

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District

Other Names/Site Number JE0141; JE0199; JE0201; JE0203-JE0206; JE0213; JE0215; JE0288; JE0302; JE0303; JE0305; JE0348; JE0390; JE0582; JE0585; JE0692; JE0693; JE0696-JE0702; JE0704-JE0709; JE0711-JE0715; JE0717; JE0718; JE0720-JE0722; JE0722; JE0723-JE0744; JE0746-JE0748; JE0750-JE0767; JE0769; JE0771-JE0781; JE0783; JE0784; JE0786-JE0800; JE0806; JE0807; JE0812; JE0817; JE0818; JE0822-JE0829; JE0841-JE0843; JE0849-JE0851; JE0868-JE0874

2. Location

Street & Number Roughly bounded by U.S. Hwy. 65 B., Walnut St., 10<sup>th</sup> Ave, and S. Alabama St.

not for publication

City or Town Pine Bluff

vicinity

State Arkansas Code AR County Jefferson Code 069 zip code 71611

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Cochie Marsh*

3/14/08

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

Name of Property

County and State

Register

other (explain):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
 public-local
 public-State
 public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
 district
 site
 structure
 object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total. Values: 79, 63.

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

5

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/Business
COMMERCE/TRADE/Professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institutions
COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Stores
COMMERCE/TRADE/Restaurant
GOVERNMENT/Court House
GOVERNMENT/Post Office
RECREATION/CULTURE/Theater
DOMESTIC/Hotel

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- COMMERCE/TRADE/Business
COMMERCE/TRADE/Professional
COMMERCE/TRADE/Financial Institutions
COMMERCE/TRADE/Specialty Stores
COMMERCE/TRADE/Restaurant
GOVERNMENT/Court House
SOCIAL/Meeting Hall
RECREATIONAL/CULTURE/ Theater

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic; Italianate; 2nd Empire
LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
LATE 19th & Early 20th CENTURY
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Commercial Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Foundation: Concrete, Brick, Wood
Roof: Asphalt
Walls: Brick, Wood shake, Weatherboard, Tile, Stucco, Metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or a grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 #

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Commerce

Period of Significance

1850 - 1958

Significant Dates

1850 - 1958

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Charles Thompson, Architect ( Bridges Building)

George R. Mann, Architect (Hotel Pines)

Thomas A. Harding, Architect

Smith & Riggins, Architects

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District  
Name of Property

Jefferson, Arkansas  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 45 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>15</u>	<u>591519</u>	<u>3787910</u>	3	<u>15</u>	<u>591874</u>	<u>3786640</u>
2	<u>15</u>	<u>591910</u>	<u>3787910</u>	4	<u>15</u>	<u>591757</u>	<u>3786640</u>

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

Name/Title Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

Organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date 11/2/07

Street & Number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street Telephone (501) 324-9787

City or Town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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### SUMMARY

The Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is located in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas. It is bordered on the North and East by the Arkansas River. It is 42 miles south-east of Little Rock, capital of the state of Arkansas. The Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is comprised of 141 resources within the boundary of the district. Of this number, 79 (56%) of the properties maintain a high level of integrity and contribute to the district. There are 5 properties (4%) within the district which have been placed individually on the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining 63 resources, (40%) due to alterations, additions and other changes, no longer possess historic integrity or were not present during the period of significance of the proposed district. These buildings do not independently meet the National Register criteria. The non-contributing resources also include six vacant lots.

The period of significance for the Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is 1850 - 1958. There were seven resources in the district built between 1850 and 1880. The oldest building in the district is the Dexter Harding House at 110 N. Pine. It has an 1850 build date. Mr. Harding came to Jefferson County in the spring of 1850. He came to southeast Arkansas to claim a 160 acre tract of land bordering a lake. He had been granted the acreage because of his service in the War of 1812. He built his little house near the bank of the lake which was later named for him. It is a frame building with brick piers and wood shingle roof. The walls are weatherboard. The original house had been enlarged to 8 rooms. The house was razed and the original 3 rooms were salvaged and reconstructed on North Pine Street west of the courthouse for the Bicentennial celebration. It now houses the Tourist Information Center.

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Another early building is at 325 Alabama. It is a small brick building that was built in 1875. The old building was enlarged in 1933. It presently houses Hutt Wholesale Grocery. It has had two later additions: a Quonset hut built in 1950, served as a warehouse; a concrete block warehouse was added in 1956.

The period from 1880 to 1910 saw a huge leap in the number of buildings being constructed. A total of 81 buildings, (55%) of the 141 buildings in the district were built during this time frame, with 42 of these being built from 1901 - 1910. Of these 81 buildings, 46 were built on S. Main Street.

The proposed Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is a good example of Late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century American movement commercial style buildings and late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century revival styles. There are secondary influences in Italianate, Colonial Revival, Classic Revival, Gothic Revival, and Art deco styles.

### ELABORATION

The anchor from which the city of Pine Bluff grew is the Jefferson County Courthouse. The first courthouse building was built in 1840 at the location of the present courthouse. A fire in 1876 destroyed the second courthouse, built in 1856. However, a portion of the old courthouse building was saved, and that portion of the 1856 building was incorporated into the present courthouse. The Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District grew quickly along both sides of S. Main Street as well as the streets running east and west off of S. Main Street. Barraque Street runs directly in front of the court house. Barraque was named for one of the founders of Pine Bluff, Antoine Barraque.

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At 220 W. Barraque Street, the Dellmon & Mauldor Hardware, built in 1883, is a good example of the late 19th century and 20<sup>th</sup> century revival, Tudor style. The early architecture on Barraque Street. and S. Main Street reflected the prosperity of Pine Bluff during the period from 1880 - 1910. The more affluent the economy, the more high style the buildings were.

The Merchant and Planters Bank Building at 100 Main Street, is a high style brick building designed by architect Thomas A. Harding and built in 1892. It is 1 of 5 buildings in the Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District that are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Merchant and Planters Bank Building was listed on 8/1/78. Built in Romanesque Revival style, it was known as the "Grandest bank in the South." The beveled corner entry is below the rounded tower and conical turret. Spires top each column. It is by far the most ornate building in town. The bank was closed in November 1930, a victim of the Great Depression. Jim Hood, owner of the building, has not altered the exterior of the building and it remains much as it was when it was completed in October 1892. This building is an outstanding example of high style architecture for the period.

The R.M. Knox Building at 223 & 225 W. Barraque has decorative iron columns with "Pullis Bros." on the base. This brick Italianate building was designed by Smith & Riggins, Architects, and constructed in 1887. It was originally a dry goods store.

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The building at 301 W. Barraque Street was built in 1894. It is built in early 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> century American movement commercial style. It served as a feed and grain store for many years. It appears to have had two additions since it was built, but have no confirming dates. Owens purchased the building in 1963 and operated a frozen food locker and poultry and eggs business there. The building was closed in 2001.

Looking at 208 S. Main Street, 117 S. Main Street, and 122 S. Main Street, the buildings appear to have been built in 1950-1960. The proof of age is often in the alleys - the rear façade of these buildings. The original brick facades were not altered when the renovations were done on the front facades. The windows on the rear façade are arched with brick sills and lintels. The single rear façade door is narrow and has a brick lintel. Flat roofs with parapets don't reveal age, except for the mellowing of the bricks. The building dates of these buildings respectively were: 1904, 1894, and 1873. All of these buildings are non-contributing.

Serving as anchors for the Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District, the 4 remaining individually listed properties are as follows:

The Union Station, at 201 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., was built in 1906, using #5 - the best St. Louis brick made by the Hydraulic Brick Company. The architect was F.B. Scheetz, and the builder was E.H. Steininger, a railroad contractor from St. Louis. The building features the long horizontal planes and low-pitched roof with broad overhangs common to the Prairie School of Architecture reflected in the works of Chicago architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. The station was placed in the National Register of Historic Places on 12/14/1978.



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The building at 207 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. is known as The Breckinridge Building, The Old Towne Theatre Center Bldg., and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as The Community Theater. The construction date is 1889. The architect was Mitchell Seligman and the contractor was William Hillard. It is built in Moderne Movement/Art Deco Style. It has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 5/26/2004.

The Masonic Temple / Prince Hall Bldg is at 119 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue. It is built in late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century classical revival style. Decorative capitals top each column. The 4<sup>th</sup>-story windows have brick lintels and are topped by a bricked arch. W.S. Helton, Gibbs & Sanders were the architects. The Masons were the builders. It is a 4-story rectangular frame building with brick walls and a flat roof with a parapet. A gabled pediment surrounds the front entrance with a Masonic logo on the pediment. A cornerstone has the date August 14, 1902, as the build-date. "Grand Masonic Temple" is on an arch above one of the windows. The building was remodeled in 1954-55. This building was known as the Colored Masonic Temple in the early 1900's. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 11/30/1978.

The Hotel Pines is located at the N.W. corner of 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and S. Main Street. It is a 6-story brick structure built with Classical detailing. The architect was George R. Mann. The contractor was Monk and Ritchie. The construction date is 1913. The building featured a marble lobby with a tile floor and a stained glass ceiling. The dining room and halls have marble columns supporting ornamental beams. The hotel was decorated by Paul Heerwagen, whose firm was in Fayetteville, Arkansas. "From 1913, The Pines Hotel was the center-piece, perhaps the heartbeat of downtown Pine Bluff. The hotel was the victim

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of the end of passenger train service to the city in 1968. Only a block and a half from the old Union Station, the hotel offered porter service to carry baggage to and from the station." (From *Arkansas Business*, August 19, 2002). After more than 20 years of being vacant, no major deterioration has been found. The steel, concrete, and brick structure is sound. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on 8/10/1979.

The Bridges Building at 500-502 Main Street is a brick two-story building designed by architect, Charles Thompson, and built in 1914 by M. McCannon, General Contractor. The side entrance has a large pediment with brackets. The wide eaves of the building are also supported by large brackets. A copper awning covers the north plate glass window on the 500 Main Street side of the building.

Gideon's Shears at 108 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue was originally the Postal Telegraph & Cable Building. Built in 1929, it is a frame construction with a continuous cast concrete foundation. The walls are brick and stucco. The narrow, two-story building has multi-paned casement windows on the second story. Vegetation is beginning to cover the rear façade. The building is in fair condition.

People's Bank Building at 123 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue was built in 1906 in late 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> century classical revival style. The rectangular 1-story building is built of reinforced concrete with brick wall material. The roof is flat with a parapet. The tile ceiling at the front entry is original. Granite columns support the over-hang covering the recessed front porch which faces south. "Peoples Bank" is written in the tiles at the entry to the front door. The west façade of the building has a canvas awning covering the side entrance. The building is in good condition.

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Mae's Army Store is located at 206 W. Barraque in an 1883 frame building with brick and stucco walls. The building has a continuous cast concrete foundation. The roof is flat with a parapet, with tar built-up roofing material. Upper story windows are narrow and long. Windows on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor are partially covered with particle board. The building is in fair condition.

The Simmons Bank Building is an 11-story reinforced concrete building with brick walls. It occupies 2 city blocks on the east side of S. Main Street from 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The base of the building has 2 stories, supporting a 9-story tower. The irregular shaped building has interior brick and marble walls. A park is located south of the building. The remainder of the land is set aside for parking. Meticulous landscaping enhances the park, along with low brick and concrete walls for seating. Other features of the park are: three flagpoles; planter boxes of brick and concrete; a water fountain; and concrete pavers used for stepping stones.

The Transformer Sub-Station at the S.W. corner of W. 4<sup>th</sup> and the 200 block of Chestnut Street is owned by Entergy, Arkansas. It was built circa 1950. The two buildings that housed offices and materials have a steel frame construction with corrugated steel walls. The roof is gabled and has an aluminum roof. All windows and doors are covered with plywood. The posts and wires and electrical works are protected by a 10- foot-tall chain link fence. The contrast between the metal configuration of the transformer and the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings in the proposed Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District shows the diversity of the district.

West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Barraque Avenue, and S. Main Street are all rich with historical buildings dating from the mid to late 1900's. There are rows on each side

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of the streets that look much like they must have looked 100 years ago. The brick fronts have a patina that only comes from long years in the sun and rain. A lot of these buildings are vacant. Two have been gutted, with walls left standing. Six buildings in the Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District have been removed and parking lots have replaced the historic buildings.

### INTEGRITY

A strong impact is derived from the 79 (56%) of the 141 buildings in the Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District which are contributing to the integrity of the district. There is a visual connection to the period of significance. However, in an effort to modernize and make more attractive through aluminum slip covered facades and other alterations, many of the buildings have lost the integrity of their style and age. In trying to enhance the buildings, the original design was lost. These buildings are among the 63 (40%) of non-contributing structures or sites in the district. There are 5 buildings (4%) that have been individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the visual impact they provide the district is powerful. The buildings in the district, at some time in the past, were important for the service they provided. Each served a purpose in the history of this proposed district.

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<u>Resource</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Current Occupant</u>	<u>Map ID#</u>	<u>C, NC or IL</u>
JE0699	123 S. Main St.	Jefferson County Juvenile Court	1	C
JE0693	108 S. Main St.	Jefferson County Election Comm.	2	C
JE0709	212 S. Main St.	Retail Business	3	C
JE0712	216 S. Main St.	Alexander Trading Co.	4	C
JE0714	219 S. Main St.	Vacant	5	C
JE0720	300 S. Main St.	Looking Good Men & Boys Shop	6	C
JE 0721	301 S. Main St.	Pop's Barber Shop	7	C
JE0722	302 S. Main St.	School Uniforms-Tux Rental	8	C
JE0724	305 S. Main St.	Check Cashers	9	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0726	309-313 S. Main St.	Pine Bluff Furniture	10	C
JE0728	315 S. Main St.	Jerry's Dept. Store	11	C
JE0729	316 S. Main St.	Smiles, Inc.	12	C
JE0730	317 S. Main St.	Vacant	13	C
JE0731	322 S. Main St.	Paul's Fashions	14	C
JE0732	323 S. Main St.	Fashion Wigs	15	C
JE0735	326 S. Main St.	Vacant	16	C
JE0736	329 S. Main St.	Beauty Shop	17	C
JE0738	401 S. Main St.	Vacant	18	C
JE0740	409 S. Main St.	Vacant	19	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0741	411 S. Main St.	Mid-South Music	20	C
JE0742	415 S. Main St.	Office Building	21	C
JE0746	435 S. Main St.	Professional Offices	22	C
JE0201	500-502 S. Main St.	Shoe Store/ Professional Office	23	C
JE0582	601 S. Main St.	Auto Detail Shop	24	C
JE0203	504 S. Main St.	Vacant	25	C
JE0205	600-604 S. Main St.	Office Furniture Store	26	C
JE0751	623 S. Main St.	Sets & Construction	27	C
JE0752	627 S. Main St.	Auto Parts Store	28	C
JE0215	728 S. Main St.	Technical Offices	29	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0869	722 S. Main St.	Piano Store	30	C
JE0213	716 S. Main	RMC of America Office	31	C
JE0850	911-921 S. Main St.	Young's Laundry & Cleaners	32	C
JE0872	902 S. Main St.	Martin-McNew Insurance	33	C
JE0796	Corner W. 4 <sup>th</sup> & 200 Chestnut	Utilities	34	C
JE0823	110 N. Pine St.	Visitor Information Center	35	C
JE0825	300 S. Pine St.	Vacant	36	C
JE0828	316 S. Pine St.	Vacant	37	C
JE0829	512 S. Pine St.	Offices	38	C
JE0199	721 S. Pine St.	Colonial Restaurant	39	C
JE0841	401 S. State St.	Shirley's Beat	40	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed



Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District

Name of Property

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

Jefferson County, Arkansas

County and State

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JE0842	409 S. State St.	Shoe Express	41	C
JE0843	412 S. State St.	Vacant	42	C
JE0822	325 Alabama St.	Hutt Building & Material Co.	43	C
JE0818	105 S. Walnut St.	Pine Bluff School District Bldg.	44	C
JE0764	206 W. Barraque St.	Mae's Army Store	45	C
JE0766	210 & 212 W. Barraque St.	Vacant	46	C
JE0756	211 W. Barraque St.	Vacant	47	C
JE0757	213 W. Barraque St.	Reed T.V. Repair	48	C
JE0758	215 W. Barraque St.	Vacant	49	C
JE0767	216 W. Barraque St.	Vacant	50	C
JE0759	217 W. Barraque St.	Kearney Law Office	51	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0760	219 & 220 W. Barraque St.	Professional Offices	52	C
JE0761	223 & 225 w. Barraque St.	Mark Chadick Law office	53	C
JE0762	301 Barraque St.	Vacant	54	C
JE0772	113 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	YNot Charles Restaurant	55	C
JE0783	108 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Barber Shop	56	C
JE0784	114 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Theater annex	57	C
JE0774	119 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Port City Graphics	58	C
JE0775	123 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Moss C.P.A. Office	59	C
JE0776	209 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Vacant	60	C
JE0777	211 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Atkins Cotton Co.	61	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0778	215 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Woodworker Shop	62	C
JE0779	219-221 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Janitor Supply Co..	63	C
JE0781	307 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Larry's Lot Too (used cars)	64	C
JE0780	311 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Shape Shop Gym	65	C
JE0773	117 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Wallis & Wallis Advertising	66	C
JE0786	127 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave.	Vacant	67	C
JE0789	109 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Retail Business	68	C
JE0793	110 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Vacant	69	C
JE0792	114 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Vacant	70	C
JE0788	115 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Spharler's Jewelry	71	C
JE0791	120 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Vacant	72	C

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0794	116 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Vacant	73	C
JE0795	124 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Vacant	74	C
JE0790	221 W. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Vacant	75	C
JE0797	111 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Vacant	76	C
JE0799	301 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Resale Shop	77	C
JE0807	316 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Dr.'s Office	78	C
JE0305	5 <sup>th</sup> Ave. @ Main St.	Pines Hotel	79	IL
JE0390	119 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Masonic Temple	80	IL
JE0303	620 S. Main St.	Old Masonic Temple	81	C
JE0585	207 W. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Community Theater	82	IL
JE0348	201 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Union Station	83	IL

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0302	100 S. Main St.	Merchants & Planters Bank	84	IL
JE0692	101-109 S. Main St.	Coroner' s Office	85	NC
JE0206	609-619 S. Main St	U. of A. Offices	86	NC
JE0204	518, 520, 522 S. Main St	Demolished	87	NC
JE0141	501 S. Main St.	Simmons Bank	88	NC
JE0798	219 W. 5th Ave.	Vacant	89	NC
JE0800	321 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Ambassador Motel	90	NC
JE0806	120 W. 5 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	Bank of America	91	NC
JE0812	121 W. 6 <sup>th</sup> Ave.	The Corporate Center	92	NC

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0817	101 S. Walnut St.	Exxon Gas Station	93	NC
JE0824	100 S. Pine St	Kearney Law Office	94	NC
JE0725	306 S. Main St.	Retail/Tux Rental	95	NC
JE0723	304 S. Main St.	Super Bad Retail	96	NC
JE0718	224 S. Main St.	Computer Doc's	97	NC
JE0717	220 S. Main St.	C.P.A.'s Office	98	NC
JE0715	221 S. Main St	Vacant	99	NC
JE0713	217 S. Main St.	Vacant	100	NC
JE0711	210 S. Main St.	Shoe Doctor	101	NC

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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JE0708	209 S. Main St.	Vacant	102	NC
JE0707	288 S. Main St	Vacant	103	NC
JE0706	205 S. Main St.	Pinkie & Tommy's Clothing	104	NC
JE0705	204 S. Main St.	Office Building	105	NC
JE0704	201 S. Main St.	Reed's Drug	106	NC
JE0733	324 S. Main St.	Vacant	107	NC
JE0734	325 S. Main St.	Vacant	108	NC
JE0722	310 S. Main St.	Vacant	109	NC
JE0787	211 W. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave.	Service Meeting Rooms	110	NC
JE0771	205 E. 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave.	Vacant – Coca Cola Building	111	NC

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 20

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JE0769	310 W. Barraque St.	Vacant	112	NC
JE0744	423 & 425 S. Main St.	Band Museum	113	NC
JE0747	506 S. Main St	First Arkansas Insurance	114	NC
JE0748	510 S. Main St	Economic Development Bldg	115	NC
JE0750	612-618 S. Main St.	Offices	116	NC
JE0755	201 W. Barraque St	Barraque Bridge Plaza	117	NC
JE0754	312 & 314 S. Main St.	Vacant	118	NC
JE0763	313 W. Barraque St.	Vacant	119	NC
JE0765	208 W. Barraque St.	S.W. Engravers, Inc.	120	NC
JE0826	314 S. Pine St.	Vacant	121	NC

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed



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JE0827	310 S. Pine St.	Vacant	122	NC
JE0849	701 S. Main St.	Arts & Science Center	123	NC
JE0851	921 S. Main St.	Vacant	124	NC
JE0868	700 S. Main St.	Windows on Main – Catering	125	NC
JE0870	800 S. Main St.	C.P.A.s' Offices	126	NC
JE0871	820 Main St.	Shrine Temple	127	NC
JE0873	904 S. Main St.	Barber Shop	128	NC
JE0874	916 S. Main St.	Antique Shop	129	NC
JE0737	400 S. Main St	Office Building	130	NC
JE0739	408 S. Main St.	Retail	131	NC
JE0743	417 S. Main St.	VFW Post #228	132	NC

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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Section Number 7 Page 22

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JE0702	128 S. Main St.	Vacant	133	NC
JE0701	127 & 129 S. Main St	Jefferson County Juvenile Court	134	NC
JE0700	124 S. Main St.	Rear entrance YNot Restaurant	135	NC
JE0697	120 S. Main St.	Pine Bluff Title Co.	136	NC
JE0698	122 S. Main St.	Pine Bluff Title Co.	137	NC
JE0696	117 S. Main St	Jefferson Co. Criminal Div.	138	NC
JE0753	113 S. Main St.	Sheriff's Department	139	NC
JE0727	310 S. Main St.	Rent a Tux	140	NC
JE0288	Barraque St. & Main St.	Jefferson County Courthouse	141	NC

Chart Reference:

C—Contributing

NC—Noncontributing

IL—Individually Listed

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Section Number 8 Page 1

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### SUMMARY

The Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion A for its associations with early development in agriculture and commercial history in Pine Bluff, Jefferson County. In addition, the Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C for the wide assortment and quality of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> architectural styles and commercial buildings in the district.

### ELABORATION

European explorers arrived in the land that is now Arkansas in 1541. In 1673 Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Joliet met the Quapaw Indians who claimed the land at the mouth of the Arkansas River. The Quapaws called the land "Arkansa." From that, the name Arkansas was derived. Thomas A. Nuttall, an Englishman and botanist, made a trip from Philadelphia to Arkansas to record the local flora of the region. When Nuttall read the terms the Quapaws had accepted in the 1818 Cession in which they had signed an agreement giving up all the land in their possession except for the triangular area in southeast Arkansas, he was shocked that they had accepted the terms presented to them. When Arkansas was admitted to the Union as a territory in March, 1819, the first order of business was to set up a land office to sell the Quapaw land and to appoint commissioners to begin treaty negotiations for the remaining Quapaw land.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 2

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Thomas Nuttall described the Quapaw as dark-skinned people, who had a very pleasant appearance. They were taller than other Native Americans he had encountered. The Quapaws built large houses of bent poles, covered with bark and skins. It was not unusual for two or three families to live in one of the houses, with each family having a fire hole in the center of their living area. The houses were shaped much like the Quonset huts we see today.

In 1686, at the mouth of the Arkansas River, the first settlement was established. It was a small fort called Arkansas Post, which was settled by Henri de Tonti with only 10 men. The actual date of the first settlement in Pine Bluff was not recorded, but when the steamship, the *Comet*, arrived in 1820, a new era began. The influx of settlers increased greatly when the *Eagle*, another steamship, made the first trip upstream to Little Rock. Arkansas slowly grew, with French and Spanish settlers moving to the area. Through the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, America had possession of the land that is now Pine Bluff, Jefferson County, Arkansas. These settlers intermarried with the Quapaw women and some of their descendents still live in the area. One of the most famous was Saracen. He was born to a Quapaw mother, and Cadet Francois Sarazin is believed to be the father. He was known as "the rescuer of children."

Joseph Bonne was born in 1793 as a result of one the intermarriages. Bonne built a log cabin and a primitive lean-to for travelers for lodging about 1819. The settlement was named "Pine Bluff" because it was the first bluff above the mouth of the river and was covered with pine trees. It was officially named Pine Bluff by the Jefferson county court on October 16, 1832. Jefferson County had been established in 1829. The first meeting of the county court was held in Joseph Bonne's cabin in 1830 and was held there in his

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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cabin or under a big shade tree in his yard for several years.

President Andrew Jackson signed a bill admitting the territory of Arkansas to the union as a state on June 15, 1836. Statehood for Arkansas had little effect on the small village of Pine Bluff. As more steamships began to ply the Arkansas River, trade began to develop in Pine Bluff. On October 15, 1839, a bid was accepted by the county court to build a brick courthouse. The first county court was held in the new courthouse on January 19, 1841. Five years later, the courthouse was reported to be in a "dilapidated state."

The present court square was the site for the first brick courthouse constructed in Jefferson County. It was built in 1840 on two acres of land donated by John W. and James T. Pullen, brothers. The street running east and west in front of the Courthouse is named for Antoine Barraque, who settled in Arkansas and built a cotton plantation on the Arkansas River, at the edge of Pine Bluff.

The Civil War battle fought in Jefferson County was known as The Battle of Pine Bluff. General John S. Marmaduke led the Confederate attack against the Federal troops led by Colonel Powell Clayton. Marmaduke, with 2,500 men, led an attack on 550 Federal troops. Col. Clayton, who was anticipating the attack, dug in and fortified the area they occupied and withstood the Confederate onslaught. The Confederates suffered so many casualties, Gen. Marmaduke retreated rather than risk further losses.

The war ended and after a three-year reconstruction period, Pine Bluff began a time of expansion. The arrival of the steamboats on the Arkansas River was a key factor in the growth of Pine Bluff after the Civil War.

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Section Number 8 Page 4

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Another key factor in the early growth of Pine Bluff was the coming of the railroads in the 1870s and 1880s. The L.R.M.R. & T. Railroad became the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railway with a connection between Little Rock and Pine Bluff, giving Pine Bluff access to service in Kansas City, Chicago, and other important terminals. The Cotton Belt went through several reorganizations before it emerged, and by 1900 it was a financially sound railroad. The Cotton Belt opened a car-building facility in Pine Bluff as well as maintenance shops, making it the largest employer in the city.

Many new businesses were opened on South Main Street as well as Barraque Avenue and W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. The growth of the city progressed down South Main Street and grew west and then east off of South Main Street. The proposed Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District was a vital part of that period of growth. Of the 141 resources in this proposed district, 81 of them were built before 1910.

The first streets were paved with bricks in 1885 after proving that the population of the city was in excess of 5,000 people. The next improvements that were important to the citizens of Pine Bluff were paved sidewalks and shade trees. South Main Street is still lined with trees.

In 1880 Pine Bluff had a population of 3,203. By 1900, the population had jumped to 11,496 inhabitants. Pine Bluff had become a city. Dr. David Y. Thomas in Arkansas and It's People gives the following description of Pine Bluff: "The period from 1880 - 1900 was one of the most remarkable advances in many ways, and many industries, mercantile establishments and public institutions date their start from these decades. The other side of the picture is that the city was one of rutted streets and few pavements, many

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Section Number 8 Page 5

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frame business structures, and a few brick blocks, a few artificial gas lights, a dilapidated horse-car line (a real sign of cosmopolitan aspirations, however) and only the beginnings of decent roads to the surrounding fertile country. Pine Bluff was even then the third largest and most important city in Arkansas, but none too attractive a place, lacking most of what is now (1930) considered common-place in conveniences of living." What Dr. Thomas failed to note were improvements such as the installation of electric lights, the development of a water and sewer system, and two franchised telephone companies.

A new century brought new challenges. The economy had lost it's momentum after the rapid growth it had enjoyed with the coming of the railroads. Some of the slack was taken up by the timber industry as large companies moved in to harvest Arkansas's virgin timber.

The Arkansas River played a large part in the economy in the first half of the new century. River traffic had suffered because of poor stream conditions. It was at times impassable. The Army Corps of Engineers dredged the river, making a shipping lane, restoring the river as a viable mode of transportation.

The 1910s brought World War I to Arkansas. It was a time of patriotism as the men went to war. Sugar and flour were scarce commodities. A home guard was formed. Cotton was in demand because of the war and the cotton industry was booming. At the Armistice, there was such an excess of cotton, the economy collapsed and farmers and cotton buyers faced bankruptcy. The mid-1920s saw a new surge in the economy. Seamon-Dunning Body plant, which made the wooden parts of Nash Automobiles, came to Pine Bluff. The lumber industry continued to harvest timber. By the end of this decade, most of the virgin timber had been harvested.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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The 1929 crash of Wall Street did no't affect Pine Bluff until the middle of 1930. The National Bank of Arkansas closed in July 1930 and in November 1930, Merchant and Planters Bank closed its doors. These closures affected not only the depositors, but the merchants and retailers as well. The disastrous drought of 1930 dealt a near fatal blow to the economy of the city. Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs brought some relief for the farmers and businesses.

In the 1940s, the World War II years were years of tremendous change in the city. Grider Field, a primary flight instruction facility was built on some of the best farmland in the county. Soon after, the U. S. Army bought 15,000 acres north of Pine Bluff to build the Pine Bluff Arsenal, one of the nation's largest chemical warfare production plants. Flight students, Army personnel, construction workers and permanent personnel for Pine Bluff Arsenal flooded the city bringing about a complete change in the population as well as the lifestyle to an area that had been dependent on the timber industry, railroad employment and agriculture. The Hotel Pine's was the center of social activity for the people of Pine Bluff during this time.

The buildings in the proposed Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District date as far back as 1850. Dexter Harding built his house on the bank of a lake. Harding had a sawmill and he began to dump his sawdust in a narrow part of the lake. Over a period of years, the sawdust built up enough to form a sawdust bridge across the north rim of the lake, allowing Harding access to Pine Bluff without having to go around the lake. During the Civil War, Harding operated a grist mill. He ground meal and flour for the Confederate troops. The house was a 3-room frame building



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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 8 Page 7

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with brick piers and a wood shingle roof. When Dexter Harding's daughter inherited the house and land she enlarged the house to 8 rooms. When the last heir died in 1967, the Pine Bluff Urban Renewal Agency purchased the property as part of the Civic Center complex. In 1969, the house was dismantled. An architect salvaged the original 3 rooms and stored the materials until, as a Bicentennial project, the original 3-room house was reconstructed on North Pine Street west of the courthouse.

The Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District encompasses the commercial center of the city, one of the most important cities in southeast Arkansas. The size of the district, as well as the variety of architectural styles reflected in its commercial buildings, indicates the commercial importance of Pine Bluff. Today, the Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is a living reminder of the commercial importance of Pine Bluff throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with agricultural and commercial history in Pine Bluff and Jefferson County. In Addition, the Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under Criterion C for its buildings which are good examples of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century revivals; late Victorians and late 19<sup>th</sup> & early 20<sup>th</sup> century American movement commercial style buildings.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Trulock, Sue, Personal Interview, Museum Director, Pine Bluff/Jefferson County Museum, 19 September 2007, Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

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National Park Service

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Section Number 10 Page 1

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### Verbal Boundary

Beginning at a point about 200 feet west of the intersection of South Walnut Street with US Hwy 65 S, proceed east along the south edge of Hwy 65 S to South State Street. Then proceed south along South State Street to Barraque Street. Then proceed west on Barraque Street to alley behind 100 block of South Main Street. Then proceed south along alley to alley behind the buildings facing 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Then proceed east along the alley, across State Street and past the building at 205 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Then proceed south to 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. At 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue proceed west along 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to alley behind 200 block of South Main Street. Then proceed south along the alley to alley behind the buildings facing 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Then proceed east along the alley, across State Street and to west wall of building at northeast corner of State Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Then proceed south to middle of 300 block of State Street. Then proceed east across Alabama Street to alley behind building at 325 Alabama Street. Then proceed south across 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue to middle of 400 block of Alabama Street. Then proceed west across Alabama Street to State Street. At State Street proceed south across 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue to middle of 500 block of South Main Street. Then proceed west to back of buildings in 500 block of South Main Street. Then proceed south along the back of buildings facing South Main Street, across 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue turn west to South Main Street. Then proceed south along South Main Street to building at 911-921 South Main Street. Then proceed east along the north side of building to back of building. Then proceed south along back of the building to south side of building. Then proceed west across South Main Street to back of buildings facing South Main Street. Then proceed north to 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue proceed west to Pine Street. At Pine Street proceed north to back of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 10 Page 2

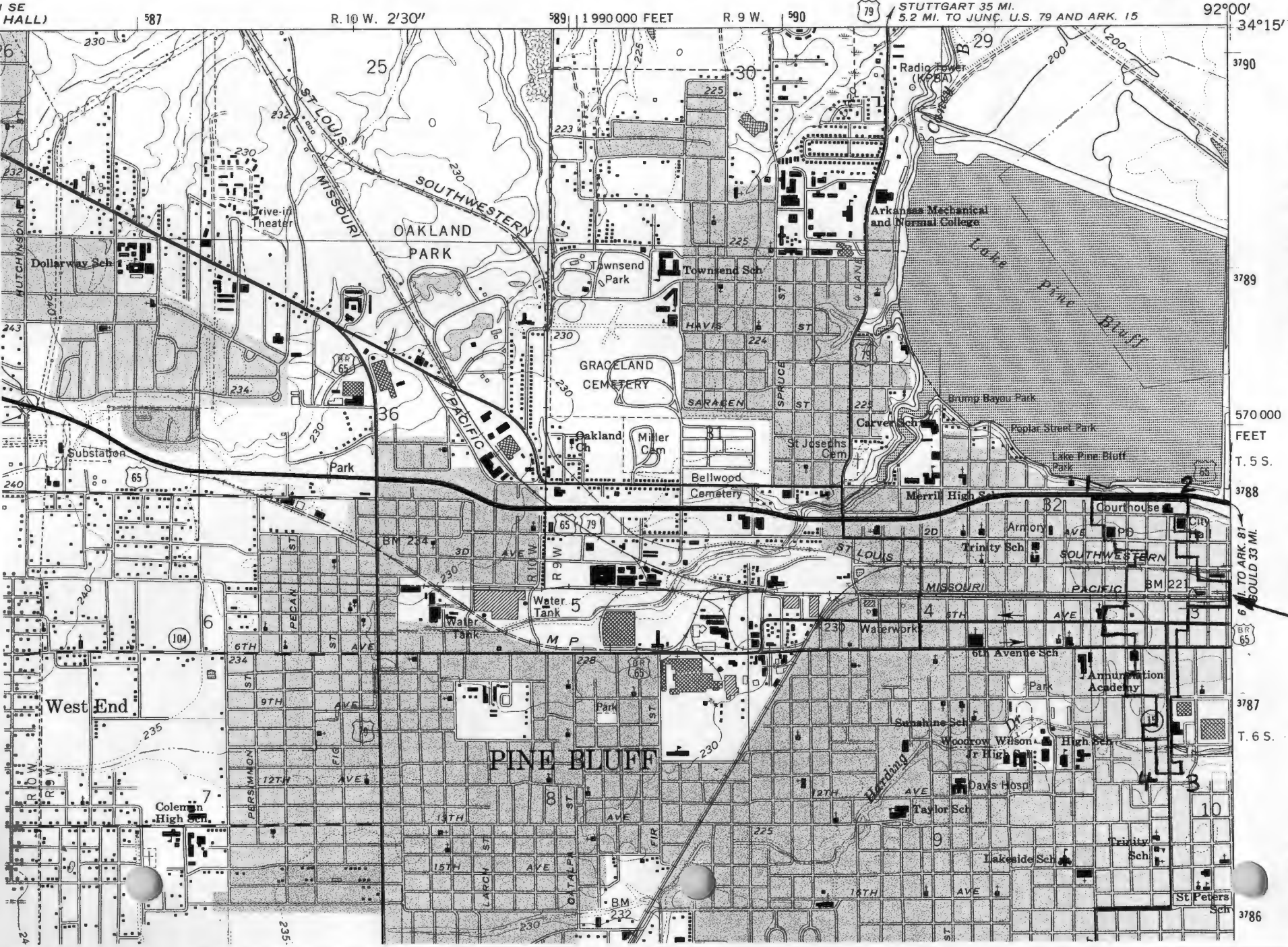
building at 721 South Pine Street. Then proceed east at back of building to back of buildings in 700 block of South Main Street. Then proceed north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue. At 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue proceed west to Chestnut Street. At Chestnut Street proceed north to middle of 600 block of Chestnut Street. Then proceed east to Pine Street. At Pine Street, proceed north, across 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue to middle of 500 block of Pine Street. Then proceed west, across Chestnut Street to Walnut Street. At Walnut Street proceed north to middle of 400 block of Walnut Street. Then proceed east to Chestnut Street. At Chestnut Street, proceed north to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. At 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, proceed east to middle of 200 block of West 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. Then proceed north to back of buildings facing 200 block of West 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue. Then proceed west to Walnut Street. Then proceed north on Walnut Street to middle of 100 block of South Walnut Street. Then proceed west behind the building at 313 West Barraque Street to west side of building. Then proceed north, across West Barraque and back to US 65 S and the point of beginning.

### Boundary Justification

This boundary was drawn to include properties in the downtown Pine Bluff Commercial Historic District that maintain the highest level of historic integrity in architecture and the relationship of these buildings to commerce.

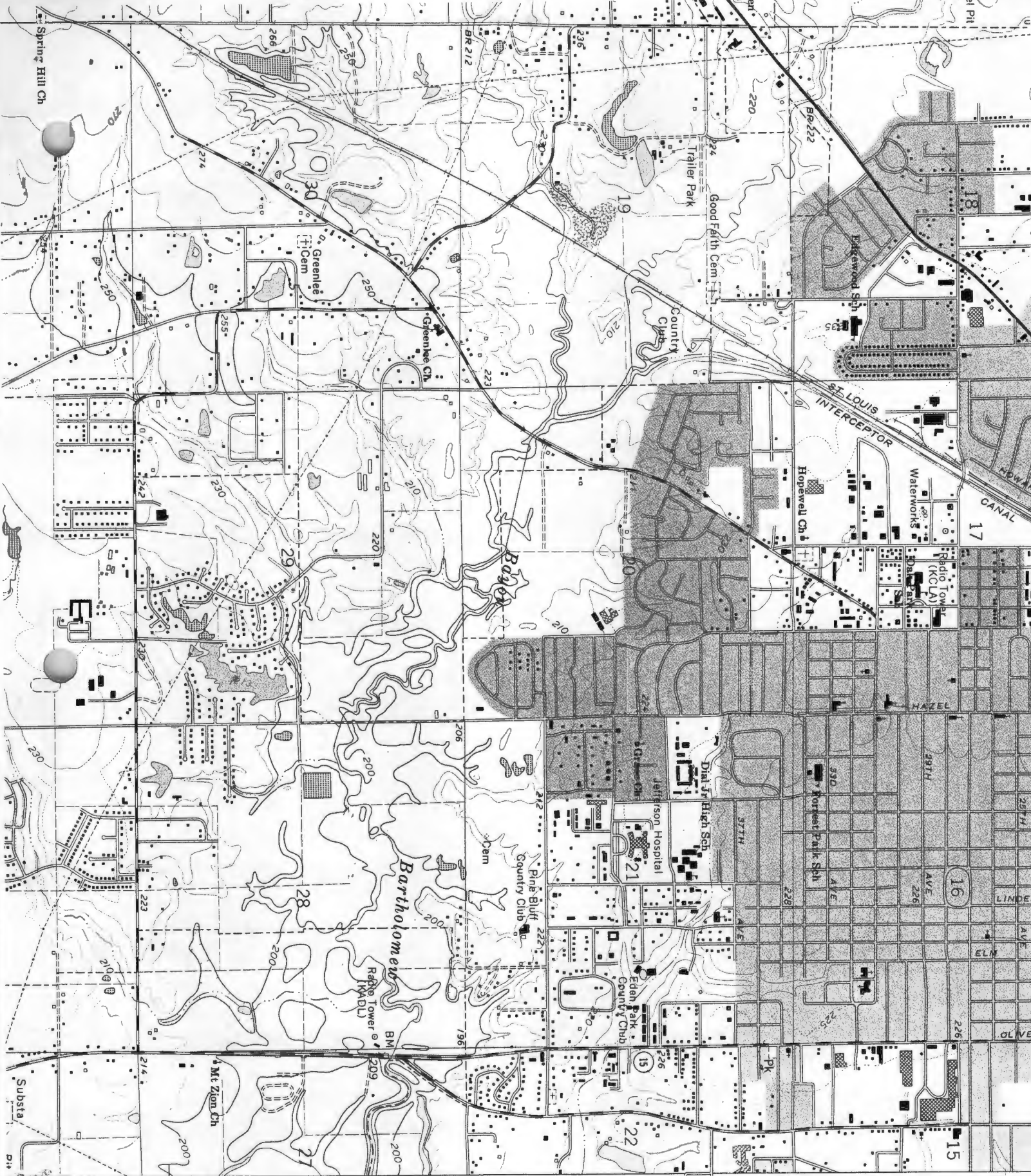
PINE BLUFF QUADRANGLE  
 ARKANSAS—JEFFERSON CO.  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

7652 IV SW  
 (ROB ROY)



PINE BLUFF COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 PINE BLUFF, ARKANSAS  
 JEFFERSON COUNTY

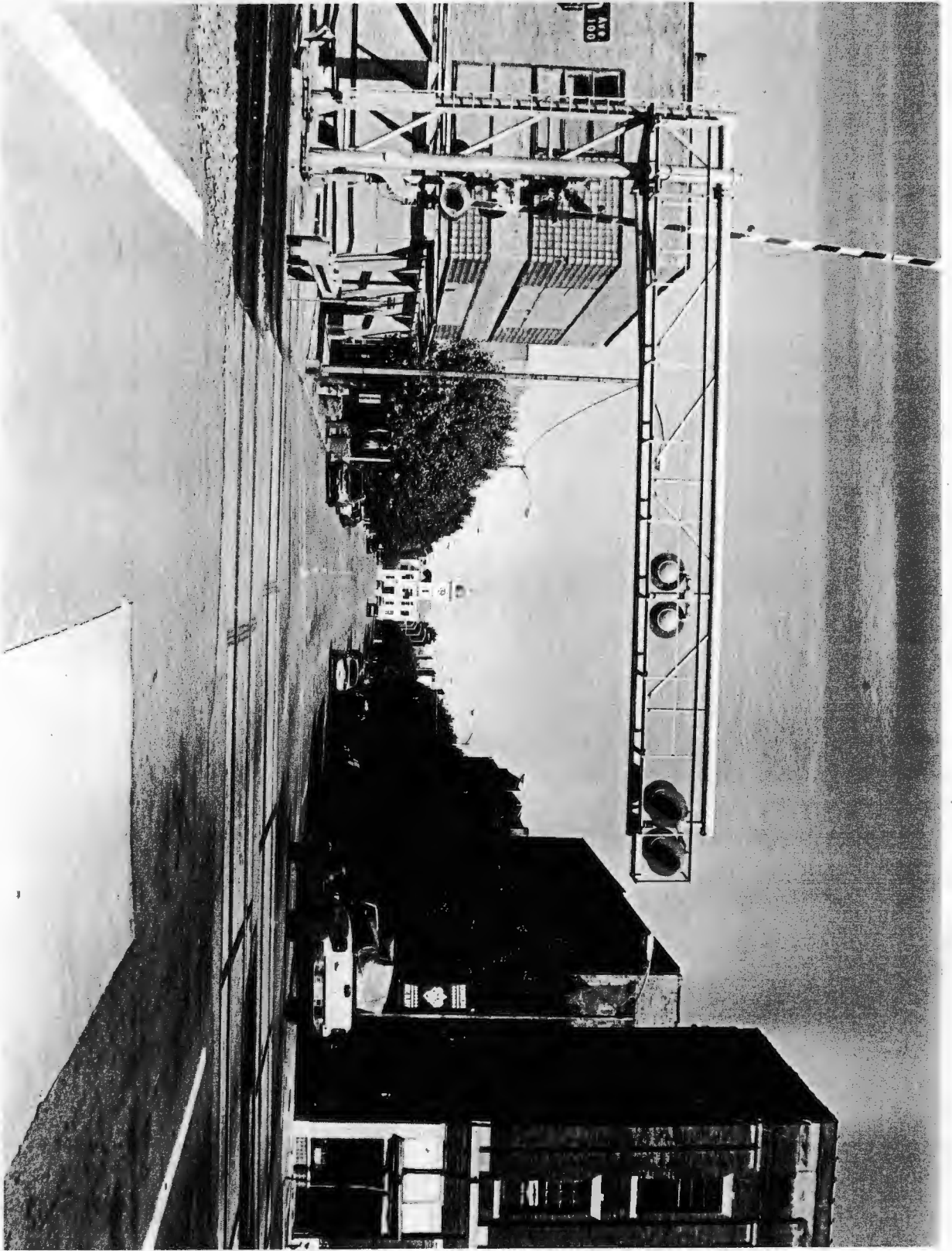
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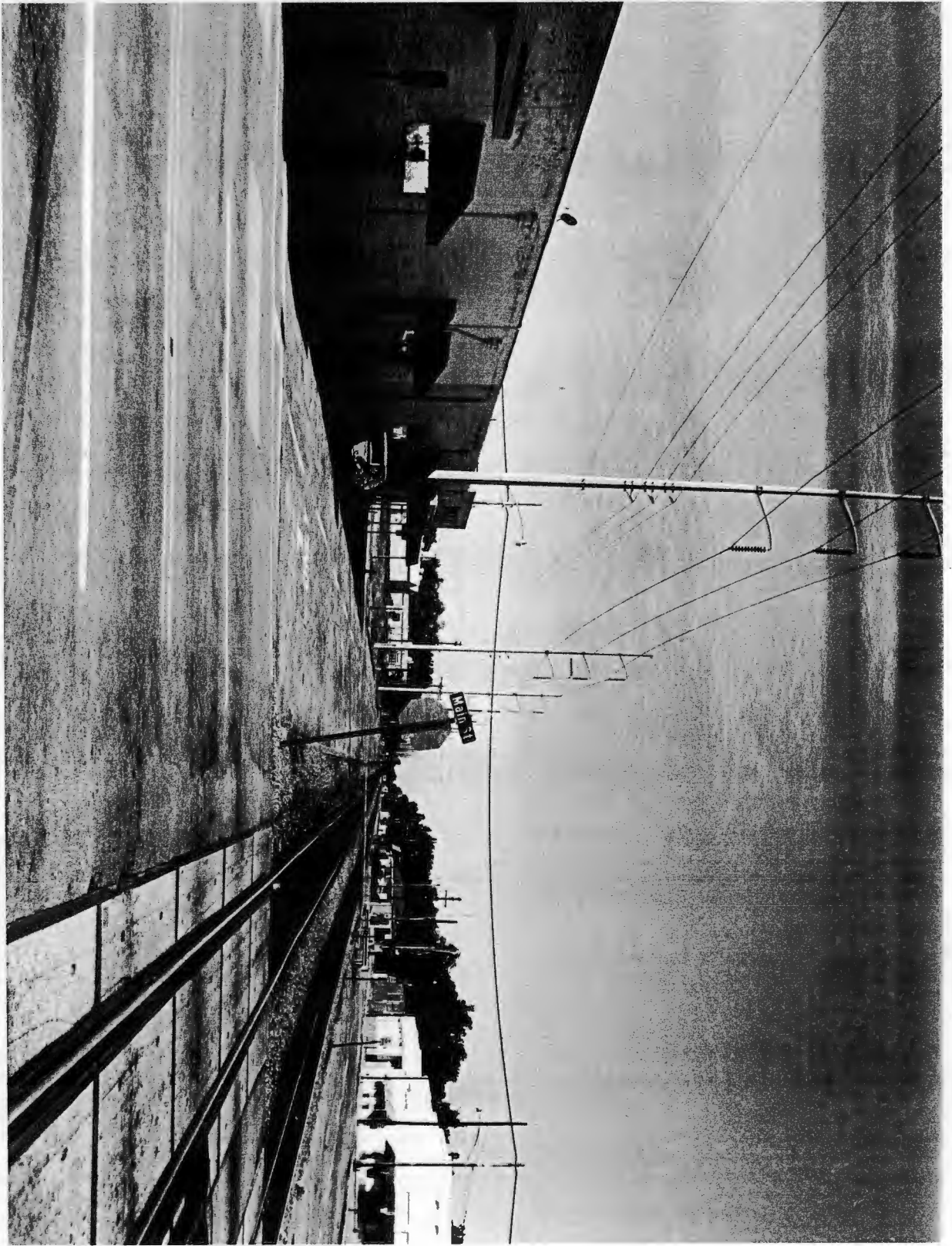


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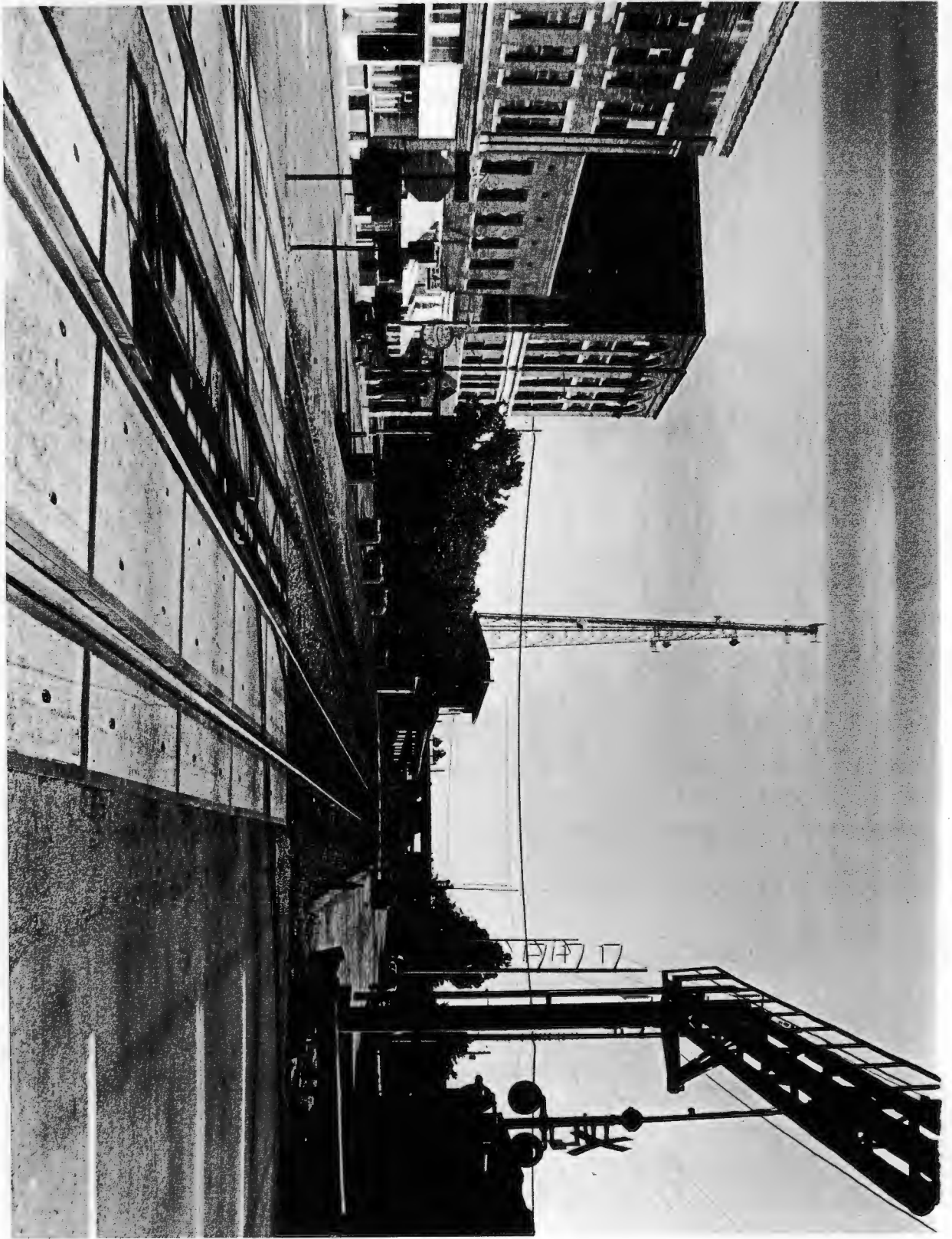
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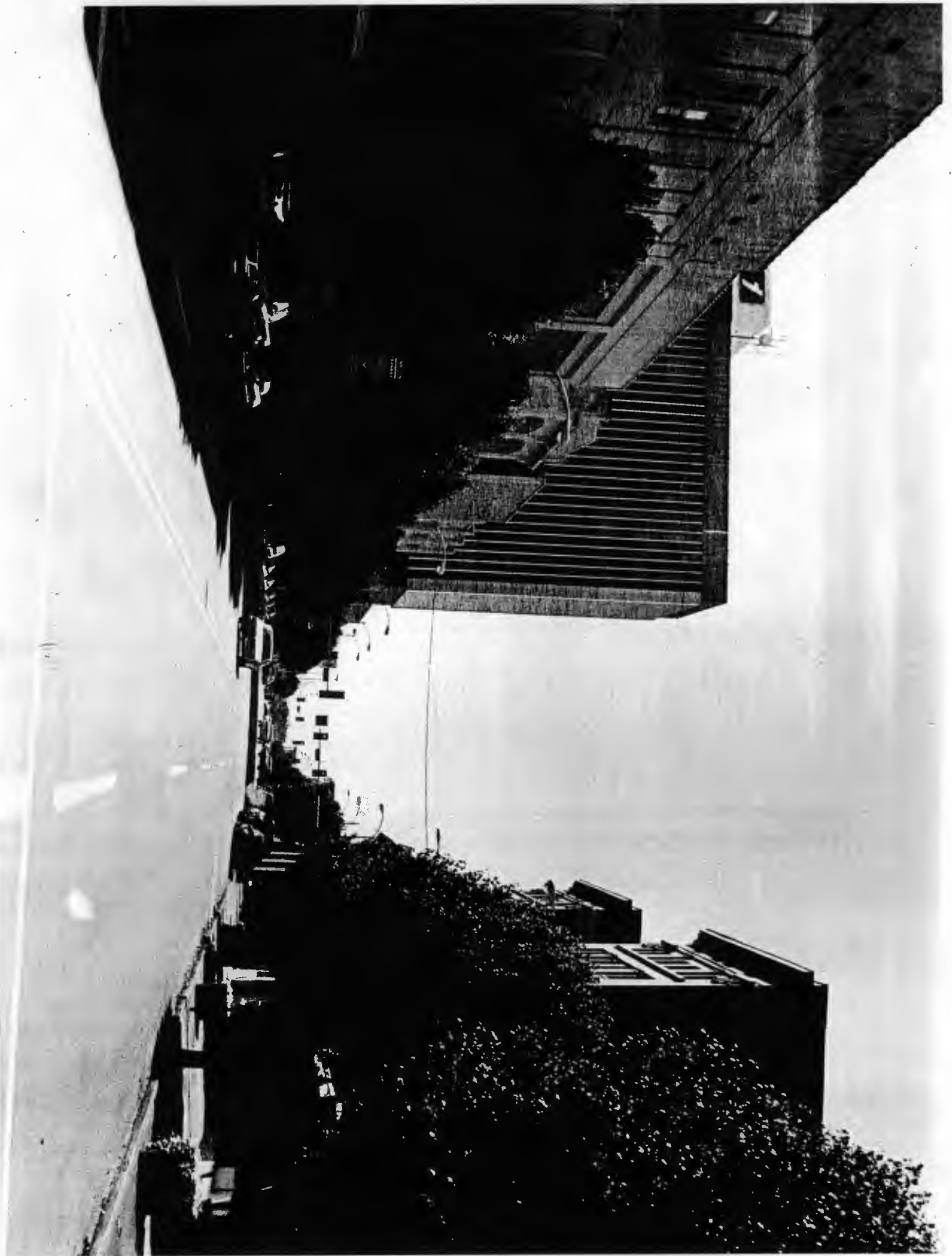
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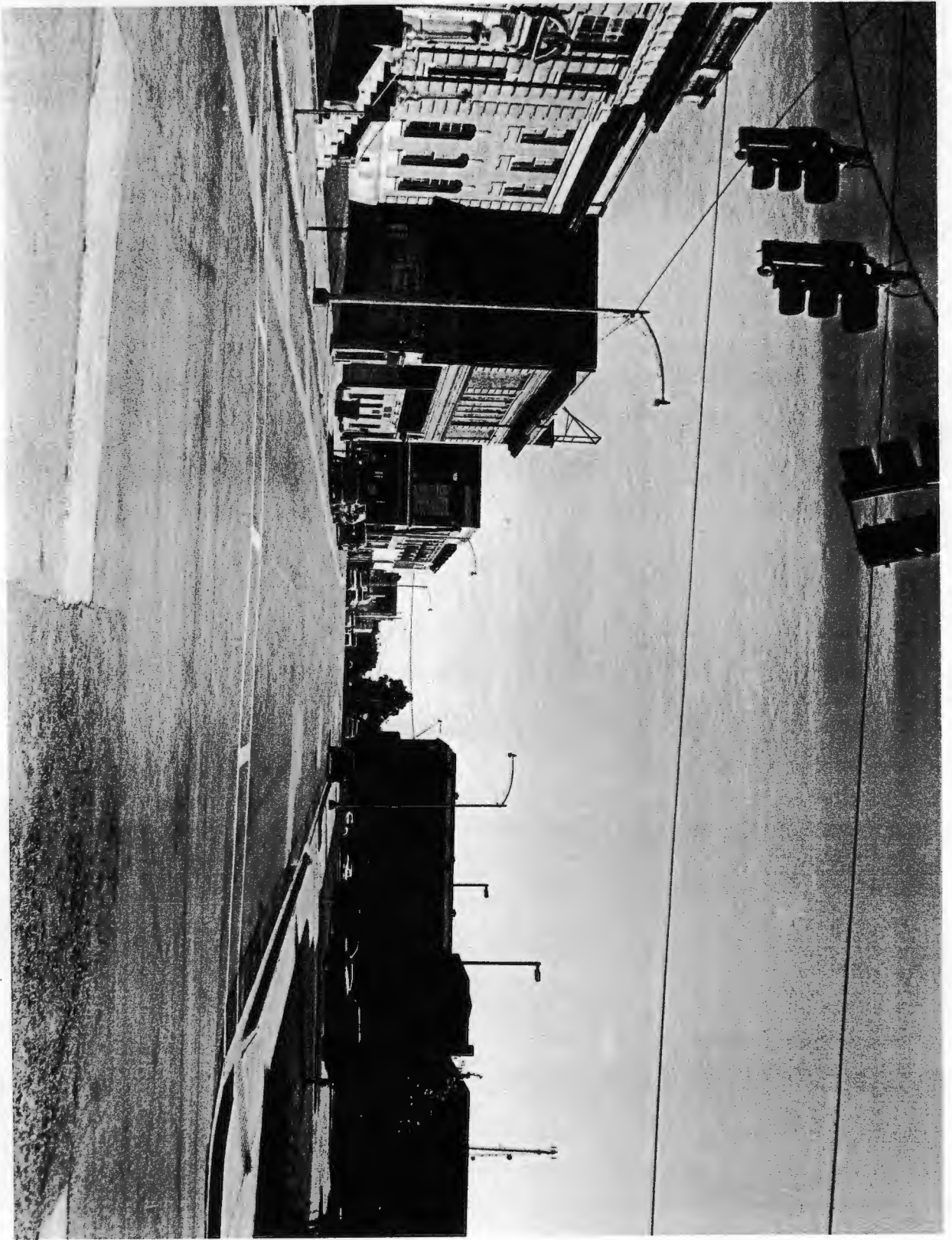
















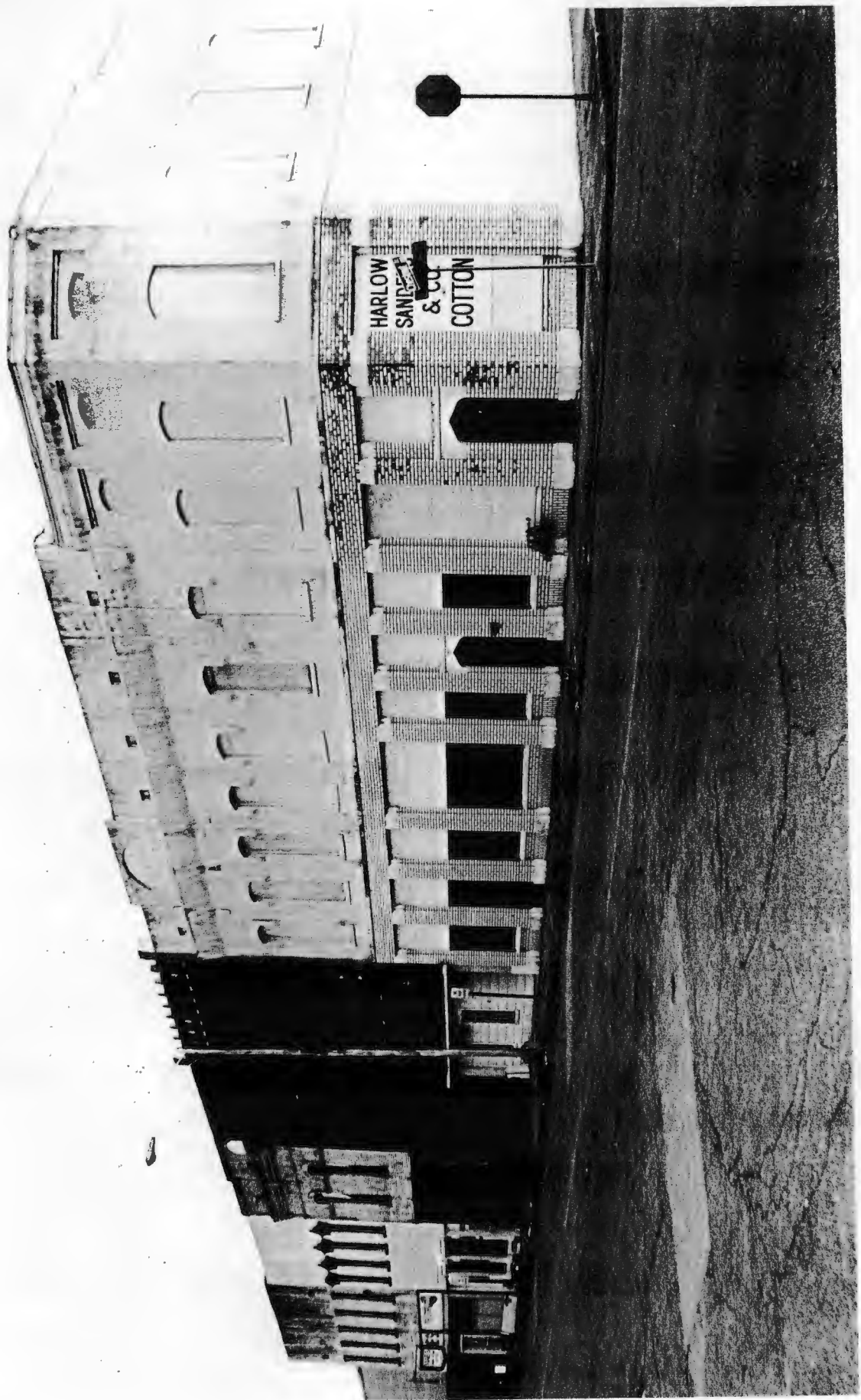




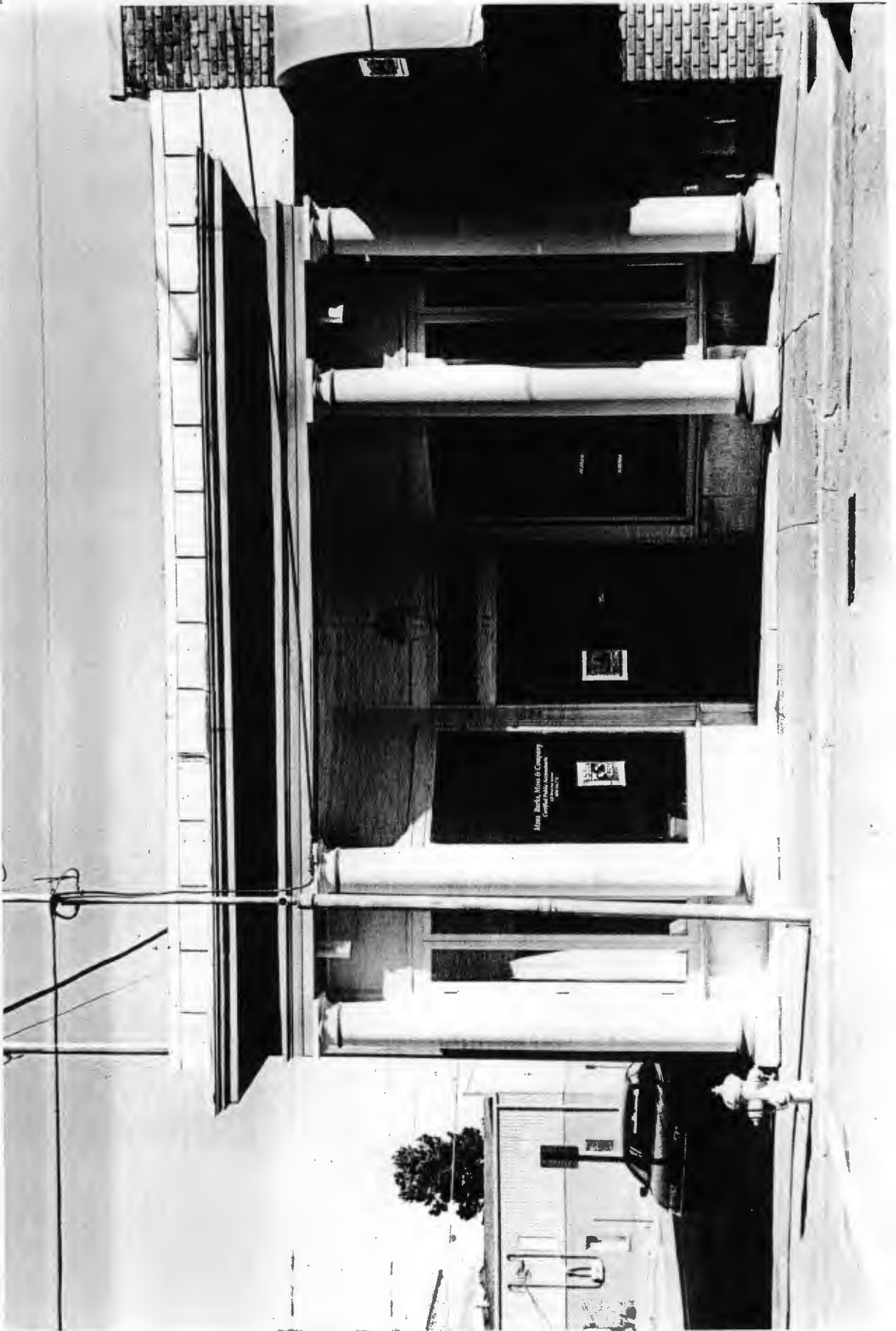


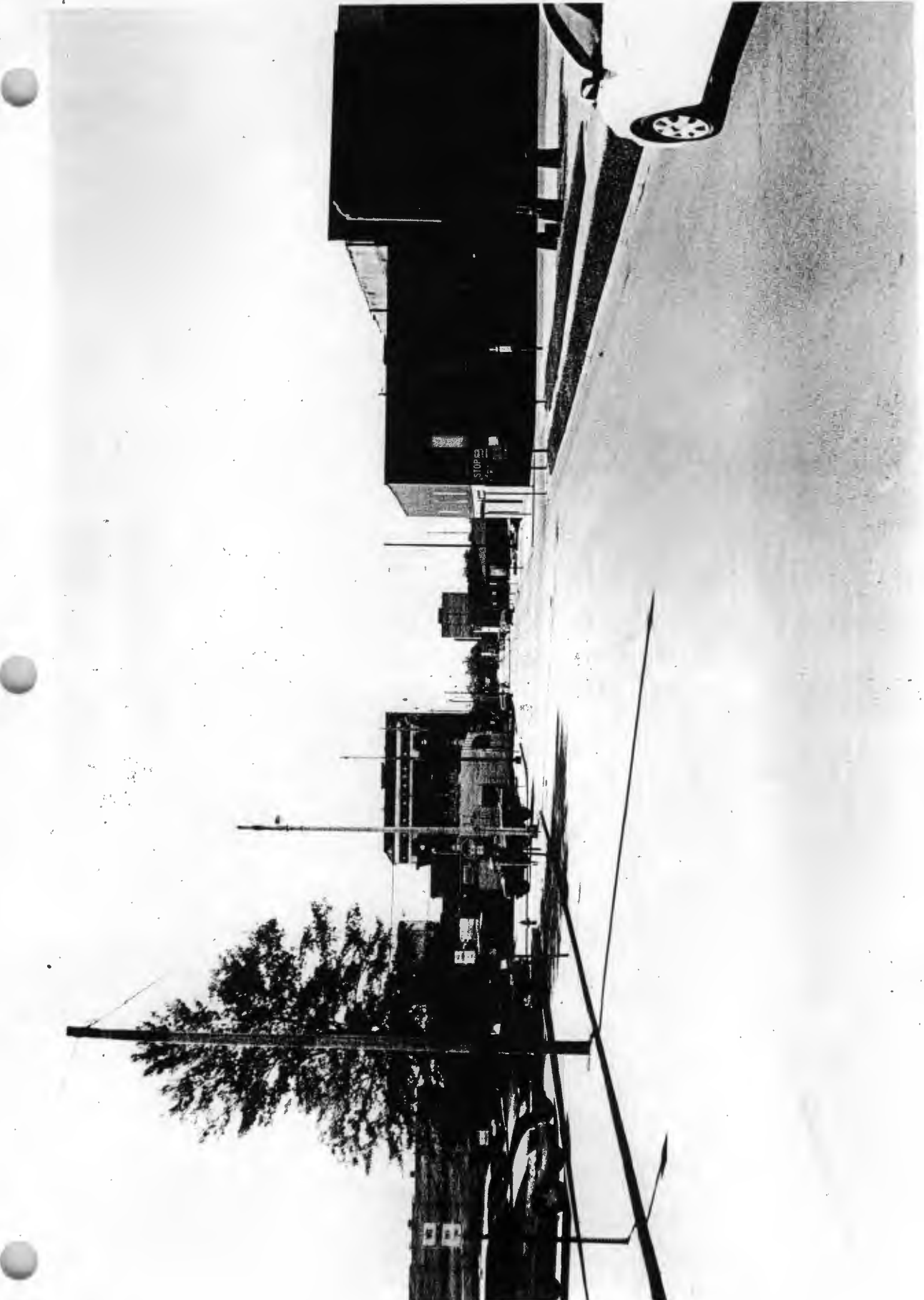




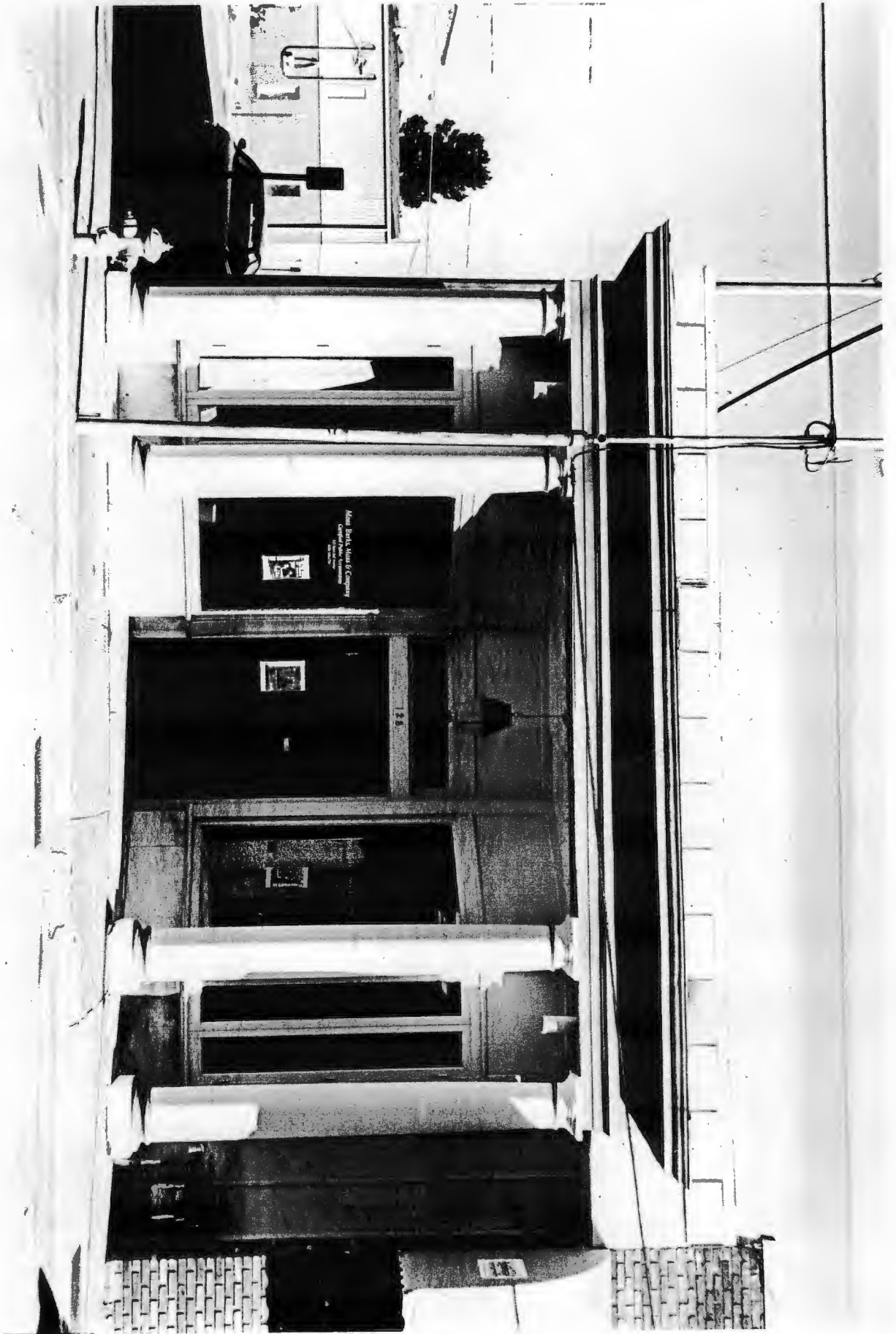


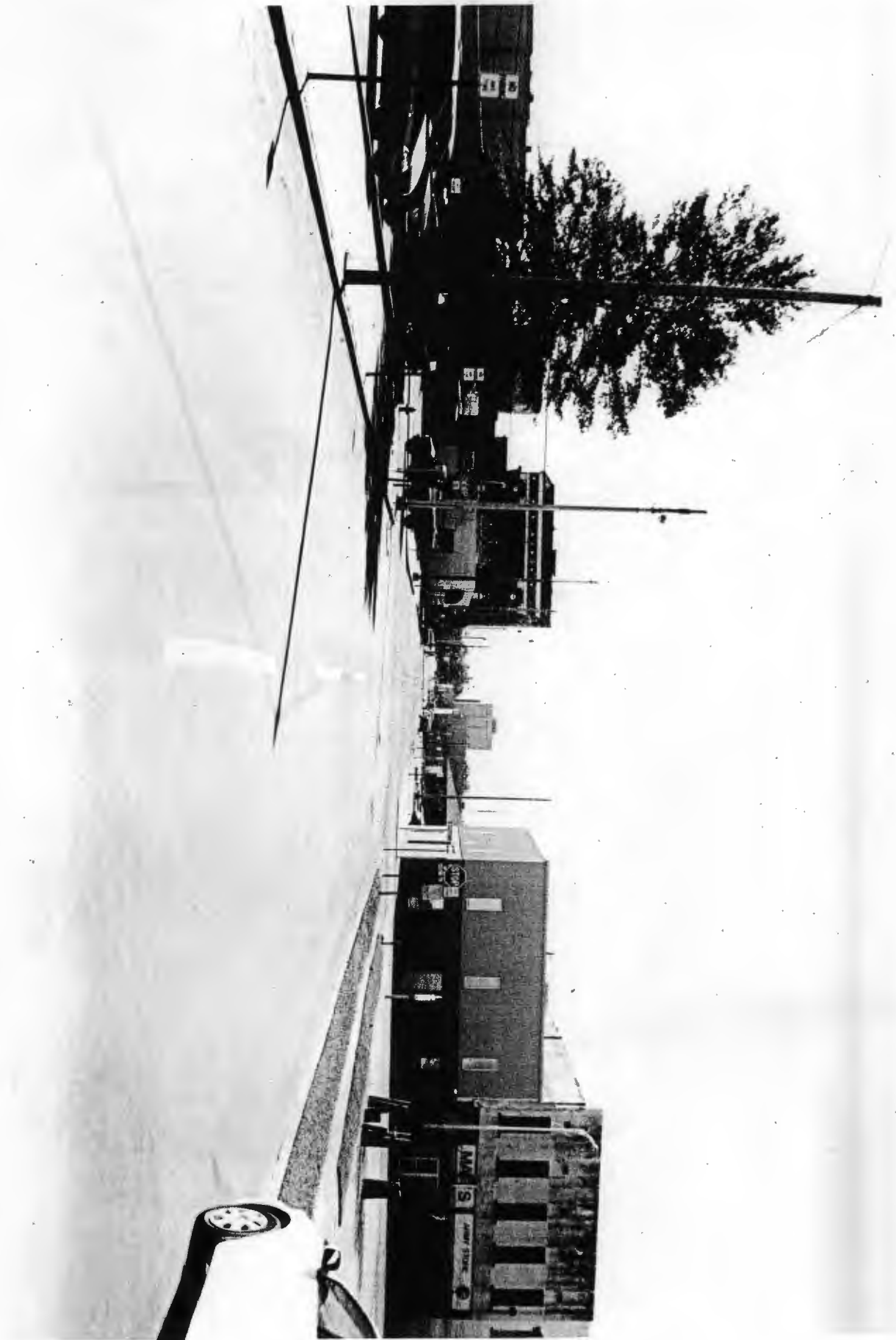




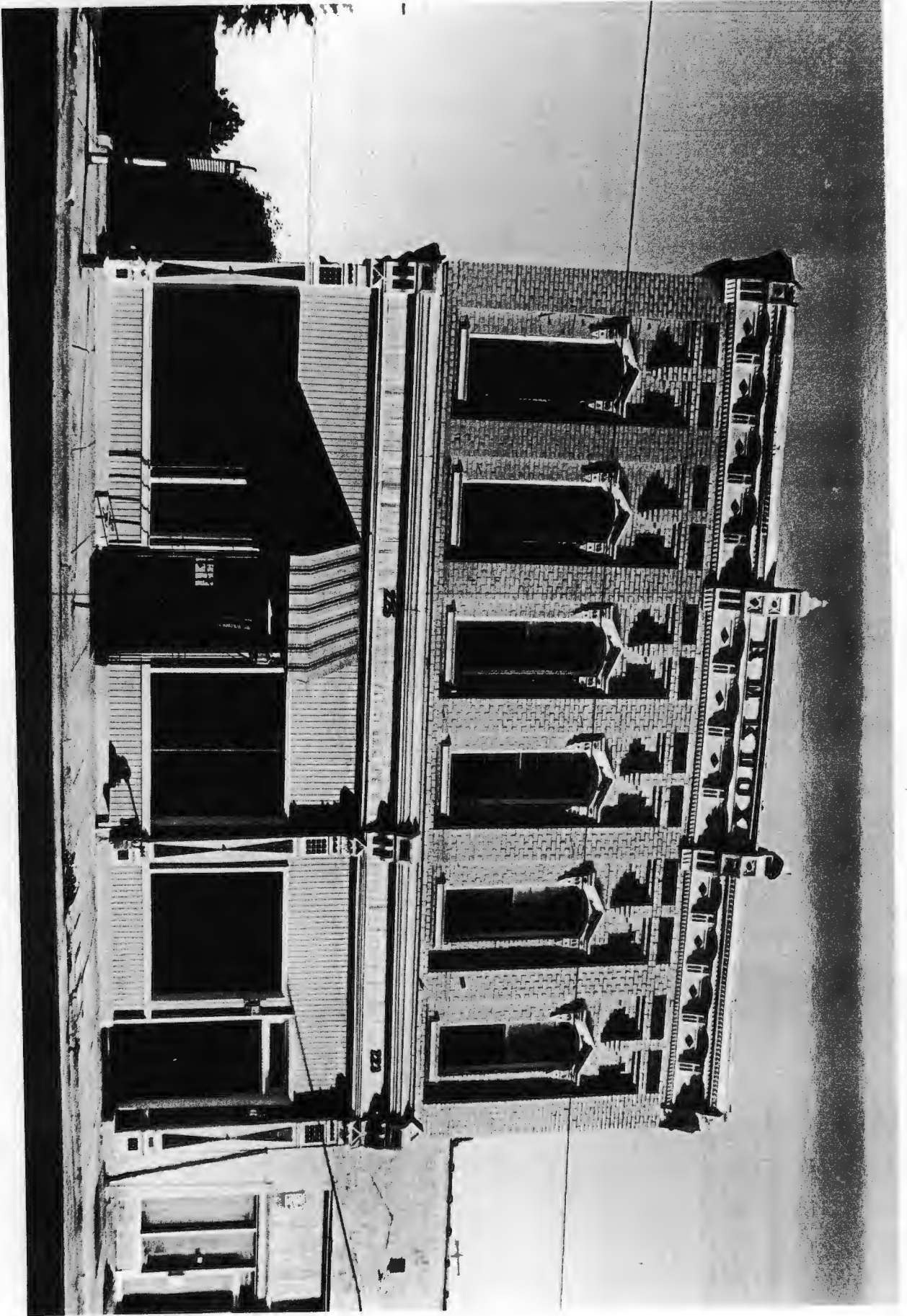






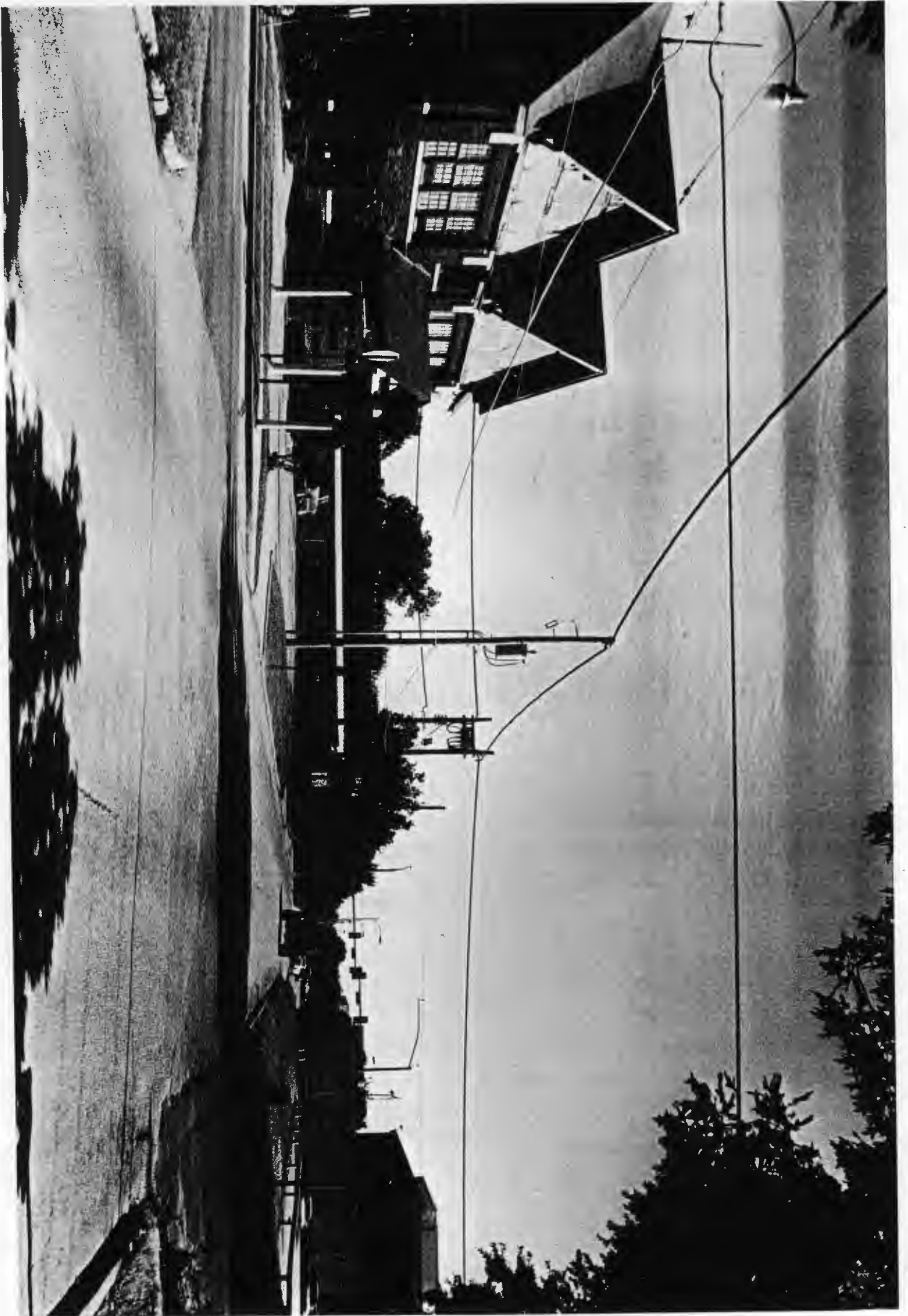






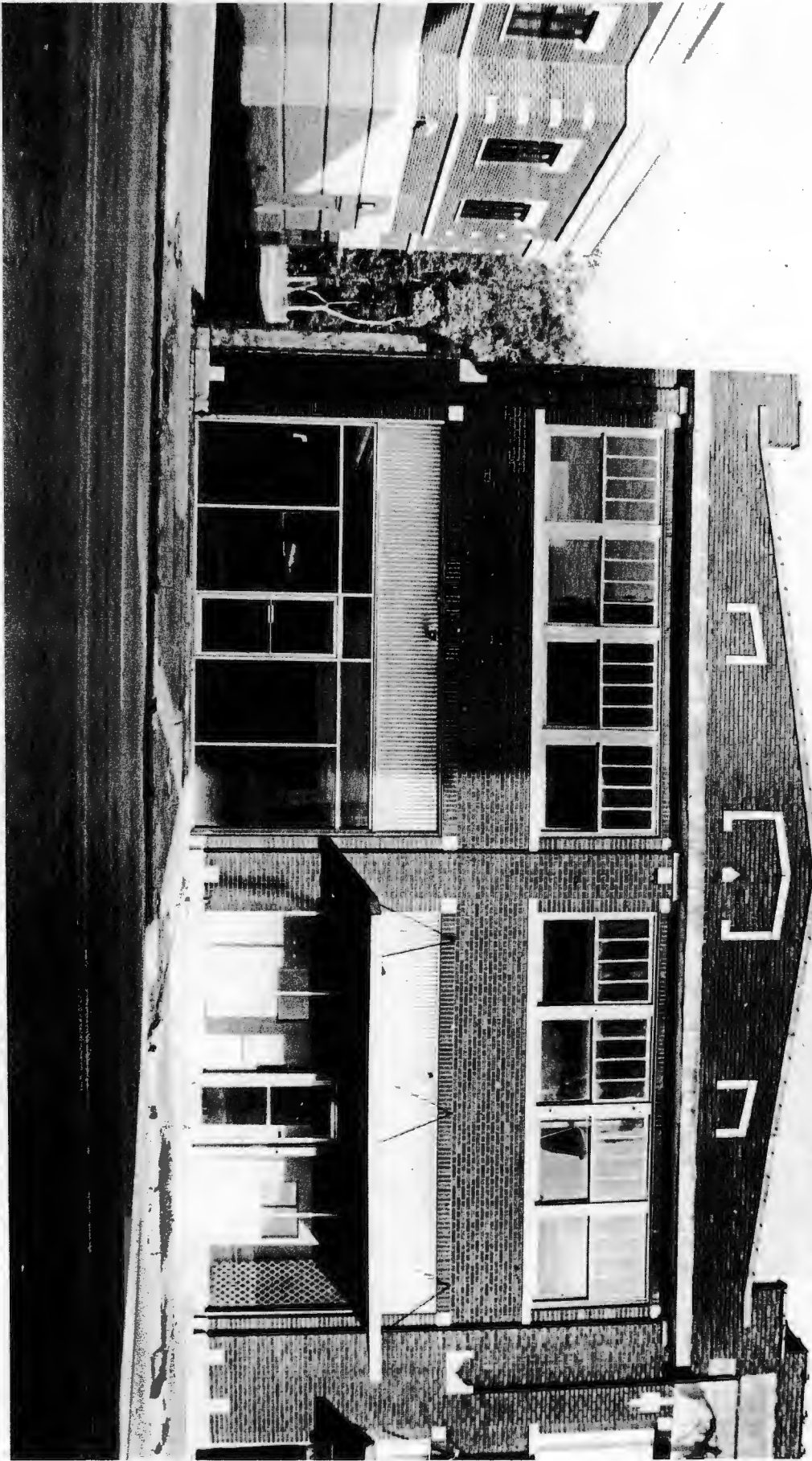


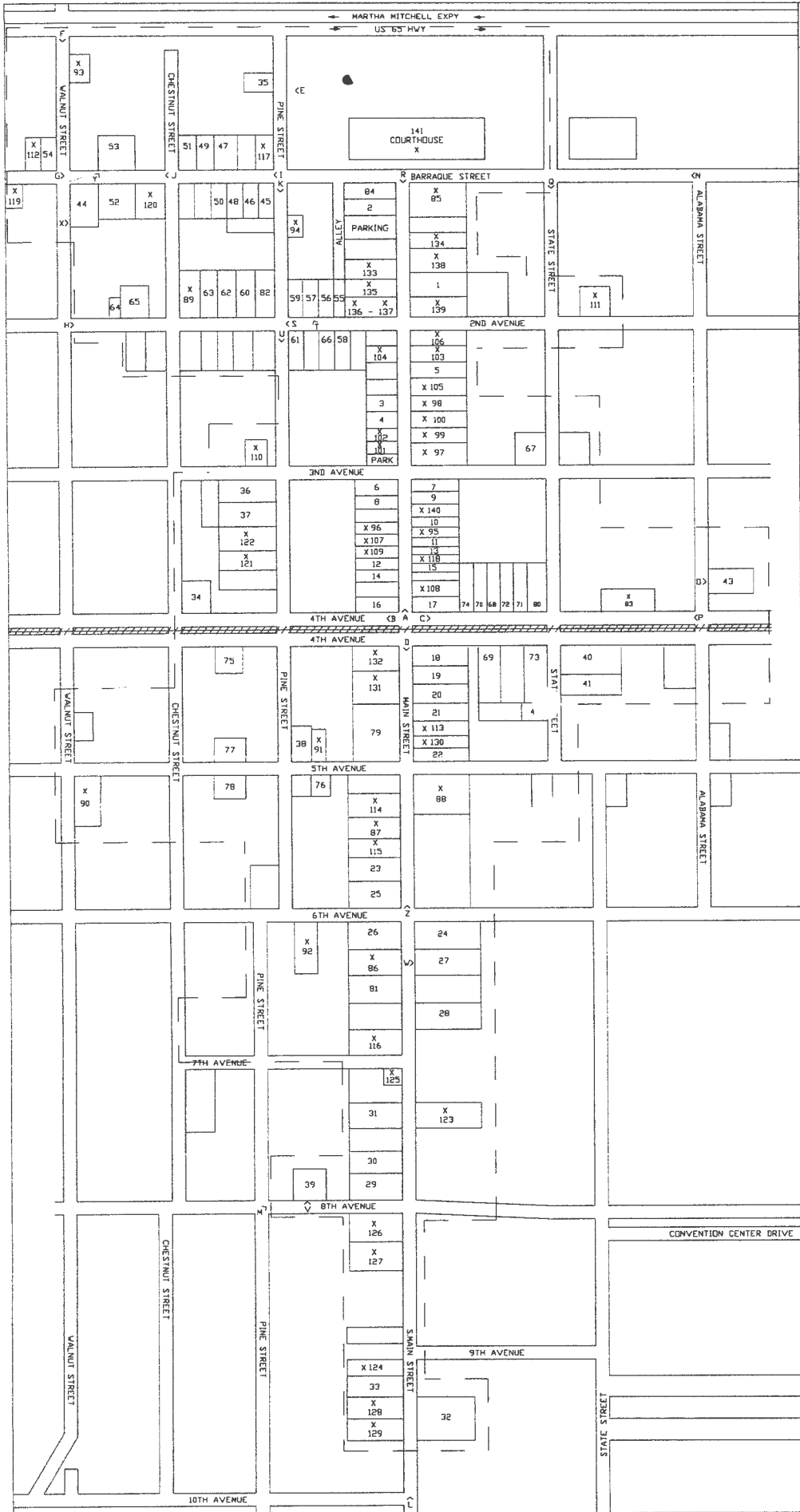












PINE BLUFF HISTORICAL DISTRICT

Name of Property  
 United States Department of  
 Historic Places  
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic  
 Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 11 Page 1

SKETCH MAP

JEFFERSON COUNTY - ARKANSAS

County and State

**LEGEND**

- - - - - BOUNDARY
- P PARKING
- I BUILDINGS
- X NON-CONTRIBUTING
- > PHOTO LOCATIONS
- +—+—+—+— RAILROAD TRACKS
- ABC'S STREET SCAPES

