

Nov. 24, '89 OMB No. 1084-0018

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Scott County Courthouse

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number \_\_\_\_\_

not for publication N/A

city, town Waldron

vicinity N/A

state Arkansas

code AR

county Scott

code AR 127

zip code 72958

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

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

name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously

listed in the National Register N/A

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

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

10-9-89  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Government/Courthouse

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Modern Movement/Art Deco

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

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walls Brick

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Granite

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roof Asphalt

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other 

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Summary.** The Scott County Courthouse, constructed 1933-34, is a red brick public building designed in the Art Deco style and is two stories in height with a raised basement. It features a flat roof set behind a brick parapet, a brick foundation, and a central hall plan on the first floor with a full-length courtroom on the second floor.

**Elaboration.** The Scott County Courthouse was constructed 1933-34 and designed by the architects Bassham & Wheeler from Fort Smith, Arkansas. It is high style Art Deco design typical of courthouses constructed during the 1930's in Arkansas, though it is by far the best rendering of the Art Deco aesthetic in both Waldron and Scott County. This red brick, gray granite and white concrete structure is two stories in height with a raised basement and flat roof set behind a brick parapet. The central hall which divides the rectangular plan on the first floor leads to a perpendicular straight stairwell in the back of the building which provides access to the courtroom and offices on the second floor.

The eastern or front facade is seven bays across and oriented around a taller central granite block entrance bay and staircase. The six bays flanking the entrance bay are separated by brick pilasters which rest upon the granite water table and are capped with simple granite blocks which slant back toward the parapet. The fenestration of these bays on both floors consists of metal window frames holding small panes (the size of which is consistent throughout the building) of an unusual configuration. On the second floor (which lights the courtroom) thirty-five panes are set five across and seven down with two six-pane awning windows set into the middle of each frame, one above the other, with a smaller three-pane awning window placed just above the sill. On the first floor, a metal frame window with twenty panes (five across, four down) features a central six-pane awning window. The space between the floors in these window bays is filled with white concrete panels detailed only with characteristically simple shallow vertical grooves topped by a sloping 'cornice.' The second floor windows feature decorative stone lintels which are also of the stylized, shallow geometrical ornament typical of the Art Deco. Each consists of a rectangular panel containing ten slightly recessed lintels over ten triangular pyramidal forms carved into the face of the panel. The result is a panel which is completely recessed relative to the frame, but which features raised dentils over incised triangles and all in shallow relief. The brick parapet above these flanking six bays is ornamented with recessed vertical granite panels of shallow depth placed over each of the window bays, with each opening faced with small granite blocks of alternating width. The parapet is also coped in granite.

The most distinctive feature of this elevation is the full-height projecting granite entrance bay and staircase. The staircase, which rises from grade up to the first floor entrance, is composed of low granite steps set between low walls coped with stone slabs. The projecting bay itself is defined by the two flanking fluted pilasters which are capped with shallow floral panels. Above is a stepped stone

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parapet which displays the name 'COURTHOUSE' and is finished by a slightly projecting stone cornice. The second story of this bay is lighted by three twenty-one pane metal windows, of the same inset awning configuration seen earlier though of smaller dimensions, all set into a segmented Florentine arch. Below, three white concrete panels with simple vertical grooves are set between the fluted pilasters which separate the surmounting windows and the sloping stone lintels above and below. A dentil course decorates the lintel directly above the triple entry. Two pilasters with fluting on their upper two-thirds and blank panels below divide the entries, which contain single-light wood doors and transoms each containing a pair of stars rendered in wood tracery.

The northern and southern elevations are virtually identical. Brick pilasters of identical configuration as those on the eastern elevation divide the elevation into seven bays on the northern elevation, the westernmost two of which are slightly set back; on the southern elevation, the western, set back portion features only one window bay. The eastern five bays on each elevation are arranged around a slightly wider central bay. The central bay contains thirty-five pane metal windows of the same overall design as those seen on the front, and the flanking bays contain twenty-one pane metal windows as also seen on the front (on the second floor of the central entrance bay). The fenestration of the western end of each elevation reflects the division of the rear of the building into not two but three floors of offices above the raised basement. On the northern elevation, the third story of this rear section is lighted by nine-pane metal windows, while the second and first stories are lighted with twelve-pane metal windows; on the southern elevation, an eighteen-pane window above and a nine-pane window below light a stairwell and office respectively. All have the same inset awning feature as seen before. All the same stone and concrete details, coping and water table are continued around these elevations from the front, with the exception of the western end which is decorated only with flat granite lintels and a flat granite water table.

The western elevation is divided into eight bays of varying width by brick pilasters, also of varying width. The two northern bays contain fifteen-pane metal windows in the third story, twenty-pane windows in the second story, and a twenty-pane window on the first story for the northernmost bay while the bay to the south contains a metal entrance door and a three-pane transom, accessed by a brick and granite staircase. The next two bays to the south contain windows of different heights than elsewhere on the facade, again in response to the placement of offices behind. The third bay contains nine-pane metal windows in both the third floor and in the lowest window which cuts through the granite water table; a twelve-pane metal window lights the second story. In the fourth bay, an eighteen-pane metal window lights the upper section, while a nine-pane metal window lights the lower portion. To the south, the fifth and sixth bays are identical, with nine-pane metal windows on the third floor and twelve-pane metal windows on each of the second and first floors. At the southern end, the seventh and eight bays both contain fifteen-pane windows in the third floor, and twenty-

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pane windows in the second and first floors. The elevation is completed by a broad brick pilaster above a simple entrance with a brick and granite staircase identical to the one to the north.

The interior is very simple and restrained, and has always been so. The public spaces within, such as the hallways and lobby, feature cast concrete walls above a brick dado, all painted white. Details are restricted to the large concrete benches found in the second floor hallway. The second story courtroom retains its original architect-designed vertical grain pine furniture, such as the judge's bench, witness box, and public seating. Though probably not original, the courtroom features acoustical ceiling tile similar if not identical in profile to that called out on the original plans. A concrete prisoners' bench completes the significant detail.

The Scott County Courthouse has suffered little if any alteration since it was built. Courtroom tables which were specified in the original plans are not in evidence, but there is no indication in the documentation that such were ever purchased.

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Summary. The Scott County Courthouse in Waldron, designed in 1934 by the Fort Smith architects Bassham & Wheeler, is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance. Its wealth of geometric, shallow detail and stylized Classical vocabulary combined with its variety of colors and media render this building the best example of high-style Art Deco in Waldron.

Elaboration. The Scott County Courthouse in Waldron was designed in 1934 by the Fort Smith architects Bassham & Wheeler, and was constructed in part with Works Progress Administration labor. It is being nominated under Criterion C with local significance due to its being the best high-style Art Deco building in Waldron.

Scott County was created in 1833 from land taken from both Crawford and Pope counties. It has always been an extremely rural county, with lumbering being the leading industry. Waldron has served as the county seat since 1845. Several different edifices had served as courthouses for Scott County, the last before the 1934 structure being a two-story, stone building on the same site which burned in 1933. County Judge J.F. Martin made provisions for temporary quarters for the various county offices and proceeded to arrange funding for a new courthouse. The county taxpayers approved a 5 mill tax for construction and the planning began.

Part of the cost of erecting a new courthouse was saved through the use of W.P.A. labor, a fact which is also noted on the drawings (the drawings feature a W.P.A. stamp indicating approval of the plans by the labor supervisor). As was the case with much of rural Arkansas during the Depression, the lumbering industry around Waldron fell on hard times in the 1930's, and so local residents were happy to become gainfully employed, even if only temporarily. Nevertheless, the quality of the construction and craftsmanship displayed in the Scott County Courthouse is exceptional, a fact to which the building's good current state of repair will attest.

The Scott County Courthouse stands as the finest Art Deco building in Waldron. The quality of its typically geometric, shallow detail is particularly fine in such features as the carved stone panels above the windows on the main and side elevations, the shallow stylized floral patterns above the pilasters which flank the front entry, and the inscribed lettering in the stone entrance parapet, spelling 'COURTHOUSE.' Of special note are the placement of the stone lintels and pilaster caps on the front elevation in an undulating pattern, the entirely stone central bay which clearly orients the eye when looking at the front, and the mixture of media and color which grants more variety than many high-style Art Deco buildings remaining in Arkansas. Though Waldron did experience some downtown development in the 1930's-era, there is nothing to compete with the scale and ornament of this rich yet elegant Art Deco composition.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1933  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Bassham & Wheeler  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bassham and Wheeler, Scott County Courthouse, Original Drawings, October - December, 1933.  
Goodner, Charles E., Scott County in Retrospect, (1976).  
McCutchen, Henry G., History of Scott County, Arkansas, (1922).  
"Scott County Proud of Her Courthouse," The Advance Reporter, 10/1/35.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 1 acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	5	4	0	1	2	6	5	3	8	6	2	1	6	5
Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Public Square of the Featherstone Addition, City of Waldron.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kenneth Story

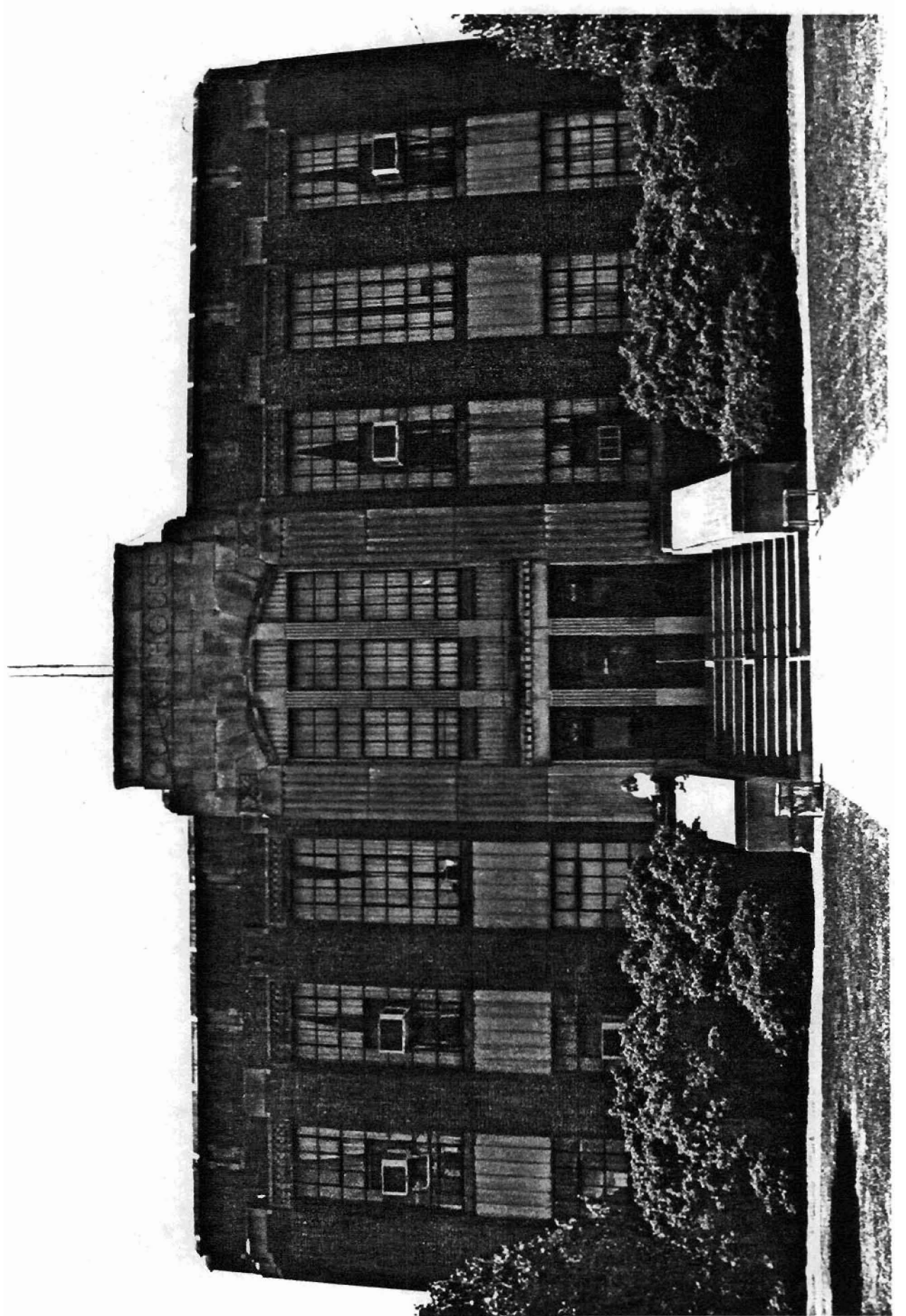
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date October 4, 1989

street & number 225 E. Markham St., Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763

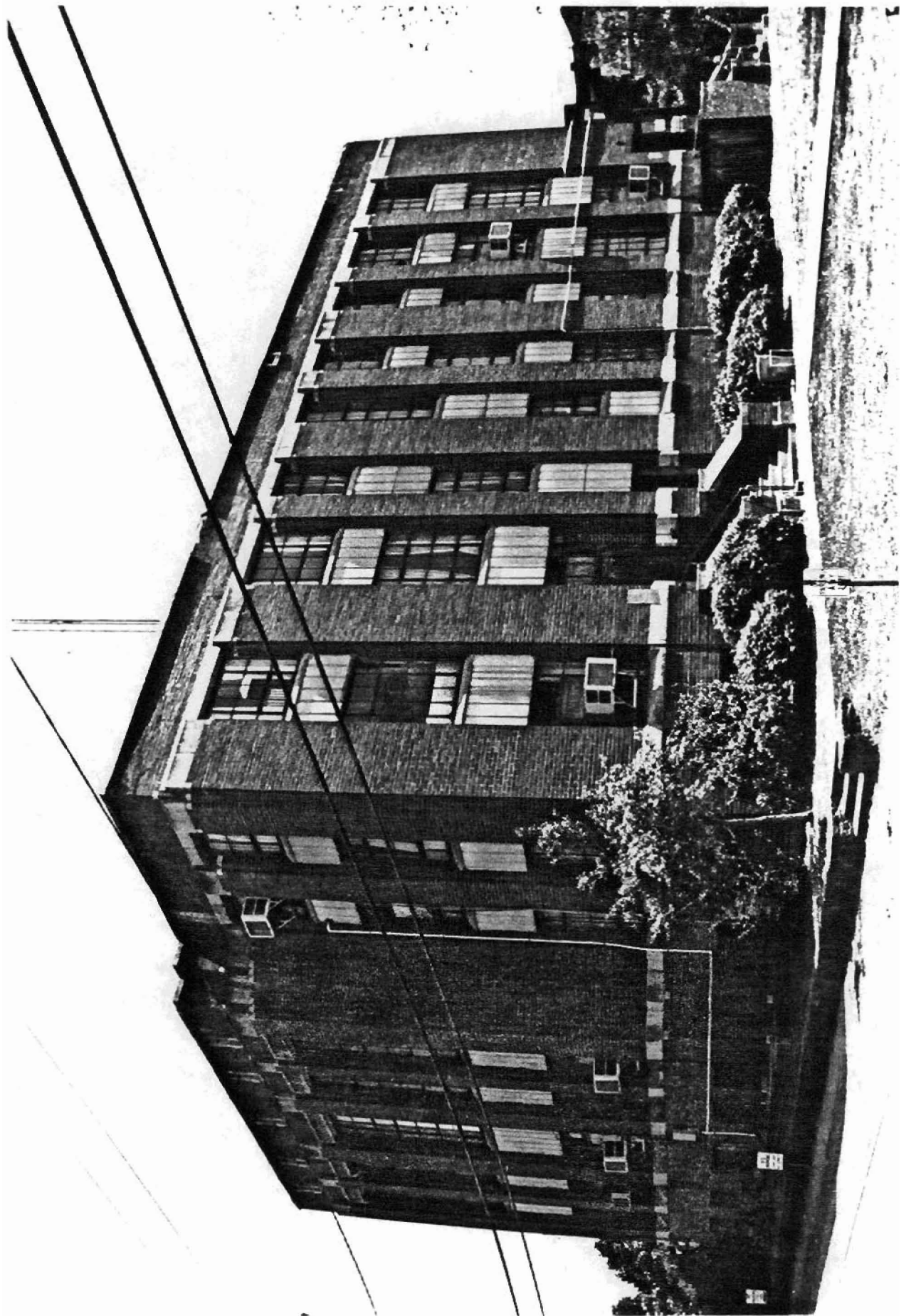
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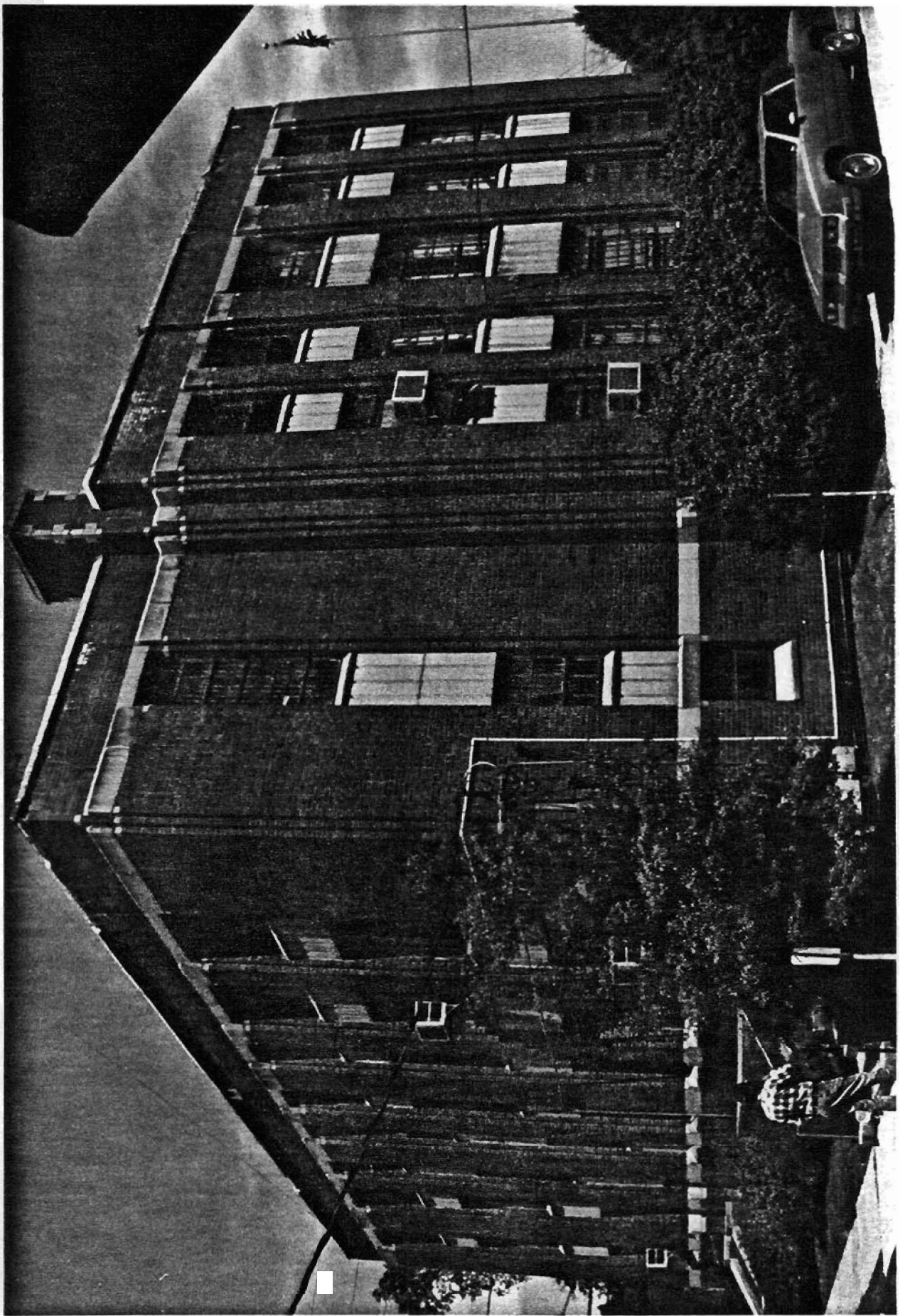


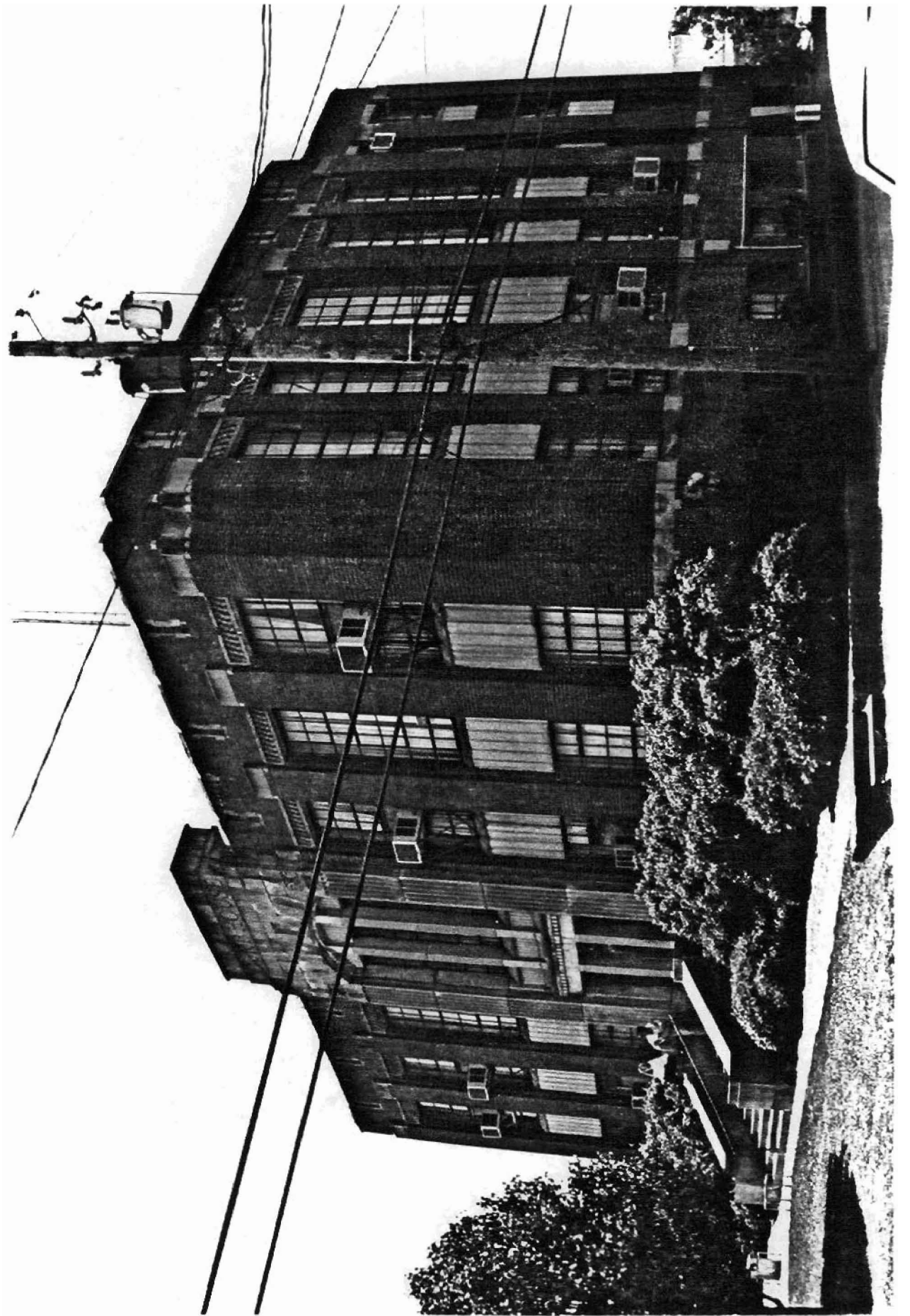


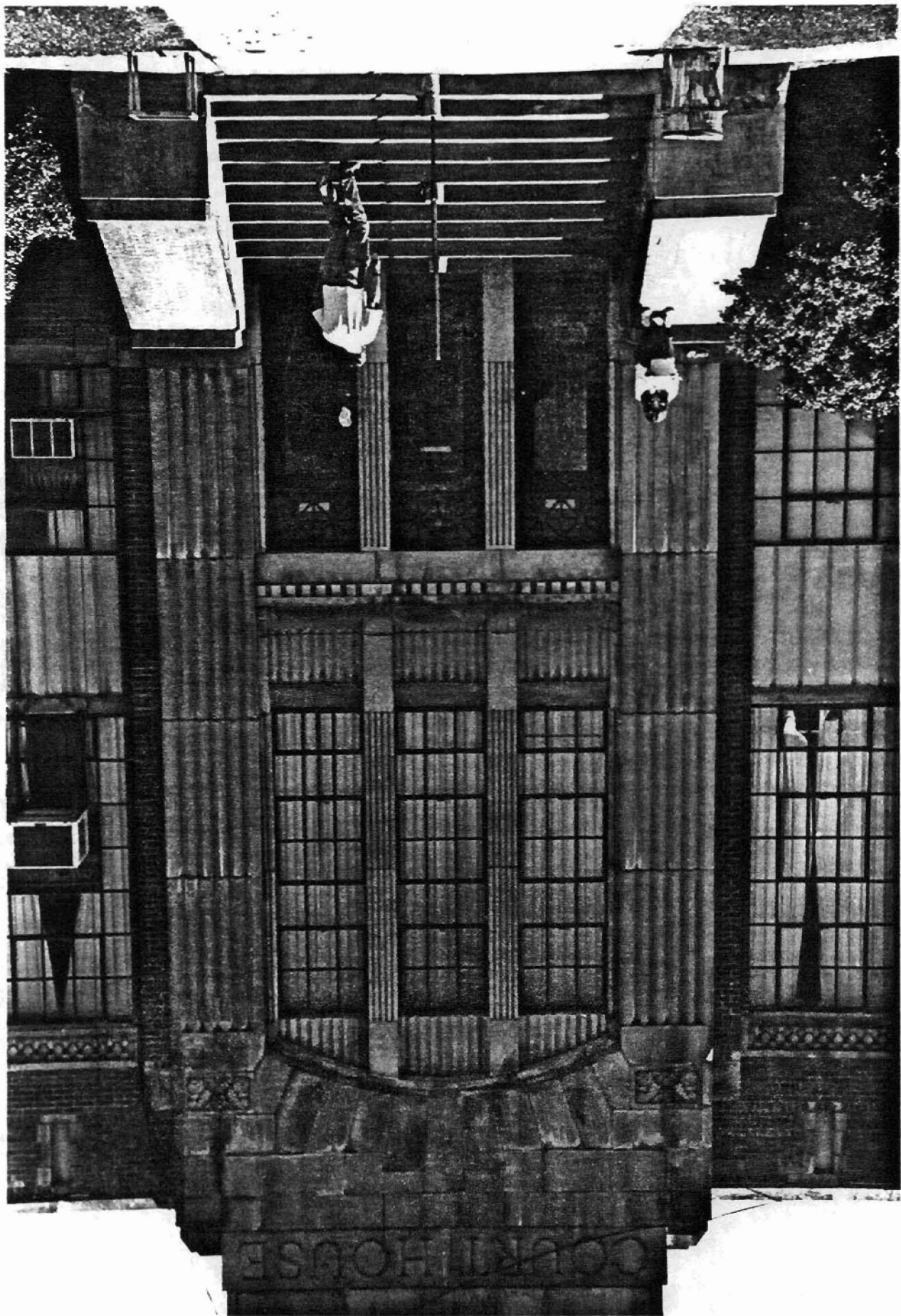


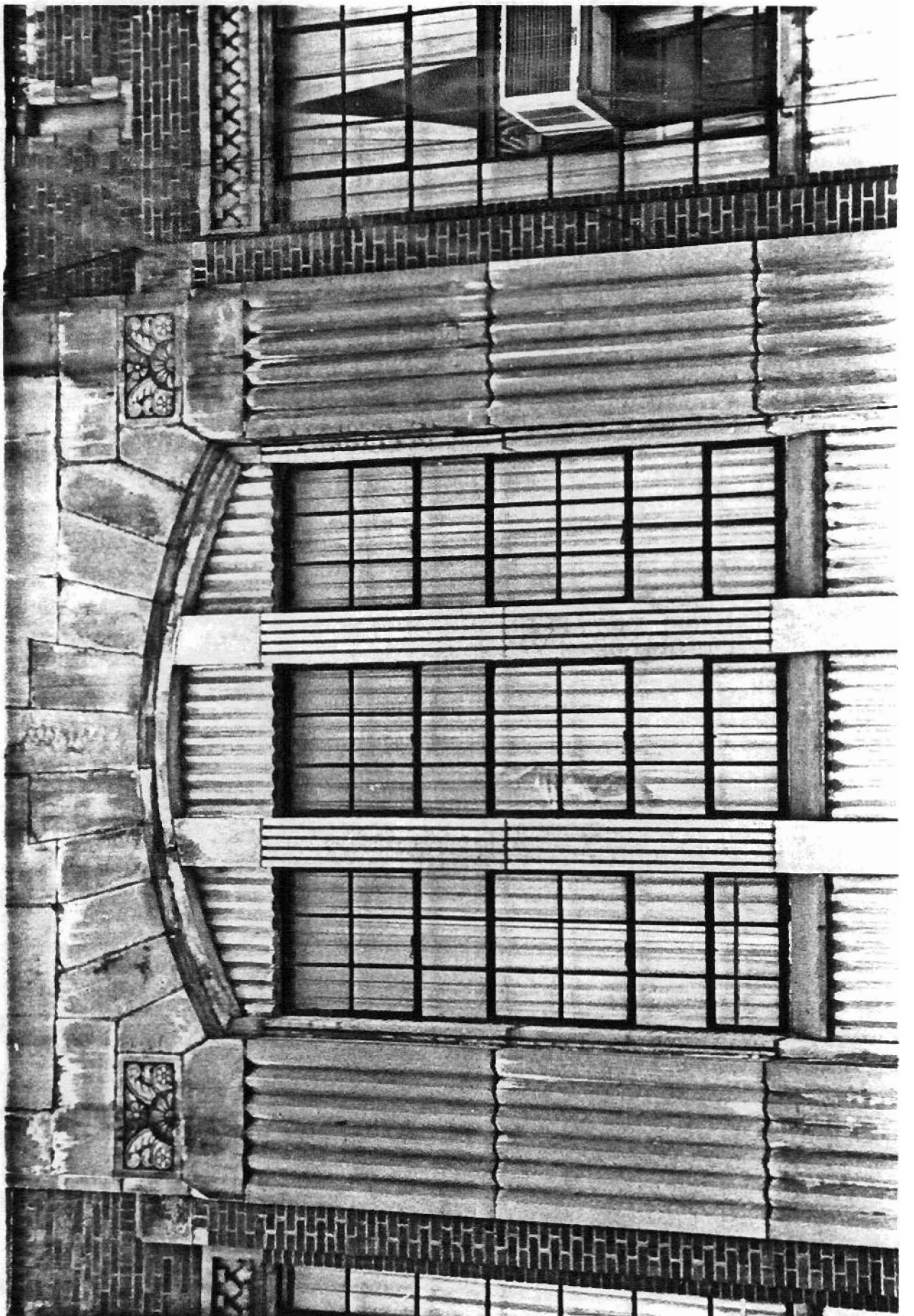




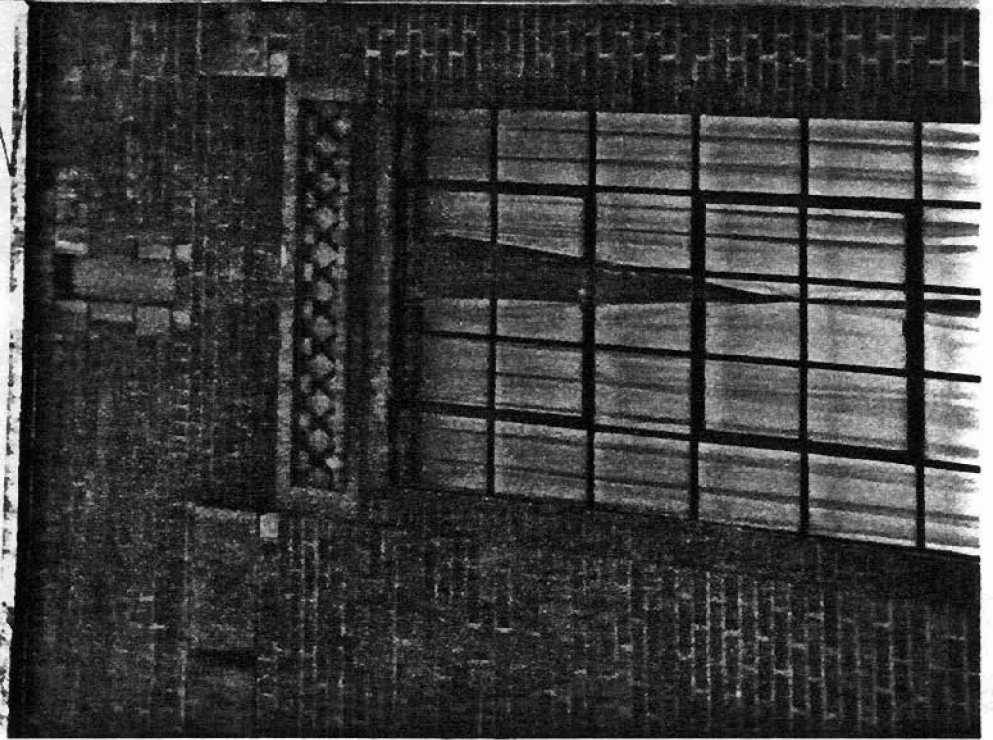
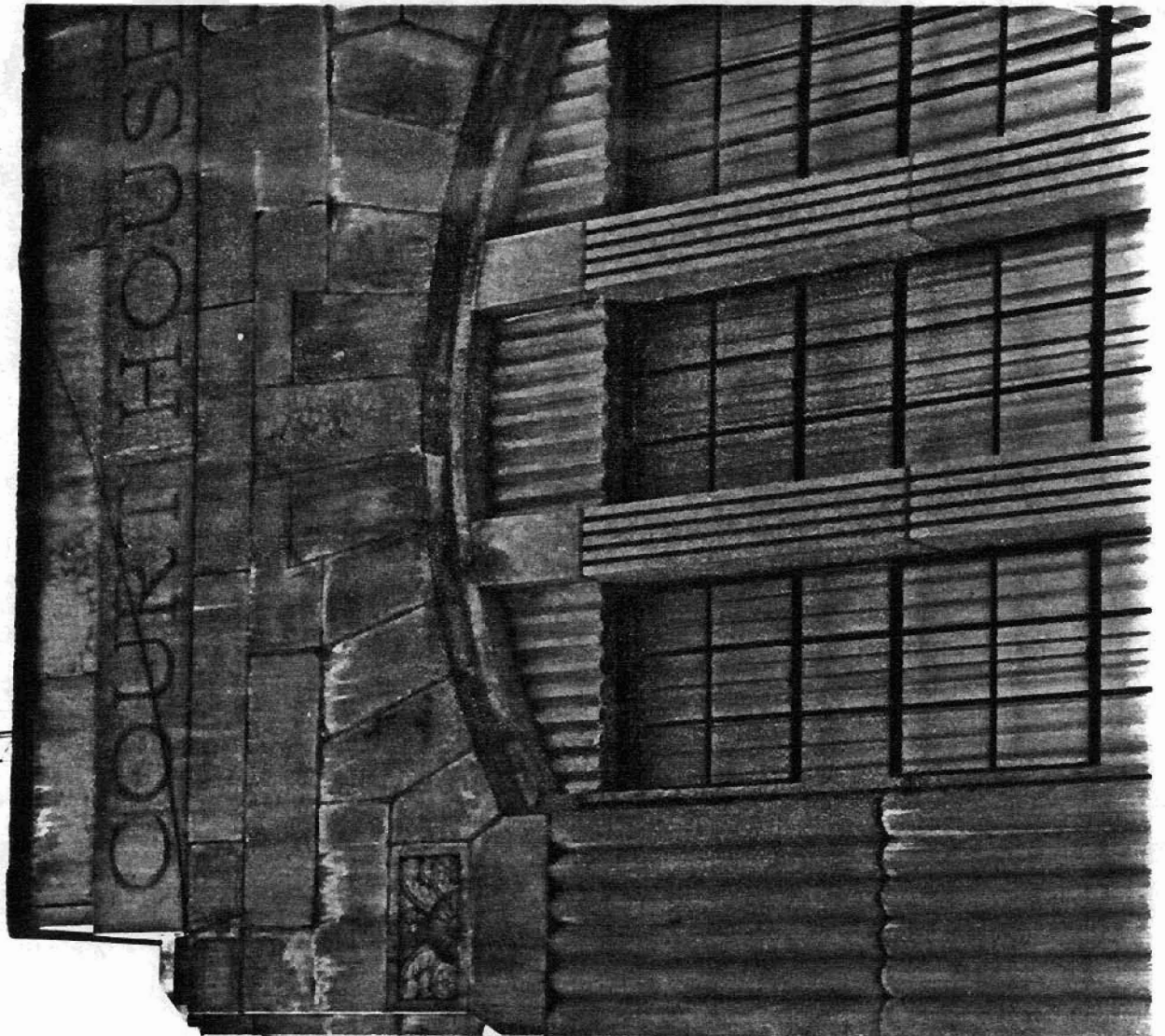


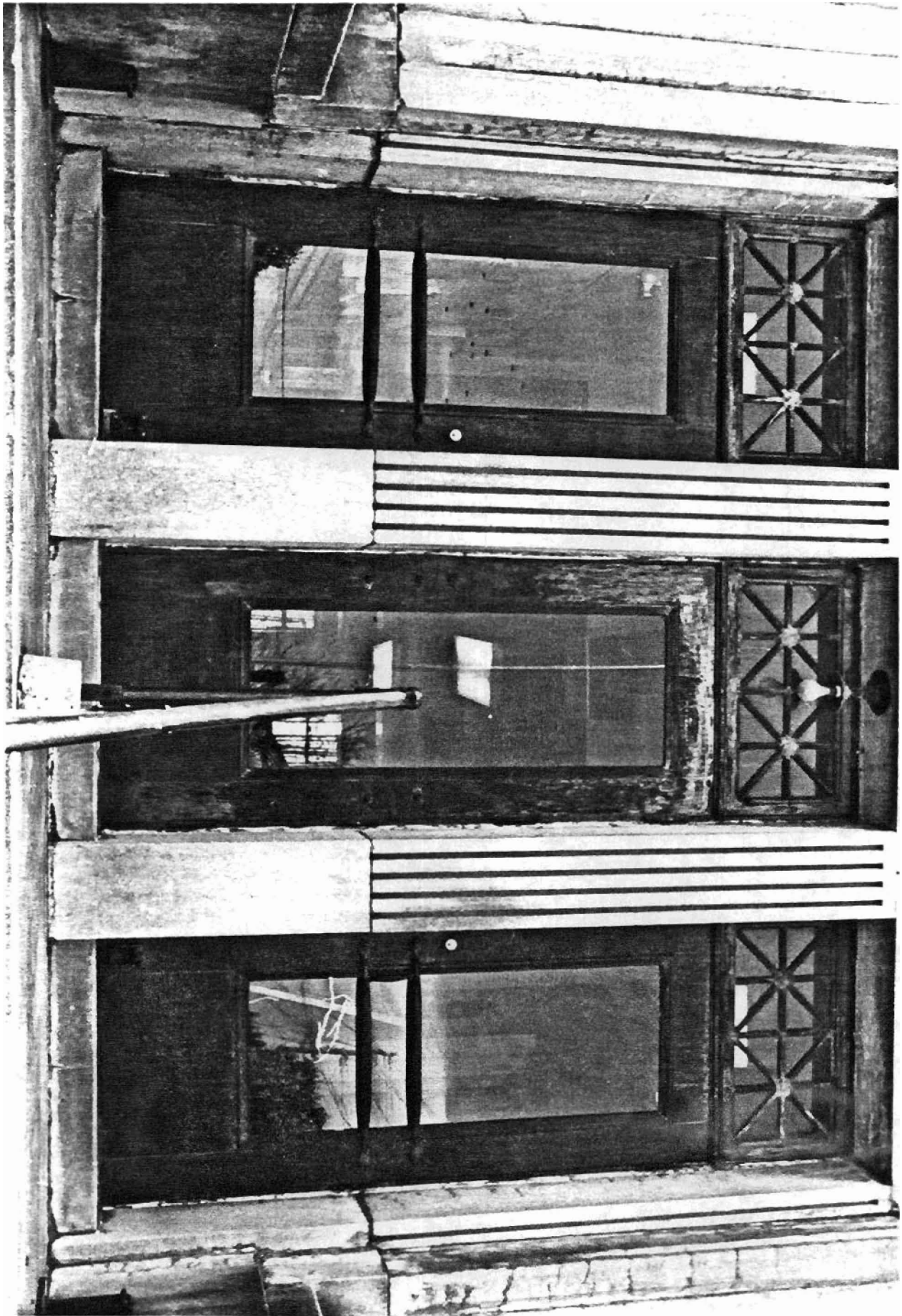




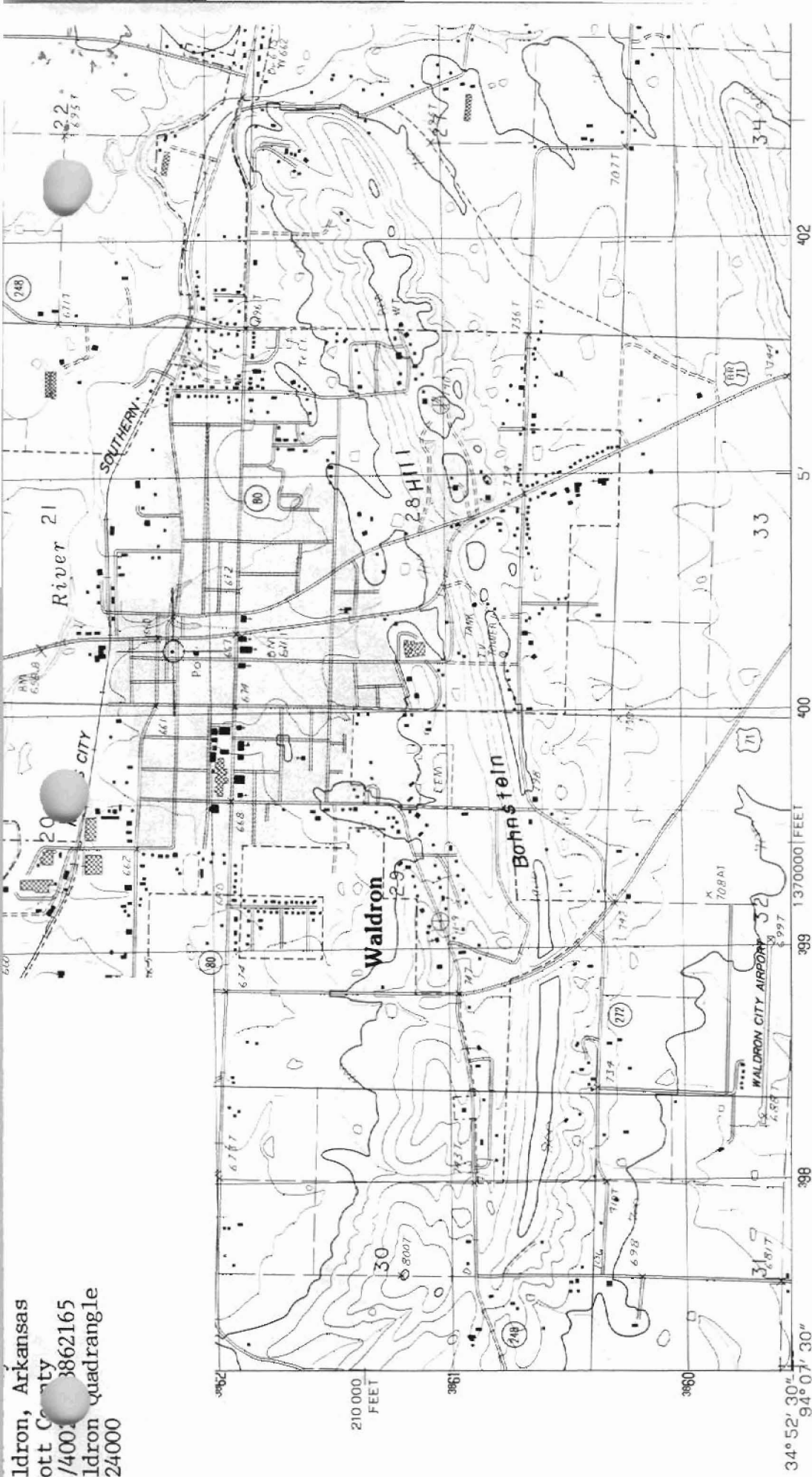






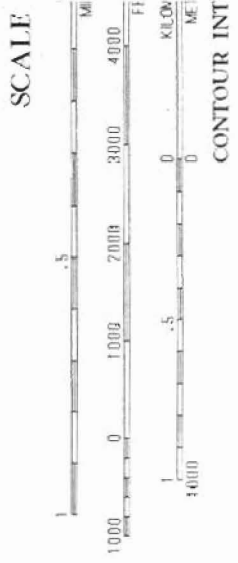


Waldron, Arkansas  
 Scott County  
 15/4001 3862165  
 Waldron quadrangle  
 1:24000



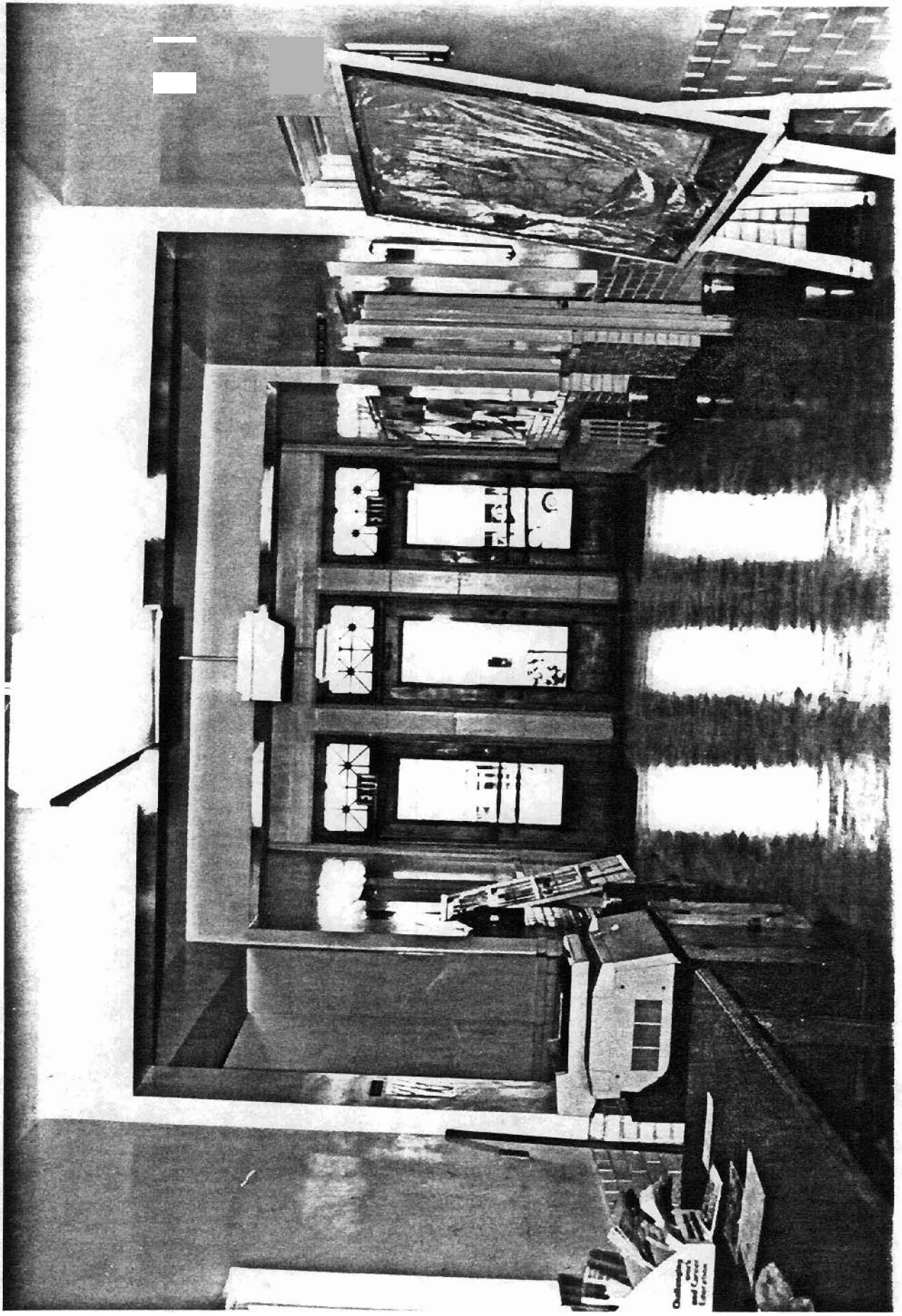
PRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 CONTROL BY . . . . . USGS AND NOS/NOAA  
 COMPILED FROM AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN . . . . . 1979  
 FIELD CHECKED . . . . . 1982 MAP EDITED . . . . . 1983  
 PROJECTION . . . . . LAMBERT CONFORMAL CONIC  
 GRID: 1000-METER UNIVERSAL TRANSVERSE MERCATOR . . . . . ZONE 15  
 10,000-FOOT STATE GRID Ticks . . . . . ARKANSAS NORTH ZONE  
 UTM GRID DECLINATION . . . . . 0°37' WEST  
 1983 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION . . . . . 5°30' EAST  
 VERTICAL DATUM . . . . . NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
 HORIZONTAL DATUM . . . . . 1927 NORTH AMERICAN DATUM  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum of 1983,  
 move the projection lines as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 (7 meters south and 18 meters east)  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of any  
 Federal and State Reservations shown on this map  
 No distinction made between houses, barns, and other buildings  
 Gray tint indicates area in which selected buildings are shown

**PROVISIONAL MAP**  
 Produced from original  
 manuscript drawings. Infor-  
 mation shown as of date of  
 photography. I

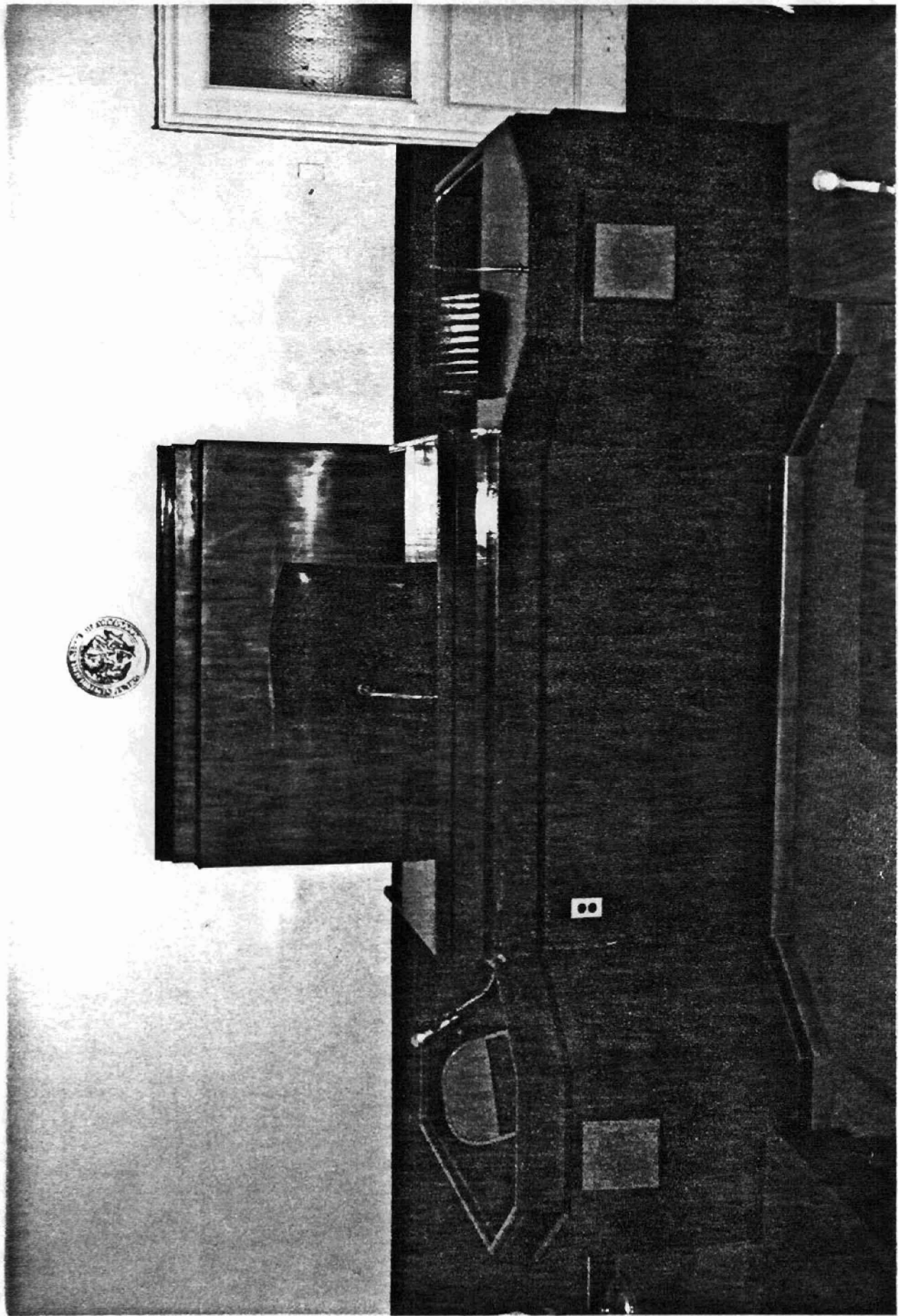


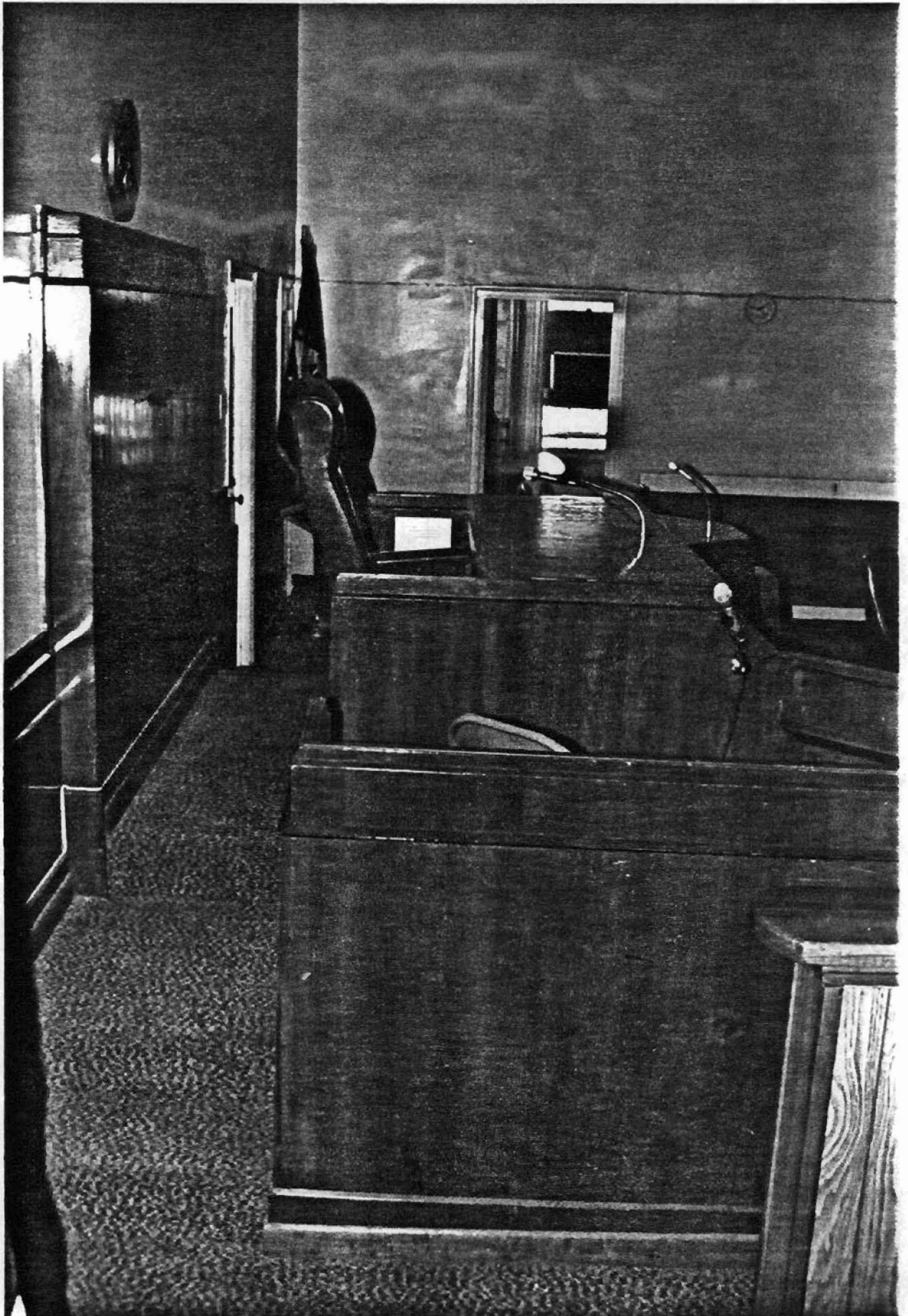
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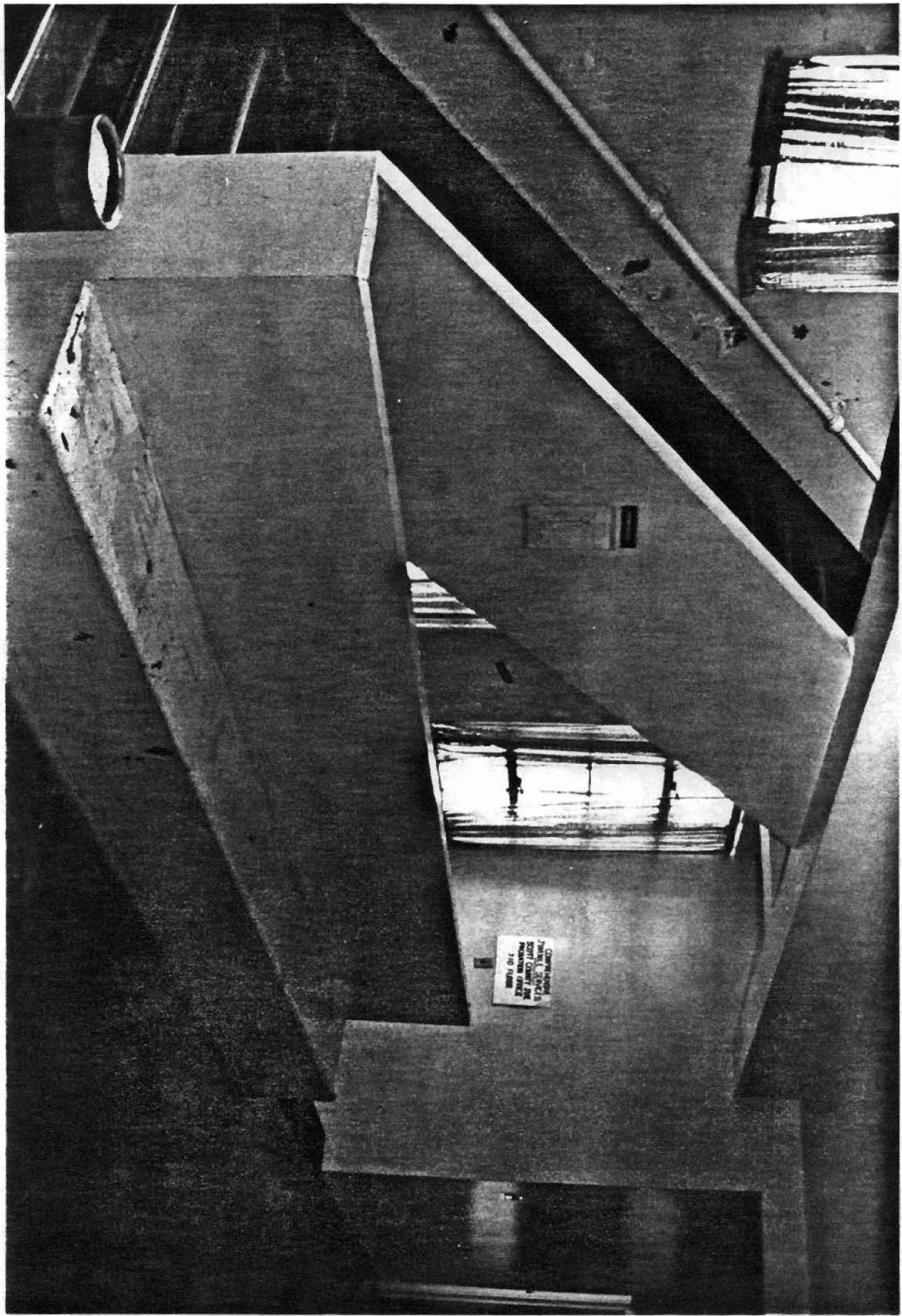
4  
2  
2



Challenging  
and  
Creative  
Work







CHRYSLER  
SCOTT COUNTY  
MAY 1968