

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR LISTED
FEB 18 1999
AHPP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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1. Name of Property

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Historic Name: Bristow Hotel

Other Name/Site Number: FR0028

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2. Location

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Street & Number: 112 South 2nd Street

Not for Publication: NA

City/Town: Ozark

Vicinity: X

State: AR County: Franklin Code: AR 047 Zip Code: 72949

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Bristow Hotel
Name of Property

Franklin County, Arkansas
County and State

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4. State/Federal Agency Certification
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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. See continuation sheet.

Cathy H. Sater 1-12-99
Signature of certifying official Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
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

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5. National Park Service Certification
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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 Keeper Date of Action

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6. Function or Use
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Historic: Domestic/Commerce Sub: Hotel/Restaurant
Current : Commerce/Domestic Sub: Law Office/Apartment

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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Commercial Style

Materials: foundation Limestone roof Asphalt
walls Limestone other

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 112 South 2nd Street on the east side of the Courthouse Square in the town of Ozark, the Bristow Hotel was constructed in 1909 by a local builder, Mr. J. Friese, for George O. Bristow. This two-story vernacular, commercial style structure is constructed entirely of local limestone with a rusticated ashlar finish. The hotel has a sloped flat roof of rolled asphalt hidden on both sides by a short stepped parapet and in the front with a higher more decorative parapet. Six short chimneys pierce the roof. The windows are wooden, double-hung, and have a one-over-one pane arrangement.

Elaboration

The Bristow Hotel is a vernacular commercial style structure situated on the East Side of the Courthouse Square in the town of Ozark, facing onto the historic Franklin County Courthouse (NR listed 9/22/95). The two-story hotel, rectangular in plan and with a rear ell, is constructed of local limestone with a rusticated ashlar finish. The hotel was built in 1909 (the cornerstone was laid October 10, 1909) for Ozark resident George O. Bristow by a local builder named J. Friese. This imposing stone building has a rolled asphalt roof which slopes gently to the rear in order to shed water. Six short chimney stacks protrude through the roof and are constructed of stone as well.

The front, or western elevation, is the most elaborate. This primary façade consists of a seven bay arrangement on the first floor consisting of two sets of paired windows centered by the original recessed front entrance and a window and door combination offset from the northern pair of windows. Three pairs of asymmetrically placed windows fenestrate the second floor. Below each of the first floor windows is a recessed panel featuring square cut limestone blocks set on the diagonal to create a decorative diamond pattern. Each panel is centered with a large diamond shaped stone. A narrow projecting limestone belt course below the second floor windows bisects the building. A bold dentilated frieze of square limestone blocks ornaments the decorative parapet. Rectangular limestone slabs cap the parapet gently curving at both corners to create low pedestals topped with large stone disks. The capstones also curve inward toward the center of the façade to create a low center pedestal topped by a large Turkish dome-shaped finial. The only alterations to the front façade of the Bristow Hotel are the windows, which are reproductions of the originals that had been removed and replaced with metal windows. The two front doors are not original and the northern entrance was originally a window.

The southern elevation of the Bristow Hotel presents an unbroken linear façade punctuated on the second floor by eight original window openings containing wooden, one-over-one double-hung windows. The first floor windows, although intact, are not visible from the exterior because of an adjacent one-story commercial building. The first floor windows still provide minimal natural light as they face onto a narrow air space between the hotel and the neighboring building. The southern façade, like the front of the hotel, is constructed of cut, rusticated limestone blocks. Unlike the front, the southern side exhibits no decorative features. The parapet is much simplified from the front having gentle step-downs to the rear of the building.

The northern elevation of the Bristow Hotel exhibits most of the same features as the southern elevation: cut limestone blocks, a simple parapet, and wooden, one-over-one double-hung windows. The differences include the fact that the northern side of the hotel exhibits a broken façade as the back third of the wall steps back to the south to create an ell at the rear of the building. The front two-thirds of the north elevation contains five wooden, double-hung one-over-one windows, whereas the northern elevation of the ell contains three. A one-story commercial building abutting the hotel blocks the first floor windows of the front two-thirds completely. This one-story building continues back past the ell creating a small courtyard enclosed on three sides. The first floor façade of the ell contains a large fully arched recess accommodating a rear entrance to the hotel proper, and a small doorway opening onto a storage space. East of the archway is an original doorway leading into the ell. Adjacent to this entrance is a window matching the others in the building.

The rear, or eastern, façade of the Bristow Hotel presents a broken appearance because of the ell that extends from the southeastern corner of the building. The eastern face of the ell contains three symmetrically spaced wooden, double-hung one-over-one windows on the second floor. The first floor contains only a single door aligned directly under the southernmost window. A single light transom tops this five-panel, wooden door. The rear façade, like the other three, is composed of cut, rusticated limestone blocks. No parapet crowns the east façade of the ell and two stone chimneys punctuate the roofline. The eastern face of the hotel comprising the back of the courtyard, contains two symmetrically spaced wooden, double-hung one-over-one windows. Aligned directly below these windows on the first floor are two identical windows. Rusticated limestone blocks comprise this wall which is crowned by a simple straight parapet.

The interior of the Bristow Hotel is surprisingly intact, having its original floor plan, staircase, pressed tin ceiling in the lobby area, five panel wooden doors, fireplace mantles, and moldings. Although no longer used as a hotel, the building retains a commercial usage housing a law firm on the ground floor, offices on the second floor, and an apartment in the ell.

The Bristow Hotel is not the only historic commercial building in Ozark; however, it is one of the few that is constructed from the local limestone. Most of the other commercial structures are built of brick. Other limestone structures in the downtown include the old Franklin County Jail (NR listed 6/23/82), the First Methodist Episcopal Church, South (NR listed 9/4/92), and the Missouri-Pacific Depot (NR listed 6/11/92).

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8. Statement of Significance
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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

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Bristow Hotel
Name of Property

Franklin County, Arkansas
County and State

Period(s) of Significance: 1909

Significant Dates: 1909

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: J. Friese (Builder)

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

Summary

The Bristow Hotel is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as an excellent example of a vernacular commercial style structure built in 1909. The interior and exterior of this building evidence only minor alterations.

Elaboration

In 1836 Archibald Yell, David Walker, and William Haile laid out the town of Ozark on the north bank of the Arkansas River. A year later when Franklin County was created, Ozark became the county seat. From the start, Ozark (from the French name for the area, Aux Arc, the most accepted translation of which means big bend, in reference to the sharp, nineteen mile bend that the Arkansas River makes at this point) was an important staging area for river commerce, both north to Fort Smith and south to Little Rock. In addition to commerce associated with the river, coal mining, agriculture and in the early twentieth century, the discovery and production of natural gas helped to contribute to the growth of the community. Over the years, the town prospered and grew, surviving Union occupation during the Civil War and a devastating fire in 1904, which destroyed many commercial structures in the downtown area.

In the years following the 1904 fire, several structures in Ozark were constructed from the locally quarried native limestone. In 1909 George O. Bristow built the Bristow Hotel from this local stone employing a local man named J. Friese as builder. Mr. Friese, along with another local contractor, Claude Talley, were responsible for the execution of several of the stone buildings built in Ozark.

George O. Bristow first arrived in Ozark in 1903, having spent his previous years in Oklahoma and Texas as a railroad station agent. Six years after arriving in Ozark, Mr. Bristow built his hotel, which at the time was the finest in the town. In 1911 Mr. Bristow left Ozark, returning in 1944 to make his home. He remained a citizen of Ozark until his death in 1968 at the age of 102.

For most of its life the Bristow Hotel served in its original capacity providing accommodations for travelers. At some point in its history a portion of the original lobby was partitioned off for use as the local bus terminal. This area also later served as a beauty parlor and a retail space. In the 1980s the hotel closed and the building was converted into apartments. It remained in use as apartments until the mid-1990s, when it was purchased by the current owner and renovated to house a law firm on the first floor, office space on the second floor, and an apartment in the rear ell.

The Bristow Hotel is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with local significance as an excellent example of a vernacular commercial style structure built in 1909. The interior and exterior of this building evidence only minor changes.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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History of Franklin County. Published by the Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1889. pp. 608-620, 626, 637-653.

George Bristow dies at age of 102 years. 1968. The Spectator. 15 November, p. 1.

Rothe, Veronica J. 1988 Franklin County Guide. Published by Razorsoft Systems, Ozark, AR 1988. pp. 26-27.

Wilson, Jo Luck. Arkansas Tourism Development Profile: Franklin County. Published by Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 1988. pp. 1-10.

Interview with Mrs. Phyllis Ann Atha, September 1998.

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

Bristow Hotel
Name of Property

Franklin County, Arkansas
County and State

- 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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	15	425080	3927080	B	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

All of Lot Four (4), in Block Thirteen (13), of the original townsite of the Town of Ozark, Arkansas.

AND ALSO

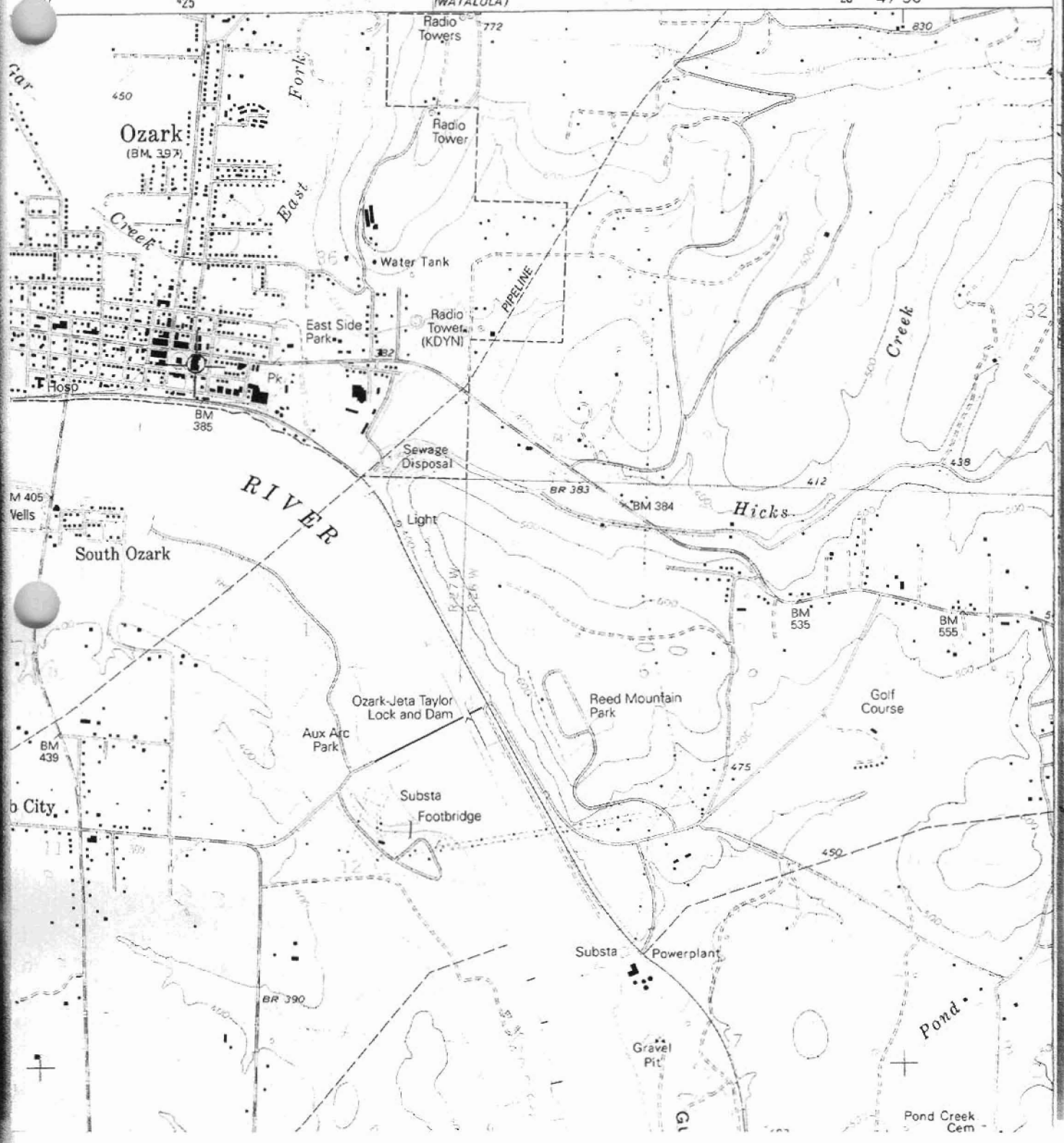
Part of Lot Three (3) in Block Thirteen (13) of the original townsite of Ozark, Arkansas, more particularly described as beginning at a point in the West line of said Lot Three (3), which is two feet North of the present North wall on the Northwest room of the first or grade floor of the stone building known as Ozark Hotel in Ozark; thence in an Easterly direction parallel to the North side or line of said Lot Three (3) to the East side of line of said Lot Three (3); thence in a Southerly direction along the East line or side of Lot Three (3) to the intersection of the lines which are the East and North sides of Lot Three (3), Block Thirteen (13); thence along the South line or side of said Lot Three (3) to the West line or side of Lot Three (3); thence North to the place of beginning. Less and except the following: That

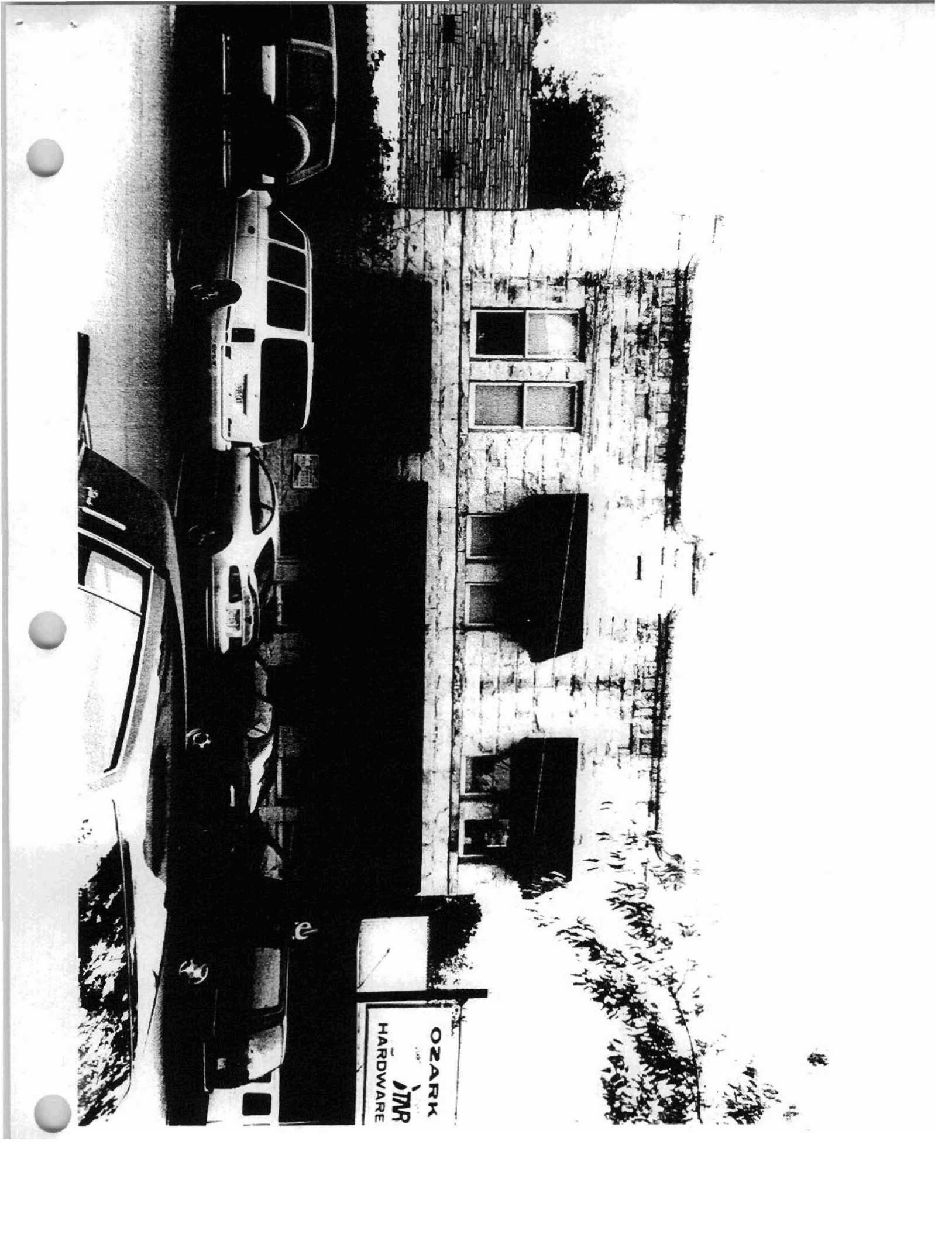
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OZARK
FRANKLIN CO., AR
UTM REF:
15/425080/3927080

425

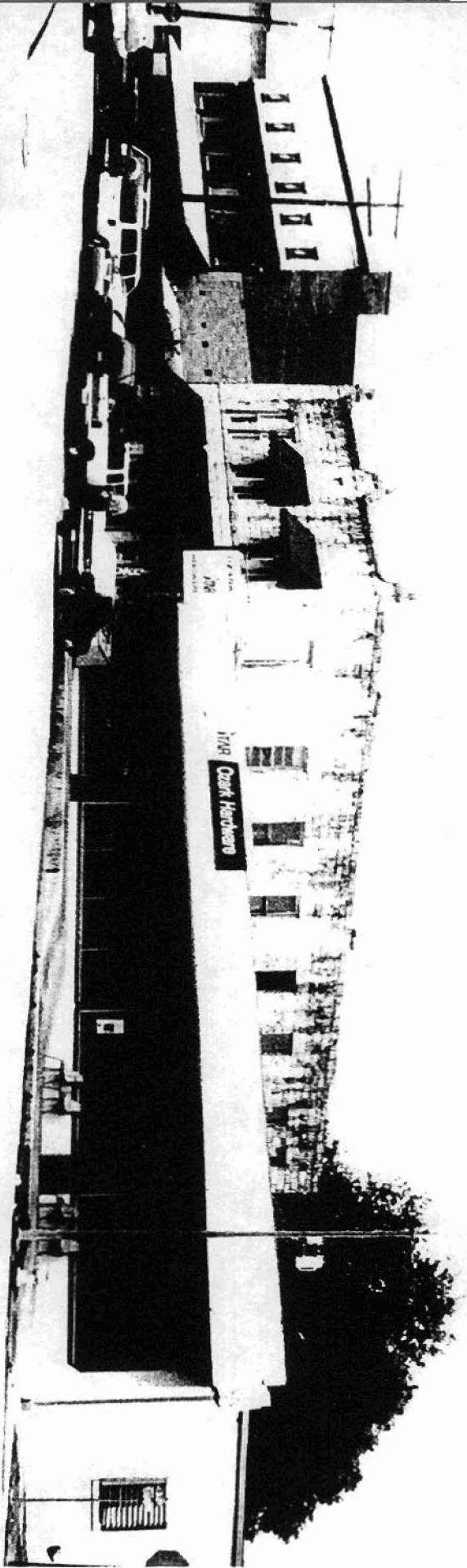
7255 III SE
(WATALULA)

428 47'30"



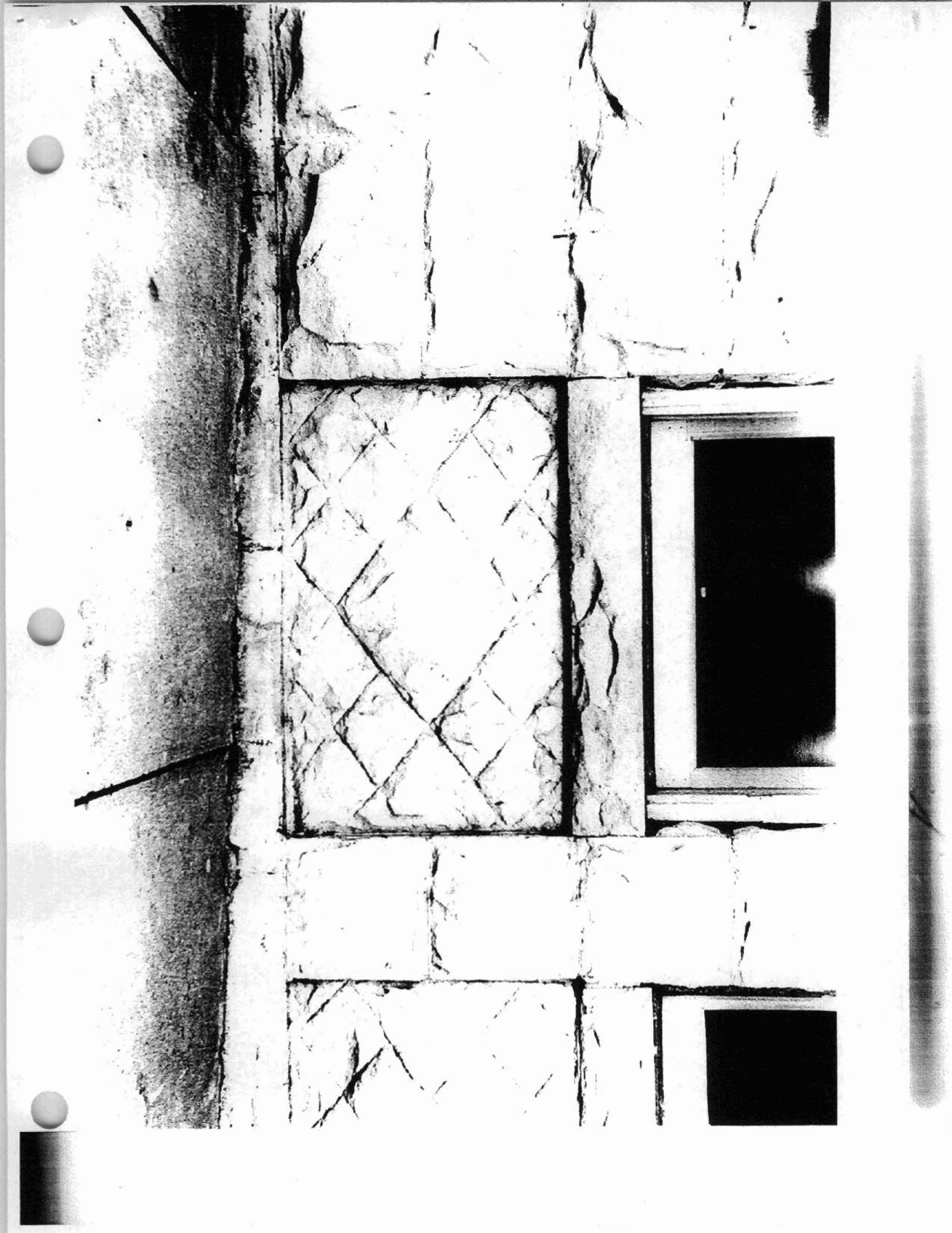


OZARK
HARDWARE



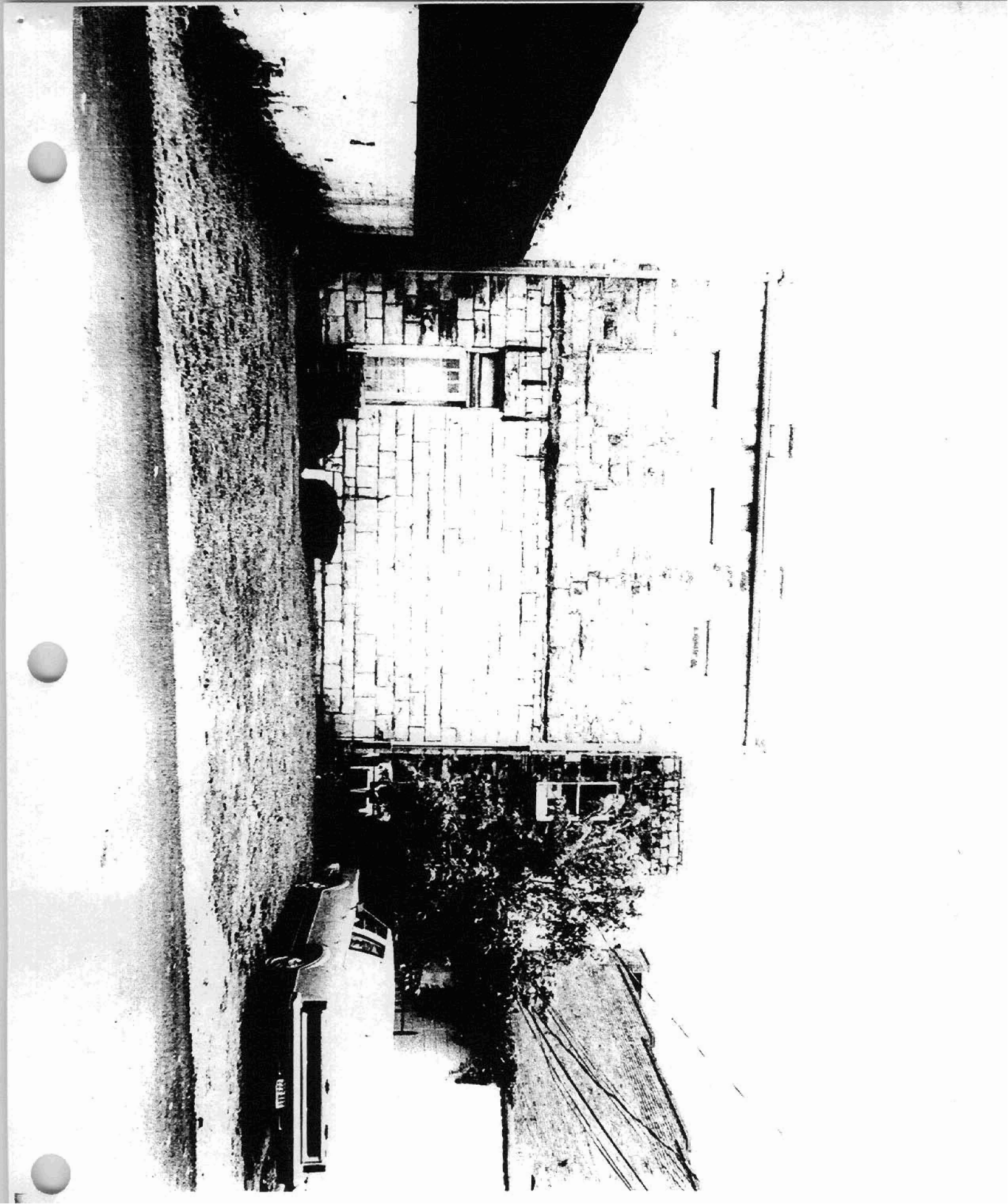
1118 Cent Hardware

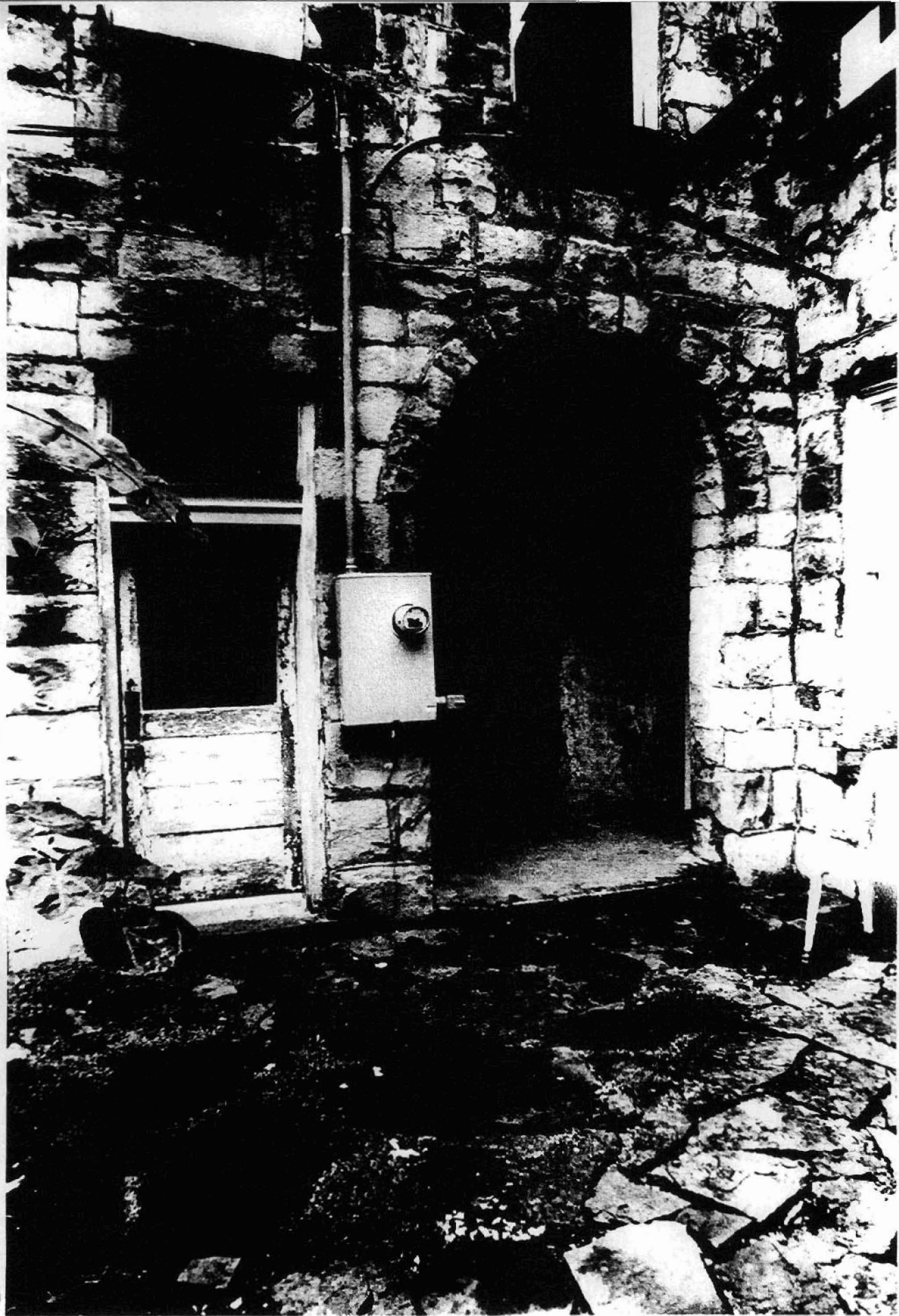
1118 Cent Hardware

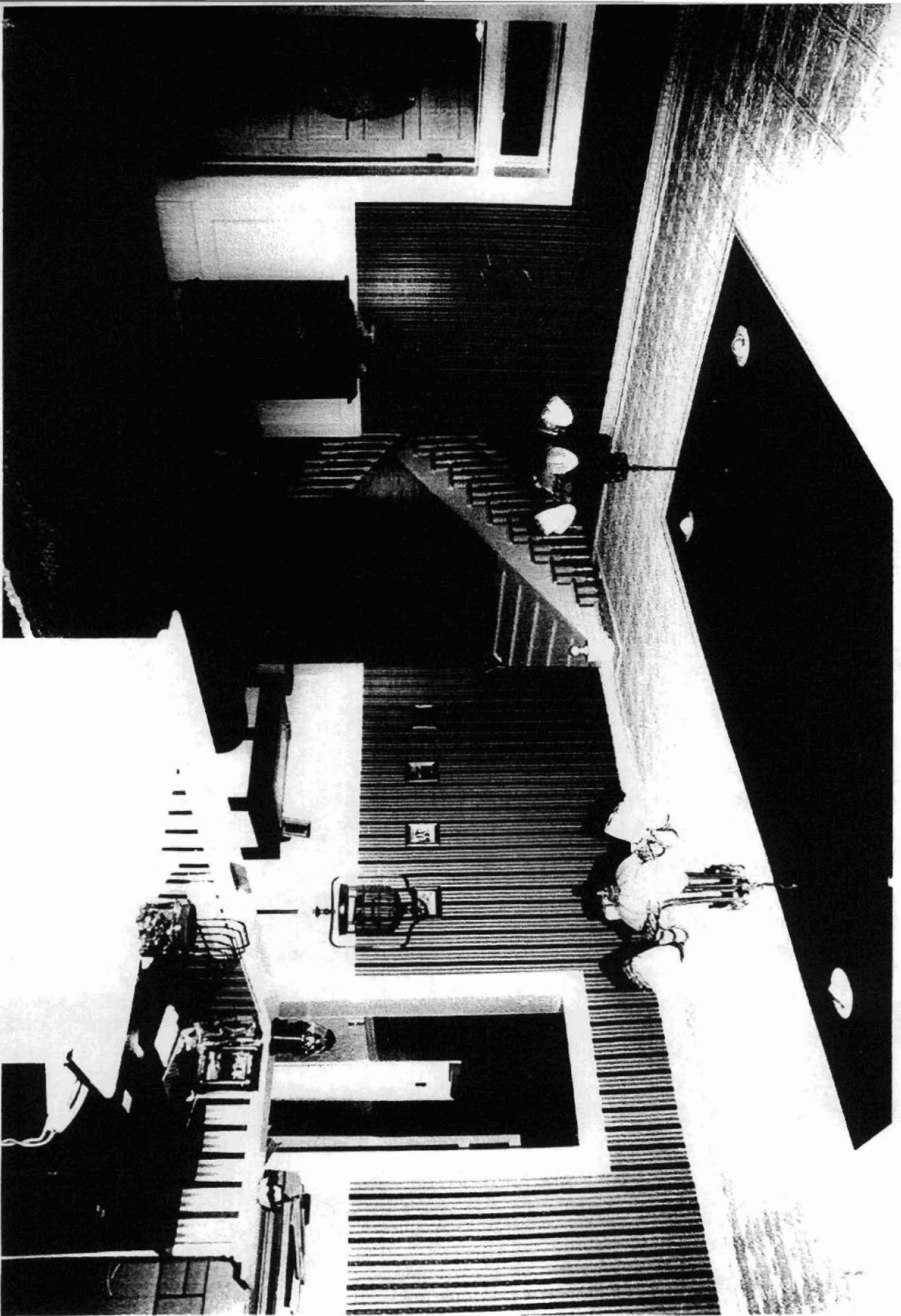


Enjoy
Coca-Cola

ALBANY
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PART OF IT?
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Call [redacted]

