L LISTED 5/28/92

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Mather Lodge

other name/site number: CN0057

2. Location

street & number: Petit Jean State Park Access Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Winrock vicinity: X

state: AR county: Conway code: AR 029 zip code: 72025

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 r
set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meet
____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. ____ See continuation sheet.

Cathy A Buford 4-6-92

Signature of certifying official 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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5. National Park Service Certification

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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 Keeper Date of Action

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6. Function or Use

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Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Outdoor recreation

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE Sub: Outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

N/A

Other Description: Rustic

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt
walls Stone other Wood log walls, supports and rafters

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period(s) of Significance: 1935-1942

Significant Dates: 1935-42; c. 1940

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps
Works Progress Administration
Cromwell, Truemper, Levy, Parker and Woodsmall

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.
X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

_X_ See continuation sheet.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X State historic preservation office
_ Other state agency
_ Federal agency
_ Local government
_ University
_ Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Approximately 2

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A 15 505620 3885850

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the western edge of the Petit Jean State Park access road formed by the intersection of said edge with a perpendicular line running parallel with Mather Lodge's northern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the north, proceed westerly along said line for a distance of 200 feet, to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with Mather Lodge's western elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the west; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of 400 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with Mather Lodge's southern elevation and located approximately 50 feet to the south; thence proceed easterly along said line for a distance of 200 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the eastern elevation of Mather Lodge and approximately 20 feet to the east thereof; thence proceed northerly along said line for a distance of 400 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This boundary includes both the historic structure and a representative

amount of the surrounding property historically-associated with the recreational activities for which this structure was constructed.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: March 3, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

Mather Lodge c. 1935

Mather Lodge is a large, single-story, stone masonry and log construction recreational building designed in the Rustic style common to CCC-constructed buildings. It has been augmented with two significant additions: a sympathetic WPA-built stone masonry and wood log addition attached to the western end of the southern "T" of the original CCC structure, and a sympathetic though non-historic (c. 1960) restaurant section attached to the northern end of the western elevation.

The original CCC-constructed building is organized into an irregular plan. A rectangular, gable roof stone masonry meeting room area with an exterior stone chimney rising through the gable peak at its eastern end is placed at the southern end of the elevation and set perpendicular to another rectangular, gable roof log meeting room area to the north. This "T"-shaped section is in turn connected to the main visitor greeting area and function rooms to the north by an open, gable roof porch, supported upon massive, unhewn log supports and that is itself laid out in a shallow "V." The northern end of the porch is attached to a shallow, gable roof entrance vestibule and visitor greeting area that leads into the large sitting room directly to the north, which is covered with a gable roof set perpendicular to the building's other gable roof components and heated by its two massive stone masonry chimneys at either end. The gable roof rooms at the northern end of the building are constructed of log, and consist of an original set of rooms that are terminated by the large stone chimney. A sympathetic wood frame addition attached to the north of the chimney completes the gable roof sections of the structure.

The building is fenestrated throughout with both six-over-six and eight-over-eight wood sash windows (with the sole exception of the restaurant addition, which is lit with large, single-pane windows that provide views of the surrounding mountains). Significant exterior details are limited to the more architectonic ornamentation typical of Civilian Conservation Corps construction. Such features as the large, unhewn log supports and exposed rafters, the sloping, three-dimensional rubble stone masonry employed for foundations, chimneys and walls, and the exposed, unhewn horizontal logs with their saddle-notched ends increasing in length toward the ground provide the principal exterior ornament. However, it is important to note that such CCC-constructed furniture and utilities as rough-hewn wood benches and cylindrical wood "lanterns" remain intact in most cases.

The interior of the building throughout -- including both major additions -- retains either the original exposed log walls and vertical supports, bouldered chimneys and other typical CCC-designed features or later construction that is visually reflective and respectful of the Rustic style typical of the CCC. Few significant alterations to the original interior have occurred.

The WPA-constructed addition attached to the western end of the southern "T" (c. 1940) is designed in a very sympathetic manner relative to the CCC construction, as it consists of a gable roof that continues the direction and pitch of the gable roof section to which it is attached, and horizontal log walls and a continuous stone foundation that largely match the original construction. The restaurant addition at the northwest corner, though of wood frame construction and covered with a gable-on-hip roof, is sheathed with wood stained a dark color to match that of the original log construction, and supported by stone piers.

The land that would comprise Petit Jean State Park was donated to the State of Arkansas in the mid-1920's by individual landowners and sympathetic lumbering concerns as the first step in the formation of a state parks system. The top of Petit Jean Mountain had already been recognized for its scenic splendor, and for its geological wealth and diversity, and so seemed a particularly worthy site. The initial plan of these citizens was to turn the entire site over to the federal government for the establishment of a national park; however, after considerable study, National Park Service officials determined that Petit Jean Mountain was not a unique natural resource when evaluated on a national basis, and thus declined to assume ownership. Yet these same officials strongly encouraged the state to preserve and maintain the site as an important representation of Arkansas's natural heritage, and in 1923, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 276 authorizing the Commissioner of State Lands to accept land donations for state parks and reservations. Thus began the Arkansas State Parks system, with Petit Jean State Park as its flagship.

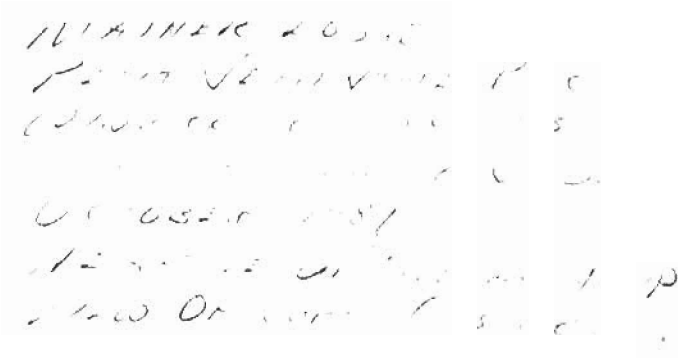
Mather Lodge was constructed c. 1935 at Petit Jean State Park by the men of the 1781st Company of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Arkansas District, stationed at Morrilton, Arkansas as an administrative building and visitors center to be used by the park's staff for the management and administration of the park, and by visitors as a meeting and social center. This facility was constructed by the CCC as part of the overall plan to develop this part of the mountain as a public park to be administered by the state of Arkansas.

The historic addition to the building was constructed c. 1940 by laborers working under the supervision of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the high level of unemployment that resulted brought about the creation of such federal public works programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA -- an organization that hired unemployed adult men and women to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The WPA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); others included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum Bayou. Additions and repairs to existing public structures provided a significant amount of work for WPA laborers in Arkansas, in addition to their even more considerable amount of new construction throughout the state,

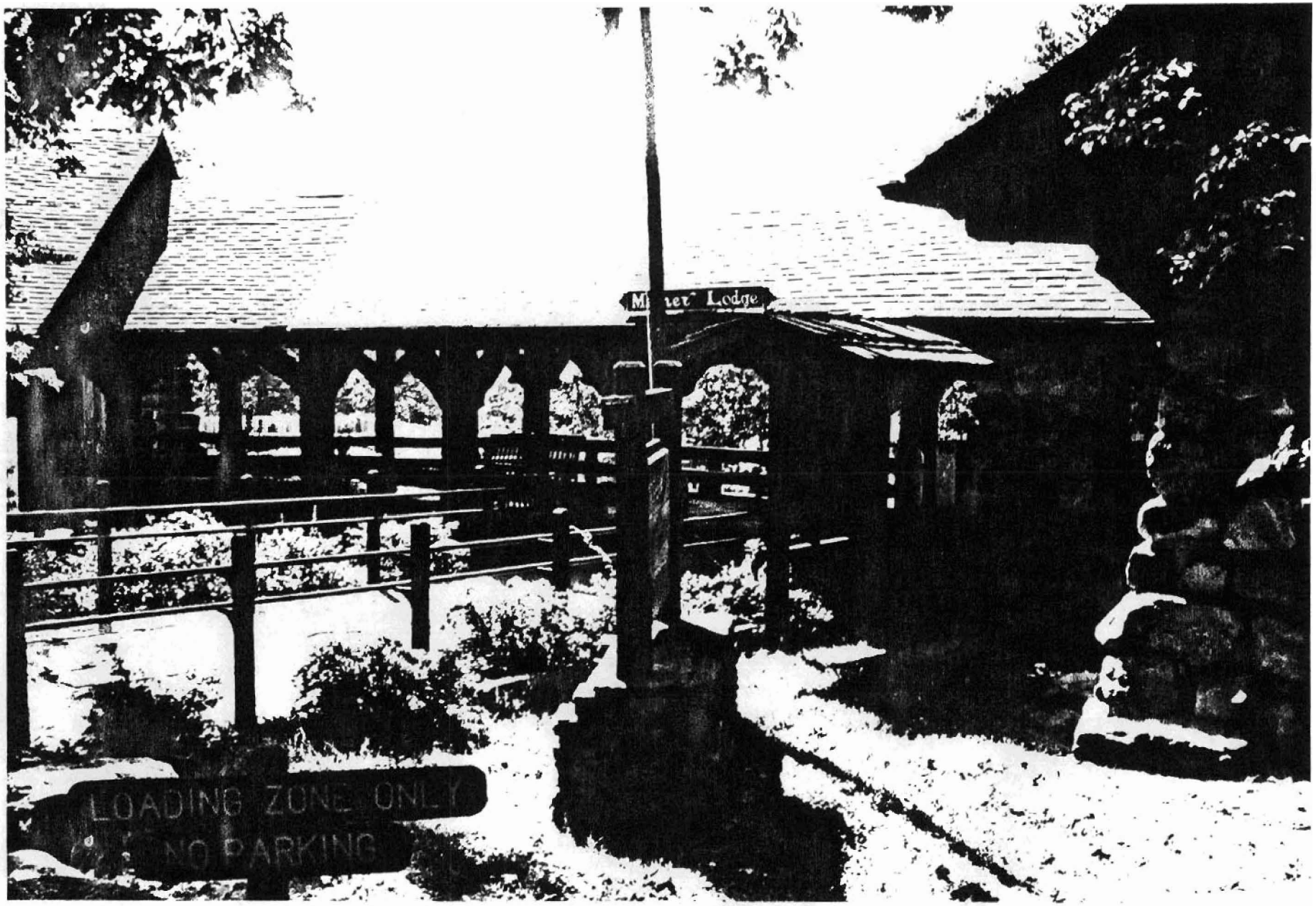
particularly in the area of public schools. The heavy demand as of 1940 on the facilities at Petit Jean required the construction of this addition, and the WPA laborers executed this design in an aesthetically-sympathetic manner.

This original portion of this building was erected at Petit Jean State Park by the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps for the purpose of providing office space for park staff and social space for park visitors, and was intended to serve the visitors of the park as a reception/administration area and social center. Thus Mather Lodge is eligible under Criterion A for its associations with both the Civilian Conservation Corps' importance within Arkansas social history and its role in the development of outdoor parks dedicated to public leisure and recreational activities. It is also eligible under Criterion C due to its status as a representative and intact example of the Rustic style of architecture that was made popular nationwide by the CCC, and which has since become virtually identified with it.

See "Recreational Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942," Section H.



FROM WEST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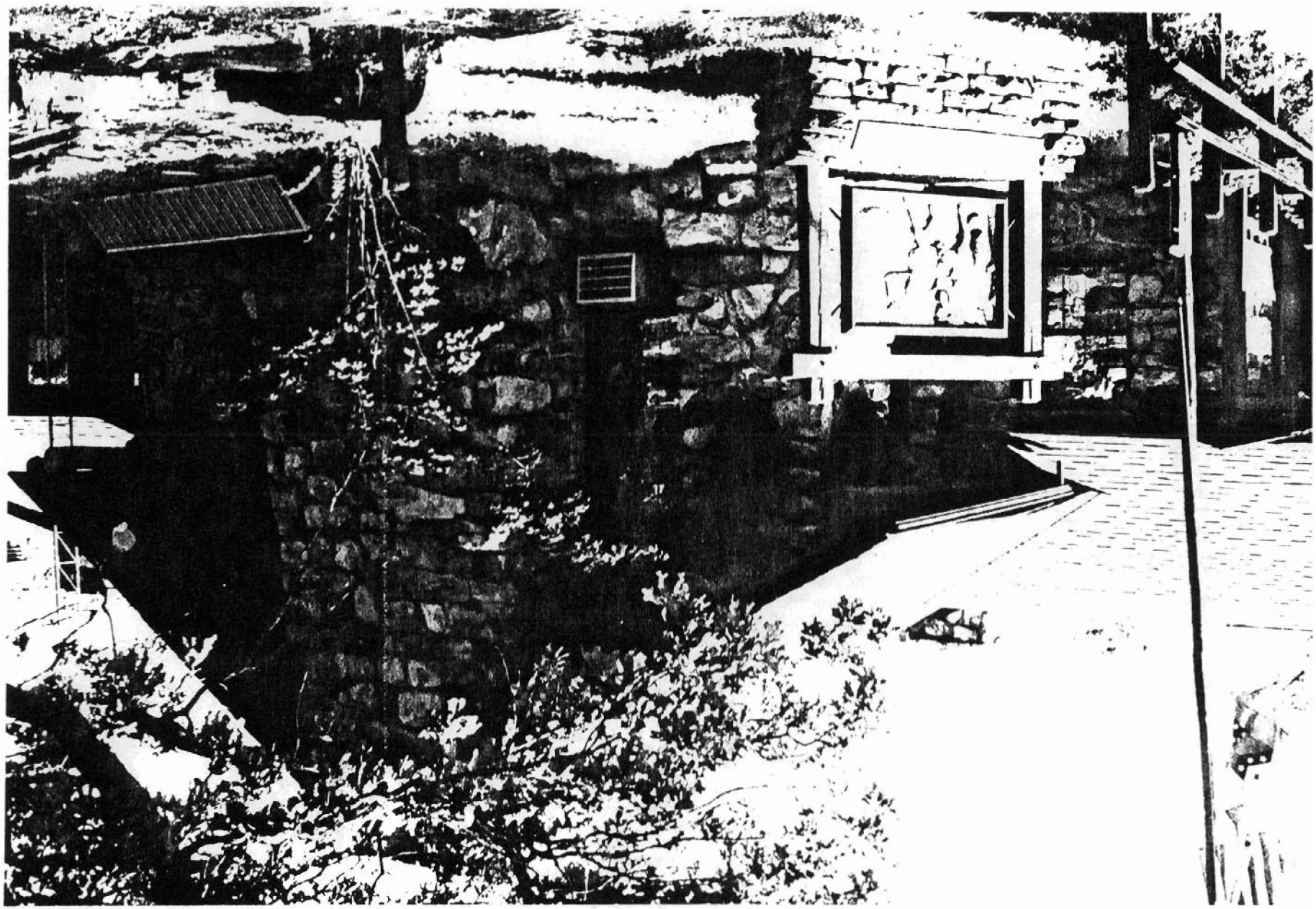
VIEW OF OPEN PARK [illegible] EAST



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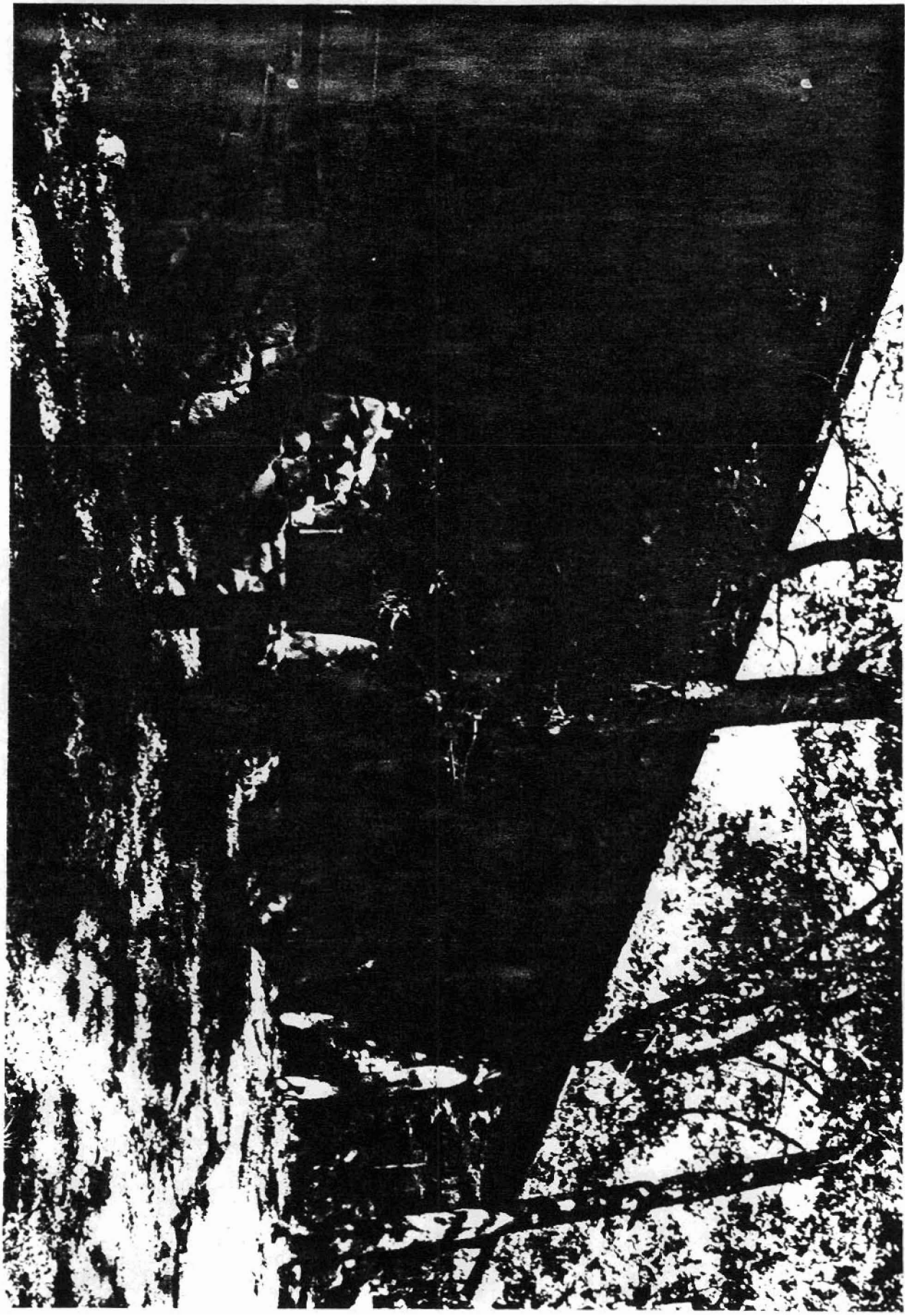
VIEW OF CENTRAL GABLE AND EAST



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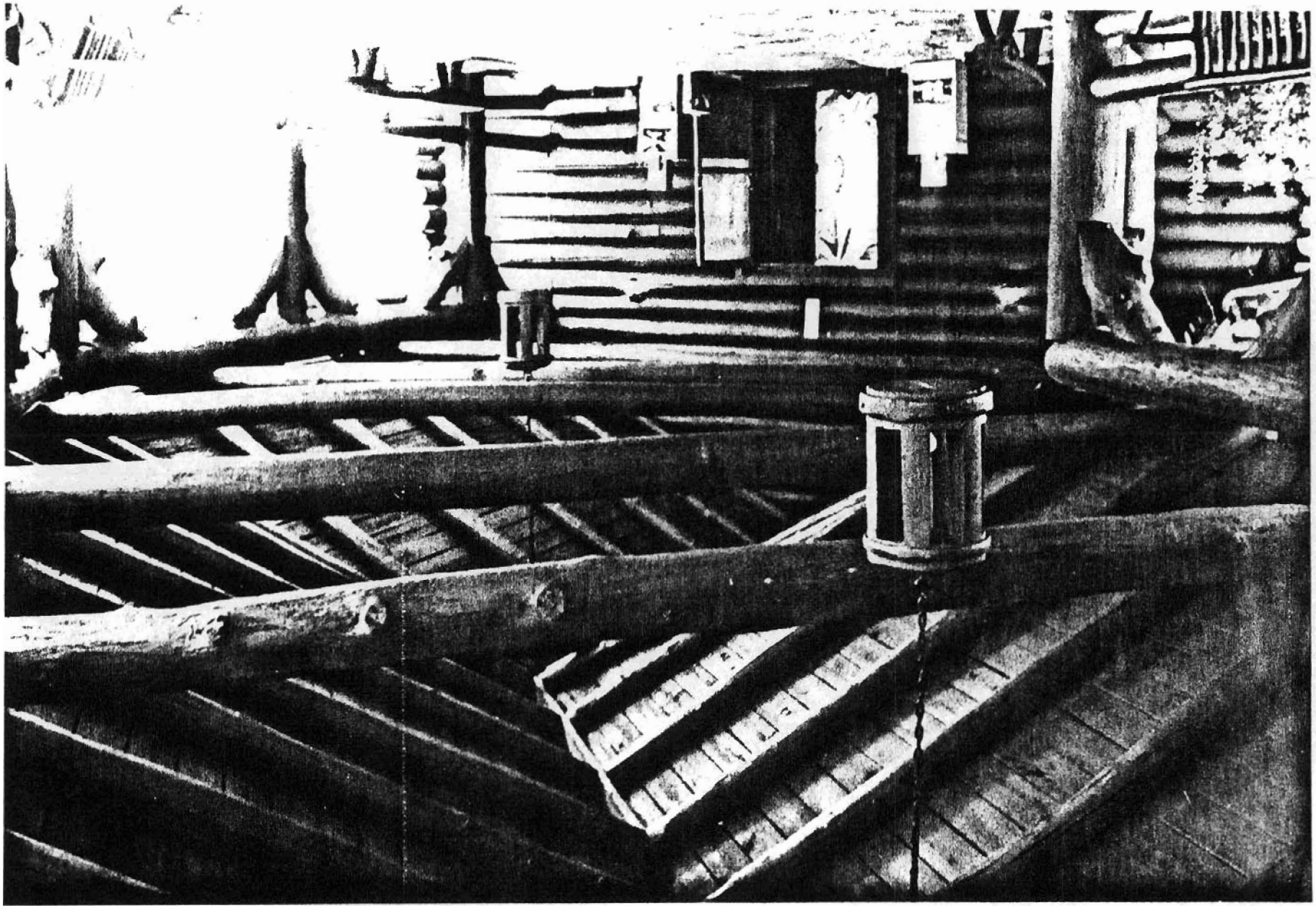
View of [illegible] on the [illegible] st


NO PARKING
Cedar Falls Trail



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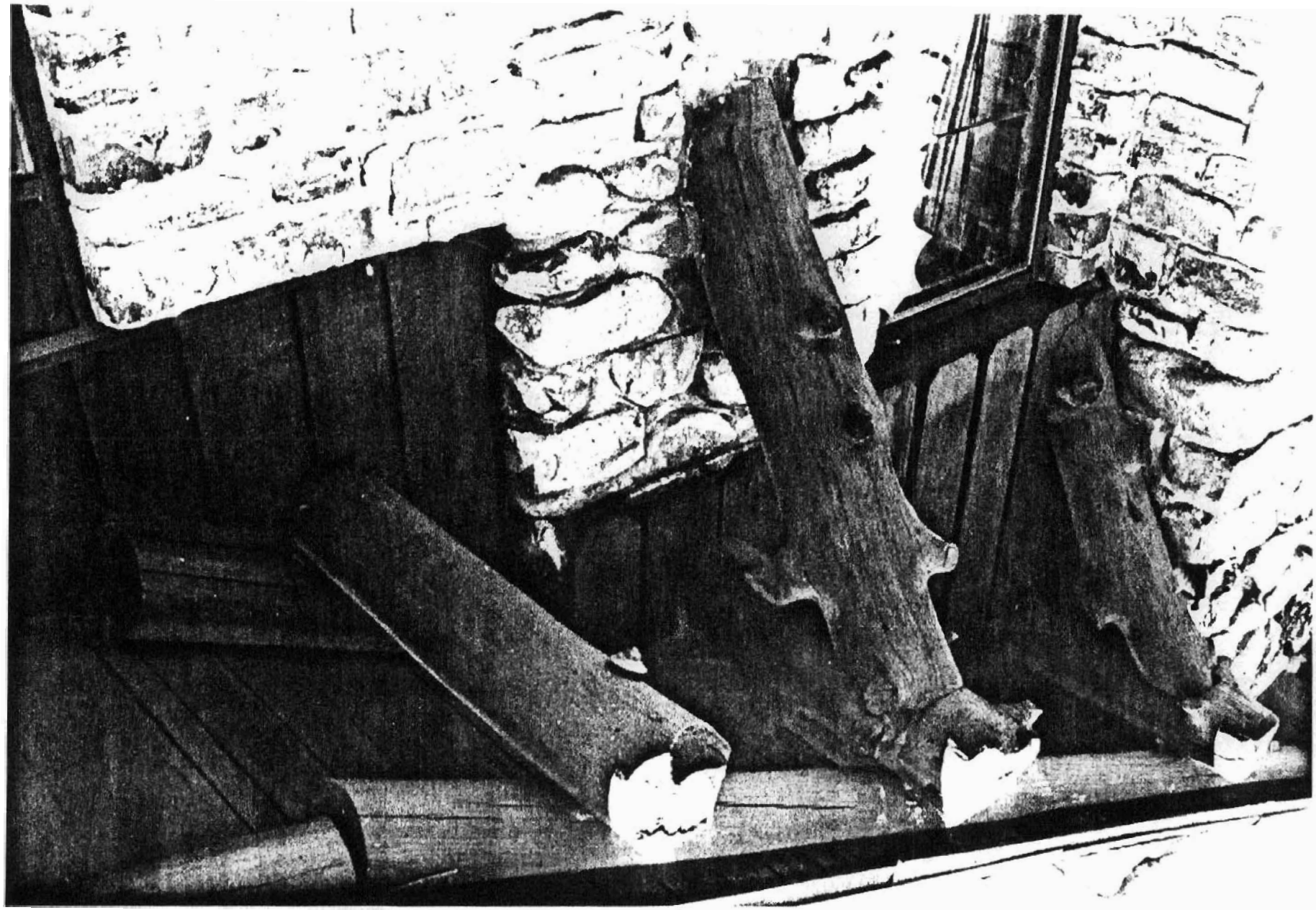

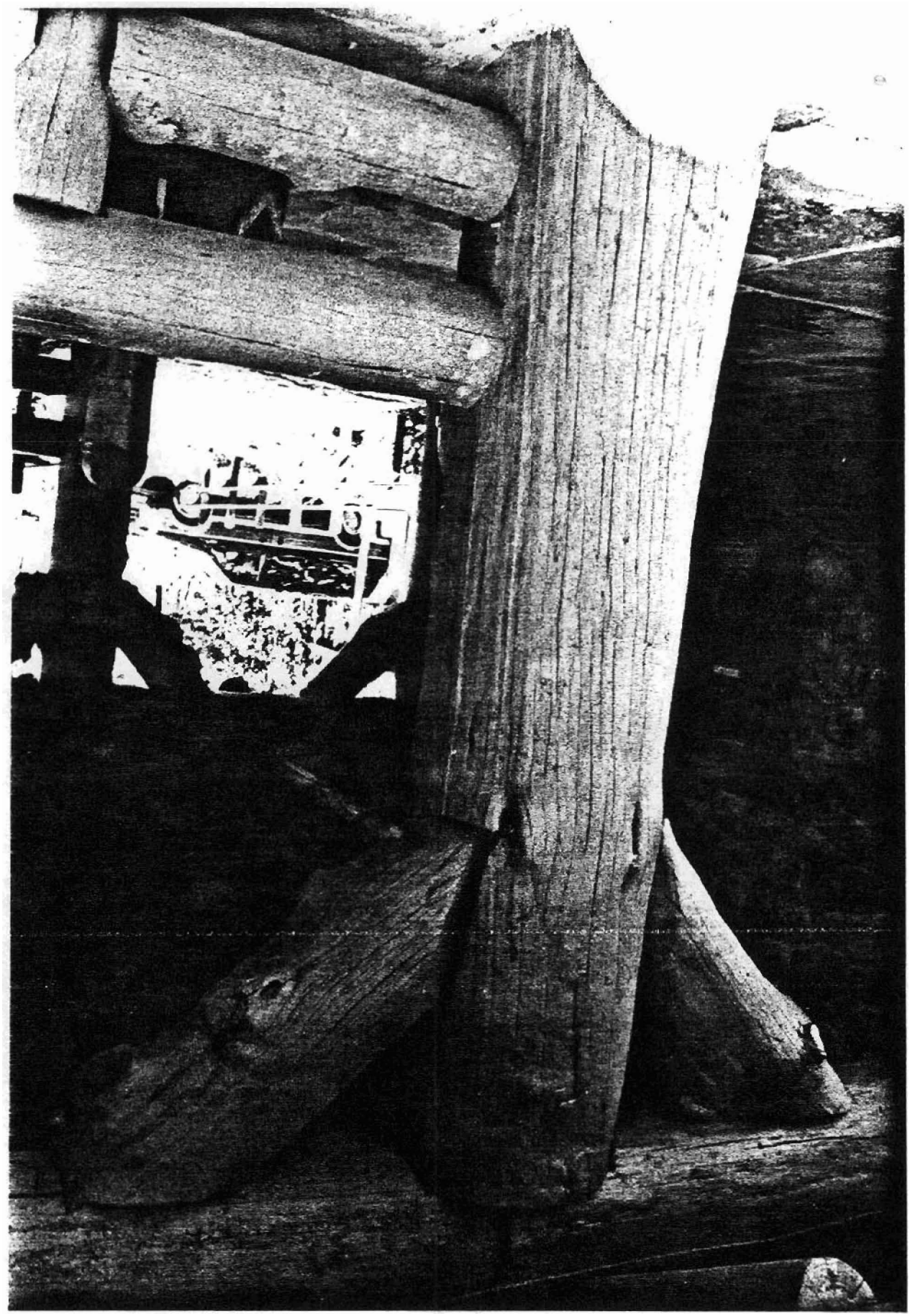

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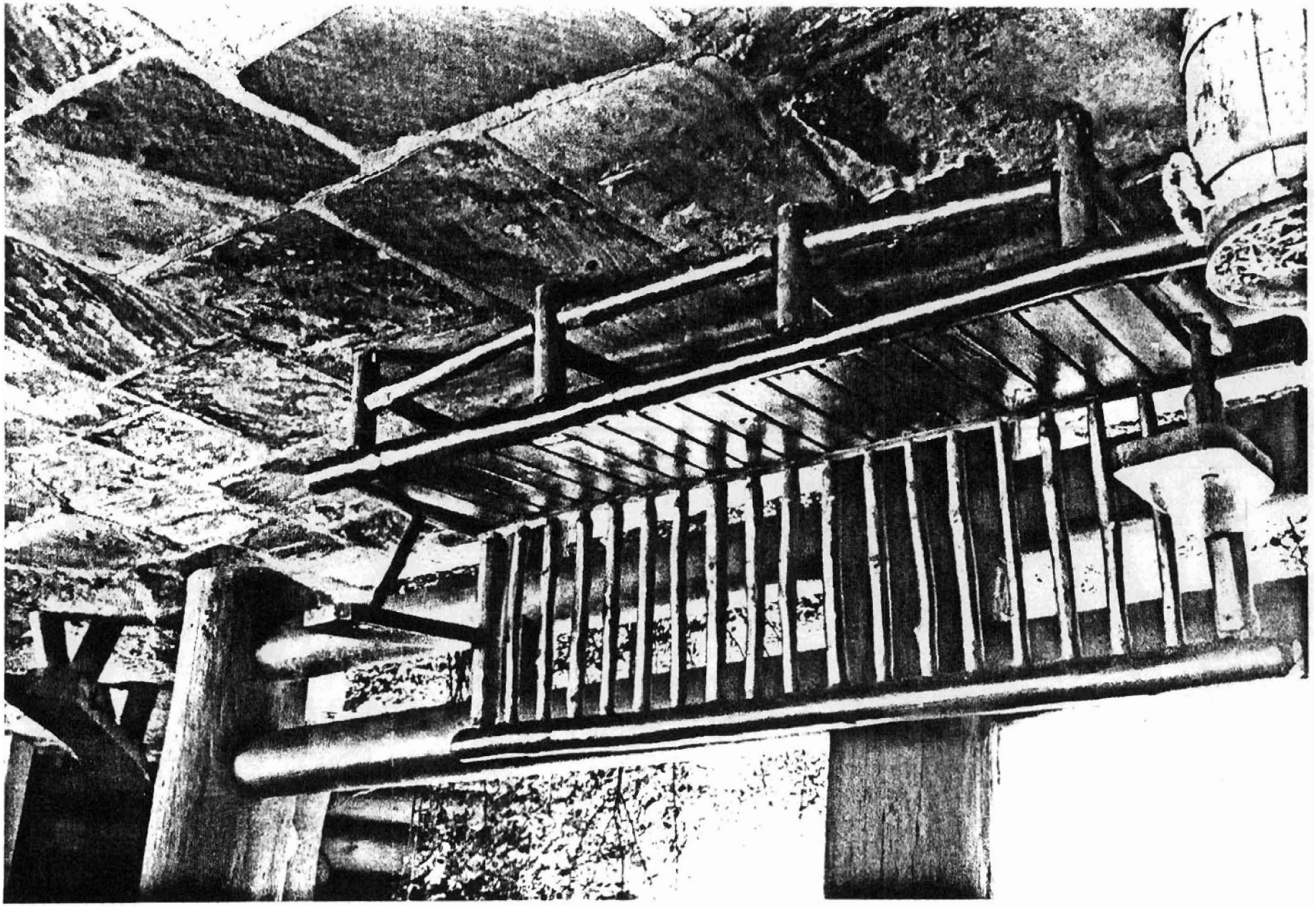

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