

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NR LISTED

JUN 15 1998

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

1. Name of Property

Historic Name: Block, Isaac, House

Other Name/Site Number: Wittsburg House (CS0035)

2. Location

Street & Number: 404 E. Hamilton Street

Not for Publication: N/A

City/Town: Wynne

Vicinity: N/A

State: AR County: Cross Code: AR037 Zip Code: 72396

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

| Contributing | Noncontributing      |
|--------------|----------------------|
| <u>1</u>     | <u>1</u> buildings   |
| <u>  </u>    | <u>  </u> sites      |
| <u>  </u>    | <u>  </u> structures |
| <u>  </u>    | <u>1</u> objects     |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>2</u> Total       |

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

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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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 requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Slater  
Signature of certifying official

6-12-98  
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: | <u>DOMESTIC</u> | Sub: | <u>single dwelling</u>   |
|           | <u>DOMESTIC</u> |      | <u>multiple dwelling</u> |
| Current : | <u>DOMESTIC</u> | Sub: | <u>single dwelling</u>   |
|           |                 |      |                          |

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

Queen Anne

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation BRICK roof ASPHALT  
walls WOOD: weatherboard other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

Summary

Located at 404 East Hamilton Avenue in Wynne, the Isaac Block House was originally constructed in Wittsburg around 1885. In the early 1900s, the house was divided into sections and moved from its residential neighborhood in Wittsburg to its present location. The journey of approximately seven miles was completed with the help of mule teams, log wheels and oversized wagons.

The exterior of this simple, one-and-one-half story Queen Anne-styled cottage contains relatively few decorative features. The only overtly decorative elements on the exterior are the front gable, a narrow dormer, and a small wraparound porch. The Tuscan columns on wood piers that support the wraparound porch date to the c. 1900 relocation of the residence. Also dating to the relocation is a rear gable addition. The Wittsburg House is currently being re-roofed with architectural grade composition shingles. A modern carport and a dog pen surrounded by a chain-link fence are both located on the property, but are non-contributing to the nomination.

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## **laboration**

The Wittsburg House is a one-and-one-half story, frame house designed in the Queen Anne style. The asymmetrical massing of the front elevation disguises a central-hall plan. The house rests on a continuous brick foundation and is covered by a gable-on-hip roof with a front-facing cross gable. The northern, or rear, elevation contains a historic gable-roofed ell addition and a one-story gable-roofed pantry addition. Two historic fireplaces are located in the western parlor and the eastern parlor, while a modern brick fireplace is found in the eastern bedroom. Three other chimneys are found above the roof line on the gabled ell addition. These were connected to wood burning stoves that are no longer extant. The fenestration is composed of one-over-one windows, unless otherwise stated. Most of the house is clad in weatherboard. However, fishscale shingles, beaded board, and lattice work screens decorate the front-facing gable end, the dormer, and the small gables above the hipped roof.

The southern, or front, elevation is asymmetrically composed with a large bay projection on the west and a recessed wraparound porch to the east of the elevation. The first story of the bay projection is fenestrated with a pair of one-over-one, double-hung windows. The modest Queen Anne details within the pedimented gable include a triangular lattice work screen above the pair of stationary glass windows, fishscale shingles and a wide weatherboard. Beneath the wraparound porch are two wood doors with large single lights. These two doors are capped by transoms and covered by modern aluminum screen doors. The door set into the east side of the gable projection opens directly into the west parlor. The main front-facing entry opens into the central hallway. Also located beneath the porch beside front door are two windows, one of these is set into the rounded western corner. A tall gable with battered sides sits over the main front door. The dormer uses the same decorative elements as bay projections with the addition of a small amount of horizontal and vertical beaded boards surrounding the window.

The side, or eastern, elevation contains the corner of the wraparound porch, an exterior chimney, and the enclosed porch of the rear ell addition. The fenestration of the side elevation of the main house is composed of a one-over-one window under a shed-roofed awning, and a pair a one-over-one windows that flank the exterior chimney. The ell addition contains a porch that was enclosed sometime within the life of the house. Near the main body of the house, the enclosed porch is clad in weatherboard and punctured by two sets of paired, one-over-one windows. The northwestern corner of the enclosed porch is clad in beaded boards and punctured by a ribbon of three, four light windows made by dismantling a four-over-four window and placing the sashes side-by-side.

The northern, or rear, elevation contains the gable end of the ell addition, a one-story, gable roofed pantry addition, and the enclosed ell porch. The enclosed rear elevation porch is punctured by a ribbon of three windows (composed of a dismantled four-over-four window and modern two



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ight window), a four-paneled door with a large single light, and another pair of four light windows capped by a two transoms. The enclosed porch is clad in vertical beaded board. Located to the west of the enclosed porch is a one-story pantry addition sheathed in ship lap wooden siding and fenestrated on its western and northern elevations by multi-paned stained-glass windows. Located beside the pantry is a one-panel wood door with a large light, capped by a transom and covered by a shed roof awning with triangular brackets. A wooden screen door partially hides the door. Above and centered in the gable end is a small stationary attic light.

The western elevation is composed of the rear ell addition and the main house. Fenestration for this side composed of eight, one-over-one windows. Located to the north of this elevation and between two windows is a shed roof awning supported by triangular brackets. The sole purpose of this awning is to cover an air conditioner fitted into the wall. Located in the center of this side elevation is a wood-paneled door with a single light surmounted by a transom and covered by an awning similar to the one covering the air conditioner.

The interior of the Wittsburg House is decorated with several historic details that include: two "high styled" mantelpieces with beveled mirrors, metal hardware door hinges and knobs festooned with designs, a built-in china cabinet in the dining room, and elaborate baseboard moldings in the kitchen. The foyer contains two sets of French doors. The French doors separating the central hallway are shorter than those leading to the stern parlor. The latter replaced pocket doors at an unknown date.

Located in the central hallway is a dogleg staircase that features a turned-spindle balustrade, paneled face string with a acornated pendant, and a paneled newel post capped by a turned knob. Quadruple-beaded board covers the area beneath the staircase. Located at the top of this staircase is a three paneled, one light door capped by a transom. The room behind this door is completely finished out and features beaded board walls with bulls-eye trim located in the corners of the window and door surrounds.

A non-historic carport with storage shed is located behind the house. The gable-roofed building is supported by metal poles and is clad in board and batten siding. Also found to the east of the house is a chain-linked dog pen. Both the carport and dog pen are non-contributing to the nomination.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Areas of Significance: ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1885

Significant Dates: c. 1885, c. 1900

Significant Person(s): N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Isaac Block (builder)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

**Summary**

The Isaac Block House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance, as a good example of one-and-one half story, Queen Anne style residence. Of particular note are its wraparound front porch, and decorative fishscale shingles and lattice work in the front gable end and dormer.

**Elaboration**

After the completion of the Knobel to Helena branch of the Iron Mountain Railroad in 1882, Wittsburg began to decline in importance, and in 1886 the county seat was moved to the new railroad town of Vandale, where a two-story brick courthouse was constructed. Still, by the early 1890s, Vandale had been overshadowed by a more vibrant railroad town to the south, Wynne,

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located at the junction of two branches of the Iron Mountain railroad. Consequently, the county seat was moved for the last time to Wynne.

The Isaac Block House was constructed in Wittsburg around 1885 by Isaac Block. Isaac was a son of German Jewish immigrants Maurice and Anna Woubilman Block. Isaac helped with the family business, first working at L. N. Block and Company, and then assuming supervision of David Block and Company (a firm begun by his late father along with John G. Hamilton and Abel A. Luckie and David Block). After the railroad bypassed Wittsburg, Isaac and his brother, Louis Block lingered in the town under the company name of Block Brothers and Company. However, faced with a dying town, Isaac Block decided to move his house to Wynne, where the railroad was bringing the promise of prosperity. Sometime in the early 1900s, the house was taken apart, then each section identified and moved by mule teams, log wheels, and oversized-wagons to its present location at 404 East Hamilton Avenue, Wynne. Fortunately, the original location of the Isaac Block House closely resembled its new location, both were residential neighborhoods nearby the local business district. Despite the difficulty of the task, other prominent residents of Wittsburg also had their buildings dismantled and moved to more profitable towns in the county. For example, Shields Daltroff also had his house relocated to Wynne, and the Johnson Hotel was moved to the community of Vandale. Consideration was also given to relocating the multi-purpose school, church and courthouse, but this was eventually judged unfeasible.

ging to the house's eventful history, the single family residence was Once divided into a duplex and rented to railroad workers for many years. Also for a time it was owned by a medical doctor who kept a bear penned in the back yard that "brave" young men could feed through a trapdoor in the fence. After this period, the Horn family bought the house in 1947 with the help of the GI Bill and converted the house back to single-family use.

Jim and Wenona Kincade are the current owners of the house. The Kincades plan to restore the house. The Block House is currently being re-roofed with architectural-grade composition shingles with the help of a grant from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. Their restoration plans also include removing the modern wood paneling from the interior of the house.

The Isaac Block House is being nominated to the National Register under Criterion C with local significance, as a good example of a one-and-one-half story, Queen Anne style residence. The exterior of this simple Queen Anne-styled house contains relatively few decorative features. Instead this subdued cottage charms the careful observer with its gable-on-hip roof, its delicate wraparound porch and its decorative gabled bay and dormer. The interior retains an abundance of original detail including: two "high styled" mantelpieces with beveled mirrors, a dog-leg staircase and stained glass windows in the pantry.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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Hartness, Richard L., Sr. *Wittsburg, Arkansas: Crowley's Ridge Steamboat Riverport 1848-1890*. Little Rock, Arkansas: Rose Publishing Company, 1978.

*The Goodspeed Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Eastern Arkansas*. Chicago, Nashville, and St. Louis: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1890.

Chowning, Robert W. *History of Cross County Arkansas*. Wynne, Arkansas: The Wynne Progress, 1955.

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:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other state agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other -- Specify Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

|   |             |               |                |   |             |             |             |
|---|-------------|---------------|----------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| A | <u>15</u>   | <u>701260</u> | <u>3900180</u> | B | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |
| C | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u>   | <u>    </u>    | D | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> | <u>    </u> |

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Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the northeast corner of Hamilton Avenue and Church Street proceed easterly along a line running parallel with the edge of Hamilton Avenue for a distance of 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the building's eastern elevation; thence proceed northerly along said line 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to the building's northern elevation; then proceed westerly along said line to the eastern edge of Church Street; then proceed southerly along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

This boundary contains all remaining historically significant structures associated with this property.

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**II. Form Prepared By**

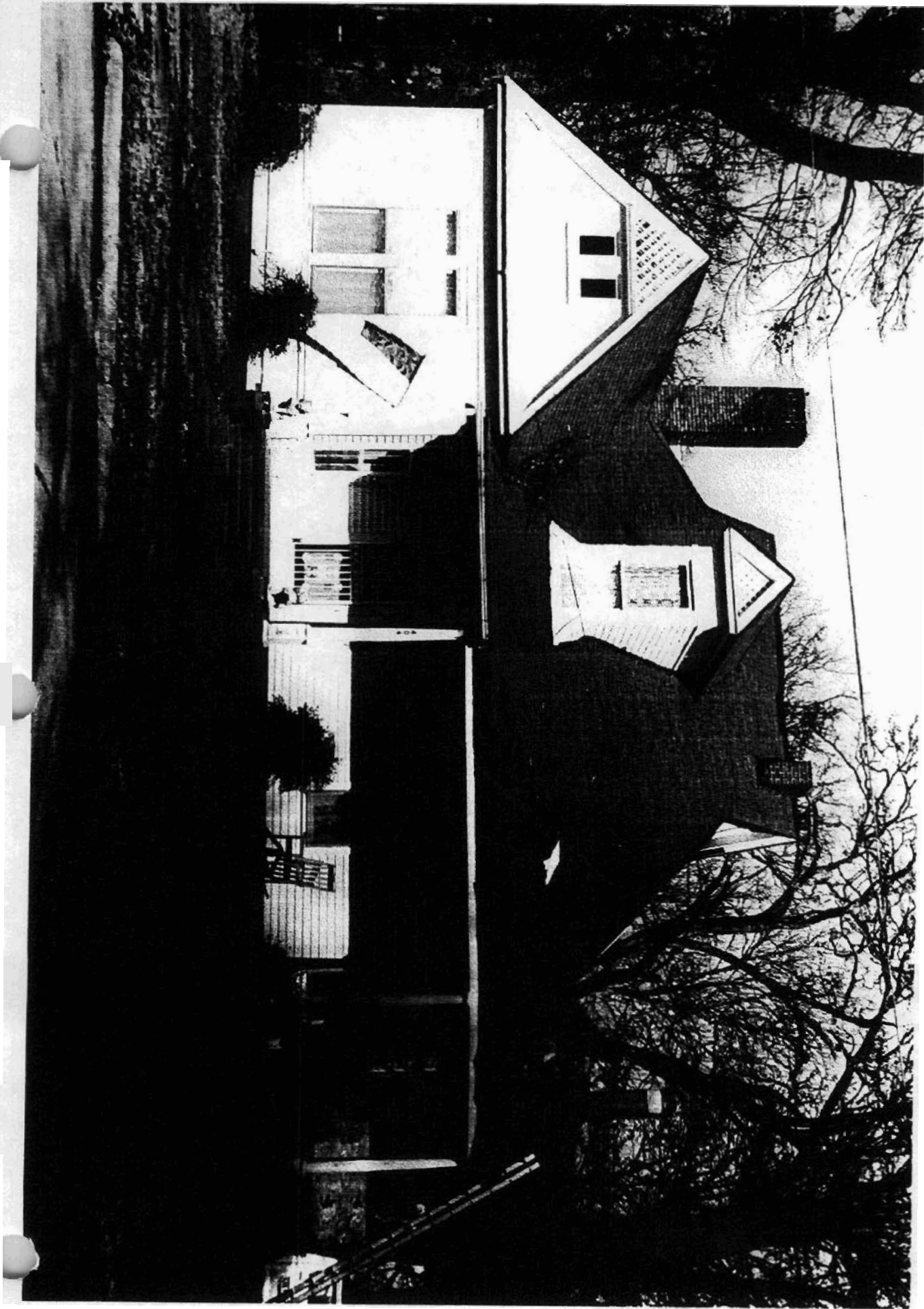
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Name/Title: Amy Bennett, Survey Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: 5/25/98

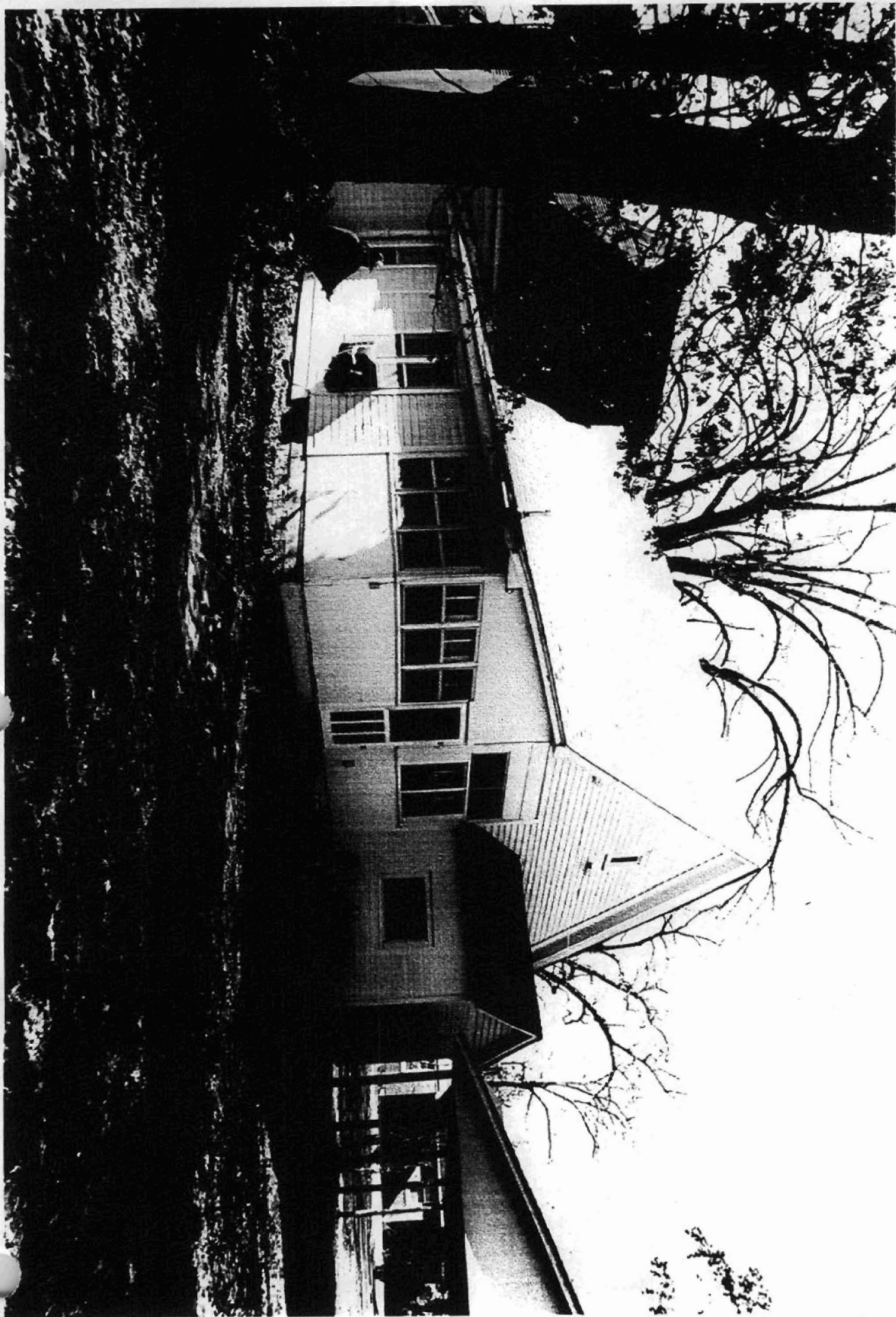
Street & Number: 1500 Tower Bldg., 323 Center St. Telephone: (501) 324-9880

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



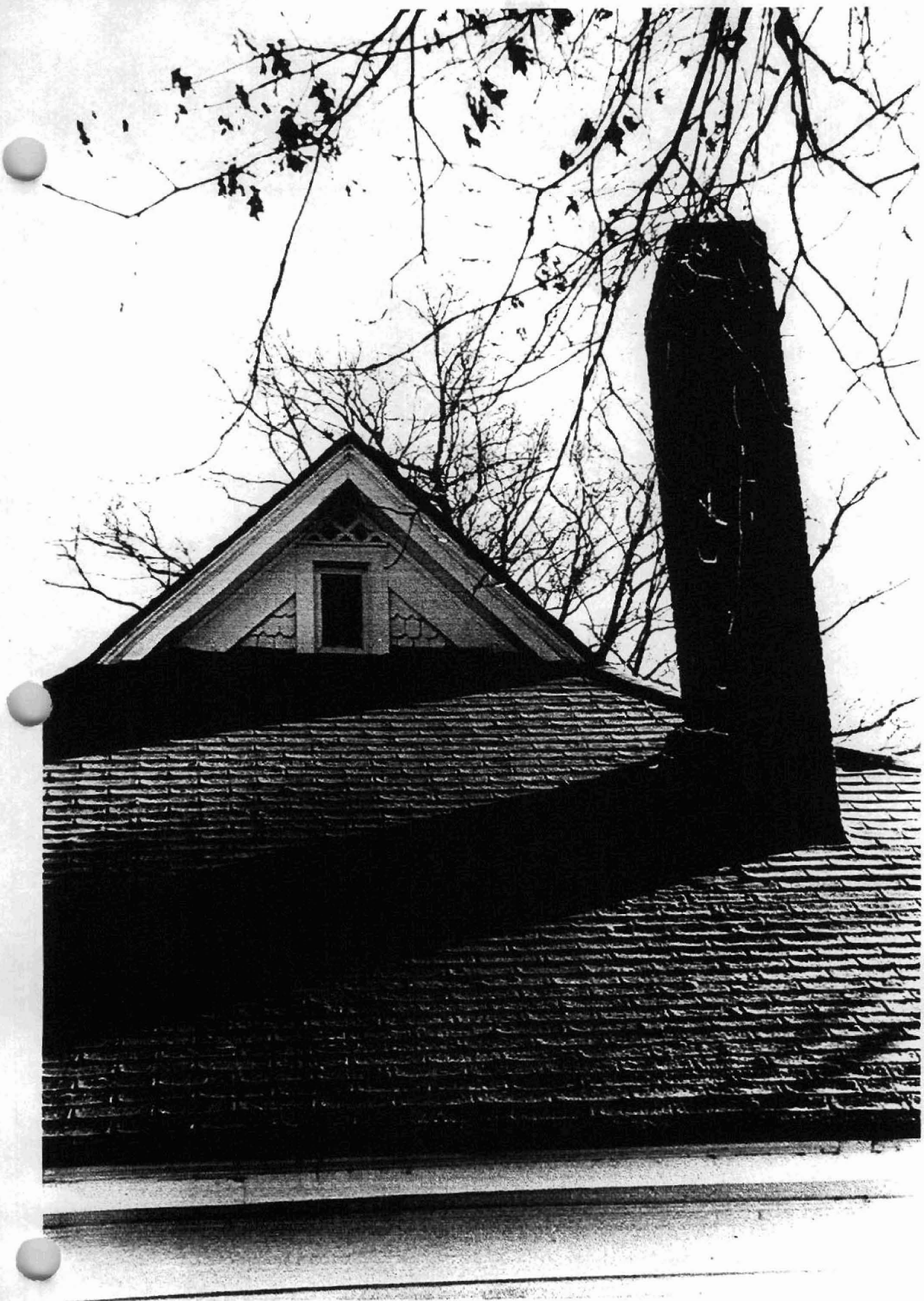


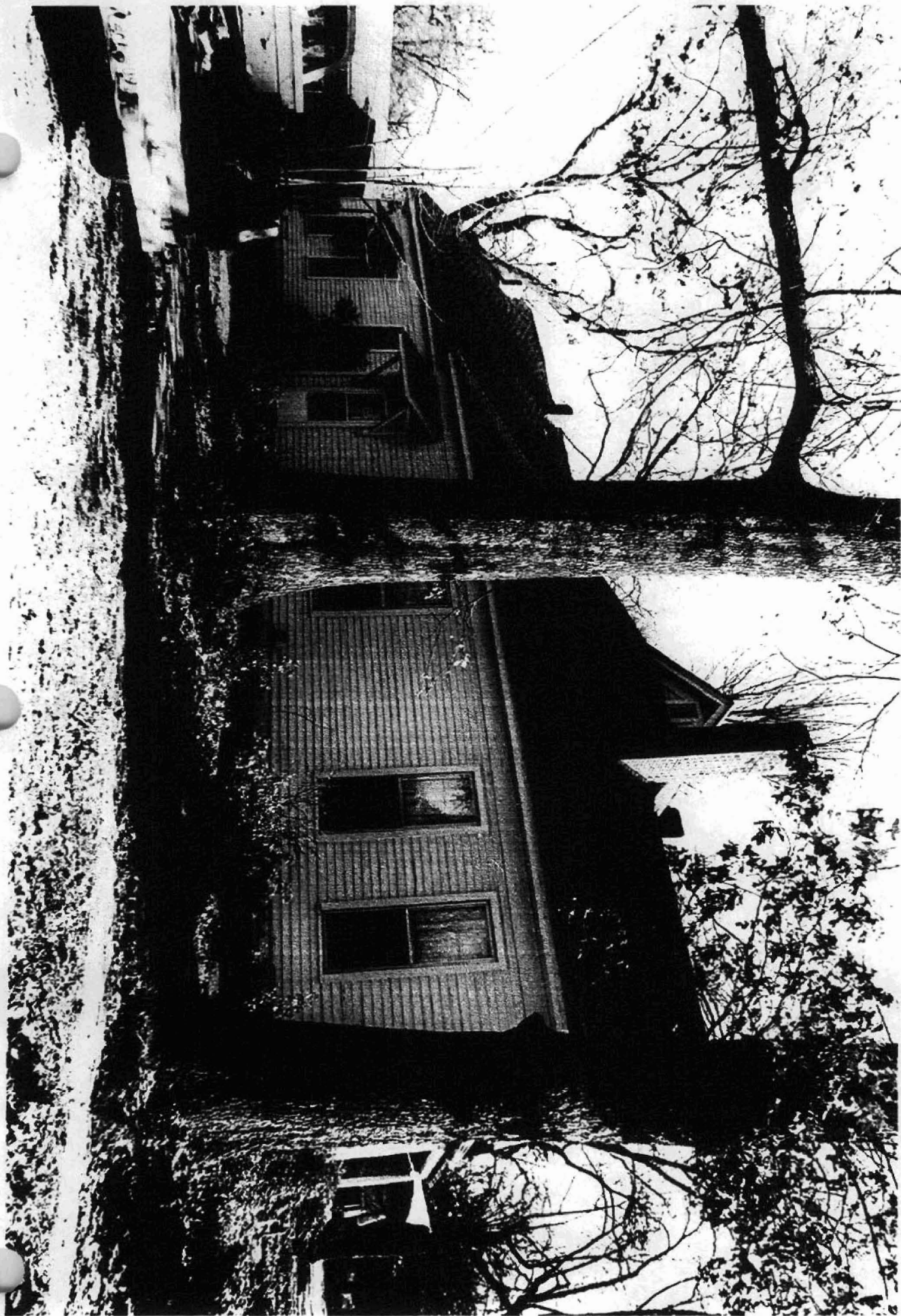




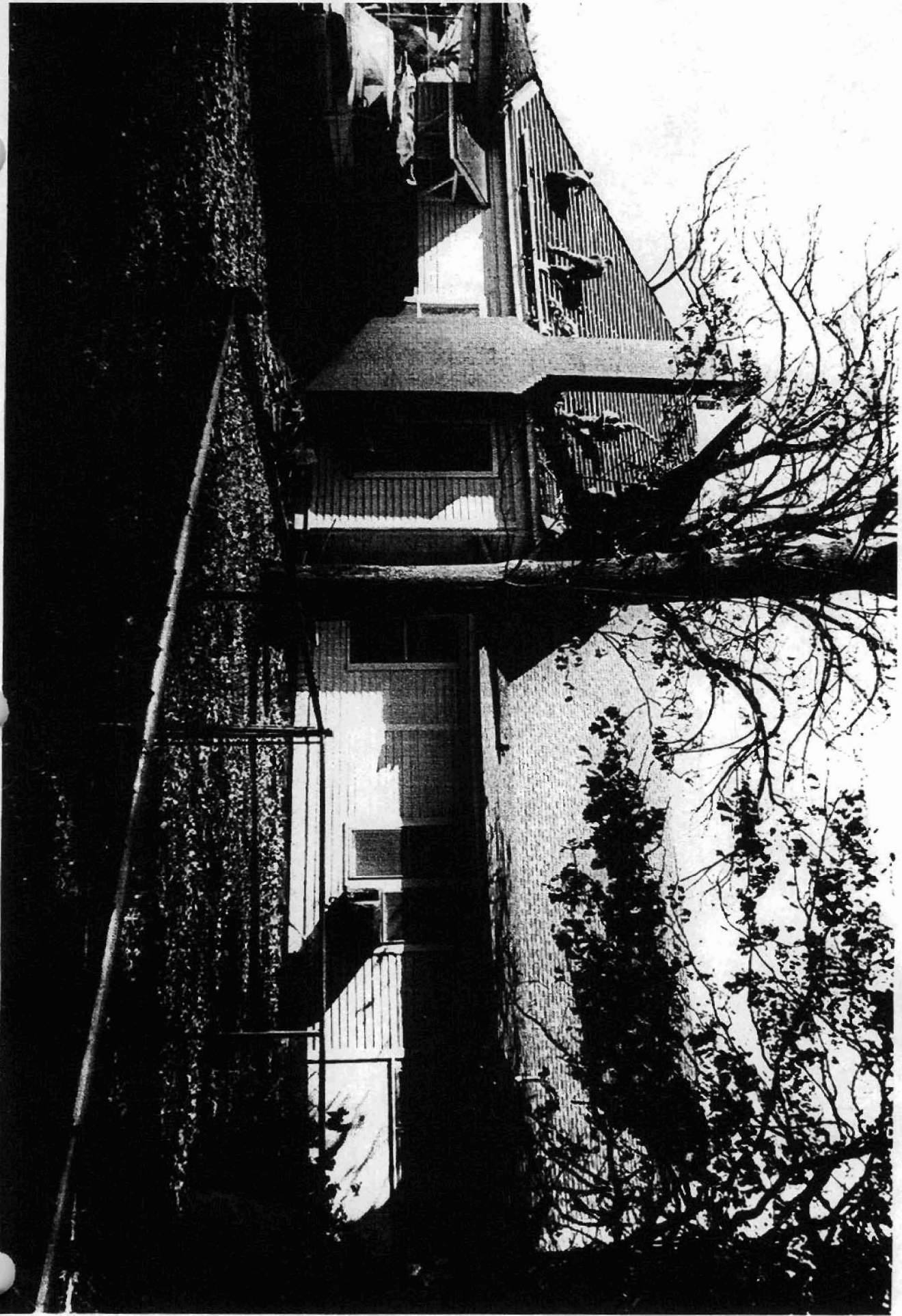


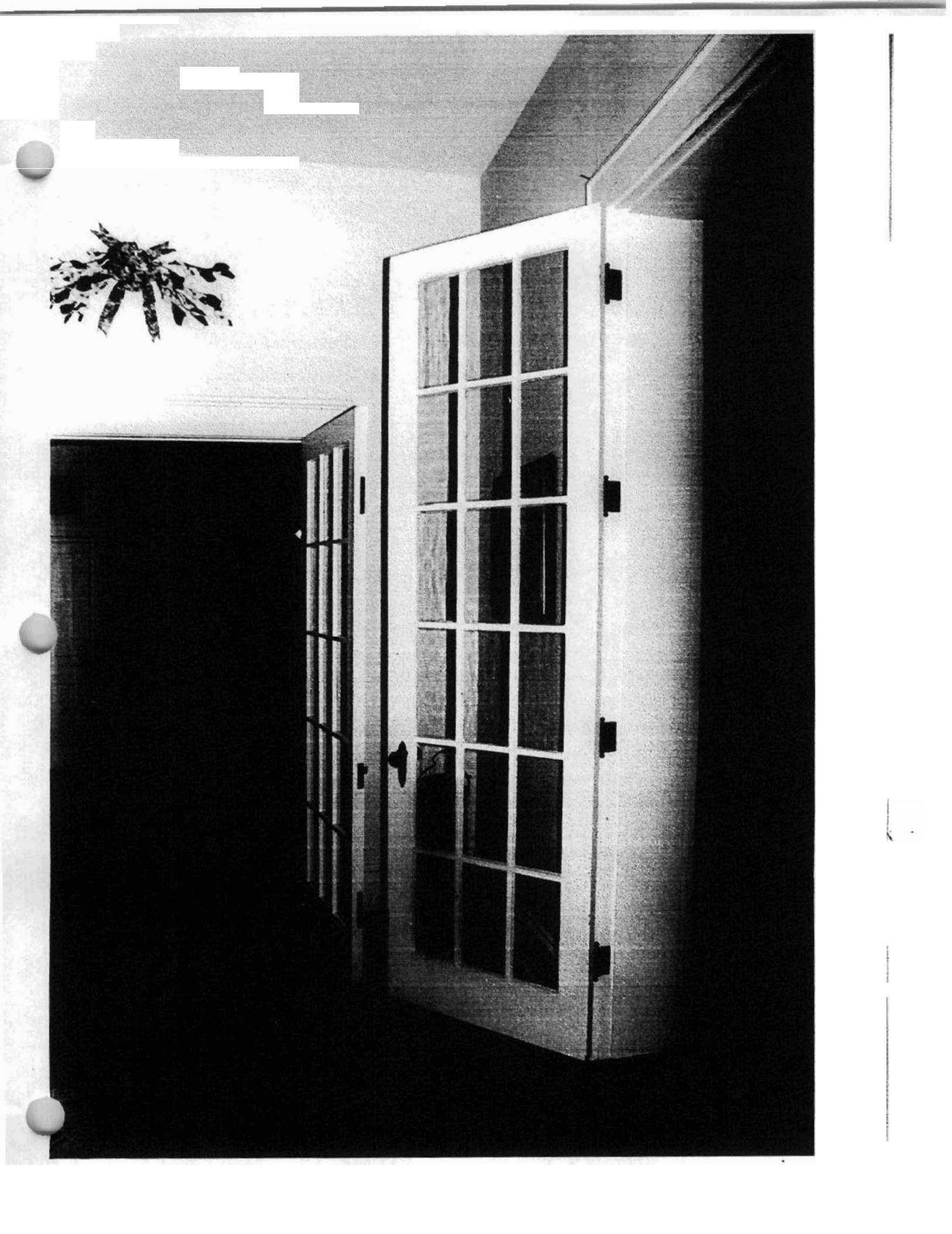


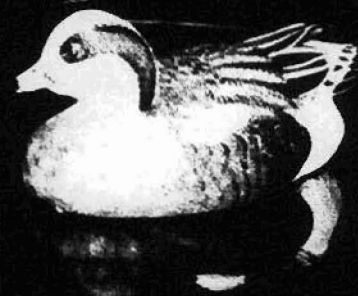
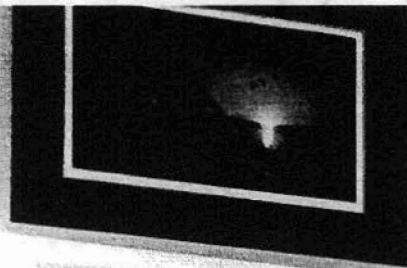




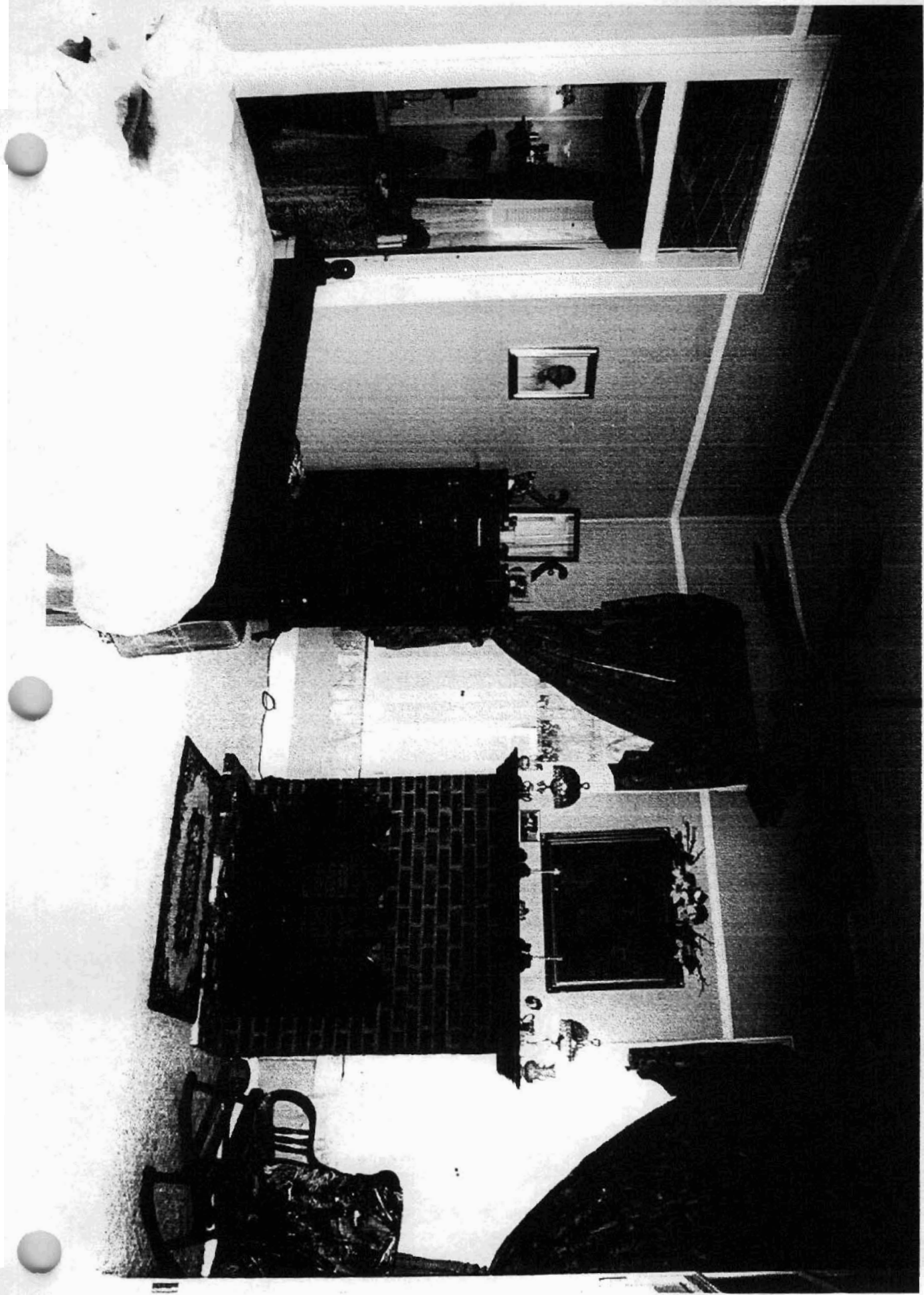


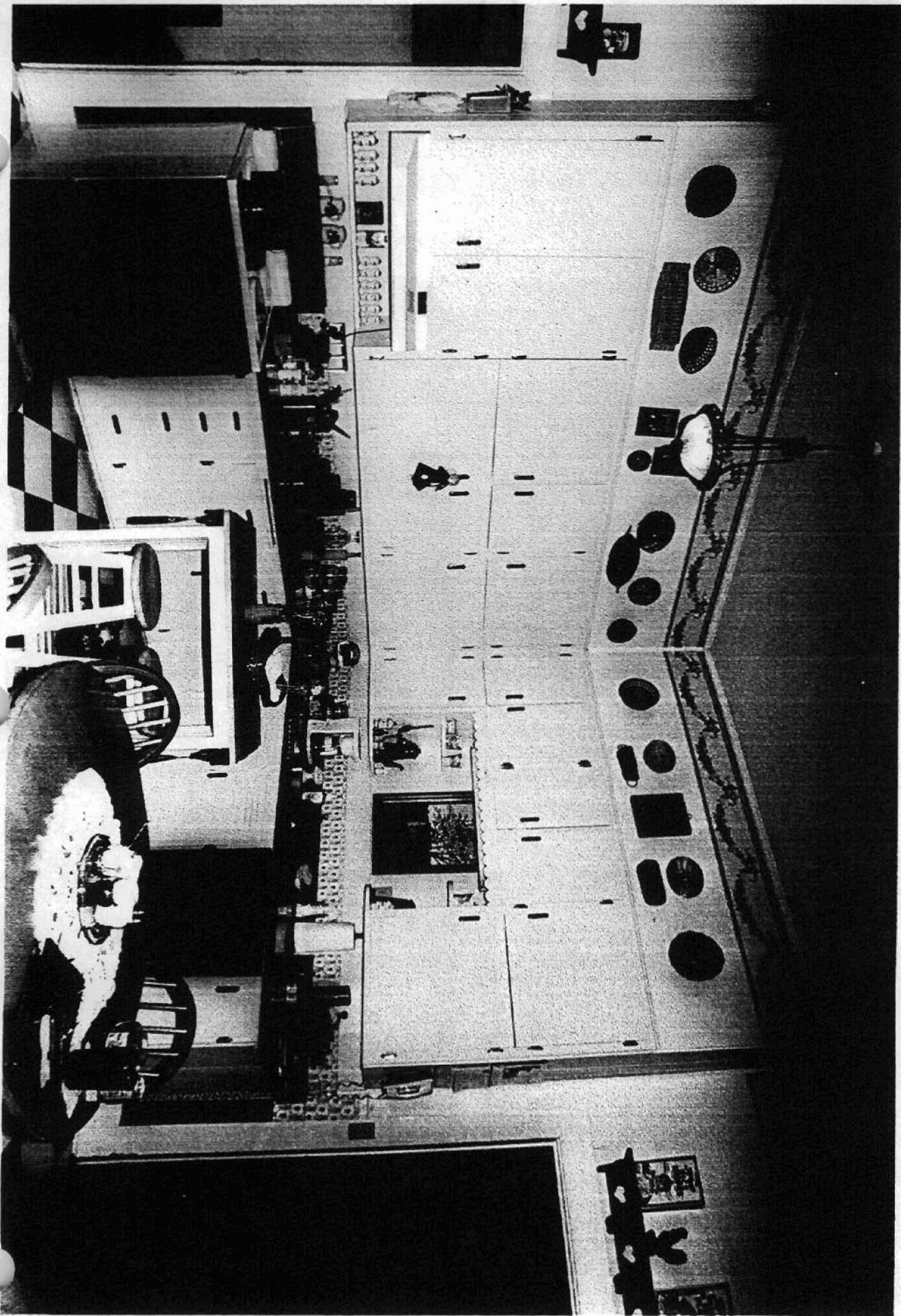












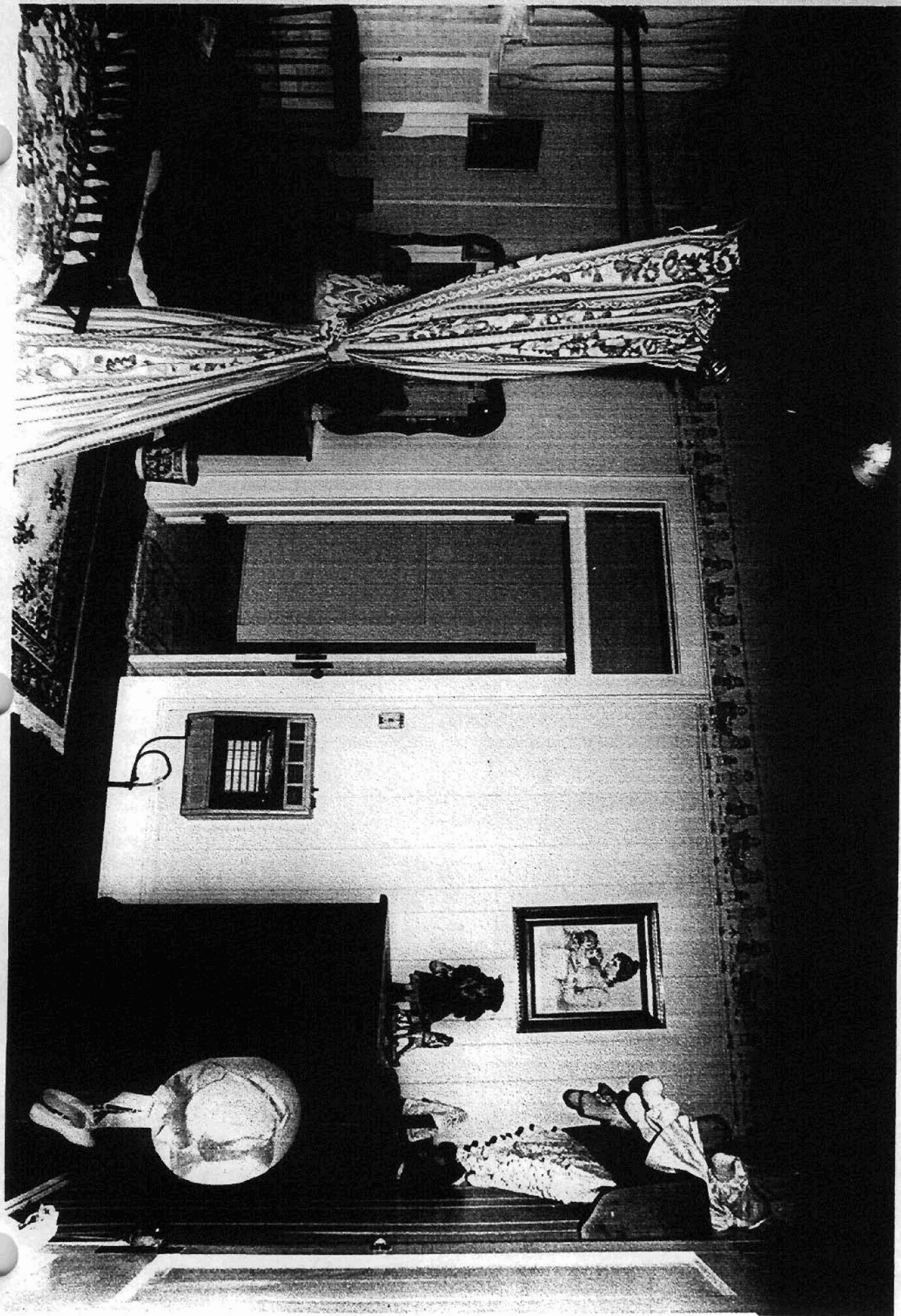






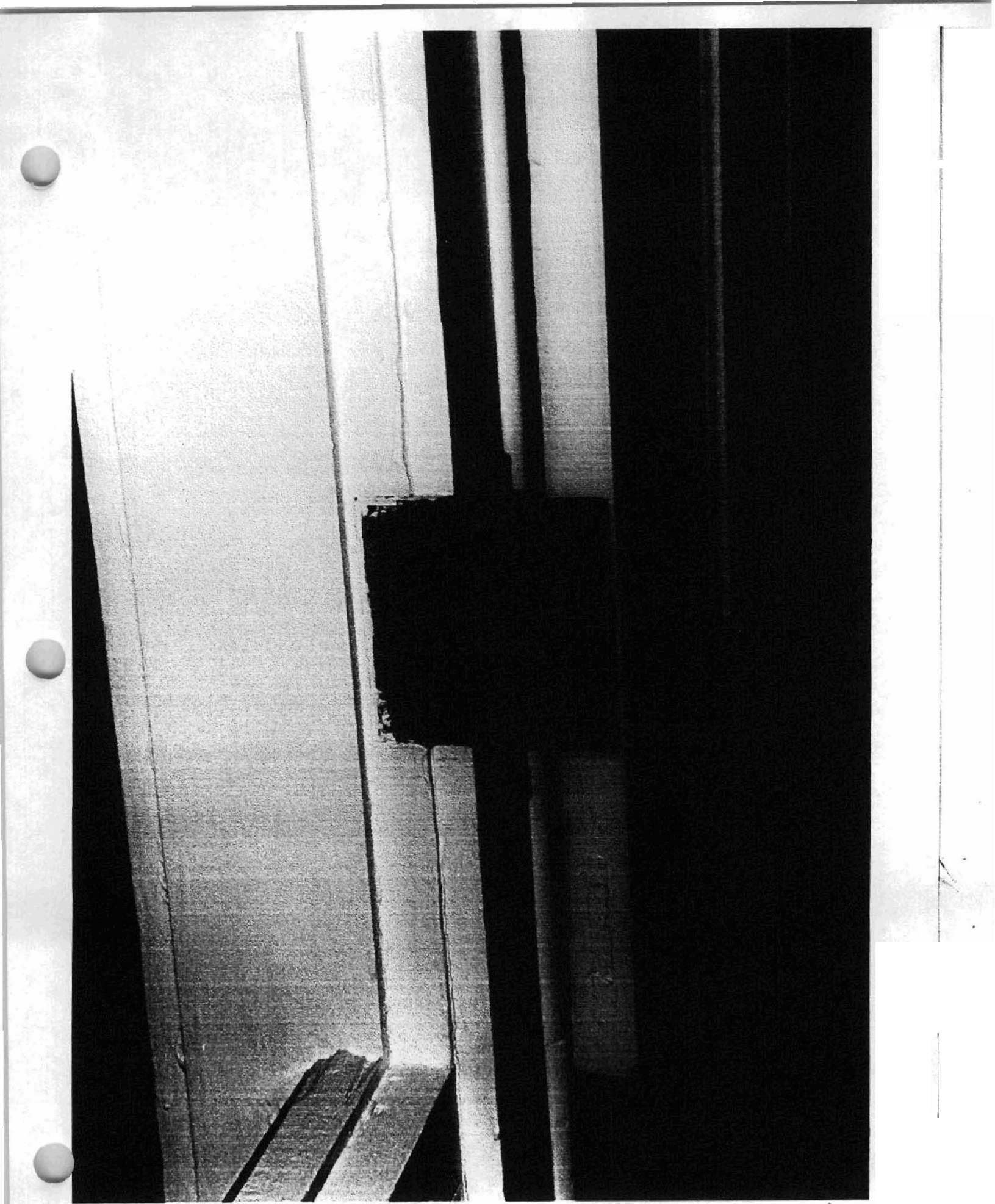








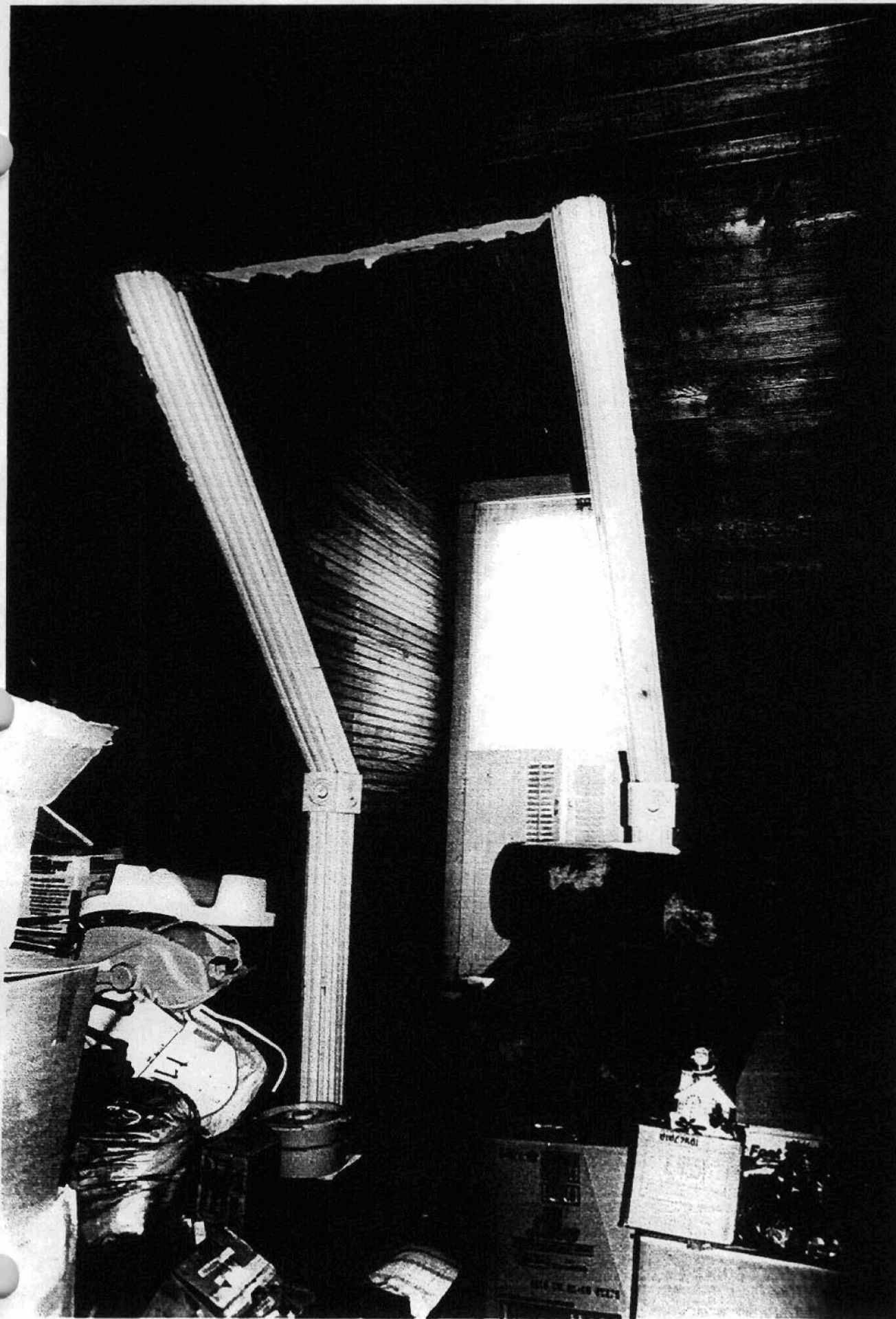












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15/701260/3900180

WYNNE  
A  
7.5 MINUTE SE

