

12-01-83

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

UN0151  
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received  
date entered

## 1. Name

historic El Dorado Apartments

and/or common Wilson Place

## 2. Location

street & number 420 Wilson Place N/A not for publication

city, town El Dorado N/A vicinity of

state Arkansas code 05 county Union code 139

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input 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
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: apartments

## 4. Owner of Property

name Jo Ellen Callaway Hogg and Amy Callaway Kassos

street & number 520 East Eighth Street

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 Union Square—corner of Washington and Main Street

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 N/A  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

## 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

Designed by Cheshire Peyton, the El Dorado Apartments is a rectangular two-story twenty-four unit efficiency apartment building, constructed in 1926 as a direct result of the El Dorado oil boom. Built of red brick with inlaid limestone detailing, the flat-roofed symmetrical building is embellished with an elaborate cornice.

### ELABORATION

The El Dorado Apartments, built in 1926 by James Saye Smith, has a rectangular plan and symmetrical elevations. Constructed with a concrete foundation, the brick building has limestone sills and limestone squares inlaid with brick, creating a regular decorative pattern between fenestrations. Doors and windows are decorated with surrounds of stretchers with stone corner blocks. Throughout the building, windows are six-over-six double-hung. The two-story structure has a flat roof and a dentilled cornice with block modillions and paired brackets. The corona is detailed with a diamond pattern. The front elevation has a center entrance, balanced by a pair of windows on either side. The ten remaining fenestrations consist of three windows grouped together. A projecting flat-roofed canopy, that appears to be suspended by large iron chains from the mouths of two limestone lion heads, protects the entry. A plaque inscribed with the building's name is centered above. Glass wall-hung light fixtures flank the front door which is balanced by five-light sidelights. With the exception of the entrance details, the rear elevation is identical to the front. The rear entrance has a six-light transom, with a four-light moveable center sash. Side elevations have entrances identical to the rear, with a window configuration of single and paired windows.

The interior has a central corridor and two stairways on each floor. The second corridor is illuminated by a skylight. Each of the twenty-four apartments has two doors, one louvered and one solid paneled. Small two feet by three feet paneled doors in the hallways open into the rear upper chamber of built-in iceboxes in each apartment, thus allowing for the delivery of ice without disturbing the residents. Floors throughout are hardwood. Originally advertised as "ultra modern luxurious accommodations", each apartment consists of a large closet, kitchen with built-in cabinets, a living room with a Murphy bed and a bathroom.

## 8. Significance

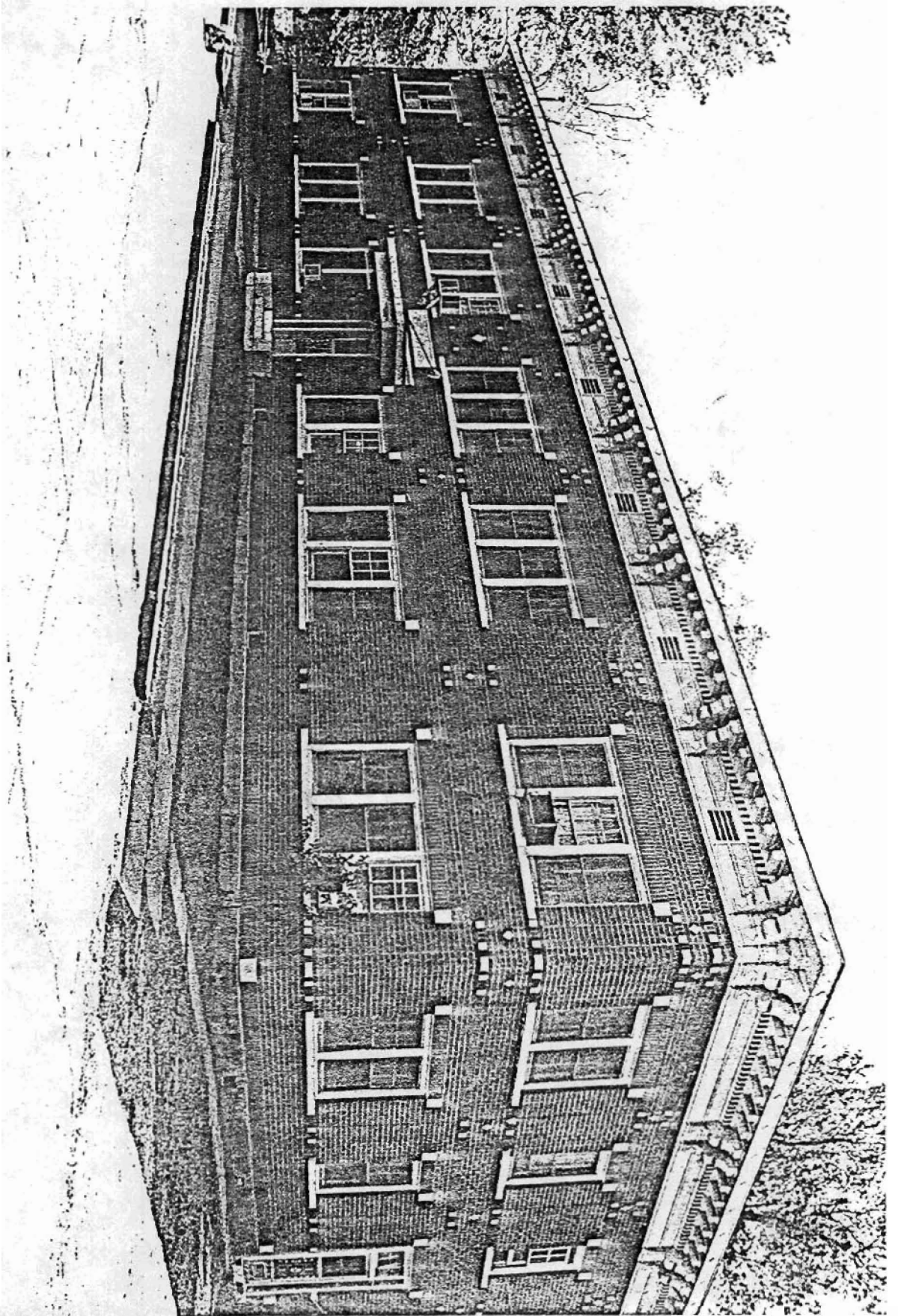
Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<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 checked="" 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 1926

Builder/Architect James Saye Smith/Cheshir Peyton

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1926 by James Saye Smith, the El Dorado Apartments building is a distinct reflection of the various support structures which appeared in this small southern Arkansas town following the discovery of oil in 1921. Early housing during the boom was makeshift at best consisting of shotgun houses, tents and rapidly thrown together boarding houses. However, by 1926, the oil business had stabilized and the city was beginning to take on the characteristics of a wealthy town. The streets were paved, there was a country club and entertainment center. Recognizing that many of those who had made their wealth in oil were somewhat transient in nature (moving from town to town and state to state to check on their various interests), Smith's firm, the Smith Real Estate Company, decided to construct an apartment building which would provide the luxurious accommodations these businessmen could well afford. Smith had been in the construction business in Dallas, Texas, and Shreveport, Louisiana, before coming to El Dorado. During that time he had become acquainted with the work of Cheshire Peyton, an architect from Louisiana. Peyton's work includes Rotary Hall at Centenary College in Shreveport as well as other buildings scattered throughout small towns in Louisiana and Texas. For Smith, Peyton designed a two-story, red brick, rectangular building with inlaid limestone detailing and consisting of twenty-four efficiency apartments. When it opened in 1926, it was hailed by the El Dorado Daily News as providing "ultra-modern luxurious accommodations" which included daily maid service, two janitors, and ice delivered twice daily. The first tenants in the El Dorado Apartments building were Smith and his wife Hazel. Smith also used one of the apartments as an office for his construction business. Most of the early tenants were involved in various aspects of the oil business. They included geologists, oil lease brokers, petroleum engineers, and oil field construction contractors. James G. Hunt of the influential H. L. Hunt family was also a tenant. Smith was forced to mortgage the apartments in 1928 at which time Jesse Henry Callaway acquired it. Callaway had left his grocery business in El Dorado in 1921 after learning of the discovery of oil at the Bussey #1 site. By buying, selling, and trading land, minerals and royalties, he was able to become quite successful. His business interests, including the El Dorado Apartments, are still held by members of his family. The El Dorado Apartments building is a solid, substantial structure which was built to respond to the needs of a group of citizens who were eager for such quality and permanence in their lives.



## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name El Dorado West, AR

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

Zone	Easting						Northing							

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 3 of block 63 and Lot 4 of block 61 of Wilson Place of the city of El Dorado, Union County, Arkansas

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jo Callaway Hogg (owner) and Wayne Trull (Architect) Edited by staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

organization N/A

date November 4, 1983

street & number 520 East 8th Street

telephone (501) 862-2530

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

*Wilson Stiles*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 4, 1983

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet

Item number 9

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet

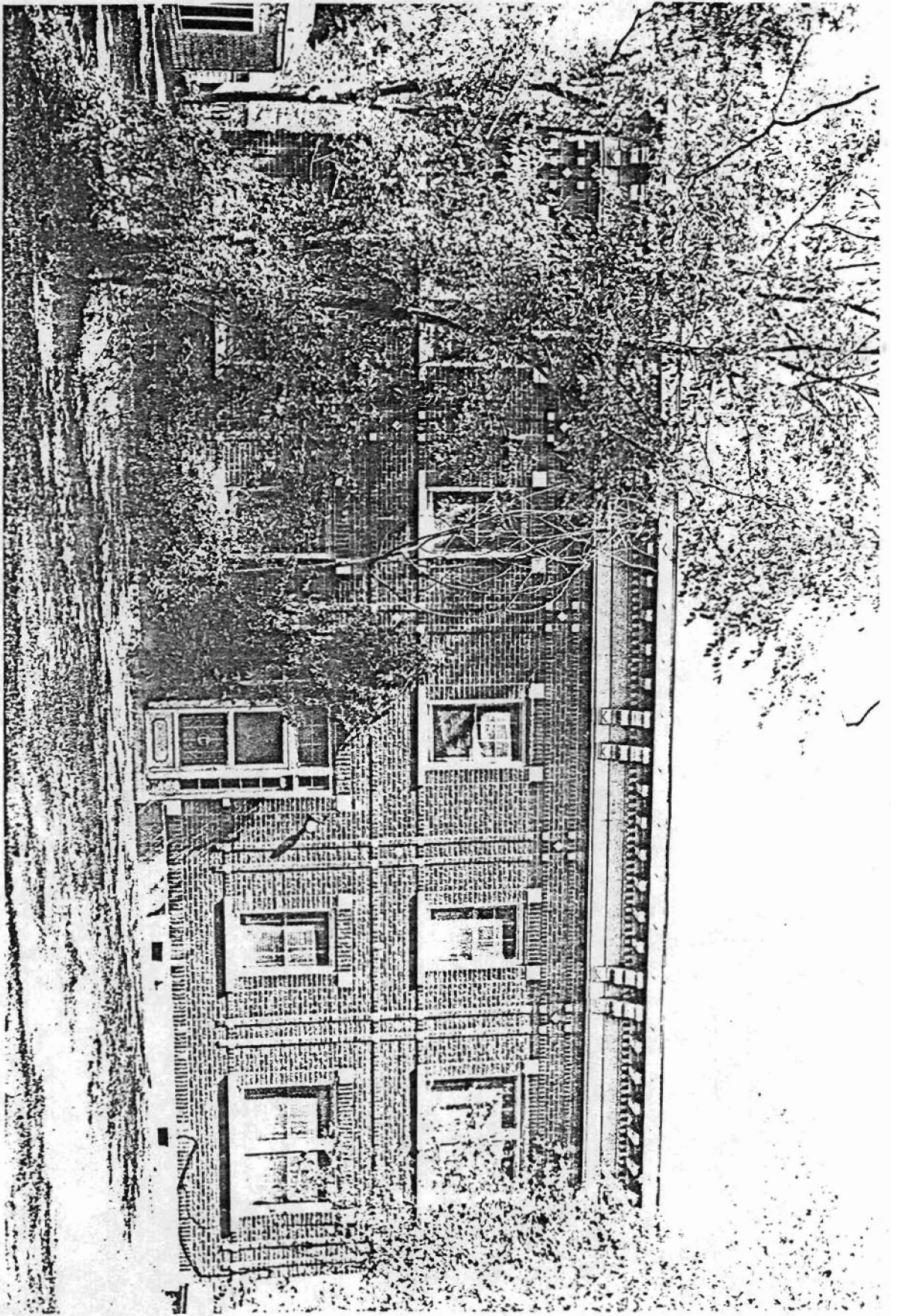
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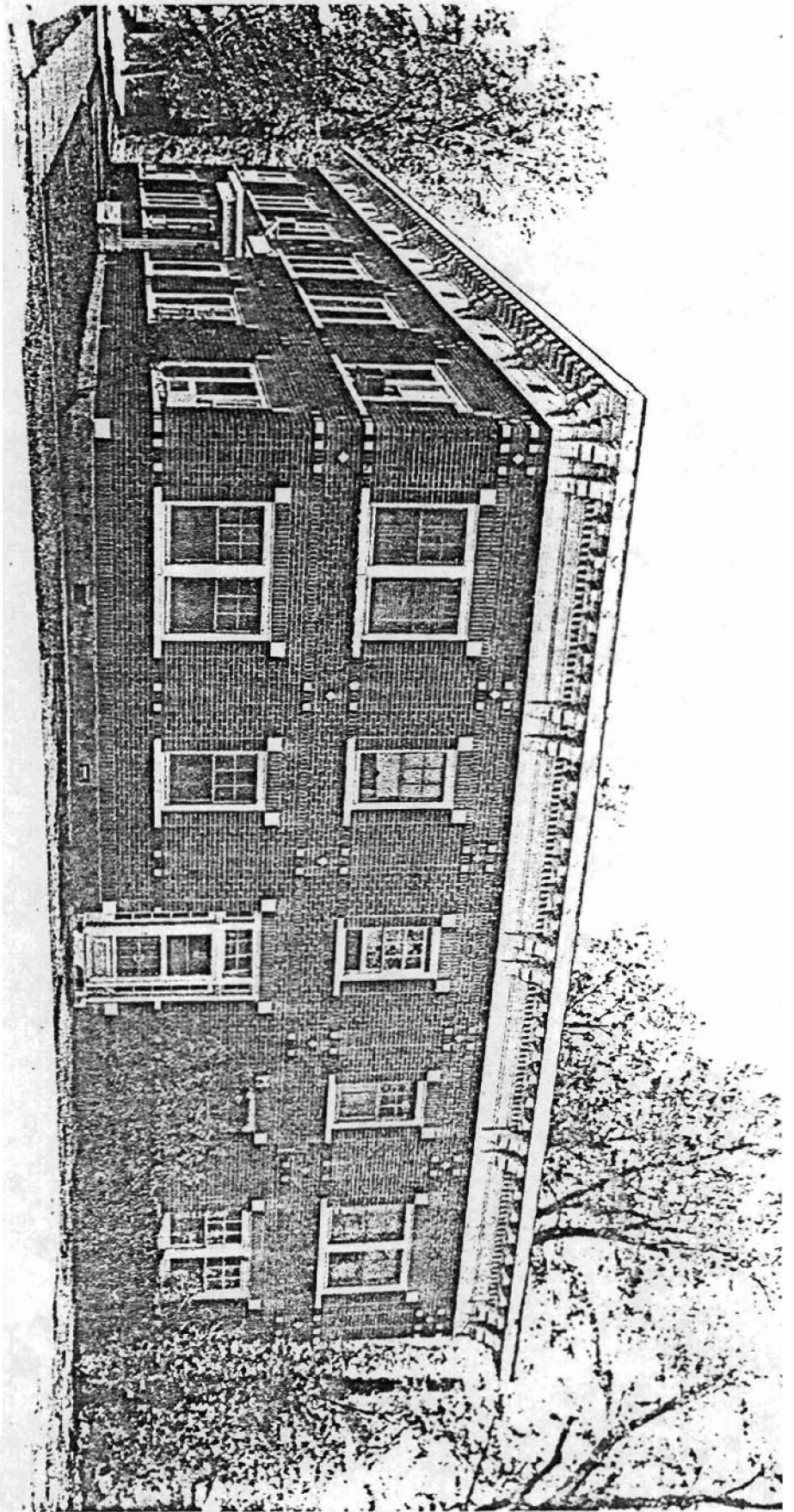
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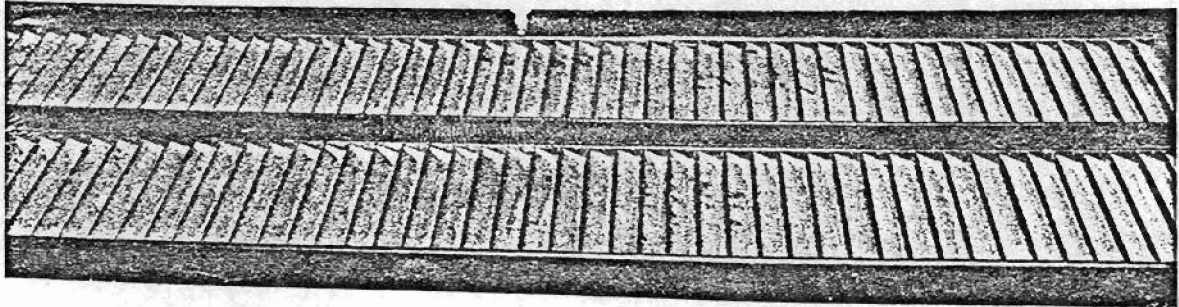
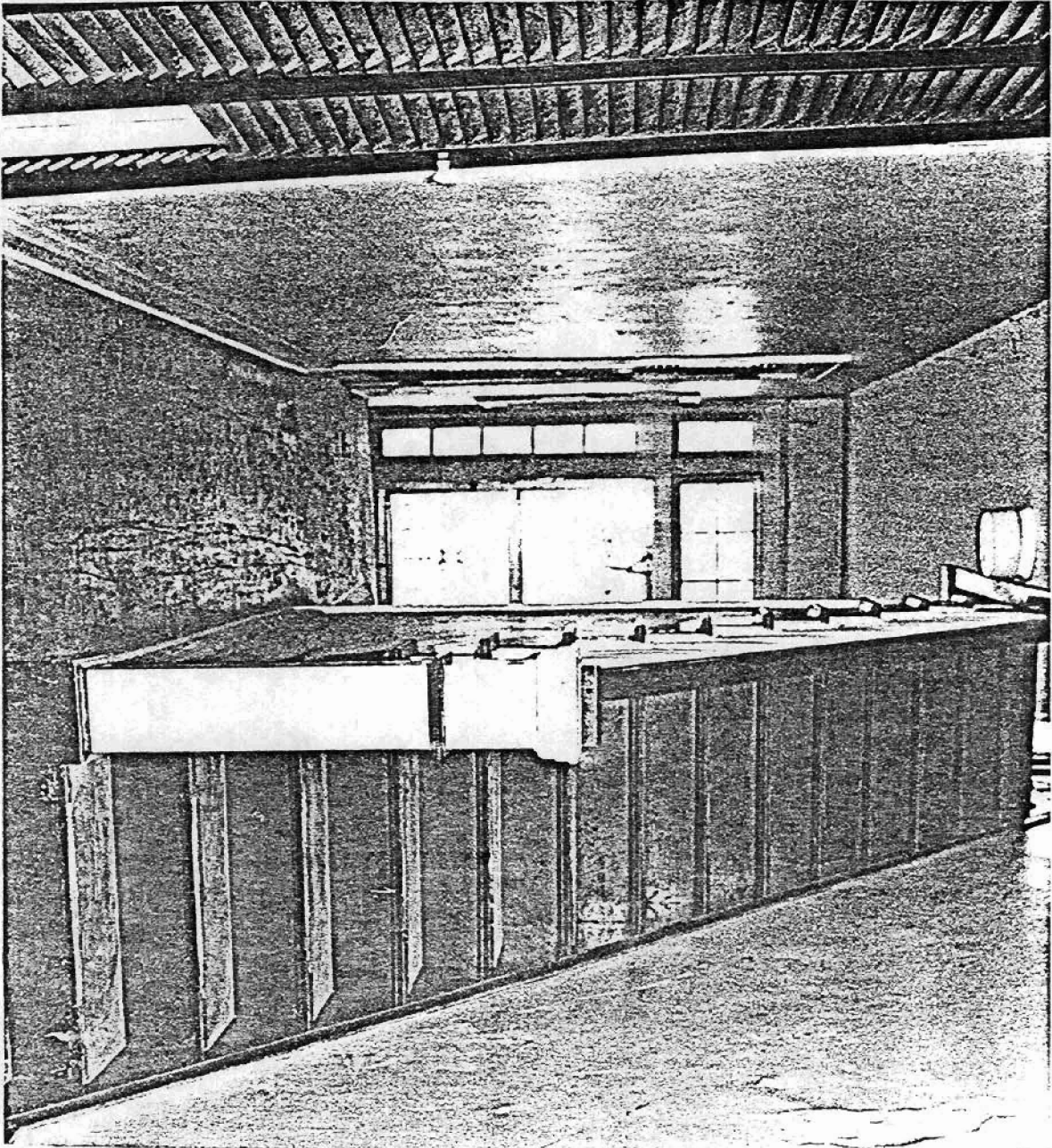
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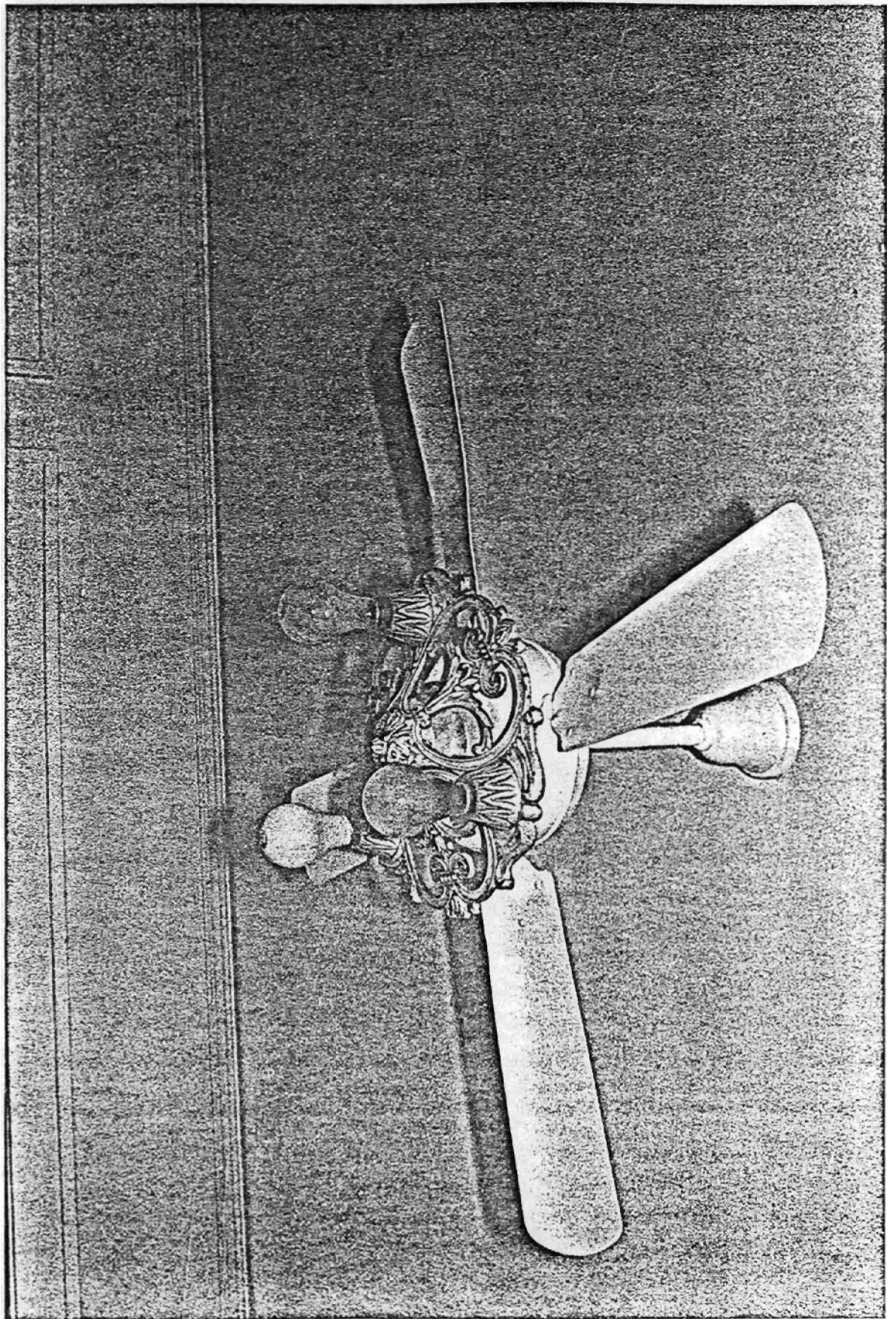
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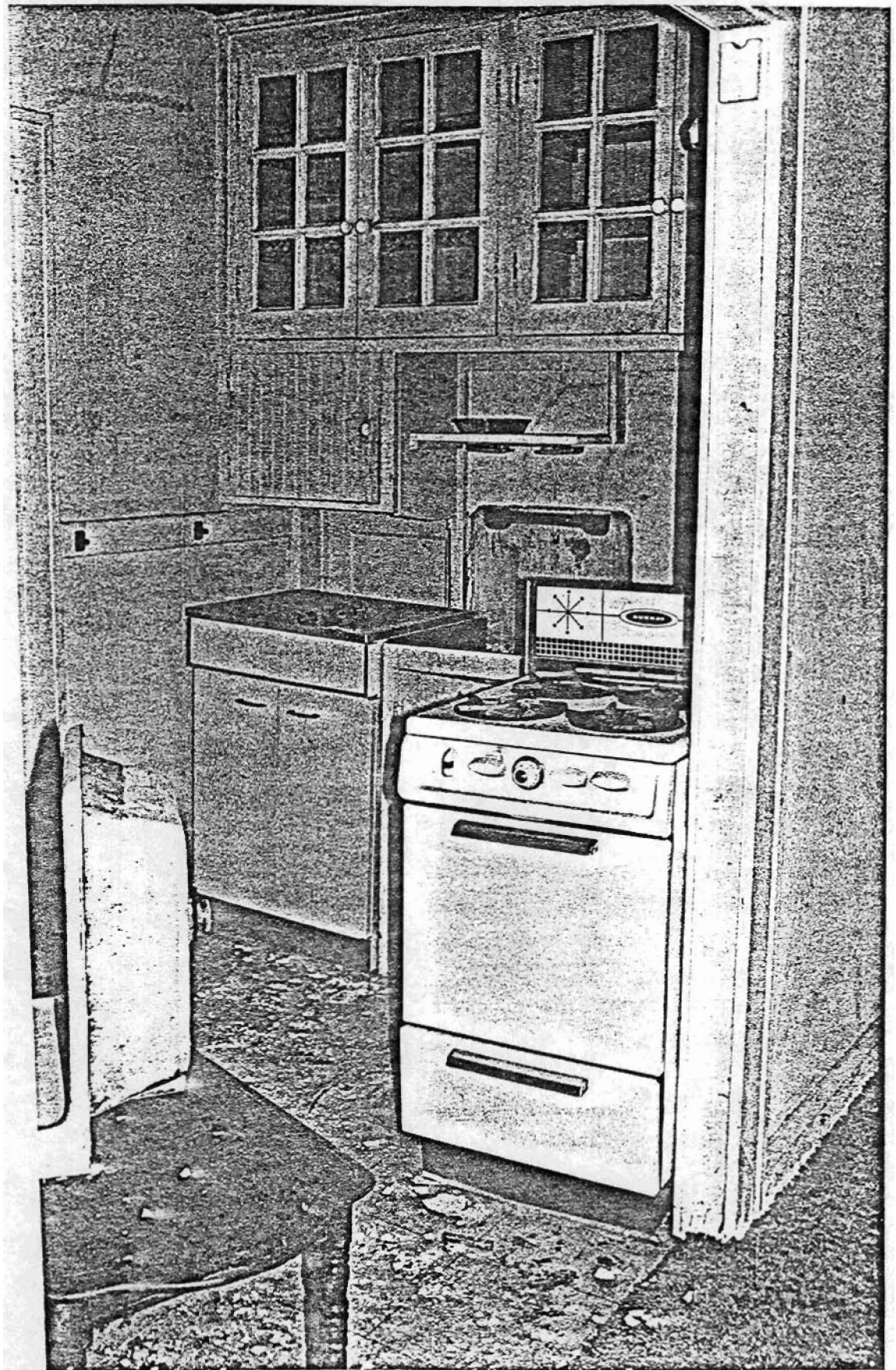


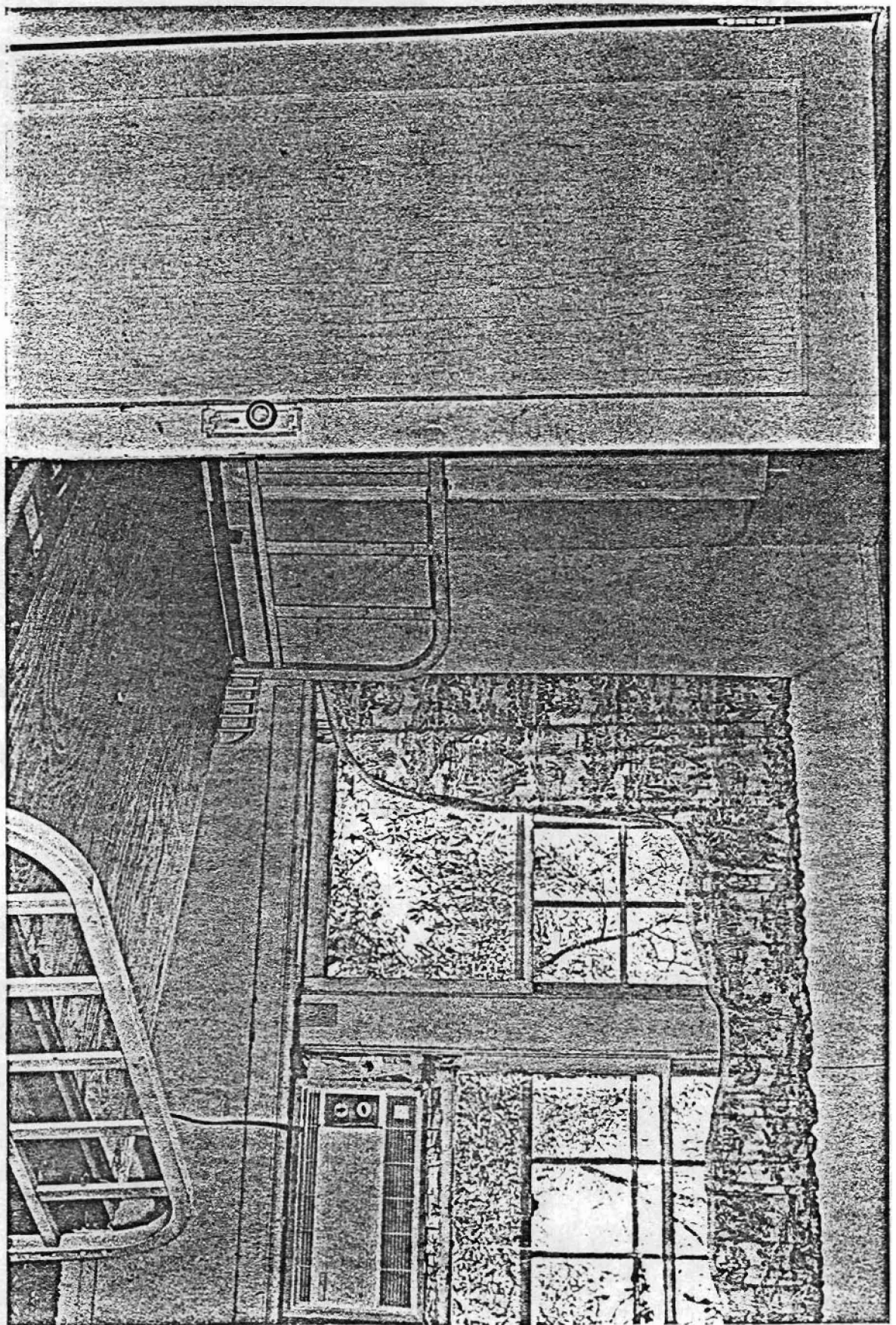








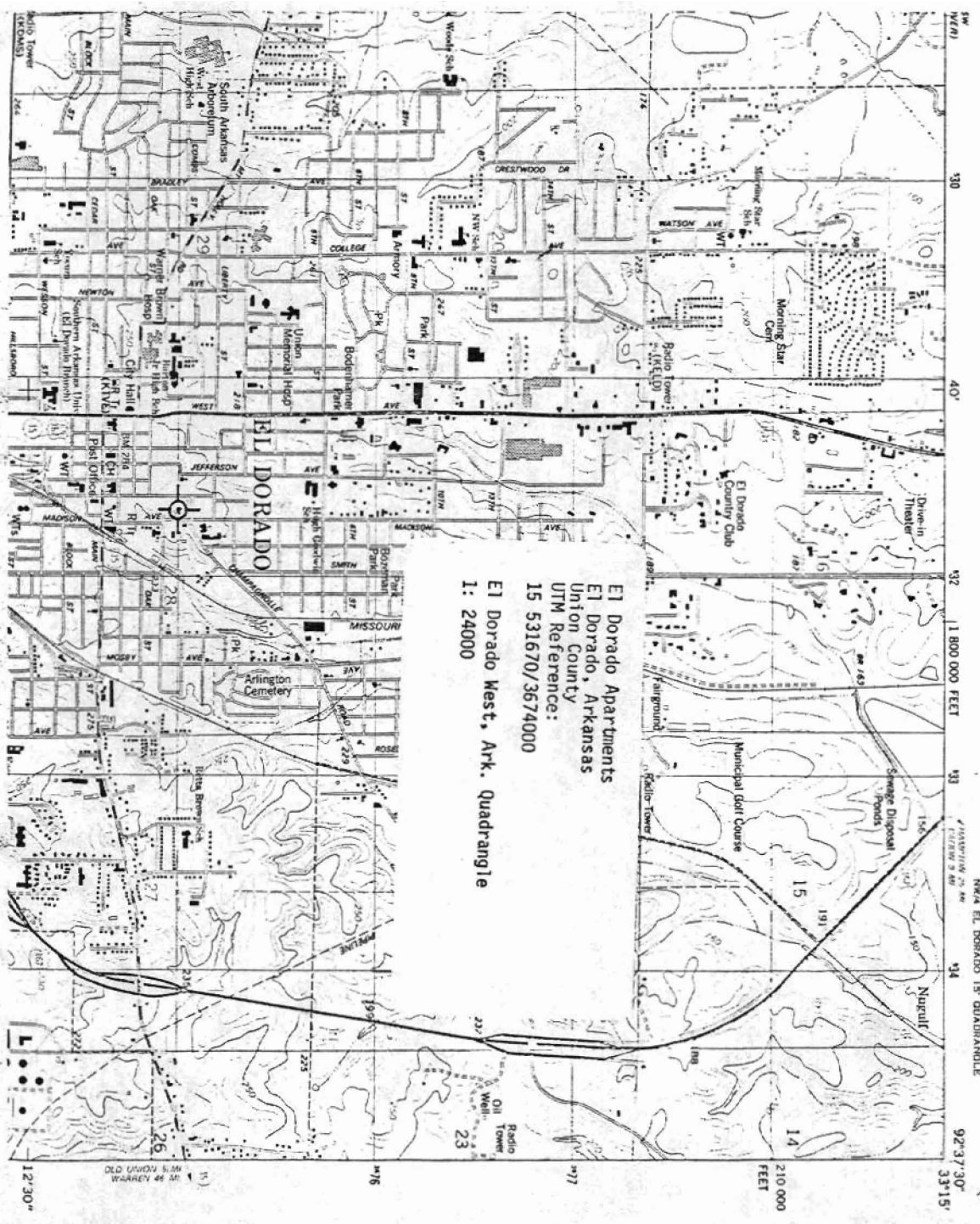




EL DORADO WEST QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS—UNION CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW1/4 EL DORADO 15' QUADRANGLE

120115  
(1000)



El Dorado Apartments  
El Dorado, Arkansas  
Union County  
UTM Reference:  
15 531670/3674000  
El Dorado West, Ark. Quadrangle  
1: 24000