

PRESERVATION OFFICER

for Connecticut

59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET • HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106 • 203 566-3005

October 2, 1985

William Seiden,
First Selectman
Town Hall
110 Myrtle Avenue
Westport, Connecticut 06880

Subject: Proposed Myrtle Avenue Historic District
Westport, Connecticut

Location: Avery Place: #12,25; Church Lane: #26,35,36,42-44,60,75;
Elm Street: #75; Main Street: #234,245; Myrtle Avenue:
#8,20,40,42,48,55,59,65,66,72,73,76,78,81,87,90,96,99,109,110,118;
St. John's Place: #1,2; Post Road East: #245; Violet Lane: #2.

We are pleased to inform you that the subject property will be considered by the State Historic Preservation Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places on Thursday, December 5, 1985.

The members of the State Historic Preservation Board include professional archaeologists, architects, architectural historians, historical architects and historians. These professionals evaluate the historical significance of buildings, districts and sites in Connecticut. A vote by the Board to approve a property's nomination to the National Register signifies that, in the opinion of the State Historic Preservation Board, the property meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places.

Written comments as to whether the above-named property meets the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places will be accepted up to the time of the meeting of the State Historic Preservation Board. However, it is requested that written comments be sent as to arrive no later than five (5) days in advance of the meeting. Oral presentations as to whether the above-named property meets the criteria for the National Register of Historic Places will be heard at the meeting of the State Historic Preservation Board which will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, December 5, 1985, in Hartford at South Congregational Church, 277 Main Street. Persons wishing to make oral presentations are requested to inform the State Historic Preservation Officer at least five (5) days in advance of the meeting.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER: The person responsible for implementation in Connecticut of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 administered by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Washington, D. C.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION AGENCY

The National Register is the Federal Government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our Nation's heritage. Enclosed is a copy of the criteria under which properties are evaluated.

Listing in the National Register results in the following for historic properties.

1. Consideration in planning for Federal, federally licensed, and federally assisted projects. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties listed in the National Register. For further information, please refer to 36 CFR 800.
2. Eligibility for Federal tax provisions. If a property is listed in the National Register, certain Federal tax provisions may apply. The Tax Reform Act of 1984 revises the historic preservation tax incentives authorized by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Revenue Act of 1978, the Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, and the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, which provide for a 25 percent investment tax credit for rehabilitating historic commercial, industrial and rental residential buildings instead of a 15 or 20 percent credit available for rehabilitation of non-historic buildings more than thirty years old. This can be combined with an 18-year cost recovery period for the adjusted basis of the building. Certified structures with certified rehabilitations receive additional tax savings because owners are allowed to reduce the basis by one half the amount of the credit. The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides Federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. For further information, please refer to 36 CFR 67.
3. Consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located, in accord with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977. For further information, please refer to 30 CFR 700 et seq.
4. Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available. Presently funding is unavailable. Contact the State Historic Preservation Office to determine the current status of such grants.

In Connecticut, listing in the National Register of Historic Places results in the following for historic properties:

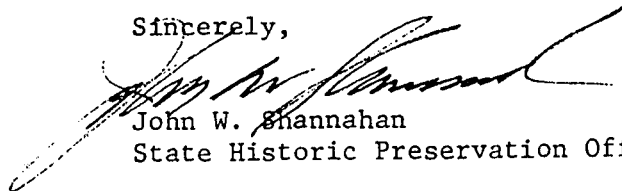
1. Eligibility to purchase historical markers from the State Historic Preservation Officer.
2. Application of Connecticut General Statutes, Section 22a-19a. This statute directs that the provisions of sections 22a-15 through 22a-19, inclusive, of the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act, which permit legal recourse

for the unreasonable destruction of the state's resources, shall also be applicable to historic structures and landmarks of the state. Such structures and landmarks are defined as those properties (1) which are listed or under consideration for listing as individual units on the National Register of Historic Places or (2) which are a part of a district listed or under consideration for listing on the National Register and which have been determined by the State Historic Preservation Board to contribute to the historic significance of such a district. If the plaintiff in a resulting legal action cannot make a prima facie showing that the conduct of the defendant, acting alone or in combination with others, has unreasonably destroyed or is likely unreasonably to destroy the public trust in such historic structures or landmarks, the court shall tax all costs for the action to the plaintiff.

Owners of private properties nominated to the National Register of Historic Places must be given an opportunity to concur in or object to listing in accord with the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 and Federal regulations 36 CFR Part 60. Any owner or partial owner of private property who chooses to object to listing is required to submit to the State Historic Preservation Officer a notarized statement certifying that the party is the sole or partial owner of the private property, as appropriate, and objects to the listing. For a single privately-owned property with one owner, the property will not be listed if the owner objects. In nominations with multiple ownership of a single property, the property will not be listed if a majority of the owners object. Each owner or partial owner of private property has one vote regardless of what part of the property that party owns. If the property cannot be listed because the owner or a majority of owners object prior to the submission of a nomination by the State, the State Historic Preservation Officer shall submit the nomination to the Keeper of the National Register for a determination of the eligibility of the property for inclusion in the National Register. If the property is then determined eligible for listing, although not formally listed, Federal agencies will be required to allow the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment before the agency may fund, license, or assist a project which will affect the property. If an owner chooses to object to the listing of property, the notarized objection must be submitted to John W. Shannahan, State Historic Preservation Officer, 59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, CT 06106 by the day of the scheduled State Historic Preservation Board meeting on which your property is to be evaluated.

Please call or write John Herzan, National Register Coordinator, if you have any questions regarding the proposed nomination of this property to the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



John W. Shannahan
State Historic Preservation Officer

Accepted by State but not approved for listing by
2/21/86
AS ELIGIBLE FOR N.R.
Neighbors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Draft

1. Name

historic N/A
and/or common Myrtle Avenue Historic District

2. Location

street & number See continuation sheet N/A not for publication
city, town Westport N/A vicinity of
state Connecticut code 09 county Fairfield code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership - - see continuation sheet
street & number
city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

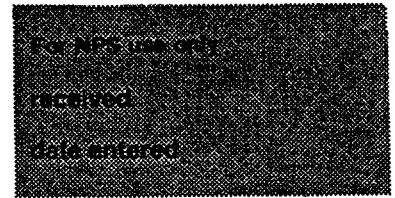
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Westport Town Clerk
street & number Town Hall - 110 Myrtle Avenue
city, town Westport state Connecticut

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title State Register of Historic Places has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes X no
date 1985 _____ federal X _____ state _____ county _____ local
depository for survey records Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
city, town Hartford state Connecticut

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Inventory—Nomination Form



Myrtle Avenue Historic District

Continuation sheet

Westport, CT

Item number

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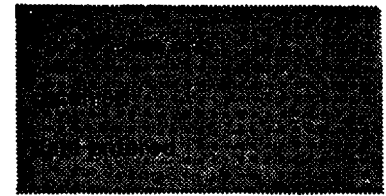
Location (continued):

Complete Street Addresses

12 Avery Place
25 Avery Place
26 Church Lane
35 Church Lane
36 Church Lane
42-44 Church Lane
60 Church Lane
75 Church Lane
75 Elm Street
234 Main Street
245 Main Street
8 Myrtle Avenue
20 Myrtle Avenue
40 Myrtle Avenue
42 Myrtle Avenue
48 Myrtle Avenue
55 Myrtle Avenue
59 Myrtle Avenue
65 Myrtle Avenue
66 Myrtle Avenue
72 Myrtle Avenue
73 Myrtle Avenue
76 Myrtle Avenue
78 Myrtle Avenue
81 Myrtle Avenue
87 Myrtle Avenue
90 Myrtle Avenue
96 Myrtle Avenue
99 Myrtle Avenue
109 Myrtle Avenue
110 Myrtle Avenue
118 Myrtle Avenue
1 St. John's Place
2 St. John's Place
245 Post Road East (church and parish house)
2 Violet Lane

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National Park Service**

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Myrtle Avenue Historic District

Continuation sheet Westport, CT

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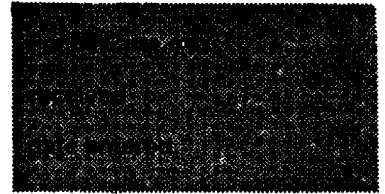
Page 1

Property Owners (continued):

ADDRESS	MAP/LOT	OWNER & ADDRESS	
12 Avery Place	5301/3-A	B & B Associates, Inc. Att: Dr. Howard Shapiro 12 Avery Place Westport, CT 06880	Contributing
25 Avery Place	5301/1-B	Westport Historical Society 25 Avery Place Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
26 Church Lane	5318-1/149	John Sherwood Box 48 Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
35 Church Lane	5318-1/161	Trivalent Realty Co., Inc. 35 Church Lane Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
42-44 Church Lane	5318-1/158	Steve Crowley & Rost Holmes 46 Riverside Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
60 Church Lane	5318-1/157	William H. & Eva N. Fable 60 Church Lane Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
75 Church Lane	5318-1/165	Christ & Holy Trinity Church 75 Church Lane Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
75 Elm Street	5318-1/165	Christ & Holy Trinity Church 75 Church Lane Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
234 Main Street	5301/1A	Calise, Michael F. Box 12 Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
245 Main Street	5300/101	Peter J. Hasting 245 Main Street Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
36 Church Lane	5318-1/159	American Red Cross 36 Church Lane Westport, CT 06880	Contributing ✓

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Myrtle Avenue Historic District

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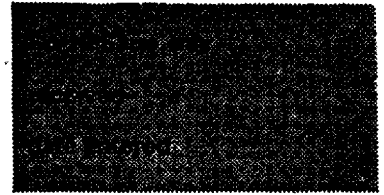
Property Owners (continued):

ADDRESS	MAP/LOT	OWNER & ADDRESS	
8 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/183A	Richards House Associates Att: Michael Laux 8 Myrtle Avenue Westport, CT 06880	Contributing
20 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/183	Southern New England Telephone Company 20 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
40 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/181	Richard S. Adler 40 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
42 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/176	Ellen Ritter 42 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
48 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/175A	Mrs. Charles Pommier 48 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
55 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/165	Christ & Holy Trinity Church 75 Church Lane Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
59 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/165	Christ & Holy Trinity Church 75 Church Lane Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
65 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/165	Christ & Holy Trinity Church 75 Church Lane Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
66 Myrtle Avenue	5319-3/44-1	Barbara J. & James R. Amrein 45 Weston Road Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓✓

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Myrtle Avenue Historic District

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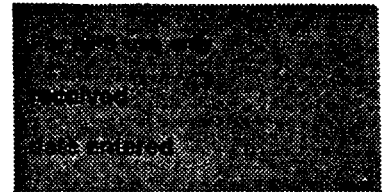
Property Owners (continued):

ADDRESS	MAP/LOT	OWNER & ADDRESS	
72 Myrtle Avenue	5319-1/106B, 106A	Emmanuel & Estelle Margolis 72 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓✓
73 Myrtle Avenue (also numbered as 79 Myrtle Avenue)	5318-1/171	Elizabeth B. Kittridge c/o Ben W. Kittridge Wesley Manor, Apt. G-8 Jacksonville, Florida 32223	Contributing ✓?
76 Myrtle Avenue	5319-3/105-2	Richard Montanaro c/o Montanaro Building & Design 10 Bay Street Westport, Connecticut 06880	Building not ✓ included within district
78 Myrtle Avenue	5319-3/105-1	Frances W. Barnard 78 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
81 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/172	Martin Schultz 81 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
87 Myrtle Avenue	5318-1/173	Martin Schultz 81 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
90 Myrtle Avenue	5319-3/104-B	J.W. Brown 90 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓
96 Myrtle Avenue	5319-3/104-A	Paul F. Jacobson P.O. Box 22 Westport, Connecticut 06880	✓
99 Myrtle Avenue	5319-3/174	Town of Westport 110 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing

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Myrtle Avenue Historic District

Continuation sheet Westport, CT

Item number 4

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Property Owners (continued):

ADDRESS	MAP/LOT	OWNER & ADDRESS	
109 Myrtle Avenue	5301/1-B	Town of Westport 110 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Park; no structures on lot
110 Myrtle Avenue	5319-3/103	Town of Westport 110 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
118 Myrtle Avenue	5319-3/102	Edwin R. Green & Wm.J. Dunne 118 Myrtle Avenue Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing ✓✓
245 Post Road East (church and house)	5318-1/184	Saugatuck Congregational Society 245 Post Road East Westport, Connecticut 06880	Contributing
1 St. John's Place	5319-3/93	Michael Montanaro 16 Wimbledon Lane Easton, Connecticut 06612	Contributing ✓
2 St. John's Place	5319-3/101	and Mrs Dr. Richard Specter 2 St. John's Place Westport, CT 06880	Contributing ✓✓
2 Violet Lane	5318-1/182, 181A	Allan P. Cramer 6 Yankee Hill Road Westport, Connecticut 06880	Noncontributing ✓

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Representation in Existing Surveys (continued):

Historic Resource Survey of Westport

Local/State, 1977

Records deposited with Connecticut Historical Commission
59 South Prospect Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106

Listed on National Register of Historic Places:

Bradley-Wheeler House (Charles B. Wheeler House)
25 Avery Place
Listed 7/5/84

Historic American Buildings Survey

National, 1936-1940

Records deposited with Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

First Congregational Church, 245 Post Road East Conn-123
Dunn House, 8 Myrtle Avenue Conn-16
Jesup House, 245 Post Road East Conn-214
Prince-Raymond House, 2 St. Johns Place Conn-69

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>See inventory</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY

Myrtle Avenue Historic District includes 35 structures ranged along Myrtle Avenue and associated side streets in Westport, Connecticut. Most of the buildings were built as dwellings, though the district also includes three churches and a former elementary school now used as the Town Hall. This historic district encompasses much of the original village of Saugatuck and is characterized by early 19th-century and Victorian two- or three-story, wood-frame structures, each on their own lot within a landscape of rolling lawns, mature trees, and flowering shrubs. The winding routes of the streets and the inclusion of the churches in the historic district further reinforce the "small town" or New England village atmosphere. The district includes a small park between Main Street and Myrtle Avenue.

In addition to the whole of Myrtle Avenue and Church Lane, the district takes in structures with addresses on St. Johns Place but actually fronting on Myrtle Avenue; on Avery Place near the corner with Myrtle Avenue; and on Main Street and Post Road East, streets into which Myrtle Avenue continues. The district is bounded on the north, northeast, and northwest by extensive residential areas and on the south by Westport's commercial center. As a result of this proximity, many of the dwellings have been converted to office or commercial uses. However, the district retains a residential appearance: the buildings are set on large lots and few have been significantly altered. The wide spacing of the buildings and the shady, tree-lined streets creates the appearance of a mostly residential neighborhood.

The district derives its character from a concentration of Federal-style and Victorian buildings. Historic or contributing buildings make up 34 of the 35 major buildings (97%). Of these, two are traditional c.1800 center-chimney houses, nine (including one church) are Federal-style buildings, and eight are from the Victorian period, including the other two churches. In addition to these which are directly related to the theme of the district, there are eleven early 20th-century houses (Photographs 9, 10, 21, and 22). Although most are vernacular structures with only limited reference to an architectural style, they are all more than 50 years old and they relate directly to Westport's historical development as a suburban town. Along with a 1931 telephone company building, they have been termed contributing. Three of the district's 20th-century buildings have outstanding architectural qualities: the c.1915 Neo-Classical Bedford School (Photograph 11); an early 20th-century Foursquare-type house, the only one of its age in the district which is in largely original condition (Photograph 12); and the 1930 Tudor Revival house at 78 Myrtle Avenue.

The traditional houses (Photographs 3 and 14) are both of the three-bay "half-house" form with the entrance on the left of the broad side; both have

(continued)

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National Park Service**

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date entered

Continuation sheet Myrtle Avenue Historic District Westport, CT Item number 7 Page 1

Description (continued):

large brick chimneys. Decorative details are from later modifications. The Federal-style houses are considerably more ornate. In every case, they have pilastered entries and a variety of other details based upon Classical and geometric motifs, including fanlight transoms and attic windows, denticular cornices, Palladian windows, window cornices, engaged columns, and porticos (Photographs 1, 2, 4, 6, and 15). The Federal houses include hip-roof, gable-end-to-street, and traditional five-bay forms. The Victorian buildings include formal architectural styles, such as the Italian Villa (Photograph 16), the Queen Anne (Photographs 19 and 20), and the Gothic Revival (Photograph 18). There also are more vernacular Victorian buildings which exhibit a variety of decorative architectural woodwork and siding materials such as fancy shingles (Photographs 5 and 13). One Victorian house, 66 Myrtle Avenue, a c.1870 remodelling of an earlier house, combines Italianate porch detail, Carpenter Gothic bracing and board-and-batten siding, and Classical anthemion entry embellishment (Photographs 7 and 8). The Methodist Church (Seabury Center, Photograph 17) combines a Romanesque form with the cobblestone construction favored in Westport for important institutional buildings (the Old Town Hall is a Neo-Classical cobblestone structure).

INTEGRITY

Most of the contributing buildings in the district retain their historic appearance. Small-pane sash and clapboarded siding, while probably not entirely original material, predominate in the district and are appropriate to the houses. Even highly altered structures such as 96 Myrtle Avenue or 48 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 6) retain key architectural details such as Federal-style window cornices and entries.

The early 20th-century buildings along the south side of Myrtle Avenue provide only a momentary interruption to the flow of older historic buildings which gives the area its character. The district includes only a single building which was judged not to contribute to the significance of the district, a house on Violet Lane under construction at the time this nomination form was in preparation.

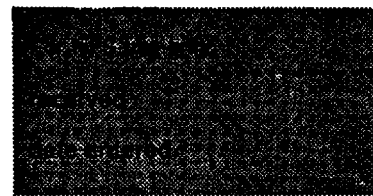
A number of the historic buildings in the district have been moved, primarily as a result of pressure from commercial development from the south. None of these moves has resulted in a drastic relocation: the Jesup House (Photograph 1) was simply moved back from the street in 1950 when the church was moved from across the street, and 12 Avery Place and 26 Church Lane were each moved over one lot to allow for commercial development.

The buildings in the Myrtle Avenue District and their surrounding green spaces are all well maintained and the structural condition of most appears from the outside to be good. An inventory of included structures follows.

(continued)

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Continuation sheet Myrtle Avenue Historic District Item number 7 Page 2
 Westport, CT

Description (continued):

INVENTORY OF CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

12 Avery Place, Avery House, Federal, 1823, 2 1/2 stories, moved c.1960. Photograph 15.

25 Avery Place, Wheeler House, Italianate, 1860, 2 1/2 stories. Photograph 16. Octagonal cobblestone barn to rear. Listed on the National Register.

26 Church Lane, Federal, 1808, 2 1/2 stories, moved 1924.

35 Church Lane, Queen Anne, c.1890, 2 1/2 stories. Photograph 20.

42-44 Church Lane, Foursquare, c.1920, 2 1/2 stories, sided, added store built onto facade.

36 Church Lane, Federal, 1799, 2 1/2 stories, moved c.1920.

60 Church Lane, Sturges House, Queen Anne, c.1885, 2 1/2 stories. Photograph 19.

75 Church Lane, Trinity Church, Gothic Revival, 1863, stone, J.F. Lemoulnier, architect. Photograph 18.

75 Elm Street, Methodist Church, Richardsonian Romanesque, 1907, stone. Photograph 17.

234 Main Street, 1 1/2 stories, Colonial Revival, later bay windows, c.1930.

245 Main Street, Rowland House, vernacular, c.1810, 2 1/2 stories, large central brick chimney. Photograph 14.

8 Myrtle Avenue, Richards-Dunn House, c.1800, 3-bay original facade with entry on left, 2 1/2 stories, large central chimney. Photograph 3.

20 Myrtle Avenue, telephone switching station, 1 story, hip roof, brick, stylized Colonial Revival detailing, 1931.

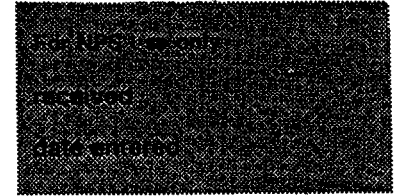
40 Myrtle Avenue, Scribner House, Federal, c.1830, 2 1/2 stories. Photograph 4.

42 Myrtle Avenue, Powers House, Victorian vernacular, 1877, 2 1/2 stories.

(continued)

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Continuation sheet Myrtle Avenue Historic District Item number 7 Page 3
Westport, CT

Description (continued):

Photograph 5.

48 Myrtle Avenue, Samuel Wood House, Federal, c.1830, 2 1/2 stories. Photograph 6.

55 Myrtle Avenue, 2 1/2 stories, Colonial Revival, c.1930, sided, new windows. Photograph 21.

59 Myrtle Avenue, Foursquare, c.1920, partly enclosed porch.

65 Myrtle Avenue, 2 1/2 stories, cobblestone chimney and foundation, c.1920.

66 Myrtle Avenue, Jauncey House, c.1840 (remodelled with Gothic Revival details, c.1870), 2 1/2 stories. Photographs 7 and 8.

72 Myrtle Avenue, Dr. Banks House, Federal, c.1820 with c.1890 Victorian alterations and c.1920 bay windows, 2 1/2 stories.

73 Myrtle Avenue, 2 1/2 stories, Colonial Revival doorways, casement sash, overhanging second story on west side, c.1900. Photograph 22.

78 Myrtle Avenue, two stories, stone, casement windows, Tudor Revival, 1930.

81 Myrtle Avenue, two stories, pent roof over first-floor windows, added arched entry, left side, c.1925.

87 Myrtle Avenue, 1 1/2 stories, c.1930, Colonial Revival doorway, shed wall dormer, exterior chimney. Photograph 9.

90 Myrtle Avenue, two stories, c.1900, said to be made over from old barn or carriage house.

96 Myrtle Avenue, Salmon House, Federal, 1825, extensively modernized with additions, altered fenestration.

99 Myrtle Avenue, 1 1/2 stories, c.1930, shed wall dormers, exterior chimney; allegedly an old candle shop moved and remodeled. Photograph 10.

110 Myrtle Avenue, Town Hall (Bedford School), c.1915, Neo-Classical, stucco walls, hip roof, two stories. Portico on six Corinthian columns. Photograph 11.

118 Myrtle Avenue, Foursquare, c.1910. Photograph 12.

(continued)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Criteria A,C

Specific dates See Inventory, Item 7 **Builder/Architect** Urian Ambler, builder, Cong. Church
J.F. Lemoulnier, architect, Trinity Church

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY

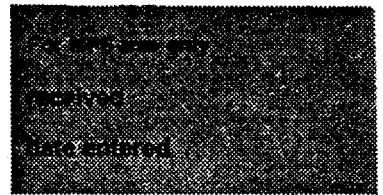
The buildings in the Myrtle Avenue Historic District embody the distinctive characteristics of early 19th-century and Victorian architecture (Criterion C), and they illustrate the historical development of Saugatuck, one of the earliest residential areas in the town of Westport (Criterion A). Because of Saugatuck's prosperity as a port shipping agricultural commodities such as onions in the coastal trade, entrepreneurs were able to erect dwellings which were finely detailed with columns, pilasters, fanlights, Palladian windows, and other typical Federal-style details. Although the Victorian houses are not quite as impressive, they too represent historical styles such as the Italian Villa, Queen Anne, and Gothic Revival, and they illustrate the introduction of mass-produced architectural woodwork which took place in the Victorian period.

The Myrtle Avenue area has long been identified as one of Westport's principal concentrations of historic buildings. In the 1930s the Historic American Building Survey recorded in detail four of the buildings in the district, and a recent townwide survey of Westport's historic resources recommended the district as one of two areas of early houses which should be nominated to the National Register.

HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Myrtle Avenue Historic District is located within what was originally the village of Saugatuck, established in 1832 when a group of 36 families broke off from the Green Farms congregation, the original church in the Westport area. The new parish built the Saugatuck Congregational Church on the south side of Post Road opposite its present location (Photograph 1). In 1835 Westport was incorporated as a separate town, drawing from parts of Fairfield, Norwalk and Weston.

The economy of the village was based upon agriculture and shipping. A commercial center developed around the town square (now the intersection of Main Street and Post Road East) and along the banks of the Saugatuck River, with residential development taking place around the edges of the commercial center. Through the first half of the 19th century, daily boats carried grain, produce, and the famous Westport onions to markets in New York. Farmers reached the port by means of the Connecticut Turnpike, established in 1807 as an improvement for the state's major coastal route. The town square became filled with hotels, livery stables, and the shops of the craftsmen who supported the port economy. At least one building in the

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Westport, CT

Significance (continued):

district (26 Church Lane) is known to have been used as a hotel. In the 1850s the railroad was completed through Westport and trade by road and water gradually diminished as railroad shipping increased. The town's economy slowed by the turn of the 20th century. Ironically, while the railroad signalled the end of Westport's shipping, it ultimately provided the basis for the continuing prosperity of the town: by the 1920s Westport was becoming a commuter community, essentially a suburb of New York.

The houses in the district clearly document the economic growth of the town. The several fine Federal-style houses were built during the village's early years as an active port. The present Congregational parsonage (Photograph 1), for example, was built in 1807 by Morris K. Jesup, owner of a number of wharves along the river and one of the sponsors of the Connecticut Turnpike. The Avery House (Photograph 15) was owned by Captain Samuel Avery, a ship owner and captain and one of the founders of the Saugatuck church. Jesse Scribner, who built the house at 40 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 4), operated a tannery and also owned a general store in the village. The continued prosperity, if not dynamic growth, of the village is evident in the Victorian buildings, particularly the two large churches. These churches also recall the greater religious diversity which characterized Connecticut society as the 19th century progressed.

Westport in the early 20th century entered a new stage in its development, as the middle-class workforce of New York City sought housing in the uncongested towns of Fairfield County. Westport's population steadily increased, especially in the 1930s. Improved road transportation, such as the construction of the Merritt Parkway, reinforced the trend. As a result, real-estate development became a major economic activity in Westport, and new residential areas were opened and old areas, such as that encompassed by the district, became more densely built-up. The district's 20th-century houses, while generally not outstanding as architectural examples, reflect the town's emergence as a suburb in the first half of the present century.

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Two of the houses in the district are characteristic of Connecticut's traditional domestic architecture as developed in the 18th century (Photographs 3 and 14). Although modified with later windows, entry sidelights, and a porch, the two houses, both built about 1800, exhibit the broad-side facade, gable roof, and large central chimney which are hallmarks of the type. The two are examples of one of the chief variants on the usual five-bay form: they are "half houses" with the entrances at one end of the facade and rooms to only one side of what in the more common house would be the central bay.

(continued)

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Myrtle Avenue Historic District

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date entered

Significance (continued):

The Federal-style houses in the district include some of the state's best-known and most finely detailed buildings of the period. House builders in the early 19th century were influenced by the ideas of the Adam brothers, Scottish architects whose designs (as well as those of earlier English architects) were popularized in builders' patternbooks. The Adam aesthetic was based upon light, delicate ornament freely adapted from both Classical elements and geometric designs. The result was elegant combinations of slender columns, small-scale mutules and dentils, elliptical shapes, and Palladian windows. The central bay of the Avery House has every one of these characteristics (Photograph 15), and throughout the district are houses with Palladian windows, leaded fanlight transoms, pilastered doorways, and other central features of the Federal style (Photographs 1 and 4). The later buildings in the style (built c.1830, photographs 2 and 6), in the heavier proportions of their columns or pilasters and the use of rectilinear rather than arched transoms, exhibit a transition to the Greek Revival style.

Two interdependent factors distinguish Victorian architecture from what went before: a resolutely Romantic quest for the picturesque, especially as found in historical styles, and the capability to produce inexpensive, machine-made ornament. With steam-powered pattern lathes, bandsaws, shingle machines, and routers, architectural woodwork companies were able to provide the Victorian builder with a menu of items which could either make up an example of some formal style or just add variety to a plain house.

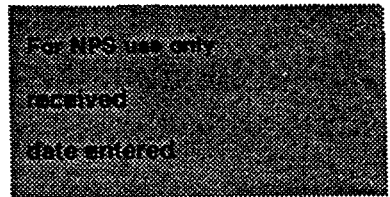
The district includes both these major types of Victorian buildings. The Wheeler House (Photograph 16), though said to be made over from an earlier house, is in its present form an excellent example of the Italian Villa; it has the characteristic boxy, flat-roofed form, ornate window hoodmolds, veranda, and round window shapes which are hallmarks of the style. Two later houses on Church Lane are good examples of the Queen Anne style (Photographs 19 and 20): they have the asymmetric massing, medievalisms such as overhanging stories, and mixed exterior materials which are the key features of the Queen Anne style. The churches are typical of the revival of medieval styles favored in the Victorian period: Trinity Church (Photograph 18) has the buttresses, lancet windows, and tracery derived from Gothic models, and the Methodist Church (Photograph 17) includes the round-arched forms and rough variegated masonry which characterized the revival of Romanesque forms as undertaken by Henry Hobson Richardson and others at the end of the 19th century.

The less formal Victorian houses in the district (Photographs 5, 7, 8 and 13) illustrate the eclectic variety of ornament available to builders of the period: bay windows, fancy porch details, gable peak ornaments, and

(continued)

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 Westport, CT

Significance (continued):

decorative shingle and board-and-batten siding are freely combined, not to create some historical style but simply to satisfy the Victorians' love for intricately detailed architecture.

The fact that the three churches are among the most elaborate and consciously stylish buildings in the district points to their importance as highly visible symbols of their respective institutions. Ecclesiastical architecture has always been a vehicle for large and finely detailed architectural statements, and these Westport churches are no exception.

Three of the buildings do not directly relate to the main themes of the district but nevertheless are of architectural distinction. The house at 118 Myrtle Avenue (Photograph 12) is a pristine example of the Foursquare, so named from its cube-like shape and square plan. The house incorporates both the bay windows which were a legacy of the Victorian period and details drawn from contemporary Craftsmen-influenced architecture, such as the fieldstone exterior chimney passing up through the wide eaves. Though not a large or formal house, it is typical of the kind of early 20th-century house available to the middle class.

The house at 78 Myrtle Avenue is typical of the Tudor Revival architecture which characterized Connecticut suburbs in the years around 1930. It has the asymmetrical massing, rough-surfaced exterior, steeply pitched gables, and medieval details (such as casement windows) which are characteristic of the style. Tudor houses like this one were valued not only for their picturesque qualities but also for their association with quaint English villages, a meaningful ideal for the still small and bucolic Connecticut suburbs of the 1920s and 1930s.

Finally, the Bedford elementary school has both historical and architectural significance as a representative early 20th-century school. The gift of a local philanthropic family, the school offered Westport a modern, relatively fireproof facility with large, well-lighted classrooms. The impressive Neo-Classical portico helped foster the belief that education was a serious matter and is unusual among schools of the period only in its size and use of the most ornate Classical order, the Corinthian.

The district's other 20th-century houses are less distinguished as architectural resources, but they too reflect the changing tastes of the 20th century. The Colonial Revival style, popular for its connotations of tradition and elegant living, is evident in the massing and details of several of the buildings (Photographs 9 and 21), and two others are Foursquares which have undergone more extensive alterations than that at 118 Myrtle Avenue.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Atlas of New York and Vicinity. Philadelphia: Beers, Ellis & Soule, 1867.
 Birge, E. C. Westport, Connecticut: The Making of a Yankee Township. New York, 1926.
 Hurd, D. Hamilton. History of Fairfield County. Philadelphia, 1881.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____ approx. 25 _____

Quadrangle name Westport

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References see continuation sheet

A

Zone	Easting			Northing								

B

Zone	Easting			Northing								

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jane Carolan, Bruce Clouette, and Matthew Roth, Edited by John Herzan, National Register Coordinator

organization Historic Resource Consultants date July 15, 1985

street & number The Colt Armory telephone (203) 547-0268

55 Van Dyke Avenue

city or town Hartford state Connecticut

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title John W. Shannahan, Director, Connecticut Historical Commission date 12/26/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Myrtle Avenue Historic District

Continuation sheet

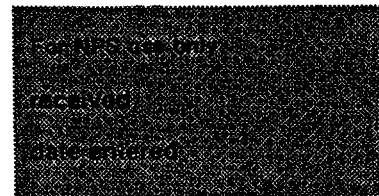
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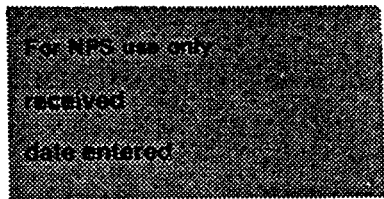
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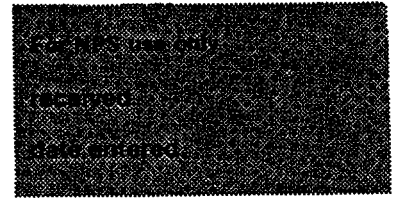
Geographical Data (continued):

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the south corner of the lot at 35 Church Lane (Lot 161, Map 5318-1, Westport Assessor files), the boundary runs northwesterly along the line of that lot, then northeasterly to Elm Street, crosses Elm Street, and continues along the line of Lot 165. It turns northwest and runs along the rear lines of Lots 165, 171, 172, and 173. It crosses lot 174 and runs westerly and northerly along the line of Lot 3A and then continues in a straight line to Avery Place. It crosses Avery Place to the southwest corner of 25 Avery Place (lot 1A, Map 5301), then runs northerly and westerly along the lines of Lots 1A and 1B to Main Street. It runs northerly along the eastern edge of Main Street, then crosses to the southeast corner of 245 Main Street (Lot 101, Map 5300). It runs westerly, northerly, and easterly along the line of that Lot, then crosses Main Street to the northwest corner of 1 St. Johns Place (Lot 93, Map 5319-3). It runs easterly, southerly, and westerly along the line of that lot, then crosses St. Johns Place and continues southeasterly along the line of Lot 101 (2 St. Johns Place). It runs southerly along the rear lines of Lots 101 and 102, then turns easterly and continues along the line of Lot 103 (Town Hall, 110 Myrtle Avenue). It crosses Lot 103 in a straight line at right angles to the lot's north line to the northeast corner of Lot 104B (90 Myrtle Avenue) and then runs southerly along the eastern line of that lot to the northwest corner of Lot 105-1 (78 Myrtle Avenue). It then runs to Evergreen Avenue along the rear lines of Lots 105-1, 106-A, and 44-1, crossing in a straight line over Lot 105-2. It runs southwest along the northwest edge of Evergreen Avenue, then turns east to follow along the north lines of 48 and 42 Myrtle Avenue (Lots 175-A and 176, Map 5318-1). At the northeast corner of Lot 176 it turns and runs southwest along the rear lines of Lots 176 and 181, then cuts across Lot 181-A and Violet Lane to the north corner of Lot 182 (2 Violet Lane). It then follows along the rear lines of Lots 182, 183, and 184. At the northeast corner of Lot 184 (245 Post Road East), the boundary turns and runs southerly to Post Road East. It then runs westerly along the northern edge of Post Road East and northwesterly along the northeast edge of Myrtle Avenue to the intersection with Church Lane. It runs southwest along the northern edge of Church Lane, then crosses Church Lane to the northeast corner of Lot 157 (60 Church Lane). It runs southerly along the eastern line of that lot, then southwest along the rear lines of Lots 157, 158, 159, and 149. It then turns and runs northwesterly along the right-of-way west of 26 Church Lane to Church Lane and crosses the street to the first point.

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Geographical Data (continued):

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The significance of the Myrtle Avenue district rests upon its 18th-century, Federal, and Victorian dwellings and churches. These buildings represent locally significant examples of their respective styles and reflect the development of the area as a village center before Westport became a suburban town.

The boundary was delineated so as to preserve the thematic unity of the district. Commercial buildings to the south, southeast, and southwest were excluded because they are generally later in date (post-1900) and give their area a different character from the primarily residential appearance of the district. One commercial area adjacent to the district is being proposed in a separate nomination.

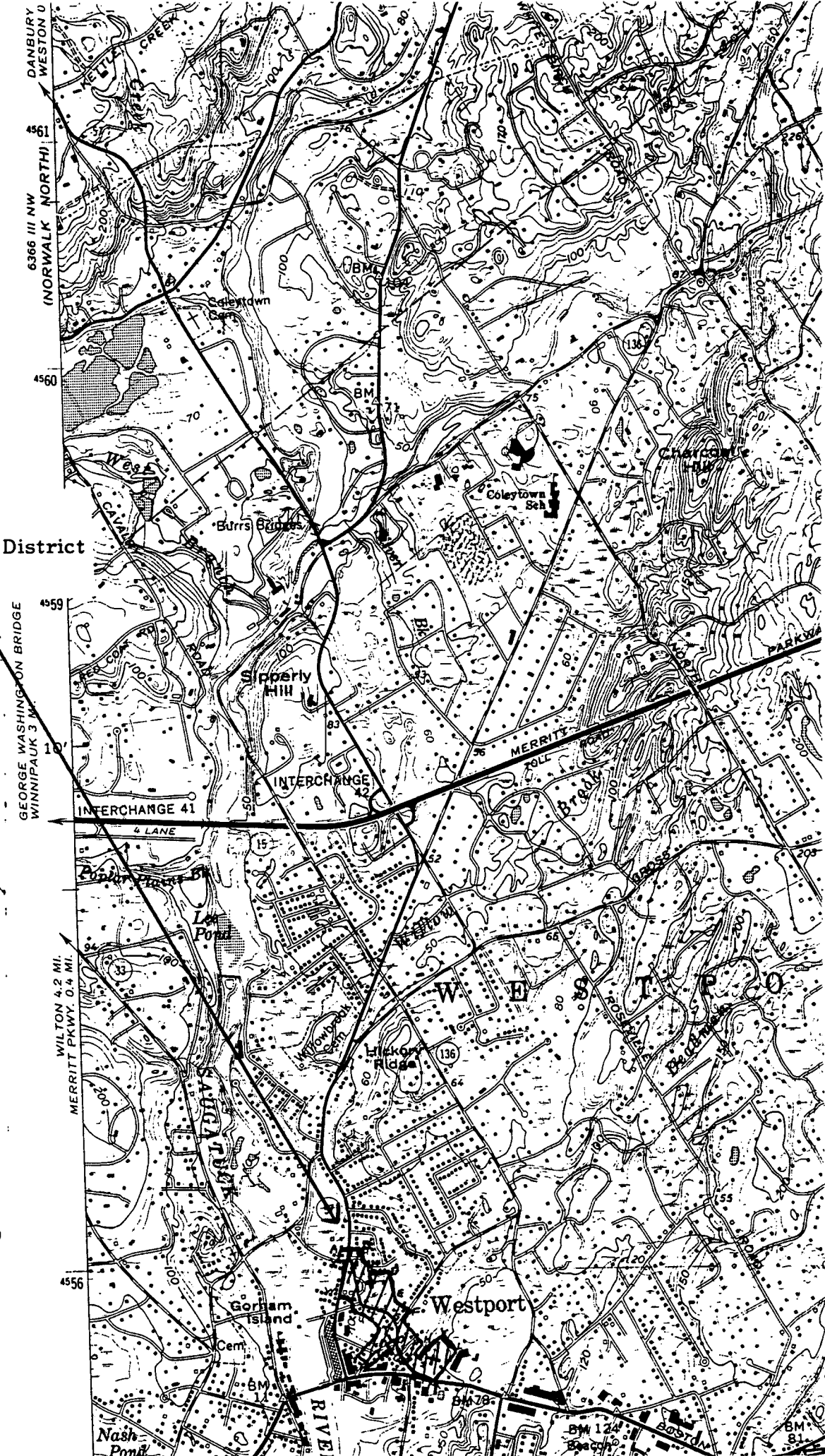
The extensive residential areas to the north, northeast, and northwest were excluded because they are 20th-century in origin and generally do not have any old houses such as those which make up the major part of the district. Although the district includes several houses which are similar to those in the adjacent 20th-century neighborhoods, they are not the buildings which give the district its unique character. While the adjacent areas might be eligible as another, much larger district, such a district would have a far different thematic content.

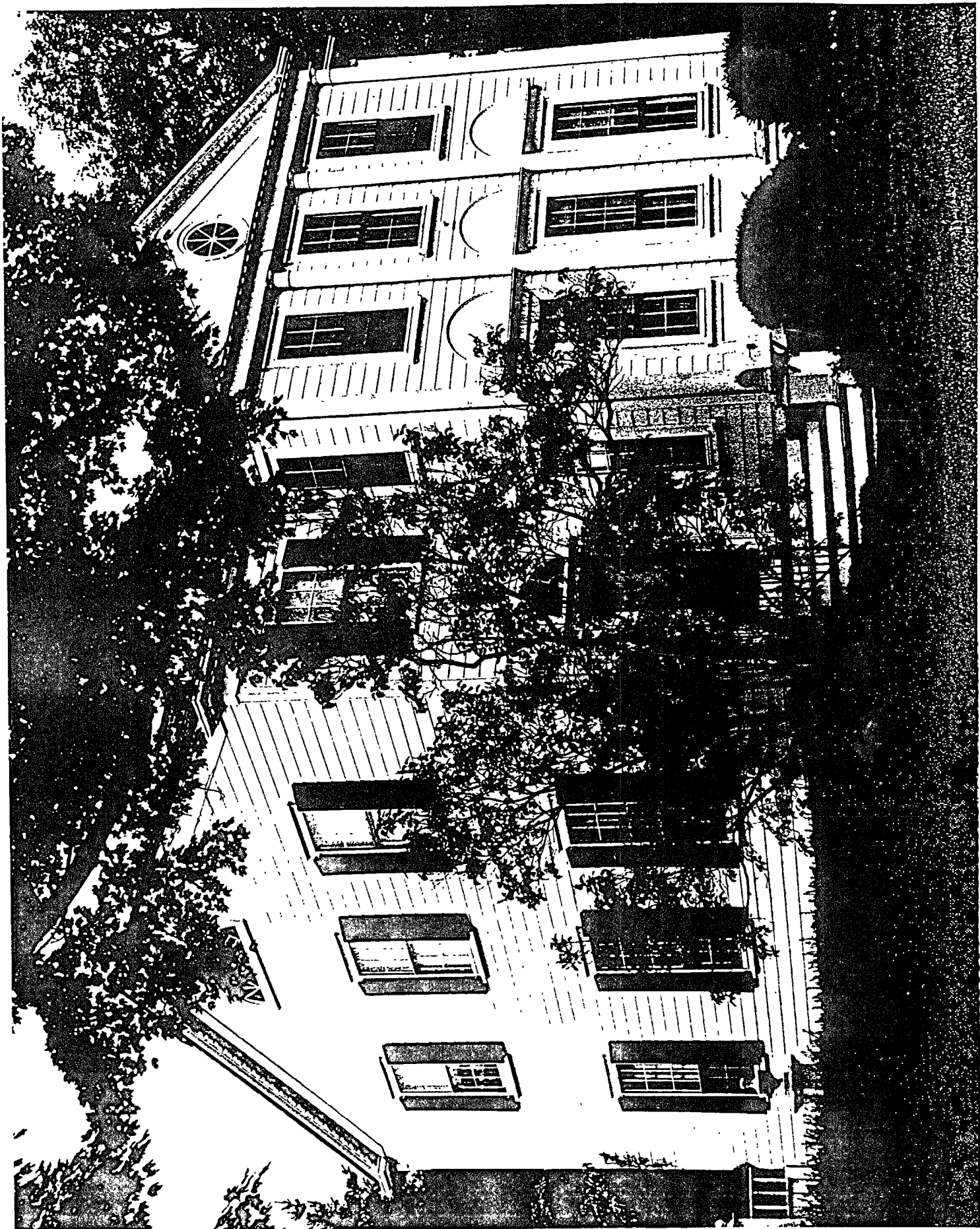
In order to make a clear boundary and reflect current ownership and use, the district boundary generally follows the rear property lines of lots fronting on Myrtle Avenue and its side streets. A few interior lots and lots with excessively irregular shapes are bisected by the boundary so as to maintain a reasonable depth back from the street.

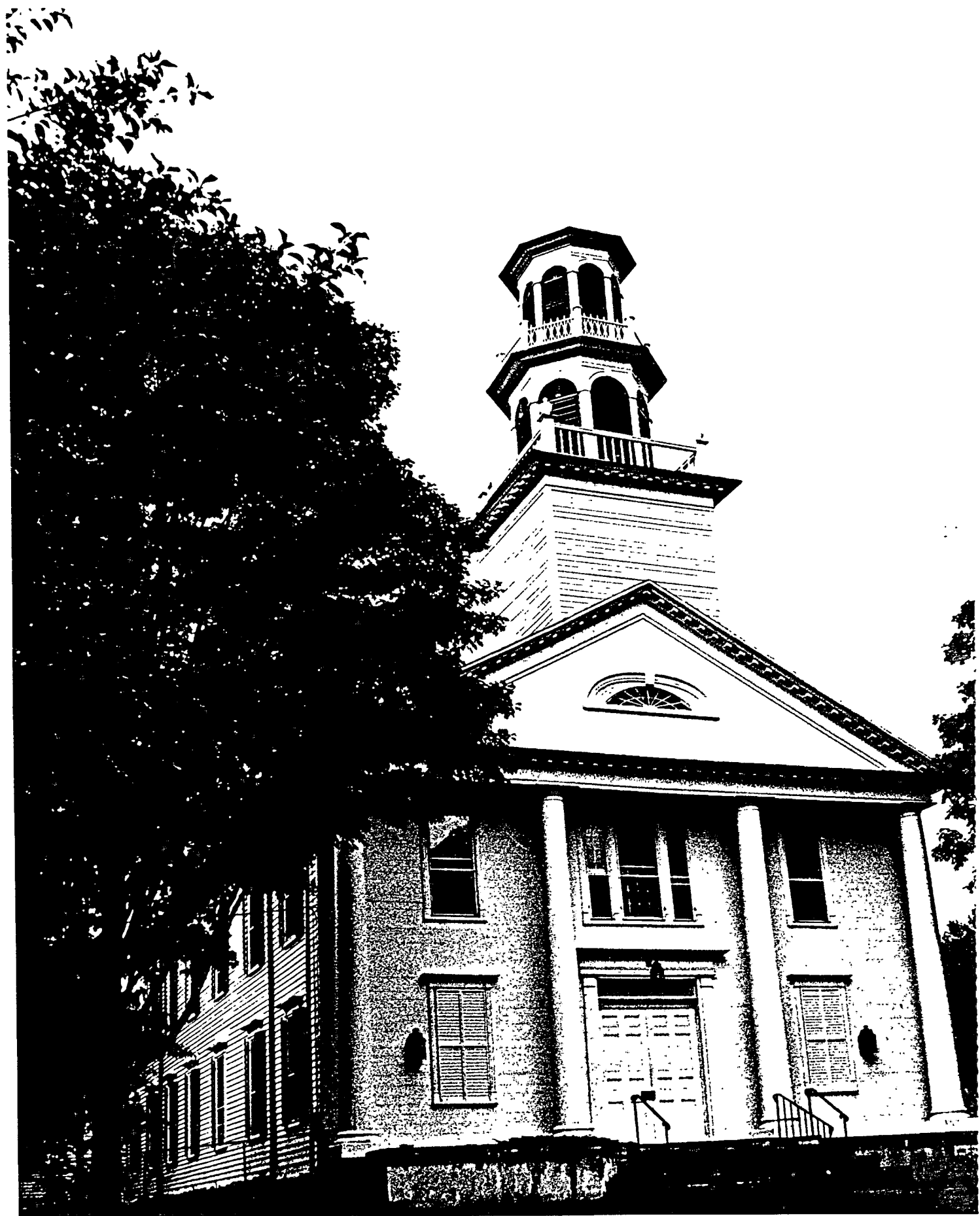
Myrtle Avenue Historic District
Westport, Connecticut:

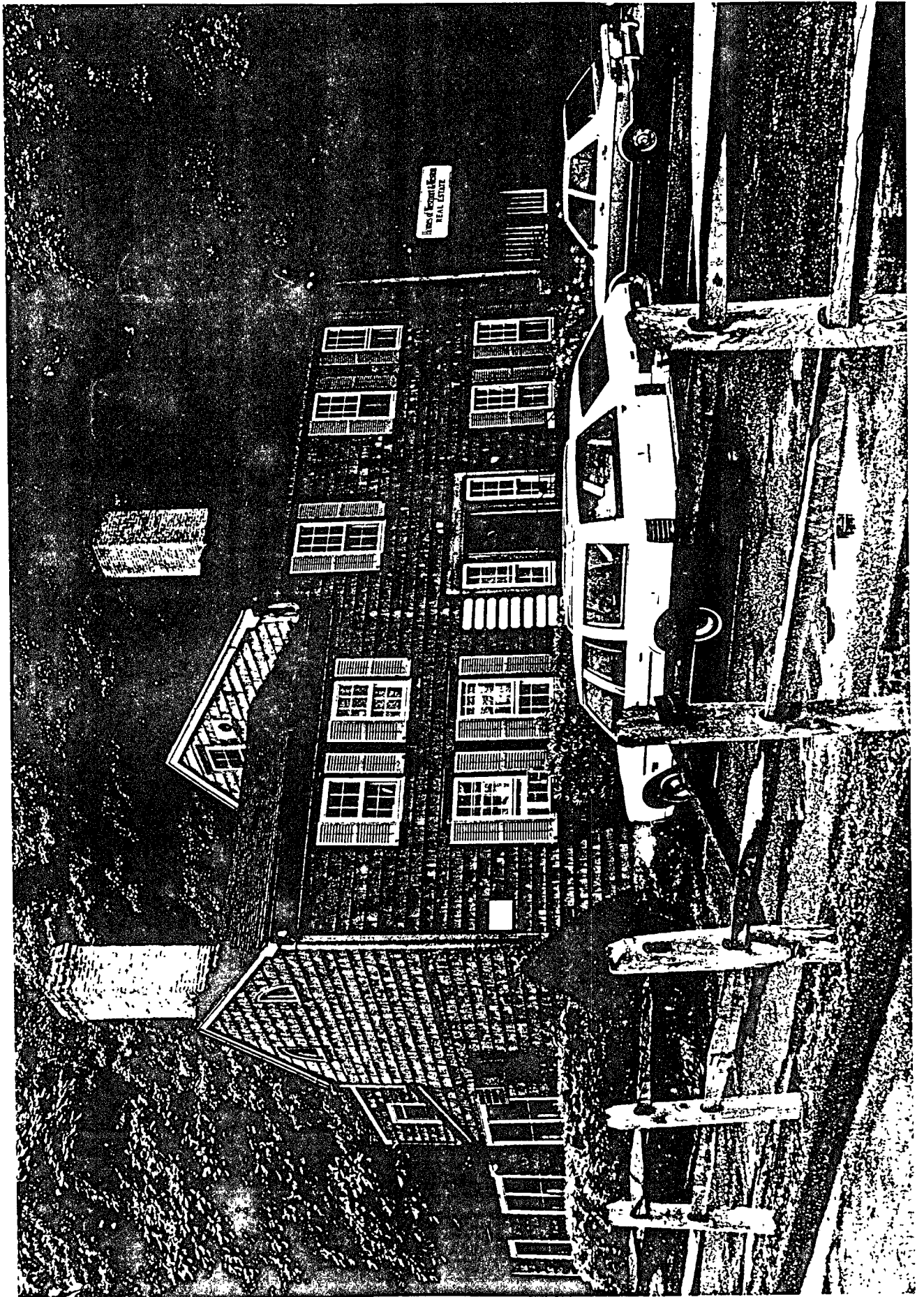
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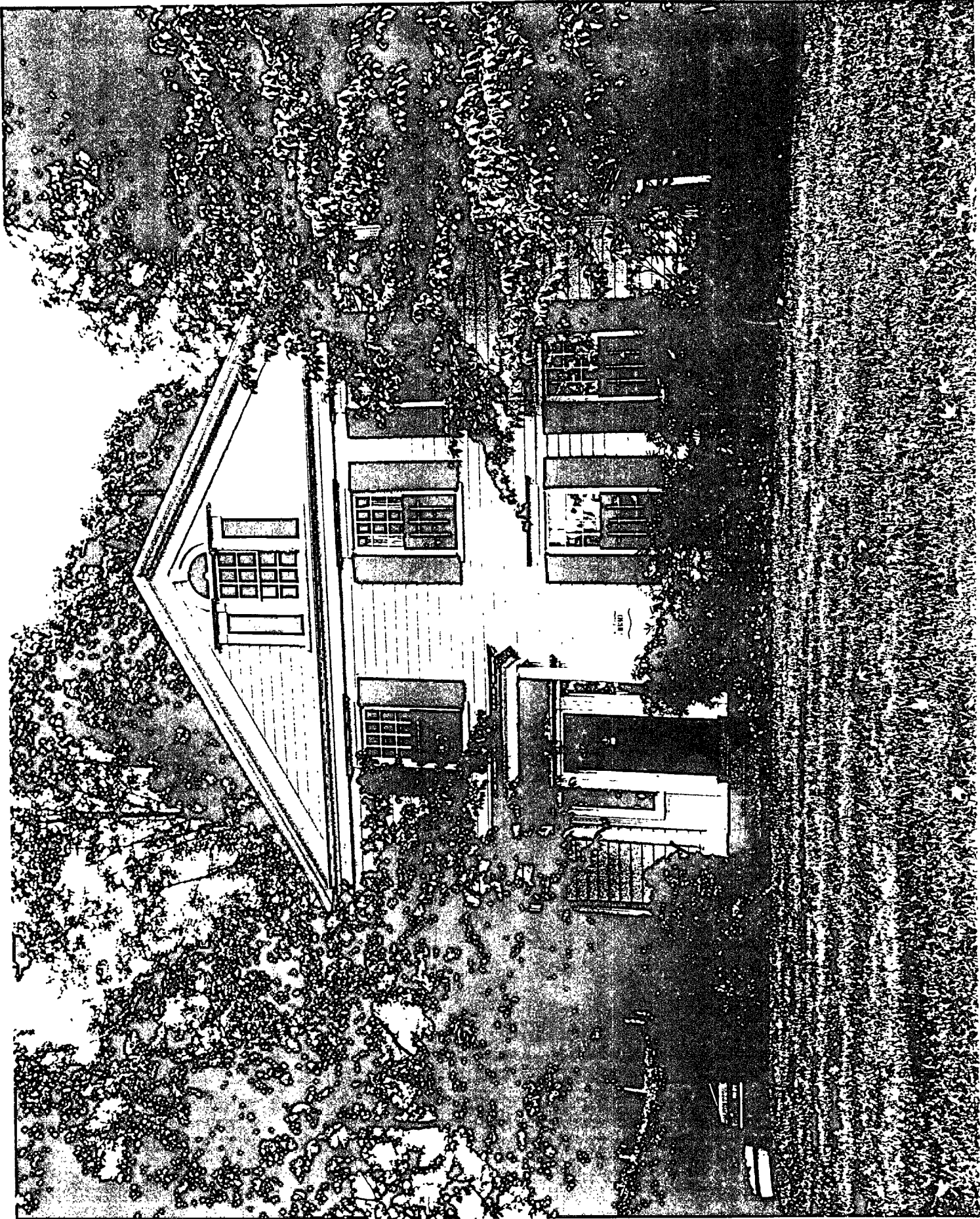
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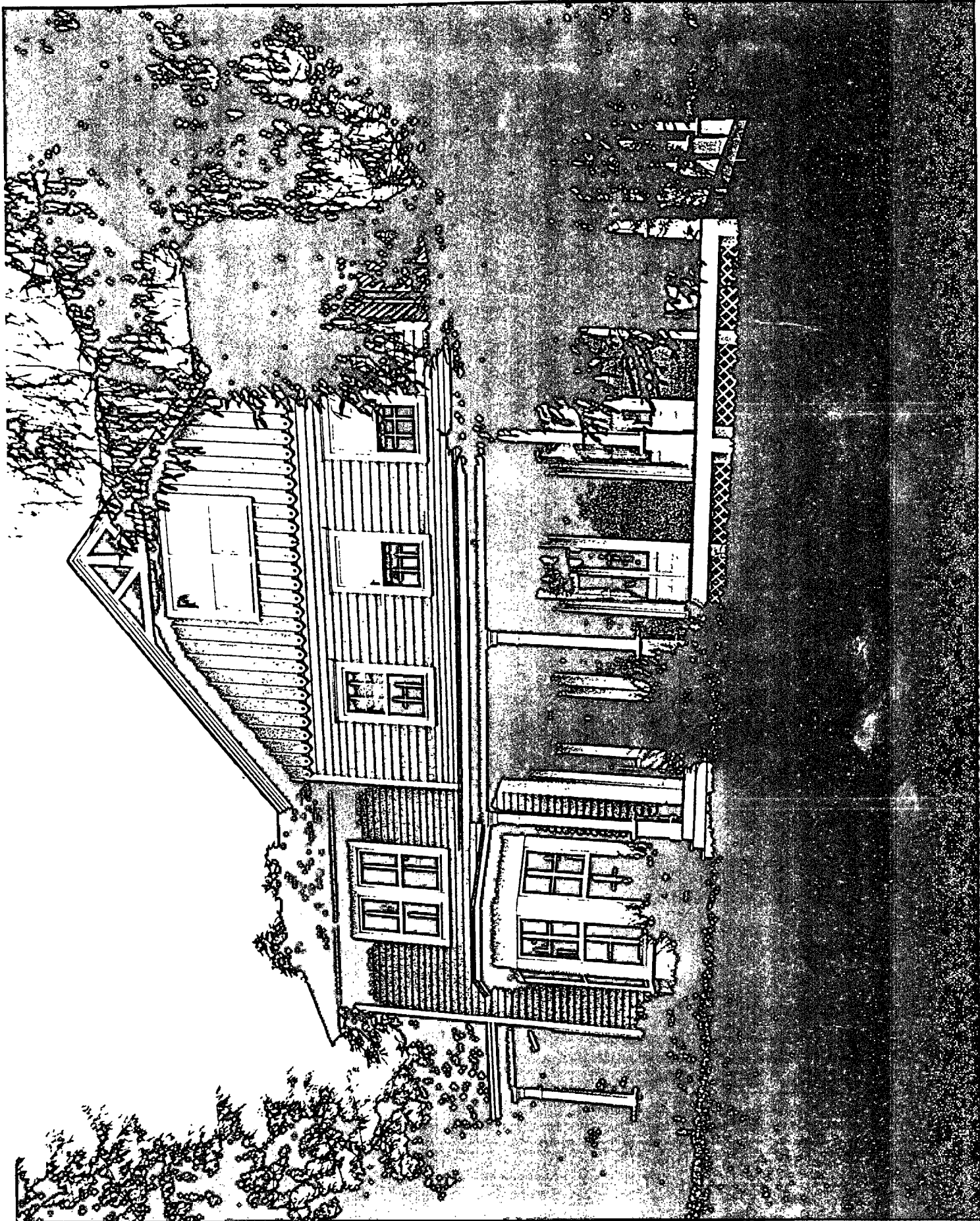




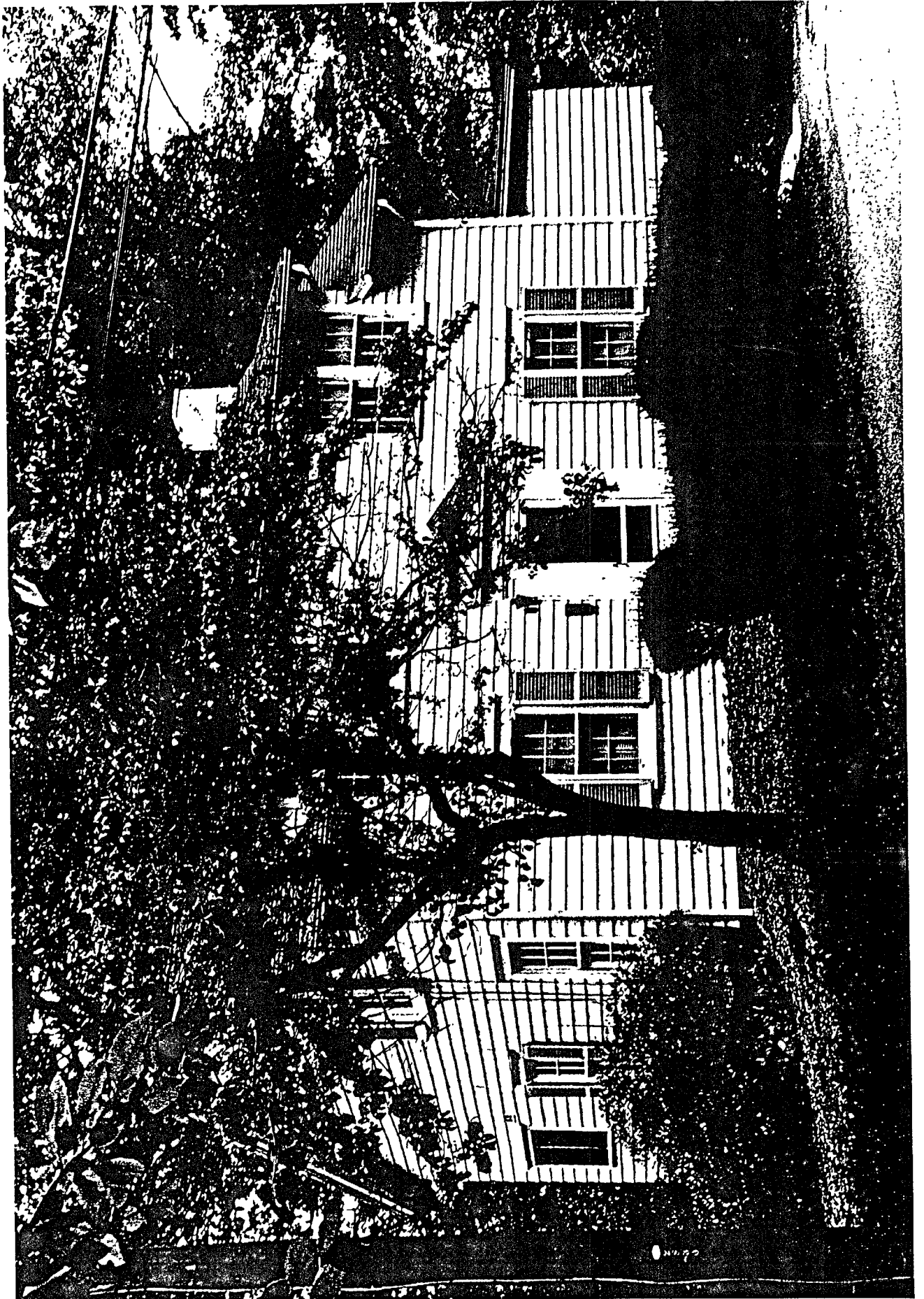


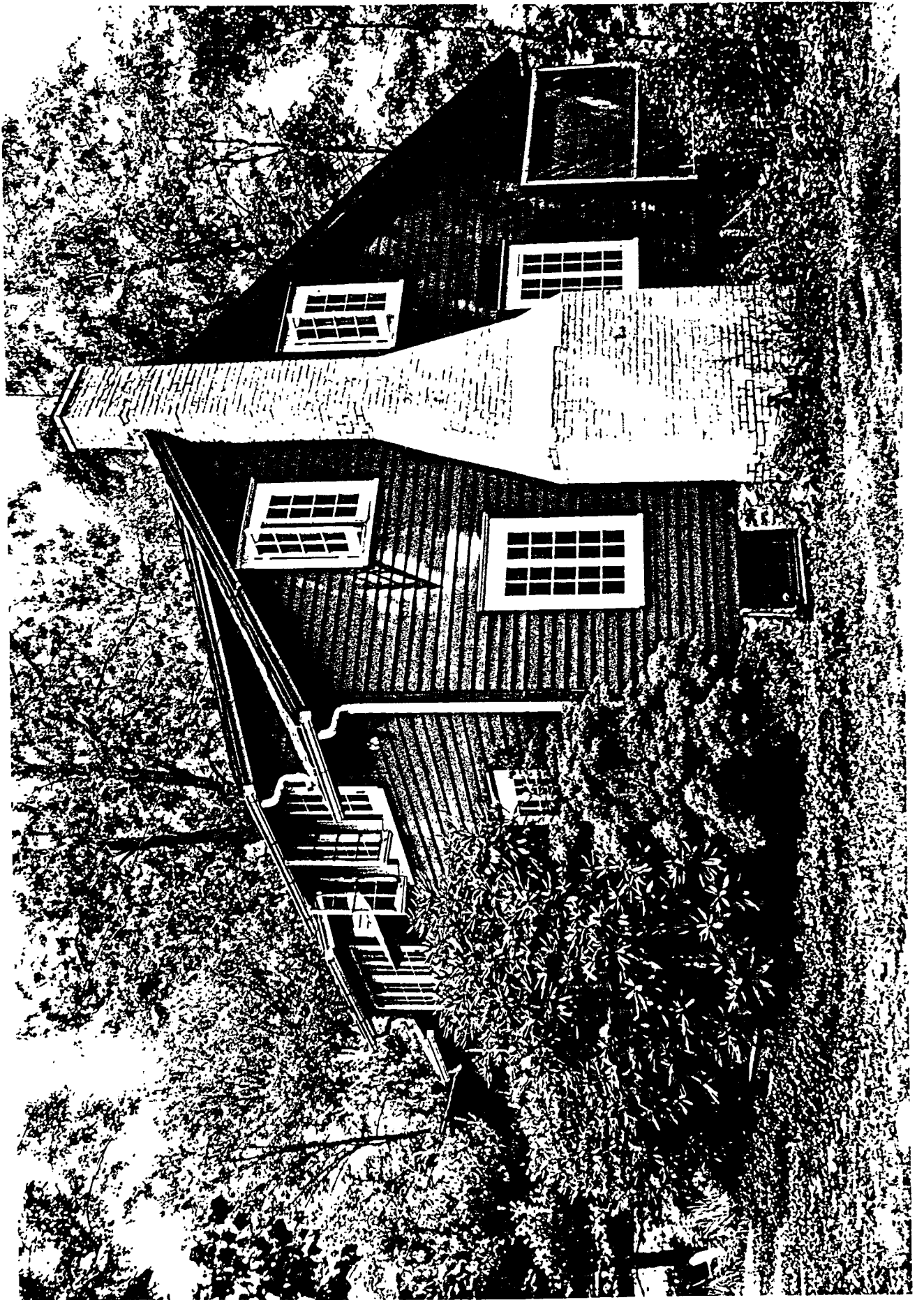


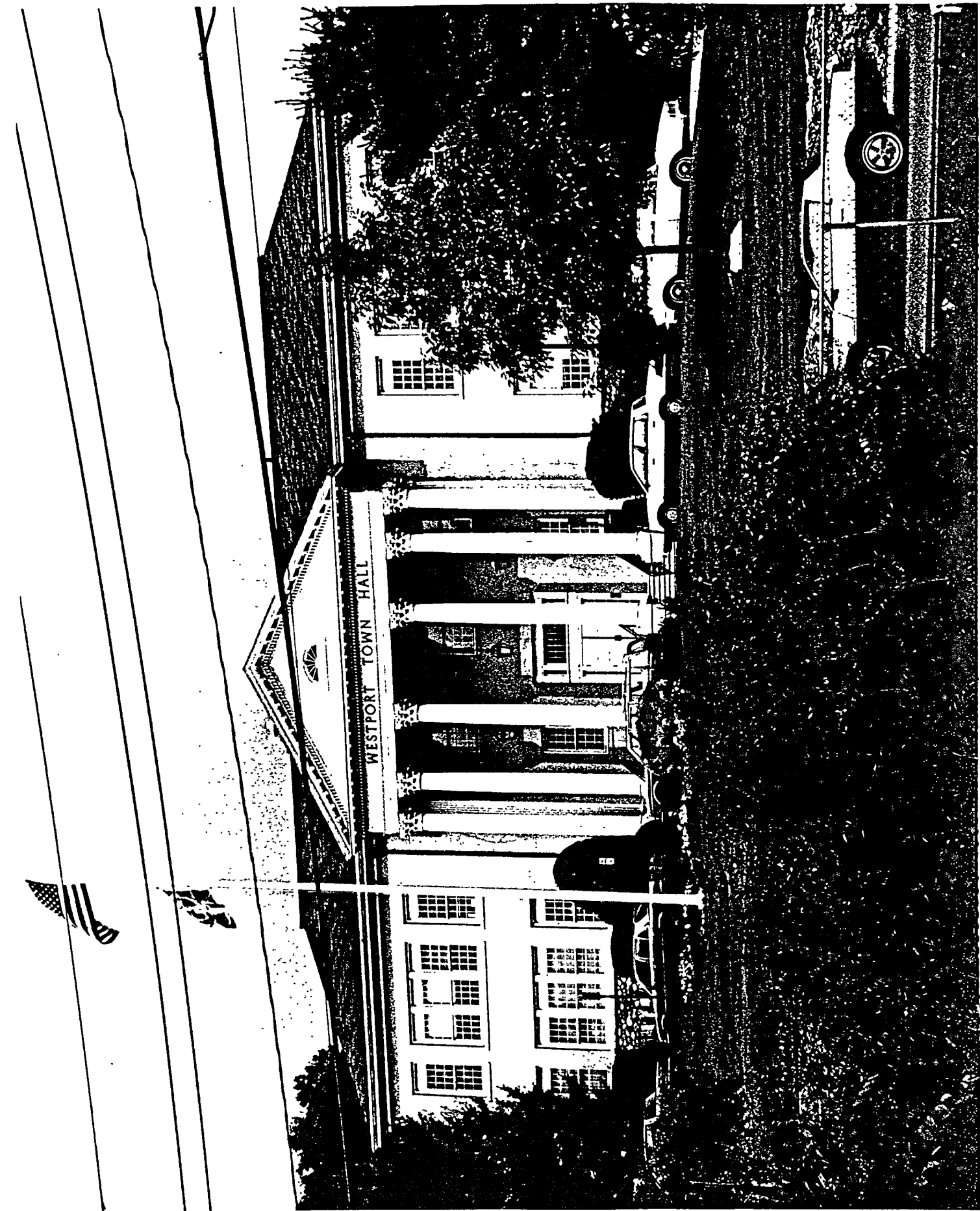


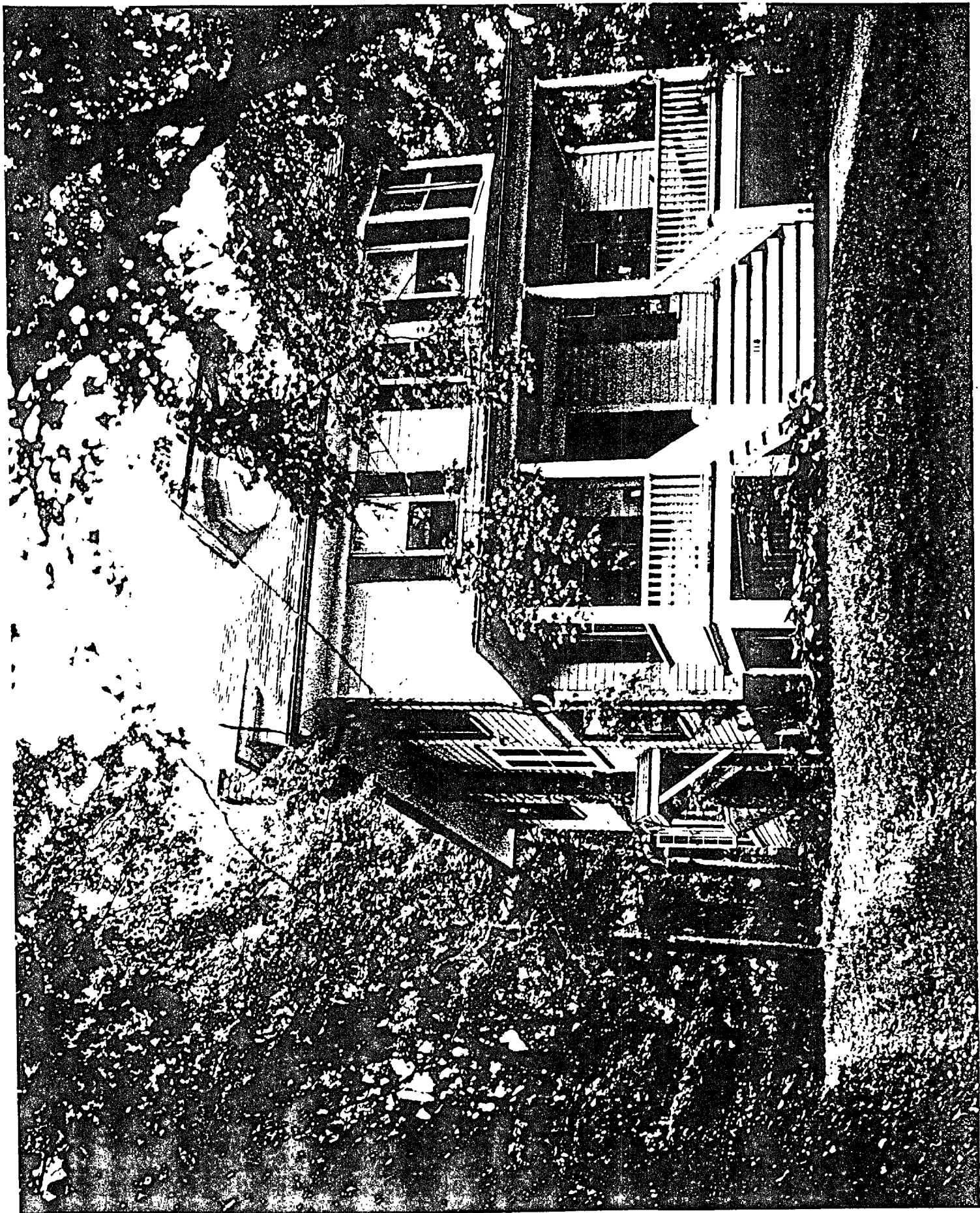


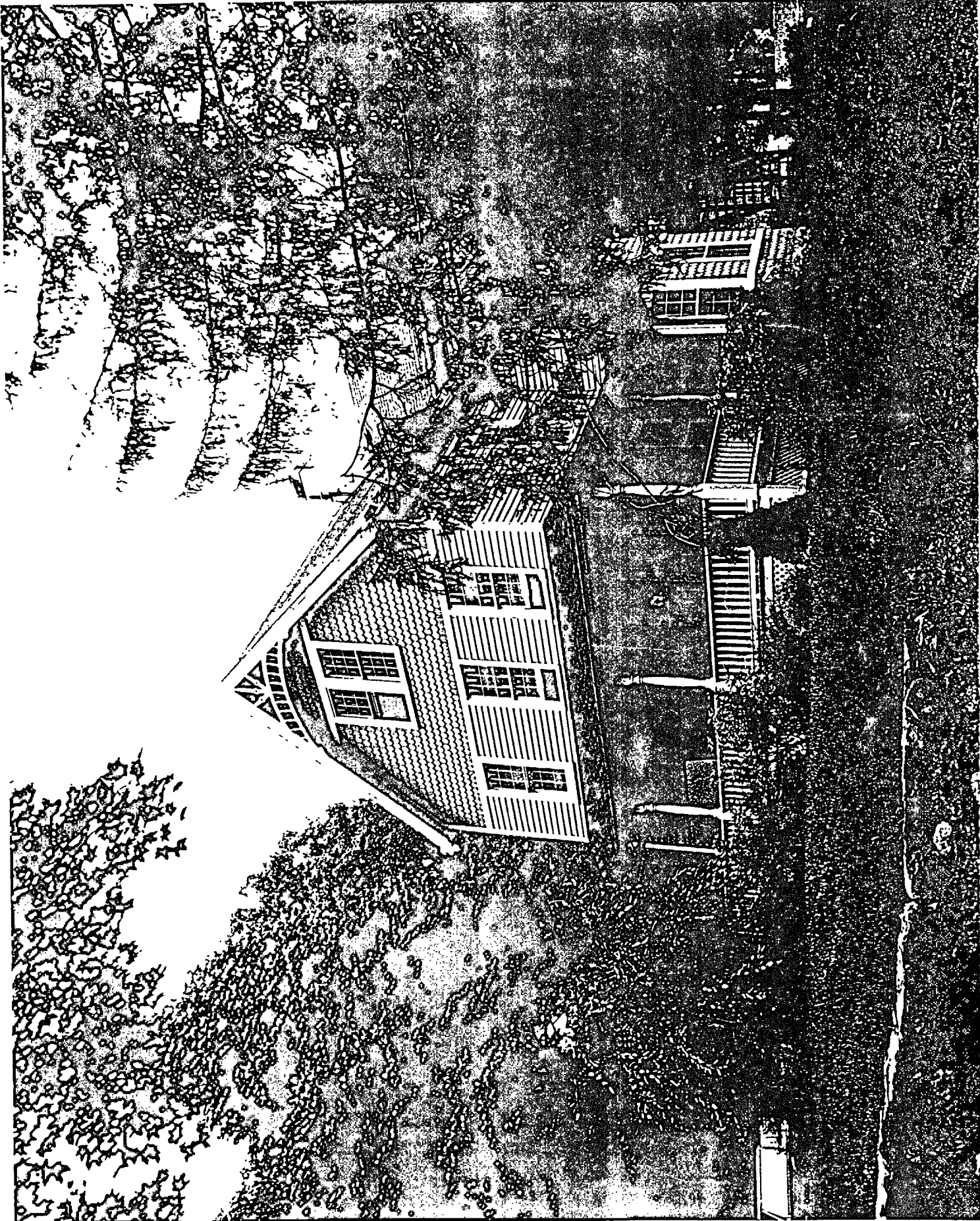








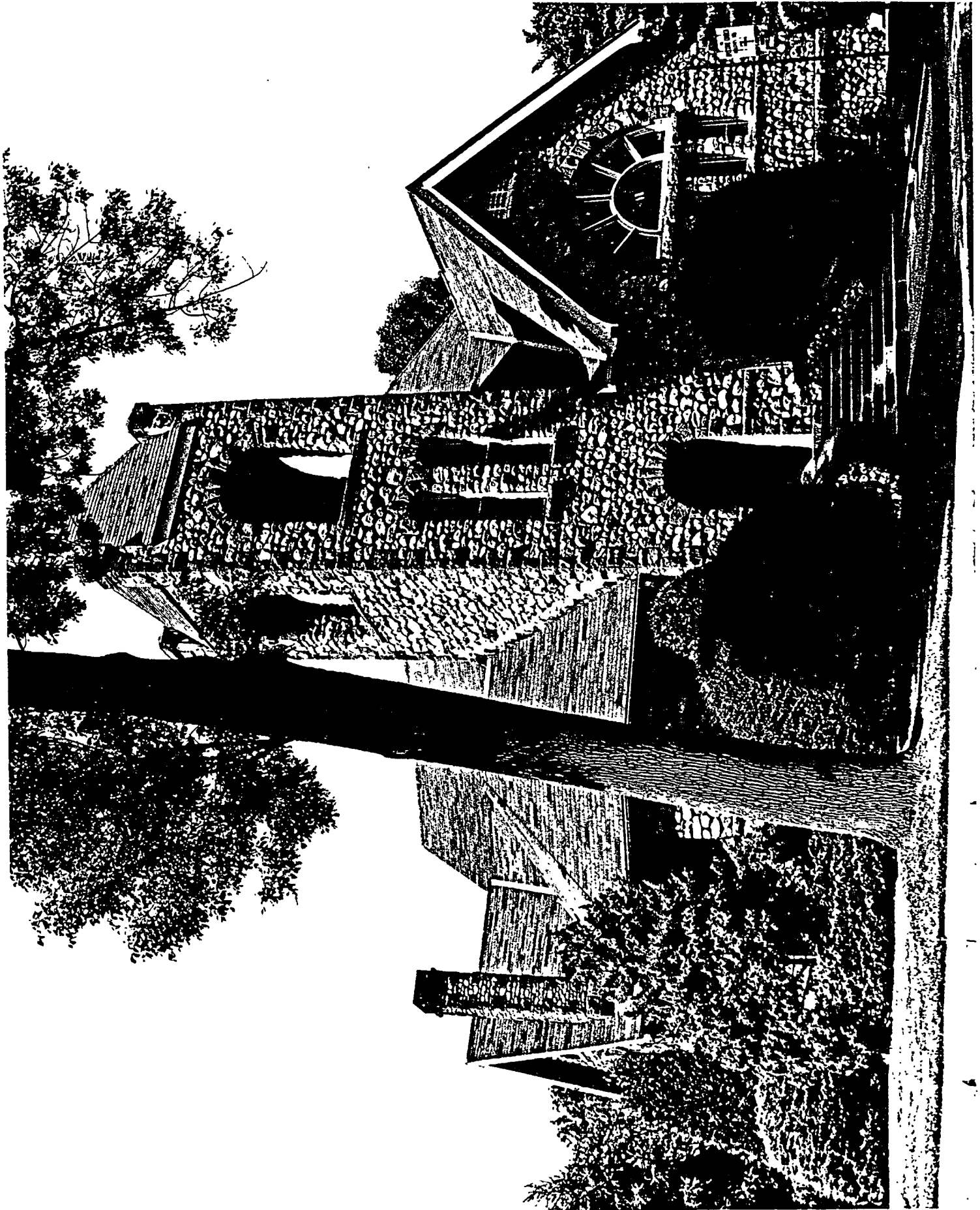




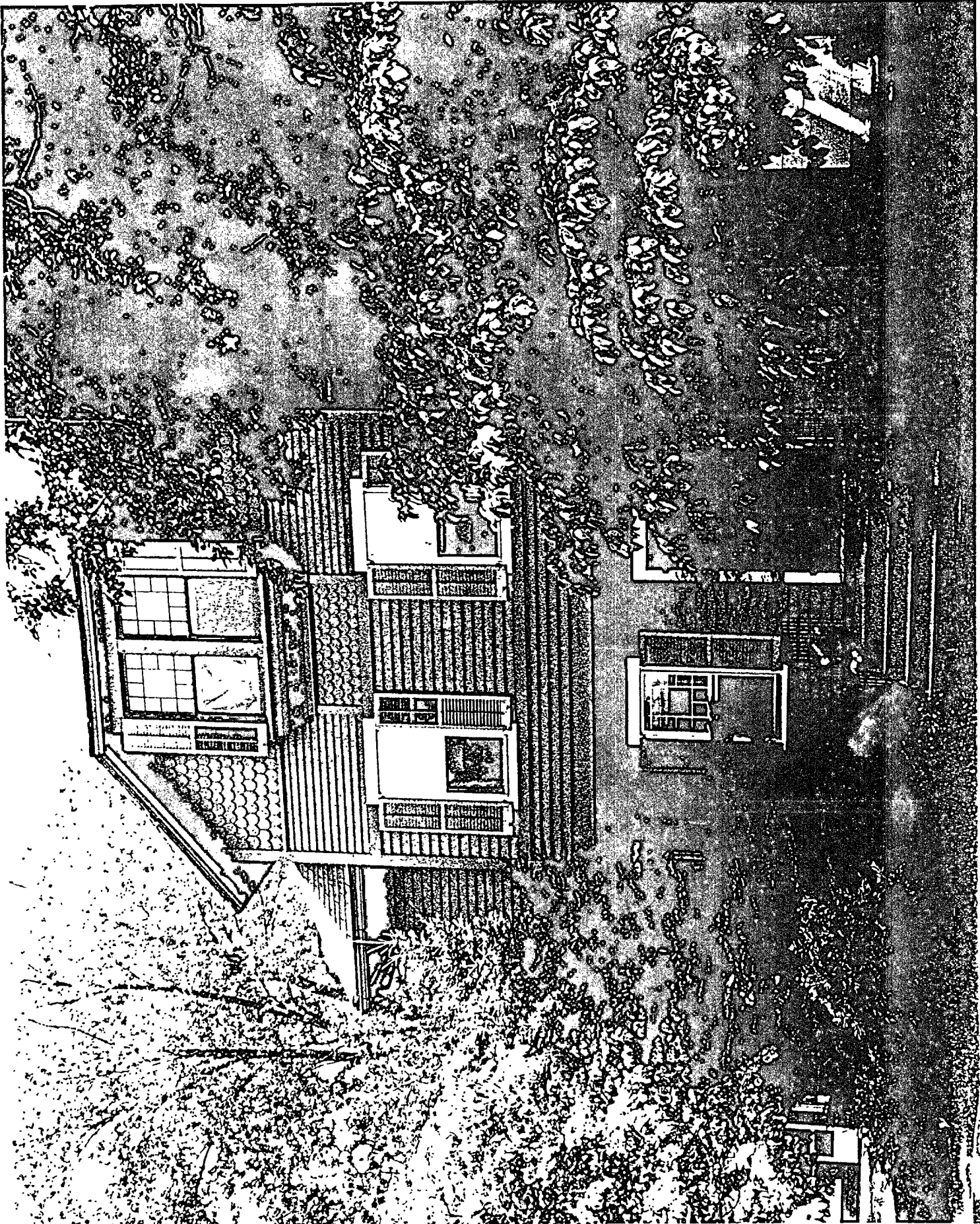


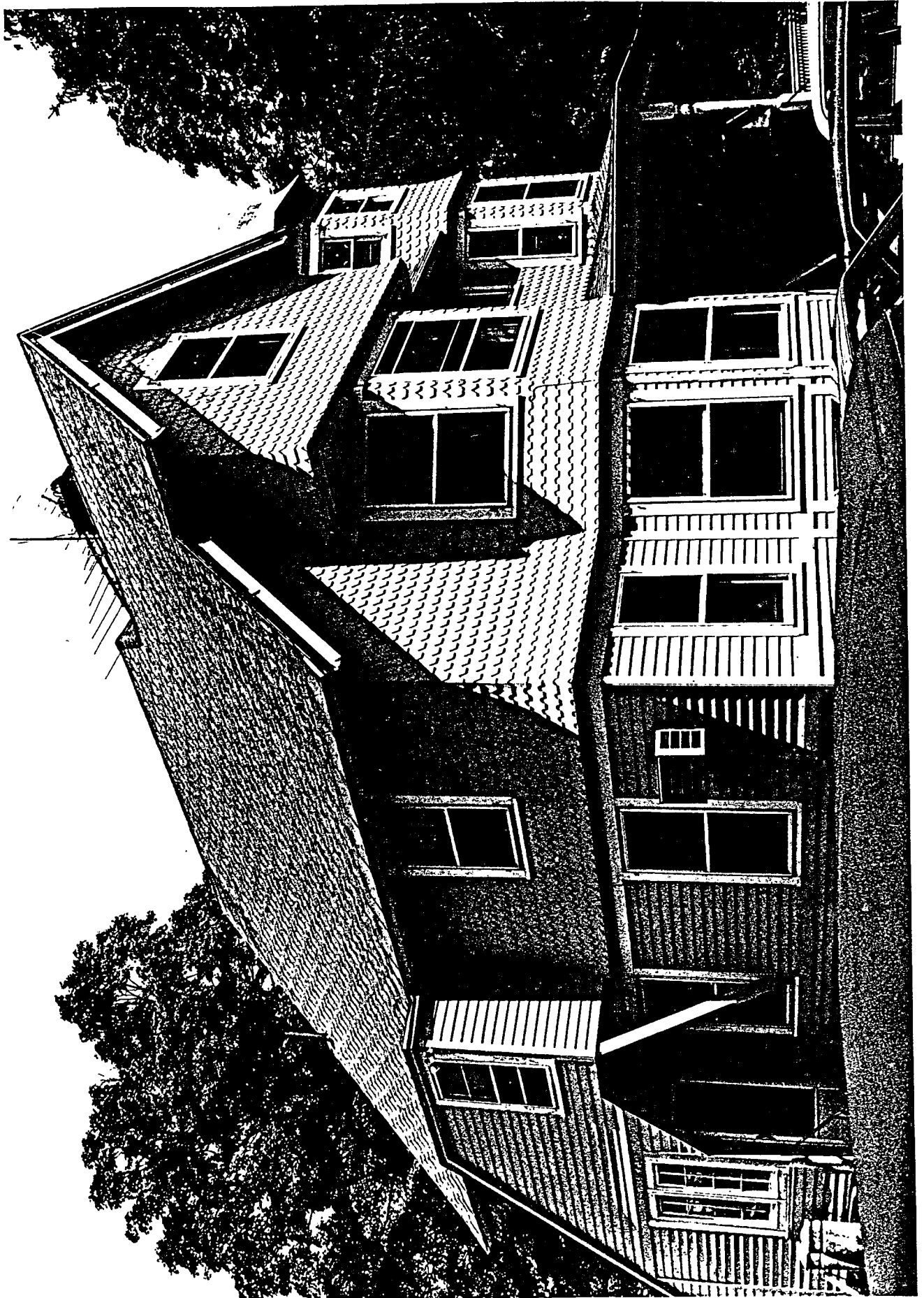




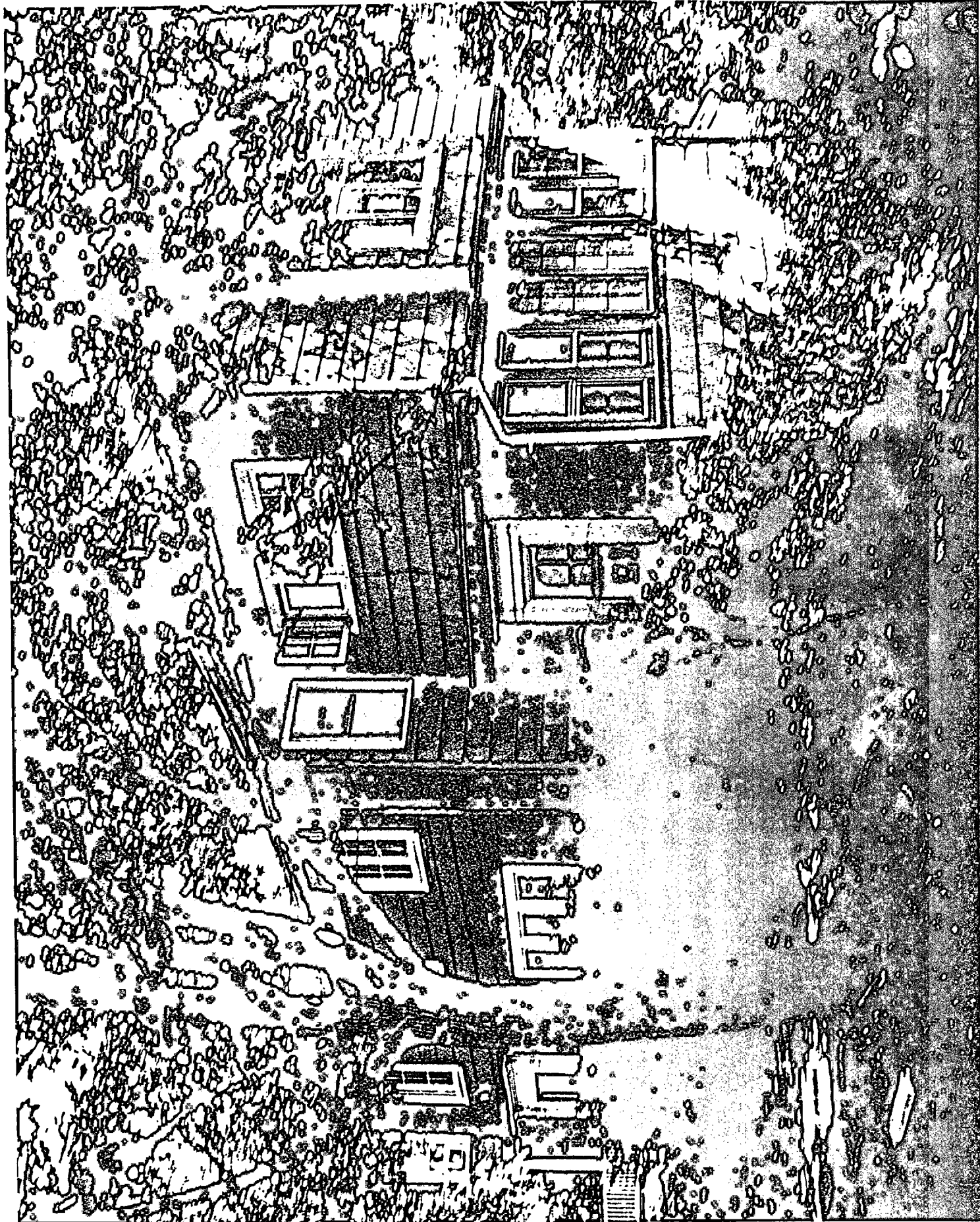














MYRTLE AVENUE
HISTORIC DISTRICT

Westport, Connecticut

- Contributing Structures
- Noncontributing Structures
- ⊙→ Photo Positions
- - - District Boundary
- 12 Street Numbers

