

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic Miller-Porter-Lacy House

and/or common Lacy House

2. Location

street & number 2912 Frederick Boulevard ___ not for publication

city, town St. Joseph ___ vicinity of congressional district#6 - Hon. E. Thomas Coleman

state Missouri code 029 county Buchanan code 021

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. George Ruuwe, Jr.

street & number 2912 Frederick Boulevard

city, town St. Joseph ___ vicinity of state Missouri 64501

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Recorder of Deeds, Buchanan County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town St. Joseph state Missouri 64501

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Architecture in St. Joseph: The Golden Age has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date 1974 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Albrecht Art Museum

city, town St. Joseph state Missouri 64501

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Continuation sheet MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE

Item number 6

Page 1

-
2. St. Joseph Landmarks: A Record of Our Significant Historical and Cultural Resources
1978 local
St. Joseph Landmarks Commission
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501
3. Missouri State Historical Survey
1981 state
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Mo. 64501

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lacy House is a red brick residence featuring eighteen rooms and eight baths located in St. Joseph, Missouri. The house and its accompanying carriage house are situated on five acres of the original Logan farm. The main house faces north and is set back 300' from Frederick Boulevard in an area of large residences. The building measures approximately 67' from east to west and 50' from north to south, excluding bays and porches, with a 30' by 15' extension at its northwest corner.

The main house was constructed in three phases. The original northwest Italianate ell was constructed by the Miller family in 1883, and the Porter family probably added an identical ell opposite the original when they purchased the house a few years later, giving the northwest corner of the house its rectangular shape. This portion of the house is provided with a crawl space under the original building and a full basement under the ell built by the Porters. The eastern part of the house was constructed by the Lacy family after they acquired it in 1902 (see plan).

The foundation of the Lacy House is constructed of brick in all phases. Its thickness measures 1'4" in the two oldest sections and 1'2" in the newer section. Basement floors are of poured concrete. The bearing walls of the house are of brick and have a thickness of 9½". The interior walls are of finished plaster with oak paneling in the living room and library. Finished floors and subfloors are of wood with sawn lumber joints. Ceilings are plastered and include ornamental moldings with Classically inspired designs on the first floor. The low hipped roof is faced with tin sheets and asbestos shingles and has been refurbished several times.

The architectural style of the house is basically Georgian Revival with some significant variation in the Italianate style. The primary facade expresses the Georgian Revival in the use of corner pilasters and Tuscan columned porches. The eaves exhibit dentils and the porches have elaborate balustrades. The porte-cochere is supported by Tuscan columns. The wide main entrance door has a fan light above, and a heavy cornice with dentils caps the porch here and the one to the east. At the second floor level the windows have stone lintels and another heavy cornice which is Classically inspired to the east and Italianate to the west.

The western one-third of the primary facade is taken up by the original Italianate farmhouse. In the 1902 remodeling, the architect, Edmund Eckel, replaced the original double-wide windows with the present ones featuring a Georgian Revival fan light. The heavy stone lintels with keystones match those of the addition.

On the west facade, the second floor windows vary in their sash treatments. In addition, they have drop hoodmolds with stone keystones and ends.

The south facade shows the same variations as the north (primary) facade, but a porch has been added and enlarged in the past decade at the southwest corner of the house. This feature has beveled weatherboard siding and a balustraded railing at the second floor level which forms a sun deck. There is a protruding bay in the center of the west side at first floor level which continues into the basement elevation.

Inside the Lacy House are nine fireplaces, the most outstanding being those with Italian

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Continuation sheet

MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE

Item number 7

Page 1

marble mantels at the east and west ends of the library and the carved wooden mantel in the dining room. The entrance hall is flanked by fluted Tuscan columns, heavy cornices and wooden wall panels. The living room is paneled in oak and features a fireplace, built-in bookcases and diamond paned interior windows. The library is striking with double fireplaces, oak wall panels, built-in bookcases with dentils and elaborate carving of letters of the alphabet in its dividers. The built-in buffet in the dining room is notable in its use of wood carving, leaded glass, pilasters, ornamental moldings and decorative cornice. Above the third floor staircase is a skylight which gives the entire central staircase a feeling of openness.

To the southwest of the residence is the barn and carriage house of board and batten frame construction which has been converted into a garage. The croquet and tennis court sites are still intact as well as the foundations for the gazebo. Although the formal gardens are gone, there is a large variety of fruit, nut and ornamental shade trees on the property. The Lacy house and grounds provide an example of the great estates built during the Golden Age of St. Joseph and is one of the few such properties which has not been sub-divided.

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 checked="" 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 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)		

ca. 1880 (construction)

Specific dates 1902 (remodeling) **Builder/Architect** Edmund Jacques Eckel

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Miller-Porter-Lacy House in St. Joseph, Missouri is significant as a large country estate of a kind disappearing in this city which was redesigned and given an addition by Edmund J. Eckel, St. Joseph's foremost architect of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In addition, this house was the home of Mr. Graham Lacy, Chairman of the Board of Tootle-Lacy National Bank and one of 15 nationally recognized bankers who formulated the legislation with Senator Carter Glass which resulted in the passage of the Federal Reserve Act in 1913.

(see continuation sheet for details)

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date entered

Continuation sheet MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE Item number 8 Page 1

After the recovery years of the Civil War, the citizens of St. Joseph witnessed a great deal of real estate speculation and new business development. Meat Packing, drug companies, dry goods wholesalers and many other businesses provided fresh impetus to the financial growth of the city. The new wealth of the area built elegant homes in a variety of styles and degrees of grandeur. The Miller-Porter-Lacy House is one of these which has been a landmark throughout the 20th century. First mention of the house in the city directories identifies it as being "east of the city limits".¹ Later it was identified as a home on the "south side of Asylum Road, 4th house east of 28th".² Following the annexation of the area by the city in 1909 it was listed as "2912 Frederick Blvd."³

The lot and its surrounding area were entered by John Horne in 1852 and acquired by Dr. John Logan in 1862. Dr. Logan, a native of Shelbyville, Kentucky was the grandfather of Sheridan Logan, local historian and author of Old St. Jo, Gateway to the West. Dr. Logan was an 1859 graduate of the Kentucky School of Medicine, with graduate work at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Dr. Logan served as a contract physician from 1861 to 1864 at the U.S. Army Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky where he became noted for his treatment for gangrene. Logan first came to St. Joseph in 1857 with his mother and step-father, Frances and James O'Neill. Following his Civil War service Dr. Logan moved his wife and young son to this property, which was a farm, and here another son was born. The family lived on the farm until 1869, when they moved briefly to Andrew County, returning to the farm in 1879. In 1882, the Logan family moved into the city of St. Joseph.⁴

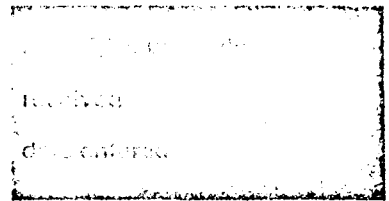
In that same year the Logan farm was parceled out and the first sale of land was the acreage of the future Miller-Porter-Lacy House to Charles and Ida Miller.⁵ Miller is identified as a capitalist in the 1884 city directory. This family lived on the property only two or three years, when Miller died of tuberculosis.⁶ Mrs. Miller sold the house to Bessie Porter, wife of Franklin Porter, one of St. Joseph's prominent attorneys. It is probable that the Porters are responsible for the second portion of the house. Mrs. Porter sold the house to Ellen Tootle Lacy in 1902, but local lore says that her father, Thomas E. Tootle, gave her the house as a present.

Ellen Tootle Lacy, the wife of Graham G. Lacy, was the daughter of Thomas E. Tootle, elder brother and partner of Milton Tootle. Thomas Tootle was also a founding partner of Tootle, Lemon and Co., the private banking firm which has evolved through partnership changes and mergers into the American National Bank of St. Joseph, the city's largest bank.

Graham Lacy was born in 1858 in Spottsylvania County, Virginia. He was a graduate of Virginia Military Institute. After his schooling Lacy was invited by his cousin, Judge John Lacy of Sedalia, Missouri, to read law in his office, so Lacy emigrated to Missouri. A friend invited Lacy to spend the Christmas holiday in St. Joseph, and

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Continuation sheet MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE Item number 8 Page 2

he was impressed by the vitality of the commercial center. After passing the Missouri Bar, Lacy decided to open a practice in St. Joseph and moved to the city in 1882. When Tootle, Lemon and Co. was organized, Lacy was invited to leave the practice of law and join the banking firm. By 1898, Lacy had become a partner and in 1902 he became vice-president of the newly chartered Tootle Lemon National Bank. At the time of John Lemon's death in 1905, the name of the bank was changed to Tootle Lacy National Bank and Graham Lacy became Chairman of the Board and Milton Tootle, Jr. was named president. In 1913, when the Federal Reserve Act was before Congress, Lacy was one of 15 nationally recognized bankers who were called to Washington, D.C. to confer with Senator Carter Glass, sponsor of the legislation. After the Federal Reserve was established,¹⁰ Lacy addressed numerous midwestern banking meetings to explain its operation.

In 1902 when the 5 acres with Italianate farmhouse was purchased by Mr. Tootle for his daughter, Ellen Tootle Lacy, the Lacy's were more interested in the site than the house so they engaged the architect, Edmund Eckel to design a new home for them. Eckel was the most prestigious architect of his day in St. Joseph and his own home as well as a number of buildings which he designed are already listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Lacy's moved into the farmhouse to await completion of their new home, but by the time of its completion they were already so comfortably settled in that the decision was made to connect the old and new sections and let the old house stand. Consequently, Mr. Eckel altered the facade of the older building and added a few structural changes to facilitate the connection of the old with the new.

The Lacy family¹² occupied the home until after the death of Mr. Lacy in 1952 and Mrs. Lacy in 1953. The two youngest Lacy children, both unmarried, then moved from the home in 1955, when it was sold to the Missouri State Chapter of the P.E.O. In 1976 the house was purchased by Mr. and Mrs.¹³ Thomas Watkins and in 1979 by the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. George Ruuwe, Jr.

FOOTNOTES

¹Hoyes City Directory of St. Joseph, Missouri (St. Joseph: Hoyes City Directory Co., 1884), p. 258.

²Hoyes City Directory of St. Joseph, Missouri (St. Joseph: Hoyes City Directory Co., 1888), p. 392.

³R. L. Polk, St. Joseph City Directory (St. Joseph: R.L. Polk and Co., 1909), p. 552.

⁴Sheridan A. Logan, Old St. Jo, Gateway to the West, 1799-1932 (St. Joseph: John

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Sublett Logan Foundation, 1979), pp. 304-307.

⁵Abstract of Title, now in possession of owner.

⁶Nancy Sandehn, personal interview with Virginia Miller of St. Joseph, Missouri, August, 1980.

⁷Abstract of Title.

⁸Logan, pp. 437-439.

⁹Ibid., pp. 278 and 284.

¹⁰Ibid., pp. 284-285.

¹¹Those already listed include the Edmund Eckel House, the German American Bank, Wholesale Row Historic District, the Corby-Forsee Building and several homes in the Hall Street Historic District, all in the city of St. Joseph, Missouri.

¹²Nancy Sandehn, personal interview with Miss Ellen Lacy, St. Joseph, Missouri, August, 1980.

¹³Abstract of Title.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Abstract of Title, in possession of owner.

Hoyes City Directory of St. Joseph, Missouri. St. Joseph: Hoyes City Directory Co., 1884.

Hoyes City Directory of St. Joseph, Missouri. St. Joseph: Hoyes City Directory Co., 1888

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 5 acres

Quadrangle name "St. Joseph, North, MO.-KANS."

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5	3	4	4	0	7	5	4	4	0	4	2	9	5
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

E

Zone			Easting					Northing						

F

Zone			Easting					Northing						

G

Zone			Easting					Northing						

H

Zone			Easting					Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Commencing at a stone on the section line 807½ feet east of the northwest corner of said northwest quarter of section 10 thence south 912 feet, 3 inches, thence east 238 feet, 9 inches, thence north 912 feet, 3 inches, thence west 238 feet 9 inches to the point of beginning, all in Buchanan County.

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

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 1. Nancy Sandehn
Research Consultant

organization Northwest Missouri Historic Inventory date August 3, 1981

street & number Box 43 telephone 816/279-3558

city or town St. Joseph state Missouri 64501

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Director, Department of Natural Resources and
title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For HCRS 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

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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received
date entered

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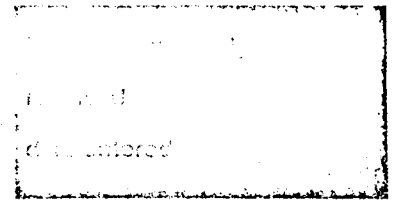
Logan, Sheridan A. Old St. Jo, Gateway to the West, 1799-1932. St. Joseph: John Sublett Logan Foundation, 1979.

Polk, R.L. St. Joseph City Directory. St. Joseph: R.L. Polk and Co., 1909.

Sandehn, Nancy. Personal interviews with Virginia Miller and Miss Ellen Lacy, both of St. Joseph, Missouri, August, 1980.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

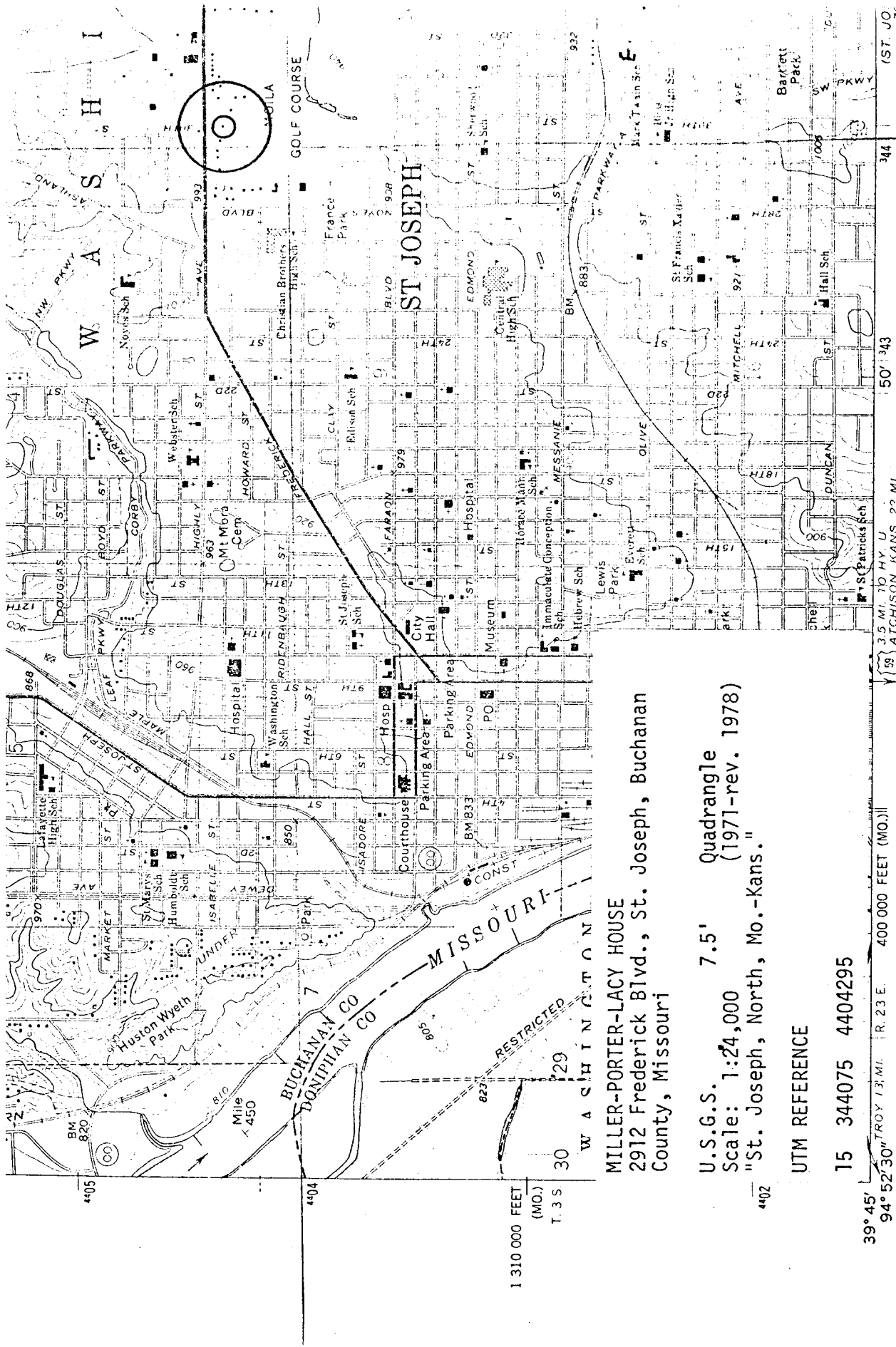
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Continuation sheet MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE Item number 11 Page 1

2. Noelle Soren
Historic Architecture Specialist
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

314/751-4096



MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE
2912 Frederick Blvd., St. Joseph, Buchanan
County, Missouri

U.S.G.S. 7.5' Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24,000 (1971-rev. 1978)
"St. Joseph, North, Mo.-Kans."

UTM REFERENCE

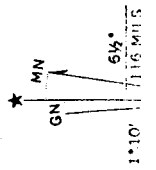
15 344075 4404295

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey[®]
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
 photographs taken 1969. Field checked 1971

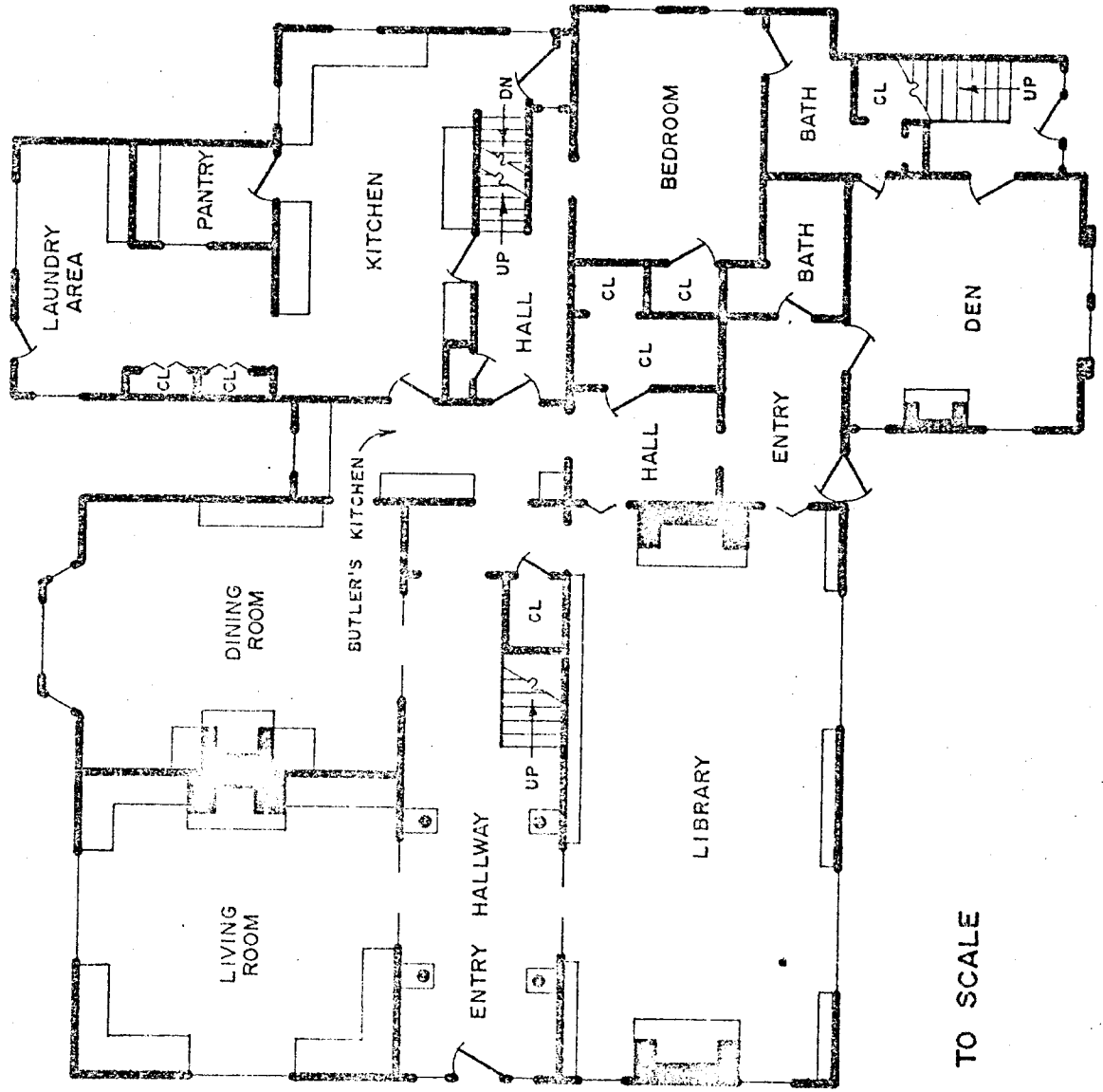
Polygonic projection. 1927 North American datum
 10,000 feet grid based on Muroc's coordinates, with true west zero

1063 111 NW
 (T41E S1)



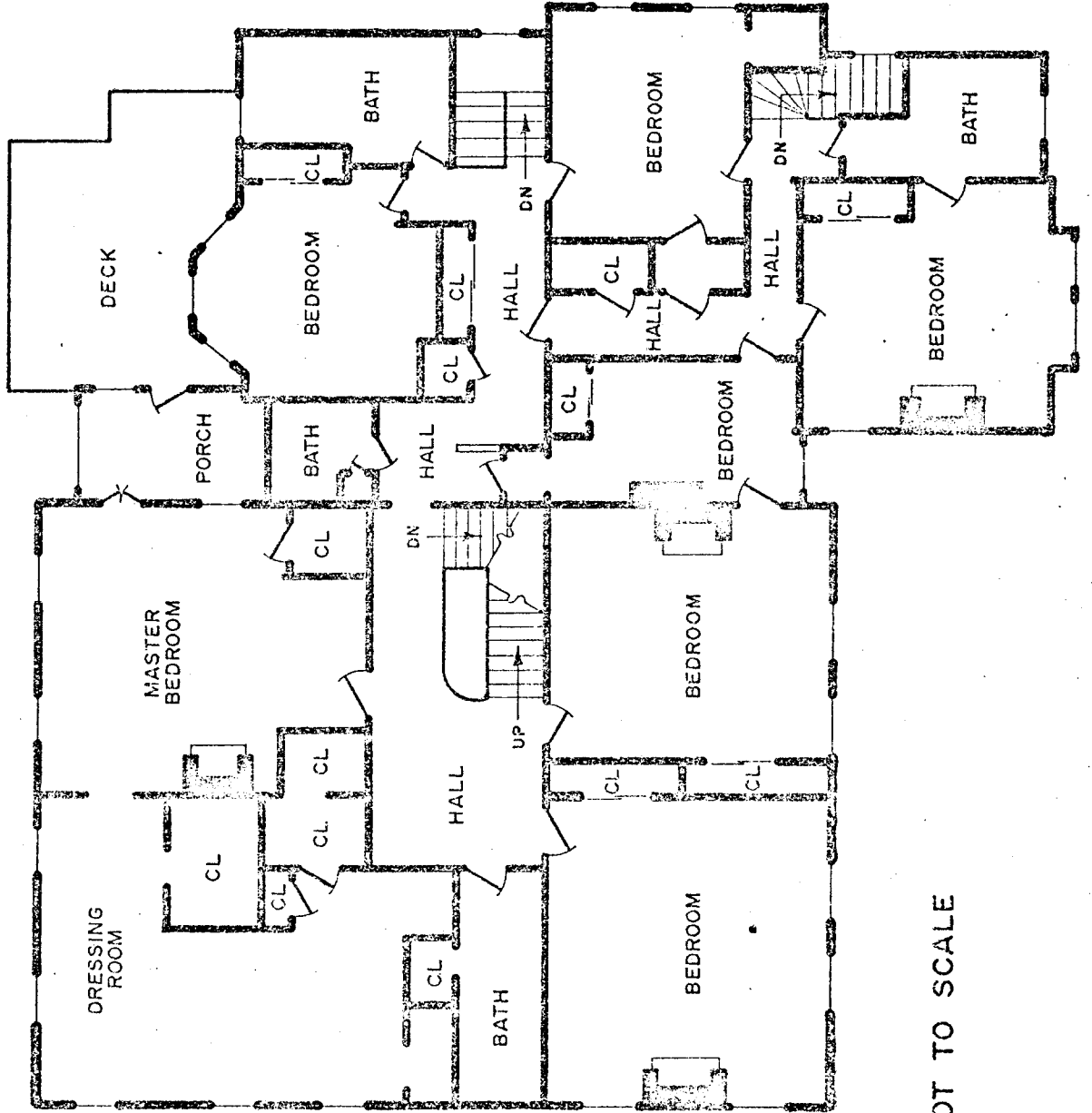
39° 45' 94" 52' 30" TROY 13.3 MI. R. 23 E. 400 000 FEET (MO.)
 3.5 MI. TO HY U 50' 343 (ST. JO.)
 1 1000 0 1000 2000
 1 1000 0 1000 2000
 1" = 1000 FEET
 1" = 2000 FEET
 1° 10' = 111.6 METERS
 64°

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE
ST. JOSEPH, BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI



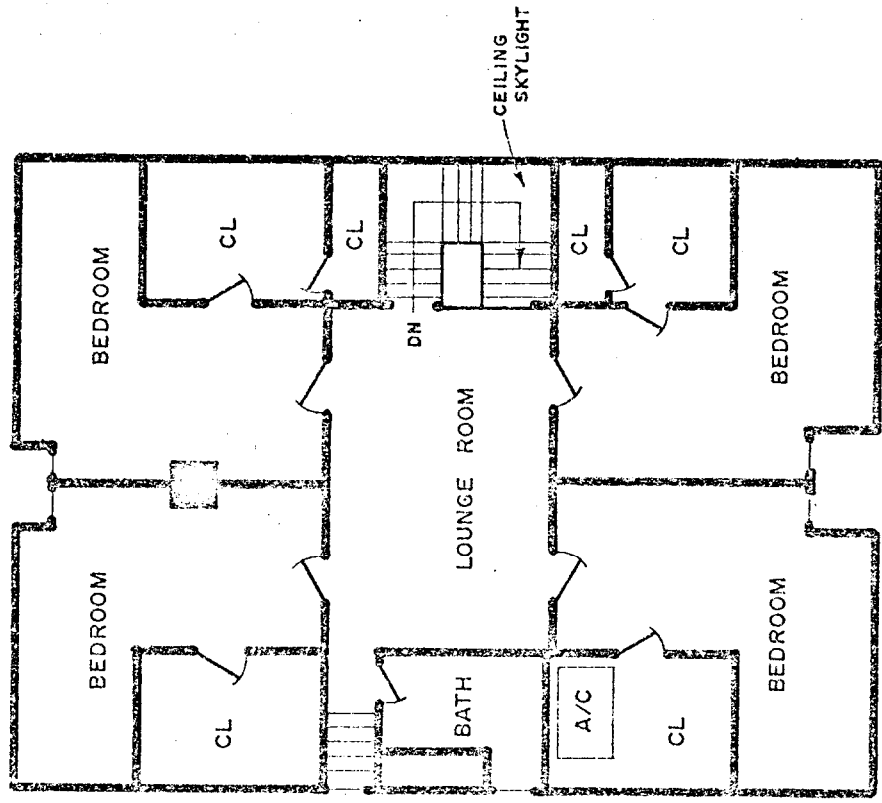
NOT TO SCALE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE
ST. JOSEPH, BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE

THIRD FLOOR PLAN
MILLER-PORTER-LACY HOUSE
ST. JOSEPH, BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI



NOT TO SCALE

Crestview Lane

30th St

Frederick Boulevard

Noyes Boulevard

238 ft 9 in

912.3



Albrecht Art Museum

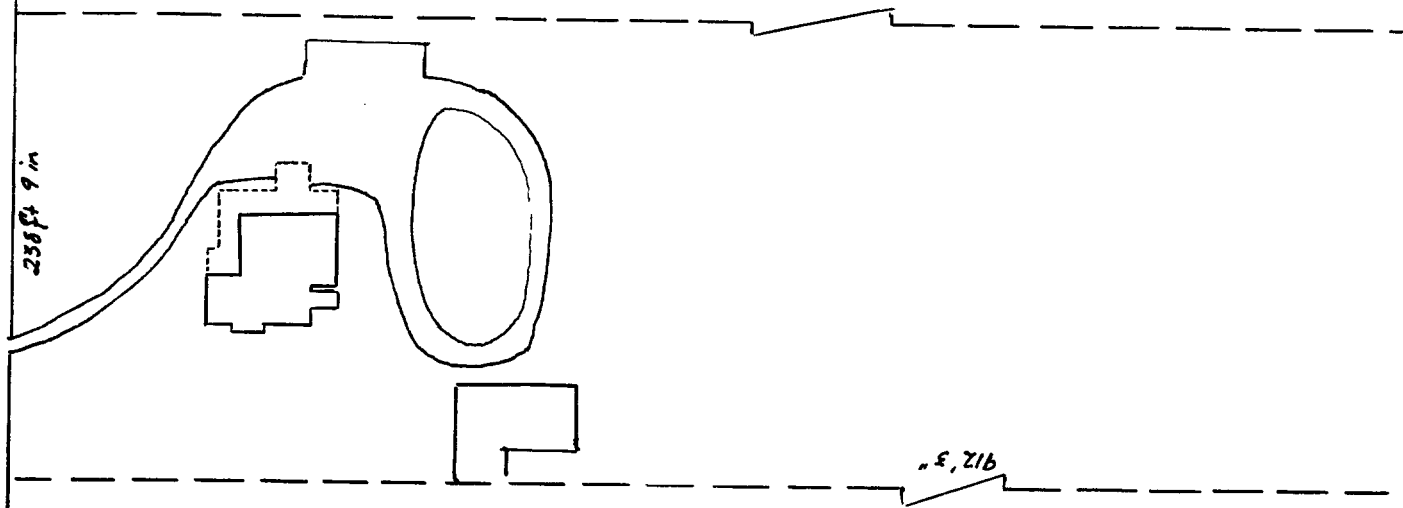
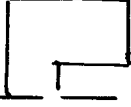
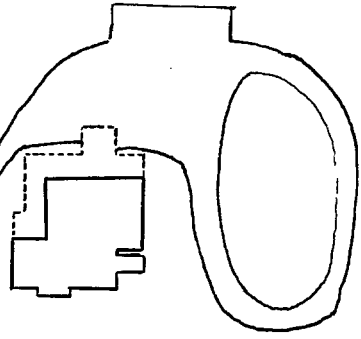


Photo Log:

Name of Property: **Miller-Porter-Lacy House**

City or Vicinity: **St. Joseph**

County: **Buchanan County** State: **MO**

Photographer: **Tom Carneal**

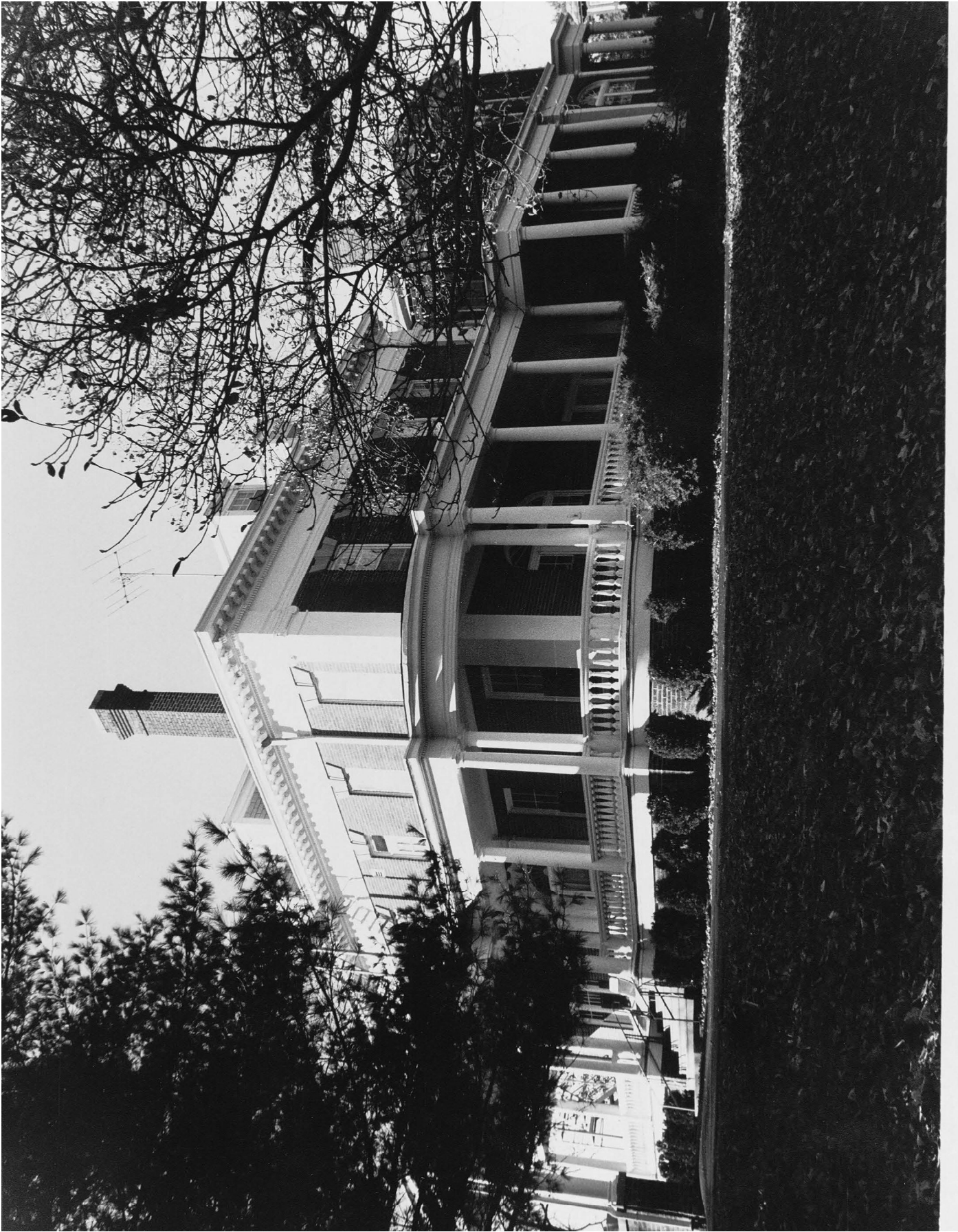
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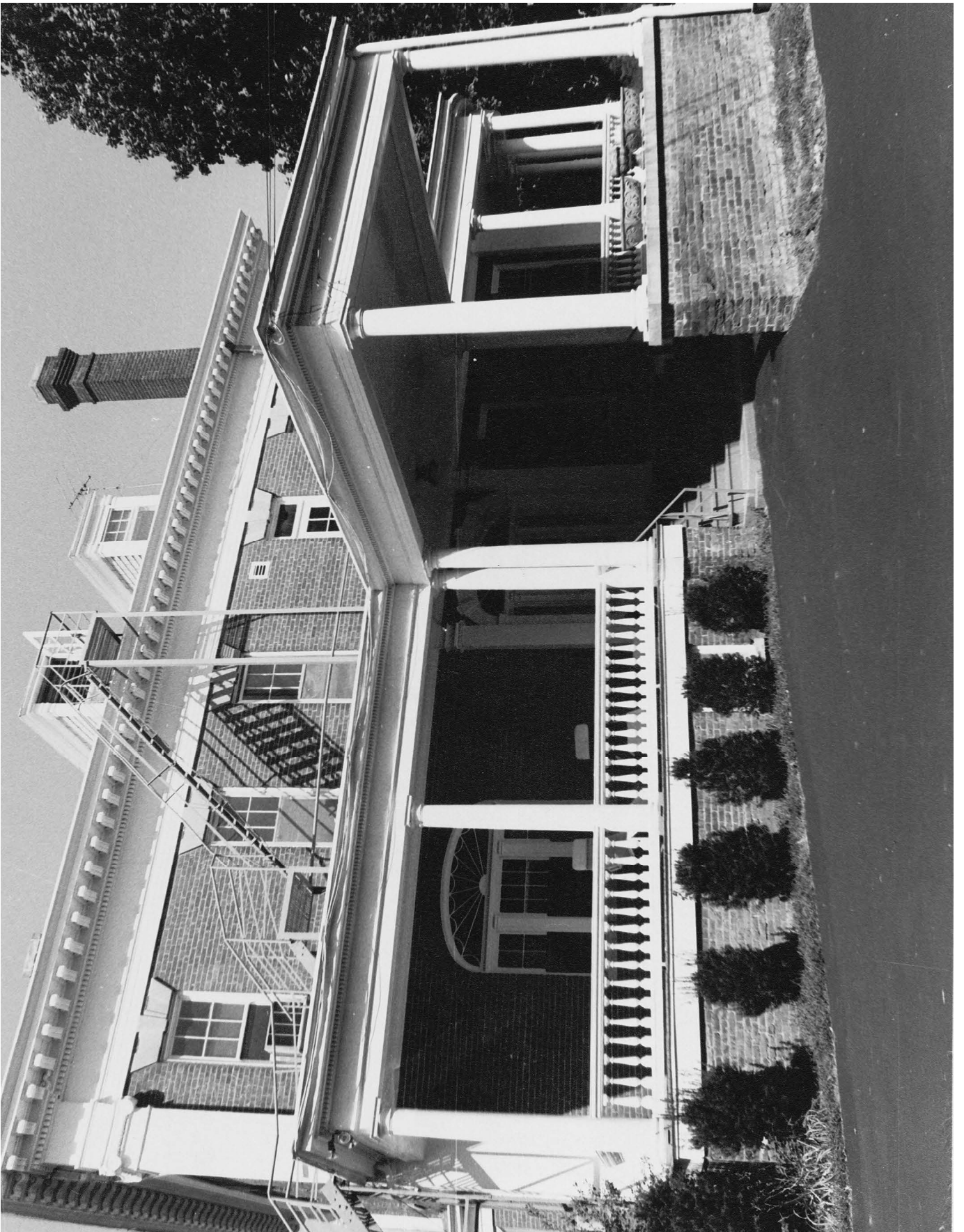
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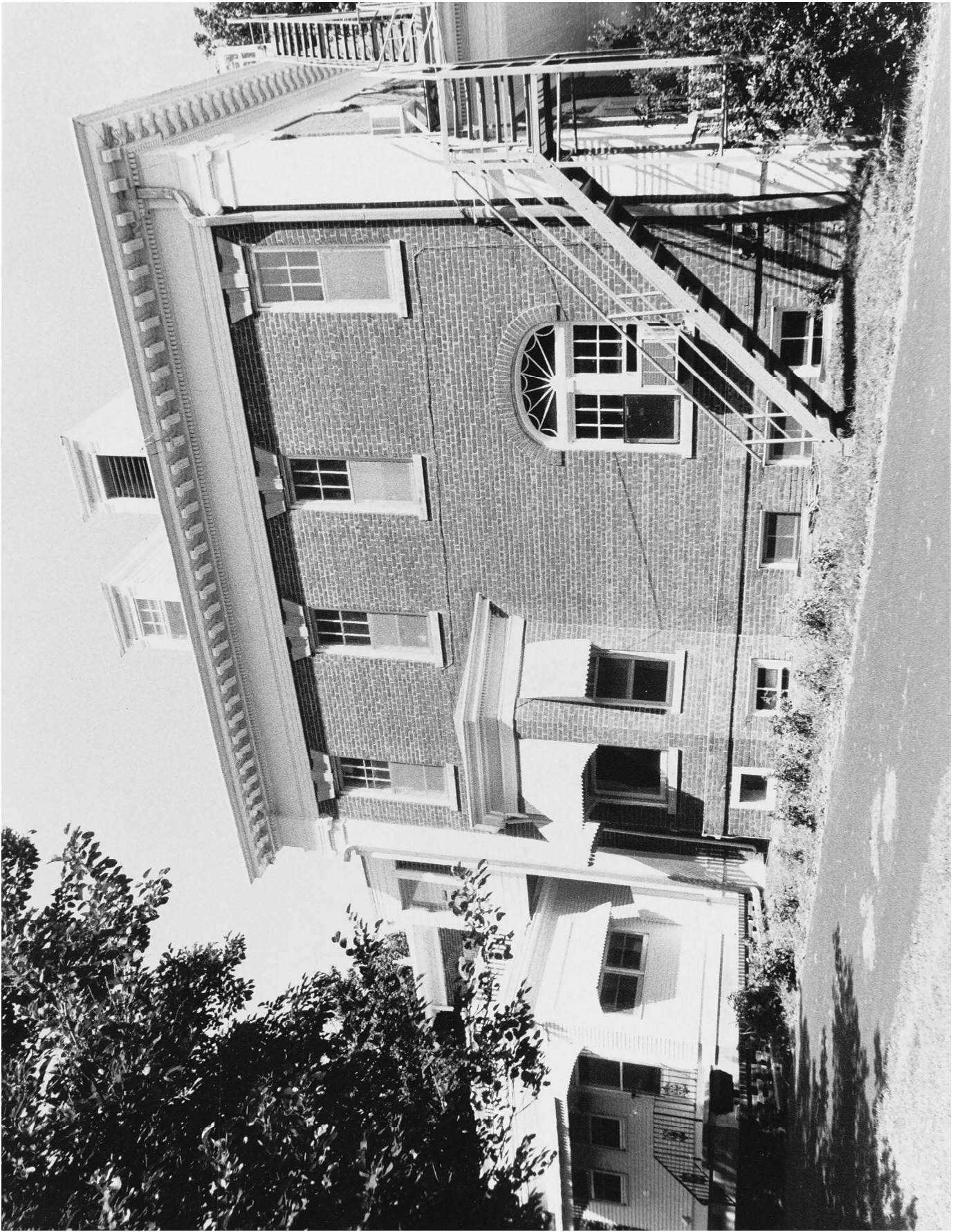
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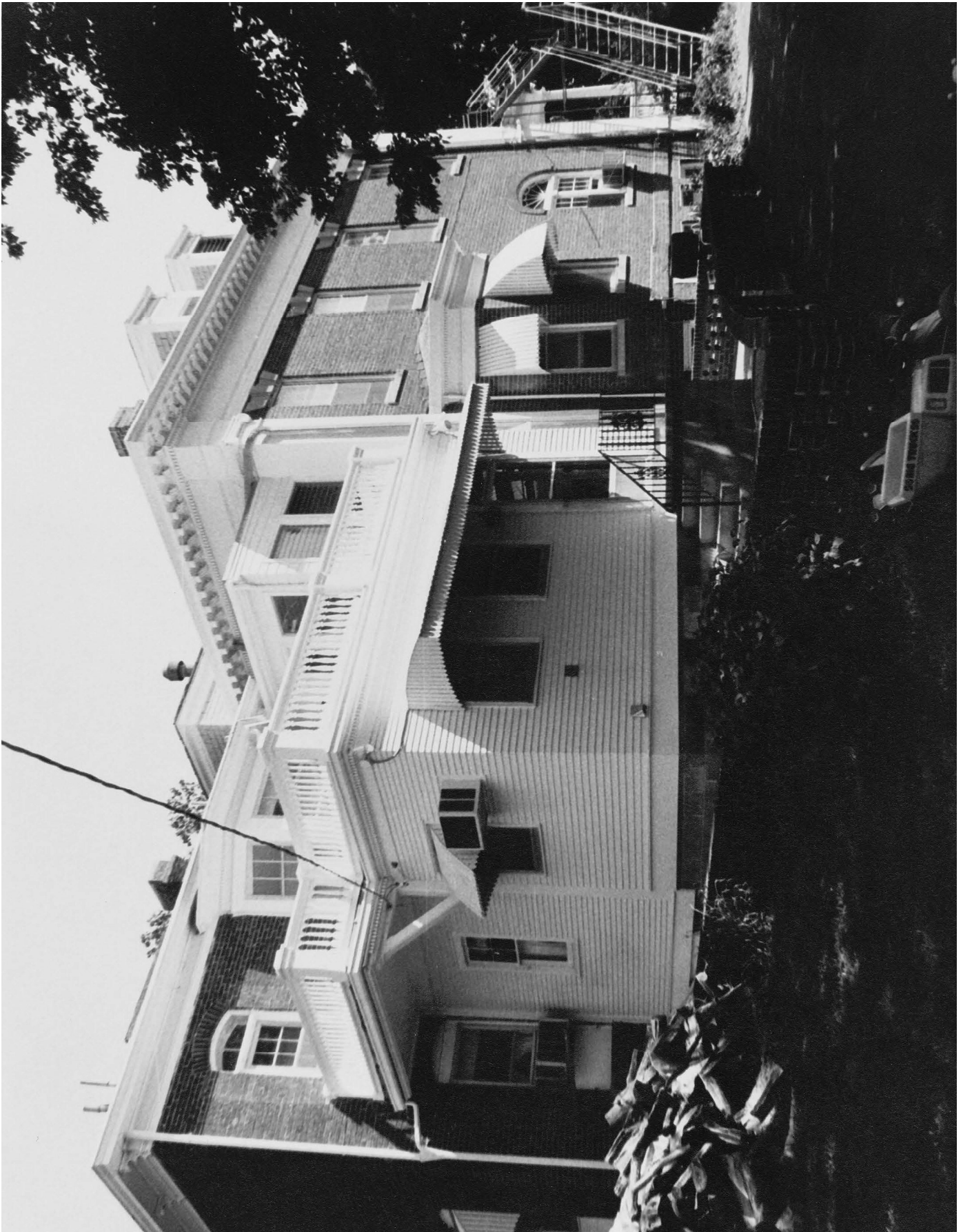
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- 2 of 39. NE.
- 3 of 39. E.
- 4 of 39. S.
- 5 of 39. SW.
- 6 of 39. W.
- 7 of 39. E.
- 8 of 39. Interior, Central Hall, 1st FL.
- 9 of 39. Interior, Dining Room.
- 10 of 39. Interior, Dining Room.
- 11 of 39. Interior, N Library.
- 12 of 39. Interior, N Library.
- 13 of 39. Interior, 2nd FL, door frame.
- 14 of 39. Interior, 2nd FL, window.
- 15 of 39. Interior, 3rd FL, skylight.
- 16 of 39. Interior, 3rd FL, hallway.
- 17 of 39. E.
- 18 of 39. N.
- 19 of 39. S.
- 20 of 39. N.
- 21 of 39. N.
- 22 of 39. House plans, 1st FL.
- 23 of 39. House plans, 2nd FL.
- 24 of 39. House plans, 3rd FL.
- 25 of 39. N.
- 26 of 39. Interior, Central Hall, 1st FL.
- 27 of 39. Interior, Central Hall, Newel post.
- 28 of 39. Interior, S Library.
- 29 of 39. Interior, S Library.
- 30 of 39. Interior, S Library.
- 31 of 39. Interior, N Library, bookshelves.
- 32 of 39. Interior, N Library, windows.
- 33 of 39. Interior, Dining Room.
- 34 of 39. Interior, Dining Room.
- 35 of 39. Interior, 1st FL, hall molding.
- 36 of 39. Interior, 1st FL, pantry.
- 37 of 39. Interior, 2nd FL, Newel post.
- 38 of 39. Interior, 2nd FL, stairway.
- 39 of 39. Interior, 2nd FL, door frame.











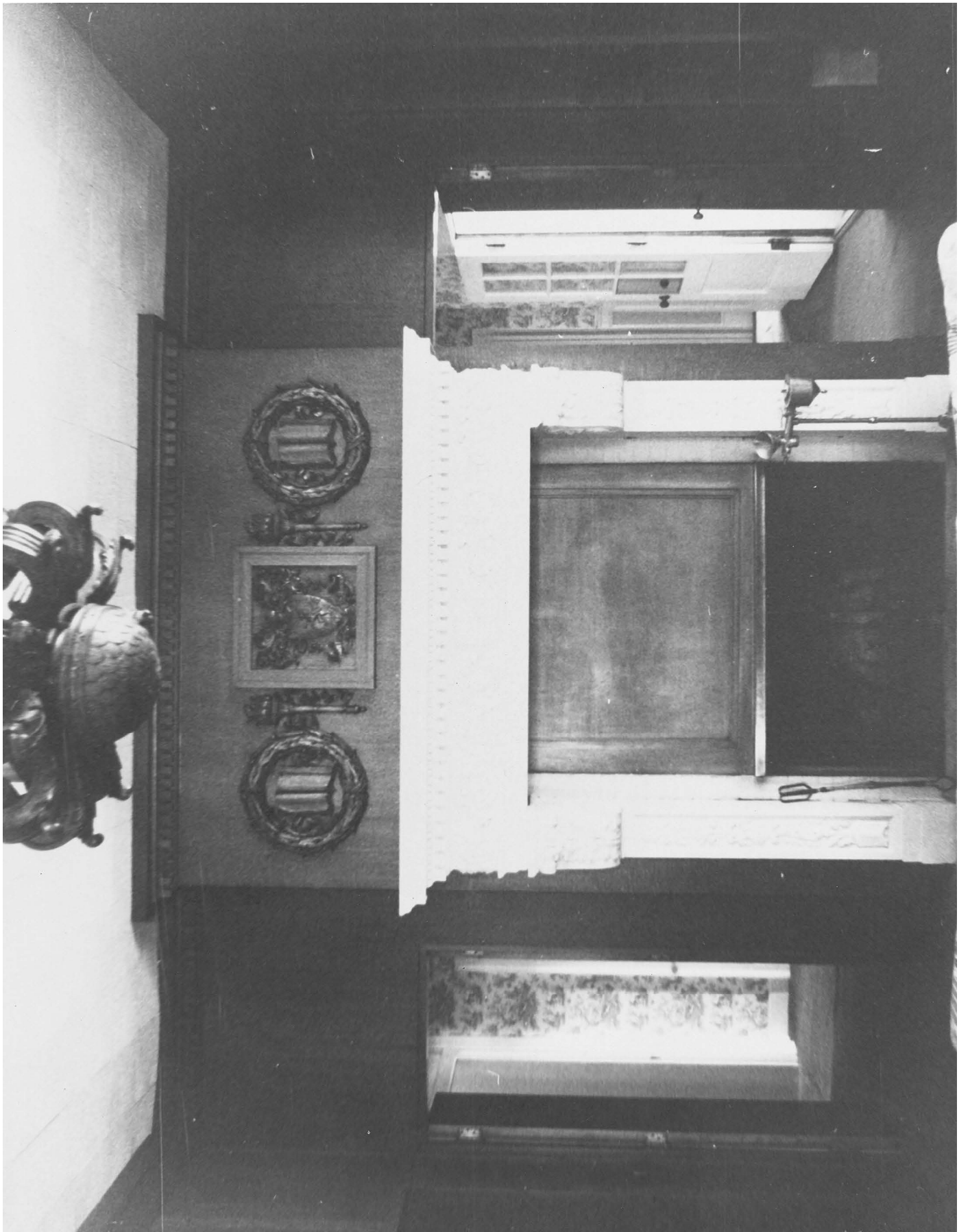


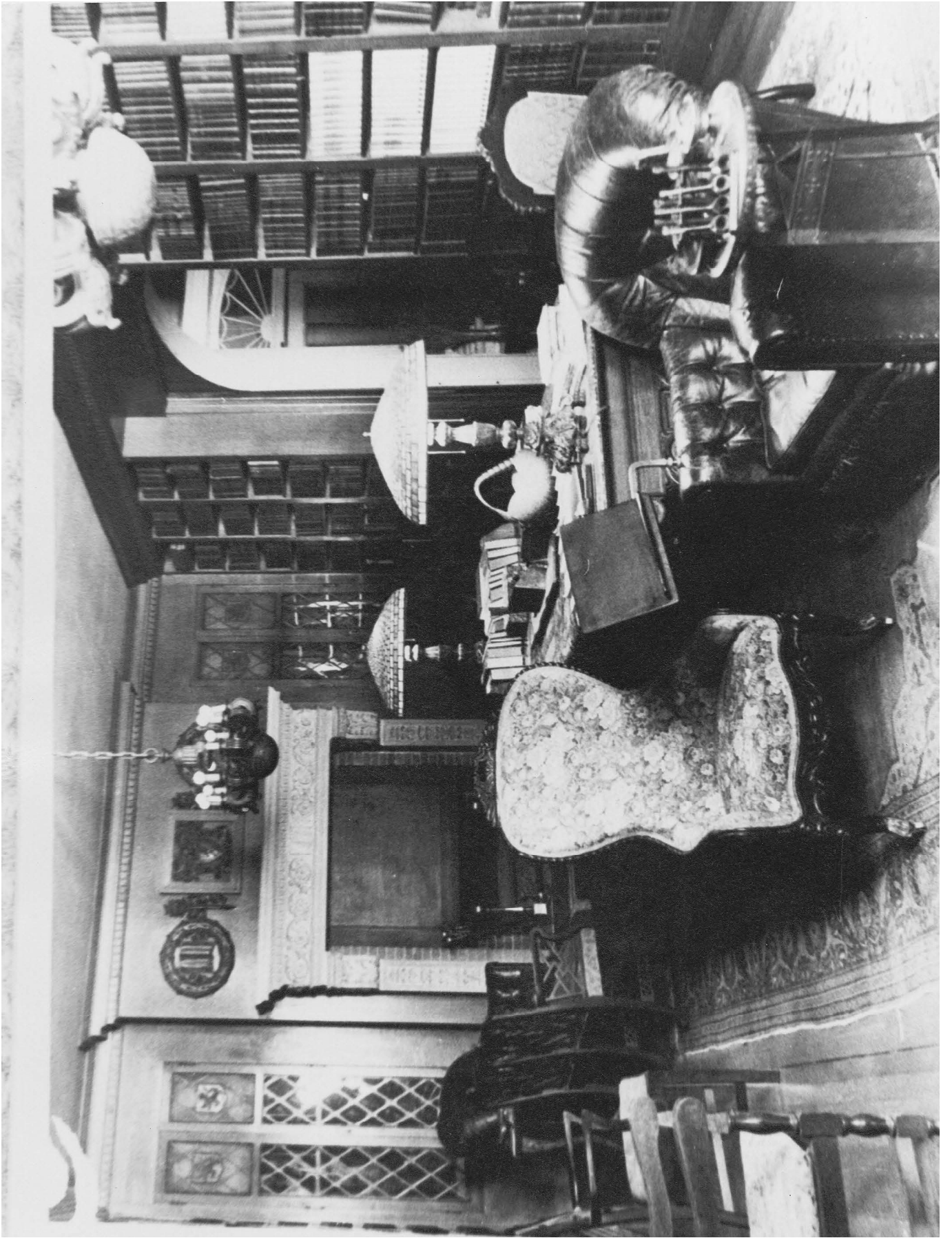








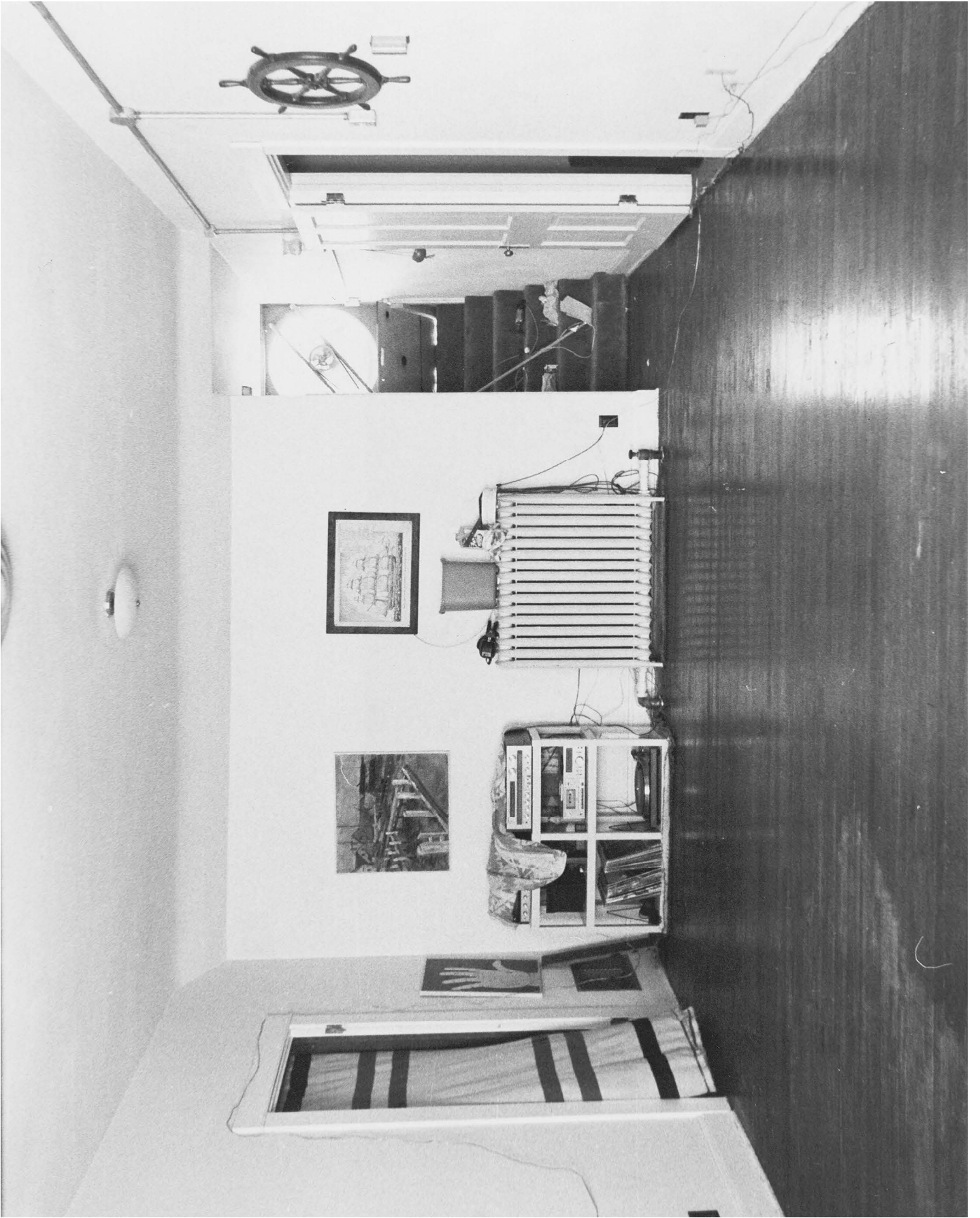






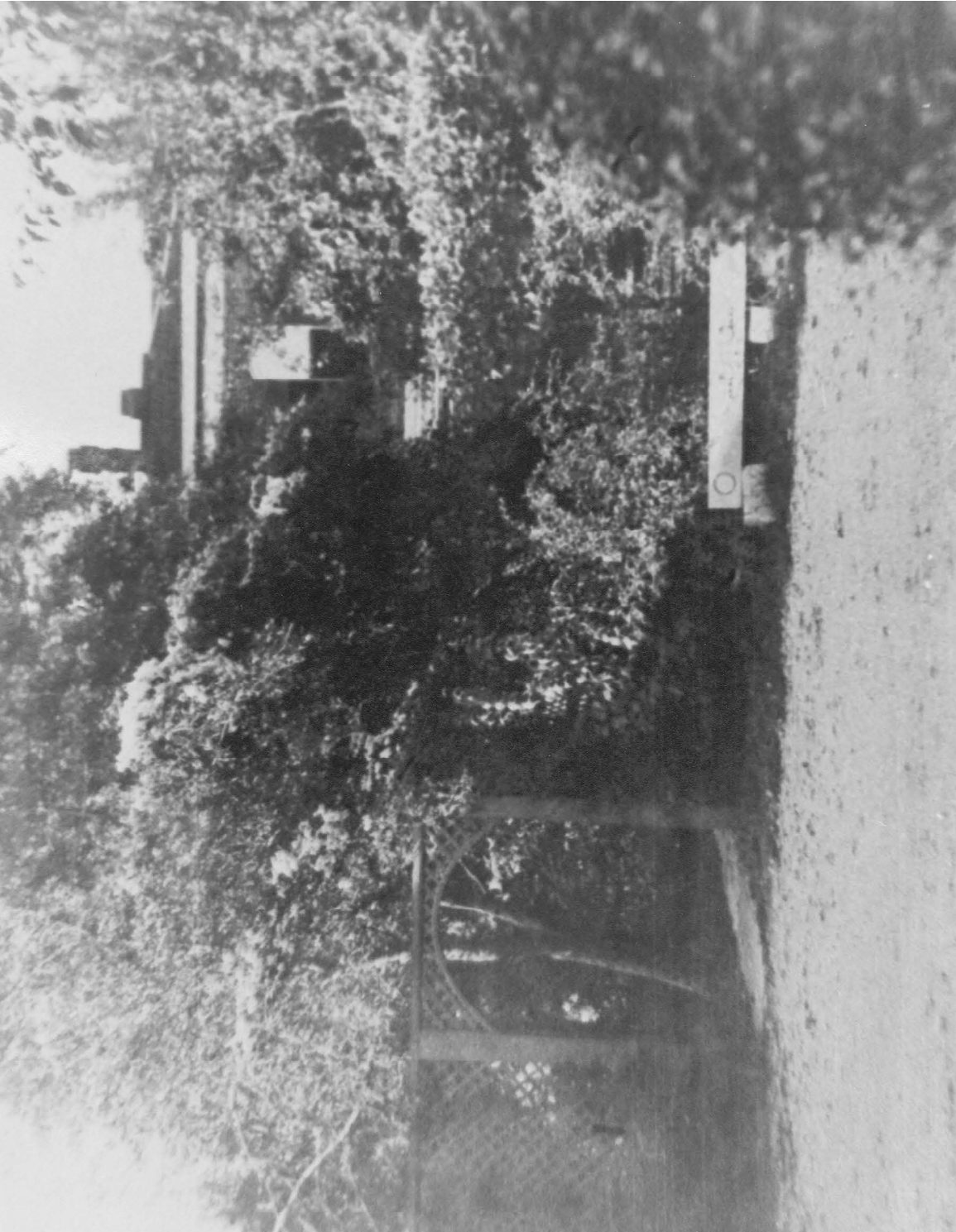






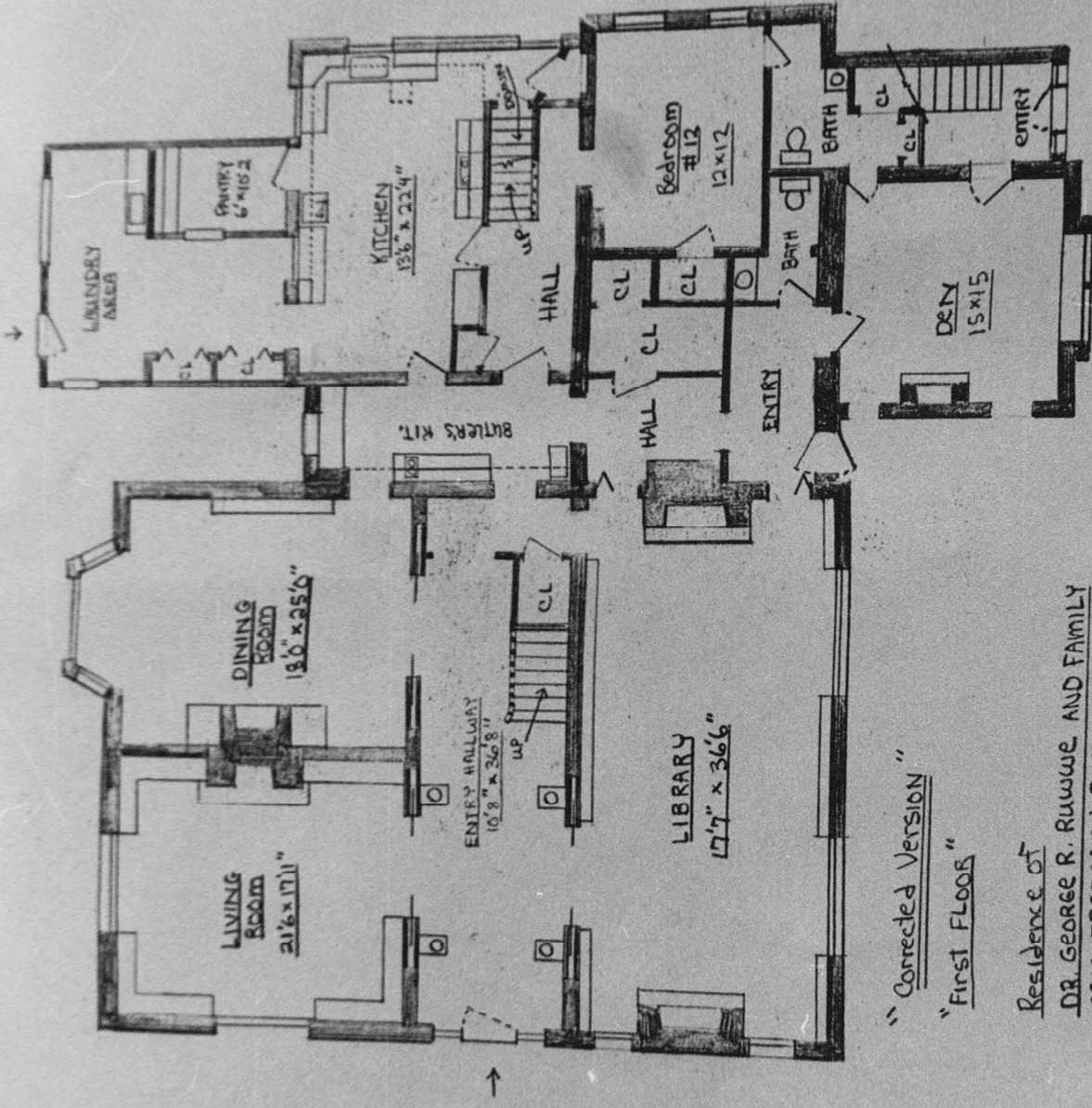










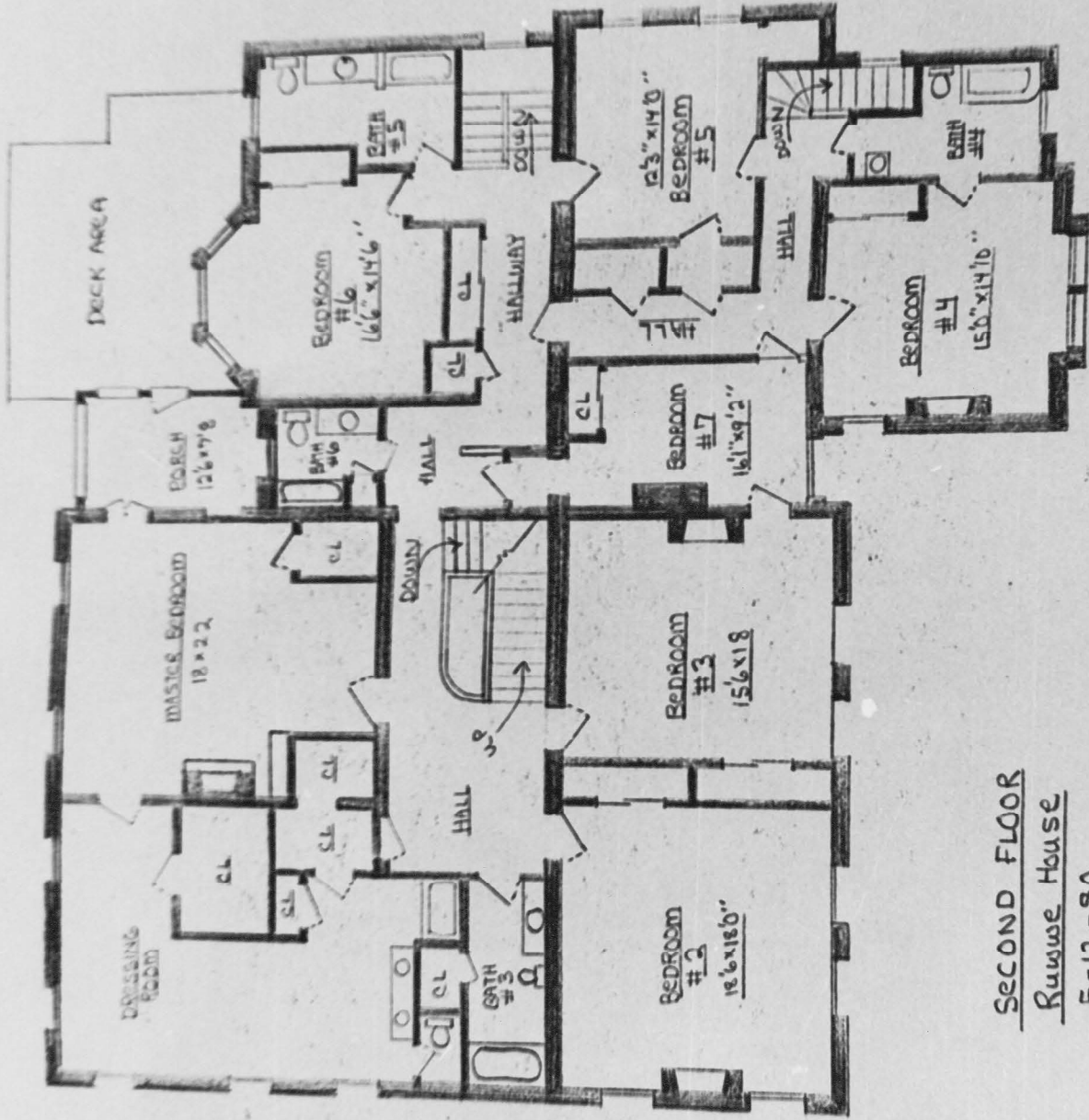


"Corrected Version"
 "First Floor"

Residence of
 DR. GEORGE R. RUWWE AND FAMILY
 2912 FREDERICK BLVD.

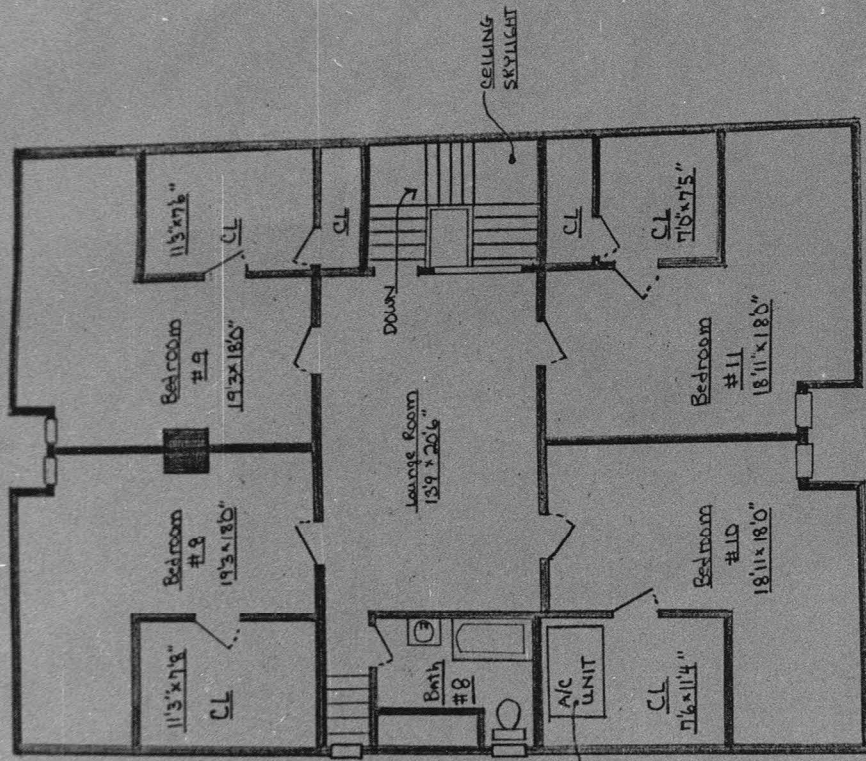
MAY 12, 1980
 DRAWN BY: JIM WITHROW
 SCALE 1/8" = 1'0"

Note: Some Sizes Approximate Only



SECOND FLOOR
Ruwwe House
5-12-80
JRW
SCALE 1/8" = 1'0"

W →



A/C UNIT
For 3RD Floor

THIRD FLOOR
Ruowe House
5-30-80
JRW
SCALE 1/8" = 1'0"

