

LISTED 5/26/95

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: Alderson-Coston House

other name/site number: HS0077

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 204 Pine Bluff Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Malvern

vicinity: N/A

state: AR

county: Hot Spring

code: AR

zip code: 72104

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
<u>1</u>	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

=====
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. _____ See continuation sheet.

Carlynn A. Slater _____ Date 4-17-95
Signature of certifying official

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

=====
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 Keeper Date
of Action

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

Historic: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current : Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

Bungalow/Craftsman

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation Brick roof Asphalt
walls Weatherboard other Brick

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located on Pine Bluff Street, just east of the center of the community of Malvern, the Alderson-Coston House is a two storey Craftsman style bungalow. The nomination also includes a detached one car Craftsman style garage with an attached stone chimney/ backyard entertainment area. There are also other stone features on the site: walls around the perimeter of the back yard, a waterfall fountain, a pond, rock garden, and seating areas.

Elaboration

The Alderson-Coston House is a one and one-half storey, wood veneer residence designed in the Craftsman style. The regular plan is basically composed of a cross-gabled roof with projections: a southern gabled porch, a gabled porte-cochere to the east, and a rear, or northern two storey projection. The house contains one interior fireplace which is located on the west side of the main facade, slightly south of the ridge board. There is also another interior chimney at the northern end of the house for the cook stove, but this was capped at some point. The house is clad in wooden siding with the southern elevation clad in false bevel novelty siding with a double beaded board porch ceiling, and the rest of the house is sheathed in weatherboard.

The southern or front elevation is dominated by a low-pitched front gable which spans about two-thirds of the facade. The gable is supported by two battered red brick piers which run the full height of the porch and rest on the concrete porch foundation. Each pier is flanked by decorative brackets which frame a shallow segmented arch over the porch area. This arch supports a plain horizontal wood frieze which forms the base of the elongated pediment of the gable.

The southern gable over the porch contains Tudor false half-timbering, and three triangular knee braces. A horizontal Craftsman style window with nine lights is located at the center of the low horizontal gable. All four gables, the dormer roof, and bay window roof are flanked by notched exposed rafters on either side which are elongated at the front, and shorten to the average rafter length behind. The wide overhanging eaves contain exposed rafter ends

around the perimeter of the house which is a hallmark of the Craftsman style.

At the base of the porch a low, solid brick balustrade with a concrete top extends from the east porch support and ends at the point where the steps in front of the door begin. The nine light Craftsman style single leaf entry door is located under the porch on the west side. The original ornamental Craftsman style porch light and decorative house number plate are located to the east of the front door. A pair of nine-over-one windows are also located under the porch to the east of the front door. The wall which contains the windows is set back from the rest of the facade with the break located just to the east of the main entrance area, thus increasing the porch depth in this eastern area. The only other fenestration on the facade are three windows which are located to the west of this southern porch. These windows are all of the nine-over-one type, as are all the others on the house. The only exception are the casement windows on the second storey of the northern projection.

A drive through *porte-cochere* extends out to the east of the front elevation. The *porte-cochere* is carried by two battered brick piers which mimic those that support the front porch. The gable roof of the *porte-cochere* intersects with the large gable end of the eastern elevation. This large gable contains four knee brackets and false Tudor half-timbering. A pair of nine-over-one windows are located in the center. There are three other windows on this east elevation. There was originally a fourth window at the northernmost end, but this window was infilled with weatherboard to match the rest of the house.

The northern elevation contains a two storey projection at the center of the main rear gable. A small one-storey flat roof addition was added to this projection on the west side about 1950. This addition extends to the wall of the western elevation. The northern projecting gable is covered in weatherboard with three knee brackets. A horizontal wood frieze is located between the gable end and the row of casement windows below. Another horizontal wood frieze separates the first and second stories on the back projection, and another frieze continues around the house framing the gables and defining the first storey. The second storey of this projection was originally a sleeping porch, but was enclosed with weatherboard and nine-by-nine casement windows in 1927.

The first floor of this elevation contains a single leaf entrance door which is capped by a gabled bracketed porch roof with a knee brace support on either side. The door is flanked by a pair of windows to the east and a single window to the west. There is also a small window on the east wall of the projection which was added at some point. The area around this small window and around the corner on the north side was infilled at some point with vertical beaded board wood panels which do not match the weatherboard seen elsewhere on this elevation.

The western elevation is dominated by a gable end to the south. This gable contains Tudor false half-timbering and five knee brackets. It also contains a pair of small windows at the center, as does the opposing gable on the eastern end of the house. Below the gable on the northern side of this section there is a four window bay which lights the dining room. This bay is covered with a shed roof with exposed rafter ends. Located to the south of this bay, are single windows on either side of the external chimney which rises above the roof, to the north of the ridge.

To the north of this section on the western elevation there is a shed dormer which rests on the western slope of the projecting northern gable. This dormer contains three windows and the projecting dormer roof contains exposed rafter ends and knee braces at each side. Below this dormer on the first floor elevation of this rear wing there are two windows of varying size.

The only other structure included in this nomination is a one car garage which is located to the northeast of the main house. The garage is a simple gable roof structure with a shed addition. The structure is covered in weatherboard, except for the northern end which is covered in wide drop wood siding. The southern gable end contains false half-timbering at the top with three knee-braces and notched exposed rafters at either side. The garage door below is a double leaf "Z" braced door. The western elevation of the garage contains a simple single leaf door with a "Z" brace at the northern end. A plain shed addition spans the entire length of the eastern wall of the garage, with a simple single leaf door at the north and south ends. This addition is currently painted white which separates it from the garage which is green in color.

A large uncoursed uncut fieldstone chimney is located at the center of the northern elevation of the garage. This chimney ventilates the fireplace which is the focal point of the back yard entertainment area. An oven and a cooking area are connected to either side of the fireplace. An uncut stone seating area partially surrounds the chimney, forming a rectangular arrangement for entertaining around the fireplace. Photographs document that this entertainment area was built sometime before July 1937.

There are other interesting landscape features which were constructed at different dates out of the same uncoursed uncut fieldstone. A tall uncut fieldstone wall begins at the porte-cochere on the east and continues around the backyard along the northern boundary. A low fieldstone wall is located along the western boundary of the backyard. Photos indicate that the northern and western walls were built between July 1936 and June 1937. The eastern wall contains large round fieldstone planters which are located at varying heights and intervals along the wall between the porte-cochere and the garage. A small pond and waterfall are located in front of this wall. The backyard contains a circular fish pond near the center. There is also a rock garden with a stone birdbath at the northwest corner of the yard. Thus, the landscape features of the Alderson-Coston house exemplify the organic Rustic style of construction which is closely akin to the Craftsman style, as both are indicated by natural materials and restrained adornment.

The interior of the Alderson-Coston house is in largely original condition. The original fireplace with Colonial Revival mantel and black tile surround is located in the living room. The house has a small butler's pantry with original cabinetry as well as original cabinetry and marble countertops in part of the kitchen.

=====
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

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1923 - 1945

Significant Dates: N/A

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 periods of significance noted above:

Summary

The Alderson-Coston House is being nominated under Criteria C with local significance. The dwelling and grounds are significant as fine and virtually unchanged examples of the Craftsman style of architecture and landscaping which was popular in Arkansas from about 1915 until the early 1940's.

Elaboration

The house is named for Mr. and Mrs. James T. Alderson who had the house built in 1923, and for the second owners Brad and Cathy Coston who lived in the house in the 1980's.

The town of Malvern evolved in 1873 when the Cairo and Fulton Railroad made it a transfer point for those taking the coach to Hot Springs, twenty miles to the northwest. Two years later, when the "Diamond Jo" Railroad came to Hot Springs, Malvern became a hub of activity. The town was incorporated on July 5, 1876. Industry soon came to Malvern to exploit the abundant local forests, with several large timber mills established near Malvern. Brick and tile were manufactured in Malvern by the turn of the century, and all these goods were able to be shipped all over the United States via rail. Thus, Malvern prospered and became the county seat and principal town of Hot Spring county.

The Alderson's were well known in the Malvern community. James T. Alderson was the co-owner of the Malvern Meteor newspaper from 1911-1915, and he later became the sole owner of the paper from 1915 to 1932. Mr. Alderson was also the President of the Malvern Rotary Club from 1930-1931. On February 2, 1934 James Alderson was appointed Malvern Postmaster and he continued in this position until his retirement in 1954. Senator John L. McClellan and James T.

f

Alderson were part of the official reception committee when President Franklin D. Roosevelt visited Rockport, and attended religious services there on June 10, 1939.

Mrs. Alderson was active in the Malvern Garden Club, and was a member of the Malvern Women's Club. She served as the President of the Malvern Women's Club from 1923-24, and was also an officer of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Alderson also served on the Board of Directors of the Hot Spring County Library.

James T. Alderson died on July 31, 1958, and Mrs. Alderson continued living in the house until her death on January 15, 1982. The home was purchased by Brad and Cathy Coston on November 18, 1982, who lived there until July of 1992. During their ownership of the house, they fought commercial development on their block, and abated a plan to build a McDonald's on the site. The home was purchased from the Coston's on July 26, 1993 by George and Bonnie Gatliff who have never lived in the house, but had planned to restore it until the house was sold in early 1995.

The Alderson-Coston House is a significant example of the Craftsman style in Malvern. The house has the low-pitched gabled roof with a wide, unenclosed eave overhang and exposed roof rafters. Decorative braces under the eaves, and a wide porch supported by piers are additional features which designate the Craftsman style. These characteristics, together with the historic landscape features create a period environment which is rarely seen *in toto*.

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

Gowans, Alan. The Comfortable House: North American Suburban Architecture 1890-1930. Cambridge, Mass: The MIT Press, 1986.

Information submitted by George W. Gatliff October, 1994 as follows:

The Heritage. Hot Spring County Historical Society Journal. Volumes I I , III, XIV, XIX.

Hot Spring County Tax Record Book, 1923. page 118, line 29.

Hot Spring County Tax Record Book, 1924. page 14, line 23.

Malvern Daily Record, Twenty-Fifth Anniversary Edition. p.54

Malvern Daily Record, Fiftieth Anniversary Edition. pp. 11, 20, 24.

Interviews between George Gatliff and Lethe (Clark) Swaim, the Alderson's niece who lived in the house from November 1927 to 1937. Ms. Swaim visited the house frequently until Mrs. Alderson's death in 1982. These interviews were conducted, and notes received between July and September of 1993.

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

=====

Acreeage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>15</u>	<u>517540</u>	<u>3802110</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____	_____

Verbal Boundary Description:

West 1/3 Lot 4 Block 95. A part of the Northwest Quarter Southwest Quarter (NW1/4SW1/4) of Section Twenty-Three (23) Twp. 4 S., Range Seventeen (17) West, more minutely described as beginning at a point 413 feet East of the Southwest Corner of the N1/2 of SW 1/4 of said Section 23, Twp 4 S., Rng 17 W., running from thence as a starting point 233 feet North, thence West 127 1/3 feet, thence South 233 feet to Pine Bluff Street, thence East with Pine Bluff Street 127 1/3 feet to place of beginning, being a strip of land 127 1/3 feet wide East and West by 233 feet long North and South, EXCEPT: 60 ft. frontage on East side heretofore sold to D. D. Glover, Jr.; being 67 1/3 wide by 233 feet deep.

Boundary Justification:

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

=====

11. Form Prepared By

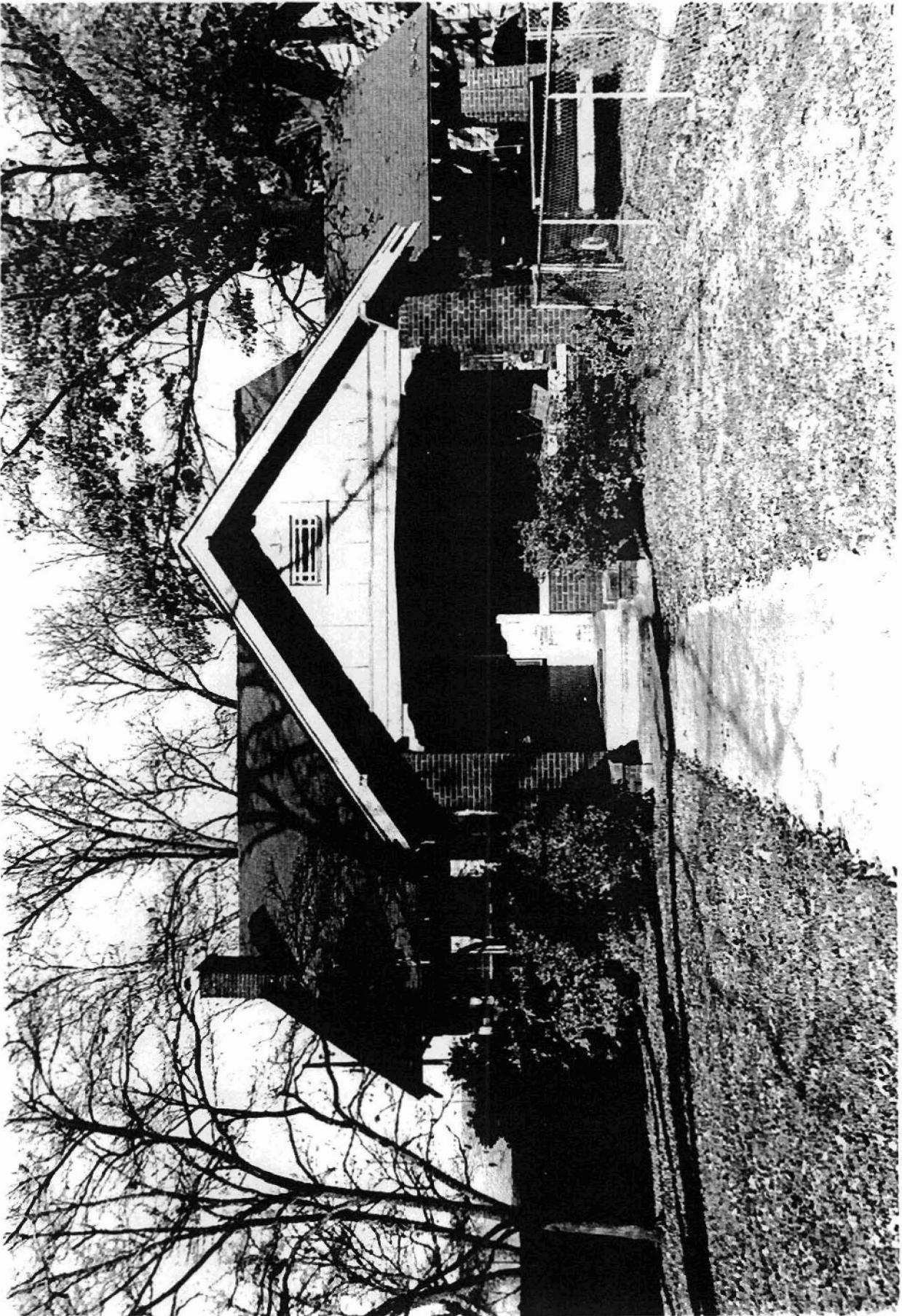
=====

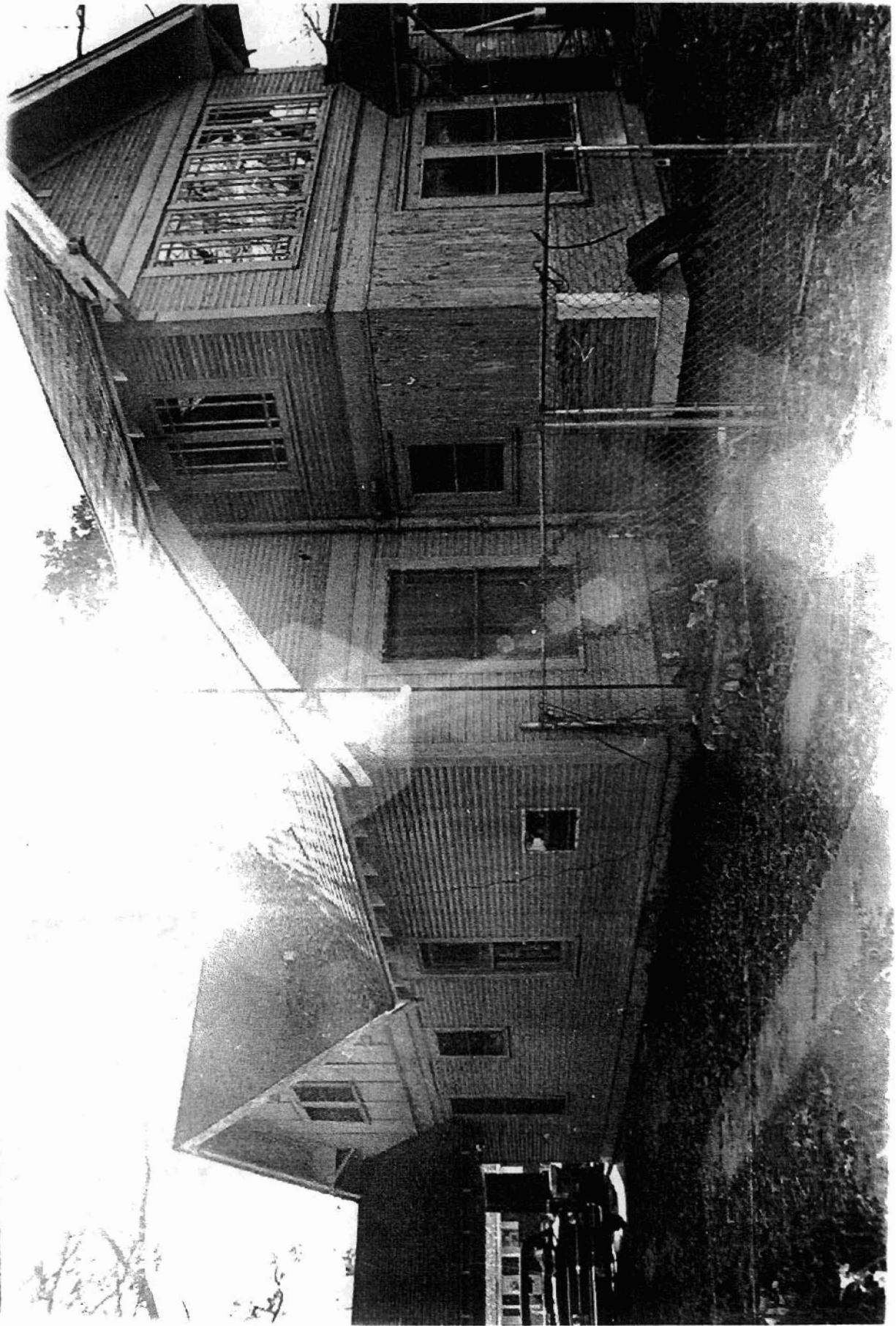
Name/Title: Helen A. Barry, Survey Historian

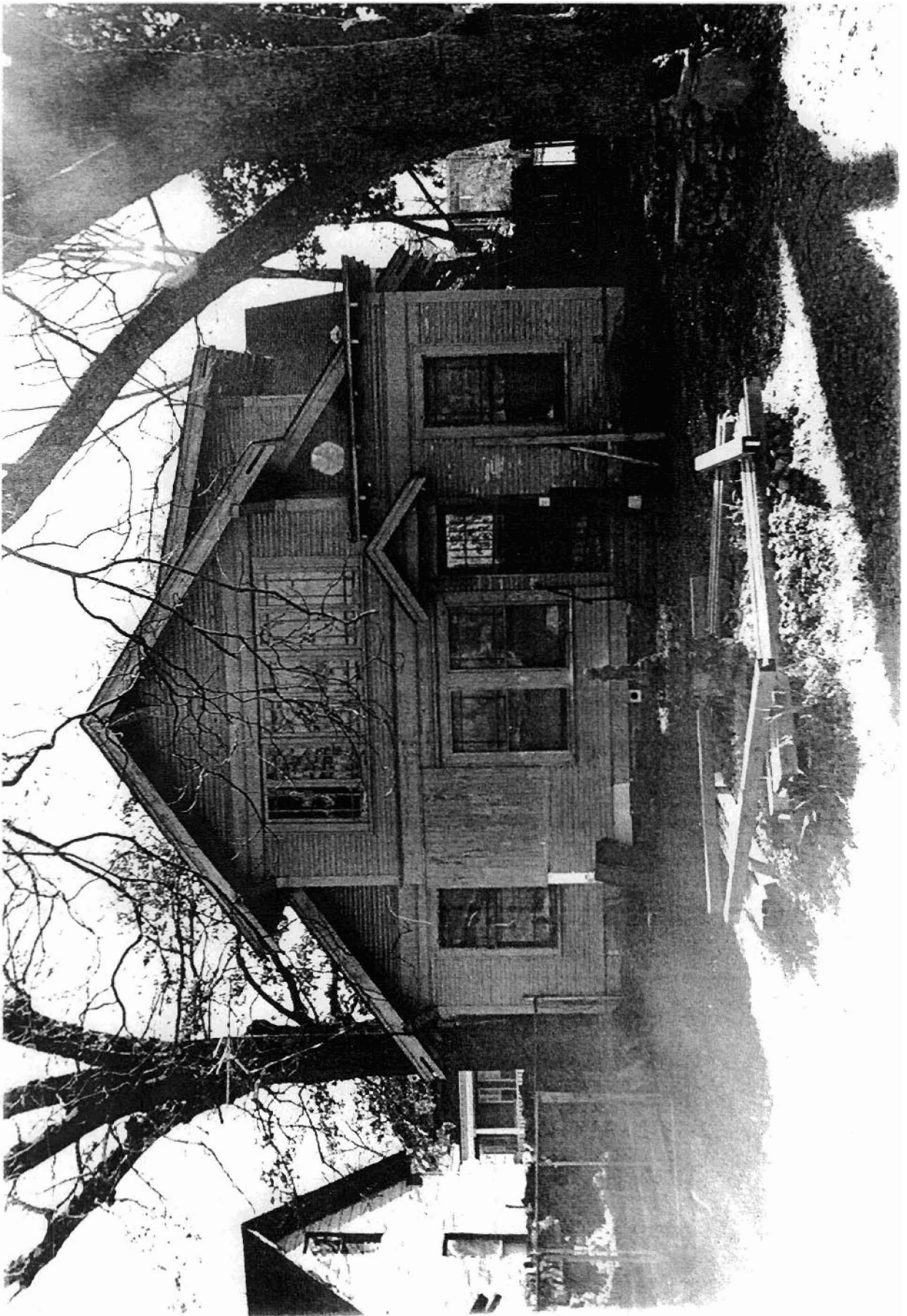
Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 4/11/95

Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg, 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

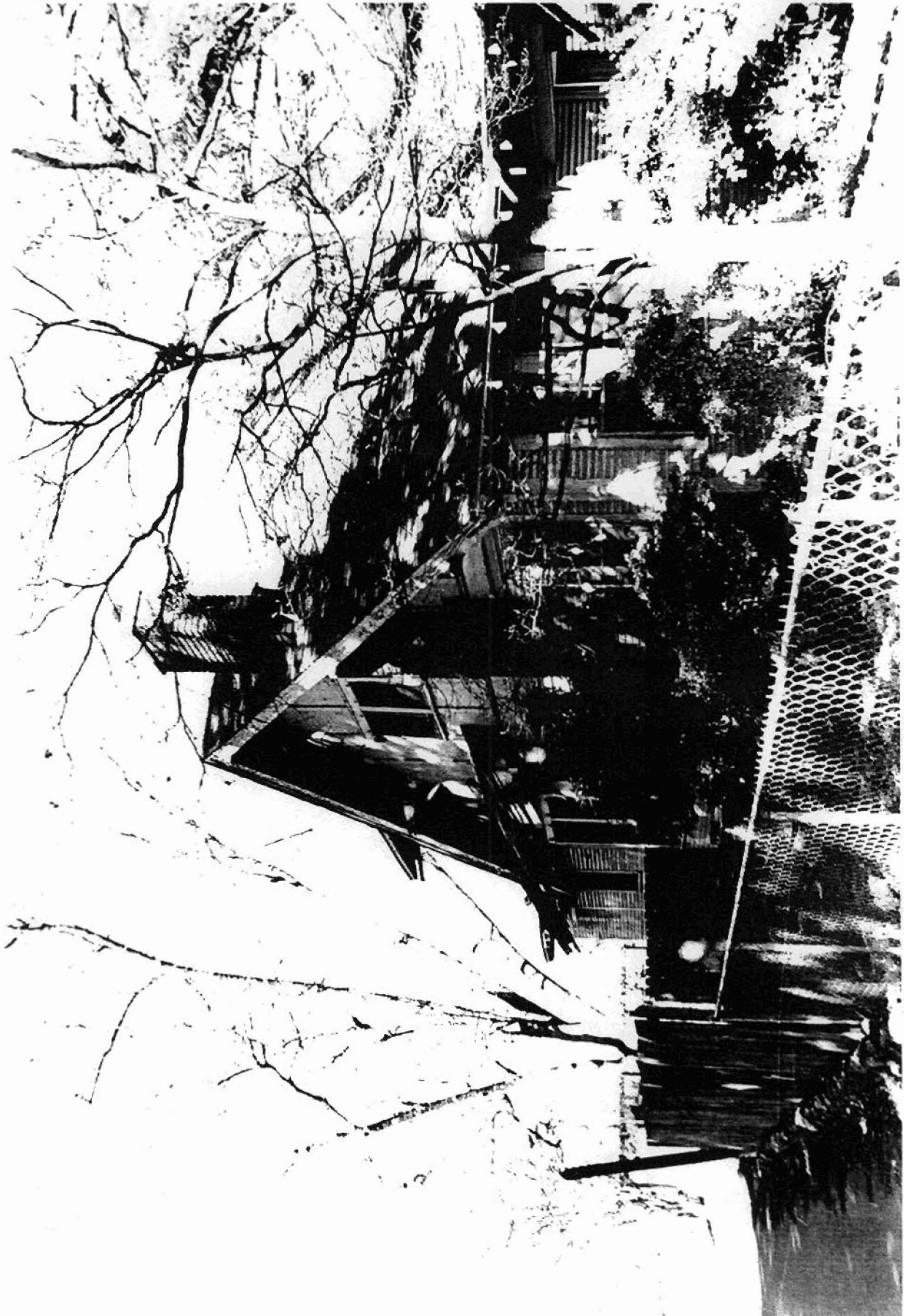
City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

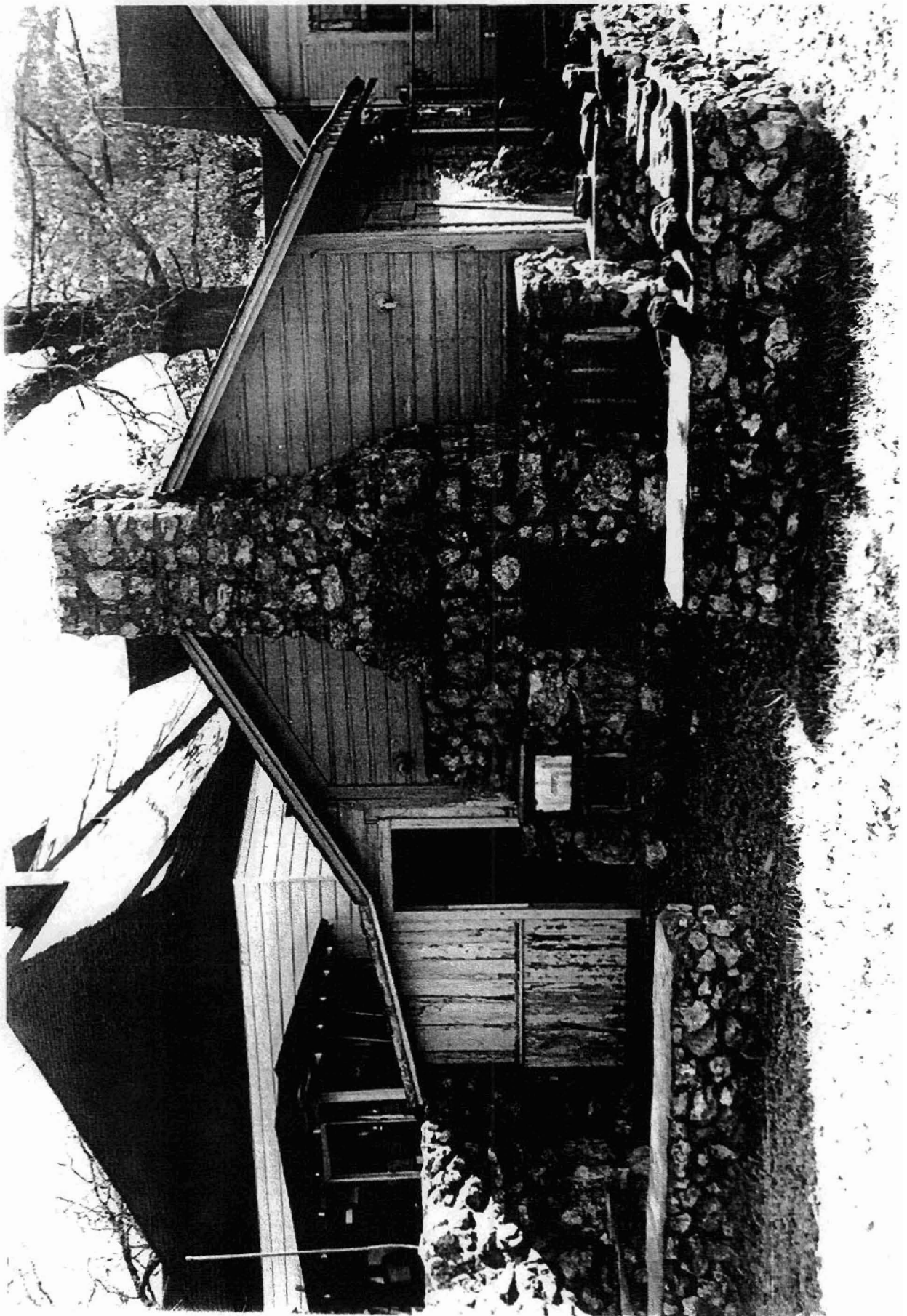


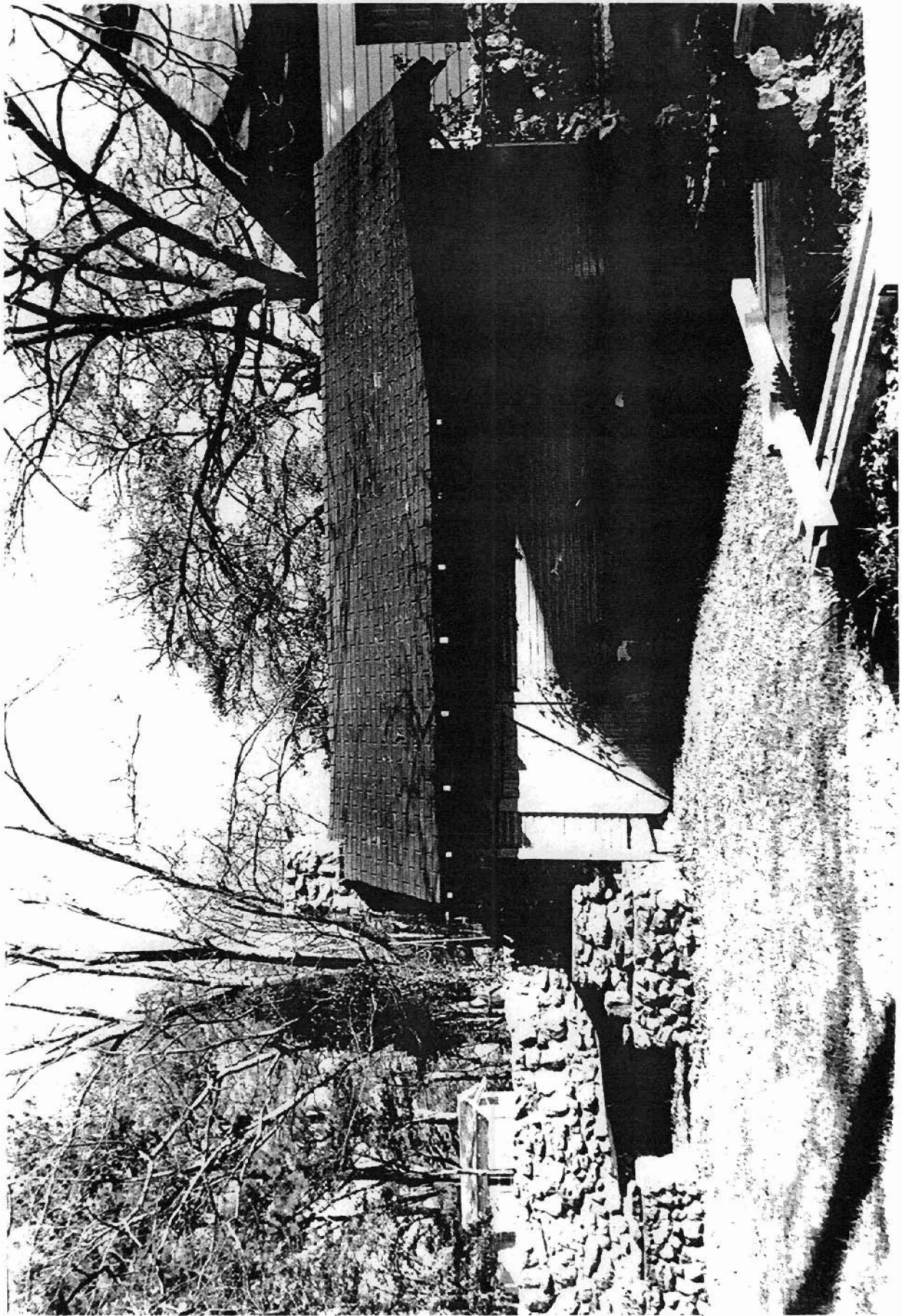


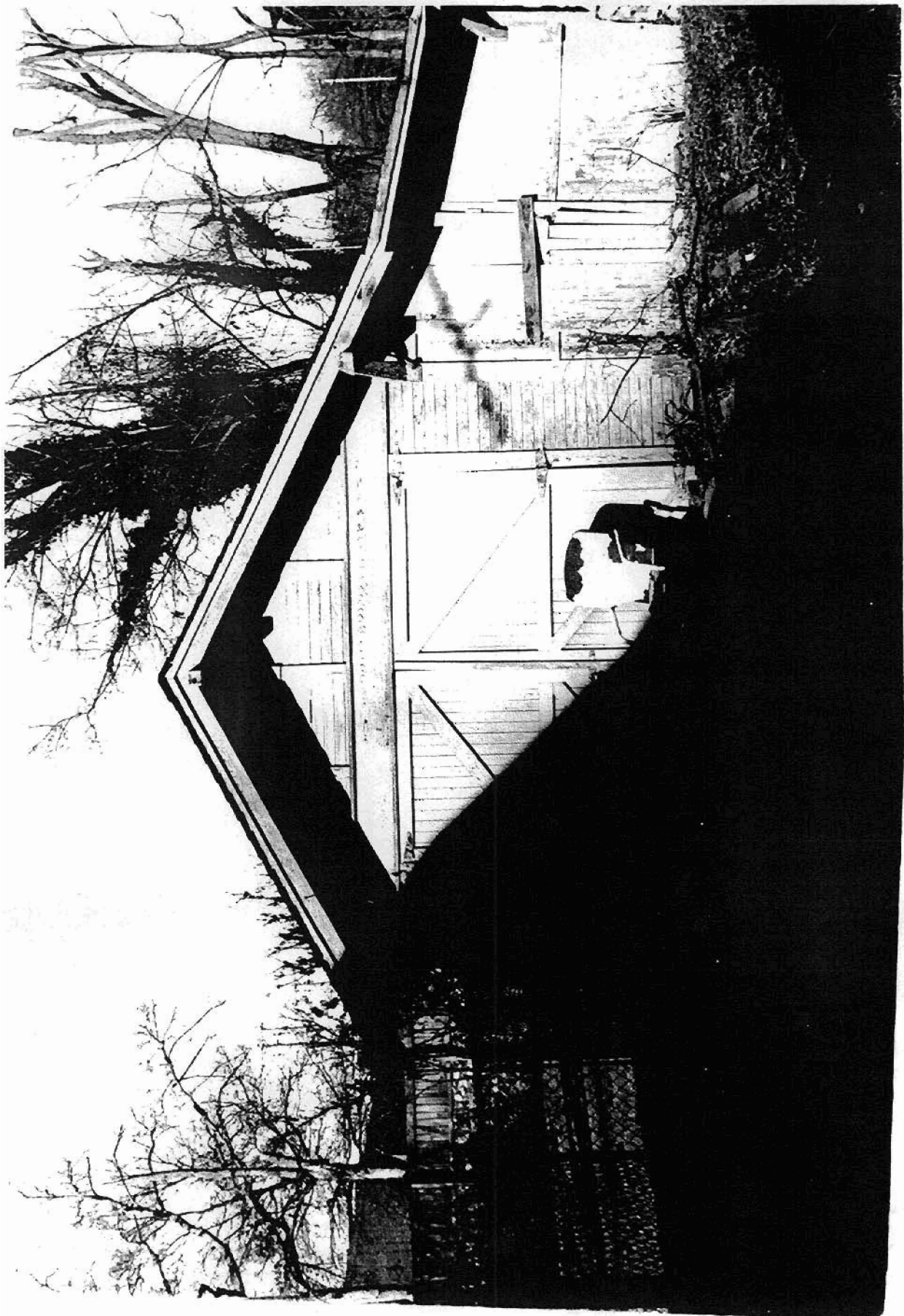


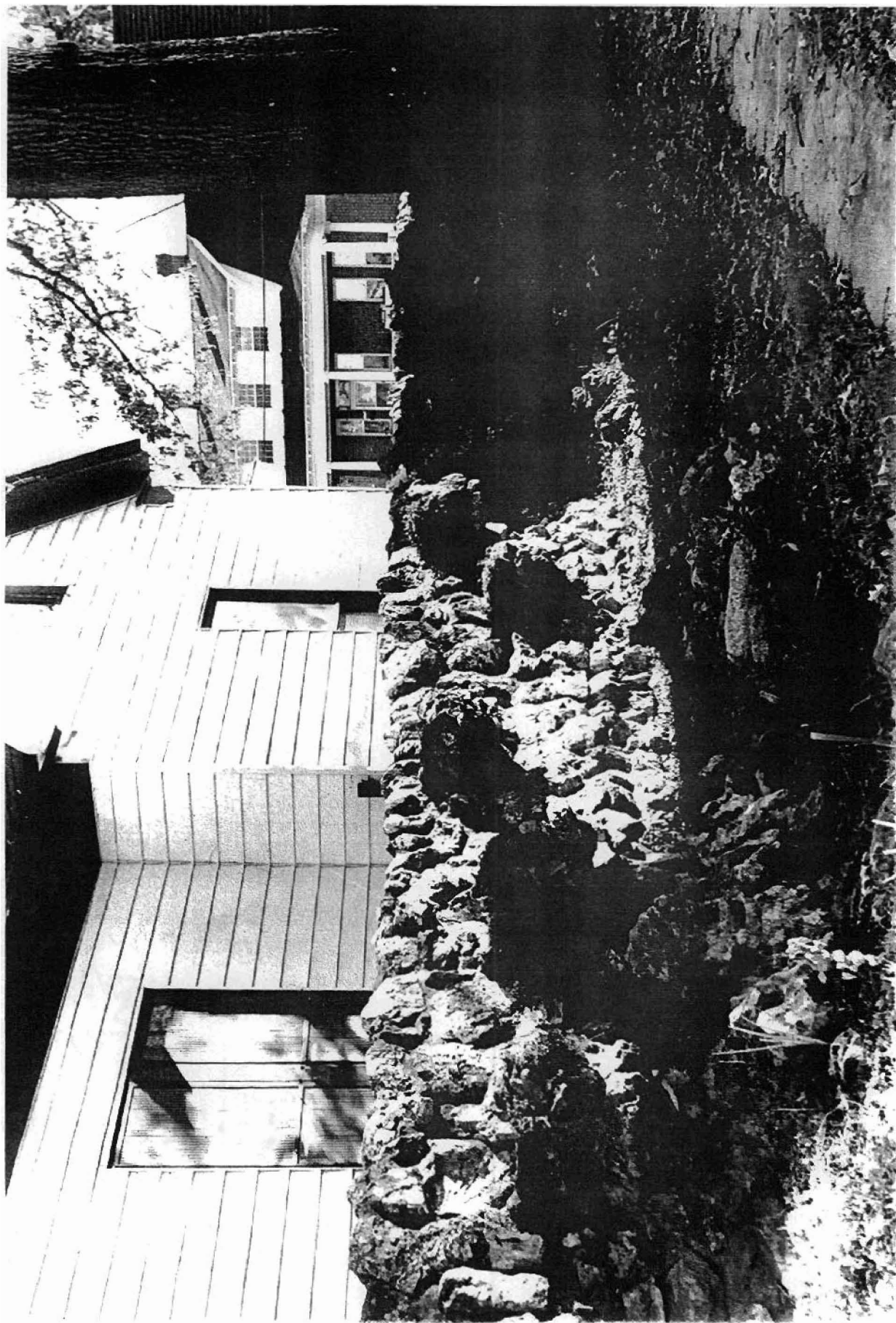


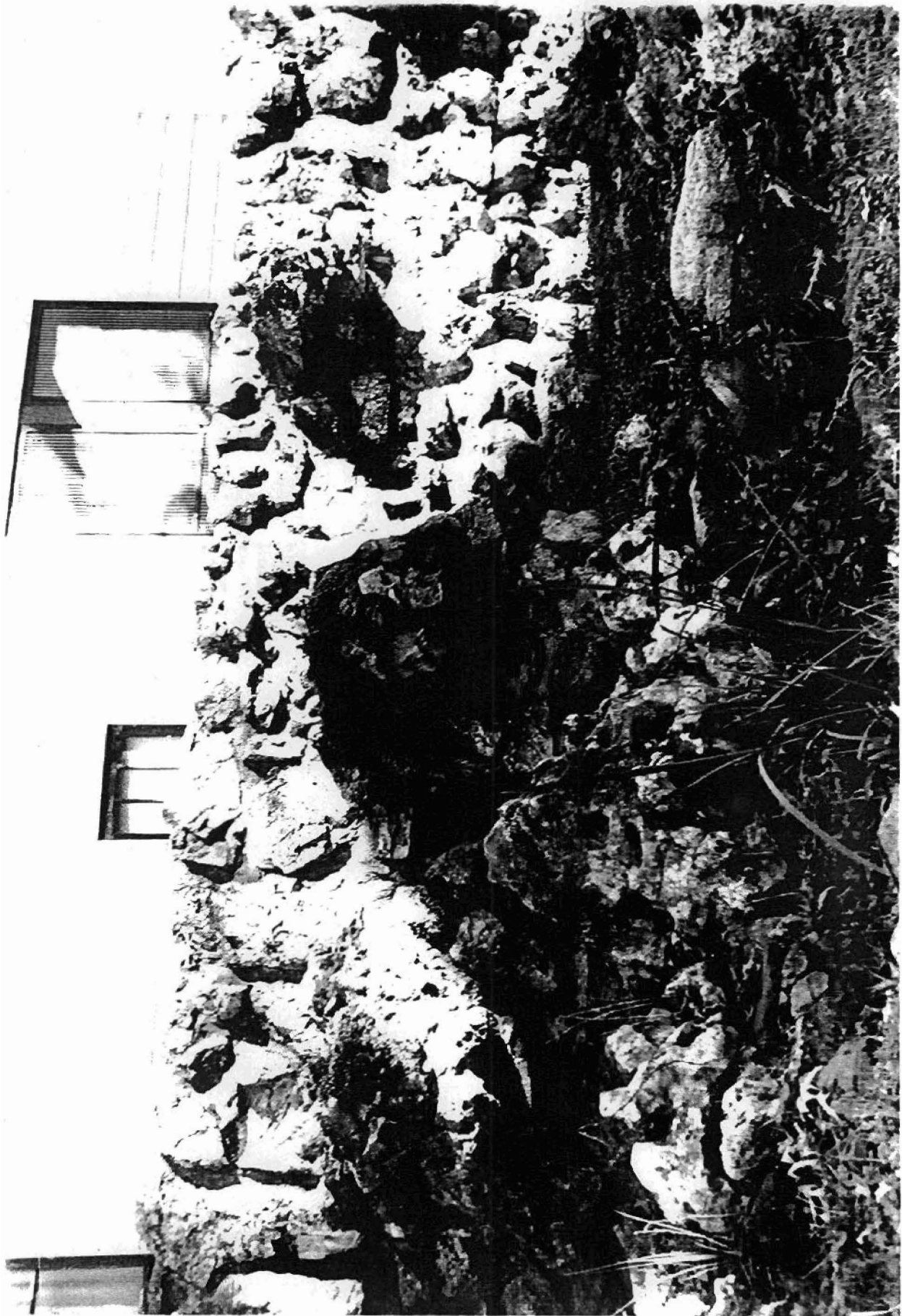


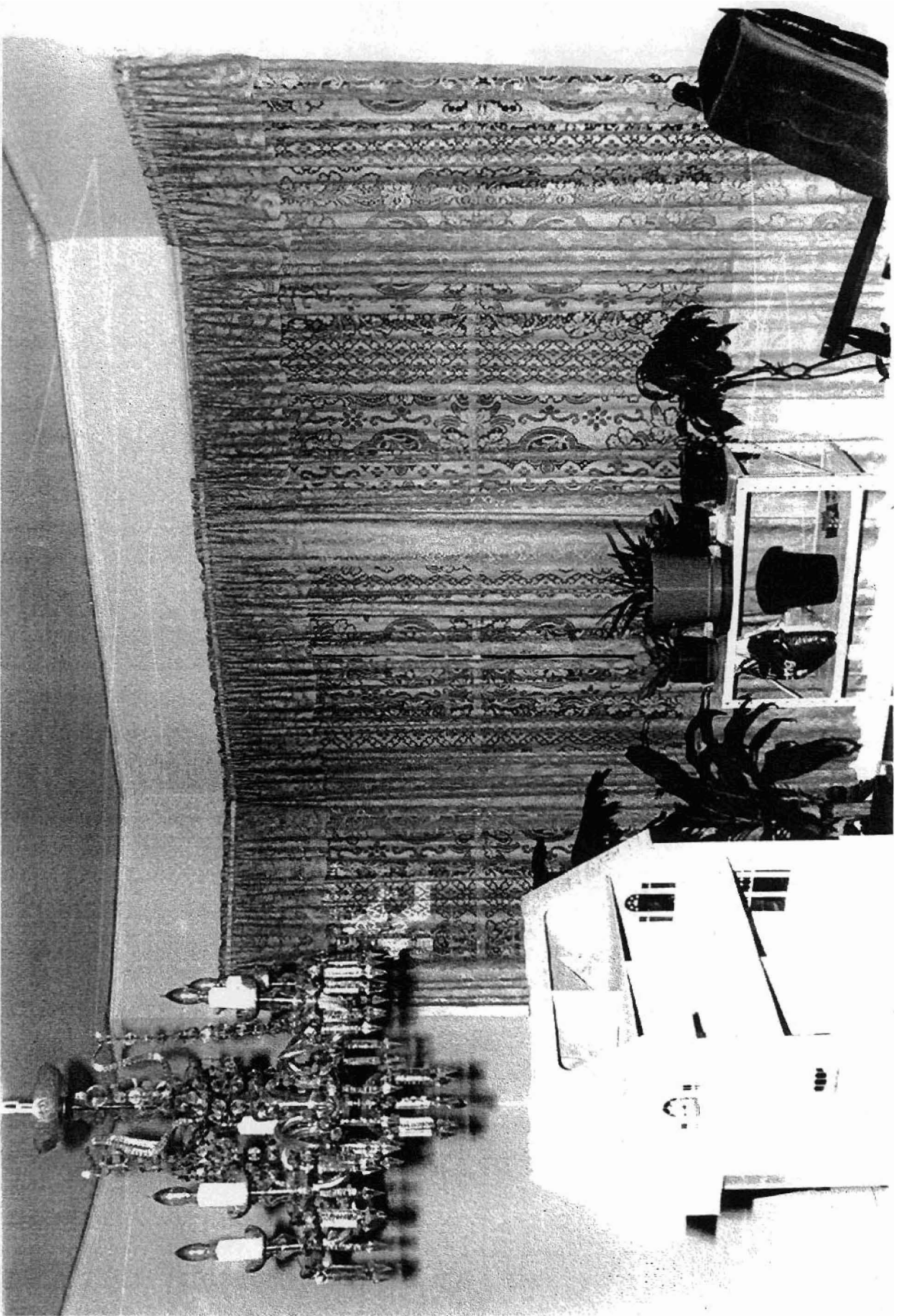


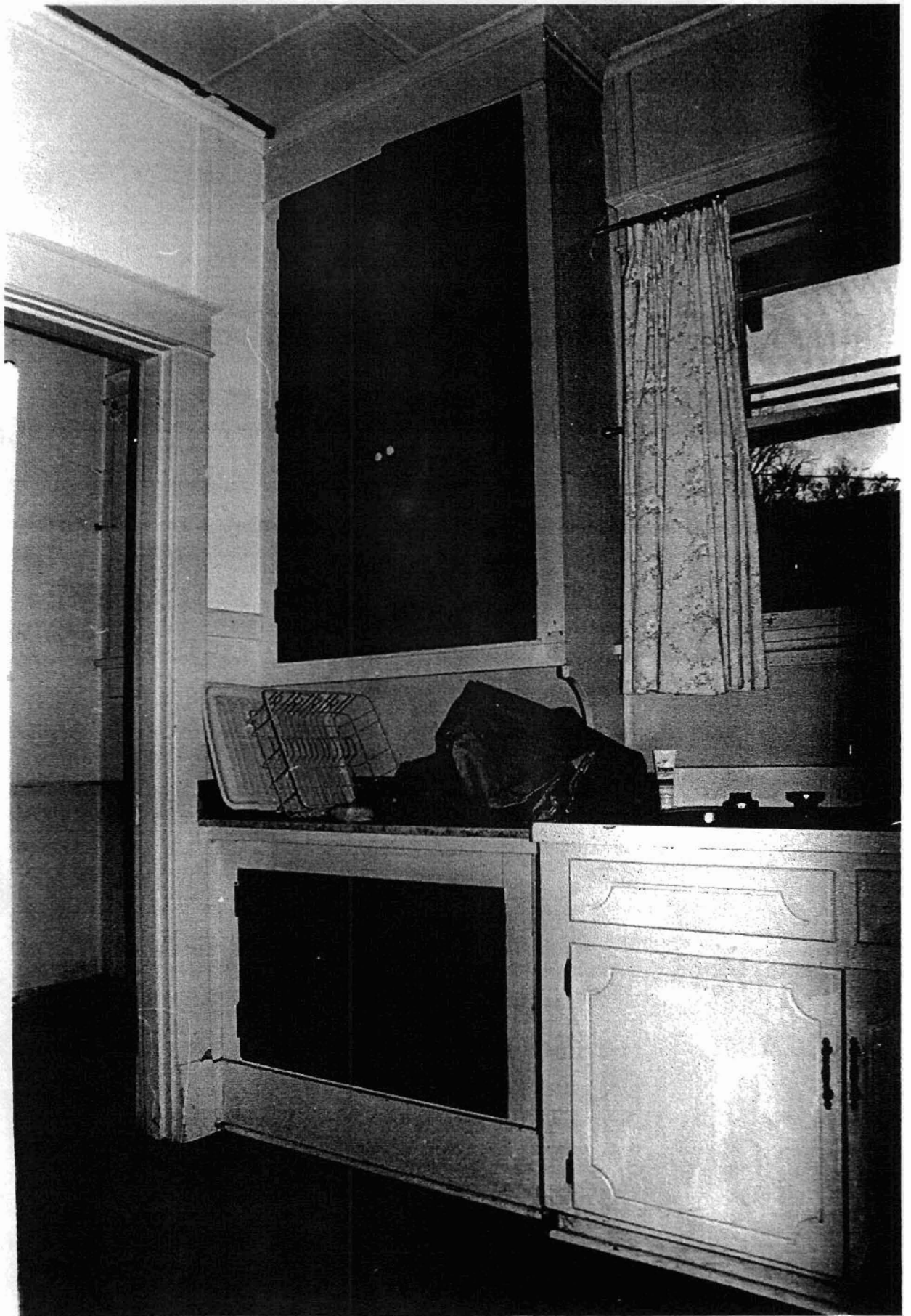














STATE OF ARKANSAS
GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION
LITTLE ROCK

7452 N NE
(MALVERN NORTH)

Alderson - Coster House
Malvern, Hot Spring Co.
Arkansas.
15° 51' 54.0" N 92° 21' 10"

50'

18

47'30"

