

Pulaski Co.
Little Rock
Turner-Ledbetter House

6/18/87
OMB No. 1024-0018
Expires 10-31-87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Turner-Ledbetter House

and or common Ledbetter House

2. Location

street & number 1700 South Louisiana Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Little Rock _____ vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Pulaski code 119

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. & Mrs. Danny R. Cook

street & number 1700 S. Louisiana

city, town Little Rock _____ vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pulaski County Courthouse

street & number Markham & Spring streets

city, town Little Rock _____ vicinity of state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Occupying two lots on an elevated corner adjacent to Little Rock's Governor's Mansion Historic District (National Register listed 9/13/78), the Turner-Ledbetter House is a two-and-a-half-story, red brick residence that was built in 1891-92 by Miss Susan C. Turner. Constructed in the then-popular Queen Anne style, the house features a hipped roof punctuated by multiple dormers and an abundance of decorative wood trim. During the early twentieth century, subsequent owners updated the house with additions and alterations in the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles.

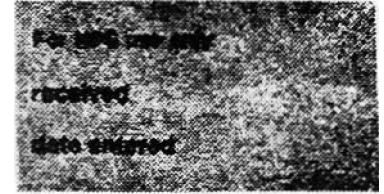
ELABORATION

The most distinctive architectural features of the Turner-Ledbetter House are concentrated on the east and north elevations, the two street facades. On these elevations, as well as on the eastern section of the south elevation, the red brick which sheathes the wooden frame of the house is pressed brick, laid in stretcher bond, with tinted mortar and narrow joints. The brick facing the westernmost section of the south elevation and all of the west, or rear, elevation is a less expensive grade laid in common bond.

The east, or primary, elevation is dominated by a turret which surmounts the recessed entryway. At the second-story level three one-over-one, double-hung windows define the turret, while at the attic level there is a unique arrangement of four one-over-one, double-hung windows of alternating heights. The turret's conical roof flares over each window and is crowned with a metal finial. Immediately south of the turret and entry, a first floor bay contains a tripartite window with arched transom. This window and all others located on the street facades feature stone lintels and sills. A second story porch rests above the bay. The flared roof projecting over the porch is supported by wood columns that are comprised of both turned and square sections. A spindled balustrade encloses the porch which is reached through a pair of French doors opening from the master bedroom. Projecting from the main roofline above the porch is gabled dormer with three small one-over-one, double-hung windows. The gable is further ornamented with Eastlake-inspired wood trim.

The existing Craftsman-style entrance porch dates from an early twentieth century remodeling by the Ledbetter family, the third owners of the Turner-Ledbetter House. Two square brick columns support the porch's shed roof which shelters the main entryway. The porch features characteristic Craftsman details such as knee braces, exposed rafter ends and a quarry tile floor which extends south to create an open terrace. Despite the obvious stylistic differences, the porch harmonizes with the house through the use of matching brick and stone detailing. The original recessed entryway was not altered when the porch was remodeled and it still features oak paneling and encaustic tile floor. The shingle oak entrance door, its original hardware intact, is composed of one large light and four panels set under a transom.

Located at the east end of the second, or north, street facade is a two-story projecting bay--the central feature of which is a paneled chimney which penetrates the roofline. A terra cotta panel ornaments the chimney at the second-story level. Immediately west of the projecting bay, a one-story frame porch defines the side entrance. It is similar in design to the second-story porch found on the east facade. Centered above the porch on the second-story level is a round arched staircase window and, at the attic level, a shed-roofed dormer with a pair of small double-hung windows. West of the side porch is another projecting bay with tripartite windows at both the first and second-story levels. The face of the bay recedes slightly on either side of the arched second-story window which is protected by a small shed roof. The hipped gable roof atop this bay is broken by a gabled dormer which projects from the ridge line of the main gable. A pair of triangular arched, double-hung windows is located

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in the face of the dormer. The final, or westernmost, division of the north elevation contains two double-hung windows, one on each floor, but otherwise lacks distinctive architectural elements--a possible reflection of its utilitarian interior function.

The two remaining elevations of the Turner-Ledbetter House, probably because they are not readily visible from the street, also generally lack distinctive architectural features. In addition to the less costly brick construction already mentioned, these two elevations contain windows with brick rather than stone heads. During the early twentieth century--prior to 1913--a second-story sleeping porch was added to the south elevation. Supported on square brick piers, this simple frame addition features a shed roof and screened openings alternating with wooden casement windows. Circa 1920 a first floor solarium as constructed beneath the sleeping porch and adjacent to the back parlor. Wooden casement windows with fixed glass transoms encircle the solarium.

The rear section of the Turner-Ledbetter House, containing kitchen and utility areas, was remodeled with Colonial touches in 1917 according to plans prepared by Charles Thompson and Thomas Harding, Jr. During this remodeling a large multi-paned arched "colonial" window was installed in the center of the first floor rear facade, providing this elevation its sole distinctive feature. At the same time several existing windows were replaced with six-over-six, double-hung windows.

At the southwest corner of the Turner-Ledbetter property is a two-story brick garage and servants quarters which was constructed by the Ledbetter family prior to 1913. This structure replaced an earlier frame carriage house.

The interior of the Turner-Ledbetter House is noteworthy for the exceptional wood detailing found in the house's formal areas. The spacious entry hall features paneled oak wainscoting which is ornamented by a band of peacock blue glazed tile. The same tile is used around the face of the entry hall's fireplace, which is distinguished by an elaborate Eastlake-style mantel and overmantel. Arched oak fretwork springs from fluted columns with Corinthian capitals and frames the staircase. The oak woodwork is carried through to the dining room which is located immediately behind the entry hall. The front and back parlors are reached through pairs of pocket doors. The well crafted window and door casings found in the entry hall and dining room are continued in the parlors although executed in different woods--maple in the front and cherry in the rear.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1891–1982 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

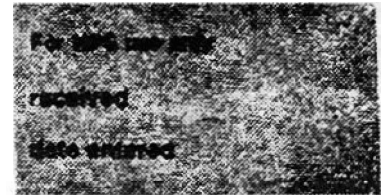
Development of the southernmost section of the Original City of Little Rock did not begin in earnest until after the Civil War, but by about 1890 the "south end" was on its way to becoming one of the city's most popular and prestigious residential neighborhoods, a status it maintained well into the twentieth century. In 1891–92, Miss Susan C. Turner built speculatively one of the large homes that set the standard for future development in the neighborhood: the two-and-a-half-story, brick, Queen Anne-style residence now commonly known as the Ledbetter House. Possibly designed by Little Rock architect Thomas Harding, Sr., the Ledbetter House today is one of just a handful of large, brick, Queen Anne residences still standing in Little Rock, where the Queen Anne style is most commonly represented by smaller frame houses. Alterations made to the Ledbetter House during the early twentieth century were sensitively designed to be compatible in scale and materials with the original structure and do not compromise the structure's architectural significance.

ELABORATION

Large portions of the Original City of Little Rock remained undeveloped until after the Civil War simply because the town's population—just 3,727 in 1860—did not create demand for construction throughout the nearly 400-square-block area of the Original City. However, the rapid influx of new residents after the Civil War (the population grew to 12,380 by 1870), resulted in a building boom that quickly led to the construction of homes in previously undeveloped areas of the Original City.

One such area was the southernmost section of the Original City, where development did not get underway until about 1870. During the 1870's and 1880's, the typical "south end" house was a relatively modest frame structure, usually Italianate in style until the mid-1880's, when the Queen Anne style began to appear. Most of the south end's first Queen Anne-style houses were small to medium-sized frame houses. Around 1890, however, a few very large and elaborate brick homes in the Queen Anne style were constructed in the south end, setting a new and higher standard for future development in the neighborhood. From that point on, until the neighborhood began to decline during the Depression/War World II era, new homes in the south end commonly were spacious, architect-designed residences representing the "latest" in style and comfort for Little Rock's upper-middle-class.

The Ledbetter House, constructed speculatively in 1891–92 by Miss Susan C. Turner, was one of less than a dozen large, brick Queen Anne-style residences, all built around 1890, that set the pace for more expensive development in the south end during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Of that dozen or so residences, only the Ledbetter House and two others survive today substantially intact. (The other two are the Hornibrook House, National Register listed 7/30/74, and the Dibrell House, which is within the boundaries of the National Register-listed Governor's Mansion Historic District.) Houses of comparable age and design that once existed in other sections of Little Rock also are largely gone, making the Ledbetter House an important survivor of a vanishing Little Rock house type: spacious Queen Anne residences constructed of brick in the late 1880's and early 1890's.

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Although the architect of the Ledbetter House has not been documented, circumstantial evidence suggests the designer may have been Thomas Harding, Sr., a talented architect who practiced in Little Rock from 1869 until his death in 1895. Harding is known to have designed buildings-- a commercial structure and two large, brick Queen Anne houses--for other members of the Turner family, thus making it likely that Susan Turner was acquainted with him. Further, the Ledbetter House shares certain distinctive features in common with houses documented as having been designed by Harding. (Among those features are small shed roofs over second-story windows and the frequent use of shed-roofed dormers.)

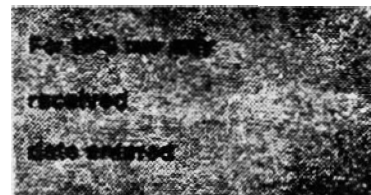
Susan Turner was one of the daughters of Blakely D. Turner, an attorney who moved his family to Little Rock from Searcy, Arkansas, in 1878, when he became Reporter of the Arkansas Supreme Court. B. D. Turner is known to have "dabbled" in real estate, and one son, William J. Turner, made real estate his profession. It is assumed that Susan Turner followed the leads of her father and brother by investing in real estate and occasionally engaging in speculative construction (in addition to the Ledbetter House, Miss Turner built a neighboring home, the Turner-Fulk House, in 1906). While speculative construction was common in Little Rock during the late nineteenth century, it was somewhat more unusual for a speculative house to be built on the scale of the Ledbetter House and by a woman.

The fact that the house was built speculatively occasionally shows in the choice of materials, but it is apparent that Susan Turner intended to sell the house to someone of substantial means. Miss Turner never lived in the house herself, but she evidently was not able to sell it immediately after its construction (possibly because of the Panic of 1893 and subsequent depression). Instead, between 1892 and 1899, the house had two prominent tenants. The first, from about 1892 to 1895, was Captain Henry S. Taber, who was in charge of the U.S. Corps of Engineers in Little Rock. He was followed by Rudolph Fink, president and general manager of the Little Rock and Memphis Railroad Company. Susan Turner finally found her well-to-do purchasers in Mr. & Mrs. Charles C. Burrow, who bought the house in 1899 for \$8,000. C. C. Burrow was a cotton buyer who, in the words of a 1930 biographical sketch, "came to be regarded as one of the ablest men of this State in the cotton industry and was for a time president of the Little Rock Cotton Exchange."

Until World War II, the Ledbetter House continued to serve as an upper-middle-class residence. From 1903 until 1920, it was the home of the Yowell-Ledbetter family, whose male members (Joel G. W. Yowell and his son-in-law, C. R. Ledbetter) were in the insurance and real estate businesses in Little Rock. It was during this family's tenure that most of the significant alterations were made to the house, including the remodeling of the front porch, construction of the sleeping porch, and interior alterations to the kitchen and service areas at the rear of the house. The Ledbetters also added the garage that now stands behind the house. At least one phase of these alterations--the 1917 interior remodeling in the rear of the house--was carried out according to plans prepared by the architectural firm then comprised of Charles L. Thompson and Thomas Harding, Jr. Since Thomas now is recognized as having played a major role in shaping Arkansas' built environment during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Charles L. Thompson thematic Group, National Register listed 12/22/82), his association with the Ledbetter House merely enhances its architectural importance.

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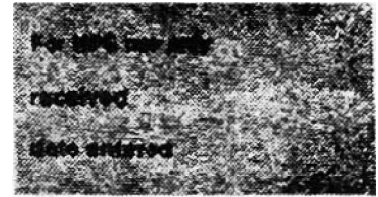
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The final major alteration to the Ledbetter House, constructed of the solarium beneath the sleeping porch, occurred around 1920, when the house was purchased for \$25,000 by insurance agent John E. Coates. The house remained in the Coates family until 1942, when it sold for less than half the 1920 purchase price--an indication of the effects of the Depression and the decline then occurring in the neighborhood surrounding the Ledbetter House.

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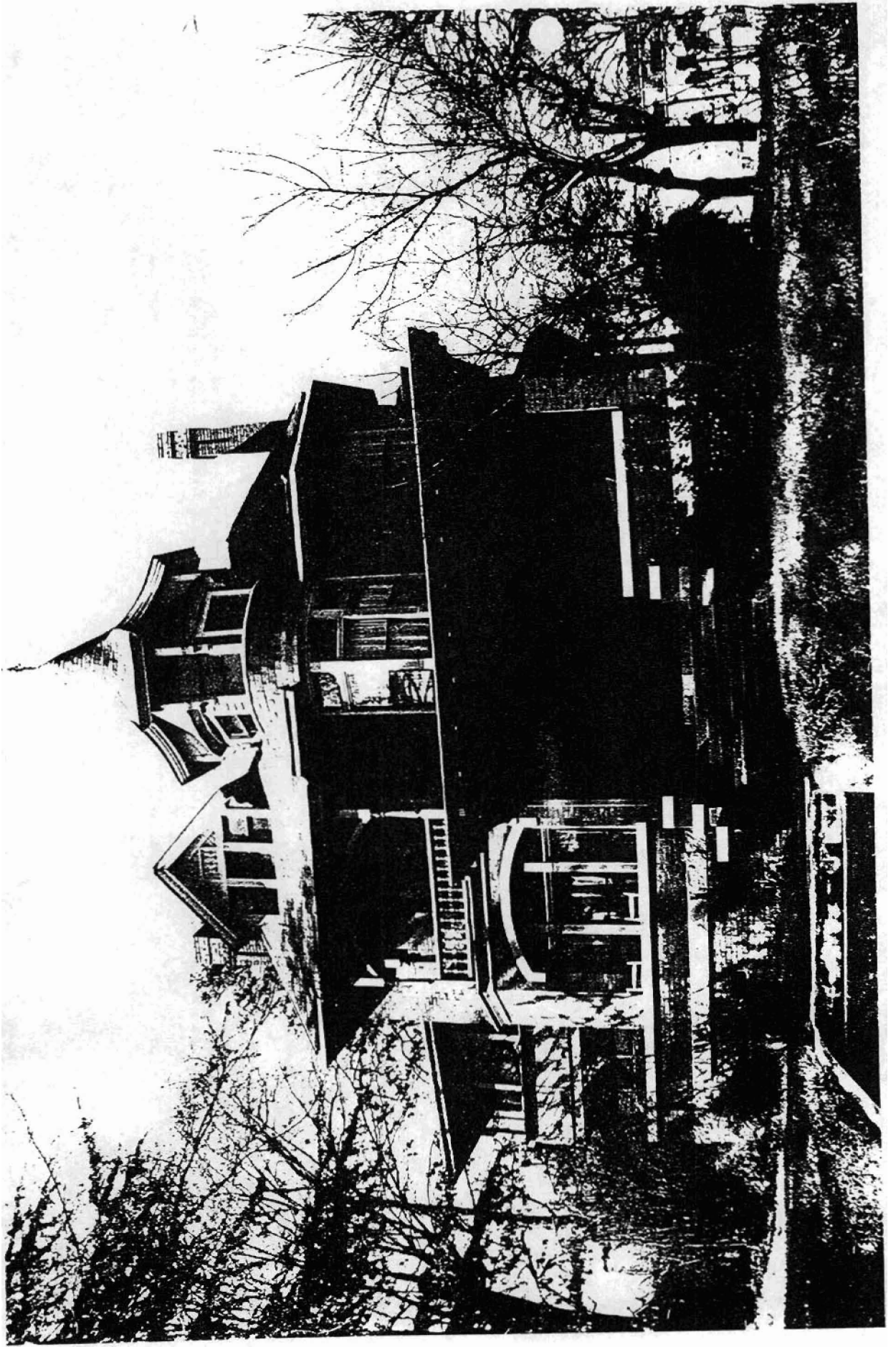
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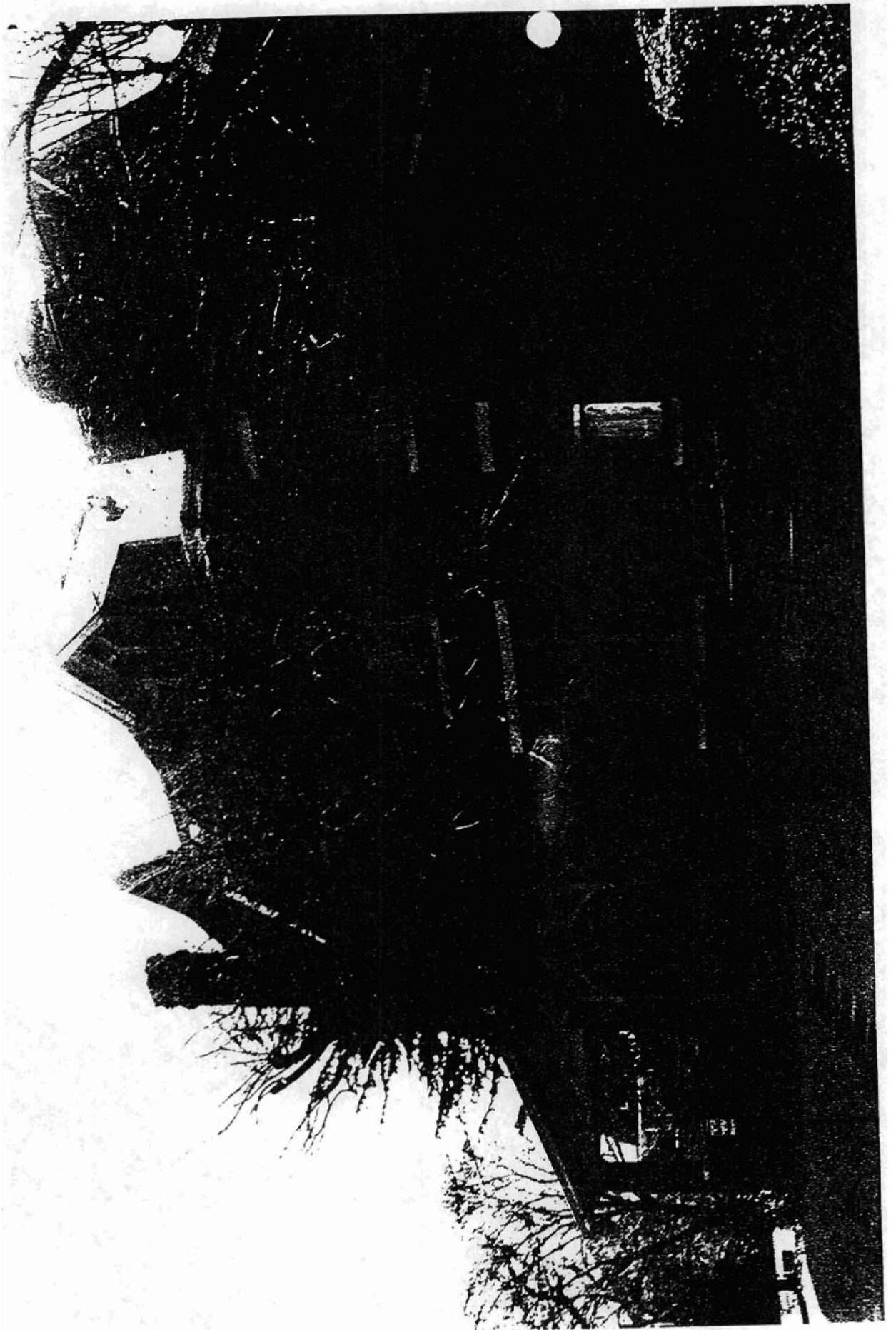
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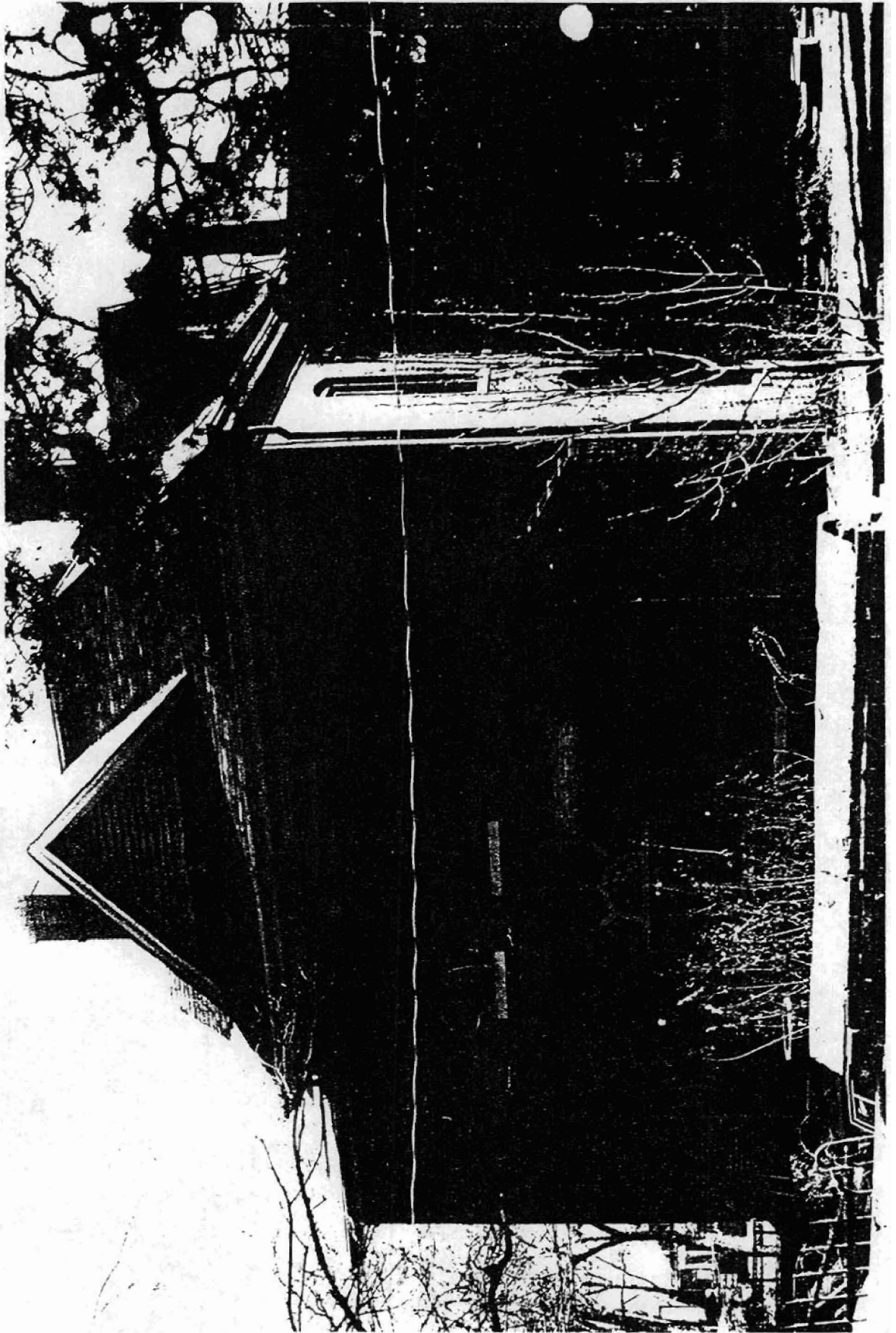
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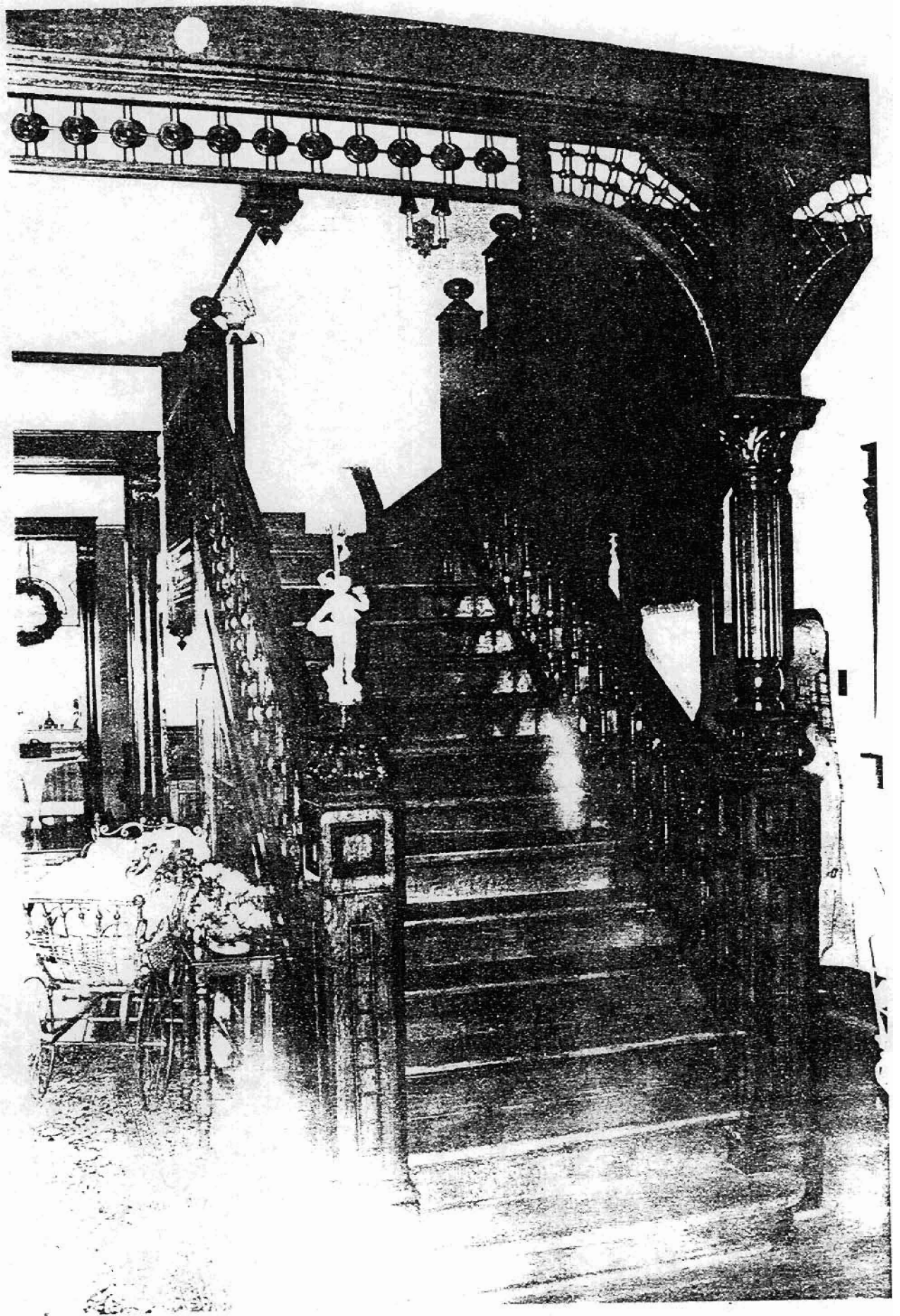
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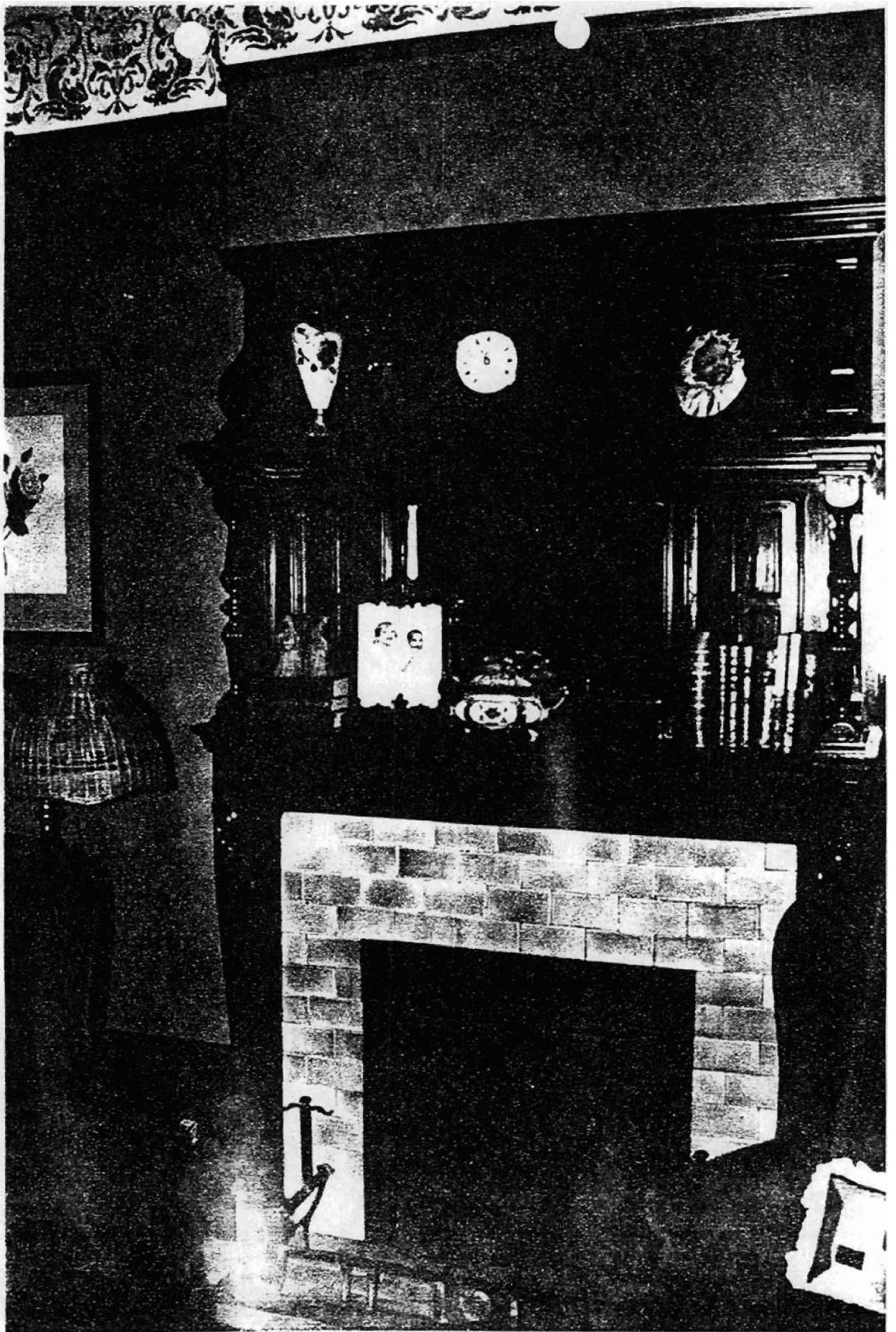








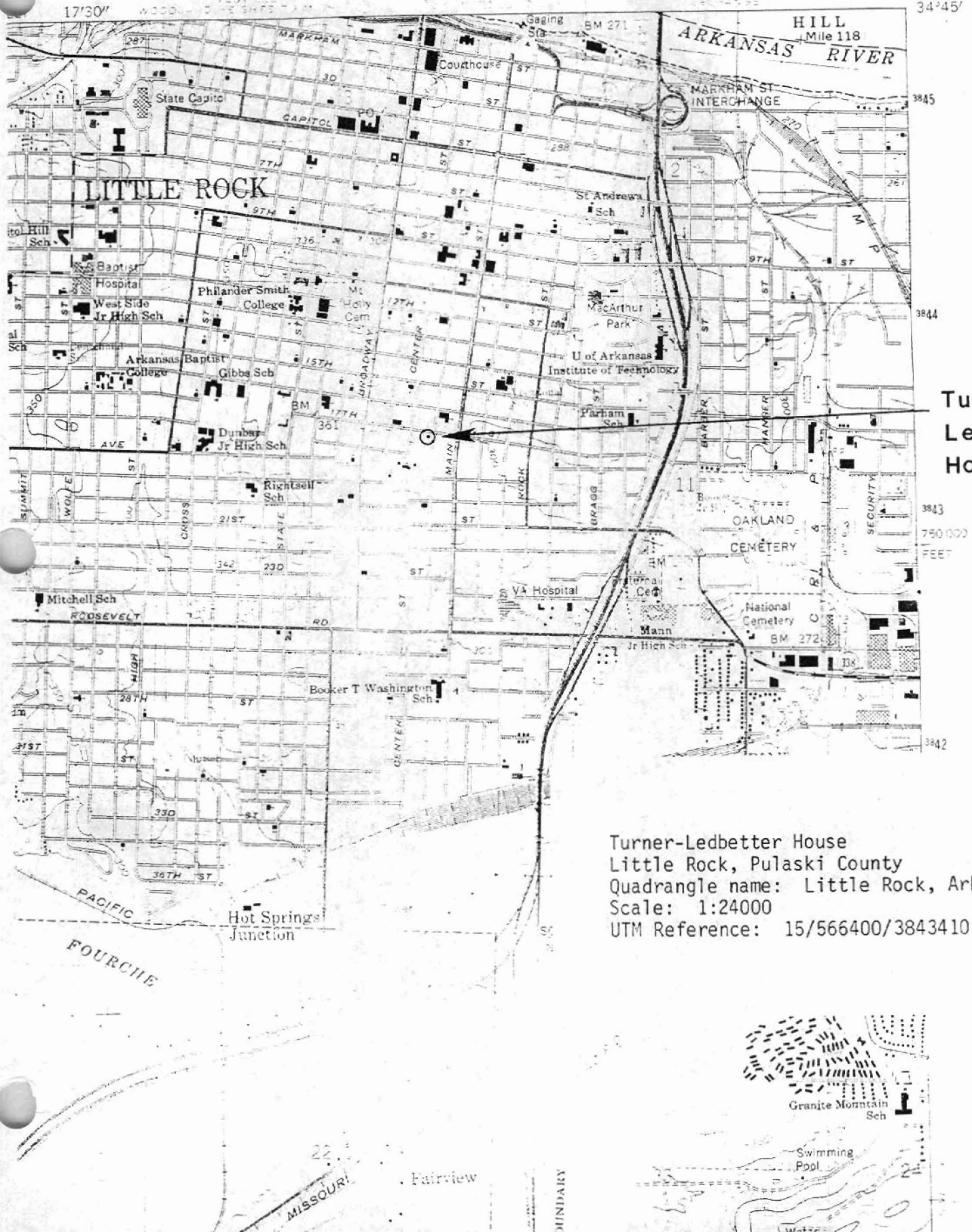




LITTLE ROCK QUADRANGLE
 ARKANSAS
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

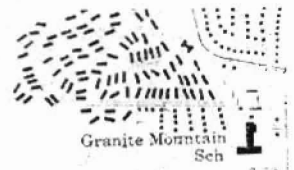
7353 (SW
 (MC ALMONT)

92°15'
 34°45'



Turner -
 Ledbetter
 House

Turner-Ledbetter House
 Little Rock, Pulaski County
 Quadrangle name: Little Rock, Arkansas
 Scale: 1:24000
 UTM Reference: 15/566400/3843410



MISSOURI
 Fairview

BOUNDARY