

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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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

1. Name

historic McCann (Thomas) House

and/or common General manager's house, Shevlin Hixon Lumber Company

2. Location

street & number 440 NW Congress Street not for publication

city, town Bend vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Oregon code 41 county Deschutes code 017

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Roger R. and Sharron H. Comeau

street & number 440 NW Congress St.

city, town Bend vicinity of state Oregon 97701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Deschutes County Courthouse

street & number 1164 NW Bond

city, town Bend state Oregon 97701

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

9. Major Bibliographical References

Vaughan and Ferriday. Space, Style and Structure: Building in Northwest America. Portland Oregon Historical Society, 1974. 2 Volumes. Vol. 1 Fig. III-232, pp 314-315.

Henry F. Withey, AIA and Elsie Rathburn Withey. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). LA: Hennessy and Ingalls, Inc. 1970. p. 370. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one (100x200')

Quadrangle name Bend, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 12, Park Addition, City of Bend, Deschutes County, Oregon

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sharron H. Comeau

organization _____ date October 24, 1979

street & number 440 NW Congress St. telephone 503/389-6440

city or town Bend state Oregon 97701

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state XX 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 

title Deputy SHPO date 21 January 1980

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Thomas McCann House is a 5,500-square-foot Georgian Revival-style residence. It was designed by David Lewis, a prominent Portland architect, in 1915. It is in very good condition and is still in use as a residence.

The house, oriented to the west, was originally sited among mature pine and juniper trees overlooking the Deschutes River. It occupies Lots 1 through 4 of Block 12 of the Park Addition, City of Bend. The house comprises two-and-one-half stories plus a full basement. The concrete foundation supports balloon-framed wall construction which is covered with clapboard siding. The cedar shingled gable roof is interrupted by three oversized-pedimented dormers with shingled checks on the west elevation and several shed dormers on the east elevation. Most windows are simply-framed multi-over-one sash and have shutters.

The west elevation is characterized by a formal simplicity. Divided into three bays, the facade is framed by open, columned porches on the sides. Both of the flat upper decks are surrounded by Chippendale-style railings. The recessed entry is simply covered by a consoled gabled roof. An elliptical opening in this gable is mirrored by an elliptical wooden fan over the entry. The massive paneled door is bordered by side lights but no trans. Three small casement windows above the entry lead to the upper stair hall. Sets of single windows are disposed on either side of the central bay. The composition is completed by the pedimented dormers, each of which contain traceried, round-headed lights and scroll moldings.

The other elevations are characterized by asymmetrical placement of windows which reflect the interior functional arrangement. Of particular interest on the east (rear) elevation is the palladian window which leads to a landing on the stairway.

The interior plan is characteristic of the Georgian style, with rooms being placed around a large entry and central, open stairwell. At the entry, you are confronted on the left by the stairway. The main living room is on the right of the hall and the formal dining room on the left.

The dining room is detailed with a painted wainscot and ceiling moldings made of plaster. Both the living room and the dining room open directly onto an exterior porch area. The library sits to the right of the stair and carries its own expression derived from the rather heavy wood coffered ceiling and handsome fireplace. The main level floor surface is distinctive in being constructed from narrow maple slats less than 1" in width. The upper level sleeping rooms again are symmetrically placed around the stairwell. This level consists of a master bedroom with an adjacent nursery on one side and a sleeping porch and bedroom on the other. The sleeping porch faces out onto the east yard and is enclosed with a continuous row of windows that pivot about their centers, allowing for maximum ventilation.

The attic is a generous space with light admitted by the three large dormers with their beautiful rounded top windows. The decorative detailing on the exterior of the dormer windows are indeed a trademark of Mr. Lewis. The building is very close to its original design and shows no sign of structural or material deficiency.

Major Alterations

Shortly after the house was sold to its first private occupants in 1953, the kitchen was remodeled. All of the cabinets were replaced, countertops, new appliances were installed, a sink, and a 5'x6' counter/cabinet section placed in one corner to hold cabinet, top range, hood, overhead cabinets and to hide the water heater that was free-standing there. Subsequent owners have added linoleum, and later kitchen carpet, to the entire kitchen, pantries and

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service hall floors. As a result of the added depth of floor covering, the swinging door between the kitchen and butler's pantry has been removed.

The marks are still on the walls where the original cabinets were located, as well as the chair-rail mouldings. In my interviews with the Isted family members, I have been able to learn how to restore the kitchen to its original configuration, the style of cabinets to place, as well as countertops. In the copy of the architect's specifications the floors in the service area were of "second quality 4" mill planed, edged grain matched fir boards." It is my intention to replace the present floor coverings with 4" maple rather than fir because of the hardness and wearability in such a heavy traffic area. The maple is also the color of the fir and will give the same appearance as was in the house originally. The swinging door is now stored in the basement and will be replaced.

The little summer house in the north side yard has been removed. This was done sometime during the occupancy of the first private residents (1953-1974). It is our intention to replace and restore this building as accurately as possible from existing photographs and the guidance of former occupants.

I am slowly repairing old and broken plaster in the interior and decorating in a style suitable to the architecture. Currently, the exterior of the house is being painted, repaired and the colors of the original scheme are being followed. The roof is in need of replacing and will be done with the same materials and in the same color as the original, existing roof. The main chimney was in disrepair. It has been restored and the north chimney will be treated in the same manner. All upgrading will be done as accurately as possible using the architect's specifications and existing work as an example.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates Oct. 1915 - 1916 **Builder/Architect** David C. Lewis, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Thomas McCann House is a well-preserved example of Georgian Revival architecture. It is significant as a unique example of a traditional, architect-designed structure in what was in 1915 the small, isolated pioneer town of Bend. Its significance lies also in its association with the Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company, whose mill provided the economic base for the town. The remaining structures of the Shevlin-Hixon Mill were entered in the National Register in 1978.

The house was built by the Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company for Thomas McCann, the vice-president and general manager of its subsidiary plant. Shevlin-Hixon was a large Minnesota lumbering concern with holdings in several states and Canada. Central Oregon had been an area of interest to the eastern lumbering industries for quite some time with a few purchasing large tracts of timber in the hope of future expansion. The two greatest contenders were Shevlin-Hixon and Brooks-Scanlon. Central Oregon, and Bend in particular, was young and struggling--the economy was depressed, the town was fighting for survival, and the railroad bypassed the community by several miles to the northeast. Through the interests of the eastern companies of Brooks and Shevlin, they brought the railroad to Bend in order to service the sites of their proposed mills. In 1915 the race was on, and by 1916 the mills were established bringing in badly needed revenue and jobs. The mills were instrumental in providing great security to their workers and members of the community. During times of national and world crisis, the jobs and pay of the employees were guaranteed upon their return from military service. Likewise, during the depression years, many families were "carried" as a result of the interest and concern of the mills.

On their initial coming to the West Coast in pursuit of timber, the Shevlins made their base in Portland. There they became acquainted with many of the socially prominent and successful members of the community. Among them was the well-acclaimed architect David C. Lewis.

Thomas McCann, the son of Mary Shevlin McCann, had already spent many years in the family lumbering operations. When plans for the new plant in Bend were formed, he was to assume the position of vice-president and general manager. He commissioned David C. Lewis to design his home. This in itself was unique as architects were not commonly used in the small, pioneer town of Bend at the time. When Mr. Lewis designed the house, there was not much more than tall pine and juniper trees between the rise of the building site and the Deschutes River. The house was set majestically among these trees on the three original large lots, which were increased later to four. The design seems to reflect the embodiment of many fond memories for Mr. Lewis. The configuration of the front entry and stairs is strikingly similar to that found in his father's house, the Cicero H. Lewis residence, in Portland. Design of the exterior and many details of the interior are likewise reminiscent of his own residence, which he designed and built and can still be seen in Portland today.

During the history of its operations in Bend, the Shevlin-Hixon Lumber Company had four general managers. Mr. McCann and his family were the first residents from 1916 when the house was completed, until 1921. The McCanns had small children, therefore a nursery adjoining the master bedroom was necessary. There were also live-in servants requiring quarters on the third floor, back stairs, a bell-summoning system, back service hall, and two pantries in the kitchen area. Unusual to the area and a modern convenience of note was the central vacuum

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system located in the basement with one outlet on each of the first two floors. A woodbox with a false bottom operated by hand pulleys lowering it to the basement to facilitate bringing firewood upstairs was another unusual detail in the house. There are three fireplaces throughout the house--one each in the library and living room, and one in the master bedroom. The original source of central heating fuel was sawdust delivered by horse-drawn wagon from the mill, dumped into an outside box, down a chute, then onto a conveyor belt that fed the furnace. Water heated by the furnace circulated in radiators located throughout the house. One of the rare features of the house is the 1" wide, tongue-and-groove maple flooring found on the main level, even on the front porch. There are many such details that were most unusual for the time and place that are still intact today.

Mr. McCann established a very caring climate in which his employees' safety and welfare were of major concern. The Shevlin Mill was said to be one of the very few in the lumbering industry that had such high safety standards and provided so many benefits for its employees. He established a company newspaper named the Shevlin Equalizer, provided schools at the housing areas, a hospital, and more than adequate housing for the workers and their families. The mill had a band well known in the area and participated in community celebrations with parade vehicles.

Succeeding Mr. McCann in 1921 was J.P. Hennessy. The Hennessy family occupied the house for four years. Like Thomas McCann, Mr. Hennessy had been part of Shevlin Lumber operations for several years. He came to Bend at the same time as McCann in the position of sales manager and assistant general manager. He became general manager when McCann was elected vice-president of the parent company in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mr. Hennessy was highly praised for his business sense and integrity in the History of Oregon, Vol. III, published in 1922.

The family of C.L. Isted followed in 1925, coming to Bend from Bimidji, Minnesota, where Mr. Isted was employed as general manager of the Crookston Lumber Company, a Shevlin-Hixon holding. Mr. Isted was instrumental in helping many needy families during the depression years. At one critical time he was able to avert a strike and keep the plant operating. He retired from Shevlin-Hixon in 1944. Isted held offices in many of the lumber industry's organizations and is written of in Minnesota and Its People, Vol. III, published in 1924.

The last general manager of the Bend plant was Hardy Meyers. He and his family had been living in Mississippi where he was the general manager of a Shevlin mill. The Meyers family came to Bend in 1944. Mr. Meyers was very active in many civic organizations and was a prominent member of the Board of Directors of St. Charles Hospital as well as a director of one of the savings and loan companies. The family represented the Shevlin-Hixon Company well in the business world and the community.

David C. Lewis was educated at Princeton and Columbia Universities. He was an established architect in Portland by the time he was asked to design the European Building at the Lewis and Clark Exposition in 1905. This "Foreign Exhibit" building had a large arched opening in the central pavillion reminiscent of Lewis Sullivan's "Golden Doorway" in the Transportation Building at the Chicago World's Fair. Following Portland's fair, Lewis was commissioned to create the Oregon Building at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition in Seattle. The grand, Baroque structure was completed in 1909. Subsequently, Lewis also designed the Trinity Episcopal Church, the Railway Exchange Building (a National Register Historic Building), his brother's home, the L. Allen Lewis residence (a Portland landmark), and several other

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prominent residences and public buildings through the Portland area. The Lewis residence was often used as a prototype for the English Tudor-style of architecture in the city and another, the Railway Exchange Building (1910), was the first building in the Northwest to be constructed with such a great expanse of exterior glass and reinforced concrete. These two and many other designs more than established his credentials as an outstanding architect of the day.

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Minnesota and Its People. Chicago: The S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1924. Vol. II of IV,
p. 632, picture 633.

Industrial Edition. Bend, Oregon: Central Oregon Press, January 1925. pp 21, 24

The Bend Bulletin. Newspaper (microfilm) Bend, OR: Central Oregon Community College Library
Issues: 1915 - January 27, February 10, 17
1917 - April 5, May 24, May 31.

Confidentially Yours. Deschutes Pioneers Association - Museum Board; Bend, Oregon. Monthly
illustrated. May 1976, issue No. 13.

Oregon Historical Society Archives. Portland, Oregon: 1230 SW Park. Bibliography of Cicero
H. Lewis: File.

David E. Waldron, AIA. Waldron, Huston, Barber, Architects, AIA. 974 NW Riverside, Bend,
Oregon. Phone: 503/382-5535.

PERSONAL INTERVIEWS:

James P. Hennessy, Jr. (6/21/79) - PO Box 96, Mt. Shasta, CA, Phone: 916/926-2075

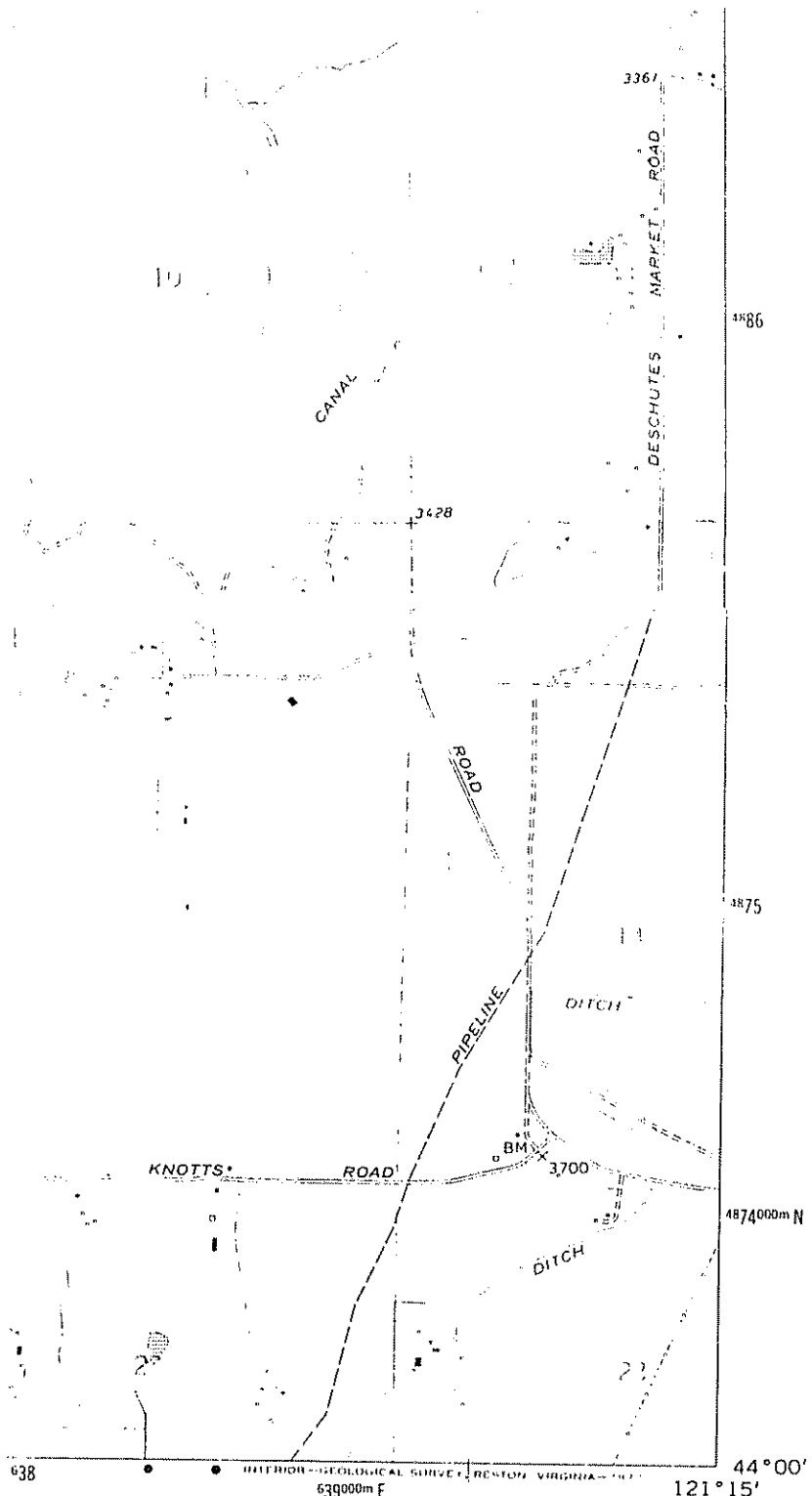
Hardy Meyers, Jr., Speaker of the House of Representatives (6/10/79) - Capitol Building, Salem

J.E. Isted (6/6/79) - 816 S. 216th, Wesley Garden - The Terrace, Des Moines, WA, Phone: 206/
824-5000

Marian Isted Clark (3/30/79) - 636 4th St., Bend, OR, Phone: 503/382-2289

Morris Isted (5/24/79) - 525-151 W. El Norte Pkwy, Escondido, CA, Phone: 714/746-6373

Dr. Kenneth Oakley (1976-78) - 1300 Oak Cr. Dr., Apt. 208, Palo Alto, CA, Phone: 415/321-9155



(BEND)

(KELSEY BUTTE)
1771' NW

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-----------------|-------|
| Heavy-duty | ————— | Light-duty | ----- |
| Medium-duty | ————— | Unimproved dirt | |

U S Route

MCCANN (THOMAS) HOUSE

BEND, OREG.

N4400—W12115/7 5

1962

PHOTOREVISED 1975

AMS 1772 III SE—SERIES V892

10/634710/4879380

SCHUTES COUNTY

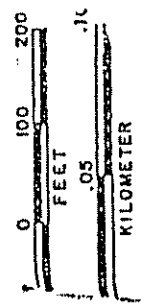
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See Map 17 12 380C

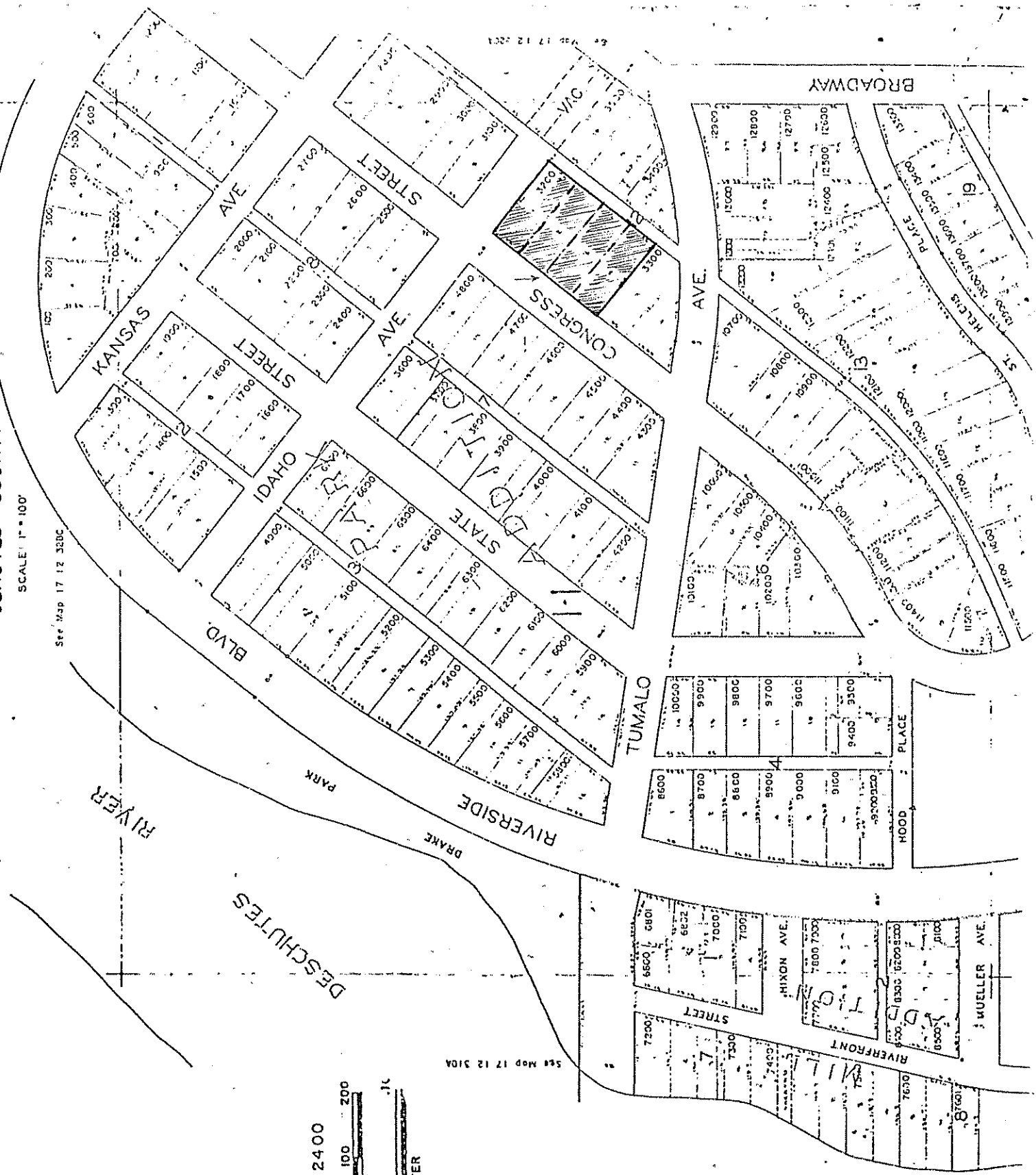
RIVER

DESCHUTES

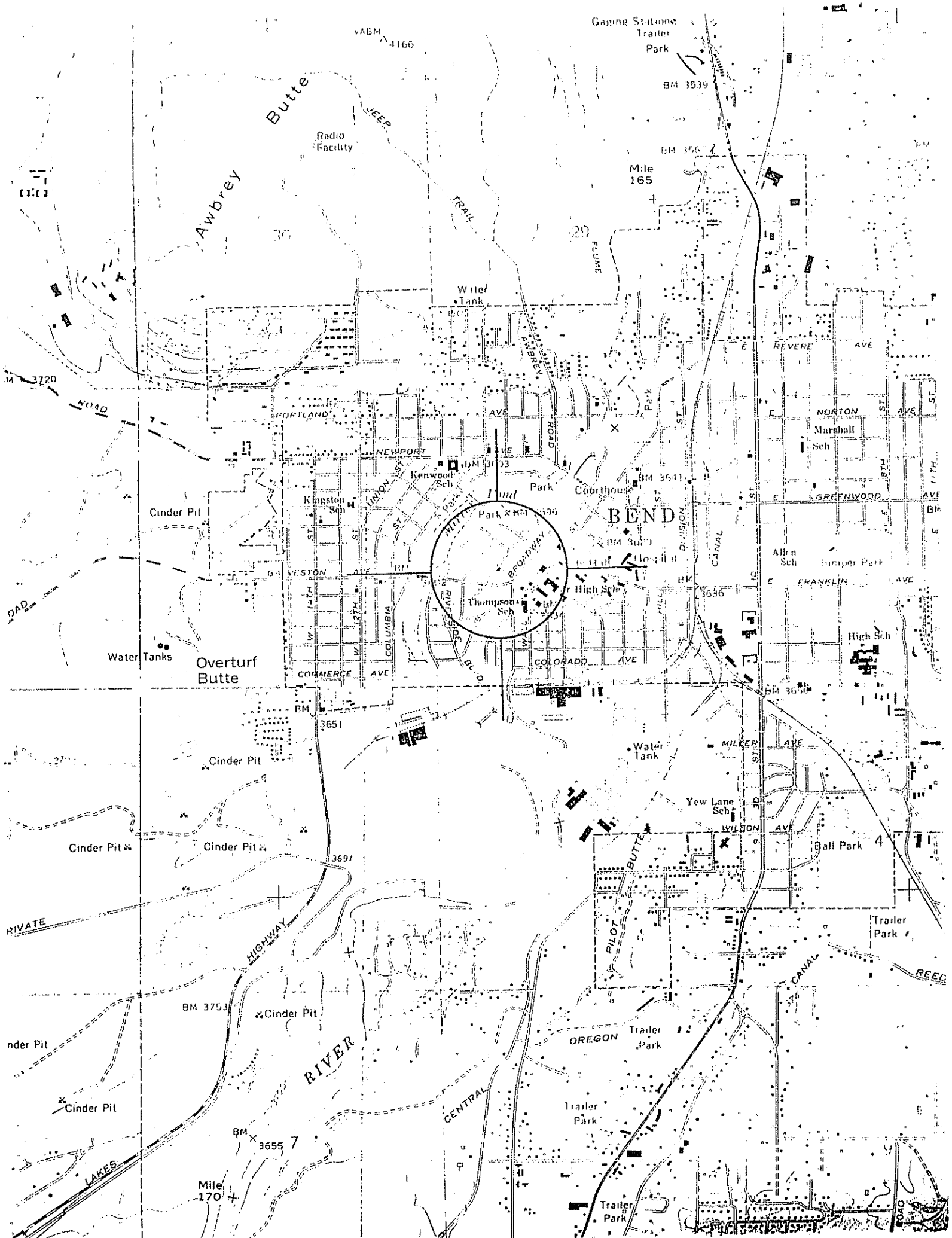
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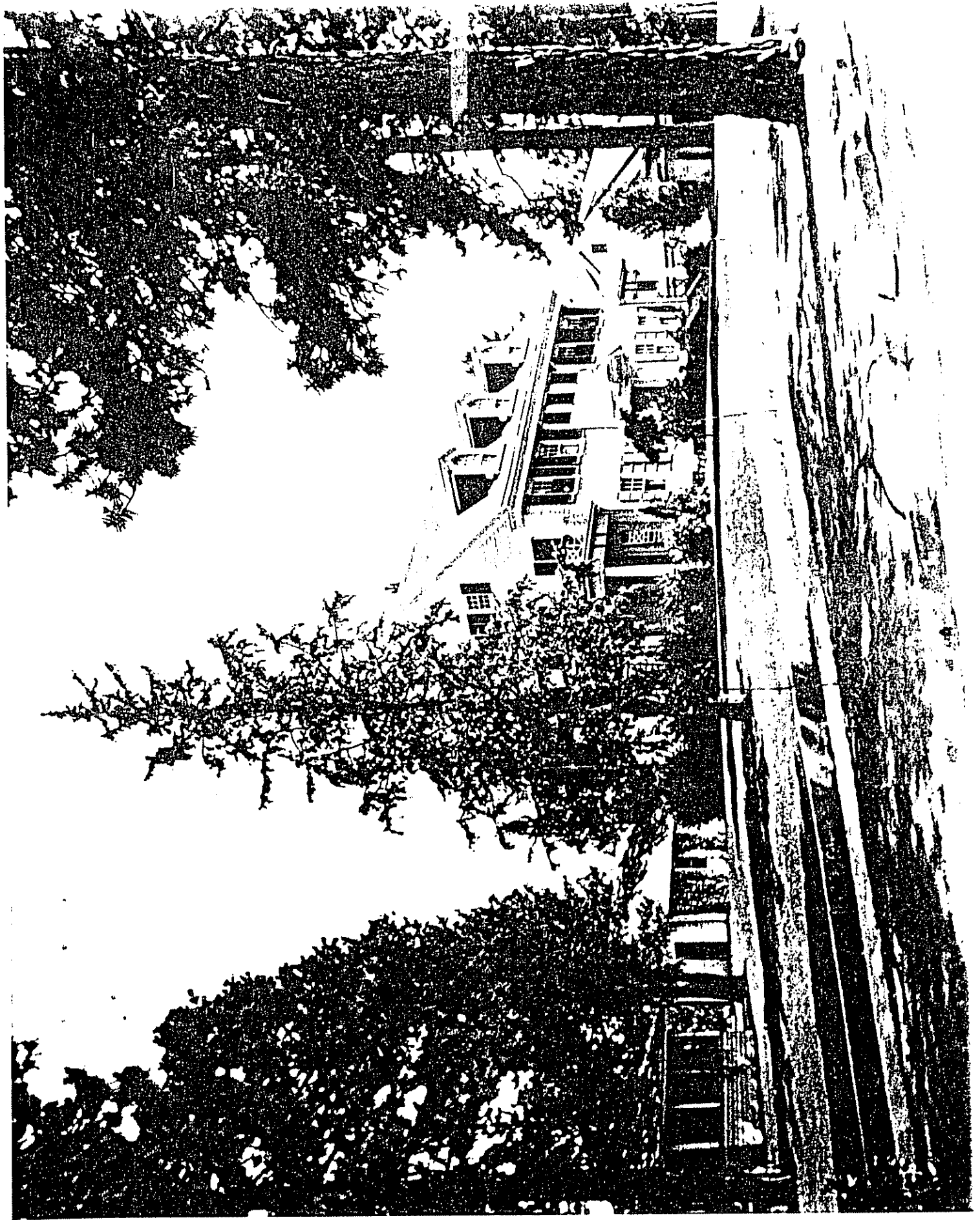


See Map 17 12 310A



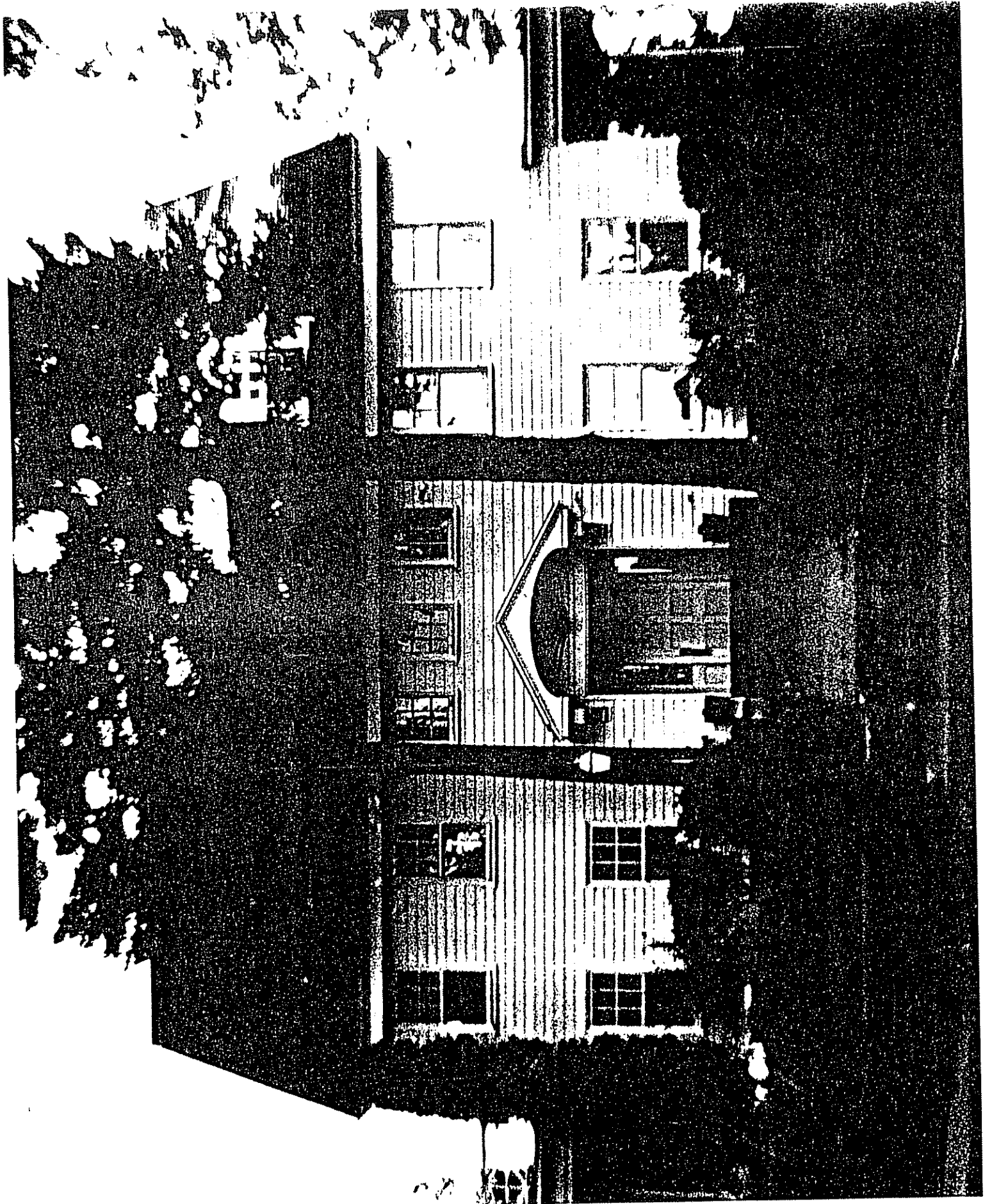
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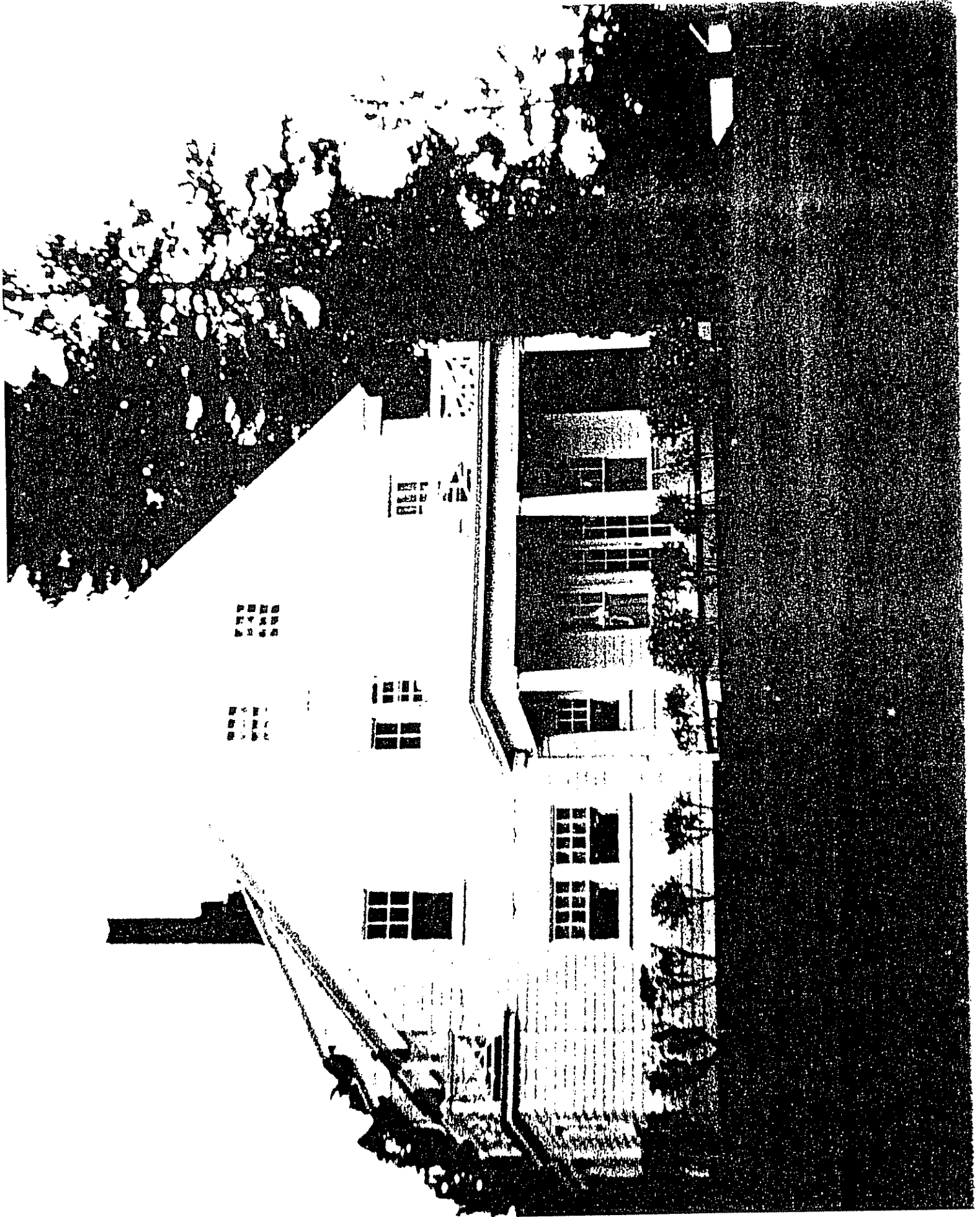
McCann (Thomas) House
440 NW Congress St.
Bend, Deschutes Co., Oregon
1 of 5 - historic view from
northwest, c. 1925

James Hennessy photo, c. 1925
PO Box 96
Mt. Shasta, CA



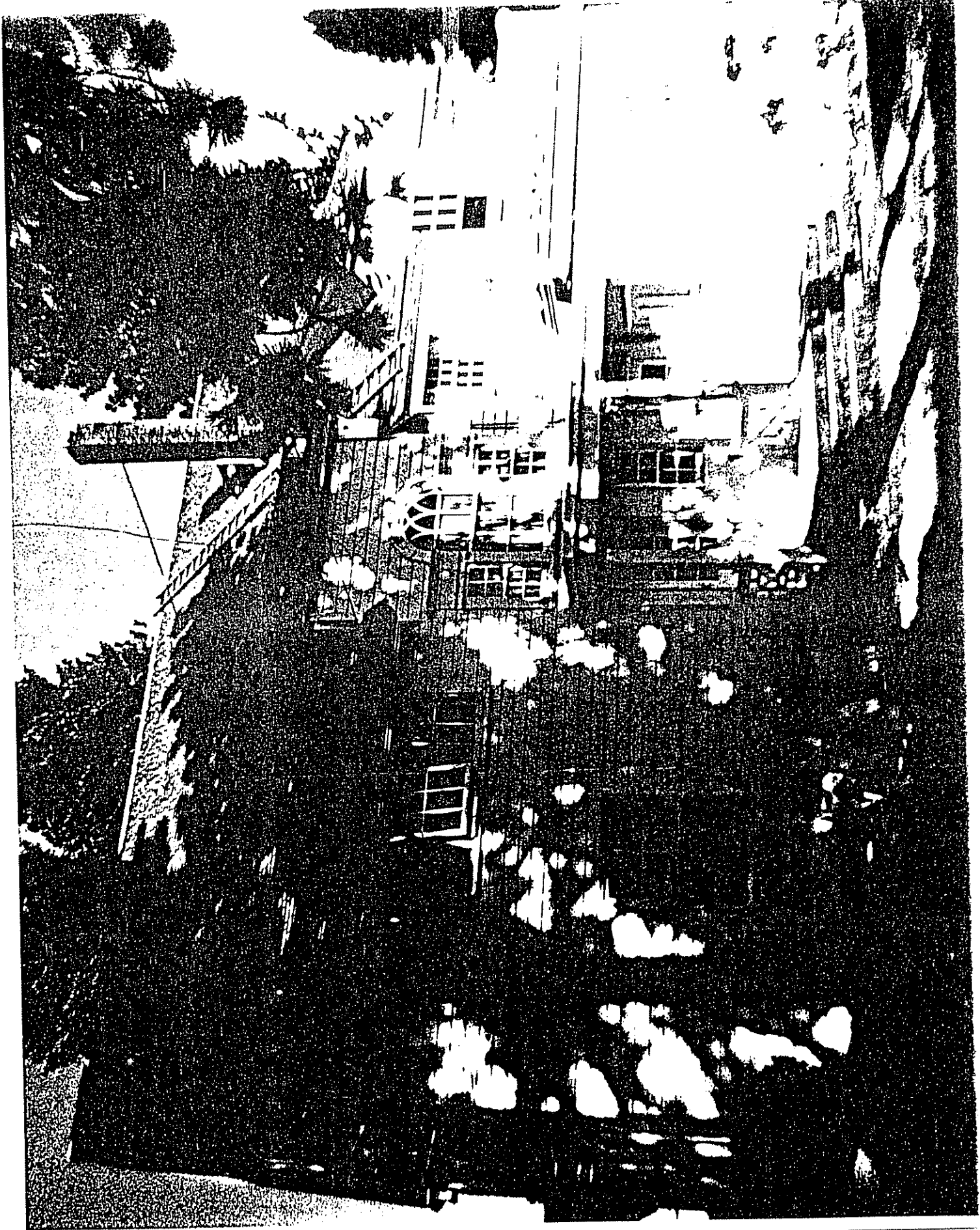
McCann (Thomas) House
440 NW Congress St.
Bend, Deschutes Co., Oregon
2 of 5 - west elevation

Sharron Comeau photo, 1979
440 NW Congress St.
Bend, OR 97701



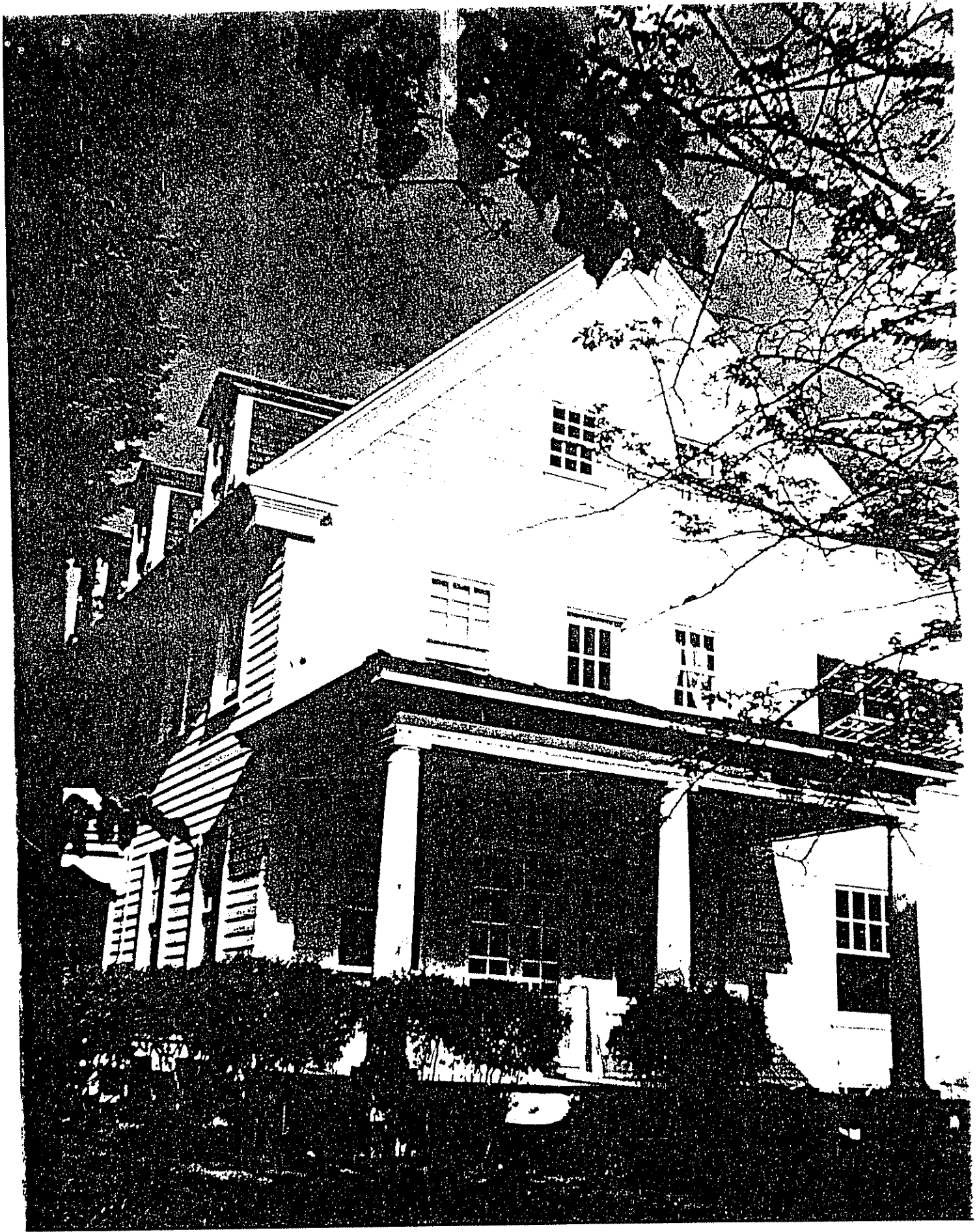
McCann (Thomas) House
440 NW Congress St.
Bend, Deschutes Co, Oregon
3 of 5 - north elevation

Sharron Comeau photo, 1979
440 NW Congress St.
Bend, OR 97701



McCann (Thomas) House
440 NW Congress St.
Bend, Deschutes Co, Oregon
4 of 5 - east elevation

Sharron Comeau photo, 1979
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McCann (Thomas) House
440 NW Congress St.
Bend, Deschutes Co, Oregon
5 of 5 - south elevation

Sharron Comeau photo, 1979
440 NW Congress St.
Bend, OR 97701

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