

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NR 7/20/07

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Murphy-Hill Historic District

other names/site number UN0154, UN0157, UN0202-UN0210, UN0227-UN0340

2. Location

street & number Roughly bound by E. 5th Street, N. Jefferson Street, E. Peach Street, N. Madison Street, and E. Faulkner Street.

not for publication

city or town El Dorado

vicinity

state Arkansas code AR county Union code 139 zip code 71730

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Catherine Marshall

7/31/07

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count.)

	Contributing	Noncontributing	
	76	45	buildings
	0	0	sites
	0	0	structures
	0	0	objects
	76	45	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

3

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling _____

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling _____

Religious Facility _____

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single Dwelling _____

Domestic/Multiple Dwelling _____

Religious Facility _____

Commerce-Trade/Business _____

Commerce-Trade/Professional _____

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne _____

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial _____

Revival, Tudor Revival, Mission/Spanish Colonial _____

Revival _____

LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICA _____

REVIVALS/Prairie School, Bungalow/Craftsman _____

OTHER/Plain/Traditional _____

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, STONE, CONCRETE _____

walls WOOD, BRICK, SYNTHETICS, STONE _____

roof TILE, OTHER/composition shingle _____

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B. removed from its original location.
C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMUNITY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1880-1957

Significant Dates

1880-1957

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

VARIOUS

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

South Arkansas Historical Society & Barton Library, El Dorado

Murphy-Hill Historic District

Name of Property

Union County, Arkansas

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Age of Property Roughly 40 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	531457	3675904	3	15	531663	3675121
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	15	531723	3675936	4	15	531461	3675269

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Chad Blackwell/Consultant; Edited by Sarah A. Jampole/Survey Historian

organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date 03/15/07

street & number 323 Center Street, Ste. 1600 telephone 501-324-9874

city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple Ownership

street & number telephone

city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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SUMMARY

Located immediately north of the central business district and the Union County Courthouse, the Murphy-Hill Historic District comprises one of the oldest residential areas in the city of El Dorado, Arkansas. The area experienced development over a period of 77 years, 1880-1957. What began as a low-density residential area in the latter half of the 19th century developed into a denser traditional neighborhood between 1920 and 1940. Approximately 76% (92 of 121) of the buildings in the Murphy-Hill Historic District were constructed in the first half of the 20th century. The majority of these (42) were built between 1920 and 1940, the period corresponding with the exponential growth of El Dorado from a small agricultural community to Arkansas's oil boom town. The district also represents a wide array of historic architectural styles ranging from the ornate Queen Anne to early Ranch structures. A number of revival styles are represented, including Greek, Classical, Gothic, Spanish, and a number of Colonial and English. The majority of structures are built in the Craftsman style (26 %, 31 properties) and Plain/Traditional (42%, 51 properties) corresponding with the years of greatest development. Of the 121 buildings in the district, 107 were originally residential, three were multi-family residences, one was a church, and ten were commercial structures. The majority of the non-contributing structures are historic with alterations impacting historic integrity, only 20 were built after 1957.

Three of the 121 contributing properties in the district are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

1. El Dorado Apartments- 420 Wilson Place (listed 12/01/1983)
2. John Newton House- 424 N. Jackson Street (listed 11/06/1974)
3. Charles H. Murphy, Sr., House- 900 N. Madison (listed 09/08/1983)

ELABORATION

The Murphy-Hill Historic District is a residential area containing part of the original plat of the city of El Dorado and several later additions. At the southern end of the district is the northernmost part of the original El Dorado plat. The area along North Jefferson and the northern end of North Jackson Streets was platted under the John Hill Addition. The area along North Madison Street was platted as the Murphy Subdivision and reflects the residential development boom following the 1921 oil discovery.

1880-1899

Six of the earliest extant houses in the district were constructed in the last two decades of the 19th century. Two earlier houses were relocated from a short distance away (one is the individually listed John Newton House). Four of these earliest houses reflect variations on the Queen Anne style and two are characterized as vernacular representations of traditional building styles. All have hipped roofs or front L cross gables. Most

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have double-hung sash windows with a multi-pane upper sash and single-pane lower sash. The Queen Anne house at 326 Church Street is the most ornate Queen Anne in the district.

1900-1919

Nine houses in the district were constructed between 1900 and 1920. The majority of these are Plain/Traditional style houses similar to those of the previous era and others transition into early Craftsman styled residences. Typical features of the Plain/Traditional houses from this period are minimal ornamentation, simple floor plans with front gable or front L cross gables predominating. The early Craftsman houses typically have front gables with recessed porches and double-hung sash windows with vertical, multi-pane upper sashes and single-pane lower sashes. Porch supports are generally simple wood pillars with simple molding.

1920-1939

Twenty-six structures were constructed in the district during this period, the period corresponding with the greatest growth in El Dorado. The majority of these structures are either Craftsman styled or are vernacular representations drawing on the popularity of the Craftsman style during this period. Another significant portion of the structures from this period reflect a number of revival styles popular during this period.

Craftsman

The Craftsman style is the second most prevalent style in the district and, including Craftsman-influenced Plain/Traditional structures, represents the majority of structures in the district. Features of these houses include low-pitched gable roofs (primarily front gable) accentuated by wide eave overhangs and exposed rafter tails. Porch supports are generally straight or tapered wood pillars, oftentimes on brick or stone piers. The vast majority features the typical Craftsman-styled pane pattern—a vertical multi-pane upper sash over a single-pane lower sash. The majority of the Craftsman structures are one-story bungalows, with several less common two and one-and-a-half story structures. The Craftsman at 311 E. Peach Street is a two-story Craftsman featuring a broad wrap-around porch. A number of the Craftsman structures also feature early garages styled similarly to the house and most have retained their integrity.

Plain/Traditional

The Plain/Traditional style vernacular houses from this period draw on cues from the prevalent Craftsman style popular during this era. The majority have a front gable with recessed porch, drawing on the bungalow floor plan. Most have minimal ornamentation and the predominant window pane pattern is a single-pane over a single-pane.

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Revival Styles

Revival styles were also very popular during this period and are well reflected in the Murphy-Hill District. The most popular revival style in the district is the Colonial Revival. About half of the Colonial Revival structures in the district were built during this period and the other half were built in the 1940s. Most of the Colonial Revival houses in the district have side gables, two stories, front portico, and roof dormers. Five houses reflect the English or Tudor Revival style. These houses are along North Madison Street where the individually listed Charles Murphy, Sr., House is located. The Charles Murphy, Sr., House, built in 1925 and designed by Charles L. Thompson, probably had a large influence on the prevalence of the English Revival style in the district. Two houses in the district reflect the Spanish Revival style also popular during this period. Features common to these houses are tile or parapet roofs, stucco on the exterior, and curved parapets or porch walls. The houses at 711 North Madison Street and 528 North Jefferson Street are representative of the Spanish Revival style.

1920-1957

Thirty houses in the district were built during this period and the majority are representative of the Minimal Traditional style popular in the postwar period. These houses typically have front or side gables, are one story, and have minimal ornamentation. A few structures reflect the revival styles popular during the previous period, the Colonial and English Revivals. The house at 717 North Jackson Street is an excellent example of an early ranch style house with features drawn from the Prairie and International Styles. This house has a sprawling floor plan on one story with exaggeratedly wide overhanging eaves and single-pane fixed windows arranged horizontally in ribbon formations.

Multi-family

Three structures in the district were originally constructed as multi-family apartment buildings. All were built between 1920 and 1930 and reflect the need for higher value temporary or transient housing associated with the El Dorado oil discovery of 1921. The El Dorado Apartments at 420 Wilson Place (individually listed), built in 1926, has a large block floorplan and is built in the Classical Revival style. The other two multi-family structures are adjacent to one another at 701 and 711 North Jefferson Street. 701 North Jefferson draws on the Craftsman style popular for residences during the era and dominant throughout the district. The structure at 711 North Jefferson is a large Spanish Revival structure with a parapet roof in a Mission style curve that is mirrored in the porch details. Both have a similar U-shaped floor plan.

Churches

One church is found in the district, the First Christian Church at 420 North Madison constructed in 1947. The church is constructed in the Gothic Revival style. The exterior of the church is cut stone on the south, east, and north facades, with brick on the west façade. The sanctuary has a steep pitched roof, ornamental buttresses along the side and a Gothic arch entry.

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Overall, 73 (62%) of the district's 121 buildings contribute to the historic significance of the neighborhood. Of the 45 non-contributing buildings, only twenty were constructed since 1957. The majority of the non-contributing structures in the district are historic, but have compromised integrity, most often through the enclosing of original porches or removal/alteration of original features.

Development in the Murphy-Hill Historic District occurred in primarily two phases. The core of the district, along North Jackson Street, is the oldest developed area in the district and one of the first residentially developed areas in El Dorado. The southern end of North Jackson Street in the district was part of the original El Dorado plat. The development of North Jefferson and North Madison Streets were simultaneous, yet distinct developments. The North Jefferson corridor was platted as the John Hill Addition while the Madison corridor was platted as the Murphy Subdivision.

Most of the buildings in the Murphy-Hill district are in good to excellent condition. The overall condition is largely due to a number of rehabilitation efforts over the last couple of decades. Several structures have been rehabilitated into multi-family residences, bed and breakfast inns, and cultural/historic education sites.

The Murphy-Hill Historic District is flanked to the south by El Dorado's downtown commercial core, and to the west, north, and east by similar neighborhoods. The residential area to the west is bordered on its western side by a major commercial artery, and as a result has experienced significant commercial encroachment. The adjacent neighborhood to the north is a later development, primarily following the North Madison Street development of the 1920s and 1930s. The area to the east of the district was developed contemporaneously to the North Madison Street corridor, but has a different character due to its original development as a working class neighborhood.

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Resource #	Street	Survey Number	Contributing/Non-Contributing/Individually Listed
UN0228	415 E Faulkner	001	NC
UN0227	413 E Faulkner	002	C
UN0209	411 E Faulkner	003	C
UN0157	420 Wilson Pl	004	IL
UN0317	411 Wilson Pl	005	C
UN0318	413 Wilson Pl	006	C
UN0319	415/417 Wilson Pl	007	C
UN0280	414 N Madison	008	NC
UN0235	422 N Jackson	009	C
UN0236	424 N Jackson	010	IL
UN0230	311 N Jackson	011	C
UN0231	317 N Jackson	012	C
UN0312	311 E Peach	013	C
UN0232	407 N Jackson	014	NC
UN0238	520 N Jackson	015	C
UN0237	519 N Jackson	016	NC
UN0239	523/525 N Jackson	017	C
UN0240	529 N Jackson	018	C
UN0241	533 N Jackson	019	C
UN0242	601 N Jackson	020	C
UN0243	602 N Jackson	021	C
UN0244	605 N Jackson	022	NC
UN0245	606 N Jackson	023	C
UN0246	609 N Jackson	024	C
UN0247	614 N Jackson	025	C
UN0248	619 N Jackson	026	C
UN0205	403 Church	027	NC
UN0206	407 Church	028	C
UN0283	524 N Madison	029	C
UN0282	514 N Madison	030	C
UN0281	504 N Madison	031	C
UN0284	525 N Madison	032	NC
UN0202	322 Church	033	C
UN0203	326 Church	034	C
UN0249	717 N Jackson	035	C
UN0265	630 N Jefferson	036	C
UN0263	624 N Jefferson	037	C
UN0261	620 N Jefferson	038	C

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UN0259	616	N Jefferson	039	C
UN0258	612	N Jefferson	040	C
UN0331	604	N Jefferson	041	C
UN0330	528	N Jefferson	042	C
UN0285	612	N Madison	043	C
UN0286	620	N Madison	044	C
UN0287	700	N Madison	045	C
UN0289	710	N Madison	046	C
UN0291	716	N Madison	047	C
UN0294	722	N Madison	048	C
UN0295	728	N Madison	049	C
UN0296	806	N Madison	050	C
UN0288	703	N Madison	051	NC
UN0290	711	N Madison	052	C
UN0292	717	N Madison	053	NC
UN0293	721	N Madison	054	C
UN0311	502	Mahony	055	C
UN0298	817	N Madison	056	C
UN0279	940	N Jefferson	057	C
UN0333	934	N Jefferson	058	NC
UN0278	906	N Jefferson	059	NC
UN0326	100	High	060	NC
UN0277	820	N Jefferson	061	C
UN0276	812	N Jefferson	062	NC
UN0275	806	N Jefferson	063	C
UN0332	802	N Jefferson	064	C
UN0272	722	N Jefferson	065	NC
UN0270	718	N Jefferson	066	NC
UN0325	114	E Grove	067	NC
UN0329	520	N Jefferson	068	C
UN0252	516	N Jefferson	069	C
UN0251	512	N Jefferson	070	NC
UN0250	504	N Jefferson	071	NC
UN0337	50?	N Jefferson	072	C
UN0313	312	E Peach	073	NC
UN0233	408	N Jackson	074	C
UN0234	410	N Jackson	075	NC
UN0328	501	N Jackson	076	NC
UN0327	411	N Jackson	077	NC
UN0210	412	E Faulkner	078	NC
UN0334	404	N Madison	079	NC

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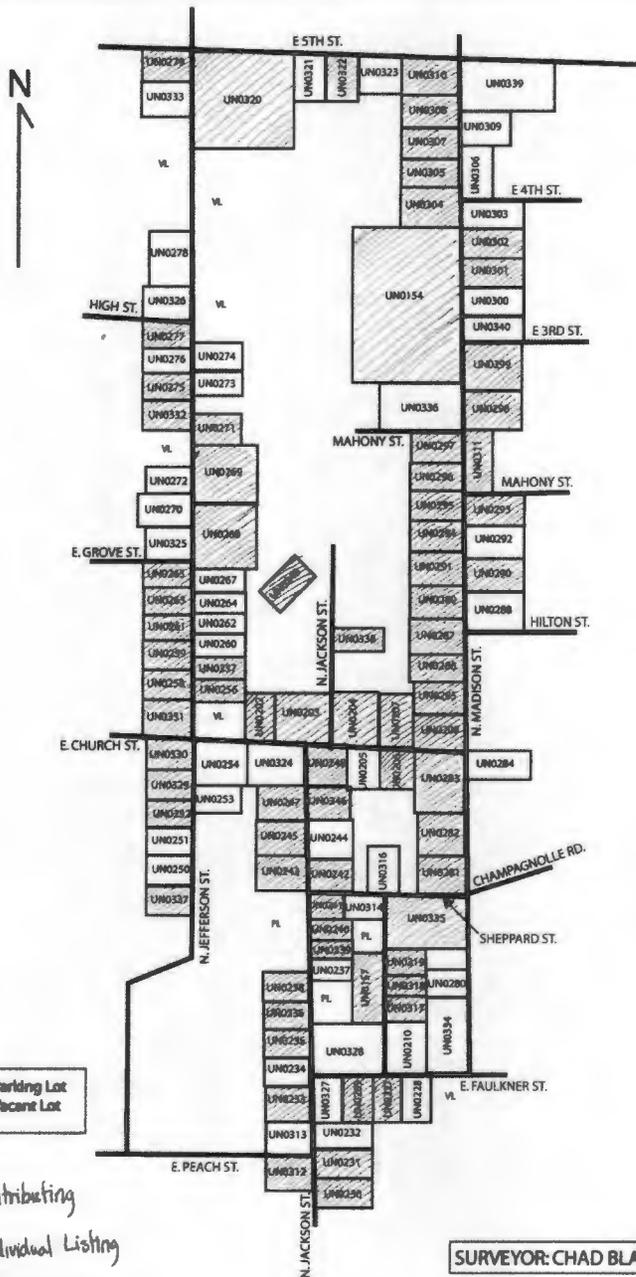
UN0335	420	N Madison	080	C
UN0316	416	Sheppard	081	NC
UN0314	407	Sheppard	082	NC
UN0338	72?	N Jackson	083	C
UN0204	402	Church	084	C
UN0207	414	Church	085	C
UN0208	416	Church	086	C
UN0253	519	N Jefferson	087	NC
UN0254	527	N Jefferson	088	NC
UN0324	321	E Church	089	NC
UN0297	808	N Madison	090	C
UN0336	410	Mahony	091	NC
UN0154	900	N Madison	092	IL
UN0304	922	N Madison	093	C
UN0305	926	N Madison	094	C
UN0307	1010	N Madison	095	C
UN0308	1016	N Madison	096	C
UN0310	1020	N Madison	097	C
UN0309	1019	N Madison	098	NC
UN0306	1001	N Madison	099	NC
UN0303	921	N Madison	100	NC
UN0302	917	N Madison	101	C
UN0301	913	N Madison	102	C
UN0300	909	N Madison	103	NC
UN0299	821	N Madison	104	C
UN0340	901	N Madison	105	NC
UN0274	803	N Jefferson	106	NC
UN0273	801	N Jefferson	107	NC
UN0271	719	N Jefferson	108	C
UN0269	711	N Jefferson	109	C
UN0268	701	N Jefferson	110	C
UN0267	637	N Jefferson	111	NC
UN0264	627	N Jefferson	112	NC
UN0262	623	N Jefferson	113	NC
UN0260	617	N Jefferson	114	NC
UN0257	611	N Jefferson	115	C
UN0256	607	N Jefferson	116	C
UN0320	201	E Fifth	117	C
UN0321	401	E Fifth	118	NC
UN0322	403	E Fifth	119	C
UN0323	405	E Fifth	120	NC
UN0339	505	E. Fifth	121	NC

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EL DORADO SURVEY RESOURCE MAP 08/31/06



PL = Parking Lot
VL = Vacant Lot

- Contributing
- Individual Listing
- Non-Contributing

SURVEYOR: CHAD BLACKWELL

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SUMMARY

El Dorado lies in the south central area of Arkansas, midway between the Mississippi River and the Texas-Arkansas border, and just north of the Arkansas-Louisiana border. Established in 1843, El Dorado was a quiet county seat for three-quarters of a century and originally known for its vast forests of pine and hardwood used for timber. In 1921, oil was discovered a mile west of the town bringing dramatic changes to the town and its inhabitants. After the discovery of oil marked El Dorado as the "Oil Capital of Arkansas," development increased at a rapid pace. Some of the structures located in the Murphy-Hill Historic District, particularly those in the southern end along North Jackson Street reflect the residential development of El Dorado in the latter half of the 19th century. The John Newton House and numerous Queen Anne houses represent this early development pattern. The areas along N. Jefferson and N. Madison Streets reflect the residential development boom following the 1921 oil discovery. The multi-family residences and the Charles Murphy, Sr., House reflect the growth in wealth of the community and its built environment.

ELABORATION

The Murphy-Hill Historic District is comprised of one hundred and twenty-one (121) buildings just to the north of El Dorado's commercial downtown. Three properties within the boundaries of the district were previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places: the John Newton (or Matthew Rainey) House (NR 11-06-74), the Charles H. Murphy, Sr., House (NR 09-08-83), and the El Dorado Apartments (NR 12-01-83). The district has a strong historic character and integrity as evidenced by high percentage of contributing structures (62%).

El Dorado's most defining event occurred with the discovery of oil two miles west of town in 1921. However, its beginnings in history began nearly four centuries earlier. Most historical accounts of Union County begin with the local legend of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto and his expeditionary force of 500 men establishing camp on a hill not far from present day El Dorado. Present-day Arkansas was part of the Louisiana Territory purchased by the United States from France in 1803. In 1812, the Louisiana territory was reorganized as the Missouri territory, and Arkansas was established as a territory in 1819. Union County was formed in 1829, encompassing a much greater area than the present-day county, defined in 1852.

According to local folklore, El Dorado was founded by Matthew Rainey around 1830. Rainey, a Virginia-born merchant, stopped in the area to fix a broken wagon. Unable to repair the wagon, he began selling his wares to the settlers and farmers in the area. In 1843, when a county election established a commission to establish a county seat, the commissioners recommended the centrally located site on Matthew Rainey's 160-acre property. Rainey deeded the land to the county, retaining four acres for his homestead. This site was ideally situated on the east-west trail from Arkansas Post to Texarkana and close to the Ouachita River, a major regional transportation artery.

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The original 1843 plat of El Dorado was primarily for a commercial core consisting of 49 lots laid out in a grid pattern. In 1844, the first courthouse was constructed at a cost of two hundred dollars. In the mid-19th century, El Dorado was little more than a trading post for an agricultural community. Timber was the largest industry in the area due to the expansive stands of yellow pine, oak, gum and other native hardwoods.

The most significant event in El Dorado in the latter half of the 19th century was the arrival of the railroad in 1891. Prior to the construction of the railroad, most goods were shipped on the Ouachita River and hauled by wagon to and from El Dorado. The railroad suddenly opened new markets and destinations previously out of reach. Primarily due to the railroad, El Dorado experienced a period of modest development and substantial growth in wealth. Accounts from the early 20th century speak of the vibrant social and cultural life of El Dorado with an arts center, library, auditorium, and health care facilities. These cultural benefits primarily stemmed from a considerable number of wealthy residents who constructed substantial homes near the city center.

Life in El Dorado inexorably changed on January 10, 1921, with the discovery of oil two miles west of downtown. The well was financed by Dr. Samuel Busey and a group of local investors. Once the well struck oil, El Dorado would never be the same. The next morning, unscheduled trains carrying fortune-seeking passengers began arriving. The *Arkansas Gazette* announced that five special trains would begin running from Little Rock to El Dorado and soon 22 trains were running daily to and from the town. El Dorado became inundated with fortune seekers looking to capitalize on the oil discovery. Tents and shacks sprang up overnight, fires periodically ravaged the town, and crime became a new problem.

In just four short years, El Dorado changed from a sleepy county seat with four paved roads to a bustling cosmopolitan city with a larger, denser downtown, an active social calendar, modern conveniences, and numerous new homes. The newfound wealth that accompanied the oil discovery and the problems it brought allowed the city to adapt to the influx of new residents. In 1921, the population of El Dorado was 3,000. By 1923, it had swelled to 15,000 and reached a high of 30,000 in 1925. The population stabilized by 1930 at 16,000, but this period of rapid population growth was mirrored in El Dorado's built environment. Several apartment blocks were built in the Murphy-Hill Historic District during this period to accommodate the wealthier fortune seekers—the El Dorado Apartments at 420 Wilson Place (NR 12-01-83), the Reeves Apartments at 701 North Jefferson Street, and the apartments at 711 North Jefferson Street. Single family housing also developed during this period along the North Jefferson and North Madison corridors. The development along N. Jefferson generally followed the Craftsman and bungalow style popular during this era. Along N. Madison, a preponderance of houses with elements of the English or Tudor Revival followed the cue of the Charles H. Murphy, Sr., House (NR 09-08-83), a singular example of a rambling English Revival manor designed by Charles Thompson.

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As the population of El Dorado stabilized in the 1930s, the wealth brought from the sudden changes of the 1920s continued to increase. As a result, El Dorado's economy remained stable during the Great Depression relative to the rest of the country. Industries based on the oil economy, such as refineries and gasoline plants, sprung up and were accompanied by non-related ones, such as cotton gins and bottling works. Development in the Murphy-Hill Historic District continued during this period, filling in vacant lots particularly at the north ends of North Jefferson and North Madison Streets.

The 1940s and 1950s saw consolidation of the oil industry in El Dorado with the expansion of the Root Petroleum and Lion Oil Company Refineries in the 1940s, and the construction of the Murphy Oil headquarters in 1950. The Murphy Oil headquarters were built at the southwest corner of the Murphy-Hill Historic District and resulted in some historic homes being relocated or razed. The Rainey-Newton House was moved from its original location to its current site in the district. The only church in the district, the First Christian Church at 420 North Madison, was built during this period in 1947. Single-family houses built in the district during this period are generally of a more modest Minimal Traditional style. One notable exception is the house at 717 North Jackson, an early precursor to the Ranch style with elements pulled from the Prairie and International styles.

Today, the Murphy-Hill Historic District has largely remained true to its origin as a central, single-family residential neighborhood. While some of the adjacent neighborhoods have experienced commercial encroachment to varying degrees, the district has mostly avoided this trend.

SIGNIFICANCE

The Murphy-Hill Historic District remains an intact representation of El Dorado's history from 1880 to 1957. Architectural styles range from Queen Anne to Craftsman to various early 20th century Revival styles and reflect the periods of development in the district. The Murphy-Hill Historic District is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for its representation of the growth and development of El Dorado in the late 19th and first half of the 20th centuries, and most notably the defining period of extraordinary growth following the oil discovery of 1921; and under **Criterion C** for its extraordinary array of various architectural styles embodying distinctive characteristics representative of the periods of construction and development.

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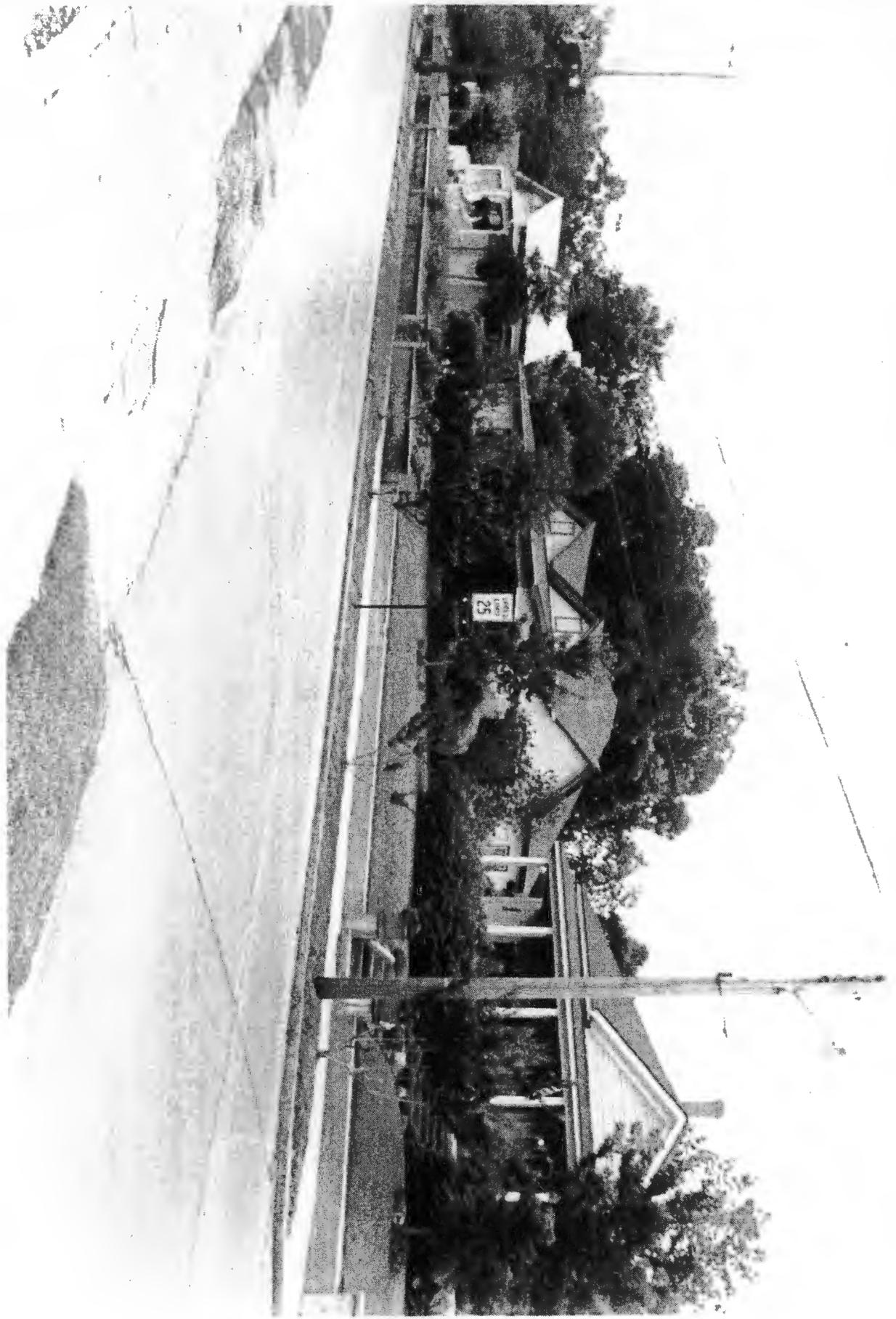
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point at the northwest corner of the property line of 940 N. Jefferson Street, the boundary runs east along the south side of E. Fifth Street to the northeast corner of the property line at 505 E. Fifth St. The boundary then turns south along the eastern property line boundaries of properties on the east side of N. Madison Street to the southeast corner of the property line of 525 N. Madison Street. The boundary then goes west following the southern boundary of the property line of 525 N. Madison Street to the center line of the intersection of N. Madison and E. Church Streets. The boundary then turns south following the center line of N. Madison to the southern boundary of the property lines of lots on the south side of E. Faulkner Street. The boundary turns west following the southern boundaries of the property lines on the south side of E. Faulkner Street to the northeast corner of the property line of 407 N. Jackson Street. The boundary then turns south following the eastern boundaries of properties located on the east side of N. Jackson Street. The boundary then turns west to follow the southern boundary of the property located at 311 N. Jackson Street to the center line of N. Jackson Street. The boundary then turns north following the center line of N. Jackson Street. The Boundary then turns west at the southeast corner of the property line of 311 E. Peach Street to the southwest corner of 311 E. Peach Street. The boundary then turns north following the western boundaries of the properties located on the west side of N. Jackson Street. At the southeast corner of the property line of 602 N. Jackson Street, the boundary turns west following the southern boundary of the property line of 602 N. Jackson Street to the southwest corner of the property line of 500 N. Jefferson Street. The boundary then turns north following the western boundaries of properties fronting the west side of N. Jefferson Street to the point of boundary origin at the northwest corner of the property line of 940 N. Jefferson Street.

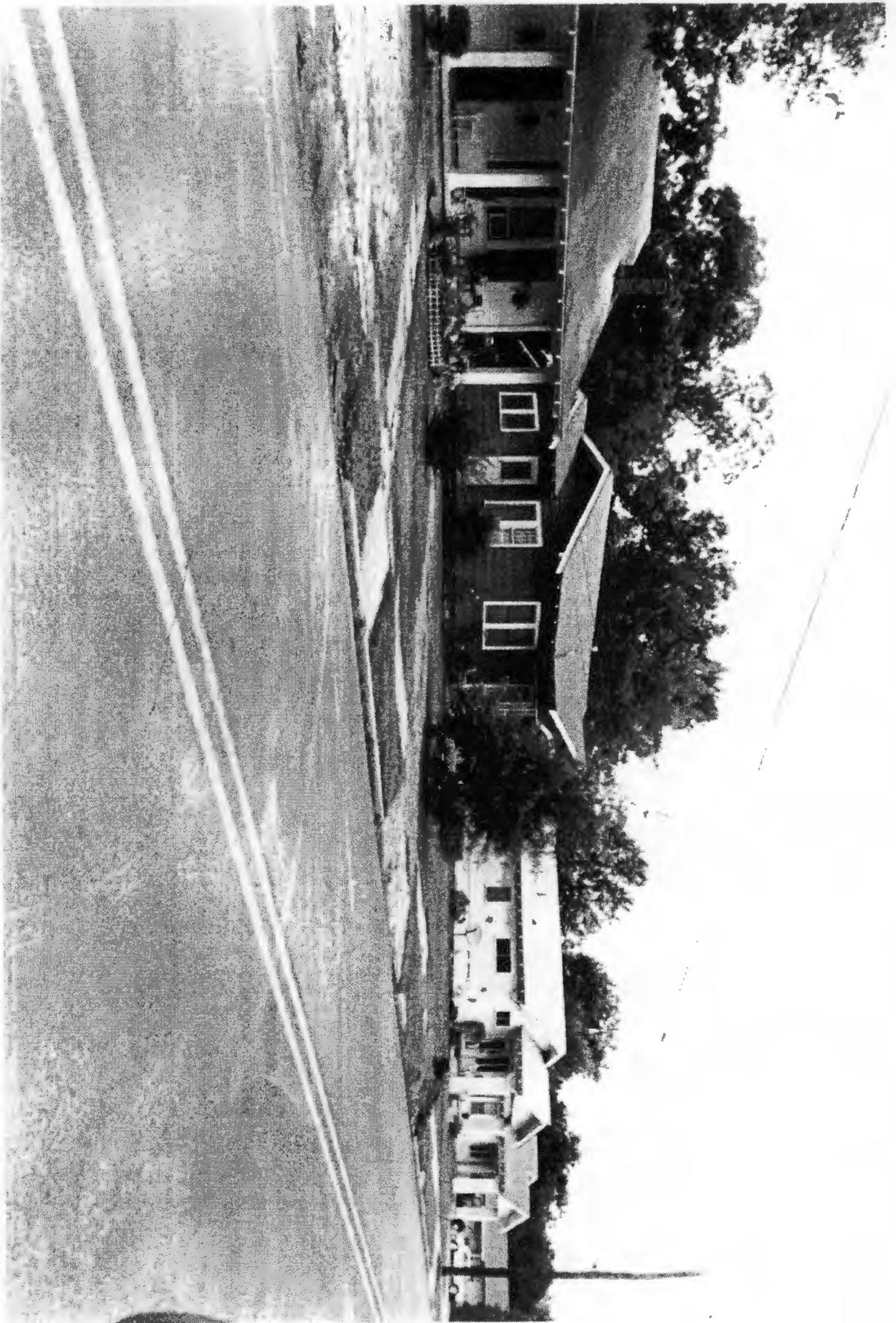
BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the North Jackson Historic District were derived from an initial visual survey by the staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) and from a comprehensive architectural resource survey conducted by the City of El Dorado, Arkansas, through a Certified Local Government Grant in 2006. The area surveyed was determined by AHPP staff, the City of El Dorado, and the consultant surveyor to be the primary and most important fabric of the historic downtown residential district. AHPP staff, through a determination of eligibility process, reviewed each property in the surveyed area with input from the City of El Dorado and the consultant who conducted the survey. The boundaries of the proposed district were determined to be the most concentrated and contiguous portion of the surveyed area. Areas to the south and west of the boundaries of the proposed district had more commercial encroachment and the areas to the north and east reflect later residential development.









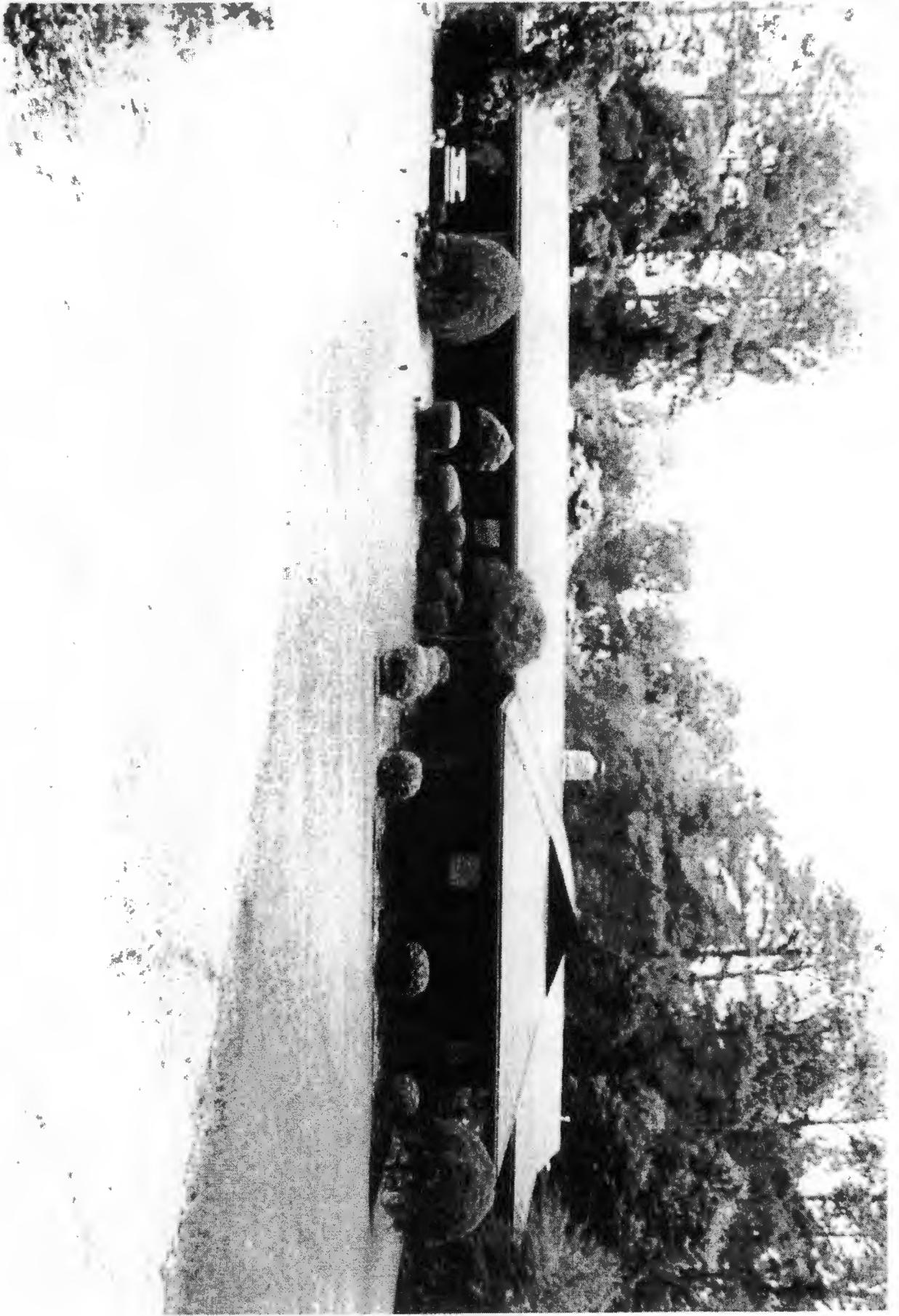






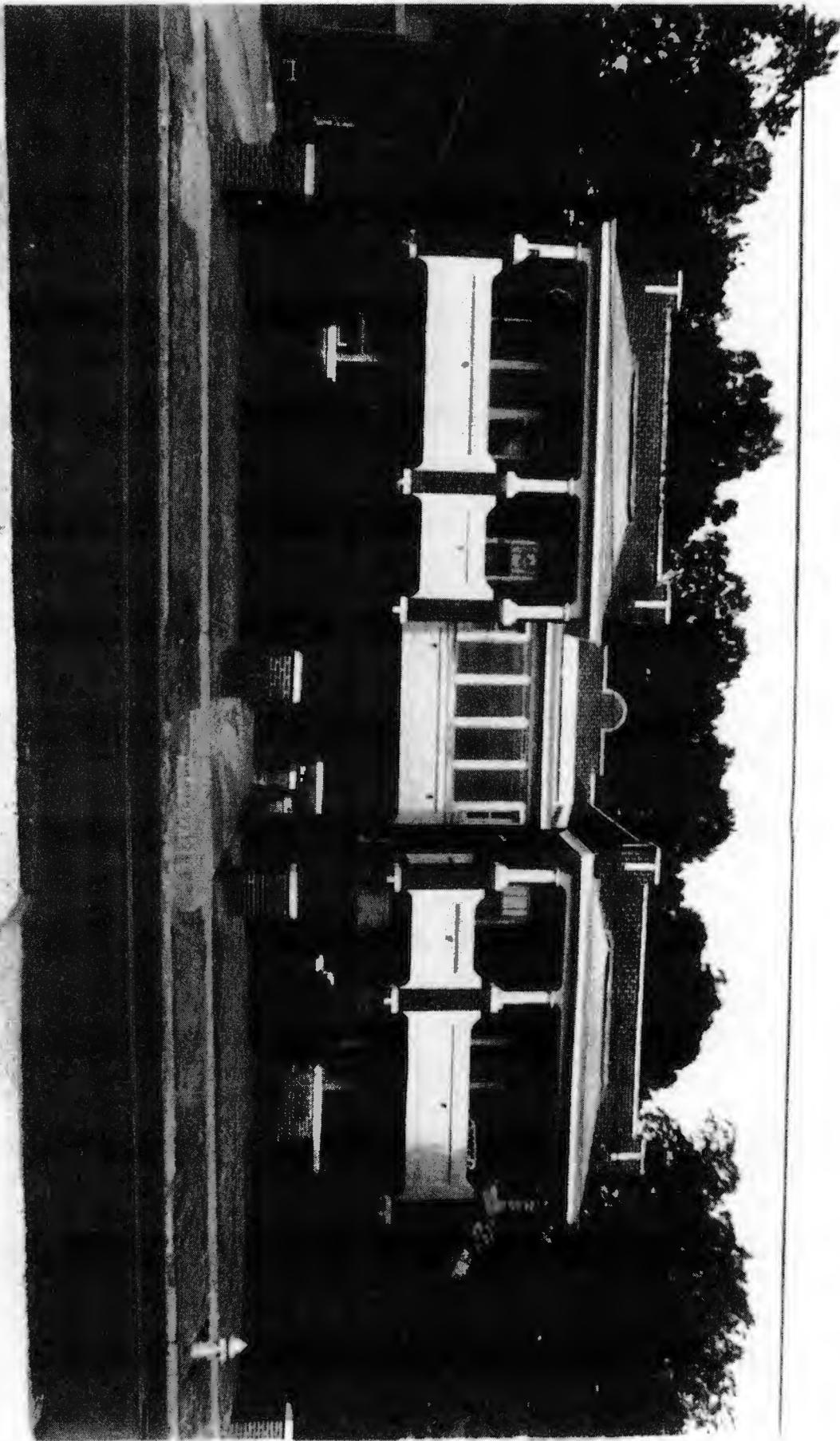


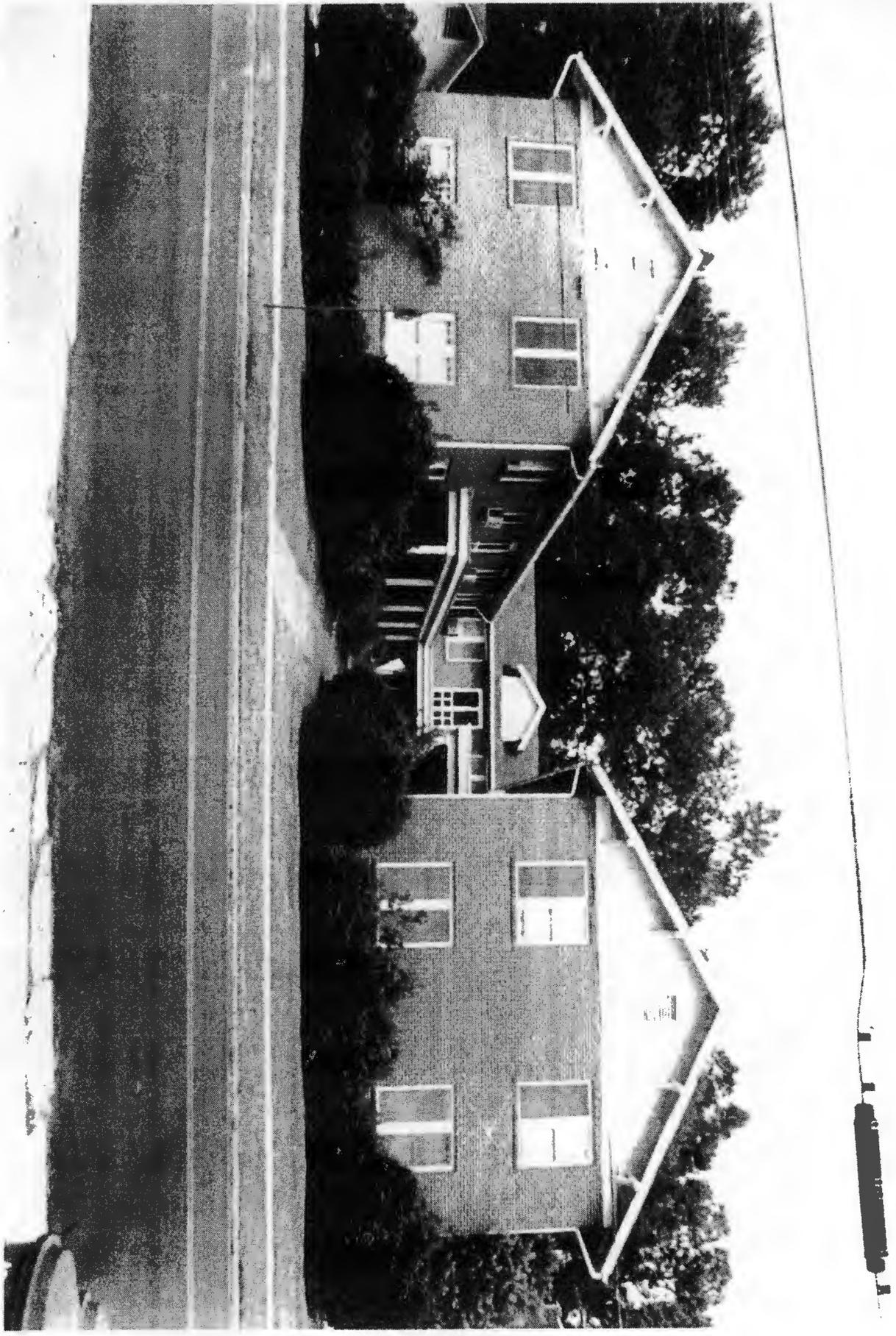












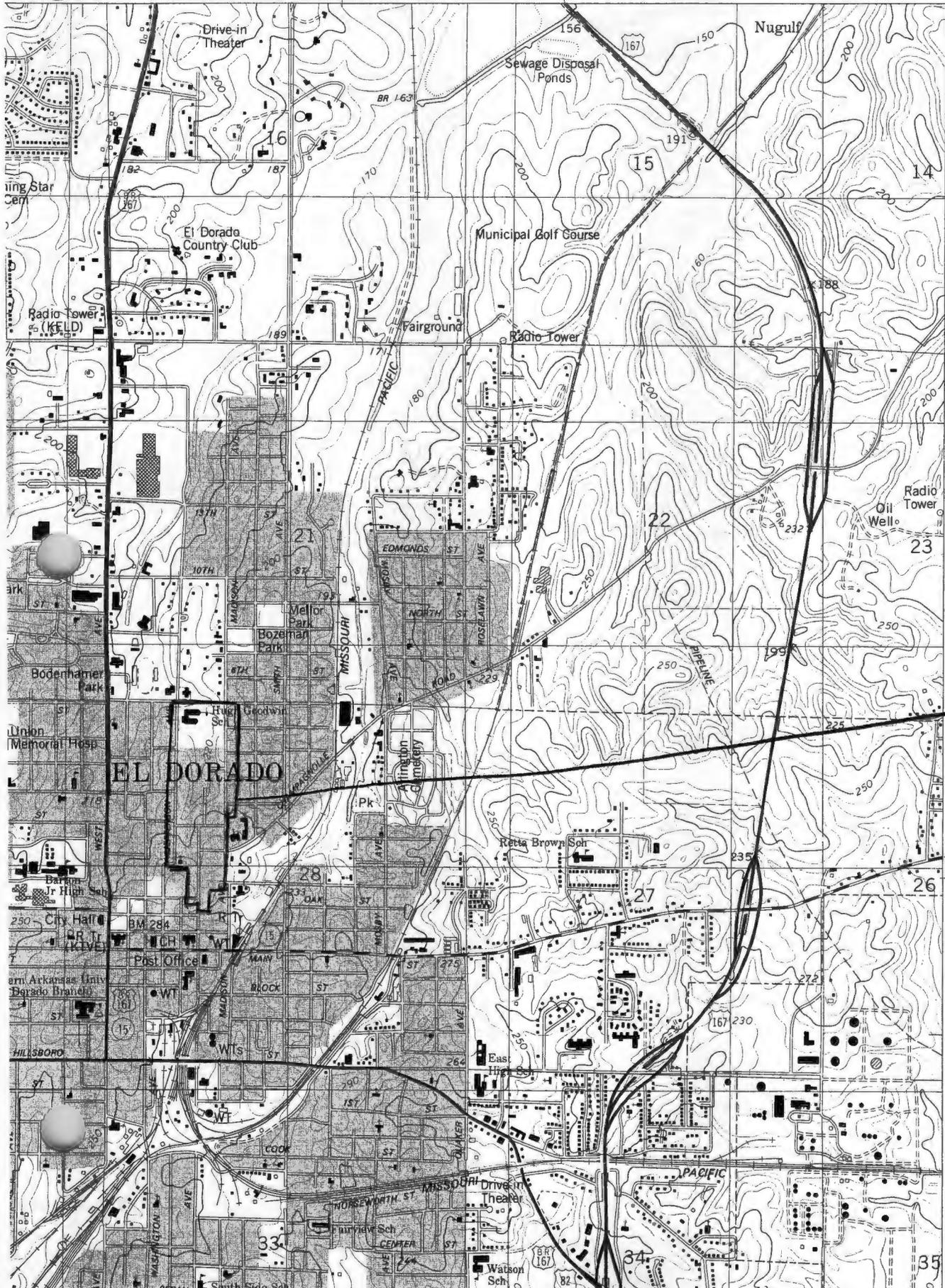


EL DORADO WEST QUADRANGLE
 ARKANSAS—UNION CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 EL DORADO 15' QUADRANGLE

7480 1 SE
 (CALION)

1 800 000 FEET 92°37'30" 33°15'



210 000
 FEET

3077

*Murphy Hill
 Historic District
 El Dorado,
 Union Co., AR
 UTM References:
 15/531457/3675904
 15/531723/3675936
 15/531663/3675121
 15/531461/3675269*

OLD UNION 5 MI.
 WARREN 46 MI.

12'30"

3074

T 17 S