

NR listed 9/05/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

CR1033

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Stamps Store

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Old Highway 68

not for publication N/A

city, town Osage

vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Carroll

code AR 015

zip code 72638

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Boyd
Signature of certifying official
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

8-1-90
Date

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 the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/General Store

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rubble

Romanesque

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof METAL/Steel

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

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)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1899-1902

Significant Dates
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Bailey

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 Less than one

UTM References

A 1, 5 4, 6, 3, 6, 4, 0 4, 0, 0, 4, 1, 0, 0
Zone Easting Northing

B _____
Zone Easting Northing

C _____

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number 225 E. Markham, Suite 200
city or town Little Rock

date July 31, 1990
telephone (501) 371-2763
state Arkansas zip code 72201

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 1**Summary**

The Stamps Store is a two-and-one-half story, stone masonry commercial building designed in a vernacular interpretation of the Romanesque Revival. It features a rectangular plan and is covered with a gable roof.

Elaboration

The Stamps Store is a two-and-one-half story, stone masonry commercial building designed in a vernacular interpretation of the Romanesque Revival style. It features a rectangular plan with a large, open retail/bank/post office space occupying the entire first floor, apartments occupying the second floor and a meeting hall in the upper half-story. A single brick chimney rises through the gable peak near the center of the building. The stone foundation and walls are covered by a corrugated metal gable roof.

The southern or front elevation features a two-story, shed roof wood porch and balcony attached to the stone facade of the structure itself. Both the first and second story are symmetrically arranged. The first floor is divided into three evenly-spaced arched openings and entered via the central opening with a double-leaf entry set beneath a fixed glass transom. The flanking arched windows are filled with large, fixed glass panes and simply panelled wood bulkheads below. A raised stone landing supports the wood porch. The second story is fenestrated by two rectangular, four-over-four wood sash windows flanking a central doorway which accesses the balcony. The balcony itself consists of six simple wood posts supporting the shed roof with a connecting balustrade composed of square wood posts. It is supported by four larger wood posts that rest upon the stone landing below. The upper half-story is lighted by a central one-over-one wood sash window set into a weatherboarded pediment.

The eastern and western elevations are similar. The eastern elevation is four bays in length. The first floor is blank, while the second story is lighted with three arched window openings filled with four-over-four wood sash windows to the north and is accessed via a wood single-leaf entry to the south (the wood staircase has since been removed, though its stone foundation remains). The western elevation is five bays in length and composed of five evenly-spaced arched openings, each filled with four-over-four wood sash windows. It is also blank on the first floor.

The northern or rear elevation is completely symmetrical, with a central arched entrance on the first floor separating two four-over-four wood sash wood windows set into arched openings. The second floor is lighted with two smaller arched openings, also filled with four-over-four wood sash windows. The half-story above is lighted with a central window opening (now covered) set into a weatherboarded pediment. A slightly projecting wood box cornice

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finishes the elevation.

Exterior details of note are primarily limited to the massive round and segmental stone arches throughout. While those on the front of the building are more finished than those found elsewhere, all rely upon a sophisticated setting of the stone voussoirs to support the weight of the wall and roof above. The rough, cut fieldstone walls lend a handsome, heavily textured appearance to the large fields of uninterrupted wall surface and provide the only other significant ornament.

The interior is a remarkably intact example of an early twentieth century general store. The original wood shelving lines the walls down both sides of the main retail space on the first floor, as do many old if not original merchandise counters. The beaded-board ceiling is carried on a massive center beam running the full length of the building and supported by a series of nine solid, turned wood columns. Each column supports a solid wood capital the sides of which are flush with the sides of the beam above but which extends to either side of the actual column below to carry a larger section of the beam itself. This long capital is then bolted into the beam above for stability.

The original post office boxes and counter survive in the southeast corner of the retail area. In the northeast corner is the bank, a partitioned area with an entrance, complete with safe and transaction window with a sliding wood panel. The stairway to the upper floors is situated in the northwest corner.

The second floor is divided into ten apartments that are now vacant and unused. Most of the apartments are papered with old newspapers, though some are finished with narrow, beaded board stained a rich, reddish color. The third floor is largely unfinished and by all accounts has always been so. The southern end of the space served as a meeting area for the Rebecca Lodge; their original altar and rostrum (speaking platform) survive. One interesting detail in this space is the square braces that project from the bottoms of the roof supports; these apparently supported planks that served as seats for members of the lodge.

The Stamps Store has suffered only the removal of the stairway on the eastern elevation of the building and the replacement of the original glass in the front first-story windows. Otherwise there have been no serious alterations to the building.

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Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1**Summary**

Criteria C, local significance

The Stamps Store is remarkable by virtue of the craftsmanship displayed in its construction as evidenced in both its use of load-bearing fieldstone construction in a building of this size and the unique vernacular details of its interior structural design. The integrity of its early twentieth century interior retail space also renders it significant.

Elaboration

The Stamps Store, constructed 1899-1902 by the Bailey family of Alpena (the same stonemasons responsible for the well-known stone commercial buildings in that community), was built by Willie and Millie Sneed, the descendants of long-time settlers in the Osage area. They operated the building as a store until 1912, when it was purchased by Mr. E.K. (Kinner) Stamps for \$2,500. The Stamps family owned the store until 1990, when it was purchased from the Frank Stamps estate by Newton Lale and his wife, Amy McGehee.

Osage, located in the southeastern part of Carroll County, was the site of some of the earliest permanent settlement in northwest Arkansas, settlers relocating here from Tennessee as early as 1830. As it was located on one of the major east-west travel routes through this section of the Ozarks it enjoyed a fair amount of prosperity and growth throughout the nineteenth century, due both to continued settlement and the business brought in by travelers and traders. With this growth, however, came an outlaw atmosphere that prevailed up until the relatively recent past. The presence of such lawlessness here may have had to do with its accessibility to a major overland travel and trade route while lying in an otherwise remote creek bed removed from formal police and legal institutions. Conditions were bad enough by the 1870's, however, that some residents whose families had been among the first settlers of the area decided to move further away so as to permit them to raise their children without the pervasive influence of sin. Even as of the 1960's, in fact, area residents recall that wherever they might live within the county, the place to be able to find home-made moonshine whiskey was Osage.

It was probably at the end of Osage's days as a lawless town that Willie and Millie Sneed erected their store building. The ground floor of the store functioned then just as it did until only about a year ago: as a grocery, dry goods store and a bank (the extent of the early twentieth century banking activities is not known, but it seems likely that given the distance to established banks and the difficulty in getting there, local Osage residents came to the store for small loans, to deposit valuables and cash into the safe, and to arrange other lines of credit). It also served as the official Osage post office until the 1960's, when the mail delivery responsibilities were transferred to Green Forest. The second floor was used for boarding and the third floor was used as a meeting hall until the 1950's or 1960's, when the upstairs served

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as storage space only.

The building was constructed by the Bailey family of nearby Alpena, the same family that constructed the row of stone buildings in that community and that operate Bailey Monument in Alpena to this day. Their other stone buildings speak eloquently to their expertise and craftsmanship and are well-known throughout the region, but none in such a grand and imposing fashion as the Stamps Store. A full two-and-one-half stories in height, the walls are load-bearing masonry and continue to the top of the second floor, where they carry the rafters that support the roof deck. The material is local fieldstone, cut into rough-faced rectangular units that not only have maintained their structural integrity but that also lend a rich, rustic texture to the exterior wall surfaces of the building. Overall, its exterior alone renders it a vernacular masterpiece unlike anything in the area.

Its interior construction is noteworthy also. The wood columns and capitals that carry the center beam down the ceiling of the first floor retail space are aesthetically simple but structurally elegant. The small square capital at the top of the column supports a larger, spreading wood capital (that somewhat resembles the late Roman/early Christian era western architectural feature known as an "impost block") with rounded outside corners that make it resemble a section of a full-round capital. This unique structural sensibility is carried to the second floor also, where the sections that together compose the center beam are joined with a Z-shaped cut at the end of each piece so that the pieces fit together. However, to insure that the load does not cause these pieces to slide along the diagonal cut, a square block is inserted in a square cut placed in the center of the Z-shaped cut, with half of the cut to accommodate the square piece coming out of both beam sections. The result is an elegant and highly unusual solution to the problem of joining long, wood load-bearing members in such a way as to not compromise the structural integrity of each piece at the joint.

The Stamps Store is significant by virtue of its handsome, vernacular stone appearance with its Romanesque Revival influences, and by virtue of the craftsmanship exhibited in the unusual structural techniques and features, the success of which is seen in the enduring structural soundness of the building itself. It is one of the most striking and unusual commercial buildings in the state.

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Bibliography

Deed Abstract, Personal files of Newton Lale, Osage, Arkansas.

Goodspeed's History of Northwestern Arkansas, 1889.

Personal Interview with Newton Lale and Amy McGehee, 4/12/90.

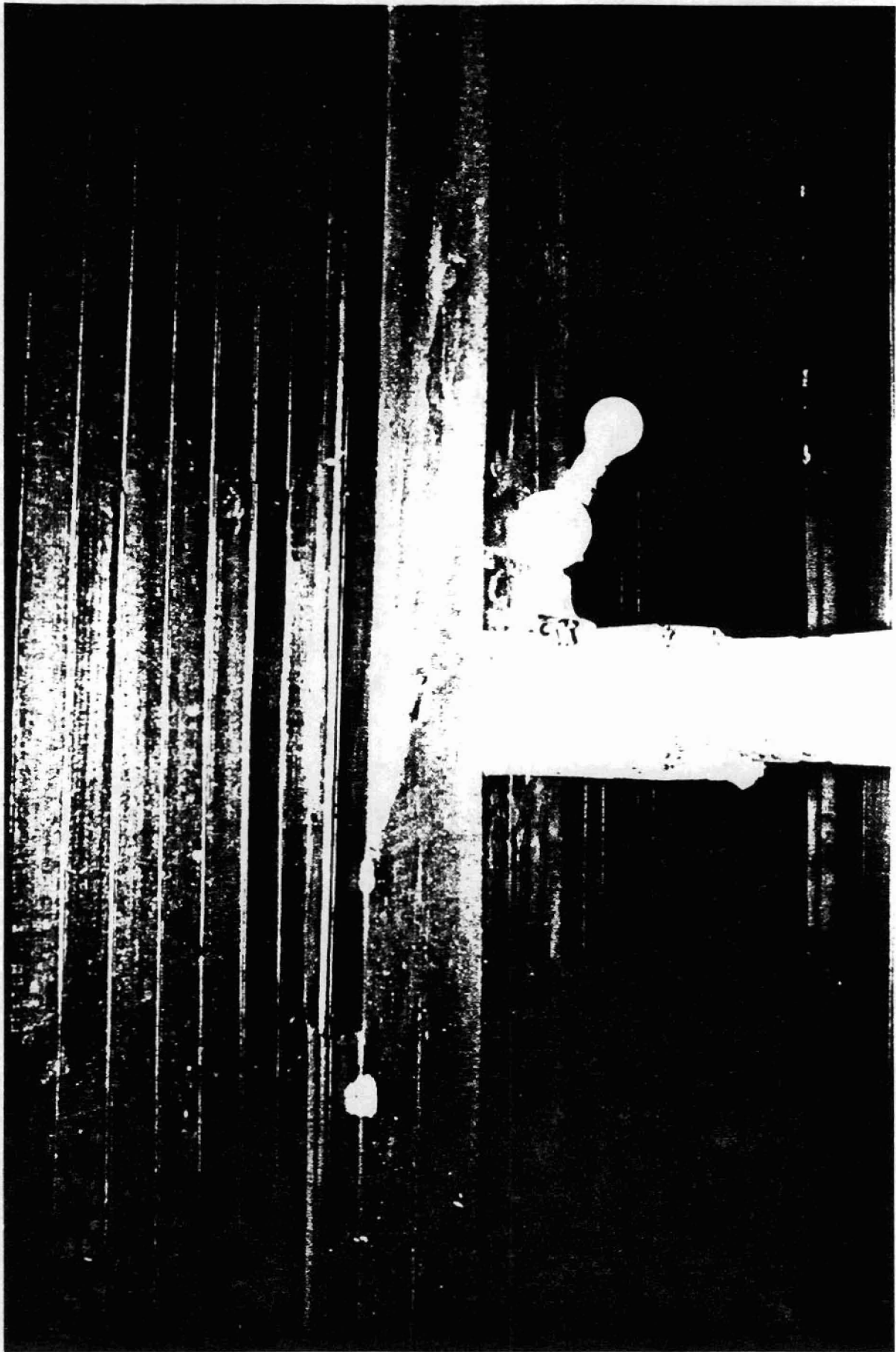
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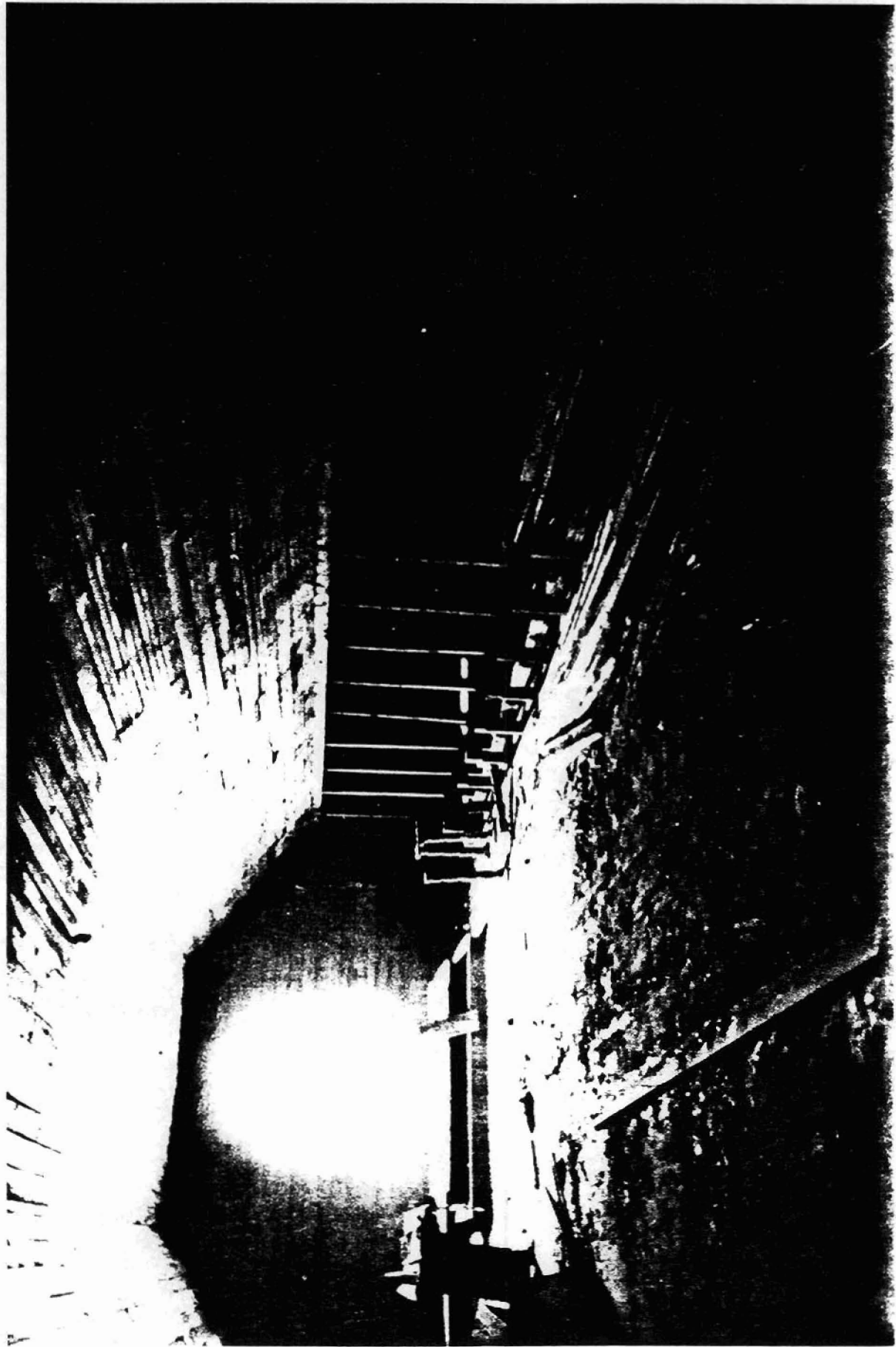
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

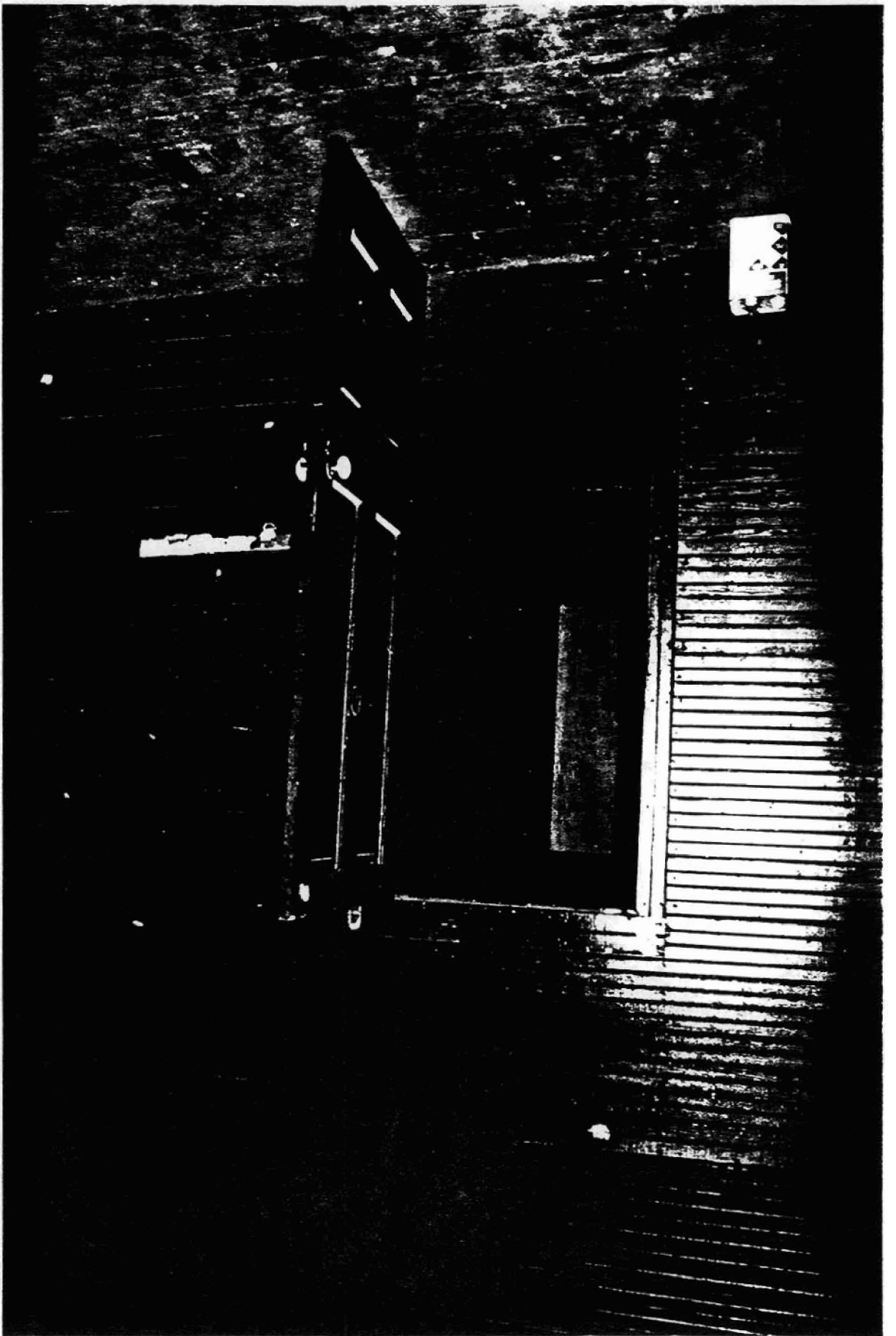
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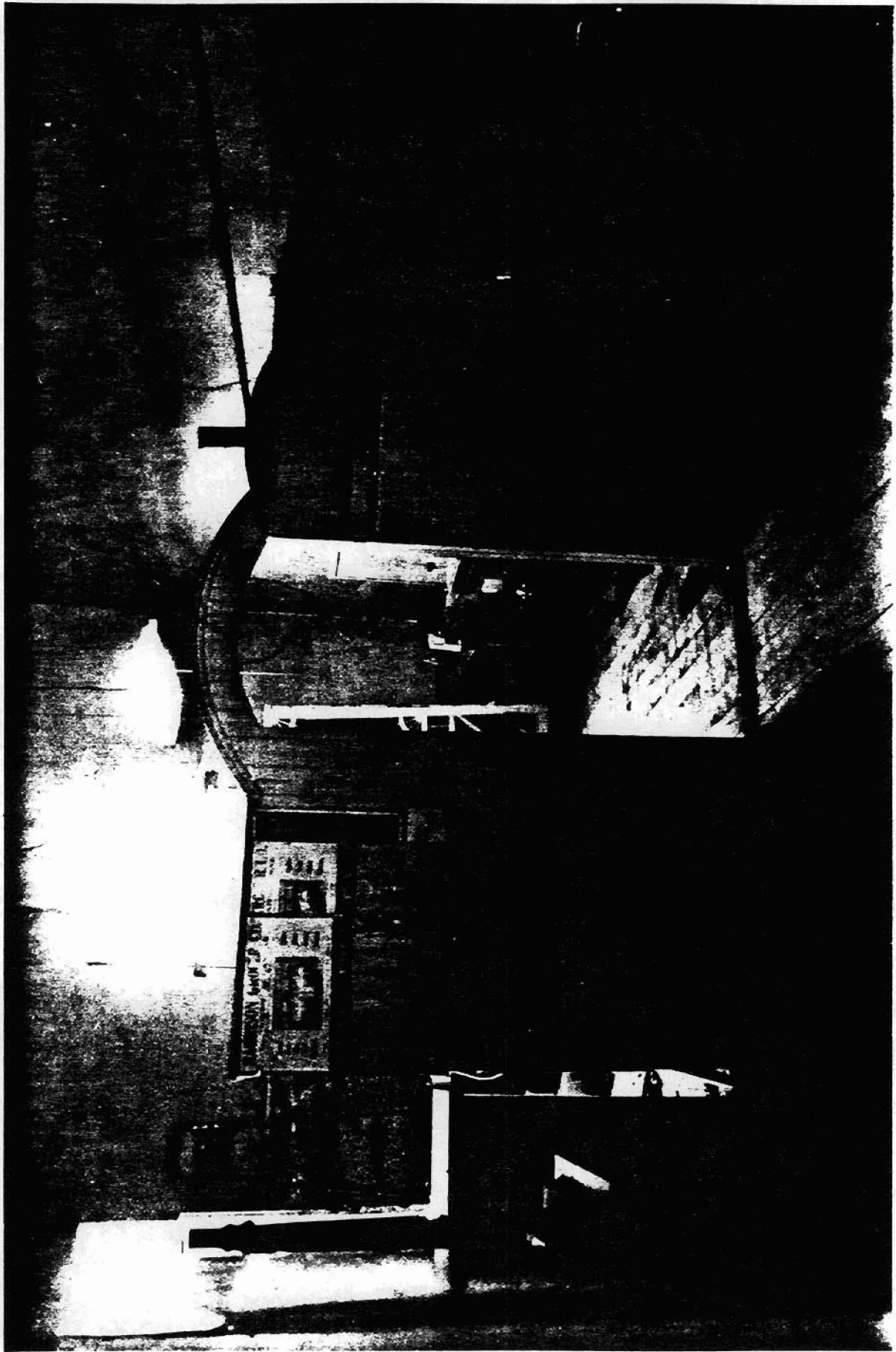
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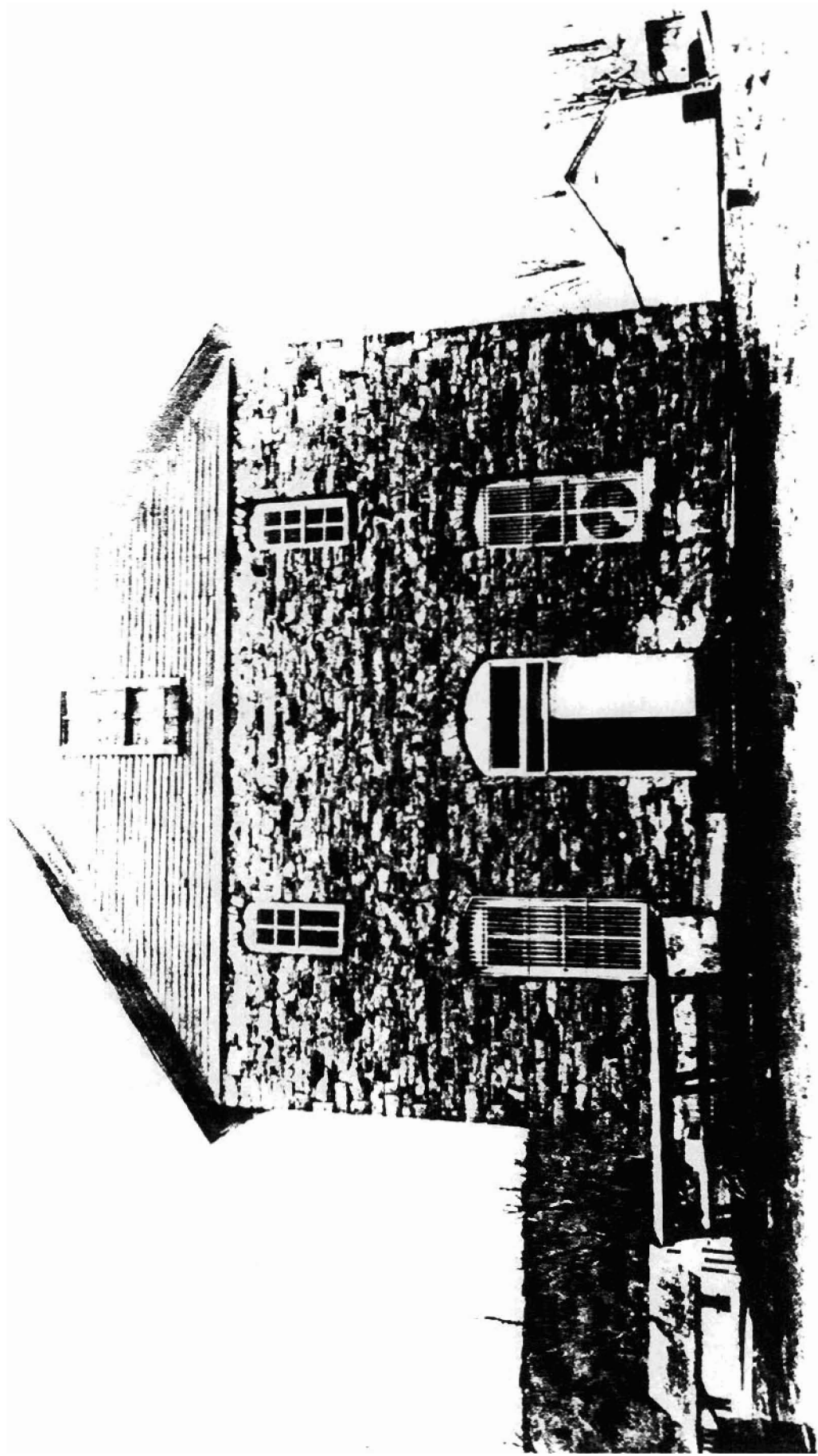
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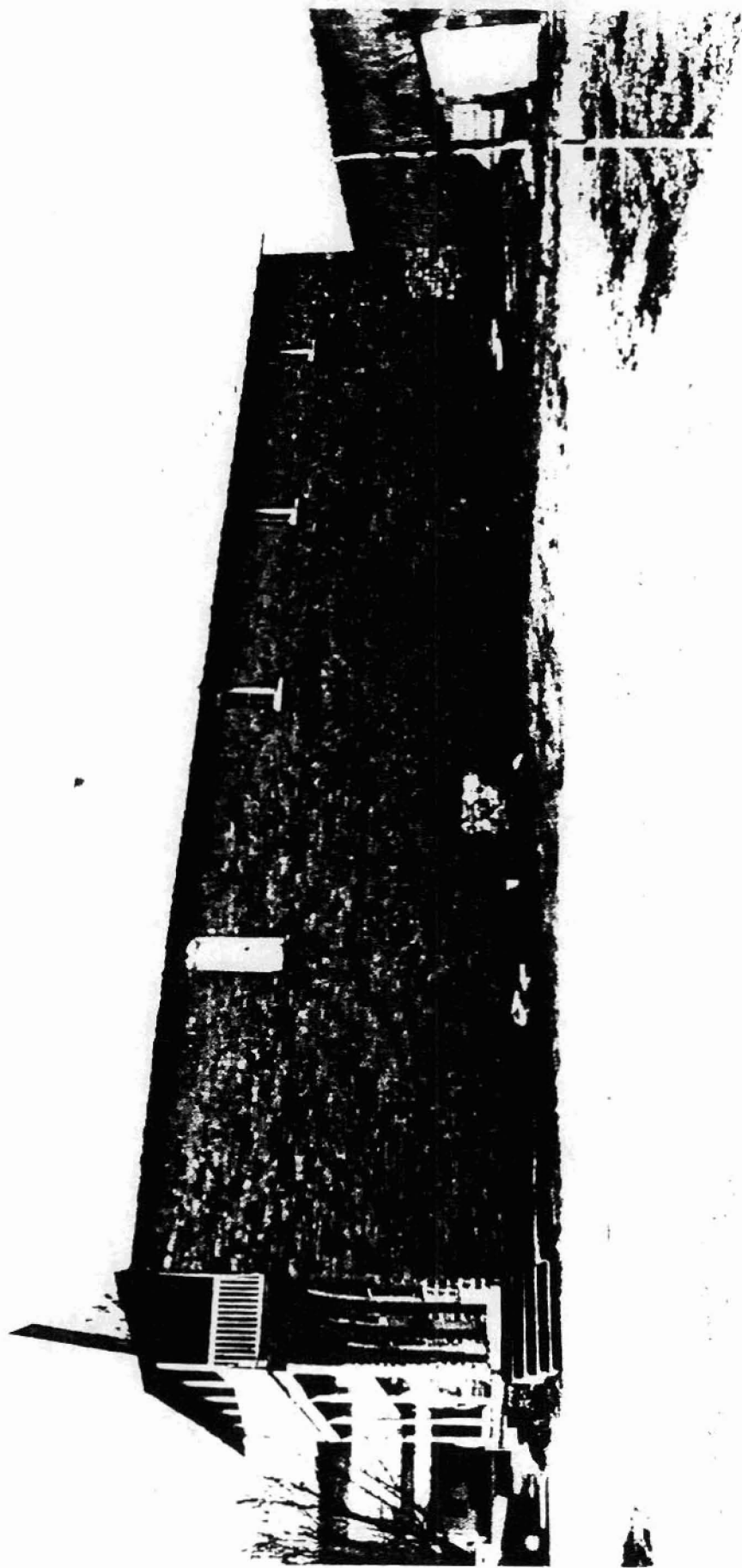




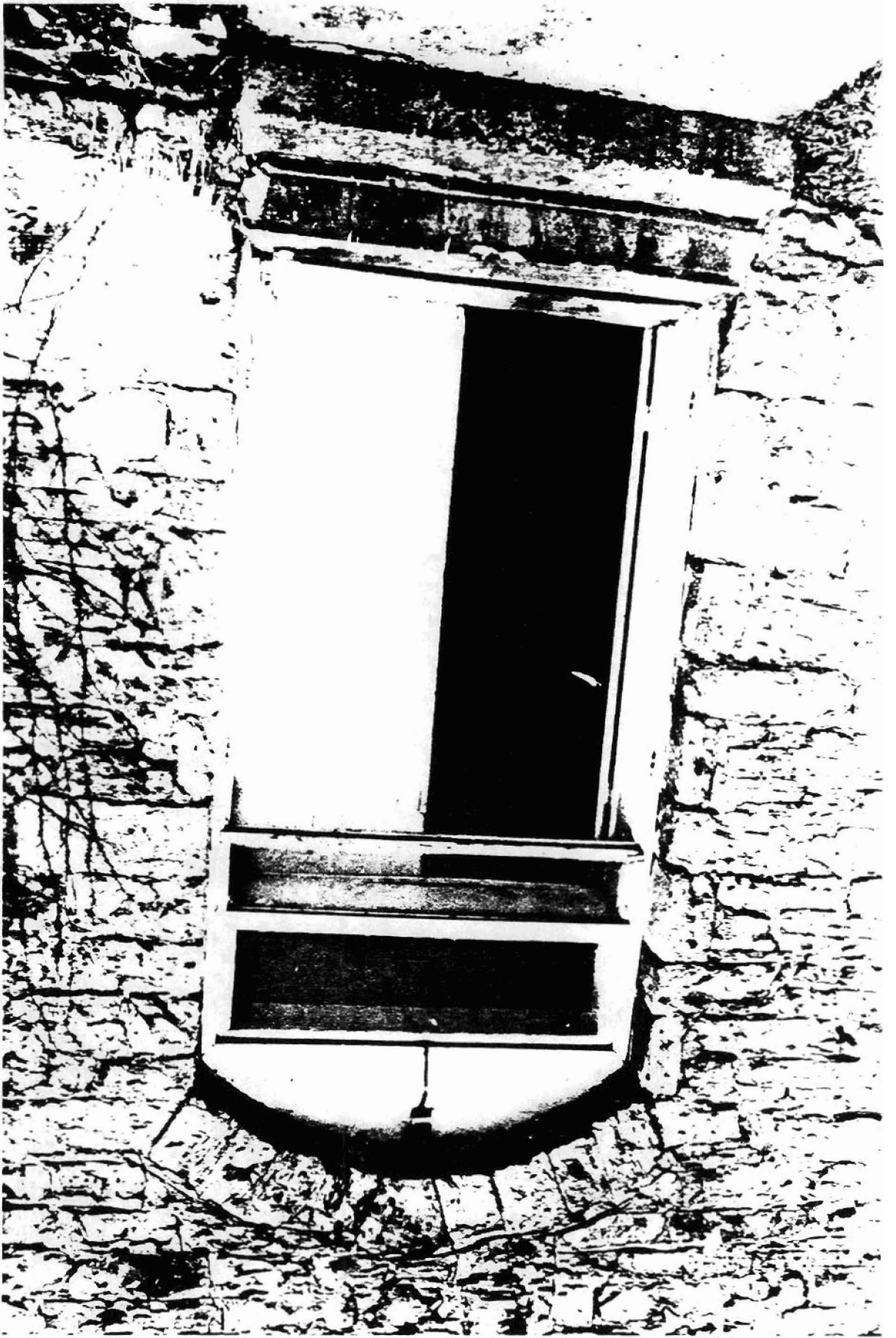










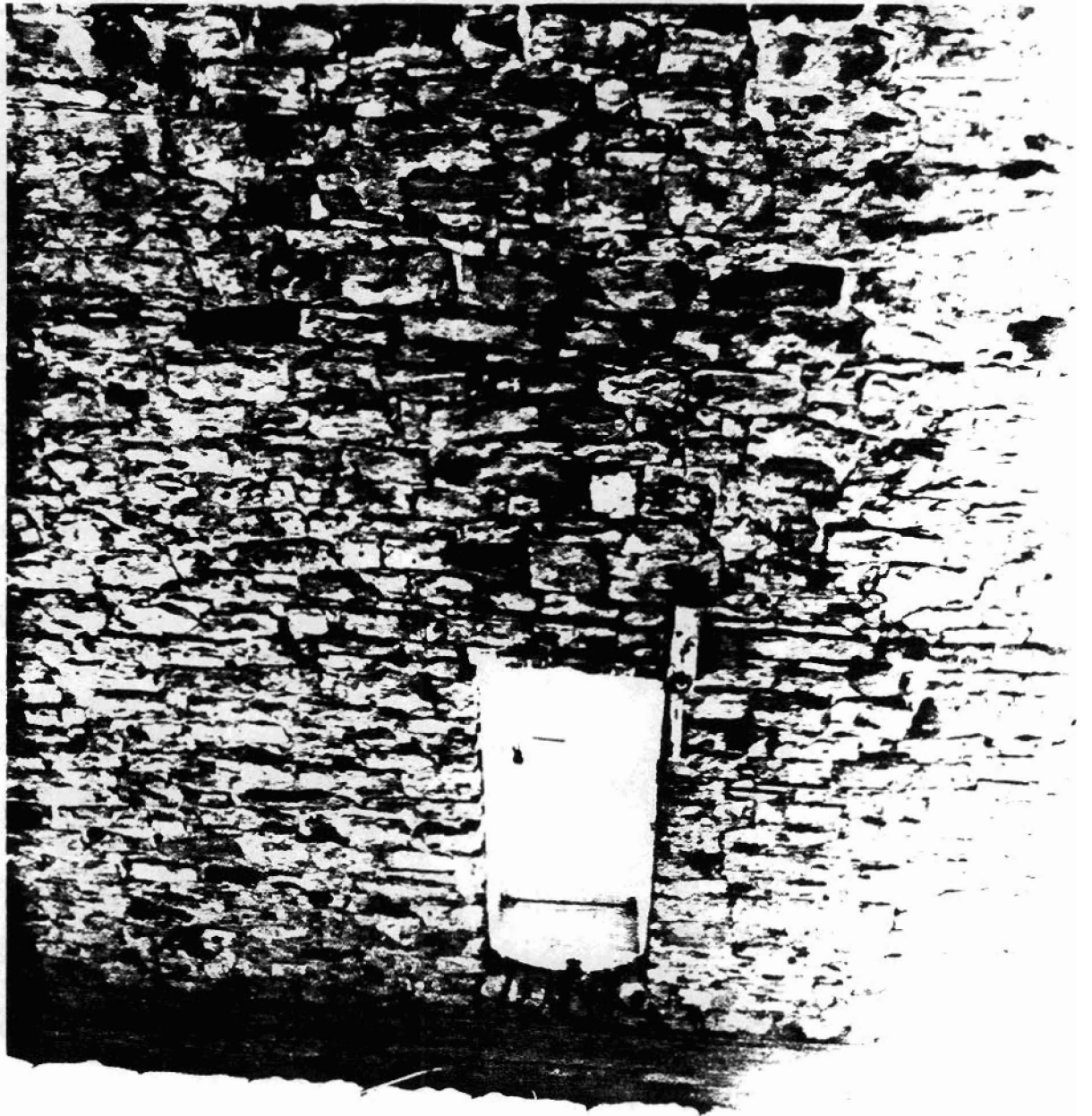


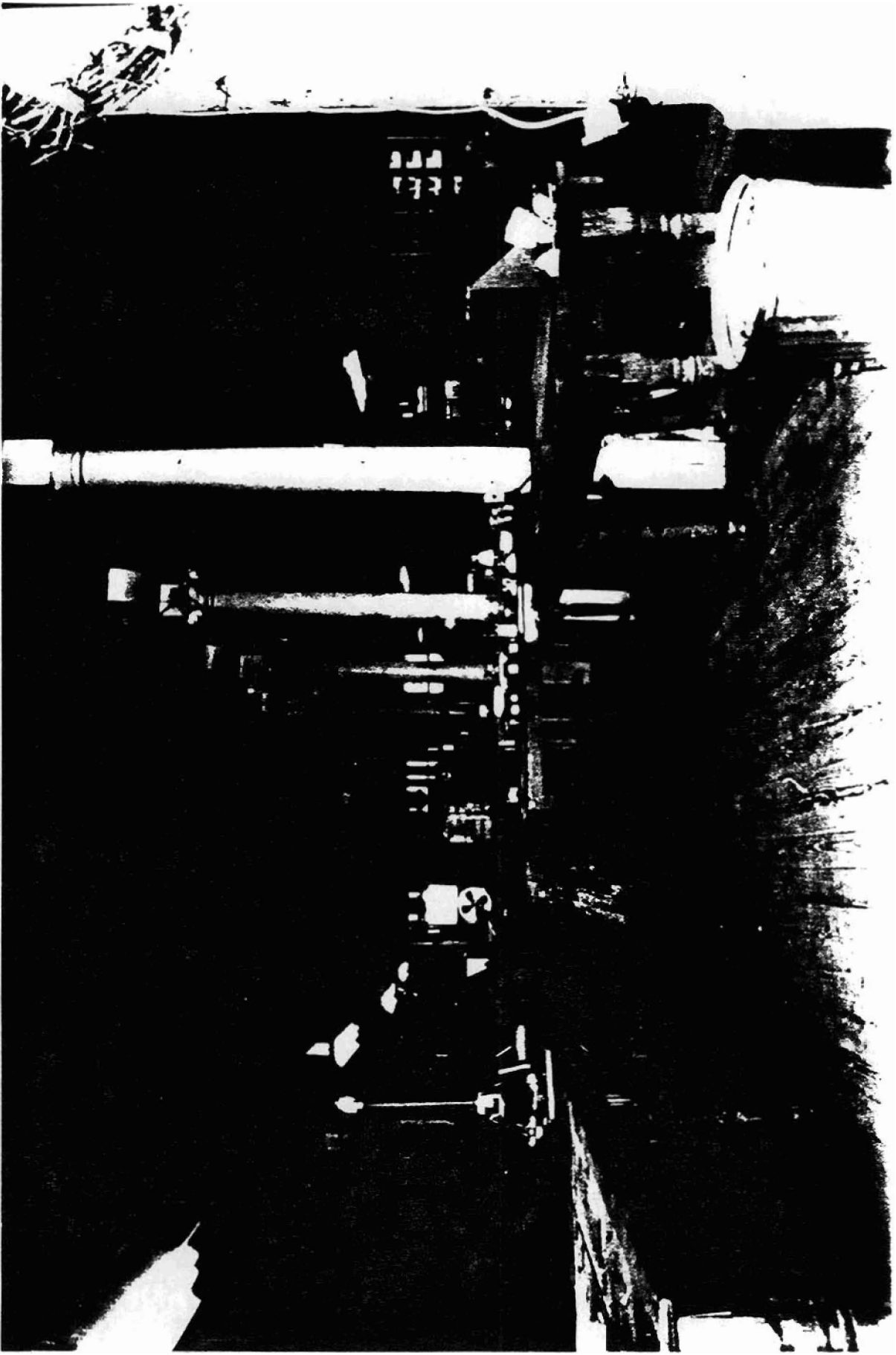


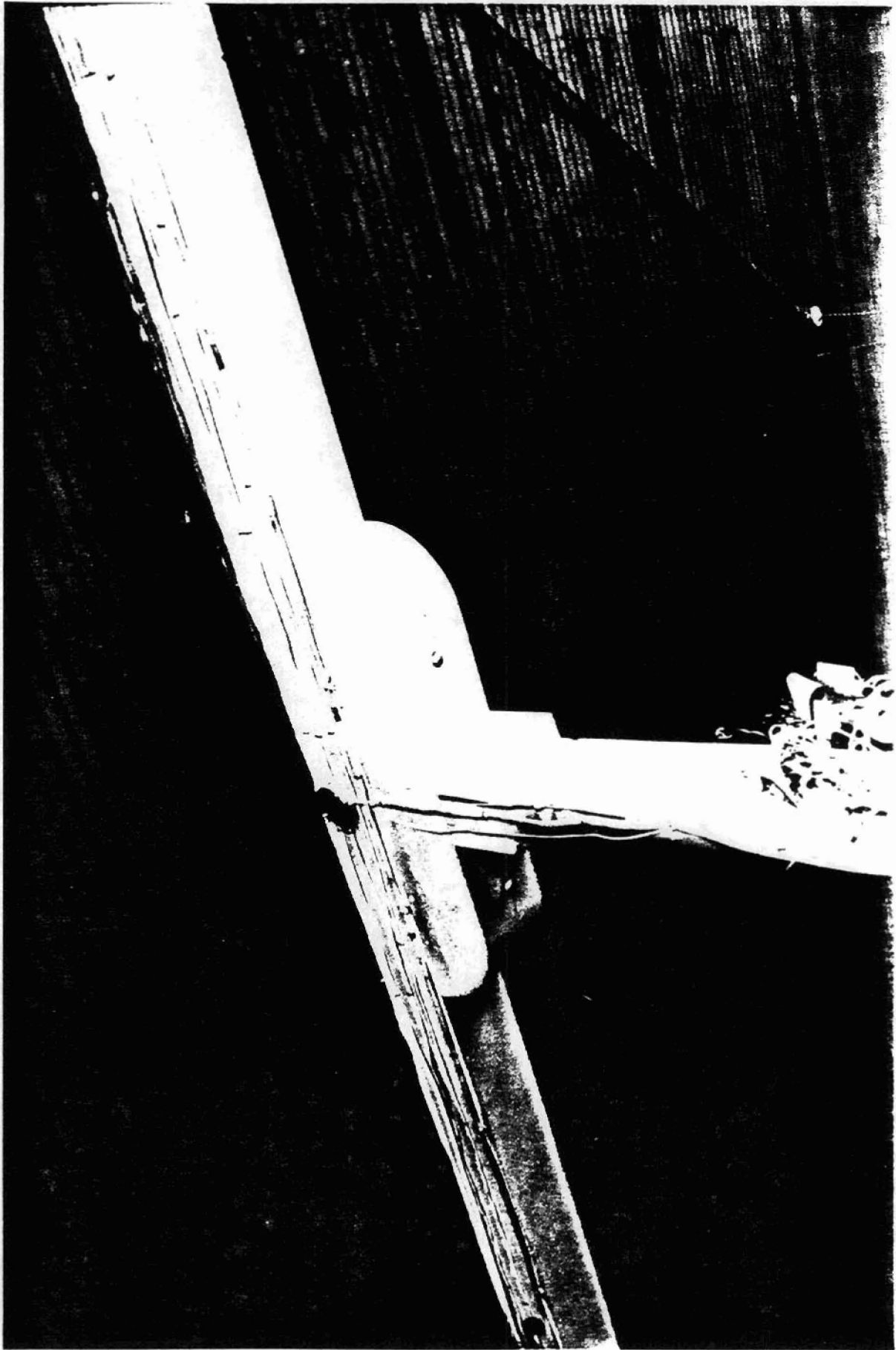
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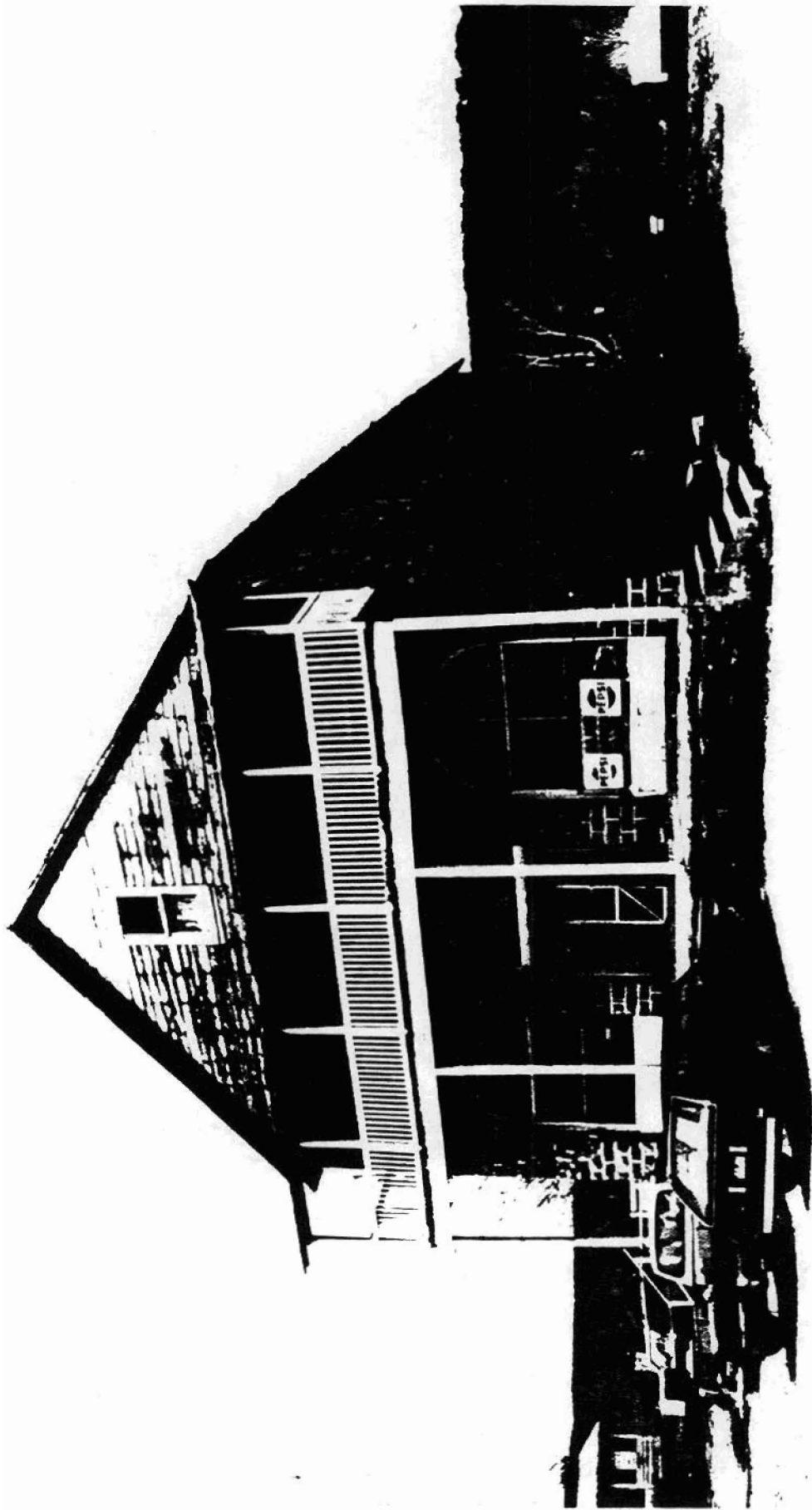
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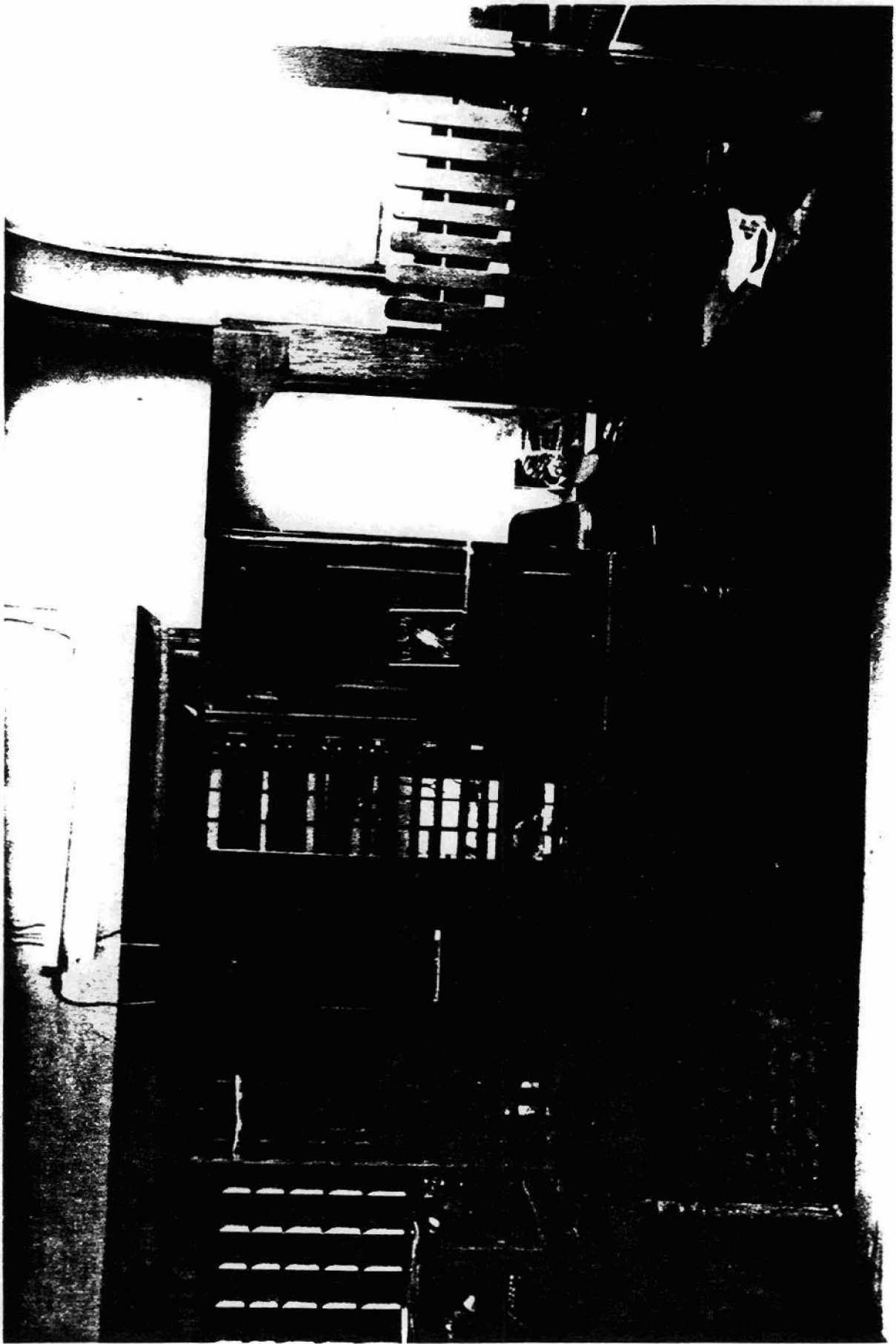








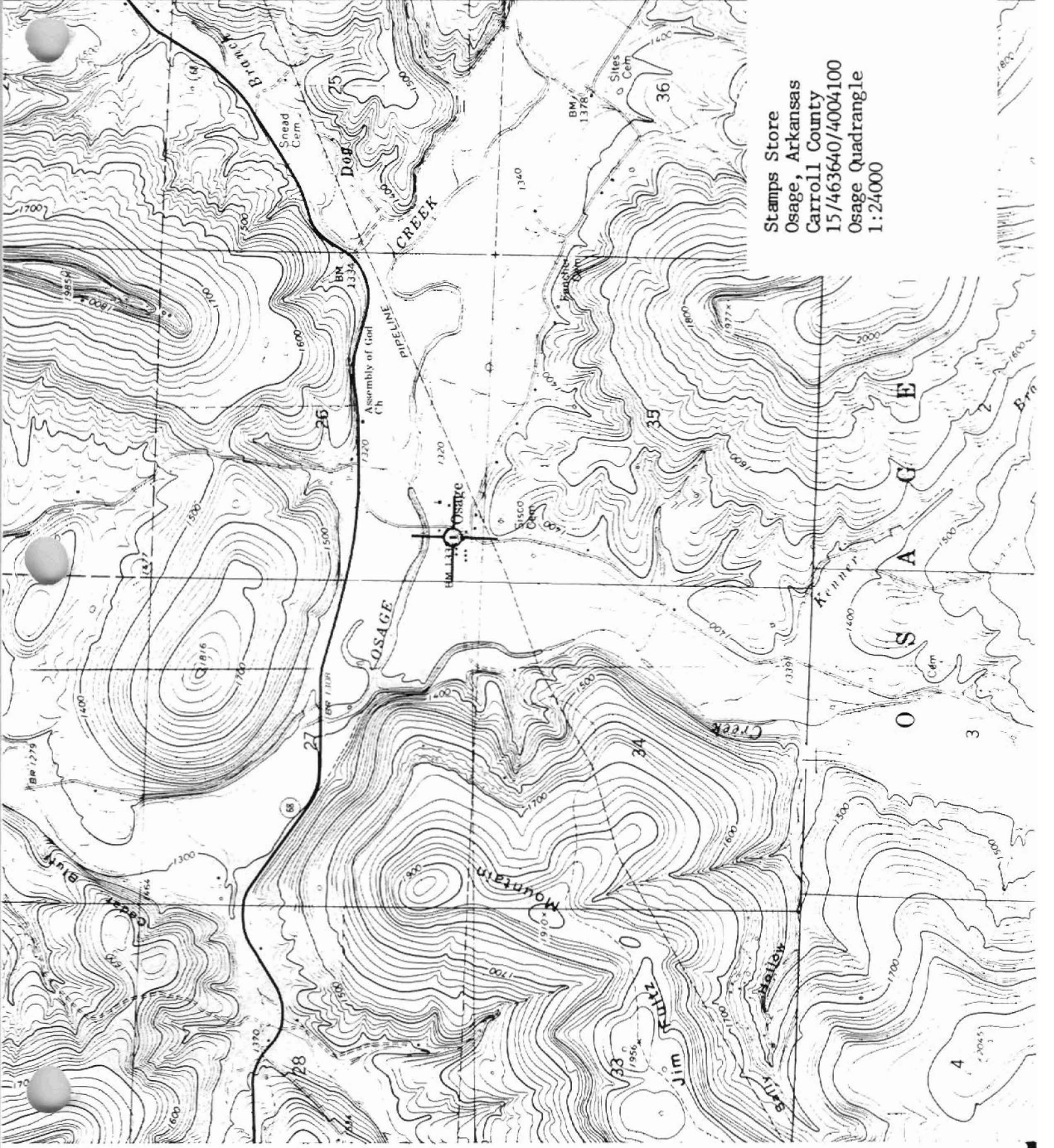




CARROLLTON 6 M ALPENA (U.S. 62)

(OSAGE NE) 7356 III NE 4005

DELMAR 25 MI 4003



Stamps Store
 Osage, Arkansas
 Carroll County
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 Osage Quadrangle
 1:24000