

SITE FILE COPY

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Missouri	
COUNTY: Platte	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME	
COMMON:	Weston Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries as shown on site plan map (see item #7)			
CITY OR TOWN: Weston			
STATE: Missouri	CODE: 64098	COUNTY: Platte	CODE: 165

3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No	
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Public and Private			
STREET AND NUMBER: City of Weston			
CITY OR TOWN: Weston	STATE: Missouri	CODE: 64098	CODE: 29

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of Recorder of Deeds			
STREET AND NUMBER: Platte County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN: Platte City	STATE: Missouri	CODE: 64079	CODE: 29

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Missouri Historic Sites Catalogue			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1963	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: State Historical Society of Missouri			
STREET AND NUMBER: Hitt and Lowry streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Columbia	STATE: Missouri	CODE: 65201	CODE: 29

Congressional District #6-W. R. Hull, Jr.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Missouri
COUNTY: Platte
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Weston Historic District encompasses sixteen full blocks and portions of eight additional city blocks in Weston, Missouri. The Historic District is bounded on the west by the east line of the Burlington Railroad tracks from the junction of Welt Street to a point where Blackhawk Street (extended) intersects the Railroad. The boundary thence extends east along Blackhawk Street to the mid-point of a block bounded by Thomas and Market streets, thence north to Summer Street and east to Thomas Street. Thence the boundary extends north along Thomas Street to the mid-point of a block bounded by Summer and Edward streets, thence east to the rear property line of the west side of Spring Street, thence north to Prospect Street. The north boundary extends from this point east to Spring Street, thence north to the mid-point of a block bounded by Prospect and Summit streets, thence east to Walnut Street. The boundary is thenceforth projected south along Walnut Street to Edward Street, then east on Edward Street to a point corresponding to an extension of Gay Street, thence south along this line to the intersection of Gay and Washington streets. The boundary thenceforth extends west on Washington Street to Beaumont Street, thence south on Beaumont to Blackhawk Street, and west on Blackhawk to a line through the mid-point of a block bounded by Walnut and Mulberry streets (extended), thence south to Rock Street. The boundary is thenceforth projected west on Rock Street to Spring Street, then north on Spring Street to Welt Street, then west on Welt Street to the Burlington Railroad tracks.

The Weston Historic District contains approximately 200 structures of various age, design and function. Sixty-six residential and commercial buildings have been designated "historic sites" by the Weston Landmark Committee (Mrs. B. B. Bless, Chairman) in concurrence with the Missouri State Historical Survey and Planning Office. The recognized buildings represent the oldest and least modified historic structures in Weston, and typify various building styles in the prosperous nineteenth-century Missouri River town.

The town of Weston is plotted in a regular Philadelphia-plan grid. The major artery, Main Street, forms the commercial focus of the community. Main Street commences at the landing on Weston harbor, and terminates at the top of the bluff. Other thoroughfares in the community are oriented at right-angles or parallel to Main Street. Because Weston is situated on a bluff of the Missouri River, the topography is not especially conducive to a regular street plan. The conflict between the grid and the land contour, therefore, influenced land-use within the town and rendered many lots uninhabitable. Several streets are discontinuous because of creek valleys and other natural obstacles. The topography of Weston also conditioned building size. Larger structures generally occur nearer the River on more level ground, and smaller homes predominate on the irregular peripheral lots. Characteristically, the topography discouraged large residential construction, and encouraged the building

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>town planning</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Weston, in Platte County, Missouri, is significant as a mid-nineteenth century Missouri River port community which has retained a substantial proportion of its early residences and commercial structures. Because of the collapse of the hemp and tobacco industries in northwest Missouri after the Civil War, and because of Weston's failure to attract a suitable rail connection as river traffic diminished, by 1870 the small community had become dominated by the larger distribution centers of St. Joseph and Kansas City, and consequently suffered severe economic decline. Weston's economy has remained relatively stagnant, although since the early years of the twentieth-century a revival in tobacco production has sustained the community, and in more recent years an interstate-highway connection with Kansas City has attracted several new residents to Weston. The increasing suburbanization of Platte County has particularly stimulated interest in Weston, especially due to the attractive location of the town. The numerous early homes remaining in the community provide many possibilities for restoration.

Weston was the first settlement in the Platte Purchase, a six-county area ceded to Missouri by the Sac and Fox Indian tribes in 1836. It is believed that Weston was founded in 1837 by Joseph Moore and Thomas Weston, two recently discharged soldiers from Fort Leavenworth.¹ Although it is not documented, it is legendary that Moore and Weston selected their townsite nearly opposite the Fort because of the existence of a fine harbor and desirable location for the growth of a port community and trade center. Moore platted Weston at a bend on the east side of the Missouri River and situated the town at a safe distance from the bank to insure against flooding. Apparently he commenced selling lots immediately upon founding the community, since by 1838 at least two businesses, a boarding house and general store, were in operation. One Church, the Methodist, was organized as early as 1838.²

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Bless, Bertha I., Weston-Queen of the Platte Purchase. Weston, Missouri: Weston Chronicle Press, 1969.
2. Border Times (Weston, Missouri), April 23, 1844.
3. Carter, J. R., Missouri Census Records of Four Counties for 1840: Cooper, Henry, Platte, Benton. Typescript: State Historical Society of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	39° 25' 10"	94° 54' 10"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	39° 24' 53"	94° 53' 39"				
SE	39° 24' 25"	94° 54' 02"				
SW	39° 24' 41"	94° 54' 34"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **131.24 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Stephen J. Raiche, Chief Research Historian

ORGANIZATION: Missouri State Park Board DATE: June 23, 1972
State Historical Survey and Planning Office

STREET AND NUMBER: P.O. Box 176, 1204 Jefferson Building

CITY OR TOWN: Jefferson City STATE: Missouri CODE: 65101
29

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Joseph Jaeger, Jr.</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director, Missouri State Park Board, and Missouri State Liaison Officer</u></p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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6. #1

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

Missouri State Historical Survey (state)

1971-72

Missouri State Park Board

P.O. Box 176

1204 Jefferson Building

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

Code: 29

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7. #1

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

of homes in relatively close proximity.

Typically, homes and commercial buildings were constructed near the street line with the long axis parallel to the road. But, unlike larger towns on similar contours, row dwellings do not occur in Weston, possibly because building space was not such a premium as in higher-density communities. Furthermore, most early Weston homes were brick since sufficient clay deposits were available in the bottoms. However, a few early frame structures also exist. Most foundations, where visible, appear to be stone and numerous rock retaining walls are situated at various location on Weston streets.

Several predominate architectural modes are represented among Weston's nineteenth-century residential and commercial structures. Most earlier homes are of the Classic Revival Federal style. These symmetrical-plan homes are an adaptation of a style popular in Virginia and Kentucky during the early nineteenth-century. The abundance of this type of home in Weston reflects the antecedents of many early residents who migrated from the southeast to settle in the thriving port community. More recent nineteenth-century structures are typically of a more universal style, reflecting the tastes of the Victorian era for larger, asymmetrical, and ornately embellished homes. However, because well-preserved Victorian houses exist in proximity to Weston's earlier residences, the structures of the later style have also been accorded equal recognition in this survey.

Commercial buildings in the Weston Historic District are clustered primarily within the Main Street business area. Main Street is dominated by relatively austere, two-story, row business buildings dating from the mid-nineteenth century. Unembellished fenestration and cornice detail gives Weston's Main Street a general appearance of simplicity, and provides a marked contrast with many later Victorian commercial buildings in other communities. Although certain later business buildings exist on Weston's Main Street, in general the ante-bellum facade is adequately maintained.

The earliest surviving buildings within the Weston Historic District date from the 1840's and 1850's and were constructed shortly after the initial settlement of the town. As indicated on the site plan map, many later structures worthy of historical acknowledgement are also interspersed within the district. However, several twentieth century buildings possessing little or no architectural or historical importance are included in the historic area. But, in spite of the relatively recent construction, a visual continuity has been

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7. #2

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

maintained within the entire district by the erection of generally compatible structures which exhibit a certain stylistic homogeneity with earlier sites.

Among the more significant structures within the Weston Historic District are the following:

A. Residences

- 1) Federal style "cottage" homes: This mode occurs relatively frequently in Weston, and is typified by a symmetrical front facade, generally five bays in width. The central bay contains the main access, and is often embellished by a Classic Revival porch of varying proportions. These cottages, constructed in the 1840's and 1850's, are usually single or one-and-one-half story brick dwellings with a gable roof and flanking gable chimneys. Typically these are relatively small residences, containing two rooms on either side of a central hallway. Exemplary cottage homes include the Robert Jones Home (601 Blackhawk), the Crutchfield House (Spring Street), Foglesong Home (830 Ashley), Elijah Cody Home (southeast corner Main and Short streets), "Willow Bend" (625 Blackhawk), and the How-Hull Home (606 Main).
- 2) Two-story Federal style: These dwellings are characterized by the symmetrical facade (generally five-bay width), brick construction, a medium gable roof, and flanking gable chimneys. Although stylistically related to the cottage homes, these latter examples represent an enlargement of the cottage by the addition of a second story, and, in some instances, additional rooms flanking the hallway. In most cases the central corridor is maintained, and main access is through the central bay. Many of these early homes may have included Classic-Revival porches which were eventually removed or replaced. Examples of this style include the Loyles-Clark Home (708 Spring), Spinner House (south side Short Street), David Halliday-Richardson House (altered), (northwest corner Welt and Short streets), and the Collier-Riley House (831 Washington Street).
- 3) Frame or log cottages: These homes are possibly the oldest structures in Weston and survive in only a few instances on the eastern periphery of the original town, especially on Walnut Street. These are small, clapboard-sided structures containing two or four rooms on one or one-and-one-half stories.

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WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

The roofs are generally a medium gable or a "salt box" variety. It may be assumed that this type of dwelling once existed in greater number in Weston prior to the construction of the more substantial brick homes following the commercial growth of the community. Primary examples of the log or frame cottage occur at 516, 529, and 1114 Walnut Street.

Within the Historic District there are also certain early residences which do not correspond to an architectural tradition prevalent in Weston. The John Maitland Home, 511 Summer Street, a large two-story, gambrel roof, brick structure, was built about 1860 on a steep incline which provided a superlative view of Weston's commercial district. This home exhibits a Federal influence in the arrangement of the front facade, spacing of fenestration, and the application of a columnated porch. Another home, the Humphrey House, is a later Victorian construction, located on Main Street near the junction of Walnut Street. This building has been well-maintained. The presence of the Humphrey House enhances the architectural diversity of the Weston Historic District since, in contrast to the relatively austere early homes, the Humphrey House has elaborate machine-crafted embellishments such as porch railing work and an iron fence on the roof crest. Furthermore, the larger size of the structure, the asymmetrical facades, and pyramidal roof provide a marked contrast to the earlier homes.

B. Commercial Buildings

Weston's earliest commercial buildings convey simplicity and functionalism which corresponds to the austerity of many of the Federal style homes. Most business buildings on Main Street are two or three story, flat-roof, brick structures. Fenestration is usually rectangular in design and equidistantly spaced on the front facade. Typically, a commercial front occurs on the ground floor and residential quarters are located on the upper stories. More elaborate cornices are used on later buildings, and, in one instance, a pedimented false front is utilized as a roof trim. Superlative examples of the Federally-influenced commercial buildings include the Weston Chronicle Building (northwest corner Main and Market streets), "Mettier's Hall" (Missouri Public Service Building), (north side Main Street), and a portion of a business block on the south side of Main Street east of Market Street.

The Railey Brothers Banking Building is representative of a later tradition. Situated at the southeast corner of Main and Thomas streets (Weston Hotel), the bank building is more stylistically

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similar to a Victorian mode due to its greater size, the use of leaded-glass windows, and the stone columnated entranceway.

Among the several nineteenth-century buildings in the Weston Historic District, certain unusual structures are worthy of individual mention. Hull Mill, on Washington Street near the junction of a small stream, is a large brick building which appears to have been constructed in the later years of the nineteenth century. A small brick structure on Washington Street, between Beaumont and Gay streets, is alleged to have been a bank during the very early years before Weston economy had become sufficiently complex to require more complete banking facilities. In addition, the tobacco warehouses at the foot of Main Street are significant to the commercial development of Weston. These warehouses, built mainly in the early twentieth-century, provided marketing and processing outlets for one of Weston's staple cash-crops, broad-leaf tobacco.

In conclusion, the various nineteenth-century Churches of Weston are deserving of mention. The Methodist Church, organized in 1838, is a large brick building on Main Street constructed in 1868. The old Presbyterian Church at Thomas and Washington streets has been significantly altered, but the original brick facades, constructed in 1846, are intact. A German Evangelical Lutheran Church, erected in 1867, stands at the corner of Spring and Rock streets. The old Weston Baptist Church at Main and Spring streets, constructed in 1902, quarters the Weston Historical Museum.

Although it has not been possible to assess the structural stability of each early building in the Weston Historic District, it should be noted that without exception the various sites are occupied and appear to be in a basically sound state of repair. Weston today is experiencing renewed growth and development as a residential community associated with greater Kansas City, and therefore it may be assumed sufficient demand will continue for restorable early structures.

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7. #5

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

Historic Sites Included in Weston Historic District

(Numbers refer to site plan map)

1. Hornbuckle-Caldwell House, 629 Prospect Street
2. Dillon-Kurtz Home, Edward and Spring Street
3. Schneider Home, Spring and Prospect streets
4. (site deleted)
5. Oldhausen Home, Southeast corner Edward and Spring streets
6. Turner-Schneider-Spratt Home, southwest corner Summer and Spring streets
7. Old Presbyterian Church, Washington Street
8. Holladay-Rumple House
9. Opera House, 404 Main
10. Weston Chronicle Building, Main and Market streets
11. Amstutz House
12. Boarding House Row and Riley House
13. (site deleted)
14. Humphrey House, at top of Main Street hill
15. Shenker-Vaughn House, south side, Short Street
16. Spinner House, south side, Short Street
17. Crutchfield House
18. Elijah Cody Home, corner Short and Main streets
19. Weston Historical Museum and Library Building (1902).
20. City Hall, Main Street
21. Hull Mill, Washington Street
22. German Evangelical Lutheran Church, 508 Spring
23. Old bank (?), used as Girl Scout Building, Washington Street
24. Mettier's Hall, (Missouri Public Service Building), Main Street
25. Laurel Hill Cemetery, Welt Street
26. Methodist Church, 533 Main
27. David Halladay-Richardson House
28. Montage
29. Robert Jones Home, 601 Blackhawk
30. Willow Bend, 625 Blackhawk
31. Loyles-Clark Home, 708 Spring
32. Quinley Home, 626 Main Street
33. John Maitland Home, 511 Summer Street
34. Rollie Edmand Home, northwest corner Spring Street
35. Earl Huffman Home, 1121 Spring
36. Allen-Weigman Home
37. Rupe-Scholz-Davis Home, 522 Walnut
38. Charles Bless Home, Summer Street
39. Blanjour Home, Summer Street
40. old stone building on Blanjour Home lot

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41. How-Hull Home ("white lace"), 606 Main
42. (site deleted)
43. Dowdell Home, southeast corner Main and Walnut streets
44. Edgar Miller Home, 529 Main
45. (site deleted)
46. McGray House, 203 Walnut (oldest home away from Central Business District)

47. Collier-Riley House, 831 Washington
48. Howard (?) House, 712 Spring
49. Renz-Clements Home, 615 Washington
50. Foglesong Home, 830 Ashley
51. Chadwick House, 624 Main
52. Mann House, 616 Main
53. Olhausen House, 601 Washington
54. Noll-Brill House, 831 Thomas
55. Bethune School, 806 Thomas
56. Pepper House, 620 Thomas
57. Stultz Home, 621 Washington
58. Frazier House, 806 Washington

- Main Street Commerical Buildings:
 59. Foley-Wilson Building, 527 Main
 60. How Building, 523 Main
 61. Hyatt Beauty Shoppe Building, 521 Main
 62. Heley-Sandell Building, 501 Main
 63. Ruple Hardware Building, 509 Main
 64. Sebus Building, 403 Main
 65. Offutt Jewelry Building, 410 Main
 66. Weston Hotel, 504 Main
 67. Bless-Volz Building, 520 Main
 68. Bless-Parr Building, 522 Main
 69. Kerns Building, 417 Main

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8. #1

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

Weston was established to provide a marketplace and supply center for the agricultural districts of Platte County, and within two years of settlement the first crop of Platte County tobacco was shipped from Weston.³ By July, 1839, 200 people had settled in the community and several additional businesses had been founded, including a saloon operated by Ben Holladay, the stagecoach entrepreneur. The growth of Weston continued through the 1840's as cash-crop agriculture developed in Platte County. Increased shipping on the Missouri River especially stimulated Weston's economy since the location of the town on the good harbor was especially conducive to growth. According to one contemporary source, there were 27 businesses in Weston in 1840 and 37 two years later. Weston was incorporated by the Missouri General Assembly on January 11, 1842, and one year later the first newspaper, the Platte Eagle and Western Commercial Gazette, began publishing in the community. It is apparent that Weston flourished especially with the development of the tobacco industry in Platte County during the 1840's. Initially, raw tobacco was floated down-river to Glasgow where it was packed in kegs and shipped to manufacturers in Kentucky. The importance of Weston as a primary marketplace is suggested by the construction of several roads from the town to neighboring settlements. Public roads to both Liberty and Plattsburg were opened in 1843. In addition, four lawyers and four physicians had come to Weston between 1840 and 1844, and, as further evidence of growth, in 1844, the Border Times called for the removal of the Platte County seat from Platte City to Weston. At that time Weston was becoming the "great trading mart" for Platte County, and the "tide of immigration (was) settling in on Weston".⁴

Weston's prosperity was initially based upon tobacco cultivation, but hemp processing and shipping was also an early staple industry. Although the loss of slave labor eventually destroyed hemp production in Missouri, several large processing plants were operating in Weston in the 1840's, and at least one firm continued until 1885.⁵ Immediately prior to the Civil War Weston was acclaimed to be the largest hemp port in the world. According to one source, by 1848 Platte County had become the second most wealthy county in Missouri in terms of value received for exported goods, and by 1850, Weston was shipping more hemp than any other Missouri port. The town's 1859 shipment, for example, included 10,083 bales valued at \$200,330, and was marketed primarily by three major dealers.⁶ In addition, prior to the founding of Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1854, Weston was the principal marketplace for Fort Leavenworth and provisions for the military installation were shipped mainly through the port of Weston. Probably to supply the Fort, a pork packing plant was

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8. #2

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constructed on the wharf in Weston in 1845, and during one year dressed 8,000 hogs. The packing house was possibly the first industry in Weston not directly related to the processing or marketing of Platte County's two principal cash-crops, and suggests the emergence of a small but diversified industrial base in the community as early as the 1840's.

The decade of the 1850's was the most significant period of commercial growth in Weston. By 1858 the city had achieved a population of 3,000 and numerous steamboats regularly called at the port. A State Road from Weston to St. Joseph had been opened in 1849 which facilitated overland transportation between the port cities and provided intermediate communities a link to Weston and St. Joseph. By 1850, at least two major banking establishments were providing capital to Weston planters. The Post and Railey Mercantile House, later Railey and Brothers, was a partnership controlled by Westonites. To supplement this local institution, a branch of the Mechanics' Bank of St. Louis was opened in 1857 to facilitate the exchanges of the shippers and merchants of Weston.⁸ As an additional sign of material prosperity, in 1852, Weston became one of the first towns in Missouri to macadamize its Main Street, and, by the end of the decade, at least seven residential subdivisions had been appended to the original town. By 1858, Weston had also become an outfitting station for travelers departing either overland or by river for Oregon and California. One author described Weston during these years as a boomtown "increasing annually in population, business, and trade with the rich agricultural region in the rear..." The Weston landing was known to be an excellent one, "and the harbor deep and commodious..."⁹ As an additional manifestation of Weston's prosperity, a new City Hall, dedicated in 1855, was reported to contain the "largest room in Missouri" save for one in the Mercantile Library in St. Louis. Furthermore, in 1858, Weston's International Hotel was offering accommodations to the public "as inferior to no others in regard to comfort, health, and convenience..."¹⁰

Although Weston continued to prosper through the Civil War, the commercial decline of the community actually commenced in the mid-1850's during the Kansas slavery controversy following the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854.¹¹ Under the provisions of this controversial measure, the issue of slavery in Kansas was to be determined by popular referendum. In response to the threat of a free-soil Kansas, slaveholders in Weston and Platte County sponsored the founding of Leavenworth, a town on the Kansas side of the River. Although a significant proportion of Platte County residents

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8. #3

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

desired Kansas to elect slavery, a least one sizable group in Weston encouraged emancipation in Kansas, as evidenced by the numerous Westonites who petitioned to oppose the establishment of Leavenworth. Obviously, the stability of a community such as Weston was adversely affected by such factionalization, especially with regard to a volatile issue like the extension of slavery into Kansas.

More significantly, the commercial decline of Weston was a result of several devastating fires in the 1850's, the refusal of Westonites to sponsor a railroad connection during that decade, and a shift in the course of the Missouri River in 1858 which eventually destroyed the port of Weston. One fire during March, 1855, devastated nearly one-third of the business district and inflicted \$120,000 damage.¹² Another fire in September, 1856, destroyed a large hemp warehouse and burned most of the west side of Main Street.¹³ Undoubtedly the loss of the warehouse crippled Weston's capacity to process the hemp crop that particular year, and at least temporarily forced certain planters to market their crop at neighboring ports. A third major fire in September, 1858, caused \$23,000 damage to various commercial structures in the business district.¹⁴

Weston's stagnation, however, is most directly attributable to the failure of the town to attract a suitable railroad connection in the 1850's. As Kansas City and St. Joseph became rail terminals, Weston continued to believe that river commerce would remain the principal mode of transportation. Westonites particularly believed that a railroad would encourage slaves to escape from bondage, a fear which was intensified following the Kansas controversy. But as Weston procrastinated, St. Joseph residents actively solicited a rail line linking the Missouri to the Mississippi rivers, and a connection eventually was secured in 1859, Weston remained the second largest city in Missouri until 1860, when she was eclipsed by St. Joseph.¹⁵

Although Weston remained isolated from rail commerce for many years, several Platte Countians proposed during the 1850's to build a railroad from Weston to St. Louis. In 1852, petitions were circulated for a "Weston and St. Louis Railroad" which would have required a substantial bond subscription by Platte Countians. The railroad's supporters argued for the line not only because of the undependable navigation conditions on the Missouri River but because "railroads possess creative power-augmenting both numbers of people and products of country..." Furthermore, the Weston railroad builders accurately forecast the decline of river traffic in favor

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Platte	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.#4

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

of the railroad train, and they correctly believed Weston's prosperity depended upon a connection with eastern markets through St. Louis.¹⁶ However, the proposal for the Weston and St. Louis Railroad remained dormant from 1852 to 1854, when the construction of the Hannibal and St. Joseph Railroad appeared to imminently threaten Weston's commerce. Even though several railroad conventions were held in Platte County and the importance of "speedy construction" was emphasized, a railroad to Weston was not built in time to supercede the coming of the cross-state connection to St. Joseph.¹⁷ Already by 1855 several Weston businesses and residents had relocated to St. Joseph. Weston did not actually secure a rail connection until the building of the essentially local Weston and Atchison in 1859, which temporarily placed Weston at a railhead. But an extension of this line to Kansas City reduced Weston to a minor stop by the late 1860's.

From the aspect of historic preservation, it is most fortunate that Weston was not able to retain her commercial vitality of ante-bellum years, since, until the coming of the interstate-highways in the late 1960's, Weston remained a relatively isolated community subsisting on the trade produced by a local tobacco industry and other diversified farming. The City's population had declined to 1,127 by 1890, and remained nearly constant until the 1960's. But today Weston is becoming a suburb of metropolitan Kansas City, and the renewed growth of the old town is inevitable. With proper planning for development, including vigilant attention to maintaining the aesthetic character and interpretive value of the nineteenth-century community, visitors and residents alike may continue to enjoy historic Weston, Missouri.

The survey of Missouri's sites of historical and architectural significance is based on the selection of sites as they relate to the theme studies as outlines in Missouri's "Comprehensive Statewide Historic Preservation Plan". The Weston Historic District is, therefore, being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because 1) the community has retained a significant proportion of its nineteenth-century commercial and residential structures, and 2) the community is becoming part of metropolitan Kansas City and therefore future planning for growth should be encouraged to recognize the historical integrity of the old town.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Platte	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. #5

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

Footnotes

1. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Platte County, 1877, 9-10.
2. W. M. Paxton, Annals of Platte County, 1897. Atlas, 1877, 10.
3. Bertha I. Bless, Weston-Queen of the Platte Purchase, 1969, passim. Paxton, 1897.
4. Border Times (Weston, Missouri), April 23, 1844.
5. Weston Chronicle (Weston, Missouri), November 15, 1929.
6. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), February 18, 1859.
7. Bless, 1969, passim.
8. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), February 27, 1857.
9. Charles A. Dana, The United States Illustrated, 1858, Vol. I, 154.
10. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), July 23, 1858, November 9, 1855.
11. E. W. Howe, "A Bit of Weston, Missouri, History", Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XLVII, (October, 1952), 29-36.
12. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), March 16, 1855.
13. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), October 3, 1856.
14. Weston Chronicle, (Weston, Missouri), November 15, 1929.
15. Atlas, 1877, 10.
16. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), September 17, 1852, November 12, 1852.
17. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), March 3, 24, 1854, April 14, 1854.
18. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), May 20, 1859, June 10, 1859.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

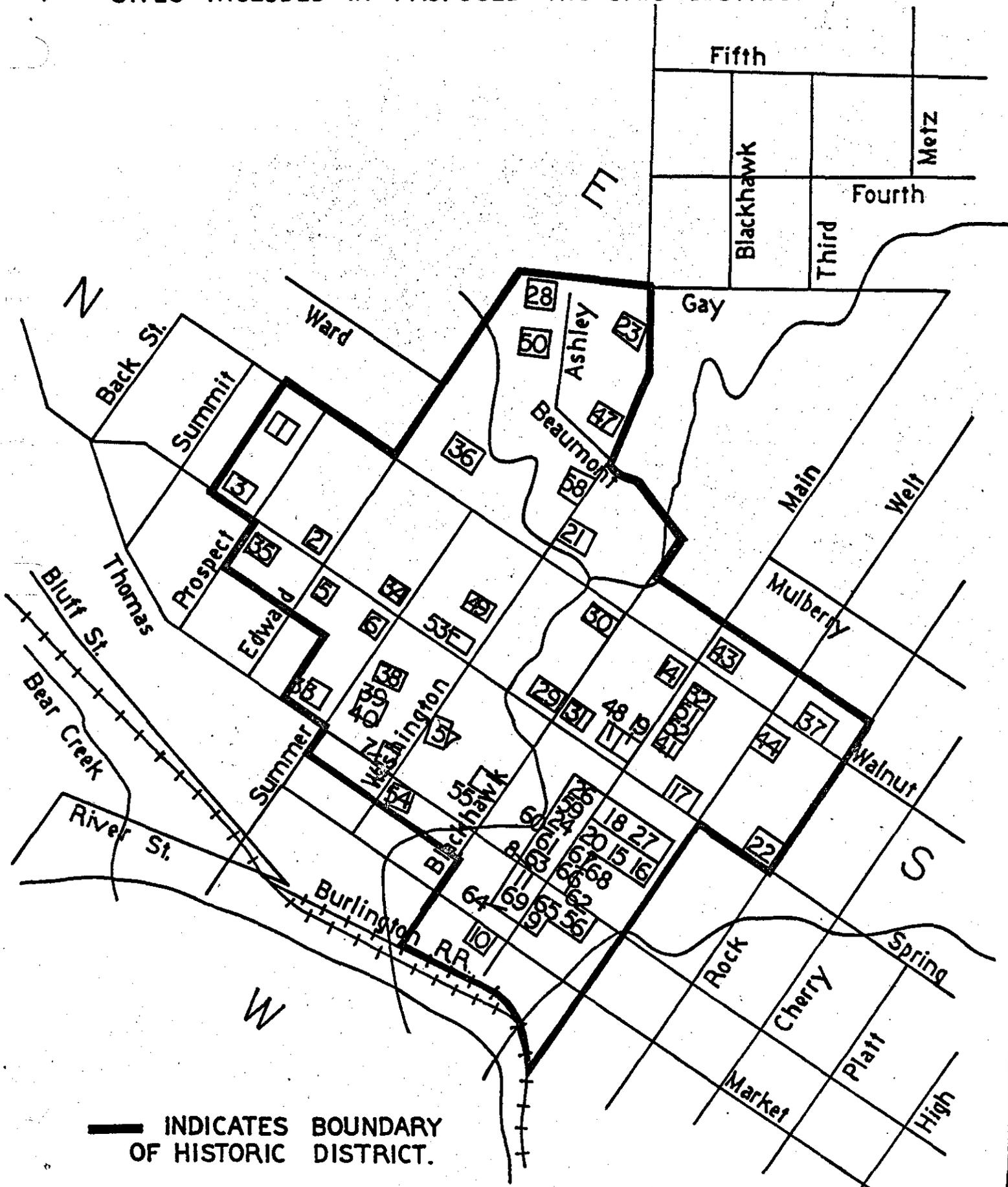
STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Platte	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

9. #1
- WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT
4. Dana, Charles A., The United States Illustrated. New York: Hermann J. Meyer, 1858.
 5. Federal Census of Platte County, Missouri, 1850.
 6. Howe, E. W. "A Bjt of Weston, Missouri, History", Missouri Historical Review, Vol. XLVII, (October, 1952), 29-36. (January, 1953), 141-147.
 7. Illustrated Historical Atlas of Platte County. Philadelphia: Edward Brothers, 1877.
 8. Laws of Missouri - 1843, Jefferson City, Missouri: Allen Hammond, 1843.
 9. Liberty Tribune, (Liberty, Missouri), September 17, 1852; November 12, 1852; March 3, 24, 1854; April 14, 1854; November 9, 1855; March 16, 1855; October 3, 1856; February 27, 1857; July 23, 1858; February 18, 1859, May 20, 1859; June 10, 1859.
 10. Missouri State Gazetteer and Business Directory--1860. St. Louis: Sutherland and McEvoy, 1860.
 11. Paxton, W. M., Annals of Platte County. Kansas City: Hudson-Kimberly Publishing Company, 1897.
 12. Weston Chronicle, (Weston, Missouri), November 15, 1929.

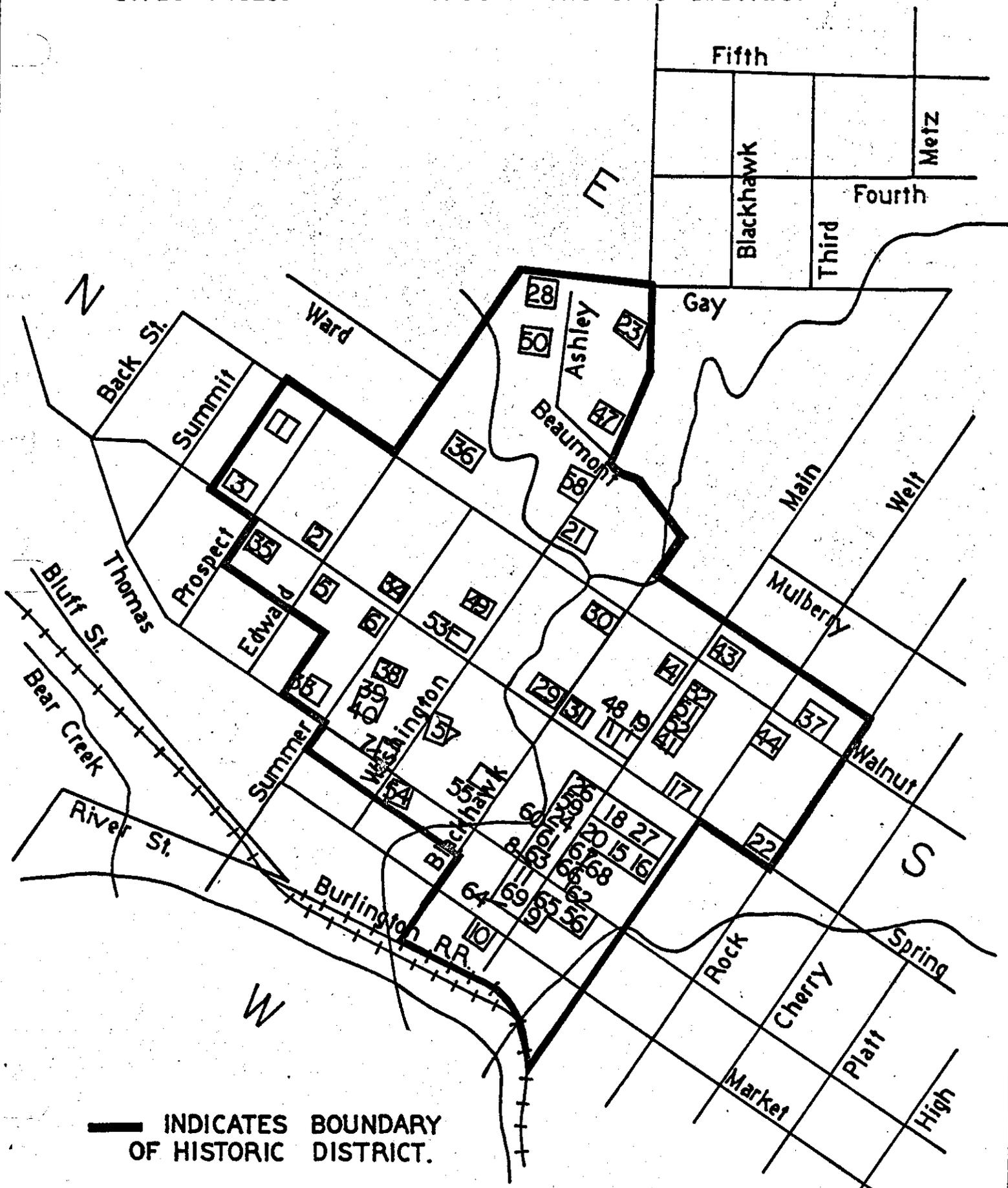
WESTON, MISSOURI

SITES INCLUDED IN PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT



WESTON, MISSOURI

SITES INCLUDED IN PROPOSED HISTORIC DISTRICT



— INDICATES BOUNDARY OF HISTORIC DISTRICT.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Missouri	
COUNTY	Platte	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON:	Weston Historic District		
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Boundaries as shown on Site Plan Map (see item #7)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Weston			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	64098	Platte	165
	29		
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 15' Quadrangle: Weston-Tracy, Missouri			
SCALE:			
1:62,500			
DATE:			
1944			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Missouri	
COUNTY	Platte	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER		DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:	Weston Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:	Boundaries as shown on Site Plan Map (see item #7)		
CITY OR TOWN:	Weston		
STATE:	MISSOURI 64098	CODE COUNTY:	PLATTE 165

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:	Site Plan Map: State Historical Survey and Planning Office
SCALE:	relative scale
DATE:	1972

4. REQUIREMENTS

- TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS
1. Property boundaries where required.
 2. North arrow.
 3. Latitude and longitude reference.

WESTON HISTORIC DISTRICT

COUNTY:	Platte
LOCATION:	See Site Plan Map
OWNER: ADDRESS:	Multiple ownership (See Site File Copy), See Site File Copy
DATE APPROVED BY A.C.:	06-10-72
DATE SENT TO JEFF. CITY:	after 06-23-72
DATE SENT TO D.C.:	07-26-72
DATE OF REC. IN D.C.:	08-04-72
DATE PLACED ON NATIONAL REGISTER:	08-21-72
DATE AWARDED CERTIFICATE (AND PRESENTOR):	
DATE FILE REVIEWED:	

Weston, in Platte County, Missouri, is significant as a mid-nineteenth century Missouri River port community which has retained a substantial proportion of its early residences and commercial structures.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
Platte	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Weston Historic District
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Boundaries as shown on Site Plan Map (see item #7)
CITY OR TOWN:
Weston
STATE: Missouri 64098 CODE 29 COUNTY: Platte CODE 165

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: S. J. Raiche, Missouri State Park Board
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176
1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Hull Mill, Washington Street.
Northwest facing southeast.



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Missouri	
COUNTY Platte	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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2. LOCATION

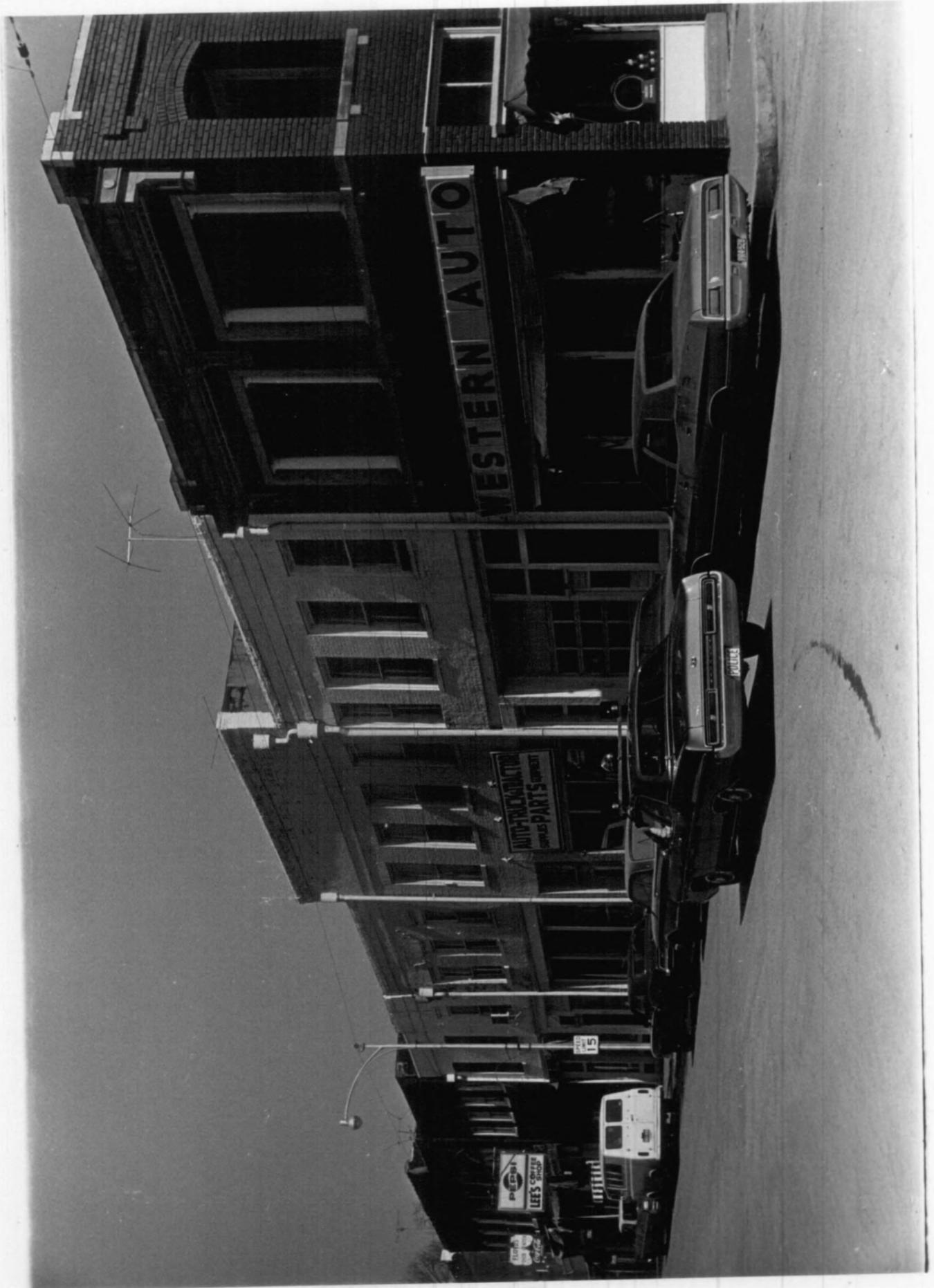
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STATE: Missouri 64098 CODE 29 COUNTY: Platte CODE 165

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1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Two-story business structures north side Main Street, mid-nineteenth century origin. Southeast facing northwest.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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COUNTY Platte	
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DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176
1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
South side Main Street, business district, showing "Mettier's Hall" (center) and Methodist Church (right), Masonic Hall in foreground. Northwest facing southeast.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE	
Missouri	
COUNTY	
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COMMON: Weston Historic District			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
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Boundaries as shown on Site Plan Map (see item #7)			
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Weston			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	64098	Platte	165
	29		
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DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176			
1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
"Willow Bend", 625 Blackhawk, an example of a federal style "cottage" home of mid-nineteenth century origin. East facing west.			



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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COUNTY		Weston	
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2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Boundaries as shown on Site Plan Map (see item #7)
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STATE: Missouri 64098 CODE 29 COUNTY: Platte CODE 165

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PHOTO CREDIT: S. J. Raiche, Missouri State Park Board
DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
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1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.
Collier-Riley House, 831 Washington, an example of a two-story federal style residence constructed in the mid-nineteenth century. South-southeast facing north-northwest.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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DATE OF PHOTO: March, 1971
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1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

Frame or log cottage--possibly earliest of residential structures in Weston-516 Walnut. Southwest facing northeast.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Missouri	
COUNTY Platte	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

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STREET AND NUMBER:			
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STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Missouri	64098	Platte	165
	29		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:		S. J. Raiche, Missouri State Park Board	
DATE OF PHOTO:		March, 1971	
NEGATIVE FILED AT:		Missouri State Park Board, P.O. Box 176 1204 Jefferson Building, Jefferson City, Missouri 65101	
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
Humphrey House (Victorian) on Main Street Hill. Northeast facing southwest.			



Weston Nestani Distace
Weston, Massachus
photographer: Nancy B Brown
May 21, 1974

Presbyterian Manse - Bull House, 922 Day.
View facing north. Number 81 on map C.

ONE-STORY, CLASSIC-DERIVED-STYLE RESIDENCE
Northeast corner of Ashlev and Gav



Weston Historic District
Weston, Missouri

-photographer: Frederick J. Brown
May 21, 1974

Riley (Jerry) House, 180 W. 1st.

View facing northeast. Number 72 on map C.

RILEY, TERRY, HOUSE - Welt



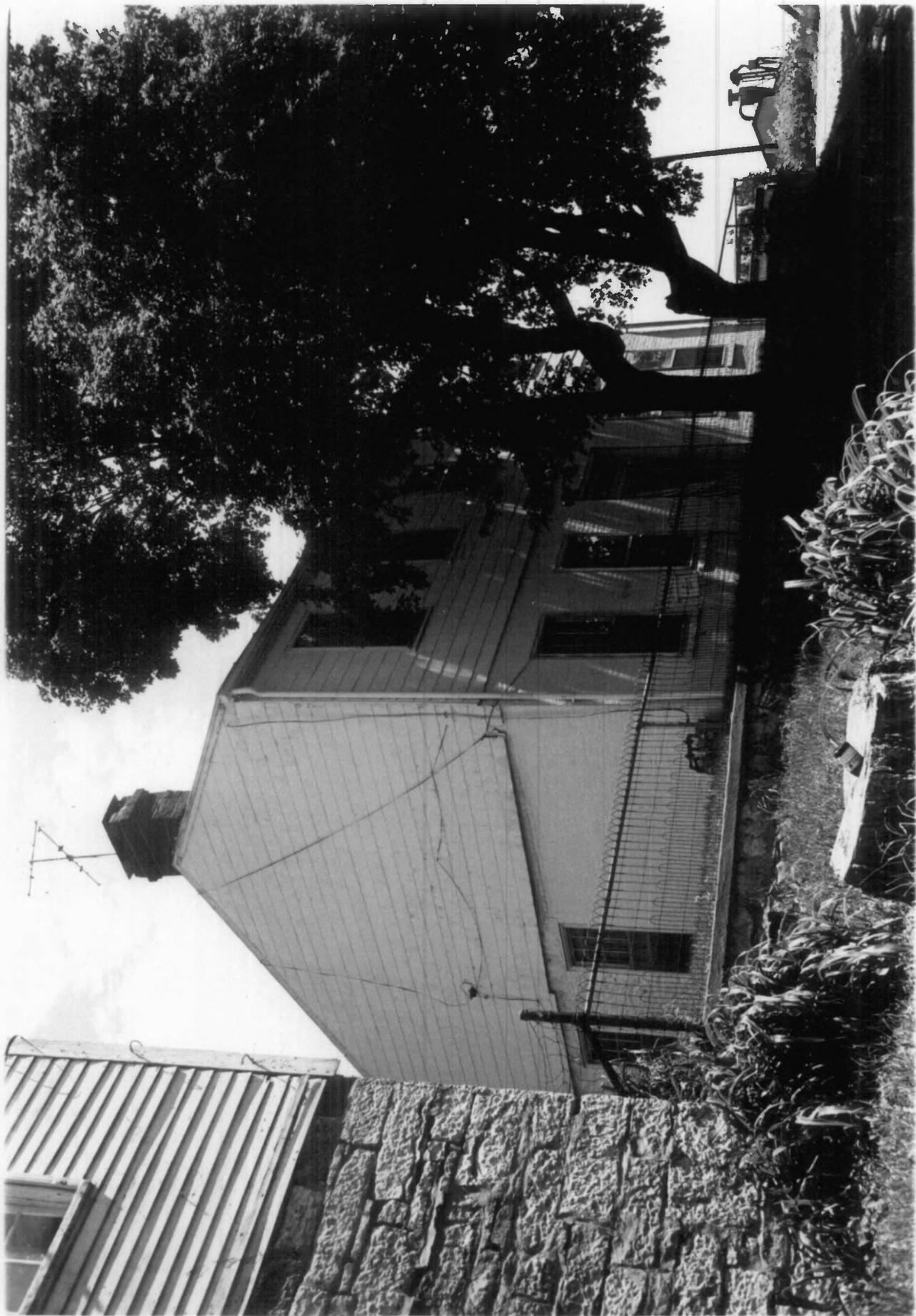
Weston Historic District
Weston, Massachusetts

photographer: Audrey J. Brown
May 21, 1974

Lancaster - Lathrop House, 204 West.

New factory Smith - southeast. Number 71 on
map c.

TWO-STORY, CLASSIC-DERIVED-STYLE RESIDENCE - 204 WeIt



Weston Historic District

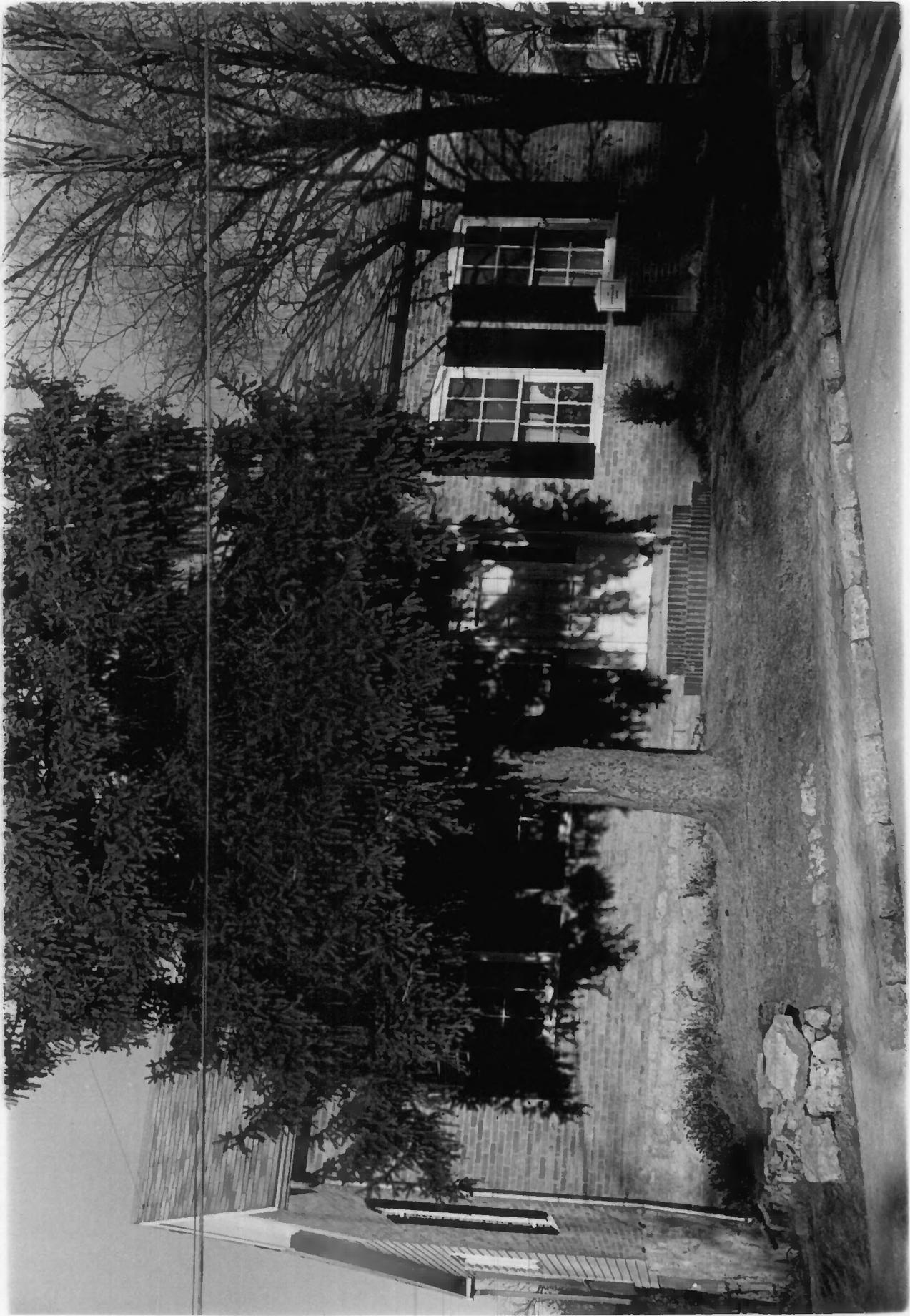
Weston, Massachusetts

photographer: Martha L Kusialek

January 29, 1970

body - Holiday-Poss-Marr House, 600 Market
View facing northeast. Number 73 on map C.

HOLLADAY-POSS-MARR HOUSE - 600 Market



Weston Historic District
Weston, Missouri

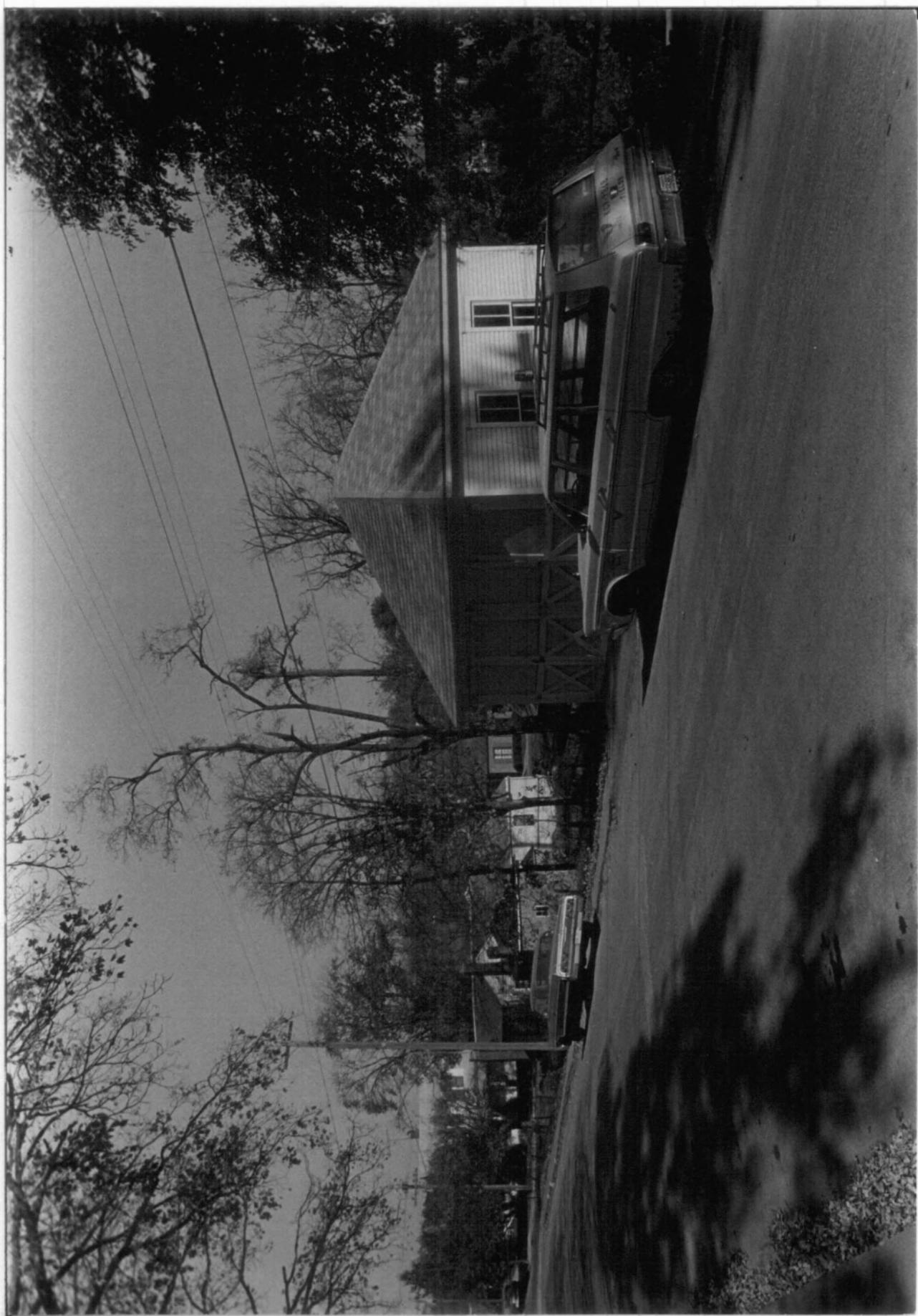
photographer: Frederick J. Brown
May 21, 1974

Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad Depot, 300 Main.
View facing east. Number 70 on map C.



Washington Street Station. #88 and Nord-Buell House
(831 Takmaso) (near new)





Weston Historic District

Weston, Massachusetts

photographer: Frederick J. Brown
November 5, 1973

View facing north with the Popple-Shell House,
401 Washington (left); the Popple-Beach House,
407 Washington (center); and the Hully-Hall
House, 419 Washington (right). Numbers 78, 79, and
83 on Map C.



Western Historic Society

Western, Museum

photographer: Frederick J. Bone
May 21, 1974

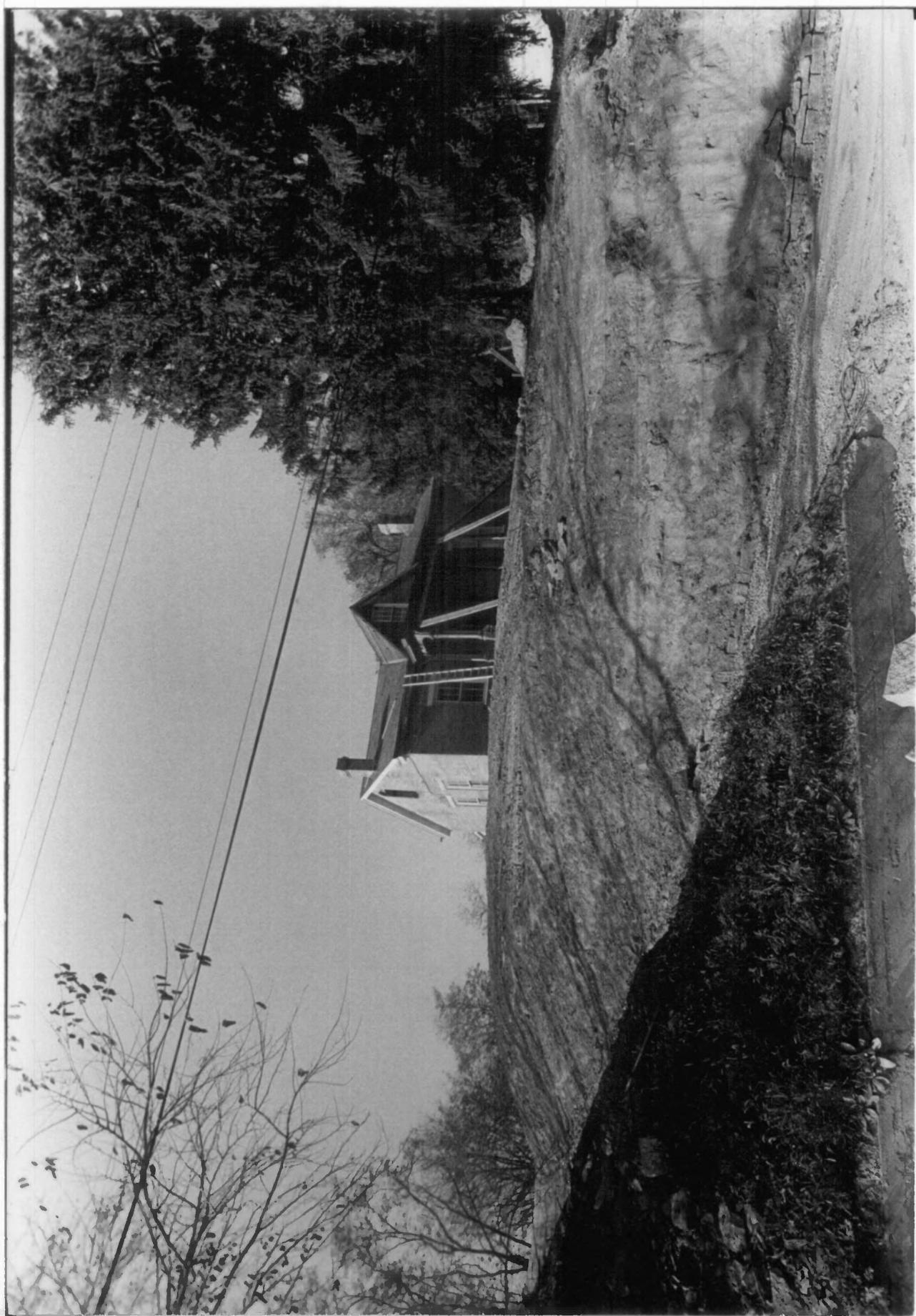
"Burns Point," 305 Washington.

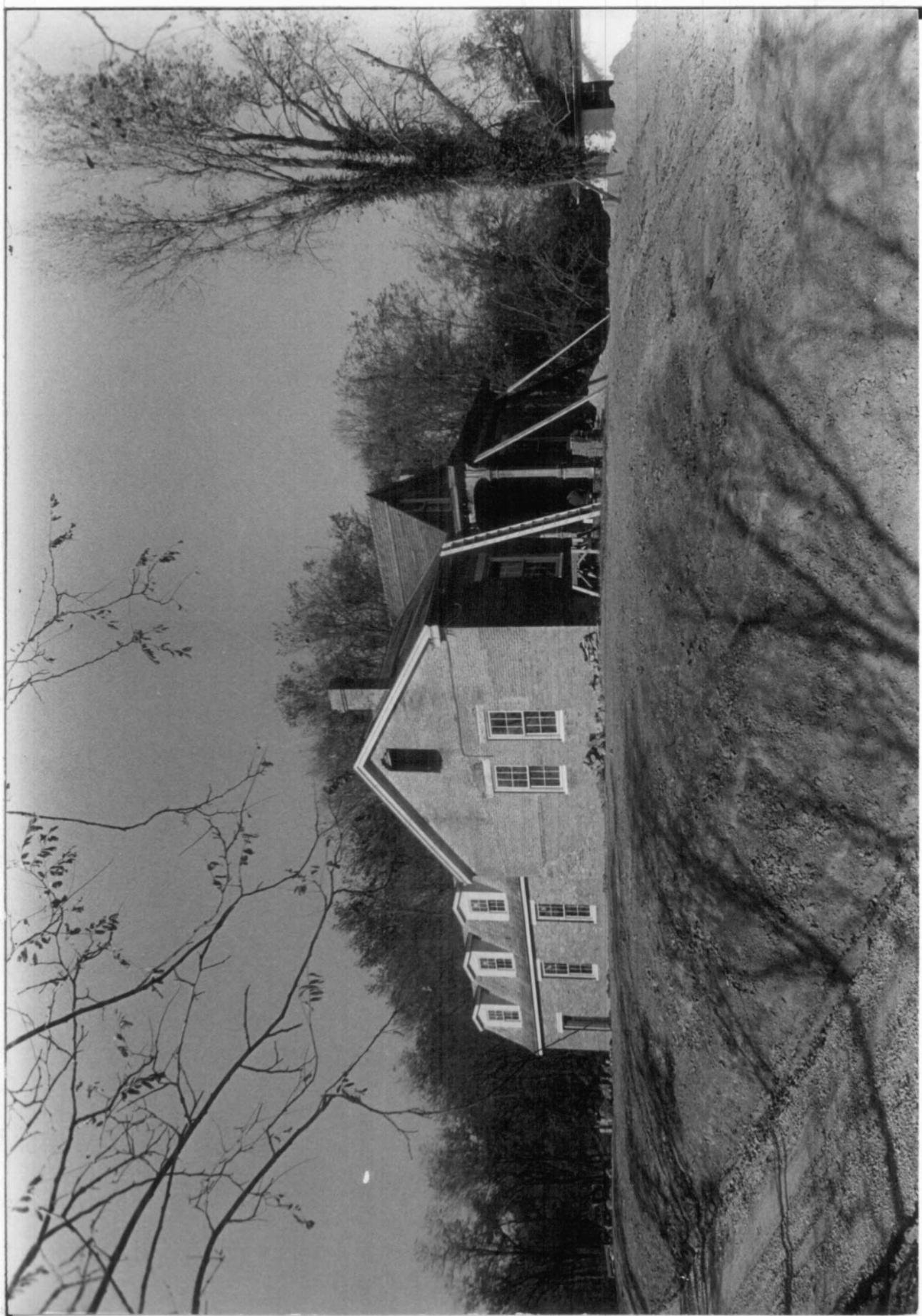
View facing north-northwest. Number 76 in Map C.

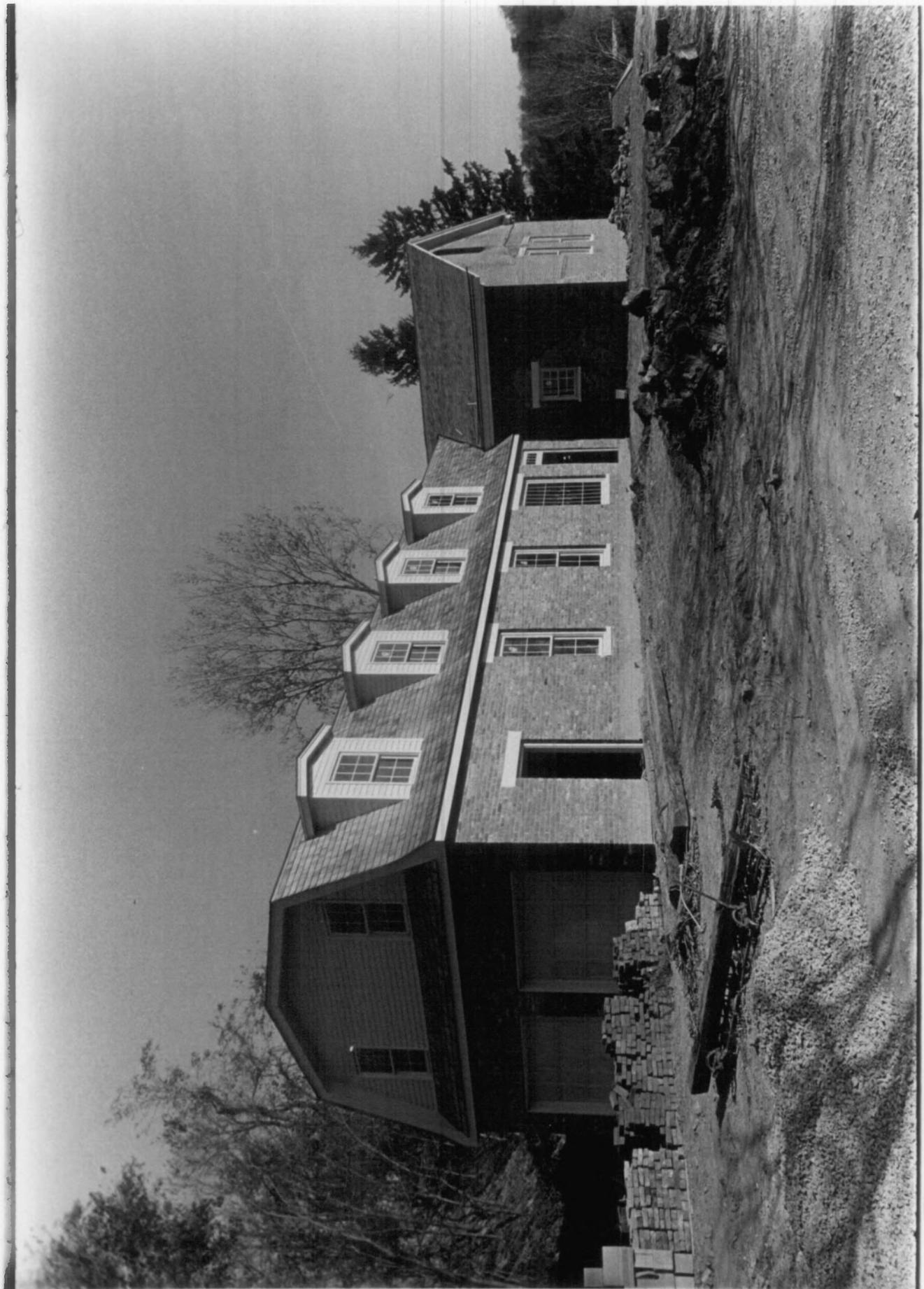


EXTRA
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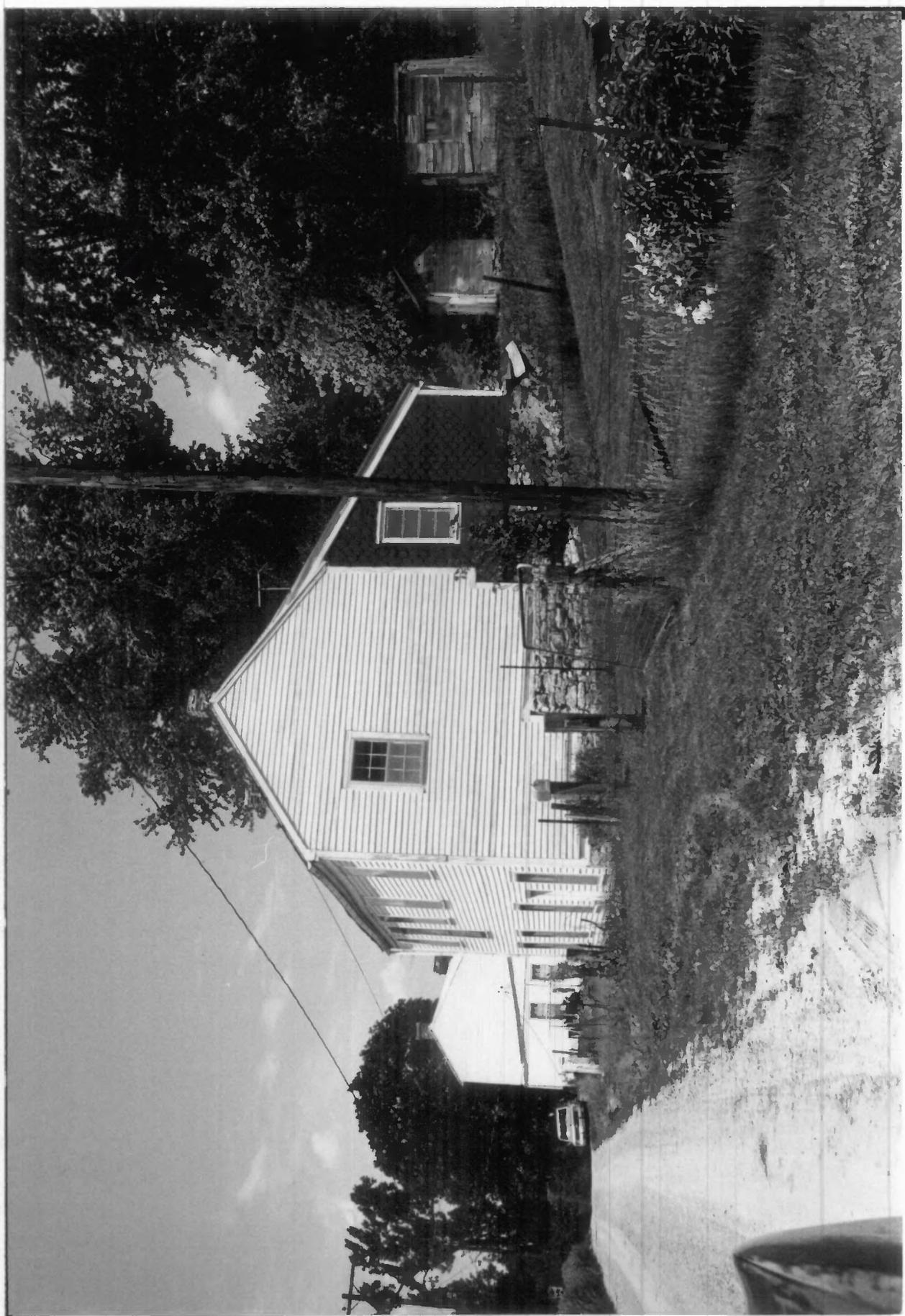


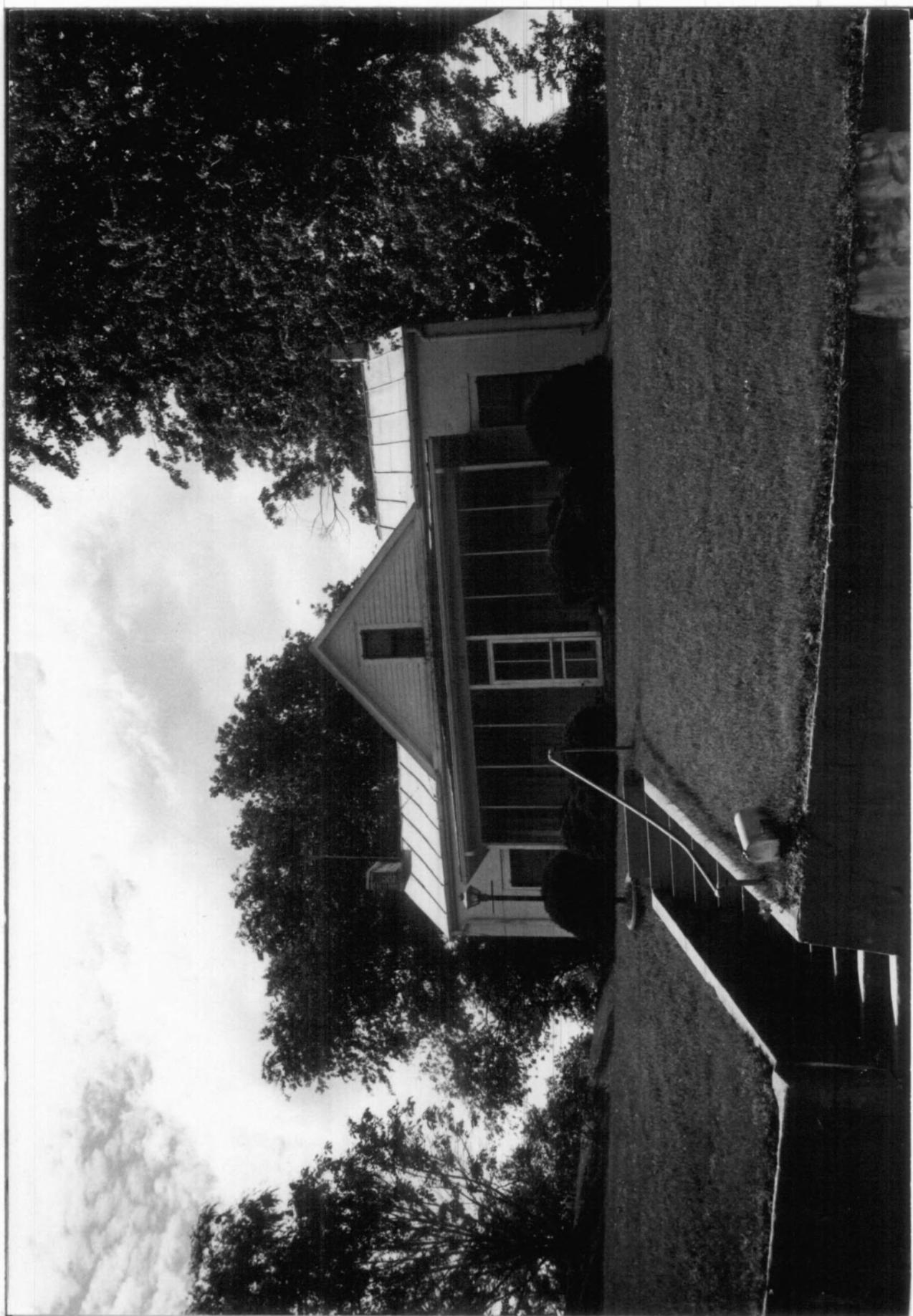


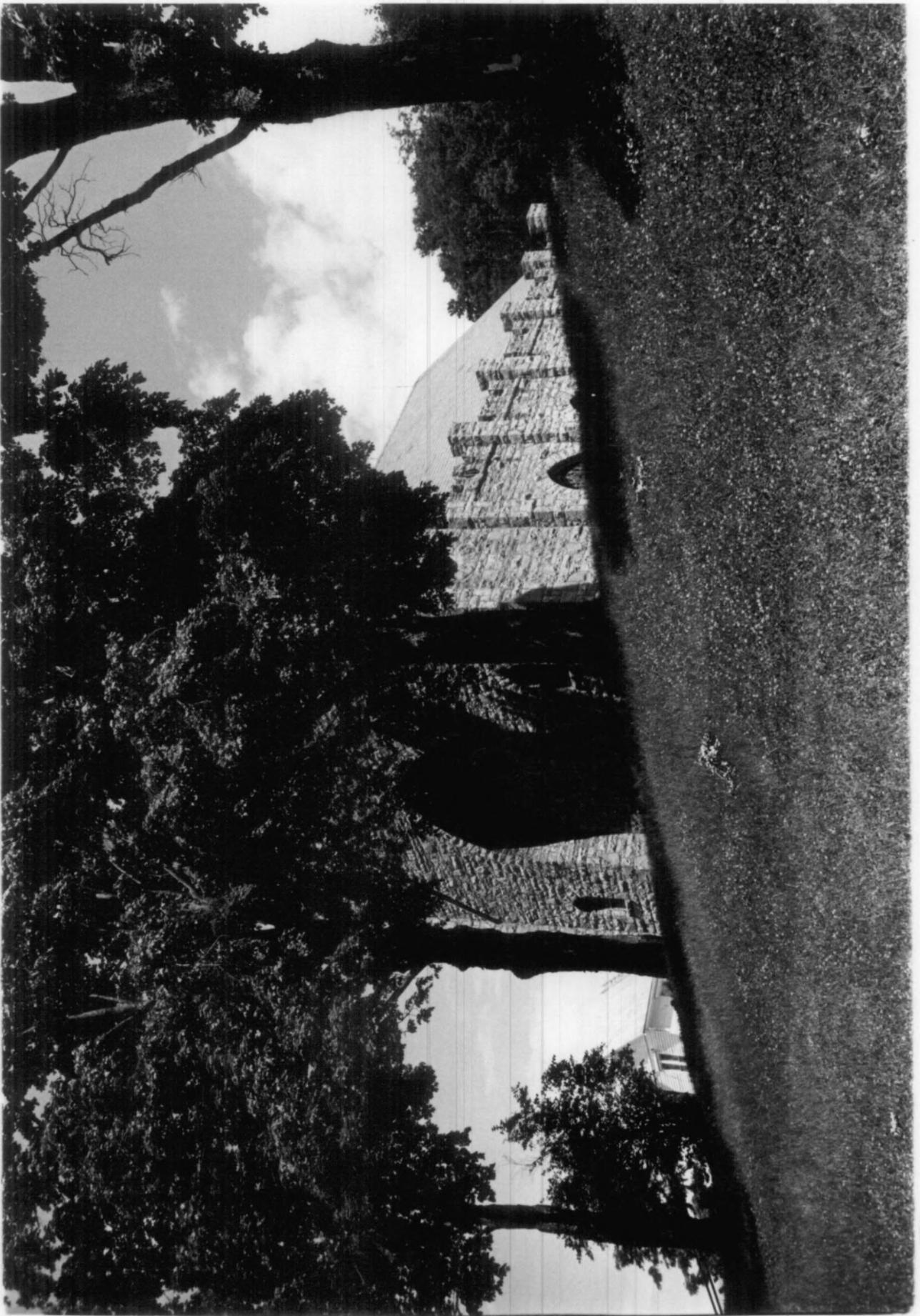






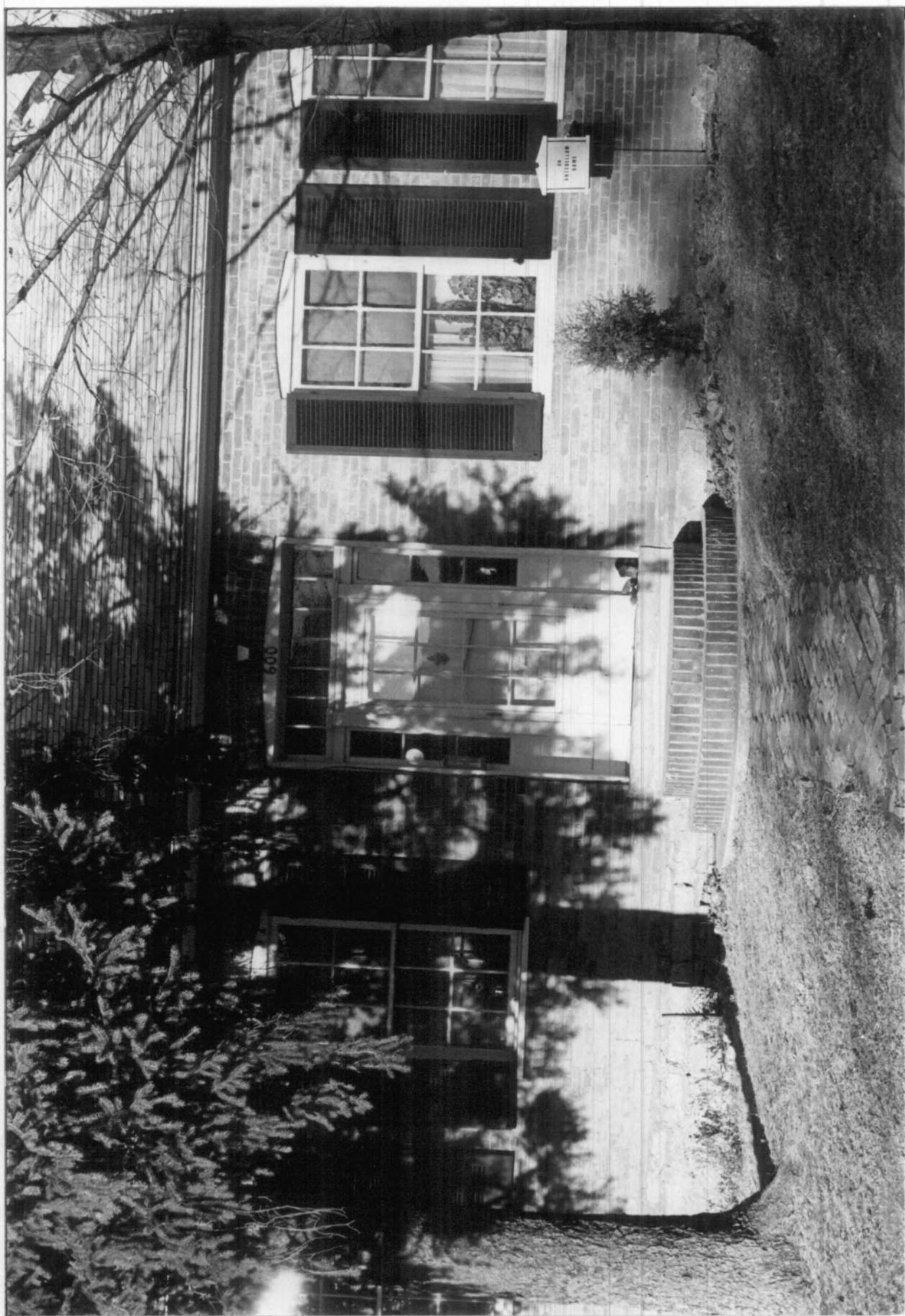
















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