

NR listed 9-8-83

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received UNO154
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Charles H. Murphy, Sr., House

and/or common William C. Nolan House

2. Location

street & number 900 North Madison N/A not for publication

city, town El Dorado N/A vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Arkansas code 05 county Union 71700 code 139

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. William C. Nolan

street & number 900 North Madison

city, town El Dorado N/A vicinity of state Arkansas

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Union County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town El Dorado state Arkansas

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

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

The Charles H. Murphy, Sr. House, built in 1925-26, is a two-and-a-half story Tudor Revival residence designed by Charles L. Thompson. Constructed of hollow tile with brick and stucco veneer, this house clearly demonstrates the popularity of English-inspired architectural designs during the 1920's and reveals Thompson's ability to adapt the style to a convenient American residence.

ELABORATION

Situated on a six acre lot landscaped by Meuller of Memphis, the Murphy House was designed in the Tudor Revival Style by Charles L. Thompson. A dominant feature of the landscape is a circular drive to the south of the house that passes through a porte-cochere and surrounds a small formally landscaped area. Bounding the front of the property is a wrought iron fence broken by brick columns with double iron gates. The plan of the Murphy House is asymmetrical, as are each of the elevations. The irregular roofline is achieved by a large roof, gabled at one end and hipped at the other, with nine gabled projections and a rear wing with hipped roof, all of which are covered with tile. Of hollow tile construction, the house has a predominantly red brick veneer laid in common bond, with several gable ends and portions of the second floor covered with half-timbered stucco. The window sills, main entrance trim and chimney caps are of dressed Bedford limestone. The front (east) elevation has a long roof slope punctured by a wide central chimney, a common Tudor Revival feature, that intersects a dormer. A one-story gabled wing with exterior end chimney extends from the north end, balanced on the south by the gabled porte-cochere. A one-story off-center gabled entrance with arched opening projects from the wall, and intersects with a two-story projection to the right. The front door is paneled wood with glass lights above. A one-story gabled projection with an inset arch of stone above the windows extends from the south corner. The overhanging eaves are supported by large wood brackets. Both casement and double-hung windows are found throughout the house. As mentioned, each side elevation has a one-story gabled projection. The east side elevation consists of two full height gable ends, from which extends the porte-cochere. Two gabled wings, one with a hipped roof extension, project from the rear. Between the bedroom and kitchen wings is a slate terrace with an iron railing. Also on the rear is a sleeping porch with triple hung windows.

The Tudor Style is represented in many interior details, notably the staircase, fireplace mantels and bookshelves. The staircase alcove, living room fireplace and library bookcases have the characteristic Tudor arches. Interior walls are plaster, the floors oak and the trim is beautifully finished red gum. The rooms across the front-living room, living porch, entrance hall, library and dining room are all connected by French doors with six-light transoms. The dominant feature of the

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interior is the beautiful alcoved staircase. Three steps lead to a landing, from which the stairs continue at a right angle. Paneled wood pilasters on either side of the stairwell support an architrave and cornice. Further detailing the stairs is a carved railing and newel post. All rooms are detailed with picture mouldings and the living room, hall, library and dining room have cornices. Architrave mouldings surround all doors and windows. The library has an exposed beam ceiling and built-in bookcases. Both the kitchen and breakfast room have a built-in china cabinet. There are four original wood burning fireplaces. A fifth fireplace was added to the screened living porch when it was enclosed in 1953. The first and second floors each have three bedrooms. Part of the large recreation attic was designed as a nursery.

As mentioned the screened porch on the front of the house was enclosed in 1953. Also in that year, the grass terrace between the kitchen and bedroom wings was paved with slate. In 1963 the kitchen was remodeled. Other changes include the replacement of some rough plaster with that of a smoother texture.

A three car garage, separate from the house, is constructed of the red brick. Originally the grounds included a chicken yard and a barn. Located to the rear of the house are a pool and tennis court.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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 1925-26 Builder/Architect Charles L. Thompson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Designed by Charles L. Thompson, the Charles H. Murphy, Sr., House illustrates how expertly Thompson could blend the needs and tastes of his clients with popular trends in American architecture. The house which was constructed in 1925 shows the strong influence of the Tudor Revival which was part of a larger movement in the 1920's to replicate and adapt many of the designs found in the English countryside. Charles L. Thompson was a noted Arkansas architect who was in great demand throughout his long career. The firm he founded in 1886 is still in existence under the leadership of his son-in-law. The landscape firm Mueller of Memphis was hired to plan a setting which would be in keeping with the house. The stone wall surrounding the drive, the walks to the pool and tennis courts, and the various groupings of plantings are all a part of their original design. This distinctive house was constructed for Charles Haygood Murphy, Sr., who settled in El Dorado following the death of his uncle, Fletcher Sample. As executor of the estate, Murphy was charged with conducting the business affairs of J. F. Sample Company which was a local retail store. In 1915, Murphy married Bertie Wilson who worked at Citizens Bank of which he was chief executive. She had been raised in El Dorado and following her graduation from Galloway College in Searcy had worked as a court reporter as well as on the staff of Governor George W. Donaghey. Besides involvement in the banking industry, Murphy was also quite active in the timber business which led to his extensive investment in land. Following the oil boom in Union County in the early 1920's, these land holdings were extremely valuable. They helped form the basis for the highly successful Murphy Oil Corporation of which Charles H. Murphy, Sr., was founder. Murphy Oil was one of the early oil companies formed following the boom and has evolved into an international corporation with numerous subsidiaries under its umbrella. From its corporate headquarters in El Dorado, Murphy Oil conducts oil and gas exploration operations in the U. S., Canada, the Persian Gulf, Venezuela, the North Sea, and other areas abroad. Charles H. Murphy, Sr., achieved tremendous success in the business community and the home he and his wife commissioned represents that success as well as the enduring qualities of Charles L. Thompson's work.

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"A History of Murphy Oil Corporation - The Early Days", Page 4
Murphy Oil Corporation News, Number 4, 1982, Number 5, 1982.

A Personal Account of the Life and Work of Charles Haywood Murphy, Sr., by Bertie
Wilson Murphy - 1972.

The Memoirs of Bertie Wilson Murphy - 1935-75.

Charles H. Murphy by Charles H. Murphy, Jr. - 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 6

Quadrangle name El Dorado West, Ark.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	5	5	3	1	7	1	0	3	6	7	5	7	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	5	5	3	1	7	1	0	3	6	7	5	4	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

1	5	5	3	1	6	2	0	3	6	7	5	4	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	5	5	3	1	6	2	0	3	6	7	5	7	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

Block 1; Lot 8-12; Murphy Sub-division; City of El Dorado.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mrs. William C. Nolan, edited by staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

organization N/A

date August 3, 1983

street & number 900 North Madison

telephone (501) 863-8839

city or town El Dorado

state Arkansas

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Walter Stiles

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8-5-83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

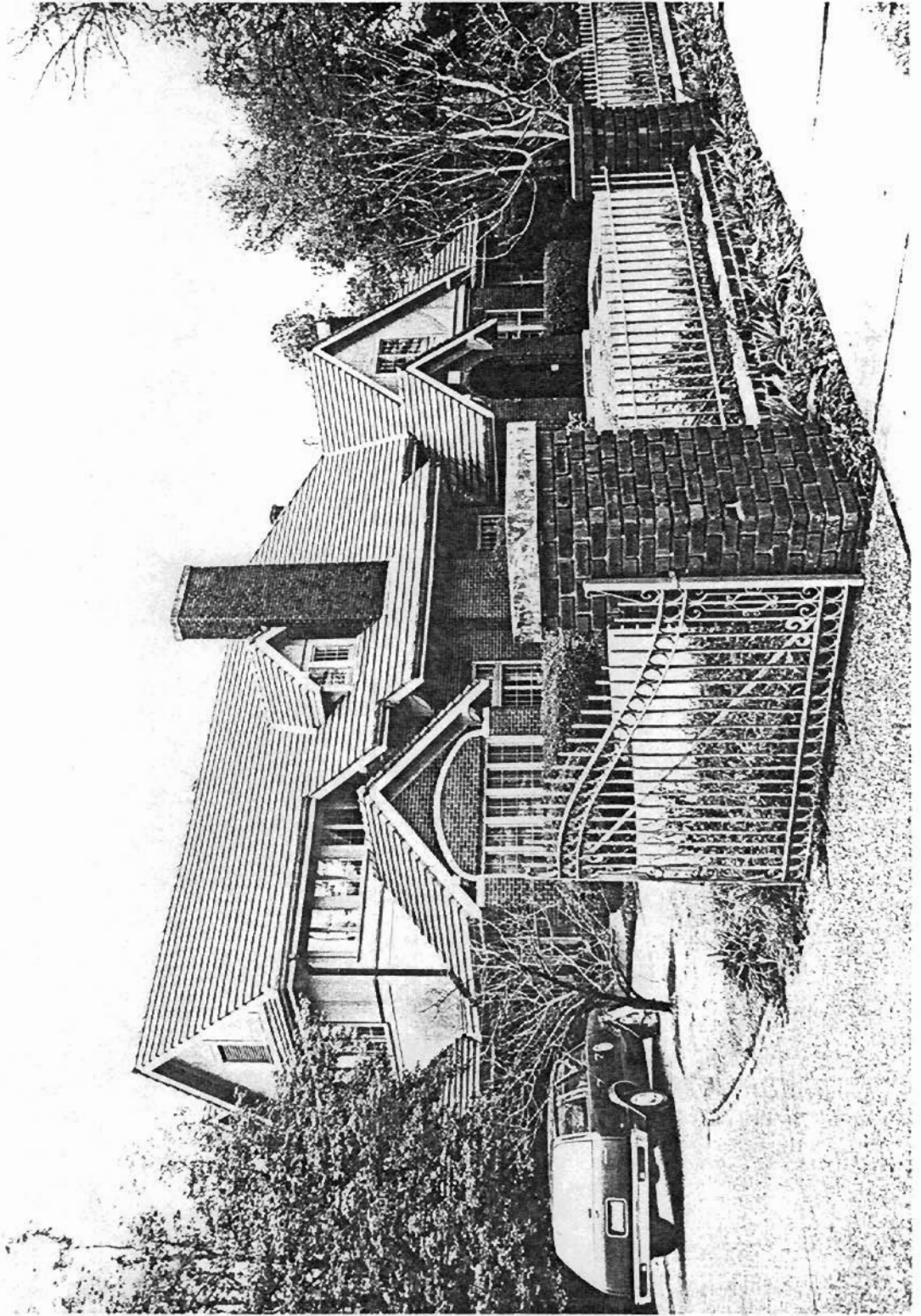
date

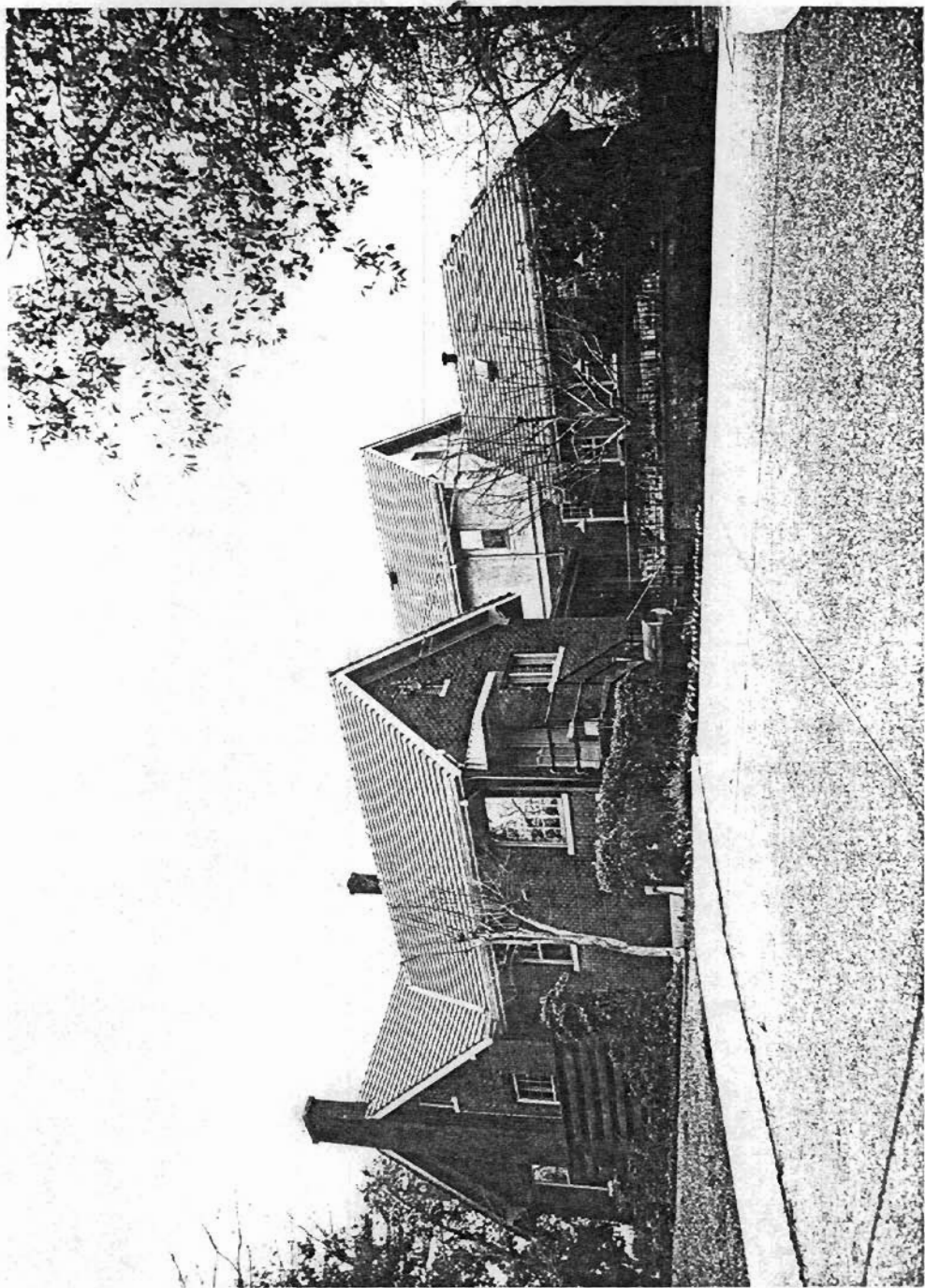
Keeper of the National Register

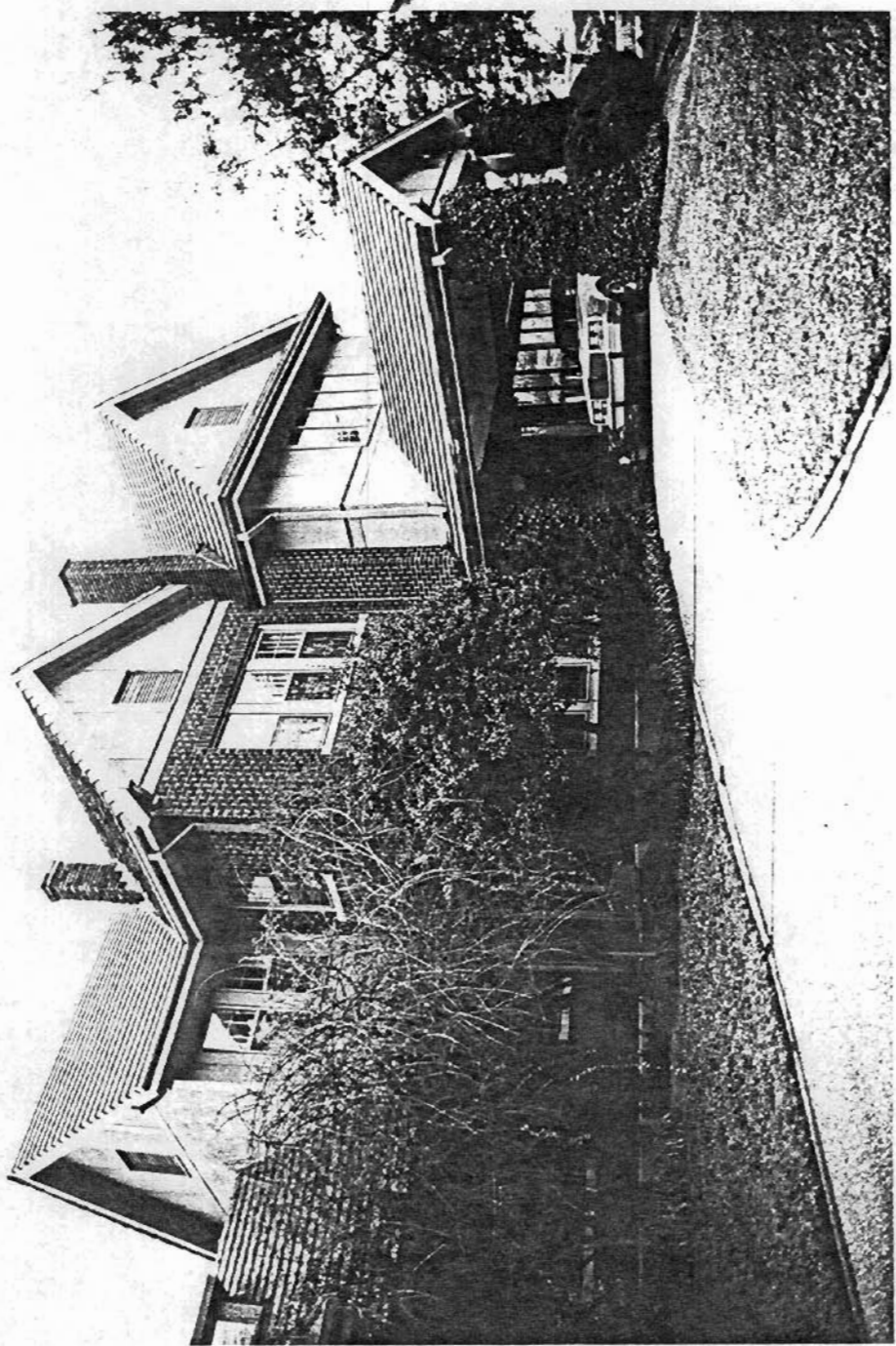
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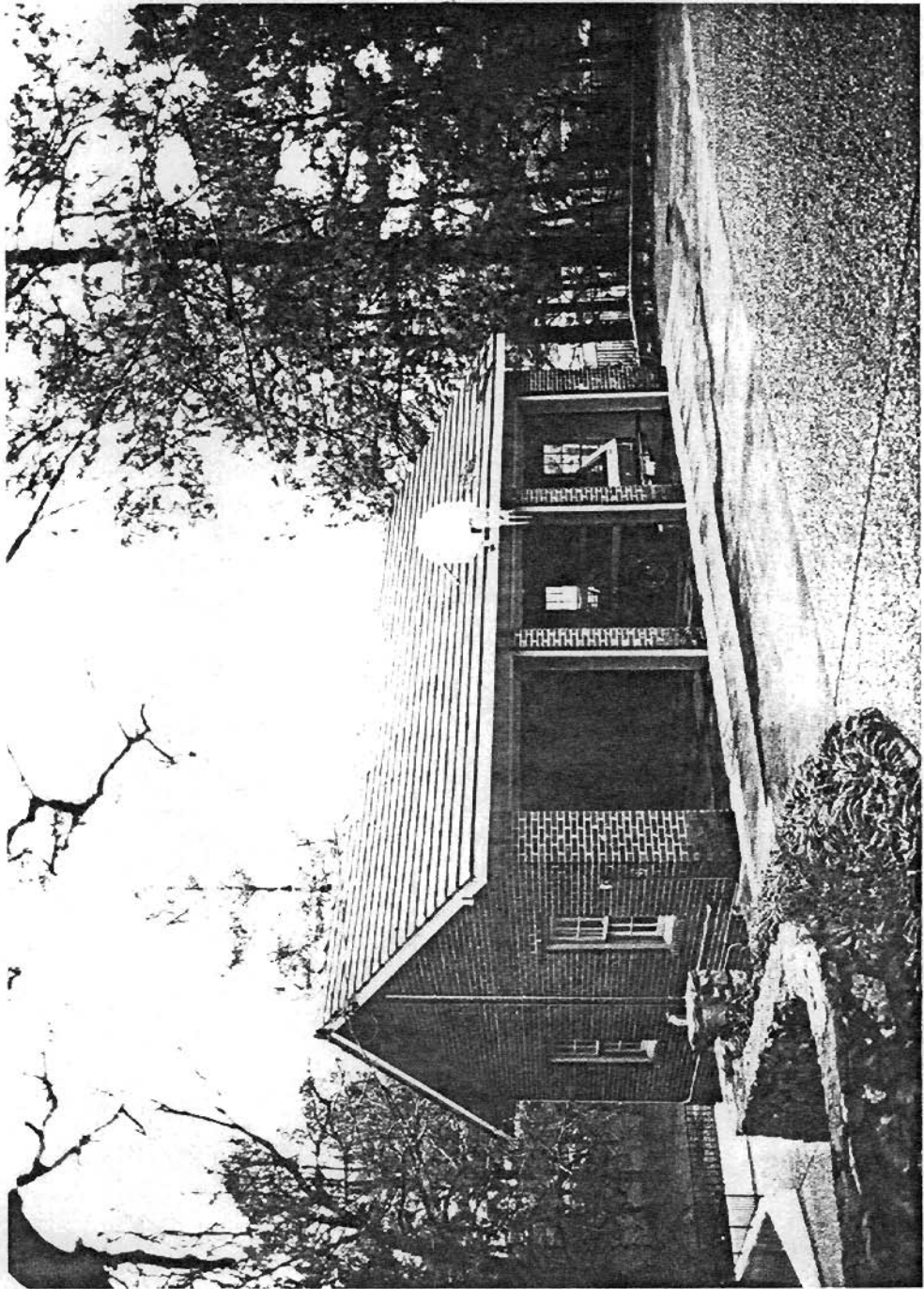
date

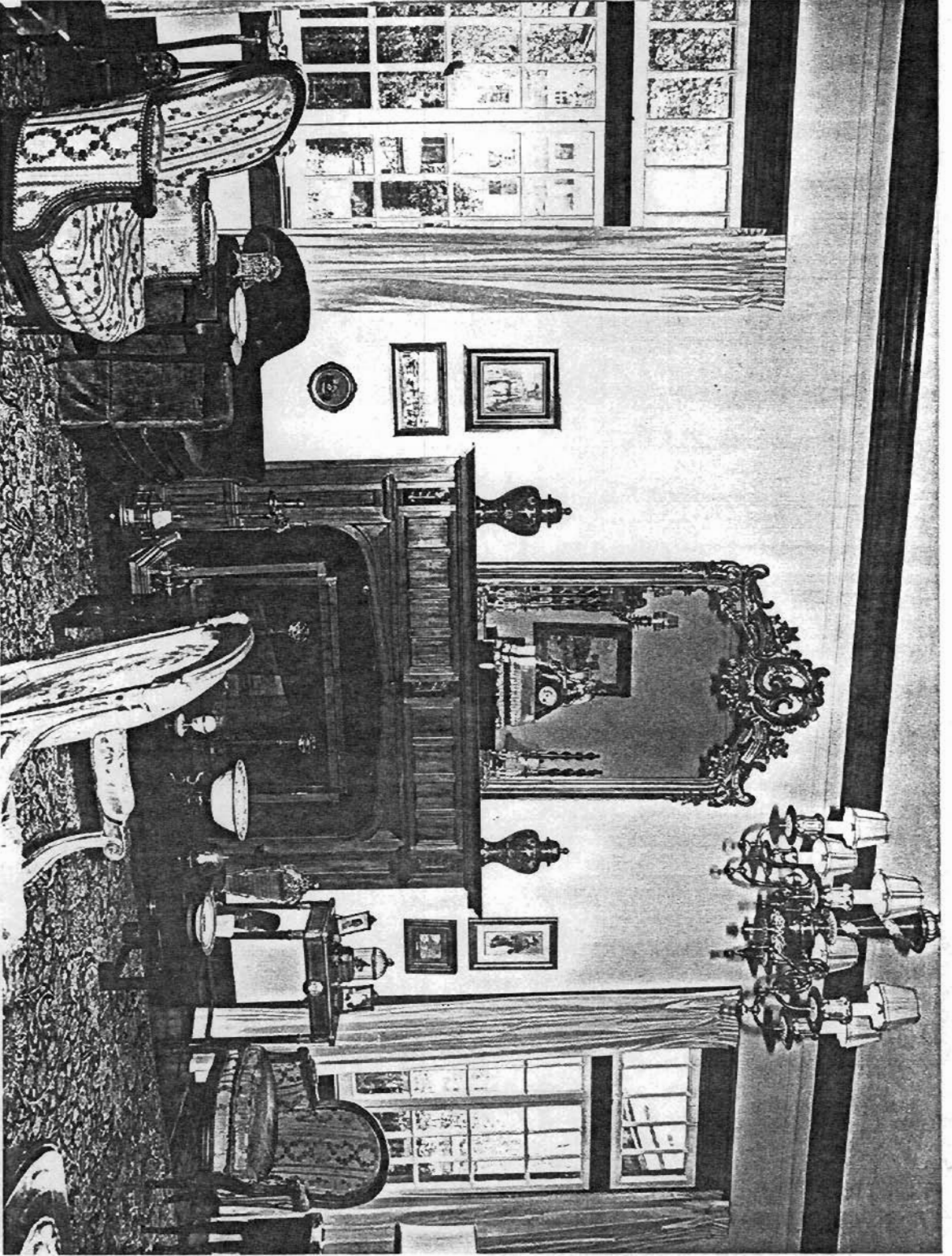
Chief of Registration

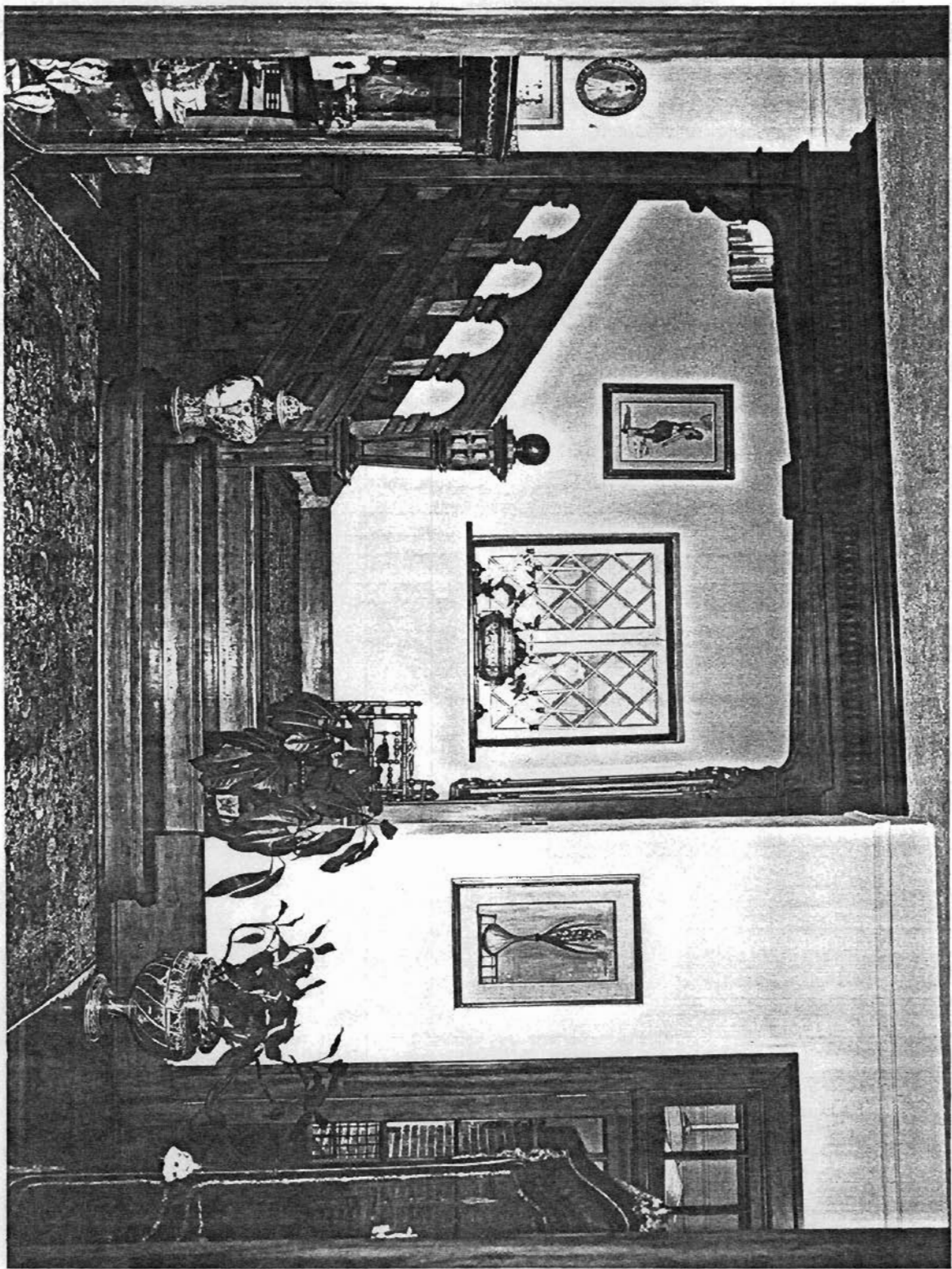


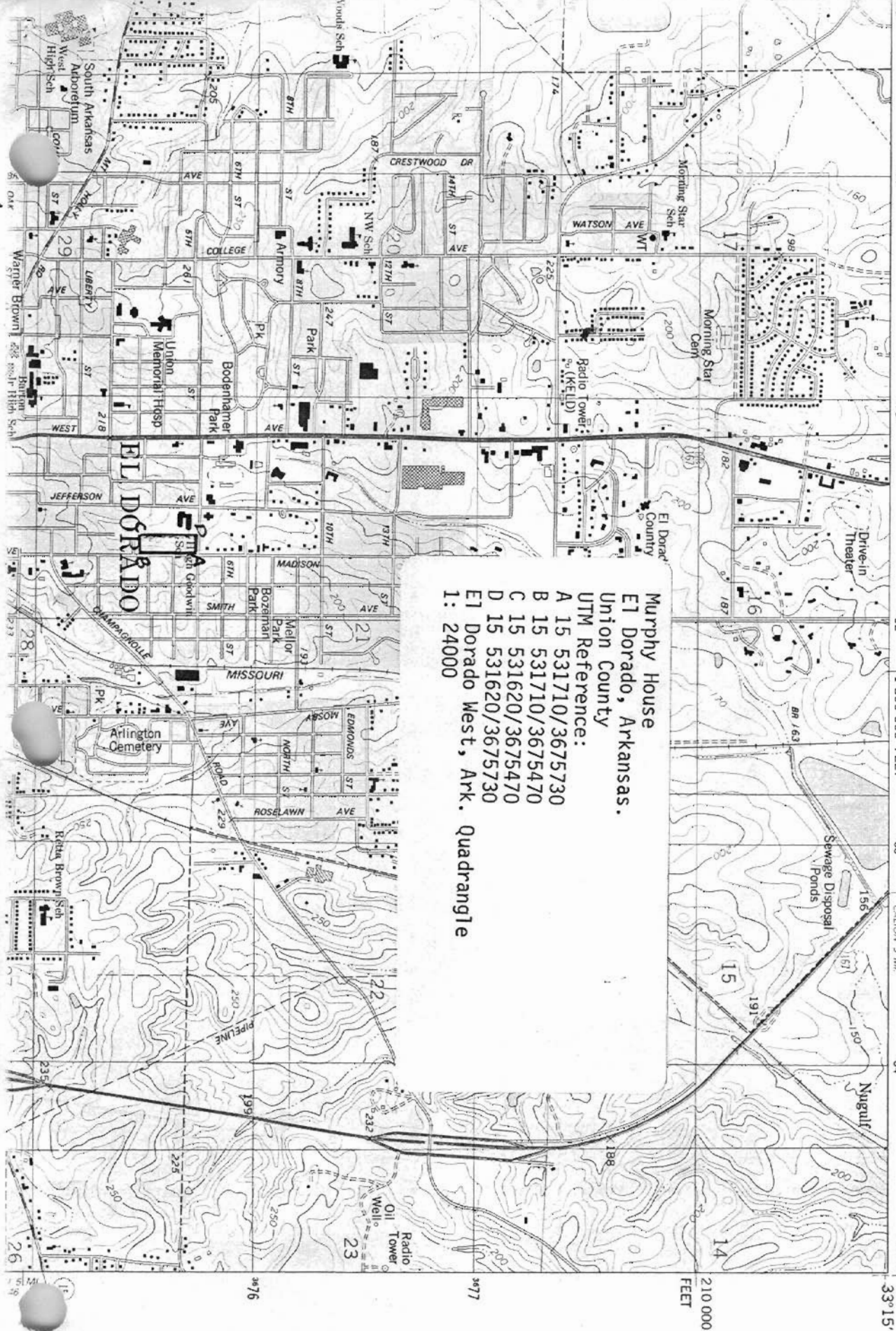












Murphy House
 El Dorado, Arkansas.
 Union County
 UTM Reference:
 A 15 531710/3675730
 B 15 531710/3675470
 C 15 531620/3675470
 D 15 531620/3675730
 E1 Dorado West, Ark. Quadrangle
 1: 24000

EL DORADO WEST QUADRANGLE
 ARKANSAS-UNION CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 NW/4 EL DORADO 15' QUADRANGLE

330 40' 332 1 800 000 FEET 333 334 92°37'30" 33°15'

7480' SE (CALION)

210 000 FEET

3676

3677

202 195 180 175 170 165 160 155 150 145 140 135 130 125 120 115 110 105 100 95 90 85 80 75 70 65 60 55 50 45 40 35 30 25 20 15 10 5 0