

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Dardanelle Commercial Historic District

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Front, Oak, 2<sup>nd</sup> and Pine streets

not for publication

city or town Dardanelle

vicinity

state Arkansas

code AR

county Yell

code 149

zip code 72834

### 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.)

Cathy Marches  
Signature of certifying official/Title

12/30/08  
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:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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:)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

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

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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, 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

2 - Post Office and First Presbyterian Church

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE TRADE: business, professional, organizational, financial institution, specialty store, department store, restaurant; SOCIAL: Meeting hall; Government: post office; Religion: Religious facility; RECREATION AND CULTURE: Theater; DOMESTIC: single dwelling; INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility, warehouse

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE TRADE: business, professional, organizational, financial institution, specialty store, department store, restaurant, warehouse; SOCIAL: meeting hall; Government: post office, city hall; RELIGION: Religious facility; DOMESTIC: single dwelling; INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: warehouse; LANDSCAPE: park, parking lot

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19th CENTURY: Gothic Revival; LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne; LATE 19th & 20th CENTURY: Colonial Revival; OTHER: 19th & 20th Century Commercial Architecture, Plain Traditional

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, CONCRETE; walls BRICK, STUCCO, CONCRETE (blocks); WOOD: Weatherboard, Plywood; STONE: River Rock; roof ASPHALT; ASBESTOS (shingles); other

Narrative Description

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

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET FOR SECTION 7

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.)

- Criteria A, B, C, D with checkboxes and descriptions of property significance.

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- Criteria A through G with checkboxes and descriptions of property characteristics.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

ca. 1880-1958

Significant Dates

ca. 1880 (Boyce Bros Bldg. & Cunningham Bros. Drug Store)
1891, 1906, 1934, 1942 (Fire)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

N/A

Architect/Builder

Louis Simon, architect (Post Office)
Linebarger and Fraser, builder (Post Office)

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET FOR SECTION 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET FOR SECTION 9

Dardanelle Commercial Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

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:

Dardanelle Public Library

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approx. 25 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

A	<u>15</u>	<u>485857</u>	<u>3897604</u>	E	<u>15</u>	<u>486176</u>	<u>3897219</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
B	<u>15</u>	<u>485922</u>	<u>3897679</u>	F	<u>15</u>	<u>486094</u>	<u>3897278</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>15</u>	<u>486019</u>	<u>3897722</u>	G	<u>15</u>	<u>485991</u>	<u>3897300</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
D	<u>15</u>	<u>486241</u>	<u>3897240</u>	H	<u>15</u>	<u>485948</u>	<u>3897403</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
				I	<u>15</u>	<u>485900</u>	<u>3897501</u>
					Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

SEE ATTACHED DISTRICT MAP. The boundary measurements noted on the enclosed map are the measurements taken in the field using a measuring wheel. The enclosed map shows the streets and alleyways that serve as the boundaries for the district.

Boundary Justification

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

The boundary of the district encompasses the core of what did and does comprise the commercial area of Dardanelle. The area surrounding the district is comprised primarily of historic residential properties and some non-historic residential buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kara Oosterhous, Consultant, and Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator

organization Prepared for the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date August 20, 2008

street & number AHPP, 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone 501.324.9880

city or town Little Rock state AR zip code 72201

Dardanelle Commercial Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

**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 N/A  
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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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SECTION 7

#### SUMMARY

Located in Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas, the Dardanelle Historic District is comprised of 64 historic resources. This cohesive group of buildings is a reflection of Dardanelle's commercial history. Of the 64 resources, two are presently listed in the National Register of Historic Places: The Dardanelle Post Office (103 North Front Street, Listed 1998) and the First Presbyterian Church (200 North Second Street, Listed 1987). Thirty resources (46.9%) maintain integrity and contribute to the district's historic significance while 32 (50%) do not contribute to the district due to lack of integrity or because they do not contribute to the district's period of significance of ca.1880 to 1958. (The non-contributing total also includes nine vacant lots.) The earliest known date of construction for two commercial buildings, the Cunningham Brother's Drug Store (YE0161) and the Boyce Brothers' Building (YE0157), is circa 1880. Although the history of the town dates to the 1820s, the majority of the built environment is representative of twentieth century commercial architecture. All of the contributing buildings retain their overall massing and setback and remain true to the historic character of the district and substantiate the history and the development of Dardanelle.

#### ELABORATION

Located in Yell County, Dardanelle sits on the west bank of the Arkansas River at an elevation of 331 feet. Dardanelle is one of the oldest towns in the state, with the first settlers arriving in the 1820s. Colonel David Brearley is credited with naming the town. Nearly 25 years later in 1847, Colonel Brearley's son Joseph Henry (J. H.) Brearley, platted the town. For the most part, the streets are laid out in a grid pattern. Front Street runs northwest to southeast paralleling the Arkansas River. Dardanelle's original street layout (dating to at least 1851) shows Quay Street in the middle of town. The original town of Dardanelle is described as follows:

...the original town was to lay south of Council Oaks, bounded by Cedar Street on the south and the Brooks Neely addition to the north. This tract represented a fractional part of the Northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 7 North, Range 20 West, and extended the town plat onto the adjoining northeast quarter Section 31, belonging to George Williams with the understanding that the two tracts should be constituted into one town property and both be equal shares in the sale of lots.

Originally, North Main Street was parallel to Quay Street, but located two blocks northwest, while South Main Street was also parallel to Quay, but located two blocks southeast. At the time the pontoon bridge was constructed in 1890, the south end aligned with North Main Street. Sometime after the demolition of the pontoon bridge in 1929, the streets were renamed to reduce confusion; North Main Street became present-day Harrison Street and South Main became present-day Market Street.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Clifton Hull and William A. Pollard, The Dardanelle and Russellville Railroad, (Conway, AR: Central Arkansas Press, 1995), pg. 298; Wayne Banks, History of Yell County Arkansas, (Van Buren, AR: The Press-Argus, 1959), 73.

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Because of its proximity to the Arkansas River, Dardanelle has always been somewhat progressive in the area of transportation serving as a regional trade center. Beginning in 1820, Dardanelle Wharf became a landing for steamboats, opening up Dardanelle to other markets and linking Dardanelle to Danville via the Petit Jean River. Also instrumental to the establishment and growth of Dardanelle is its location along the 1823 Military Road (now Hwy 22) linking Little Rock to Fort Smith. In 1883, Dardanelle's first railroad arrived, the Dardanelle and Russellville (D&R), followed by the Dardanelle, Ola & Southern Railroad in 1906. Further substantiating Dardanelle's significance was the designation of the town as a co-county seat in 1875. All of these things combined with the fact that the bottomlands surrounding Dardanelle had very rich and fertile soil, contributed to Dardanelle's success as a busy and prosperous commercial center during the mid-to-late 1800s and early 1900s.

The majority of the buildings within the proposed district are commercial buildings of solid brick construction or frame construction with a brick or stucco veneer. The commercial buildings, which rest on concrete slab foundations, are generally topped with a flat or gabled roof hidden behind a parapet. Most of the buildings are standard twentieth-century commercial buildings, with very little architectural embellishments. Many of the buildings retain their original transoms behind some type of wall sheathing or awning. Due to numerous fires and other events, all extant buildings in the district date to the 1900s, even though the history of the area dates back to the early 1800s. The oldest known commercial buildings in the district are the Cunningham Brother's Drug Store (YE0161) and the Boyce Brothers' Building (YE0157), circa 1880. Although their architectural integrity has been compromised, their history and their longevity make them the oldest known structures in the district marking the beginning of the district's period of significance. There are two residential buildings located within the district boundary: a brick Queen Anne residence that dates to circa 1910, located at 107 Market Street and a Plain Traditional House located at 120 Market Street that likely dates back to the late 1800s. Most of the information in the following style descriptions comes from personal observations and A Field Guide to American Houses by Virginia and Lee McAlester.

*Twentieth-Century Commercial:* Late Nineteenth & Twentieth-Century Commercial Architecture as applied to historic buildings (pre-1958) are generally free standing buildings or a continuous row of buildings of brick or frame construction. Many buildings constructed during this time period, especially in the early- to mid- twentieth century, are solid brick or solid concrete block construction, or at least present a veneer of brick, concrete, or stone. These commercial buildings vary in height based upon when and where they were constructed and the technology employed. The remaining 20<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings are primarily one or two stories and are clad in brick or stucco (some of the stucco was historically applied while there are a few examples of recently-applied stucco). Some representative examples of this style that display interesting features or remain relatively intact include: 109 North Front Street; 163 North South Front Street; 224 South Front Street; 107 Quay Street; Kaufman Building, 115 South Front Street; Esch Building, 121 South Front Street; 203 North Front Street; 109 North Front Street; 218 South Front; 224 South Front Street; 114 Market Street; and 116 Market Street.

*Gothic Revival:* Steeply pitched roofs, usually with steep cross gables with decorative vergeboards; flat walls that extend to the roof on the gable ends; and gothic-shaped (pointed-arch) windows; and a one story porch supported by flattened Gothic arches are just some of the

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characteristics associated with Gothic Revival architecture. This style of architecture was most popular from 1840 through the 1880s. There is one example of this style of architecture, First Baptist Church, located at 118 South Second Street.

*Colonial Revival:* Colonial Revival was a very popular building style spanning from 1880 through the mid 1950s. Some key defining characteristics include: accentuated front door, normally with a decorative crown (pediment) supported by pilasters, or extended forward and supported by slender columns to form an entry porch; doors commonly have overhead fanlights or sidelights; façade normally shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door; windows with double-hung sashes, usually with multi-pane glazing in one or both sashes; windows frequently in adjacent pairs. The Dardanelle Post Office, located at 103 North Front Street, displays elements of this style as applied to a government building.

### *Queen Anne*

One of two residential buildings within the boundary of the district is the house at 107 Market Street, designed in the Queen Anne Style. This style was a dominant style of domestic building from about 1880 until 1900. Defining elements of this style include a steeply-pitched roof of irregular shape, usually with a dominant front-facing gable; asymmetrical façade with partial or full-width porch which is usually one story high and extended along one or both side walls; patterned shingles, cutaway bay windows, and other devices used to avoid a smooth-walled appearance.

*Plain/Traditional:* Simple lines, (generally) gabled roofs, and lack of ornamentation. A term oftentimes reserved for buildings very simple in design and form that cannot be classified as a particular high style. The only example of Plain/Traditional architecture in this district is the house at 120 Market Street.

For the most part, Dardanelle's commercial buildings have always been relatively simple with few architectural embellishments. Historic photographs show that some of the early brick buildings originally had curved windows and displayed some Italianate influences. Since the turn of the century, Dardanelle has always had numerous lumberyards making building materials easily accessible to builders and most likely a source for many of the materials used on the buildings along Front Street. A 1905 article in the Post Dispatch states the following about the Magnolia Lumber Company:

The plant of this important enterprise is well located on Front Street where it is provided with ample facilities for the proper carrying on of its prosperous business including most excellent planing (sic.) mill and stock house of large dimensions. ...The stock handled is the largest of its kind in the northern district of Yell County, consisting of the finest grades of rough and dressed lumber for all building purposes as well as shingles, lath, sash, doors, blinds, mouldings (sic.) and finishing materials.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> "Magnolia Lumber Co.," Post Dispatch, 17 August 1905, Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File.

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Another article in the Post Dispatch (1916) mentions the Dardanelle Brick and Manufacturing Company (it was located at Elberta, a few miles south of Dardanelle), which was likely a source for the brick used for several of the downtown buildings built around this time. A 1924 article in the Post Dispatch notes the dismantling of the company but says of the industry, "The quality of the product turned out by the Dardanelle Brick Manufacturing Company was first class, several of our best business houses, as well as our splendid new school house having been built of local brick."<sup>3</sup> In an effort to modernize downtown and accommodate growing automobile traffic, the town began to address the issue of paving streets in the 1920s. An article occurring in the Post Dispatch, 03 December 1925 notes:

At a meeting of the City Council last Friday night the petition of property owners praying for the formation of an improvement district for the purpose of paving thirty-five blocks of streets in Dardanelle was filed with the Council... Other towns the size of Dardanelle, many of them much less favorably situated manage to pave their streets and in consequence thrive and prosper. The business section of Dardanelle is surely the narrowest business street in the world, with the exception of some of those in Canton, China; the river-bed is full of the finest grade of sand and gravel, right on the job; and in addition the city pledges itself to pay at least \$3,000 per year to the retirement of the bonds. ...

An article titled "Paving Contract to Be Let Next Week," occurred in the Post Dispatch 24 February 1926, stating, "Sealed bids for paving thirty-five blocks of streets in the business and residence section of Dardanelle were received at 10 o'clock this morning." During the years of 1927 and 1928 several highway projects were undertaken including the paving of Highway 22 from Dardanelle to Fort Smith and the paving of Highway 7 from Dardanelle to Hot Springs.<sup>4</sup>

Throughout the 1900s, the appearance of the commercial area has evolved and its appearance changed; some of the changes have been forced and others chosen; and some of the changes have been good and others less desirable. Substantial fires in 1907, 1934, and 1942 destroyed buildings and caused damage to nearby buildings resulting in new construction and/or remodeling of buildings; however, these changes are historic in nature and fall within the district's period of significance. As the buildings began to age most were maintained, though some fell victim to neglect and decay and ultimately destruction. Sometimes this destruction was in the name of progress or in an attempt to beautify the area or to keep it viable with new businesses. Such was the case in 1979 when the city received a \$68,162.50 grant from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, a part of the U.S. Department of Interior, to construct a downtown park on Front Street that is still an integral part of the commercial area.<sup>5</sup> The commercial buildings lining Front Street represent Dardanelle's past and tell the story of a town steeped in a long and rich history. They also represent the future of

<sup>3</sup>"Local Brick Company to Make Big Shipment," Post Dispatch, 01 June 1916, Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File; "Local Brick Plant Sold to Palmer, Texas Co.," Post Dispatch, 11 December 1924, Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File.

<sup>4</sup>"Paving Petition Filed With City Council," Post Dispatch, 03 December 1925, Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File; "Paving Contract To Be Let Next Week," Post Dispatch, 24 February 1926, Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File; and Hull & Pollard, The Dardanelle and Russellville Railroad, 301-302 & 304.

<sup>5</sup>"Buildings to Fall," City Receives Grant," Post Dispatch, 03 July 1979, Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File.

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Dardanelle as city officials encourage the revitalization of this area and promote the usefulness of these sturdy brick business buildings overlooking the Arkansas River. One of the huge success stories is that of "Savannah's" a restaurant and anchor business on Front Street located in a renovated commercial building with a view of the Arkansas River. Change is inevitable but the commercial buildings along Front Street overlooking the Arkansas River are solid and sturdy and reflect the history of those who worked hard to establish Dardanelle as a commercial center.

### INTEGRITY

The Dardanelle Historic District is a cohesive group of buildings that maintain the integrity needed to convey their architectural and historic significance. These buildings possess integrity of location and setting as they still possess their original setbacks and configurations. The buildings, which contribute to the district's significance, are still true to their original design displaying much of the workmanship and historic materials used in their construction; in some instances, some of the detail is concealed behind false fronts, or covered by plywood, an easily reversible, non-permanent alteration. These buildings continue to maintain their integrity of association as they have continuously been used as places of commerce, as well as political and social gatherings and residences. The buildings serve as a reminder of how Dardanelle's commercial architecture has evolved with the times while staying true to its original design. Although the town has changed in appearance from its 1820s origins, the existing buildings still convey a 20<sup>th</sup> century ambience of a small river town.

Although it appears that a majority of the resources in the district are non-contributing, the integrity of the Dardanelle Commercial Historic District has a strong visual connection to its period of significance. Interruptions in this district can be directly related to buildings that have had slipcovers placed over their front facades or the limited amount of infill. Although the ratio of contributing and non-contributing buildings is close, the district is still able to convey its significance. The non-contributing buildings largely constitute buildings that have had slipcovers placed over their front facades. In addition, the non-contributing resources include nine vacant lots. In addition, the Dardanelle Commercial Historic District has two resources that were previously listed in the National Register that further convey the district's period of significance. As a result, there is still a large concentration of historic buildings that are able to convey the district's architectural significance. The district is also able to convey its associations with the development of Dardanelle because the buildings in the district do date from a wide range of periods, which illustrates the area's development throughout the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

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### Dardanelle Commercial Historic District

Resource #	Current Occupant	Address	Oldest Business/Occupant Known	C/NC
YE0134	Post Dispatch Newspaper Building	218 North Front Street	Millard Brother's Liquor Store	C
YE0135	Savanah's Restaurant/Storage Building	208 North Front Street	Arkansas Power Light Building	NC
YE0136	Savanah's Restaurant Building	206 North Front Street	Brown Brother's Car Dealership	NC
YE0137	WestArk Closing/ Vision Care Office	204 North Front Street	Warren Building	C
YE0138	VFW Post #3141	118 North Front Street	Garner Hudson Building (1934)	C
YE0139	Dardanelle City Hall	120 North Front Street		NC
YE0140	Rivertown Bank	102 North Front Street		NC
YE0141	Carousel Gift Shop	111 South Front Street	Smith Café	C
YE0142	Daly's Downtown Restaurant	115 South Front Street	M. Kaufman Building (1911)	C
YE0143		121 South Front Street	Esch Building	C
YE0144	Dardanelle Fire Station #2	123 South Front Street		NC
YE0145		201 South Front Street	Thomas V. Jones Lumber & Building Supply	NC
YE0146		215-217 North Front Street	D. Warren Grocery Store	C
YE0147	Red Door Thrift Store	213 North Front Street	Warren Brothers Building	C
YE0148		207 North Front Street		C
YE0149	D. J.'s Auto Body	203 North Front Street	S.E. Miller Auto Company Bldg. (pre 1932)	C
YE0150	Party Supply Store	121 North Front Street	Blue Valley Creamery (1932)	C
YE0151	Hobby Shop	119 North Front Street	Jagger's Drug Store	C
YE0152	Budget Medical Supply	117 North Front Street	Sam McGraw Dry Good	C
YE0153	Dardanelle Printing & Advertising	113-115 North Front Street	Kroger	NC
YA0154		111 North Front Street	Hat Business/Dress Shop	C
YE0155		109 North Front Street	Faye Andrews Five & Dime	C
YE0156		107 North Front Street	West Drug Store	C
YE0094	Dardanelle Post Office	103 North Front Street	Dardanelle Post Office	IL
YE0157	First National Bank Building	102 South Front Street	1880s Building/Possibly Boyce Brothers Building	NC
YE0158	McCormick Dentist	116 South Front Street	Howell's Drug Store (Rexall Drug Store)	NC
YE0159		118 South Front Street	J. C. Woodson Dry Goods Store	NC
YE0160	Jones Antiques Building	120-122 South Front Street		NC
YE0161	Millyn's Shop	124 South Front Street	Cunningham Brother's Drug Store (Singer Drug Store)	NC
YE0162	Precision Tool Shop Building	214-216 South Front Street	J. L. Carpenter Building (1910)	NC

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YE0163		218 South Front Street		C
YE0164		220-222 South Front Street		C
YE0165		224 South Front Street		C
YE0167		107 Quay Street		C
YE0168	Showcase Video Building	111 Quay Street		C
YE0169	Betty's Speed Wash Building	115 Quay Street	Sorrel's Body Shop	C
YE0170	Roy Petty Law Office	114 North Second Street		NC
YE0171		103-105 Locust Street	F. C. Burnett Building (1917)	NC
YE0172	First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall	East of, and behind, First Presbyterian Church, facing Quay Street; 112 Quay Street	L. Birkhead Building	NC
YE0177		203 South Quay Street		C
YE0178	Millyn's Bargain Shop Warehouse	108 Market Street		NC
YE0066	C. B. Cotton's Mill	114 Market Street	Rear Addition: Goodier's Feed & Flour (ca. 1914)	C
YE0180		116 Market Street		C
YE0181		120 Market Street	House at 120 Market Street	C
YE0182		105 Market Street	House at 105 Market Street	C
YE0183	First United Methodist Church Education Building	122 Market Street		NC
YE0184		115 Locust Street		C
YE0185	Centurytel Building	110 Locust Street	GTE Telephone Exchange	NC
YE0186		109 Quay Street		NC
YE0187	Benny's Barber Shop	104 Quay Street		NC
YE0188		106 Quay Street		NC
YE0189		108 Quay Street		NC
YE0190		113 Quay Street		C
YE0191		300 South Second Street	Ward Grocery Store & Gas Station	C
YE0063	First Presbyterian Church	200 North Second Street		IL

**Contributing:** 30 (or 46.9 %)

**Non-Contributing\*:** 32 (or 50%)

**Total:** 64

**Individually Listed:** 2

\* Contains vacant/parking lot  
count

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### SECTION 8

#### SUMMARY

The Dardanelle Commercial Historic District, located in Dardanelle, Yell County, is a collection of early to mid 20<sup>th</sup>-Century commercial buildings overlooking the Arkansas River. This commercial area is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for the role that it played in the commercial growth and development of Dardanelle. This collection of 64 buildings is a reflection of Dardanelle's evolution as a small business district located along the Arkansas River during the first half of this century, with a period of significance that spans ca. 1880 to 1958. Of the 64 buildings comprising the district 30 (46.9%) have integrity and/or contribute to the district's period of significance; of these, the Dardanelle Post Office located at 102 South Front Street, is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places as is the First Presbyterian Church located at 200 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Thirty-two resources (50%), which includes 23 buildings and 9 vacant lots, do not contribute to the districts significance due to compromised integrity or construction dates that fall outside of the district's period of significance.

#### ELABORATION

##### Yell County

Yell County was formed on December 5, 1840, and named after Governor Archibald Yell (1840-1844). Arkansas's forty-second county was formed from Pope and Scott counties. Dardanelle and Danville both serve as county seats; it is one of ten counties in Arkansas that have dual county seats. Dardanelle became a county seat in 1875. The northern part of the county is adjacent to the Arkansas River and is part of the Arkansas River Valley geographic region. Portions of the southern and eastern part of the county lie within the Ouachita National Forest with a small part of the county being in the St. Francis National Forest.<sup>6</sup>

According to Archeologist Ann Early, before 1809, the Osage Indians claimed hunting rights to land north of the Arkansas River, including most of the Ozark Mountains, and occasionally raided trappers and travelers who tried to travel along the river. This activity made traveling or living along the Arkansas River upstream from the eventual site of Little Rock hazardous for Indians and Europeans alike. The Quapaws claimed rights to land south of the Osage claims, both to eastern Arkansas and to the land south of the Arkansas River. The Osage claims were erased by treaty in 1809, but shortly after the New Madrid Earthquake, Cherokees began moving into the valley to settle, most on the north bank. This land became a Cherokee reservation in 1818, and remained Cherokee until 1828. The Quapaws gave up rights to the land south of the Arkansas River, including the area that became Dardanelle, in 1818, but two years later a large part of the land between the Arkansas and the Red Rivers was given to Choctaws in the treaty of Doak's Stand. No Choctaws moved to this new land, however, even though it was theirs, and in 1824 a new treaty returned this part of Arkansas to US control. It was only after 1825 that Americans migrating to Arkansas Territory had the right to legally settle and later buy land in the Arkansas River Valley, and then only on the south side until 1828. Early residents, like members of the pioneer

<sup>6</sup> "List of Governors of Arkansas," Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Governors\\_of\\_Arkansas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Governors_of_Arkansas); "Dardanelle, Arkansas," Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardanelle,\\_Arkansas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardanelle,_Arkansas); "County/County Seats," <http://www.arcounties.org/userfiles/File/Publications/COUNTYSEATS.pdf>; "Native American Tribes of Arkansas," <http://www.native-languages.org/arkansas.htm>.

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Brearley family, were living on government or Indian land until the Cherokee and Choctaw treaties were replaced with new agreements that moved Indian land west of the Arkansas border.<sup>7</sup>

The same rich alluvial soil and bottomlands along the Arkansas and Fourche Rivers attracted many early settlers, as did the thick stands of hardwood timber. Settlement was not confined to "Americans" alone; for instance, a group of Austrians led by John Pigeon and Joe Welsey settled the area in 1877. These Austrian Catholics soon became known as the "Bohemians" and the area in which they resided as the Bohemian Colony. Numerous Czech and German families came to this vicinity including Ballouns, Vodrazkas, Staneks, and Pfeiffers during the late 1800s and early 1900s.<sup>8</sup>

### Dardanelle

The David Brearley family is synonymous with the establishment of Dardanelle, Arkansas.<sup>9</sup> From circa 1815 through 1820 Colonel David Brearley spent most of his time in the territory of Arkansas, either at the Post of Arkansas or at Fort Smith. Some time between 1820 and 1822, Brearley operated a very successful mercantile business at Arkansas Post. In 1822, President James Monroe offered Colonel Brearley the position of Indian Agent to the Cherokee. It was also Brearley who named the prominent rock outcropping overlooking the Arkansas River, Dardanelle Rock.<sup>10</sup> By the 1820s, settlement of the area was imminent and the tension between the settlers and the Indians intensified. On 24 June 1823, a meeting or "pow-wow" was held at the council grounds under two twin Oaks on Brearley's property. In addition to

<sup>7</sup> Ann Early, Correspondence with Kara Oosterhous, 25 August 2008.

<sup>8</sup> Yell County," The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture, <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=816>; and Yell County Historical and Genealogical Association, Yell County Heritage: A History of Yell County Arkansas, (Bedford, TX: Curtis Media, Inc., 1997), 1; Josiah Shin, Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas, pgs 132, Digitalized at Google Books: [http://books.google.com/books?id=GdKkAxrFPt4C&pg=PA139&lpg=PA139&dq=Arkansas+Territory+%2BBrearley&source=web&ots=MxknStk3lg&sig=99JCKmUXIN9ZoG5fLRNmdpO2bOI&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=2&ct=result#PPA138.M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=GdKkAxrFPt4C&pg=PA139&lpg=PA139&dq=Arkansas+Territory+%2BBrearley&source=web&ots=MxknStk3lg&sig=99JCKmUXIN9ZoG5fLRNmdpO2bOI&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=2&ct=result#PPA138.M1)

<sup>9</sup> The following was recorded by a family member: David, son of Joseph, born circa 1781 married Hannah Jones. Captain of Light Dragoons May 3, 1808, resigned May 31, 1811. Lieutenant Colonel Mar. 12, 1813, disbanded June 15, 1815. Reinstated Jan. 1, 1816, as Lieutenant Colonel 7<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry and Colonel, April 310, 1817 resigned Mar. 16, 1820. Moved to Dardanelle, Ark., where he died. He and his wife had four children (Pearson, David D. Joseph Henry, #4 ?). His biography is often confused with David Brearley, signer of the constitution who was his uncle. . "Brearley Cemetery Web Page," <http://www.shutdown.com/~bethg/yell/ybrearleyintro.html>

<sup>10</sup> The rock outcropping known as Dardanelle Rock was a landmark assembly point for tribal meetings long before white explorers entered the area. There is much lore and legend that surrounds the naming of the rock, but the most common and respected theory is that the outcropping was likely first named "Derdanai", French for "to sleep with one eye open". It is said that Brearley changed the name to "Dardanelle" because the sound and the location of the rock reminded him of the famous strait - The Dardanelles which separates Europe and Asia. Yell County Heritage, pgs. 87-88, 91-92. "Brearley Cemetery Web Page"; Josiah Shin, Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas, pgs 138-140, Digitalized at Google Books: [http://books.google.com/books?id=GdKkAxrFPt4C&pg=PA139&lpg=PA139&dq=Arkansas+Territory+%2BBrearley&source=web&ots=MxknStk3lg&sig=99JCKmUXIN9ZoG5fLRNmdpO2bOI&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book\\_result&resnum=2&ct=result#PPA138.M1](http://books.google.com/books?id=GdKkAxrFPt4C&pg=PA139&lpg=PA139&dq=Arkansas+Territory+%2BBrearley&source=web&ots=MxknStk3lg&sig=99JCKmUXIN9ZoG5fLRNmdpO2bOI&hl=en&sa=X&oi=book_result&resnum=2&ct=result#PPA138.M1)

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Brearley, also in attendance was Robert Crittenden, Indian Agents, and Cherokee delegates including Blackfox. One of the two Oak trees is still standing and is located at the north end of Front Street and measures 19 feet and 4 inches in circumference. Some time after the 1823 meeting, David Brearley and his wife Hannah (Jones) bought a Spanish land grant from Joe Peran. This purchase made Colonel Brearley the largest landowner in the territory where he lived with his wife Elizabeth, with whom he'd had four children. It also gave him title to Dardanelle Rock. Brearley continued to serve as an agent to the Cherokees until 1824 when Monroe appointed him to "deal with" the Creeks and the Choctaws of the South, preparing them for removal to the West. During this period he traveled all over the south. David Brearley died in 1837 in Dardanelle.<sup>11</sup>

Beginning in 1820, Dardanelle Warf, because of its location on the Arkansas River, became a landing for steamboats, which opened Dardanelle to other markets. It also linked Dardanelle to Danville via the Petit Jean River. Also instrumental to the establishment, growth, and longevity of Dardanelle was the 1823 Military Road between Fort Smith and Little Rock (now Hwy 22). Colonel Brearley's sons, Pearson, David, and Joseph operated the first store in Dardanelle. In 1831, the Brearleys convinced Fred Sugrain to move his store to Dardanelle where he continued trading until 1839, when he returned to St. Louis, Missouri. Shortly thereafter, the store closed and for a while there was no store at Dardanelle Rock. In 1842, George Williams moved his store from Norristown to Dardanelle onto land given to him by Joseph Henry (J. H.) Brearley. This store was the nucleus for what soon would be Dardanelle.<sup>12</sup> In October of 1847, J. H. Brearley surveyed and platted the original town of Dardanelle as follows:

...the original town was to lay south of Council Oaks, bounded by Cedar Street on the south and the Brooks Neely addition to the north. This tract represented a fractional part of the Northwest quarter of Section 32, Township 7, North range 20 West, and extended the town plat onto the adjoining northeast quarter Section 31, belonging to George Williams with the understanding that the two tracts should be constituted into one town property and both be equal shares in the sale of lots.

George Magness, Justice of the Peace, witnessed this deed by J. H. Brearley. Samuel Dickens and George Williams witnessed the deed for partition that set aside a residential section and designated possible business sites.<sup>13</sup>

### Business District (1800s)

Dardanelle's proximity to the Arkansas River influenced the town's growth and development as a regional trade center, allowing the town access to other markets. The earliest existing map of Dardanelle is the 1851 plat map, showing thirty-six city blocks, extending in a west/southwesterly direction from Front Street, which runs parallel to the Arkansas River. It

<sup>11</sup>Ibid., pgs. 87-88, 91-92; Josiah Shin, *Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas*, pgs 138-140; "Brearley Cemetery Web Page"; *Arkansas News*. "Dardanelle Council Oaks Have Seen Indian Treaties, A Children's Playground, and Are Still Going Strong." Spring 1828. [http://www.oldstatehouse.com/educational\\_programs/classroom/arkansas\\_news/detail.asp?id=142&issue\\_id=2&page=7](http://www.oldstatehouse.com/educational_programs/classroom/arkansas_news/detail.asp?id=142&issue_id=2&page=7)

<sup>12</sup>Ibid. 88; "Yell County," *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture*.

<sup>13</sup>Wayne Banks, *History of Yell County Arkansas*, (Van Buren, AR: The Press-Argus, 1959), 73.

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was during the 1850s that the town of Dardanelle began to establish itself and grow. During the 1850s there were several stores in town such as those owned by: L. D. Parrish; Judge H. A. Howell; Mr. James Montgomery & Dudley Mason; Capt. S. D. Strayhorn; A. S. Stephensen; Murdock & Kimball; Robinson & Spivey; the Adams Brothers; Levi Arnold; B. J. Jacoway and Son; and Hunt & Farrell. Also present were the storerooms built by C. M. Mudock.<sup>14</sup>

During the Civil War it stands to reason that there was little growth in Dardanelle as many of Dardanelle's male citizens fought in the war. Yell county citizens were Confederate supporters and Dardanelle became a focal point of military action. Both Union and Confederate troops attempted to secure control of this river town as it served as a strategic link between Little Rock and Fort Smith. Skirmishes and guerilla warfare caused a lot of damage to the farms in the bottomlands surrounding Dardanelle. The city also incurred damage from fighting including the destruction of the Baptist and Presbyterian churches.<sup>15</sup>

The years after the Civil War were a time of rebirth and rebuilding. Between 1880 and 1890, the population of Dardanelle nearly doubled from 748 to 1,456, the greatest period of growth in the town's history. The town is described in a publication from the late 1800s as follows:

The town of Dardanelle is one of the most pleasant and desirable in the Southwest. It is beautifully laid off into large blocks of twenty-six lots each; the streets and alleys are of uniform width, the drainage of the town is excellent, and the streets and alleys are never muddy. The business houses are generally commodious, substantial, handsomely finished and are kept neat...<sup>16</sup>

The early commercial establishments in Dardanelle were frame structures. A reprint of an 1879 City Directory in the Dardanelle Post Dispatch in 1919 (printed below) shows the prosperity of the town as evidenced by the numerous businesses in Dardanelle in 1879.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>14</sup>Ibid., 76-77.

<sup>15</sup> "Yell County," The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture

<sup>16</sup> History of the Arkansas River Valley In the 1800s, (Dardanelle, AR: Dardanelle Printers, no date), no pg. number.

<sup>17</sup> "Business Directory of City 40 Years Ago," Dardanelle Post Dispatch, 30 October 1919, Vol. XLIV, No. 35, Cols.

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### 1879 City Directory

Allen, Eugene – brickmaker  
Blackwell, Thompson & Co. – General Store  
Blevens & Jackson – General Store  
Boyce & Lunsford – Wagon & blacksmith shop  
Burnett, Lemoyne & Co. – Livery & Transfer  
Blackwell, S. J. – Saloon  
Boles, Thos. – Attorney at law  
Barr, S. J. – pro. White Hall Hotel  
Buchanan, T. J. – Pastor C. P. Church  
Brown, C. A. – Carpenter  
Canon, G. M. & Co. – General Store  
Croom, Jno. A. – General Store  
Croom, Dr. M. M. – Drugs & Medicine  
Cunningham, E. W. – General Store  
Cunningham, H. C. – Mayor of City  
Cunningham, Geo. S. – Attorney at Law  
Cotton Bro's & Co. – Steam Flouring Mills  
Catlett, M. G. – General Store  
Cox, Thos. – Planning mill & Contractor  
Cole, R. E. – Sheriff Yell County  
Carter, J. B. & Co. – Meat Market  
Crowover, J. B. – Deputy Clerk  
Crawford, Eld. W. W. – Baptist Minister  
Crawford, Mrs. – Boardinghouse  
Dardanelle Seminary, W. L. Morris, Principal  
Davis & Morrow – Proprietors Western Immigrant  
Davis & Bullock – Attorneys at Law  
Dodd, Mrs. S. A. – Millinery  
De Long, W. E. – Gunsmith  
Enders, Dr. R. M. – Physician  
Freed, C. M. – General Manager  
Foster & Jones – Hardware Store  
Freeman, R. A. – Groceries  
Fisher, Albert – Confectionery and Bakery  
Feltus, Mrs. O. L. – Music Teacher  
Gault, Joseph & Sons – General Store  
Goodman, Jos. – General Store  
Goodier, Jos – General Stores  
Goodier, N. – Stoves and Tinware  
Gibson, T. M. – Attorney at Law

Howell, H. A. – General Store  
Howell, A. E. – Drug Store  
Harralson, Rev. J. – Pastor M. E. Church  
Heagan, Rev. J. W. – Pastor Presbyterian Church  
Hayden, Mrs. – Boarding House  
Heagan, Miss Rose – Music Teacher  
Harrison, T. J. – Attorney at Law  
Hudspeth, A. J. – Blind Broom Maker  
Independent Arkansasn – M. M. McGuire, Editor  
Jacoway, W. D., Judge 5<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit  
Jacoway, H. M. – Attorney at Law  
Jessup, M. – Postmaster  
Jones, Dr. J. J. – Physician  
Jones & Bro. – Medicines  
Kimball & Perry – General Store  
Kittay, J. – General Store  
Kean, W. R. – Marble Works  
Kearn, Mrs. A. J. – Music Teacher  
Love, Dr. L. E. – Physician  
Lawrence, A – Wood Carder  
Mathews, Ben T. – General Store  
Madenwald A. – Cabinet Maker  
Magness, George – Undertaker  
Maxwell, T. R. – Harness Shop  
May, Wm N. – Attorney at Law  
May, S. C. – Bakery & Confectionary  
Morrow, W. B. – Principal, High School  
Morris, W. L. – Principal, Free School  
Myers, G. L. – Government Gauger  
Murtha, P. – pro. Riverside Hotel  
McIlvaigh, J. A. – Saddle & Harness  
McGuire, M. M. – pub. Arkansaian  
Mcguire, Chas. H. – Book & Newstand and

#### Notary Public

O'Kelly, J. W. – Dentist  
O'Neal, Jos – Carpenter  
Parrish, L. D. – pro. Parirsh House  
Pierce, Z. J. – General Store  
Ploss, J. D. – Furniture & Contractor  
Pound, Hall & Caffry – Attorneys at Law  
Pendergrass & McCall – Saloon  
Pendergrass, E. N. – Meat Market  
Perry, John L. – Sewing Machines  
Rayborn, J. P. – Notary Public  
Skinwith, G. J. – Merchant Tailor

Smith, E. G. – Meat Market  
Strayhorn, W. C. – General  
Spratt, S. D. – Watchmaker  
Spencer, Thos. L. – Carpenter  
Spencer, S. L. – Brick Mason  
Skinner, R. A. – Arkansan job printer  
Shoumack – Painter  
Thomas, A. D. & Co. – Distillers  
Toomer, J. W. – Attorney at Law  
Thompson, Martin – Blacksmith  
U. S. Land Office – T. M. Gibson,  
Rayborn, J. P. – Notary Public  
Skipwith, G. J. – Merchant Tailor  
Schram, B. – General Store  
Schrader, H. – Groceries Reg & Thos Boles,

#### Receiver

Vorhees & Denie – General Store  
Wall, W. T. – General Store  
Walch, E. J. – Barber  
Williams, G. R. – Sulky Cotton Scales  
Williams, H. A. – Lunch House  
Williams, J. – Barber  
Wilson, Dr. C. R. – Physician  
White & Hensley – Billard/Saloon  
Western Immigrant – M. L. Davis, ed.  
Welch, C. W. – Wood Carver  
Wood, O. – Steam Flouring Mill  
Walker, J. E. – City Marshal  
Wasserman, J. J. – Photographer  
Walters, -- Auction House

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Situated on the Arkansas River, Dardanelle had been a port for steamboats since the 1820s; for many years, the river was the primary means for shipping crops grown in the bottomlands around Dardanelle to other markets until the establishment of the railroad in Dardanelle. In 1883, the first train began servicing Dardanelle, the Dardanelle and Russellville Railroad (D&R or "Dinky"). The D&R was approximately a five mile long narrow-gauge line, hence the name "Dinky" that connected Yell County to the Missouri Pacific line in Pope County (still in operation today although changed to a standard-gauge line around 1908). The D&R was used for shipping cotton and other agricultural products. Prior to the D&R, wagons were ferried by boat across the Arkansas River to the railroad. At various times during the year, when the River was low and the banks muddy, it was virtually impossible to get crops across the river.<sup>18</sup> Eventually the idea to build a "floating bridge" was conceived and supported by the D&R railroad since it would increase business. Construction on the bridge began in 1890; the roadway of the pontoon bridge was 18 feet wide and 2,208 feet long and was supported by 72 wooden pontoons (at the time, the largest pontoon bridge in the world). The pontoon bridge was located at the end of North Main where it crossed the Arkansas River. The earliest rates for crossing the bridge were five cents for walking, five cents for a cow or horse, 15 cents for a man on horseback, 25 cents for a single buggy and 35 cents for a double buggy.<sup>19</sup>

### Business District (1900s)

During the 1900s Front Street underwent many changes due in part to fire and progress. The earliest businesses along Front Street were of frame construction; however, by the late 1800s photographs and newspaper articles document that there were some brick buildings in town. One of the earliest noteworthy fires downtown, referenced in a newspaper article printed much later (post 1949), occurred in 1891: "In 1891 his business (Nick Goodier) was destroyed by a disastrous fire which destroyed much of the business district of Dardanelle. ... just as soon as the fire was put out he started to erect his new building." Presumably, this was not the first fire in the commercial area and it definitely was not the last.<sup>20</sup> In 1906, within a two-week period in December, fire destroyed buildings downtown; the first fire destroyed the west side of Front Street between South Main and Pecan Streets and the second fire consumed the brick, two-story People's Bank Building (believed to be the southwest corner of Locust Street and Front) and adjacent frame buildings. In 1934, fire destroyed the J. J. Boyce Wholesale Grocery Company Building and Cooks Funeral Home. A 1942 fire burned the Arkansas Power and Light Company as well as three other businesses and up to six other businesses incurred smoke and water damage. Despite these fires, Dardanelle's commercial area continued to survive, remodel, and rebuild commercial buildings.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>18</sup>"Dardanelle and Russellville Railroad." Wikipedia, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardanelle\\_and\\_Russellville\\_Railroad](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dardanelle_and_Russellville_Railroad); John M. Carmody, Arkansas: A Guide to the State, (Google Book Search, available online), pg. 299.

<sup>19</sup> The pontoon bridge was located one block north of the proposed boundary of the historic district. Yell County Heritage, 95; "Yell County," Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture.

<sup>20</sup> In Wayne Banks book, The History of Yell County Arkansas, He references a fire that occurred 13 December 1890, which destroyed property in the main business district estimated to be worth \$150,000.00. It is possible these two fires could be the same as the newspaper article was a "recollection" or it is possible these were two separate fires. "Goodier Hardware Oldest Business Firm in Town," Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File.

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Photographs from the early 1900s show Front Street as a bustling commercial center with numerous brick buildings lining dirt laden Front Street. Extending from the front of each building are wood awnings supported by wood posts covering walkways. The period of 1905/06 was the first *semi-successful* attempt at providing Dardanelle with electricity; two previous attempts in 1881 and 1902 had failed. A 1908 photograph shows power lines lining the streets and advertisements painted on the sides of buildings. Also, symbolizing progress was the arrival of the Dardanelle, Ola & Southern Railroad that was constructed to provide better access to Dardanelle by connecting the town with the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific line in Ola. In 1906, the first depot was completed just off of Market Street and the train began transporting passengers in 1907. For a while the railroad ran 12 passenger trains each day. However, large construction costs and limited on-line traffic eventually catapulted the line into bankruptcy in 1911, when it was leased by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Company.<sup>22</sup>

There are no available Dardanelle city directories for the early 1900s. The newspapers seem to provide the best information about businesses operating at this time. The Dardanelle Post Dispatch summarized various businesses in its August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1905, edition. Among those described in depth were the following: McCray & McKenzie – Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, etc.; Cunningham Brothers – General Merchandise; Arkansas Telephone Company; Boyce Brothers – Dry Goods, Groceries and Harness; and Magnolia Lumber Company.<sup>23</sup> Appearing in the Arkansas Gazette, 07 August 1909, was an article about Dardanelle titled, “Overcomes Seemingly Insurmountable Obstacles, Beats Down Opposition, Builds Railroad and Wins Success Where Failure Would Have Been No Shame.” The article says the following about the town:

...The town has good churches of all denominations, a fine school system, owns its own waterworks and electric light plant, has a well organized fire company and is one of the safest insurance risks in the state. ...The municipal government is well-organized, broad gauge and progressive, as is practically proven by the business like management of civic affairs and municipal ownership of public utilities. ...the Dardanelle Board of Trade is a successful organization of leading business men, who have already made a lasting record in their efforts in behalf of the new railroad. ...The Dardanelle Retail Merchants and Grocers' Association is a wide-awake, energetic body of businessmen, with a broad gauge platform and progressive ideas....

<sup>21</sup> “Dardanelle Fire Loss Over \$16,000,” Arkansas Gazette, 02 September 1942, Page 2, Column 1; “Dardanelle Has Disastrous Fire,” Arkansas Gazette, 20 December 1909, Page 1, Column 7; “Row of Buildings Destroyed by Fire,” Arkansas Gazette, 11 December 1909, Page 1, Column 7.

<sup>22</sup> The first depot burned ca. 1915 and was replaced on site with a new frame structure. The tracks running between Dardanelle and Ola were removed in 1938 and the depot was demolished some years after that (date unknown). “David Hoge’s Play of the Remains of Long-Ago Railroads,” Arkansas Railroader, (February 2007), Vol. 38, No. 2, , pg. 4.

<sup>23</sup> Post Dispatch, 17 August 1905.

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The following businesses and businessmen were discussed in the article; unfortunately their location was not:

Post Office	The Banner Grocery Company
Dardanelle District of the United States Land Office	N. Goodier Hardware and Furniture
People's Bank	Don Green & Company
Conlee & Walker Lumber Company	A. D. Perry's Drug Store
The Wells Fargo Express	Evans Brothers
The Arkansas Telephone Company	McCray & McKenzie
J. D. Goldman & Company	W. M. Brasher & Company
Office of the Dardanelle and Russellville Railroad	The Hay, Land and Lumber Company
The Post Dispatch	The Dardanelle Hardwood Manufacturing Company The
Wilson & Love	Ploss Hotel
George A Harmon, General Business	The Dardanelle Bank
W. Bray Carriage Company	Thomas Cox Machinery Company
Peter Stinner, Saddlery and Harness Shop	Conlee & Walker Lumber Company
W. A. Jackson, Hardware and General store	The Racket Store
Dardanelle Branch of the Plunkett Jarrod Grocer Company	F. H. Wieser Bakery
Dardanelle Transfer Company	Gray & Company Restaurant, Confectionary and
Queen City Store	Lodging
Dr. W. D. Jacoway, Dentist	J. T. Dunbar, southwest traveler for the Mayfield
	Woolen Mills Clothing Company

By 1918, cars had already begun to change the landscape, laws and regulations. An early photograph shows the first car in Dardanelle parked in front of Bray's Carriage Company (which we know was operating in 1909). With the coming of the automobile, the rates for crossing the pontoon bridge increased to ten cents for persons walking, twenty-five cents for a man on horseback, fifty cents for a coupe and seventy-five cents for a touring car.<sup>24</sup> An article in the Post Dispatch 09 May 1918, titled "Auto Ordinance Will Be Enforced," states the following:

...Among other things the Ordinance provides that it shall be unlawful to turn a car on any street in the city except at street crossings. In the past this provision has not been enforced except in the business section of Front Street... when the car is parked in the business section of the city both front and rear wheels on side next curbing must not be greater than distance from curbing than 24 inches. A rate of speed in excess of 10 miles an hour in the business section, and 15 miles in other sections of the city is a violation of the law.<sup>25</sup>

A 1934/35 photograph shows this law still being enforced in downtown Dardanelle as a "No U Turn" sign sits in the middle of the street. Not only were automobiles a common site on the streets of Dardanelle but also a "transportation

<sup>24</sup>Yell County Heritage, pg. 95.

<sup>25</sup>"Auto Ordinance Will Be Enforced," Post Dispatch, 09 May 1918, Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File.

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system" was also implemented as early as 1918, with the first 16-passenger Studebaker bus in operation by April of 1918. In September of 1919, the company became known as the Dardanelle Transfer Company, whose purpose was, "... conducting a general transfer business of passengers, freight and baggage to do general bus and drayage business, and to own and operate storage and warehouse facilities." At its peak, the Dardanelle Transfer bus operations extended from Paris to Little Rock.<sup>26</sup>

On the 1914 Sanborn Map there are no garages, filling stations, or repair shops along Front Street; however, by 1922, there is at least one filling station, a couple of repair shops and garages in the business district. With the increasing number of automobiles permeating Dardanelle and the rest of the state, the need for better roads was a pressing issue. An article in the Dardanelle Post Dispatch (24 February 1926) states that, "Sealed bids for paving thirty-five blocks of streets in the business and residence section of Dardanelle were received....Bids were submitted by ten different contracting firms." Also at this time an article in the same paper announced the preparations being made for the new highway, "The National Highway from Dardanelle to Hot Springs, which is to be a hard-surfaced road of the highest type, will probably be one of the first primary roads in the State constructed." Road improvements helped to improve the quality of accessibility of Dardanelle, which had long since been accessible by river and by railway. In 1929, the old pontoon bridge was removed and replaced by a two-lane steel bridge for a cost of \$600,000.00. The new bridge was located slightly upriver (northwest) of the pontoon bridge.<sup>27</sup>

Despite the amount of progress being made and the prosperity that had been enjoyed during the late 1800s and early 1900s Dardanelle, like every other town and city, felt the effects of the Great Depression. The drought of 1930 compounded the economic distress. The Red Cross encouraged families to plant turnips for food and for feeding their livestock. The Red Cross also provided seed for gardens and pastures. School terms were shortened to maintain operations and teachers were paid in credit warrants redeemed by local merchants as long-term credit purchase. Banks failed and closed, such as was the case with the Dardanelle Bank (the building was later purchased and used as a station and general office by the D&R Railroad). Local businesses reverted to a cash-only basis (except for teachers). The Dardanelle Post Dispatch ran articles emphasizing the importance of optimism, working together to redeem prosperity and growing Irish potatoes in home gardens. The demise of the Dardanelle, Ola & Southern was a reflection of the times. The railway had been under the operation of the Fort Smith, Subiaco and Rock Island railway since 1920. The line was abandoned in 1937 under authority of the Interstate Commerce Commission. In March of 1938, a crew of men began taking up the track from Dardanelle to Ola. However, despite the depressed economy, in May of 1932, the Blue Valley Creamery plant opened its doors (in the former S.E. Miller Auto company building (YE0149)). Blue Valley was described in contemporary news accounts as the nation's largest producer of pure, pasteurized butter. The Dardanelle plant was the company's thirtieth plant and the first located south of the Mason-Dixon Line.<sup>28</sup>

<sup>26</sup>Dardanelle & Russellville Railway, pgs. 300 -301.

<sup>27</sup>Yell County Heritage: 95

<sup>28</sup>"Yell County," The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture. [www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID](http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID); Gene Hull and Bill Pollard, The Dardanelle and Russellville Railroad (Conway: UCA Press, 1994), 308; "Dardanelle Depot being Torn Down," Dardanelle Post Dispatch, Russellville Public Library, Vertical File; Hull and Pollard; The Dardanelle & Russellville Railroad, 110 & 524.

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According to the U.S. Census, from the 1920s through the 1950s, there was actually a loss in population. However, the town persevered and embraced the changes that technology and industry brought. In the late 1940s, Dardanelle became one of the forerunners of Arkansas's emerging poultry industry. In 1946, Harold Snyder opened Arkansas Valley Feed Mills in Dardanelle (located approximately two to three blocks north of the proposed district). Nearly 35 years after its establishment, the business was purchased by Tyson Corporation and continues to be a major employer. Since the founding of Dardanelle, flooding had always been a problem in the "bottomlands." Major floods were recorded in 1898, 1904, 1908, 1916, 1927, 1943, 1945, and 1957. However, it appears as if the commercial area sits just above the floodplain and has avoided major flooding. In 1969, The Dardanelle Lock and Dam was completed as part of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System, creating Lake Dardanelle. On December 10, 1970, the new \$4.4 million-dollar bridge spanning the Arkansas River from Dardanelle to Russellville was open to traffic. The bridge was financed with federal funds as an adjunct to the Arkansas River Navigation program. "This four-lane bridge at Dardanelle is an important link in both area and cross-country travel." In 1979 the city received a \$68,162.50 grant from the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, a part of the U.S. Department of Interior, to construct a downtown park on Front Street that is still a vital part of the commercial area.<sup>29</sup>

During the last two decades, Dardanelle's commercial area has experienced many of the same pitfalls and challenges of that commercial areas everywhere face... competition with large chain-stores, building deterioration and vacancies, and new construction; and yet despite this, the commercial area continues to fight to survive with anchor businesses such as Savannah's Restaurant, the Dardanelle Post-Dispatch, and The Bank of Dardanelle providing a strong presence on the street. There is a movement among city officials to encourage the rehabilitation and restoration of these commercial buildings in an effort to keep a strong economic and physical presence along Front Street in downtown Dardanelle.

### CONCLUSION

Dardanelle is one of the oldest cities in the state of Arkansas steeped in history as evidenced by the numerous historic trees, sites, homes, and buildings in and around the city. Dardanelle has been a river town since its establishment with the commercial center serving as a hub for activity since the late 1800s. The downtown no longer looks as it did in the late 1800s but it does reflect its 20<sup>th</sup> century heritage through the many existing brick buildings located in downtown Dardanelle along Front Street overlooking the Arkansas River. The Dardanelle Historic District is being nominated with **local significance** to the National Register of Historic Places under **Criterion A**.

<sup>29</sup>"Yell County," The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History & Culture; Yell County Heritage, 95; Banks, A History of Yell County Arkansas, 84-86; "Buildings to Fall, City Receives Grant," Post Dispatch, 03 July 1979, Dardanelle Public Library, Vertical File.

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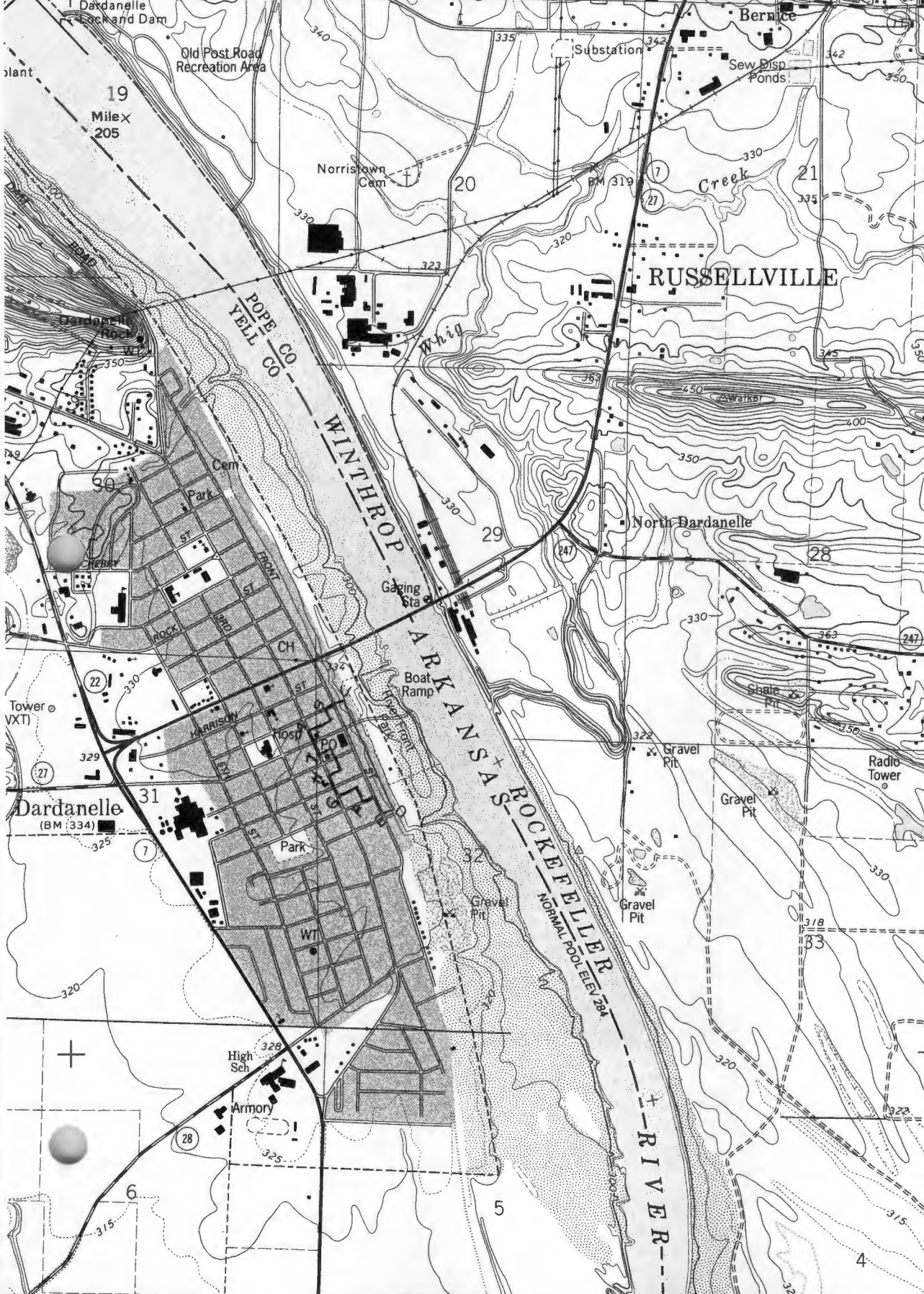
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ARKANSAS

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

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*Dardanelle's Commercial*  
*YELL CO.*

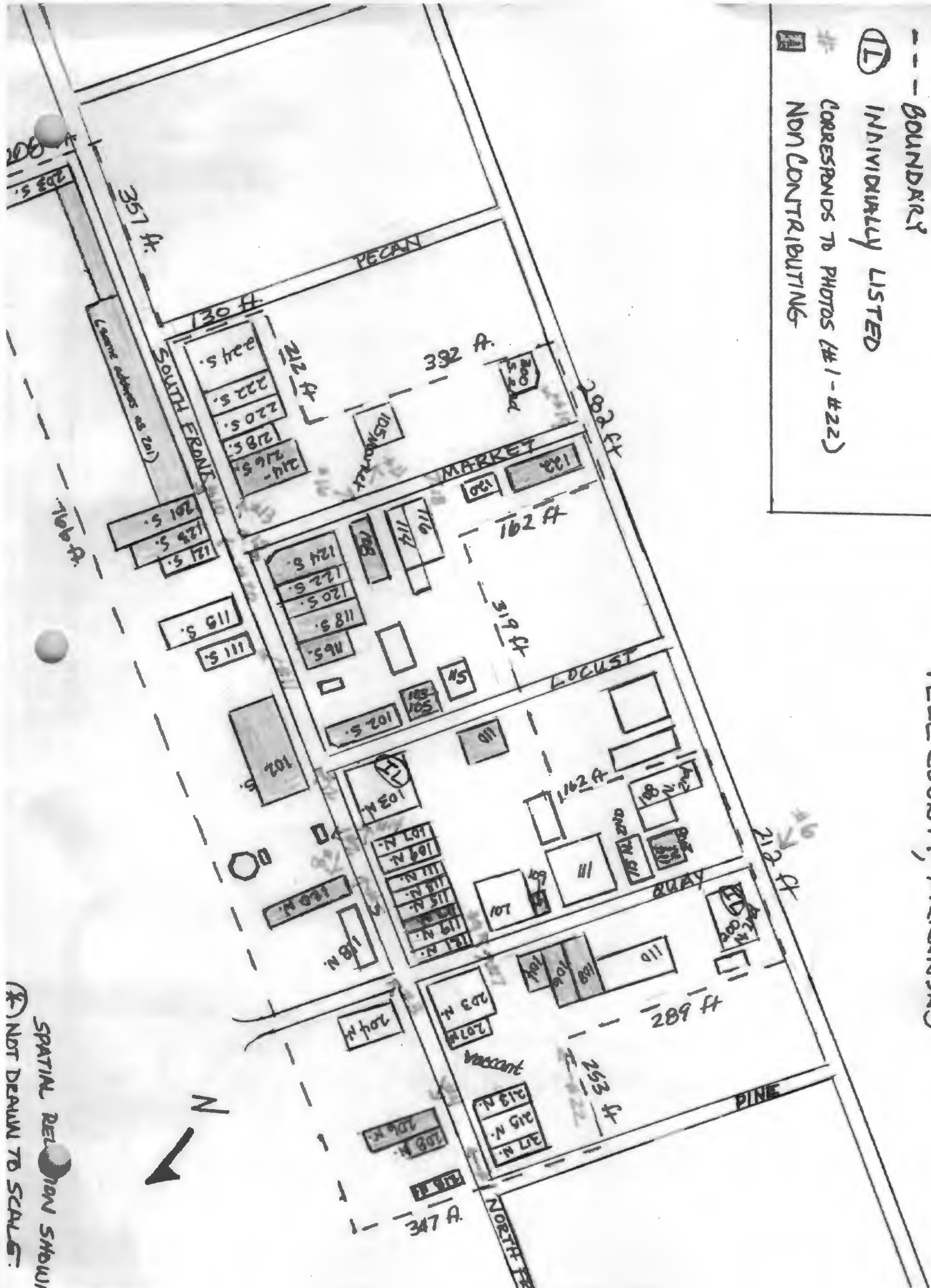
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MAP KEY

- BOUNDARY
- (DL) INDIVIDUALLY LISTED
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- NON CONTRIBUTING

WARDWELLE COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 YELL COUNTY, ARKANSAS



SPATIAL RELATION SHOWN  
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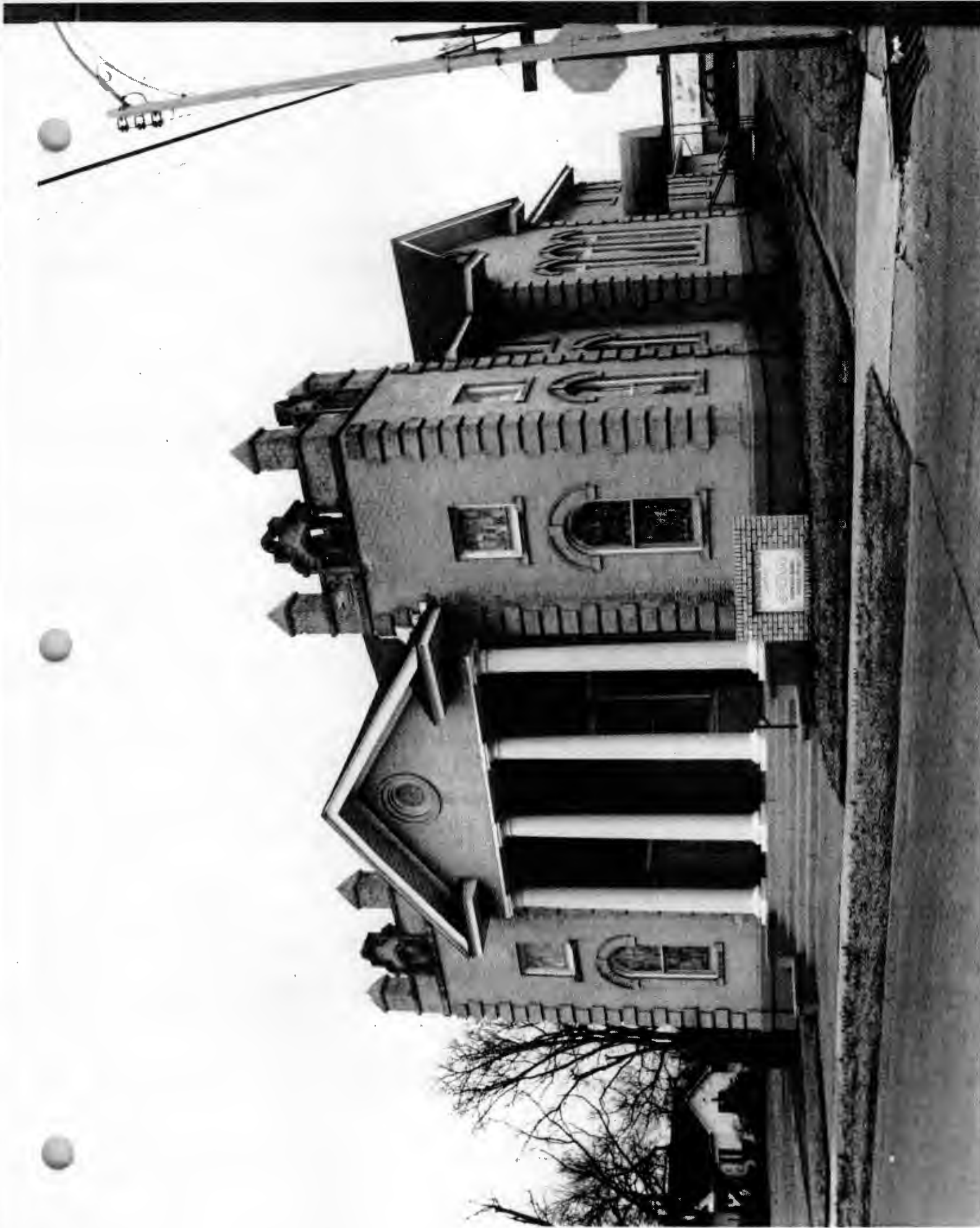




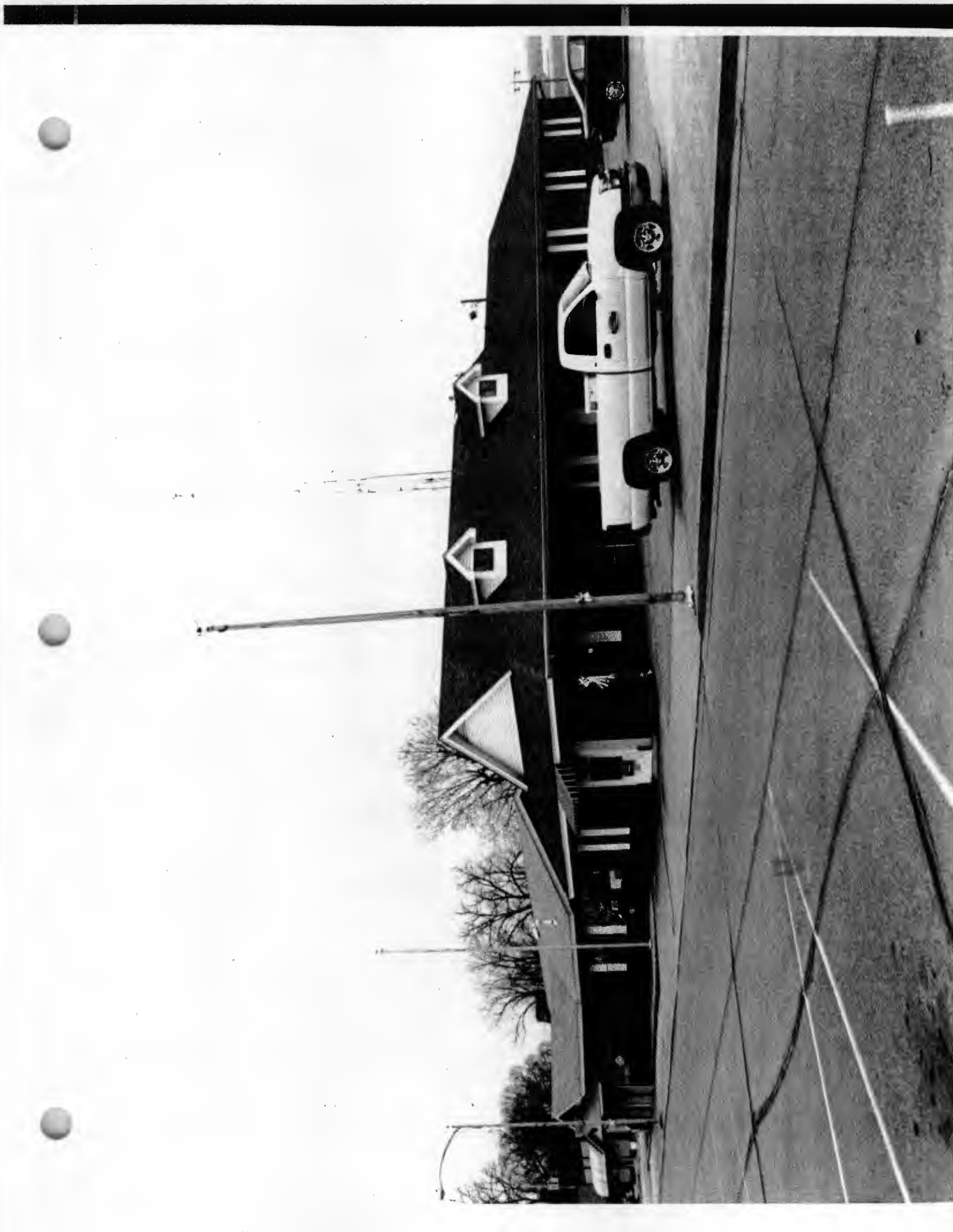
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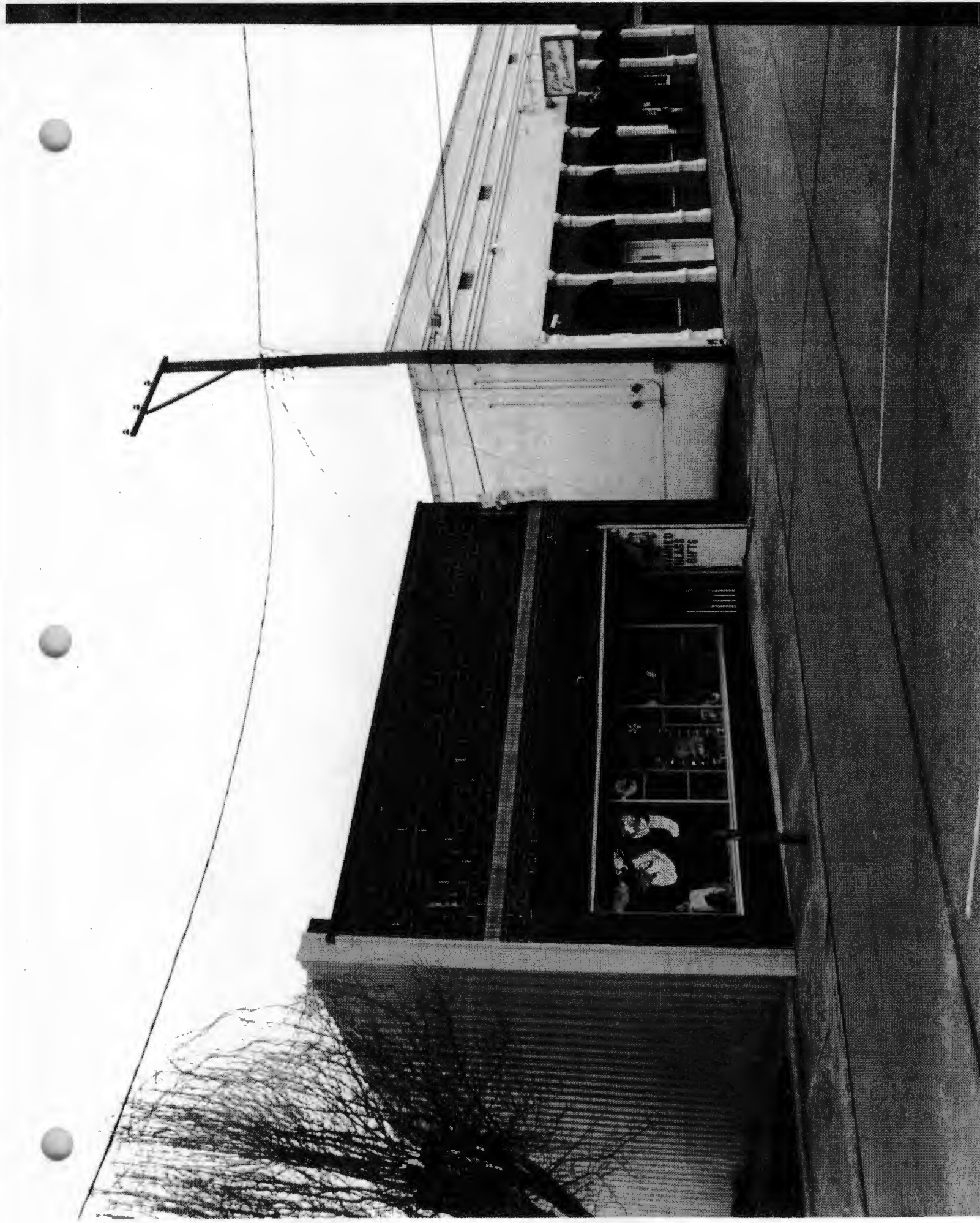














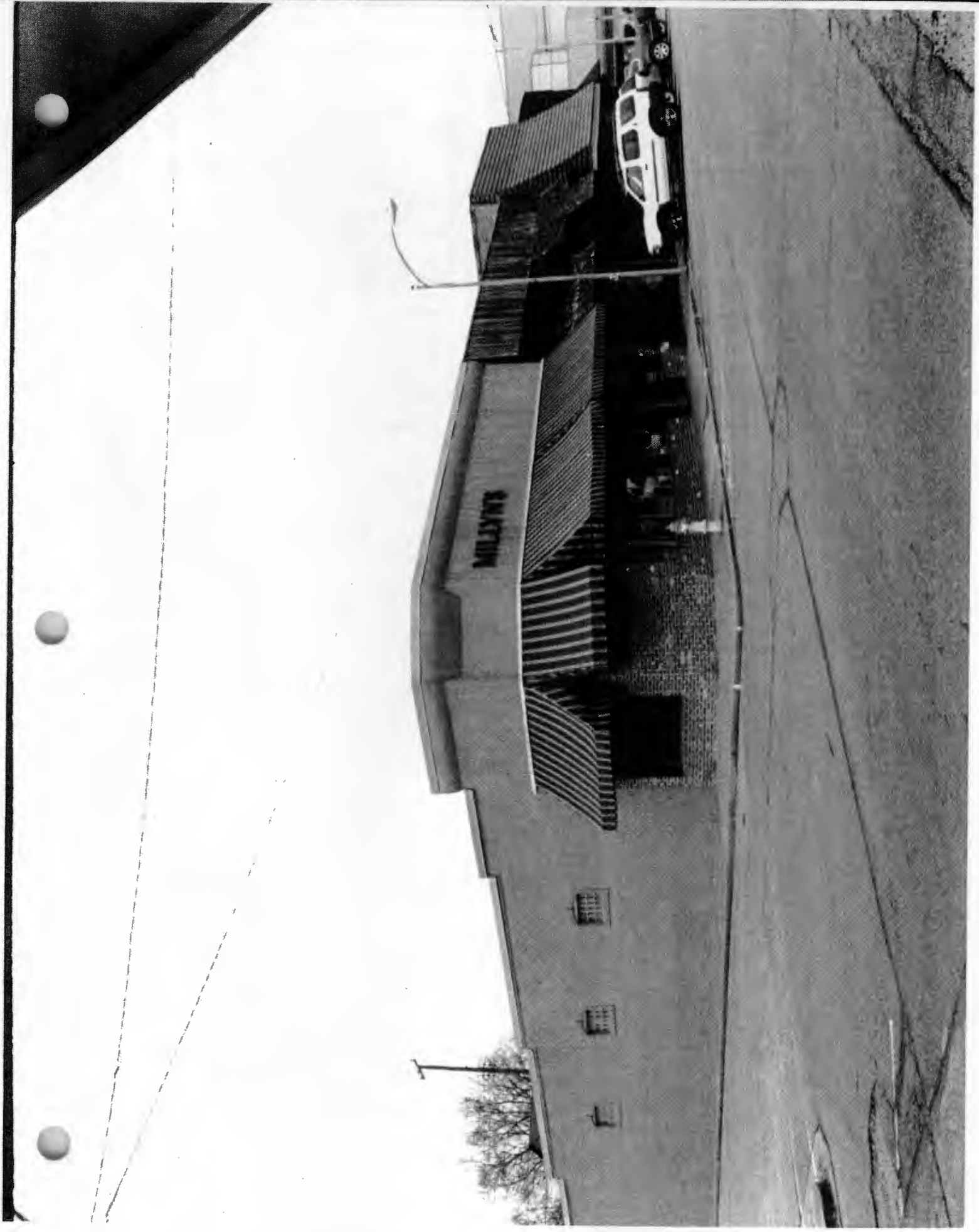




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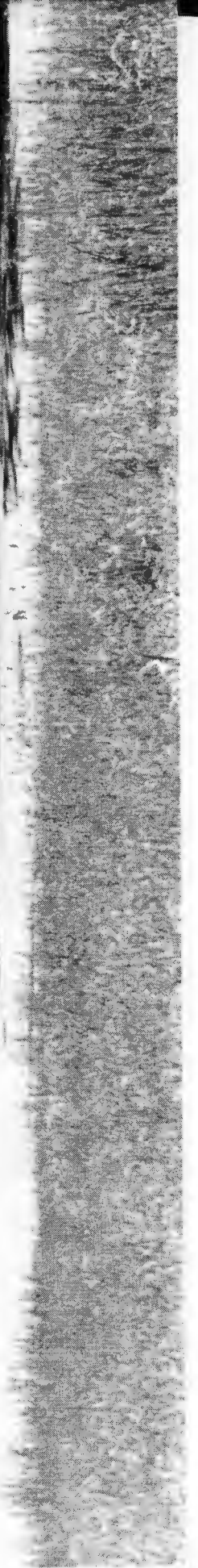
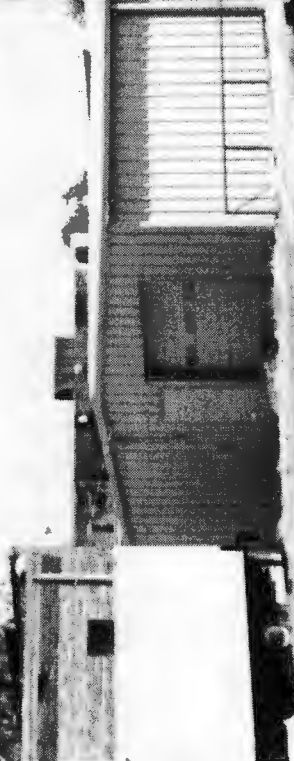
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