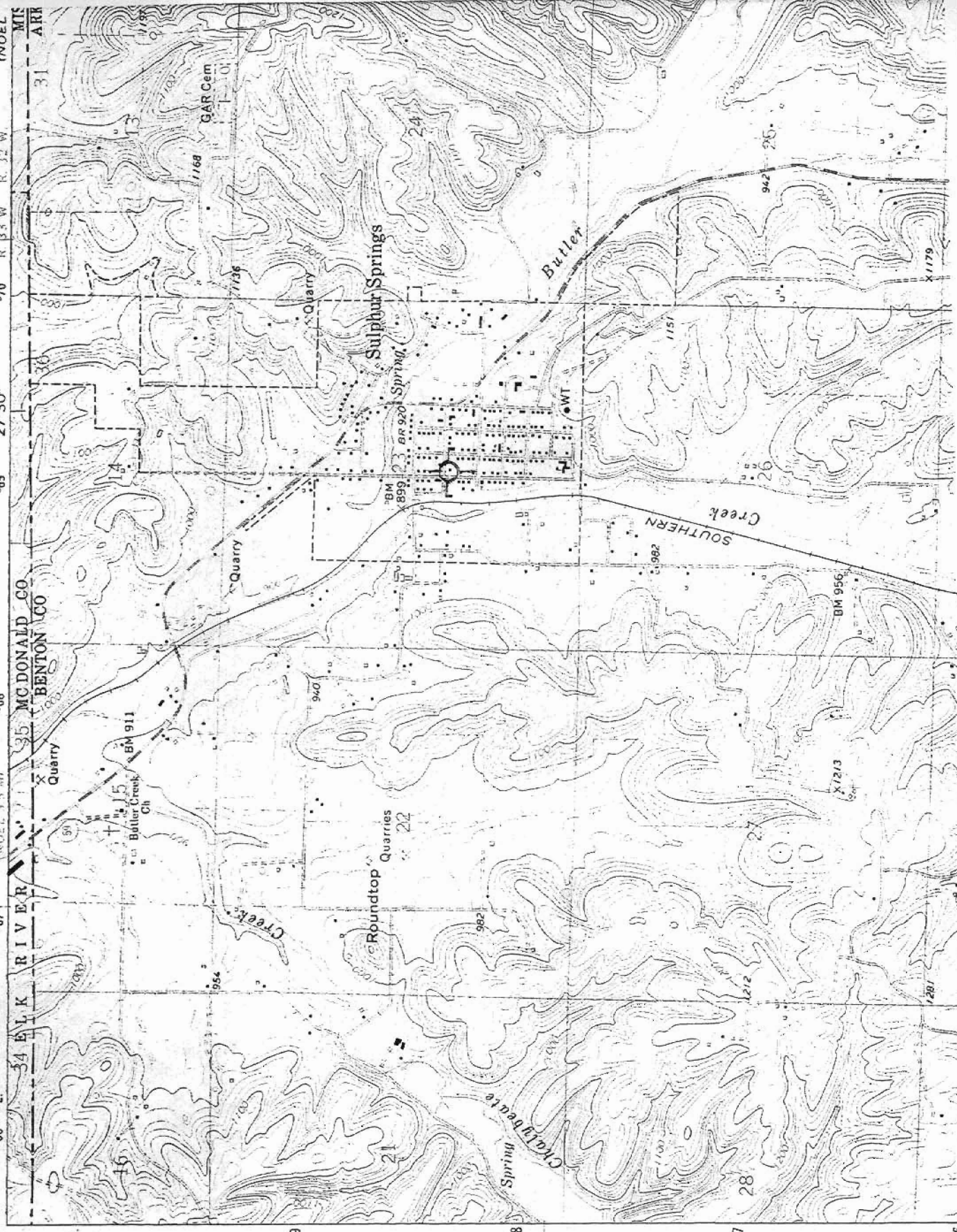


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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE OF
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WEE PINE KNOT
SULPHUR SPRINGS
BENTON COUNTY
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