

*Garland County
Hot Springs
Birnbaum House*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NR LISTED

MAY 18 1995

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

AHPP

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1. Name of Property

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historic name: Birnbaum House

other name/site number: Shubetz House; Bill Clinton Boyhood Home (preferred)

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2. Location

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street & number: 1011 Park Avenue

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Hot Springs

vicinity: N/A

state: AR county: Garland code: AR 051 zip code: 71913

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3. Classification

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Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</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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7. Description
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Architectural Classification:

Tudor Revival

Other Description: N/A_____

Materials: foundation STONE_____ roof ASPHALT_____
walls STUCCO_____ other WOOD, STONE_____

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

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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: Locally_____.

Applicable National Register Criteria: B and C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): G_____

Areas of Significance: POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1938-1961_____

Significant Dates: 1938_____

Significant Person(s): President Bill Clinton

Cultural Affiliation: N/A_____

Architect/Builder: unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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:

- 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>495800</u>	<u>3820870</u>	B	<u>15</u>	_____	_____
C	<u>15</u>	_____	_____	D	<u>15</u>	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

Beginning at a point on the northern edge of Park Avenue located approximately 250 feet east of its intersection with the eastern edge of Reid Street, proceed northerly along a straight line for approximately 250 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the rear elevation of the house; thence proceed easterly along said line for approximately 100 feet to its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel with the house's eastern elevation; thence proceed southerly along said line for approximately 250 feet to its intersection with the northern edge of Park Avenue; thence proceed westerly along said line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

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

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11. Form Prepared By

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Name/Title: Robin L. Baldwin, Survey Historian/Ken Story, NR/Survey
Coordinator

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: April 17, 1995

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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Summary

The boyhood home of President Bill Clinton (historically known as the Birnbaum House) is a two story wood frame residence redesigned in the Tudor Revival style in 1938 (it had originally been a Queen Anne Revival style residence). The steeply pitched gabled roof surmounts a body liberally clad in native fieldstone, stucco, and half-timbering. Included in the nomination is the entire lot on which the house sits encompassing an original detached garage, raised stone walled planting beds, a stone retaining wall fronting Park Avenue, and several non-contributing modern structures (not counted). Located at 1011 Park Avenue in the Spa city of Hot Springs, the boyhood home of President Bill Clinton (the Birnbaum House) is a good example of the Tudor Revival style of architecture.

Elaboration

Located at 1011 Park Avenue, the boyhood home of President Bill Clinton (historically known as the Birnbaum House) was originally constructed between 1896-1900 as a two story Victorian in the Queen Anne style. Over the years the structure underwent numerous changes achieving its current incarnation shortly after 1938. Even radically altered from its original appearance, the house still commands a rise which terraces gently down to the street. Although a full two stories in height the house appears to be only one and a half stories tall, an illusion created by the steeply pitched gabled roof. Designed in the Tudor Revival style the home nevertheless exhibits numerous other stylistic anomalies including Victorian massing, craftsman windows, and a Swiss chalet style front porch.

The front, or eastern, facade facing Park Avenue is asymmetrical and dominated by two steeply pitched gables. Set into this elevation is a recessed front porch, and the exterior wall surfaces are clad in randomly laid native stone, stucco, and half-timbering. The first floor has paired three-over-one windows centered in the projecting ell. A solid front door and a small three over one stair hall window are set into the back wall of the porch to the right of the ell. The porch itself is of interesting design, reminiscent of a Swiss chalet. Square wooden columns with chamfered edges support the gracefully curving roof which intersects with the gabled roof line of the projecting ell. Seven stone steps with a stepped stone balustrade lead up to the concrete porch floor. A porch railing of flat wooden panels pierced by inverted triangle cutouts encircles this small porch. The second floor has two sets of paired three-over-one windows -- one set centered in the gable of the ell and one set in the gable set back above the porch roof.

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The southern facade is eleven bays long with a continuous random laid stone foundation and walls clad with stucco and vertical half-timbering. Two three-over-one windows grace the side of the easterly projecting ell. A projecting three sided bay window supports three three-over-one windows. West of the bay window are two small three-over-one windows and a set of paired three-over-one windows. Further west is a recessed addition that has a single three-over-one window. At the very end of the southern facade a modern two-over-two aluminum frame window lights the back wall of the car port. The second floor has a cross gable centered over the bay window exhibiting a set of paired three-over-one windows centered in its face.

The western, rear facade consists of an open carport and utility room covered by a flat roof. A three-over-one window is at the extreme southern end of the west side. Further north is a back door followed by a set of paired two-over-two aluminum frame modern windows. The second floor consists of a flat roofed addition set back from the carport and utility room. Four three-over-one windows light this wall. Stucco and half-timbering clad the western face of the house.

The northern facade has nine bays, a stone foundation, and stucco and half-timbering on the walls. At the western end are two small two-over-two aluminum frame modern windows. Following is a set of paired three-over-one windows and a small window of the same design. A three sided bay window then projects from this side with three three-over-one windows. At the end of the northern facade is a small three-over-one stair hall window. The second floor has a cross gable centered over the bay window and contains a set of paired three-over-one windows at its center.

The home site contains several site features original to the post 1938 remodeling: a detached garage, stone walled planting beds, sculpted terraces, and a stone retaining wall. The single-storey, gable roof garage is clad in stucco with five car bays and three-over-one windows. The stone walled flower beds are terraced on the northern side of the lot and still contain original plantings. Sculpted terraces on the front lawn stair-step down to the stone retaining wall which fronts Park Avenue.

The interior of the house exhibits the post 1938 remodeling with multi pane french doors, simplified mouldings, and a small room under the stairs, which during the Clinton occupancy was Roger Clinton's "office". The current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shubetz, have maintained the house and its interiors in their configuration and detailing from the time of the Clinton occupancy.

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Summary

Criteria B and C, national significance

The boyhood home of President Bill Clinton (historically known as the Birnbaum House) is being nominated under Criterion B and C with national significance. Under Criterion C, this dwelling is significant as this neighborhood's finest example of the Tudor Revival style of architecture, popular in Arkansas from the middle teens until the early 1940's. The house is significant under Criterion B by virtue of its role as the boyhood home of the forty-second President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton. Though this period of significance (1954-61, the years Bill Clinton lived in this house) is less than fifty years distant, the Bill Clinton Boyhood Home is of extraordinary significance through both its direct associations with the current President of the United States and its status as the single extant property most directly associated with his adolescence, the period during which he first identified a desire to pursue a career in politics.

Elaboration

The boy hood home of President Bill Clinton (historically known as the Birnbaum House) was built circa 1896-1900 in the Victorian Queen Anne style by a Mr. Birnbaum. Descendants of the Birnbaum family resided there until 1938 when they sold the house. Sometime shortly after that year a major remodeling transformed the aging Queen Anne home into its present incarnation as a Tudor Revival style house. Of particular note are the expanses of wall surface covered with elaborate curved half-timbering set in stucco; the battered stone corners; the three-over-one wood sash windows; the curved roof over the porch; and the jig-sawn porch balustrade. All of these elements combine to elevate this design to the status of being the best example of this particular style in this neighborhood, located at the northern end of Hot Springs.

In addition to being a fine example of the Tudor Revival style of architecture, the Birnbaum House is significant for its association as the boy hood home (1954-1961) of the forty-second President of the United States, William Jefferson Clinton. Bill Clinton was born in Hope, Arkansas on August 19, 1946. He remained there with his widowed mother until 1954, when she left Hope to remarry and relocate to Hot Springs, Arkansas, where her son would spend the remainder of his childhood and adolescence, graduating from Hot Springs High School in 1964. In 1961 the Clinton family moved from this residence to another at 213 Scully in Hot Springs, but certain seminal events in Clinton's adolescence occurred while he was living at 1011 Park Avenue.

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The Clinton family moved into this house when Bill was eight years old. One of the first discoveries her oldest son made in their new home concerned his faith. Soon after the family settled in Bill was baptized at the nearby Park Place Baptist Church, located at 721 Park Avenue. His late mother, Virginia Kelley, recalled that though her nursing job frequently required her to work on Sunday mornings, Bill would always attend services whether or not she was able to accompany him, walking to church from their Park Avenue home.

In the fall of 1964 Bill Clinton matriculated at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, where he both excelled academically and made his first direct contact with the world of politics, working for U.S. Senator J. William Fulbright during his junior and senior years. He won a Rhodes Scholarship to study in Oxford, England, where he spent the next year. He then returned to the United States to study for the bar at Yale Law School. It was during his stay in New Haven that he met Hillary Rodham, a fellow classmate and the woman he was to marry in 1975.

The Clintons relocated to Fayetteville, Arkansas so that he could accept a position teaching constitutional law there. During this period Bill Clinton, a Democrat, put together his first political campaign, running unsuccessfully for U.S. Congress in 1974. However, in 1976 he ran a successful campaign for state attorney general, and moved to Little Rock to execute the responsibilities of that office.

In 1978, Bill Clinton conducted his second successful political campaign in Arkansas, gaining the distinction of being the nation's youngest governor at the age of 32. However, two years later he was defeated by the Republican candidate, Frank White, due largely to the ambitious progressive agenda he pushed upon a state that was unprepared for so much change. Thereafter he adopted a more moderate political stance and was re-elected the state's governor in 1982, a position for which he successfully campaigned three more times, his last re-election occurring in 1990.

In October of 1991, Bill Clinton announced his candidacy for the office of President of the United States. Over the course of the next eleven months, Bill Clinton campaigned vigorously and battled considerable adversity, ultimately winning sufficient delegates to be nominated as the Democratic party's candidate at the July convention of 1992. Throughout the balance of the summer and into the fall he continued to run an aggressive campaign with his vice-presidential running mate Al Gore, the former U.S. Senator from Tennessee, finally prevailing in his pursuit on election day, November 3rd, 1992. With this election, Bill Clinton achieved what his late mother Virginia Kelley remembered as his goal from childhood, the Presidency of the United

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States.

For the reasons outlined above the Bill Clinton Boyhood Home (the Birnbaum House) is being nominated under Criteria B and C with local significance (Criteria Consideration G).

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Bibliography

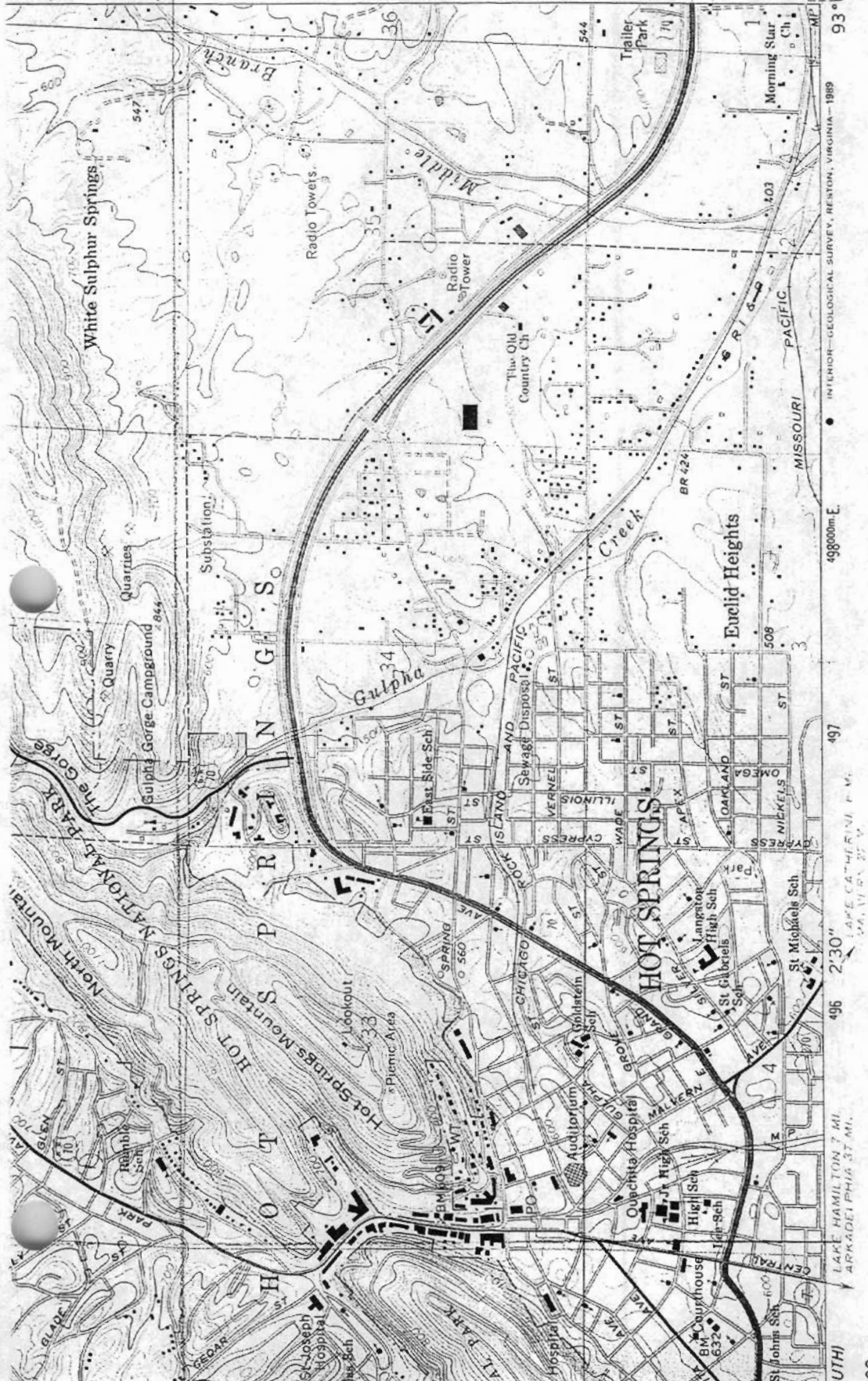
Ifill, Gwen, "Tenacity and Change in a Son of the South," *The New York Times*, Thursday, July 16, 1992, p. A1.

Interview with Virginia Kelley, Spring, 1993, Hope, Arkansas.

Shribman, David, "Clinton, Arkansas's Best-Known Overachiever, Widens His Horizons to Include the White House," *The Wall Street Journal*, Tuesday, October 8, 1991, p. A24.

Home Home)
 Hot Springs
 Garland Co.
 Arkansas

15/495800/
 3820 3820870



LAKE CATHERINE
 7452 N NW

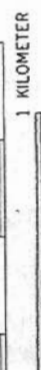
ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty - - - - -
- Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U. S. Route ○
- State Route ○



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1 MILE

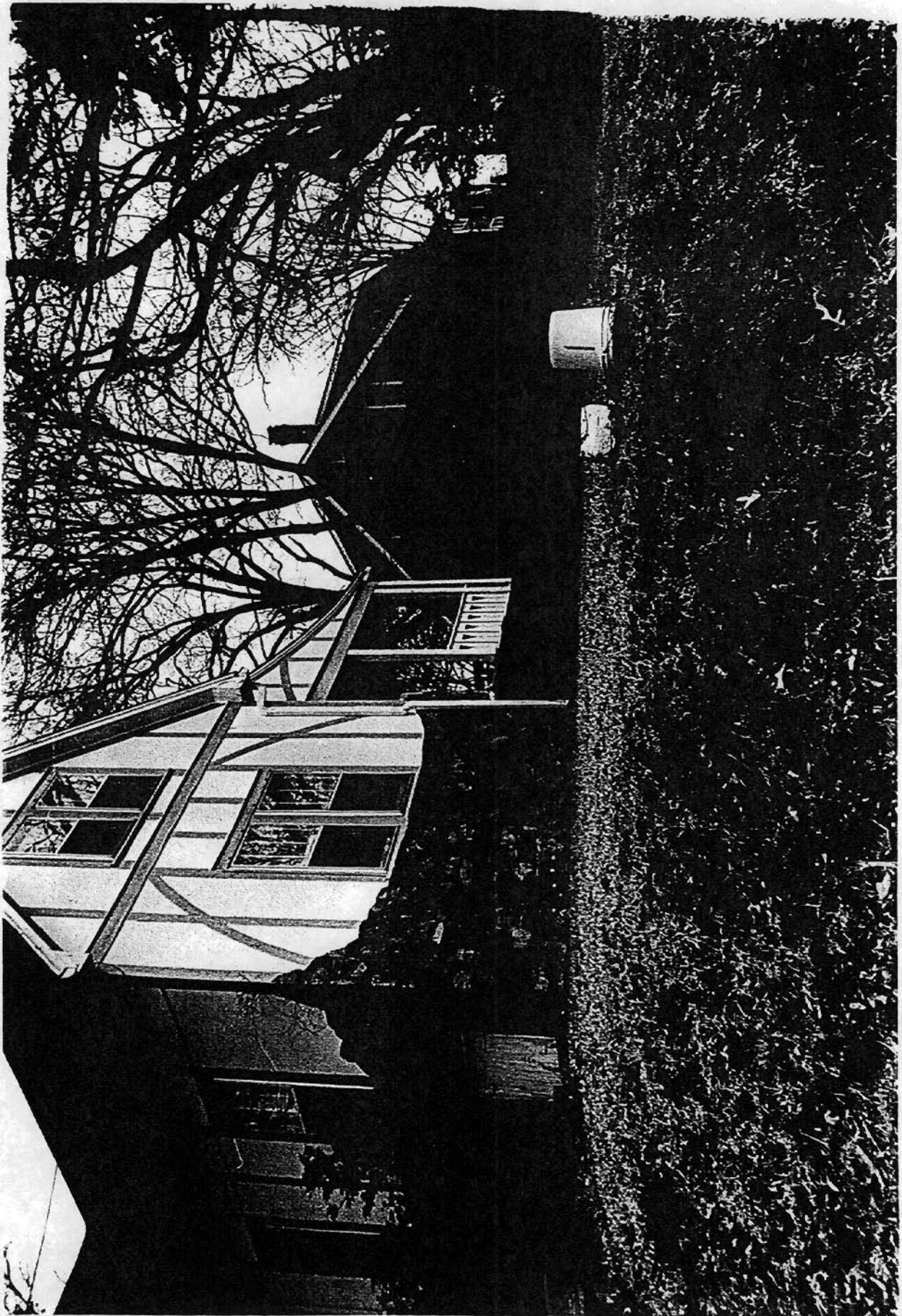


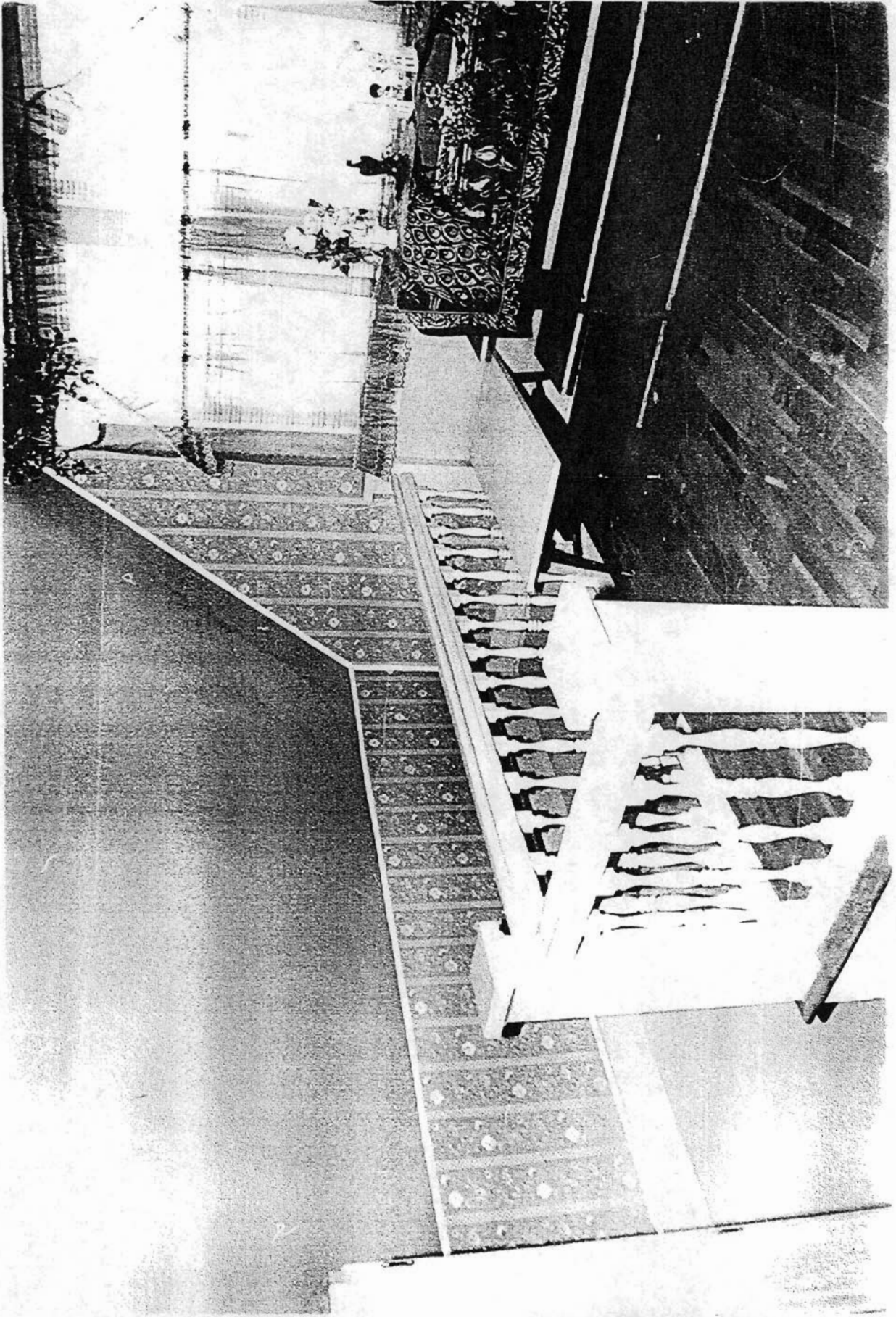
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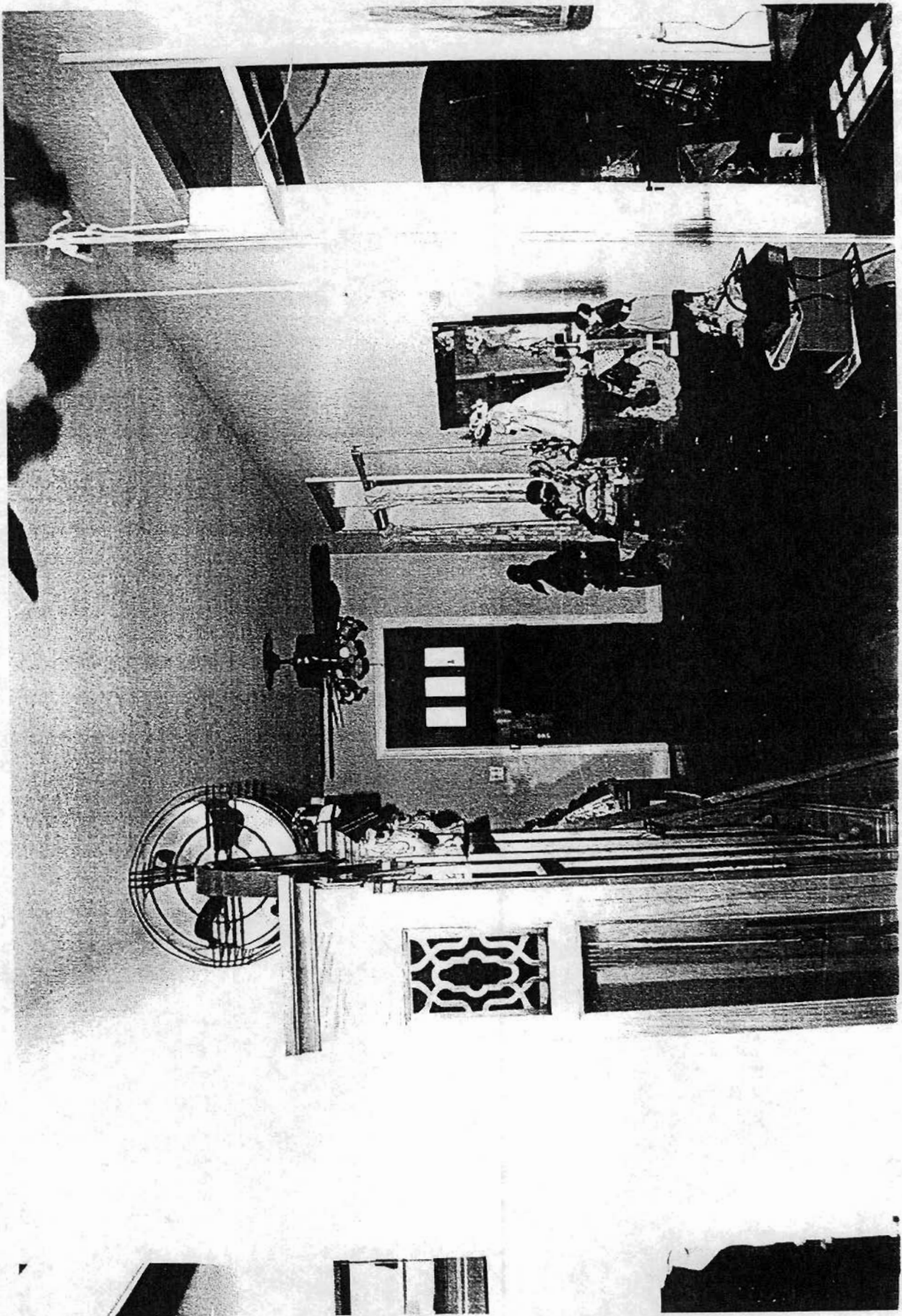
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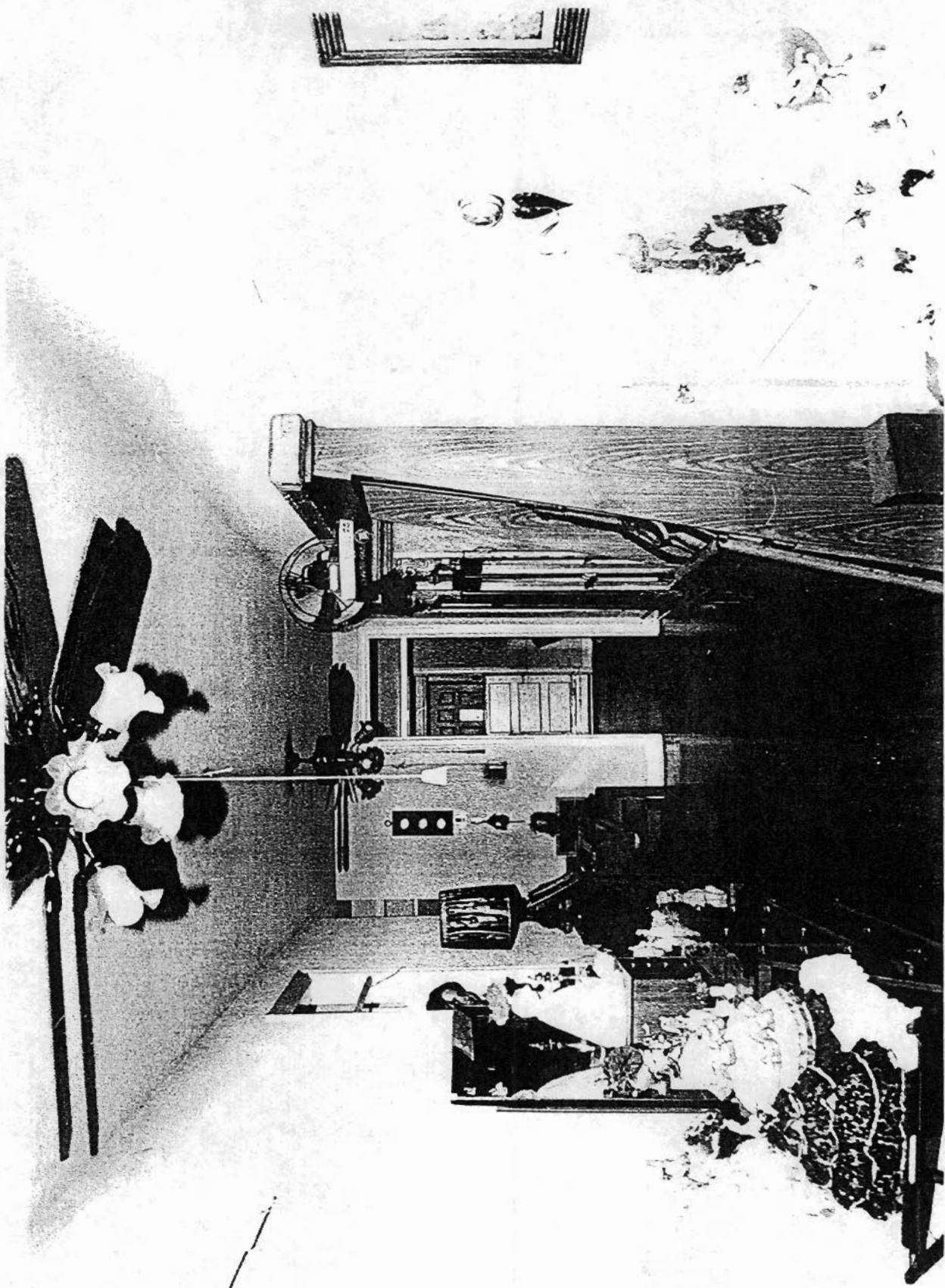
MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
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 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204
 SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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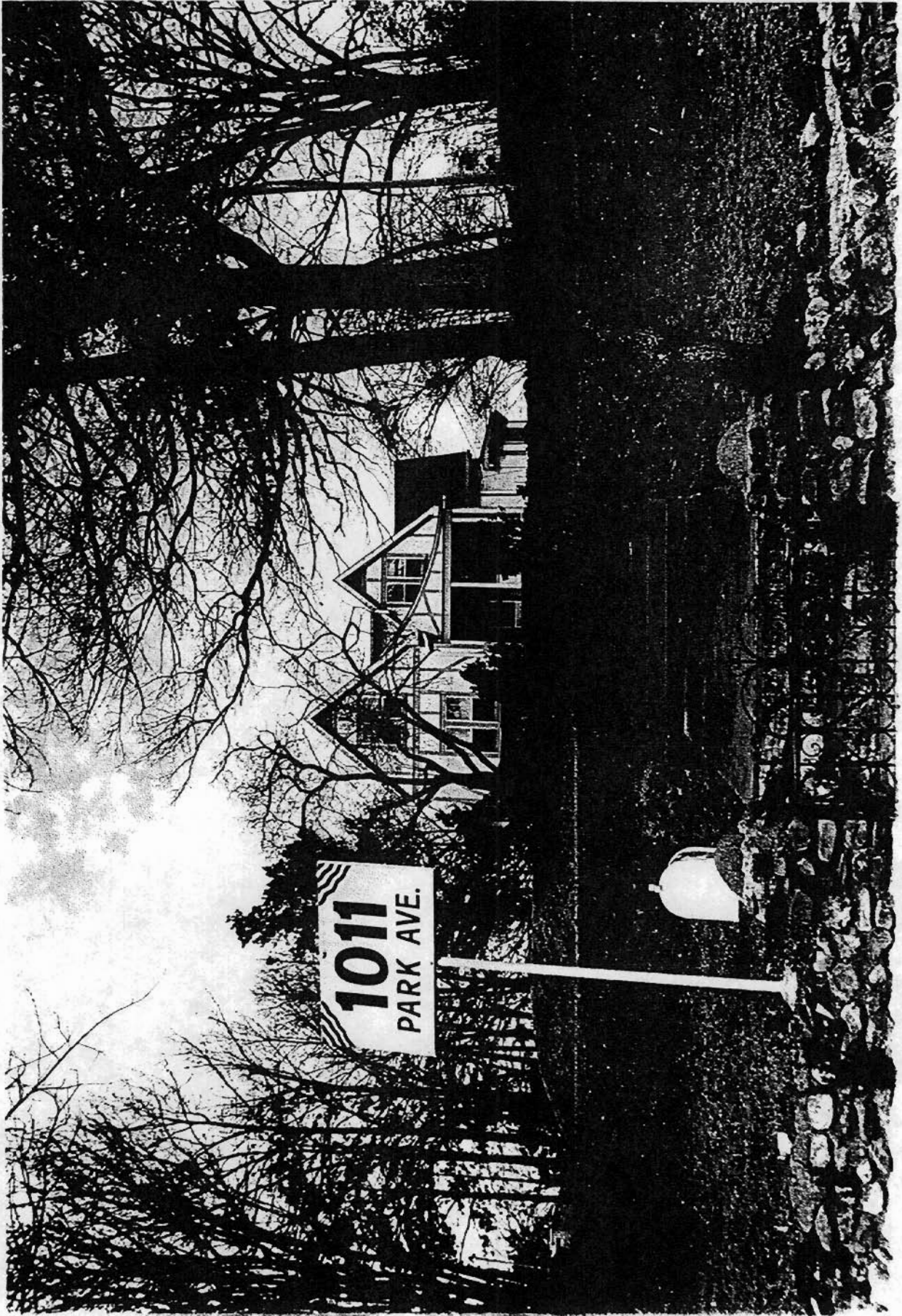












1011
PARK AVE.

