

## SUMMARY

The Gordon Building at 109 West Melrose Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21210 is a five-part symmetrical plan, Colonial Revival dwelling with Greek features. The central part is a five bay with projecting center bay. It is a two story frame house with a fiberglass shingle pitched roof, pierced by dormers. In addition to the basic house there are nearly identical hyphens and wings. The entire structure consists of 15 rooms, storage areas, and a four room apartment located in the attic. There are three porches, one portico, and one balcony; two exterior fire escapes and a grassed terrace. The house is sheathed in wood weatherboard.

The Gordon Building was built in 1910 and reflects a mix of Colonial features including Classical and Greek elements. Classical and Greek decorative elements create individuality and importance. Each facade reflects symmetrical massing with traditional Colonial Revival details including Palladian windows, heavy dentils, a projecting center bay, dormers with pediments, classical columns or pilasters, multi-paned windows with shutters, entrance with fan and side light. Heavy dentils occur under all eaves. Windows are 6/6 sash throughout with the exception of one Palladian window and three half circle windows in gables and round top windows in dormers.

The Gordon Building is significant for two reasons. First as an example of Colonial Revival architecture in form and decorative details. Second as an example of early twentieth century life style typical of affluent Baltimore City families during that time.

The Gordon Building is sited on a slight rise overlooking a wide grassy area which slopes steeply to Melrose Avenue in the Northern section of Baltimore City. The neighborhood is "The Orchards". Urban development surrounds this 26 acre property, a portion of a 120 acre tract of land previously owned by Douglas H. Gordon. The Gordon family originally used the property as a summer retreat which provided a respite from their winter town home at 1009 North Charles Street, Baltimore City. In 1927, the 26 acres along with the Gordon Building and various other structures, was purchased by the Bryn Mawr School for Girls of Baltimore City. The School was situated at Cathedral and Read Streets and wished to relocate to "the country" seeking somewhat the same relief from urban environments as had the Gordon family.

A survey of this building reveals many examples of Colonial Revival style in good condition. In addition to a well preserved and virtually unaltered exterior, the interior offers a fine example of a two story stair hall and a group of fireplaces and mantels which display a hierarchy of style and ornamentation consistent with the importance of the rooms in which they are located. The opportunity to deduce room importance and use from the fireplaces aides in understanding the life style of one affluent family in the early 1900's. As a lasting example to a life style as well as a dramatic example of Colonial Revival architecture, the Gordon Building is a strong candidate for protection as a property of historical significance.

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4602

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic "The Orchards"

and/or common Gordon Building

**2. Location**

street & number 109 W. Melrose Avenue  not for publication

city, town Baltimore  vicinity of congressional district 3

state MD county Baltimore City

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" 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"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property** (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name The Bryn Mawr School

street & number 109 W. Melrose Avenue telephone no.: 410/323-8800

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21210

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse liber 4899

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street folio 213-217

city, town Baltimore state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 7. Description

Survey No. B-4602

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved    date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See attached pages

# 8. Significance

Survey No. B-4602

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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1910 **Builder/Architect** Ellicott and Emmart

check: Applicable Criteria:  A  B  C  D  
and/or

Applicable Exception:  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Level of Significance:  national  state  local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See attached pages

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4602

See attached pages

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 26 acres, Lot 10, Block 5 The Orchards

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
---	----------------------	----------------------	----------------------

Verbal boundary description and justification

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 Jean Hawley, student

organization Goucher College Continuing Studies date December 13, 1995

street & number Historic Preservation Certificate telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town Goucher College, Towson state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
DHCP/DHCD  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

## Section 7.

The Gordon Building at 109 West Melrose Avenue, Baltimore, Md. 21210 is a five-part symmetrical plan, Colonial Revival dwelling with Greek features. The central part is a five bay with projecting center bay. It is a two story frame house with a fiberglass shingle pitched roof, pierced by dormers. In addition to the basic house there are nearly identical hyphens and wings. The entire structure consists of 15 rooms, storage areas, and a four room apartment located in the attic. There are three porches, one portico, and one balcony; two exterior fire escapes and a grassed terrace. The house is sheathed in wood weatherboard.

The Gordon Building was built in 1910 and reflects a mix of Colonial features including Classical and Greek elements. Classical and Greek decorative elements applied to the Colonial form and massing of the structure create individuality and importance. Each facade reflects symmetrical massing with traditional Colonial Revival details including Palladian windows, heavy dentils, a projecting center bay, dormers with pediments, classical columns or pilasters, multi-paned windows with shutters, entrance with fan and side light. Heavy dentils occur under all eaves. Windows are 6/6 sash throughout with the exception of one Palladian window and three half circle windows in gables and round top windows in dormers.

## North Facade - Main Entrance

The North facade is a large central mass with hyphens and wings with porches. The hyphens are set back from the central section and the wings. The center bay with doorway, window and gable pediment, extend beyond the plane in a manner reminiscent of Colonial architecture. The portico extends dramatically in from of the plane and is balanced by the end porches. The portico and porches given a strong impression of massive, bold and three dimensional structures.

The middle bay of the central part of the north facade features two story Ionic pilasters capped by a heavy frieze and pediment. The entablature between the molding and crown of the pilasters is three part. The columns are fluted. The projecting bay of the central part of the North facade makes a strong vertical statement in contrast to the horizontal statement created by the five part plan.

The two gabled dormers reflect classical features as they contain Roman Doric columns with three part entablatures and a broken pediment.

The portico is bold and contributes to the dramatic three dimensional appearance of the main Facade. The outermost columns are double square supports and the innermost, also double, are more

decorative Roman Doric. They establish an idiom of columns found throughout both the exterior and the interior of the Gordon Building. The portico entablature is three-part. The balustrade on the portico consists of bold and elaborately turned balusters.

The wings are gable front with returns. The porches have simpler Roman Doric columns. This is fitting to the smaller scale and lesser significance of the wings and porches. The small half circular windows in the wing gables are similar to that found in the central pediment. The balustrades on the porches reflect the difference in importance between the portico porch and the wing porches; the former being more massive.

The windows are 6/6 sash with louvered shutters. With the exception of the window over the portico porch, the architrave is flat. The portico porch has a more significant cornice appropriate to its prominent placement in the center of the facade.

The main entry is recessed - a plain opening without fan or lights. The doorway entry has a wide architrave and is paneled in a two tiered manner.

The entire building sits on a stone foundation of local field stone. There is a water table effect created by the bottom weatherboard. The weatherboards are beaded and the siding and trim, except for the shutters, are painted white. These features, all integral to the surface of the facade are Colonial in style.

#### West Facade

The West facade is a three bay with a porch. Five steps lead to the porch floor. There are four columns supporting the porch roof similar in style to the inner columns on the main facade. The porch balustrade has been discussed. Windows are 6/6 sash and the doorway has six panes with two square lights above. Door and window architrave is flat. A chimney is situated just slightly to the north of the center. The gable end features a Palladian window with two side lights. The architrave is bold over the lights and flat over the curved top of the window. There is small porch in front of the Palladian window which integrates with one of the fire escapes.

#### The South Facade

The South facade is five part and reflects many of the same features as the North Facade. There is a significant porch across the central part with stone steps leading up to it. Columns and balusters along the porch are similar to those in the North portico. The roof on the central section is pierced by three dormers with shape and architrave similar to those on the North facade. Two chimneys are visible, one between West and middle

dormer and the other to the East of the East dormer. The central bay is a door with twelve panes in the top half and four panels in the bottom, side lights and fan. The architrave is bold. Flanking the door are French windows - two on either side. There are two square lights in the window transoms. The second story is a five bay opening. The center bay is three part, consisting of a door with 12 panes and side lights of eight panes each. The architrave is flat. This door originally led to a sleeping porch which has been removed. (date unknown)

#### The East Facade

This facade is similar to the West Facade with the exception of porch balustrades and gable openings. Each of these elements are less fancy than those on the West facade. The gable openings consists of one 6/6 sash window and a door leading to a fire escape. The porch balusters are plain rather than turned.

The overall symmetry of the house, including the balanced use of ornamentation and trim suggests a basic Georgian style. The 5 bay, 2 stories, center passage, double parlor plan defines its Georgian style. Symmetry is reflected both inside and outside this building. This Colonial Revival house was an adaptation of Georgian style.

#### Interior - First Floor

The interior consists of a center hall with stairwell plan with four rooms surrounding it. There is one room in the West hyphen and two rooms in the West wing. The East hyphen has a passage leading to the East wing. There are two rooms in both the East hyphen and East wing. Also in the East hyphen is a half bath and a small kitchen. Immediately inside the entrance is a small vestibule. Two steps lead up to the floor level. Partition columns define the stair hall from the large center passage.

The stairway begins on the East side of the vestibule and rises to the attic. The risers are open string. The square balusters continue to be the same throughout. The newel post is rounded and fluted like the great exterior columns. The remaining posts at the landings are square with some raised trim. The newel caps are square throughout. The newels and molded handrails are mahogany throughout. There is simple, graceful applied ornamentation on the stair riser ends. A dropped bead, ornamental pendant, at the top of each flight is repeated throughout.

The doors leading from the center hall to the side parlors are paneled pocket doors. Single doors flank the fireplace on the West wall of the center hall and a double door is located on the East

wall. Single doorway openings create access to a small room to the West of the center hall and to a passageway on the East of the Hall. The door trim is wide and flat. Ceiling molding is narrow and flat. There are no windows in the Hall.

A rectangular brick fireplace is located on the West side of the Center Hall. The surround is three part and bold. A bead trim runs across it. The mantel is deep, bold and has egg and dart trim across the face. There are fluted elegant columns reminiscent of the two story pilasters on the front exterior flanking the fireplace as part of the surround. The mantel, shelf, frieze and end blocks are raised and bold.

Directly to the West of the Hall is a formal parlor and a small room. Both rooms have had fireplaces and may have functioned as double parlors. Entry from the small room to the larger formal parlor is through a single pocket door. This door is on the East side of the fireplace in the small room. A single hinged door consisting of glass panes located on the West side of the fireplace in the small room also provides access into the formal parlor. The fireplace in the small room has been covered over.

The large formal parlor has two French doors opening onto the South porch; a French door opening onto the Western extension of the porch and a French door opening into a room located in the West hyphen. The door trim is similar to that found in the Center Hall - wide and relatively flat. The fireplace in the formal parlor is brick with an arched opening. The surround is faced with elegant rounded columns reminiscent of those found in the portico. The mantel has Adamesque trim consisting of an oval and garlands. The mantel shelf, frieze and panelled end blocks are less bold than that found on the Center Hall fireplace.

The West hyphen room (library) has a large hinged door with side lights and square lights in the transom. This door opens onto the Western extension of the porch. There is a French door in the North facade. In the West hyphen room the wall are part panelled and part plastered. Panelling is mahogany and is the extensive molding. There are pilasters with elaborately carved cornices in corners and spaced on the walls. The ceiling is slightly vaulted. The fireplace in the library is brick rectangular with a mahogany architrave surround, mantel, frieze and end blocks. A panelled overmantel holds a mirror. This is a dark, heavy feature which matches the panelled wainscot and fluted pilasters found on the library walls.

The remaining rooms in the West wing are plain and unremarkable with the exception of a fireplace found in the West wing's South room, a children's playroom. The fireplace has been filled in but the surround, frieze and mantel have been preserved. They are flat and plain compared to others found on the first floor. The surround has a Greek key trim, the frieze has a half rosette on each end and the mantel has dentils along the underside.

To the East of the Center Hall is a very formal room (Dining Room) with access to the South porch through a pair of French doors. This room has paneled lower walls and plastered upper walls. There is a 6/6 sash window in the south East corner of this room. The fireplace in the room is the most elaborate in the building. The opening is painted brick. The surround contains elaborate moldings. The mantel is supported by carved consoles. The frieze has dentils beneath the mantel shelf and a rectangular block in the center. The surround and frieze accommodate a continuous egg and dart trim. The mantelshelf has a deep cornice. The chimney breast has panels with molded trim.

There is a small room to the East of the stairway with two 6/6 windows. The doorway and interior partition have been altered. This room may have been a small sitting room.

The hyphen rooms on the East side as well as the wing rooms are unremarkable and most likely provided kitchen, food preparation, and pantry space. A half bath has been added to this space. There is a service stairway to the second and third floor in the middle of this area.

Throughout the first floor, with the exception of the "library" the ceiling trim is narrow and flat, slightly more prominent in the Center Hall, West hyphen and Wing than in the East end.

## Second Floor

The second floor repeats the first floor plan of Center Hall with stair well and four chambers surrounding. The second floor has experienced several changes in interior partitions as the building changed in function from that of a dwelling to an academic administration building. The wall, door and window trim is modest compared to the first floor. Only the stairwell retains a high degree of elegance. There is an opening to the roof of the South porch. It is conjectured that a sleeping porch may have been on top of the sitting porch. There is a partial railing along the porch roof.

The North chamber directly to the West of the Stair Hall may have been a gentleman's dressing room. It has a fireplace that has been filled in with brick. The surround consists of fluted pilasters with modest capitals, again reminiscent of the exterior pilasters. The frieze is plain with the exception of a delicate center molding. The mantel shelf is graceful, plain and narrow. This chamber faces the front and reflects greater importance than the one directly to the South which has no ornamentation and no fireplace.

The chambers to the East of the Center Hall are the reverse of those on the West side. The North room is plain, without

ornamentation and has no fireplace. The South room contains a fireplace that has been filled in but the surround and mantel have been retained. The surround contains tapered rounded columns with capitals and entablatures. There is a beaded trim across the bottom of the frieze. Beaded ovals and garlands adorn the frieze and end blocks. The mantel shelf is bold and deep. The high degree of ornamentation on this fireplace suggests it was a significant second floor room, perhaps a lady's sitting or dressing room.

The second floor of the East hyphen and wing is used for storage and is unrefined.

Attic

The third floor attic contains an apartment and is located over the Central section of the building. (The hyphens and wings are one story.) Nothing remarkable remains on this floor except for the continuation of the elegant stair well. There is a Palladian window with small balcony on the West end, already referenced.

Section 8

The Gordon Building is significant for two reasons. First as an example of Colonial Revival architecture in form and decorative details. Second as an example of early twentieth century life style typical of affluent Baltimore City families during that time.

The Gordon Building is sited on a slight rise overlooking a wide grassy area which slopes steeply to Melrose Avenue in the Northern section of Baltimore City. The neighborhood is "The Orchards". Urban development surrounds this 26 acre property, a portion of a 120 acre tract of land previously owned by Douglas H. Gordon. The Gordon family originally used the property as a summer retreat which provided a respite from their winter town home at 1009 North Charles Street, Baltimore, City. In 1927, the 26 acres along with the Gordon Building, and various other structures, was purchased by the Bryn Mawr School for Girls of Baltimore City. The School was situated at Cathedral and Read Streets and wished to relocate to "the country" seeking somewhat the same relief from urban environments as had the Gordon family.

A survey of this building reveals many examples of Colonial Revival style in good condition. In addition to a well preserved and virtually unaltered exterior, the interior offers a fine example of a two story stair hall and a group of fireplaces and mantels which display a hierarchy of style and ornamentation consistent with the importance of the rooms in which they are located. The opportunity to deduce room importance and use from the fireplaces aides in understanding the life style of one affluent family in the early 1900's.

The Gordon Building is used today as an administration building by the Bryn Mawr School. This gracious and beautiful Colonial Revival residence was built in 1910 by Douglas H. Gordon for a summer residence. There are 26 acres consisting of woods, streams, fields and numerous structures surrounding the building. Since purchasing 26 acres of the Gordon Estate in 1927, several academic buildings have been added by the School. Other historic buildings on the property consist of a spring house, a gate house, a stable and a barn. Each has been converted to academic use and reflects considerable altering of interior and exterior features.

The 26 acre property is bounded by Melrose Avenue on the North, Box Hill Lane and Kemper Square on the East and South, Northern Parkway on the South, the Alderman Property and the remains of part of the MA and PA Railway on the West. This segment is a small part of the original tract called Morgan's Delight patented in 1694.

Douglas H. Gordon, Jr., son of the previous owner and builder of the Gordon Building, recalls in 1979 that "At the time of the original grant of the property in the Seventeenth Century, it was known as Morgan's Delight. In the Eighteenth Century it was called Gaston Farm. In the nineteenth Century it had the very Victorian name of Springvale, and in the Twentieth Century the part that

belonged to my father was called the Orchards. (1) The Gordon family's summer house was purchased along with 26 acres by the Bryn Mawr School in 1927. At that time the principle structure was renamed the Gordon Building.

In a second article published in the "Sun Magazine", Gordon recalls The Orchards as an "Earthly Paradise". Consisting of 120 acres during this era, the orchards was a rural property, isolated from urban living, which supported gardening and farming activities. References are made to cows being "pastured on the eastern end of the property, and a fine stand of alfalfa ... on the northern part of the present Kenmore Road. The big field facing Lake Avenue was rotated one year in corn, one in wheat and one year lying fallow" (2)

Gardening activities are substantiated by the following references. "Near the house were three flower gardens; a formal garden directly to the south, a rose garden leading to the grape vines adjoining the vegetable garden which was surrounded on two of its three other sides by beds of flowers. (3)

Earlier, Gordon commented on the isolation of the Orchards in comments made in the April, 1938 issue of Gardens, Houses and People.

"A few years ago (the Orchards) was as isolated from Baltimore as a Harford County farm would be today. ... To get to Baltimore, it was necessary to walk to Roland Avenue, wait for Lakeside Trolley, then transfer at Roland Park - or else drive to town in a carriage, a matter of approximately 1 hour. ... The screen of poplar trees now on the Bryn Mawr School property closed them in on the south and east while north of the school "the Woods", as the site of the old Wilson house was known, equally protected them from any possible intrusion. ... Almost only signs of the outside world came when the postman arrived in his horse and buggy and the Westminster Chimes in the Church of the Redeemer and Gilman School bell." (4)

In The Messenger, June, 1977 "The Orchards - Past and Present" is introduced as follows: "This is a story of arrowheads and clipper ships, of carriages and dreams"... "Situated in the Ninth District of Baltimore in 1877, the area and those surrounding it are described in the City Atlas of that year as possessing a surface 'rolling and beautifully diversified, the soil fertile and well cultivated. Most of the land is owned by the wealthy merchants of Baltimore City and there is probably no district in America that has so many beautiful country places'." (5)

References to arrowheads are detailed in The Messenger article "...many of these and other Indian artifacts such as tomahawks and pottery were unearthed during the grading of the Bryn Mawr athletic fields in 1929. ... Besides the presence of Indians so obviously

proved, the fact that the eastern war path crossed Bellona avenue on its way down the coast would indicate that the area was a welcome resting place for weary Indian travellers." (6)

References to clipper ships and carriages relate to Mr. Wilson's ownership of the acreage during the last quarter of the Nineteenth Century. "Mr. Wilson who owned a fleet of clipper ships was extremely interested in horticulture, bringing back numerous specimens from abroad which he planted about the property. . . . As to the apple and cherry trees which gave the area its name, the Rogers family, previous owners before Mr. Wilson, planted the original orchard and Wilson added greatly to it. While his house was of wood, his barn was stone and now serves as one of the Bryn Mawr buildings known as the Gate House dating from 1800. . . . I am completely captivated by the little house and find myself coming back to it again and again, as though I expect the keeper to come and tell me where to park my carriage!" (7)

In 1900, came George A. Dubreuil - a man with a dream who "envisioned not only a development of gracious homes but a community designed to retain the beauty and grace of its country setting". (8) His venture experienced mortgage foreclosure. Subsequently, Douglas Gordon, Sr. built his home "The Orchards" choosing a perfect rise of ground for the lovely residence. The architects were Ellicott and Emmart.

Active development of the acreage exclusive of the 26 acres associated with the Gordon Building began in 1937 under the management of the Roland Park Company. Advertisements for prospective homeowners present opportunities for building and living in the Orchards - "A Pleasant Place For a Home - Its Old Charm Retained". Primarily, it is due to "Capt" Wilson's love of rare trees and plants, that The Orchards retains so much of its original natural charm. Secondly, it is due to the care taken of the place and its plantings by its later owners - Owen F. Monaghan, Charles Buchanan and the Douglas H. Gordon family - and then to the foresight of the developers, when it was broken up into residential sites. (9)

The Gordon Building is a wonderful example of a Colonial Revival building of grand proportion. The five part plan is bold and dramatic. Photographs from the 1930's indicate that little has been changed in the exterior of the building. We have no reason to believe that anything of significance was changed prior to the 1930's. Therefore the Gordon Building offers a prime example of a grand residence built to augment the life style of a gentleman's family close to the turn of the century. The fact that this building was built as a summer home puts further emphasis upon the grandeur of the structure both in overall design and fine detail. This Colonial Revival structure demonstrates a strong Georgian and Federal influence, and the final decorative and distinguishing features reflect the owners taste and life-style. The grander elements of Classical and Greek fashion and pleasure go hand in

hand with leisure and luxury enjoyed by prominent families in their summer home during the first half of the twentieth century.

The many fireplaces found in the Gordon Building are significant in providing clues to the importance of the rooms in which they are located. An examination of the several fireplaces in the building demonstrates succinctly the hierarchy of style relative to function. Moving from the Center Hall fireplace to the Formal Parlor, Dining Room, and the children's room, then to the two second floor chambers, the diminution in style is dramatic. Particular note needs to be taken of the columns and mantels in each case. Fluted elegant columns, classical swags, egg and dart trim in the Center Hall fireplace reflects classical influence. The rounded, tapered columns with Adamesque trim to the mantel in the Formal Parlor suggests Georgian influence. The Dining Room fireplace is bold and protruding; an unusual classical treatment. Similarly, the two second floor chambers contain fireplaces of differential elegance.

Contrasting the fireplace elements with the lovely simplicity of the stairway with plain tapered balusters, simple graceful brackets and a dropped bead at the second and third level and you assess the interior in much the same way as the exterior. The basic walls, doors, ceilings, floors and stairways establish a moderate level of opulence. It is the elaborate treatments associated with the fireplaces and the mantels which suggest a function of high style entertaining and leisure activities. Clearly the most public rooms in this building were furnished to demonstrate a grandeur of life style and circumstance.

The scope and style of this summer residence along with the factors of rural isolation enhanced by lavish landscape elements such as specimen plantings and a variety of gardens, provides a setting for formal and informal country living and entertaining found in early Twentieth Century Baltimore. It is wonderful to imagine the sounds and sights of summer retreats and house parties held at the Gordon family's impressive residence safely removed from the environs of Baltimore City winter houses. As a lasting example to a life style as well as a dramatic example of Colonial Revival architecture, the Gordon Building is a strong candidate for protection as a property of historical significance.

NOTES:

1. "Sun Magazine", The Sunpapers, March 18, 1979, pp. 40-41.
2. "Sun Magazine", The Sunpapers, October 28, 1979, pp. 33-35.
3. "Sun Magazine", The Sunpapers, October 28, 1979, p. 34.
4. "The Orchards Maintains the Best Traditions of its Past", Gardens, Houses and People, April, 1938, pp. 26-27.

5. "The Orchards - Past and Present", The Messenger, June, 1977, Section 2, p. 1.
6. "The Orchards - Past and Present", The Messenger, June, 1977, Section 2, p. 1 & 4.
7. "The Orchards - Past and Present", The Messenger, June, 1977, Section 2, p. 14.
8. "The Orchards - Past and Present", The Messenger, June, 1977, Section 2, p. 14.
9. "The Orchards - A Pleasant Place For a Home", Gardens, Houses and People, May, 1940.

Section 9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Notes #8

The following sources contributed information:

- Baltimore City Court House - Deed
- Baltimore County Court House - Deed, Wills
- Bryn Mawr School Archives - Historical Documents  
Including Articles, Advertisements, Photos
- Bryn Mawr School Buildings and Grounds Dept. -  
Drawings and Floor Plans, Map-Site Location
- The Orchards Association, Inc. - Articles of  
Incorporation, By-Laws, Covenants, Deed and  
Agreement 10/22/36, Resolutions, Plat of the  
Orchards 10/27/36, Historical Articles.

CHAIN OF TITLE

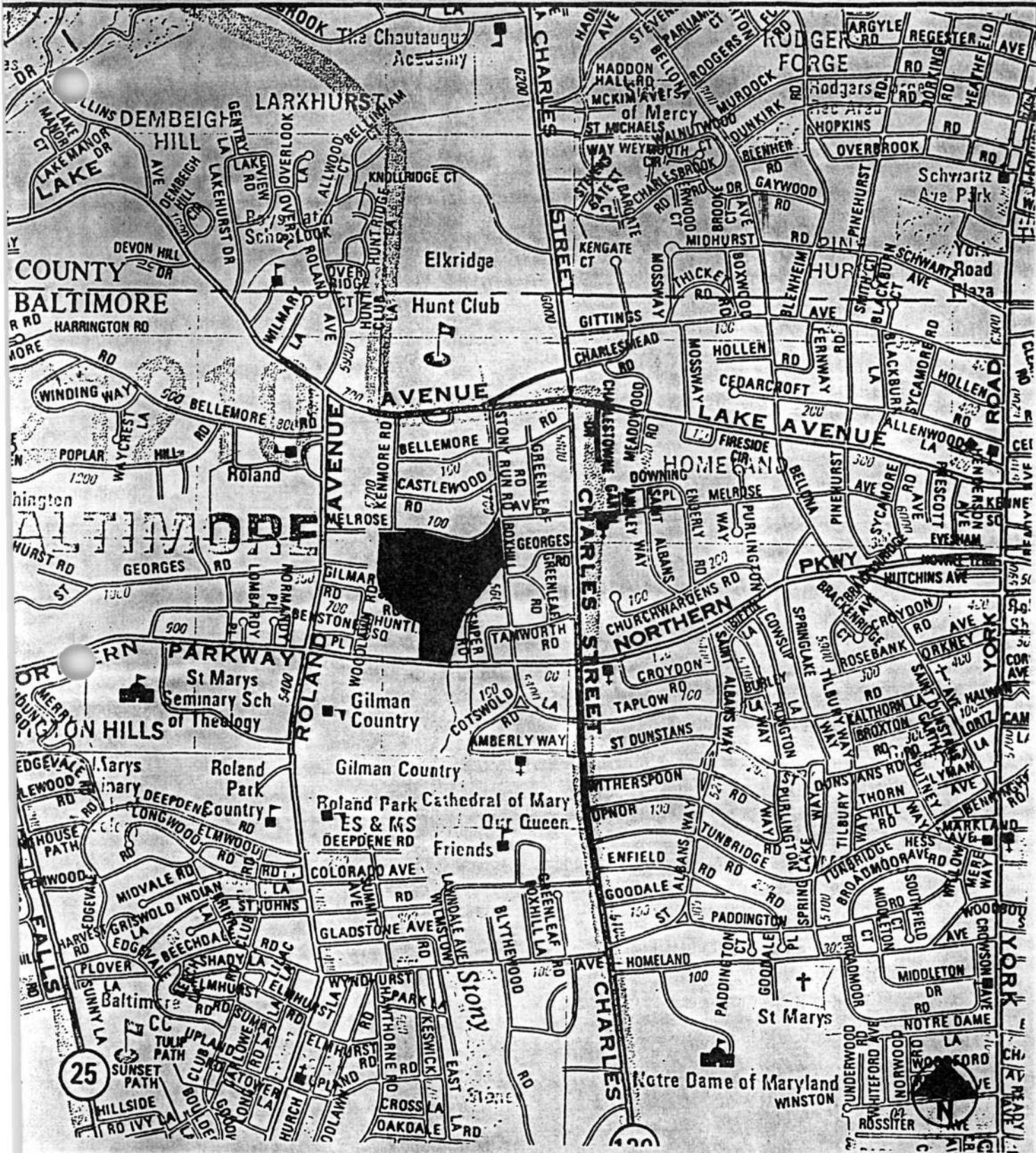
The Gordon Building

109 W. Melrose Ave.  
Baltimore, Md. 21210

- 4899:213 Elizabeth C. Biddle widow (formerly Elizabeth  
6/7/28 Clarke Gordon to Bryn Mawr School for Girls of  
Deed Baltimore City. Grantor conveyed Lot 10 Block 5  
in Baltimore City. Approx. 26 acres according  
to survey by S.J.Martenet and Company 4/14/28.  
Same obtained from Will of Douglas H. Gordon.  
4/15/08, 20:152
  
- 20:152 Will of Douglas H. Gordon 4/15/08. One-third of  
the rest and residue of the testator estate be-  
queathed to his widow Elizabeth Clarke Gordon.  
Remaining two-thirds bequeathed to International  
Trust Company of Maryland. Same as portions  
obtained from the following.
  
- 494:576 Agreement and Deed of Appointment 4/17/18 between  
Elizabeth Clark Gordon and the Baltimore Trust  
Company (Successor to International Trust Company)  
and Safe Deposit Trust Company substitute trustee.
  
- 245:151 William P. Lyons, Assignee to Douglas H. Gordon.  
8/13/1900 Being a portion of the property described  
Deed in a Deed dated 8/13/1900.
  
- 256:239 Eli F. Wilson and wife to Douglas H. Gordon.  
9/13/01 Being a portion of the property described  
Deed in a Deed dated 9/13/01.
  
- 258:283 Owen Monaghan and wife to Douglas H. Gordon.  
2/25/02 Being also the same property described in  
Deed a Deed dated 2/25/02.
  
- 282:368 Owen Monaghan and wife to Douglas H. Gordon.  
12/30/04 Being also the same property described in  
Deed a Deed dated 12/30/04.
  
- 292:533 Douglas H. Gordon to Elizabeth Clarke Gordon  
10/26/05 (now Biddle). Being also the same property  
Deed described in a Deed dated 10/26/05.
  
- 346:488 Douglas H. Gordon to Elizabeth Clarke Gordon  
9/18/09 (now Biddle). Being also the same property  
Deed described in a Deed dated 9/18/09.
  
- 489: 291 Thomas A. Smith and wife to Douglas H. Gordon.  
10/26/17 Being also the same property described in  
Deed a Deed dated 10/26/17.
  
- 489:288 Mary Elizabeth Monaghan (widow) to Douglas H.  
10/26/17 Gordon. Being the same property described in

# LOCATION MAP

B-4602



## BUILDING SUMMARIES

The Contract Documents combine two separate projects: Both are located on the campus of the Bryn Mawr School, 109 West Melrose Avenue, Baltimore Maryland 21210.

### The Howell Building Addition and Renovation

The existing two story concrete frame building will be renovated

SCALE: NONE

# AREA MAP

GOR

LOCATION: GENERAL OVERVIEW

BUILDING CODE

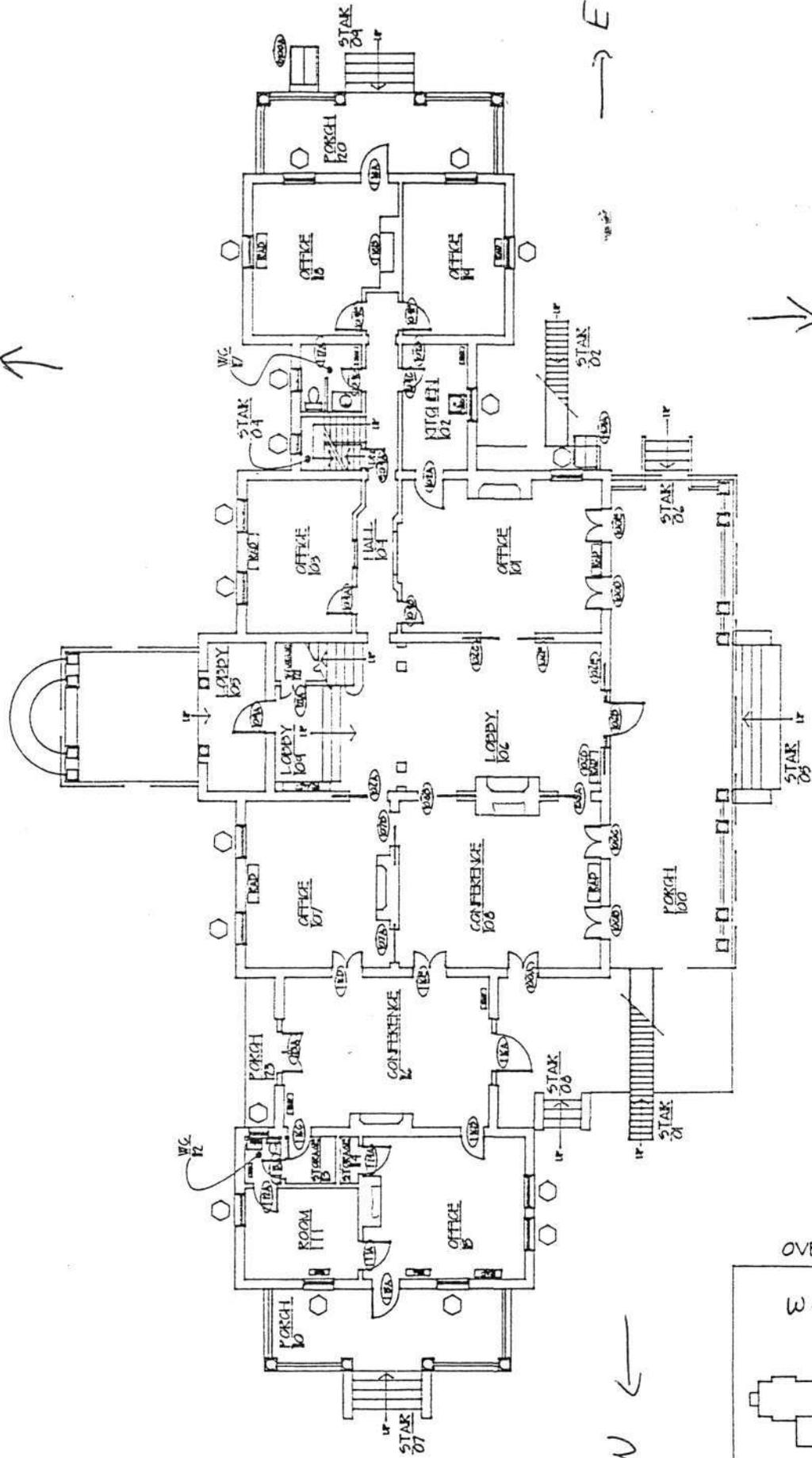
B-4602

N ↑

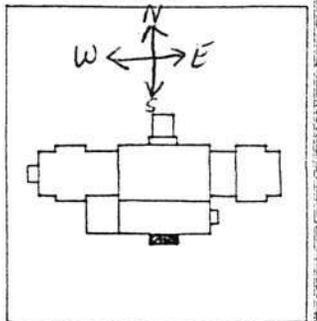
E →

↓ S

← W



OVERVIEW



01.13.95

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

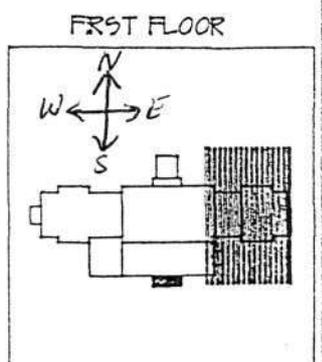
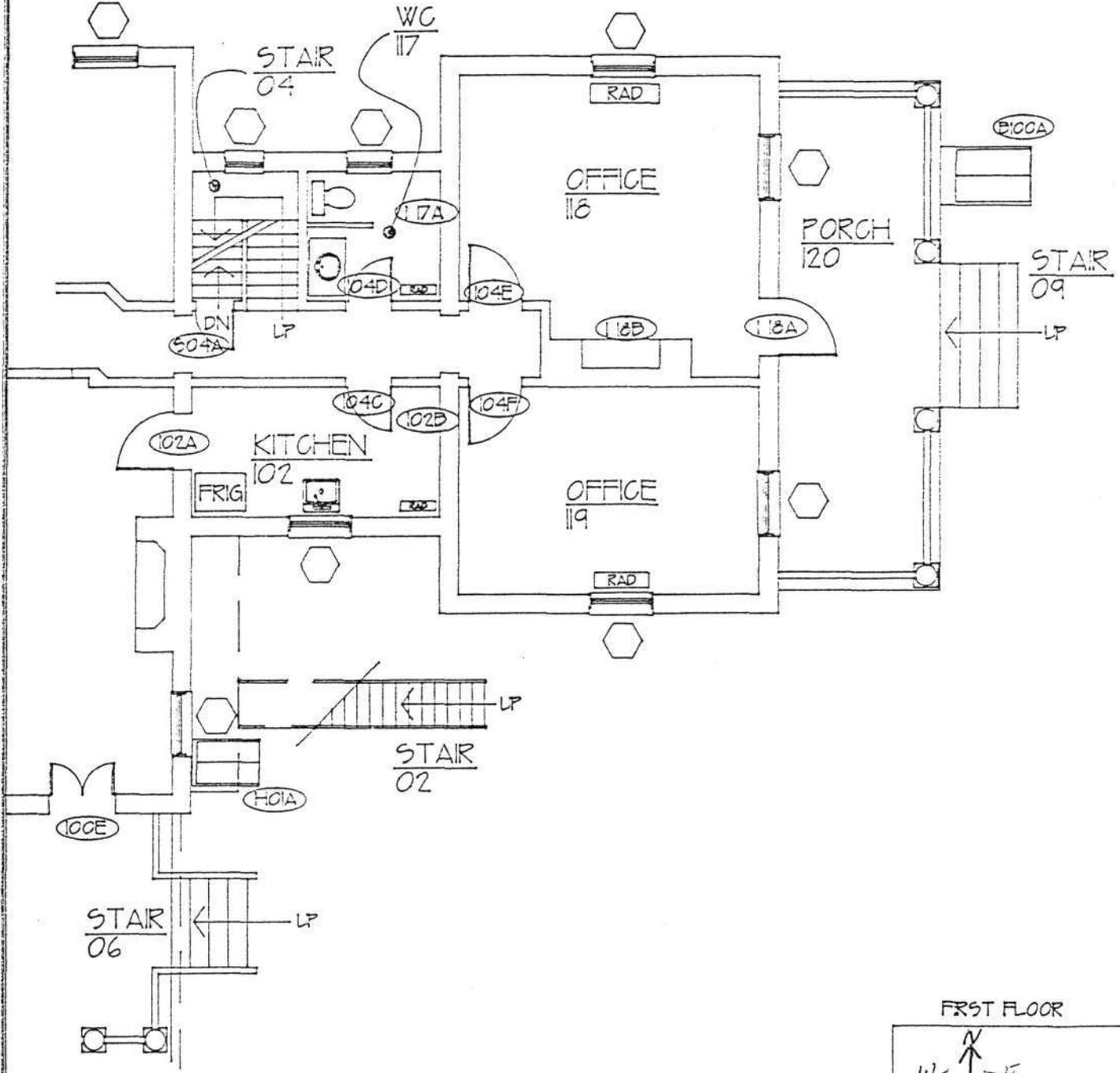
# AREA MAP

GOR

LOCATION: FRST FLOOR - EAST END OFFICES

BUILDING CODE

B-4602



01.13.95

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

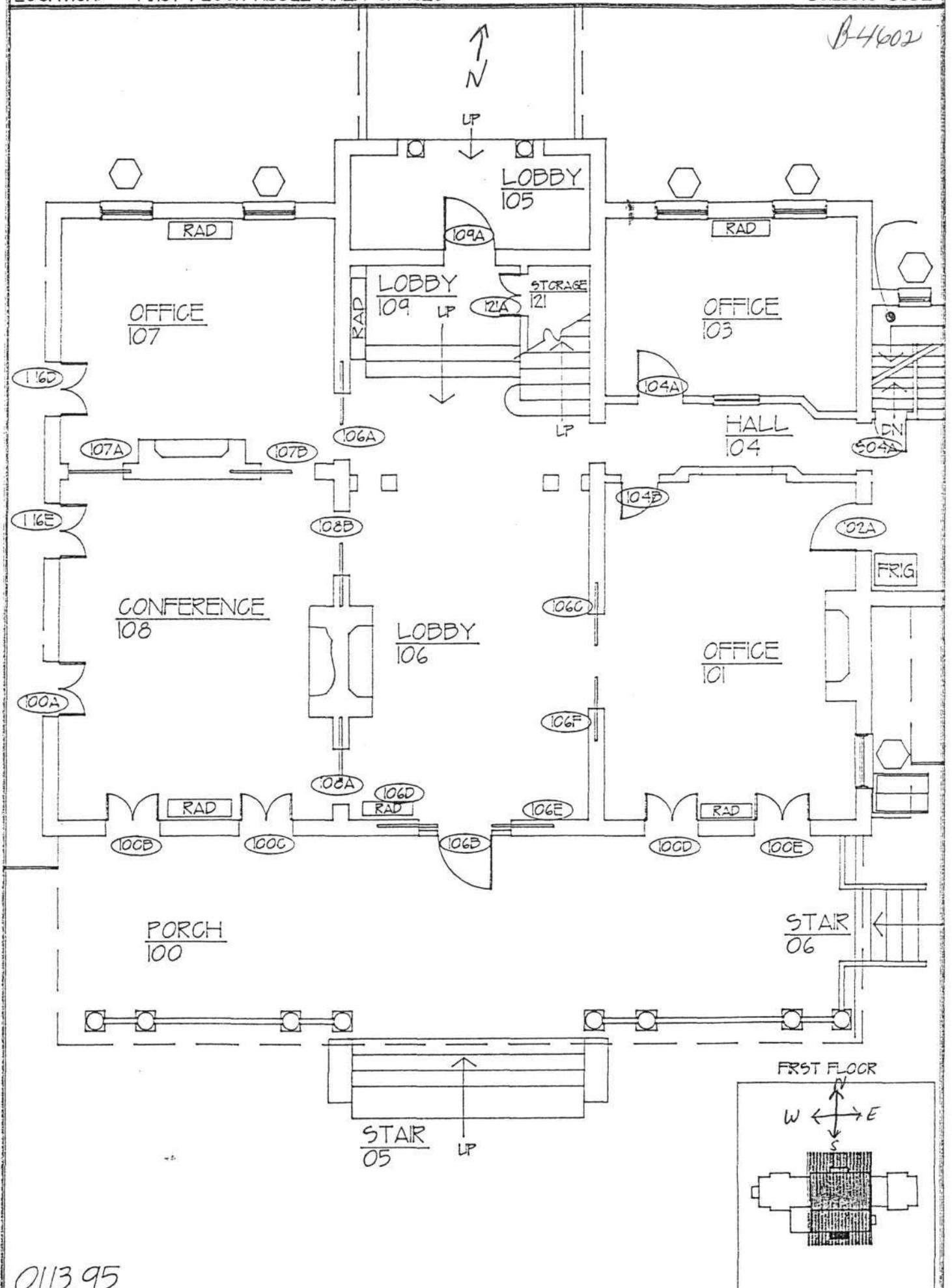
# AREA MAP

GOR

LOCATION: FRST FLOOR MIDDLE AREA OFFICES

BUILDING CODE

B4602



01.13.95

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

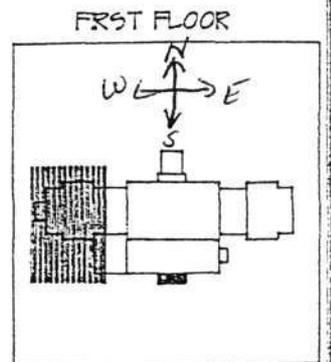
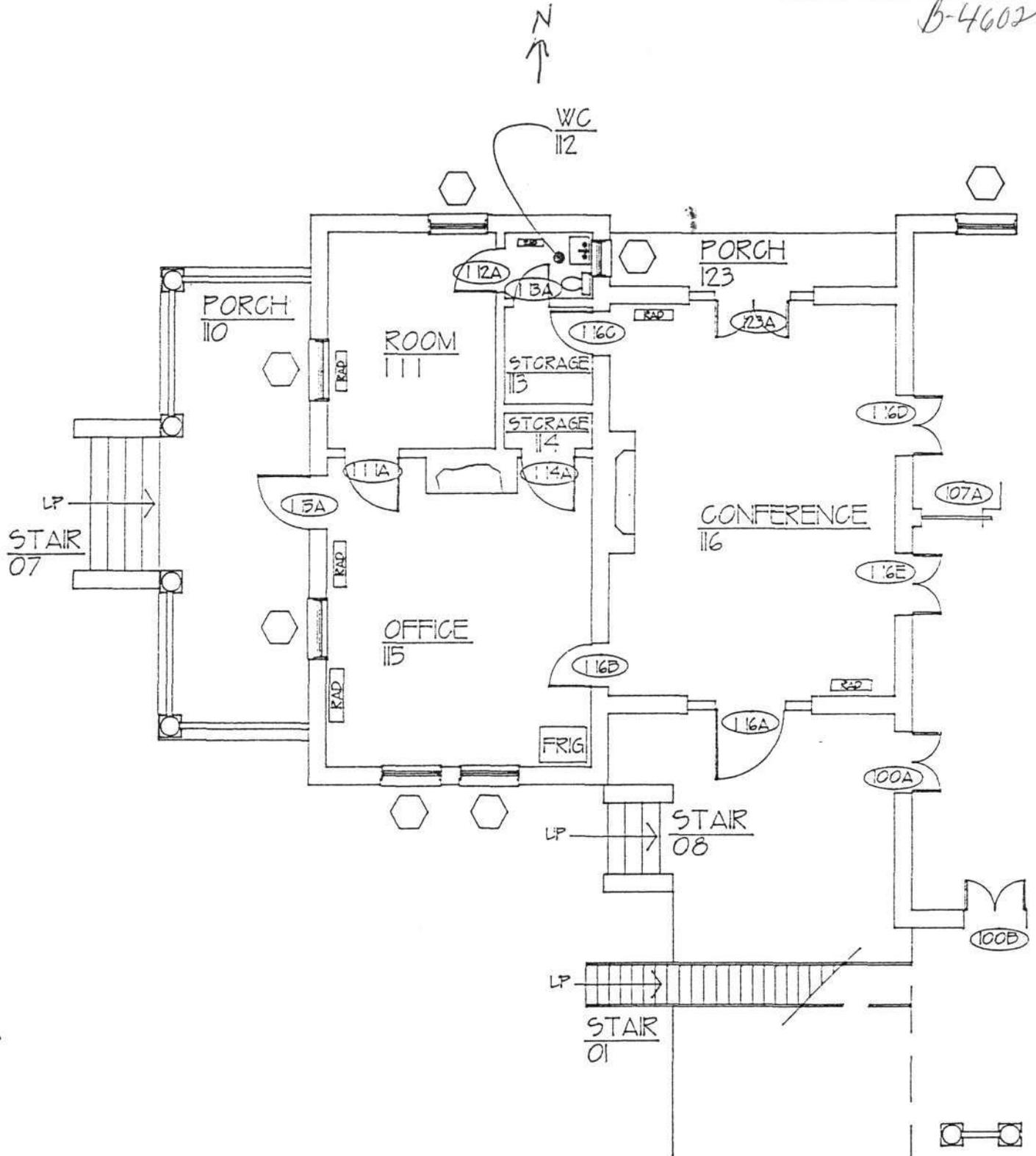
# AREA MAP

# GOR

LOCATION: FRST FLOOR WEST END - HEALTH CENTER. CONFERENCE ROOM

BUILDING CODE

B-4602



01.13.95

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

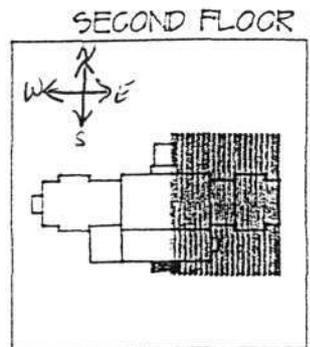
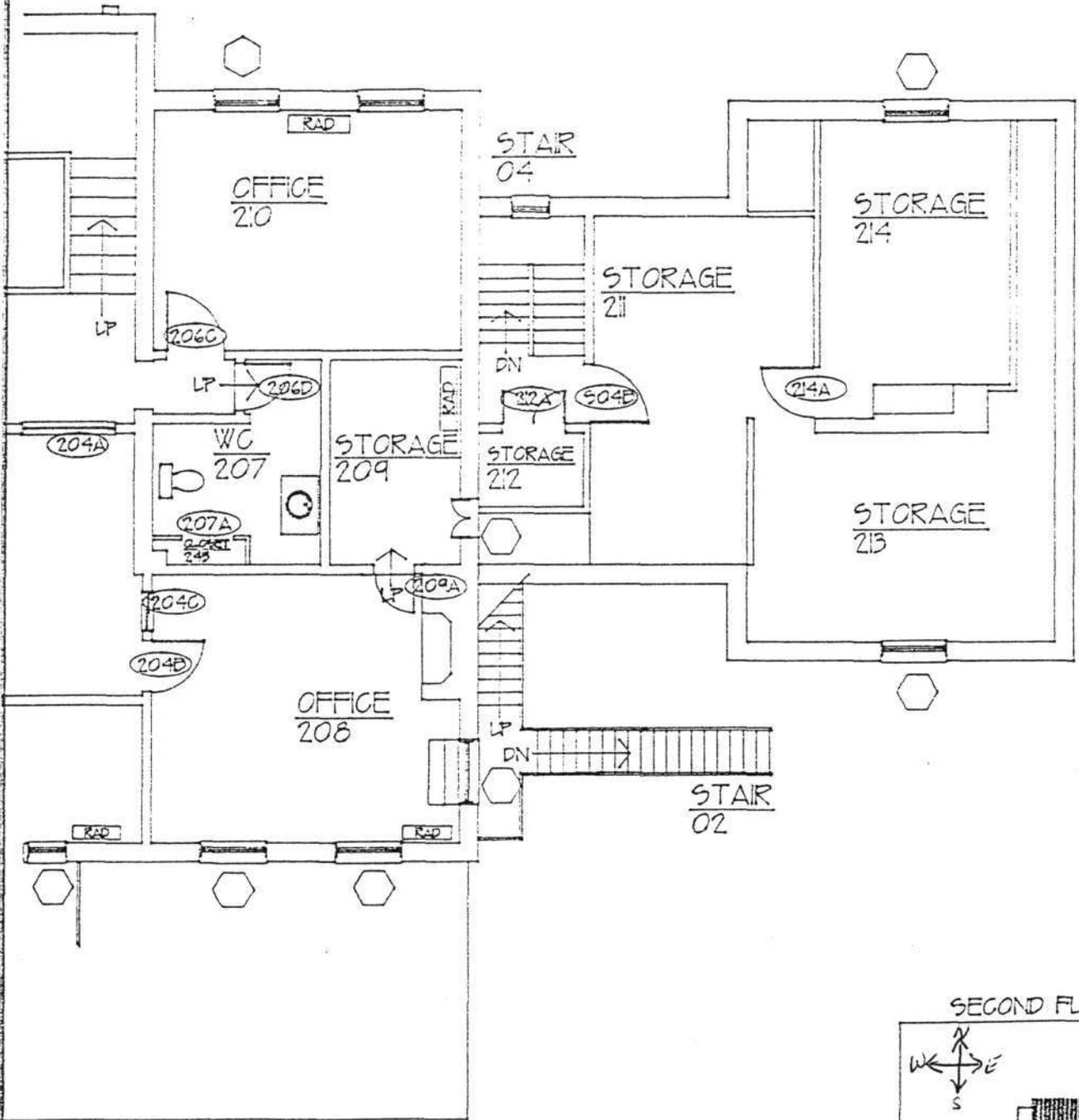
# AREA MAP

GOR

LOCATION: SECOND FLOOR - STORAGE AREA - EAST - OVER 1ST FLOOR KITCHEN

BUILDING CODE

B-4602



03.10.95

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

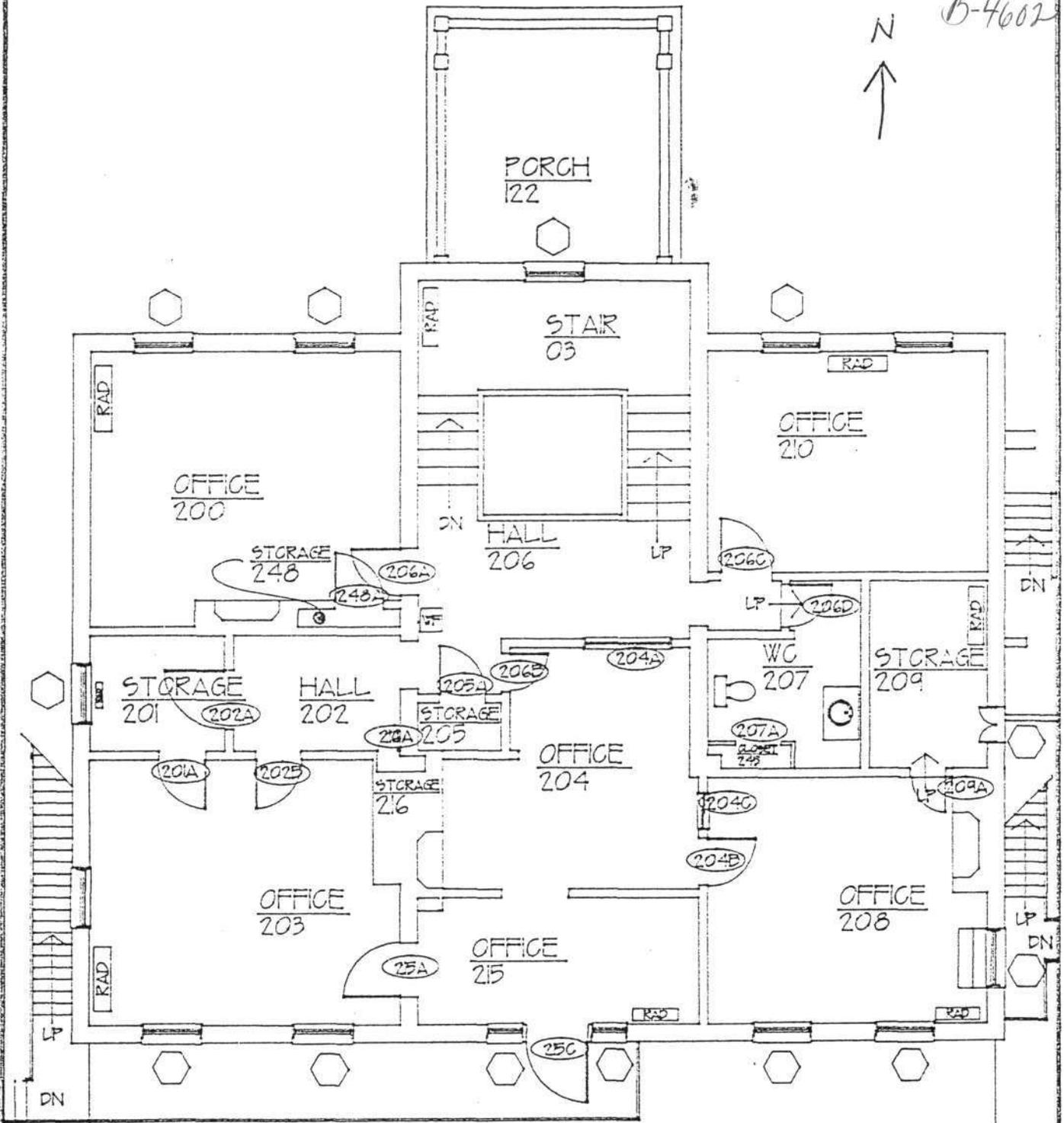
# AREA MAP

# GOR

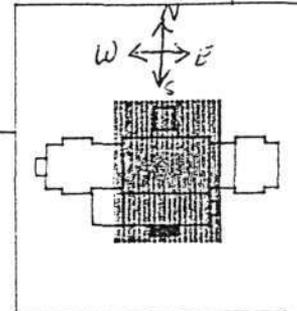
LOCATION: SECOND FLOOR - OFFICES AND STORAGE AREAS

BUILDING CODE

B-4602



SECOND FLOOR



03.10.95

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

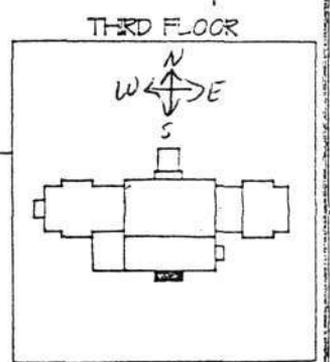
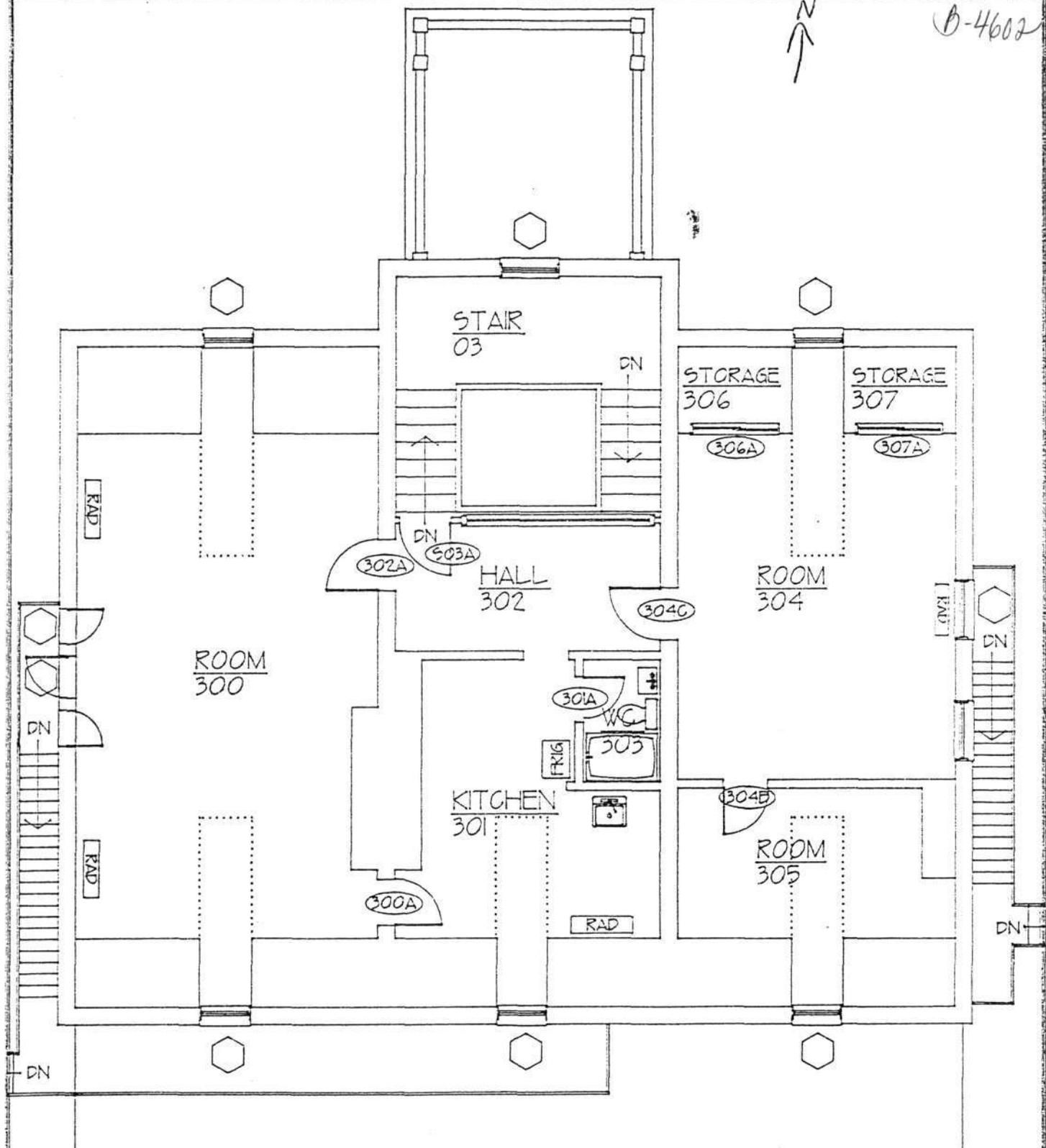
# AREA MAP

GOR

LOCATION: THIRD FLOOR APARTMENT

BUILDING CODE

B-4602



01.13.95

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

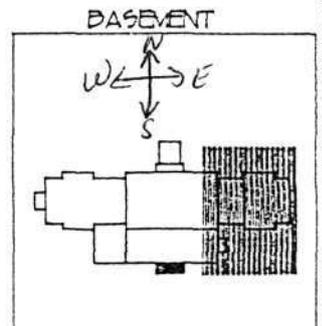
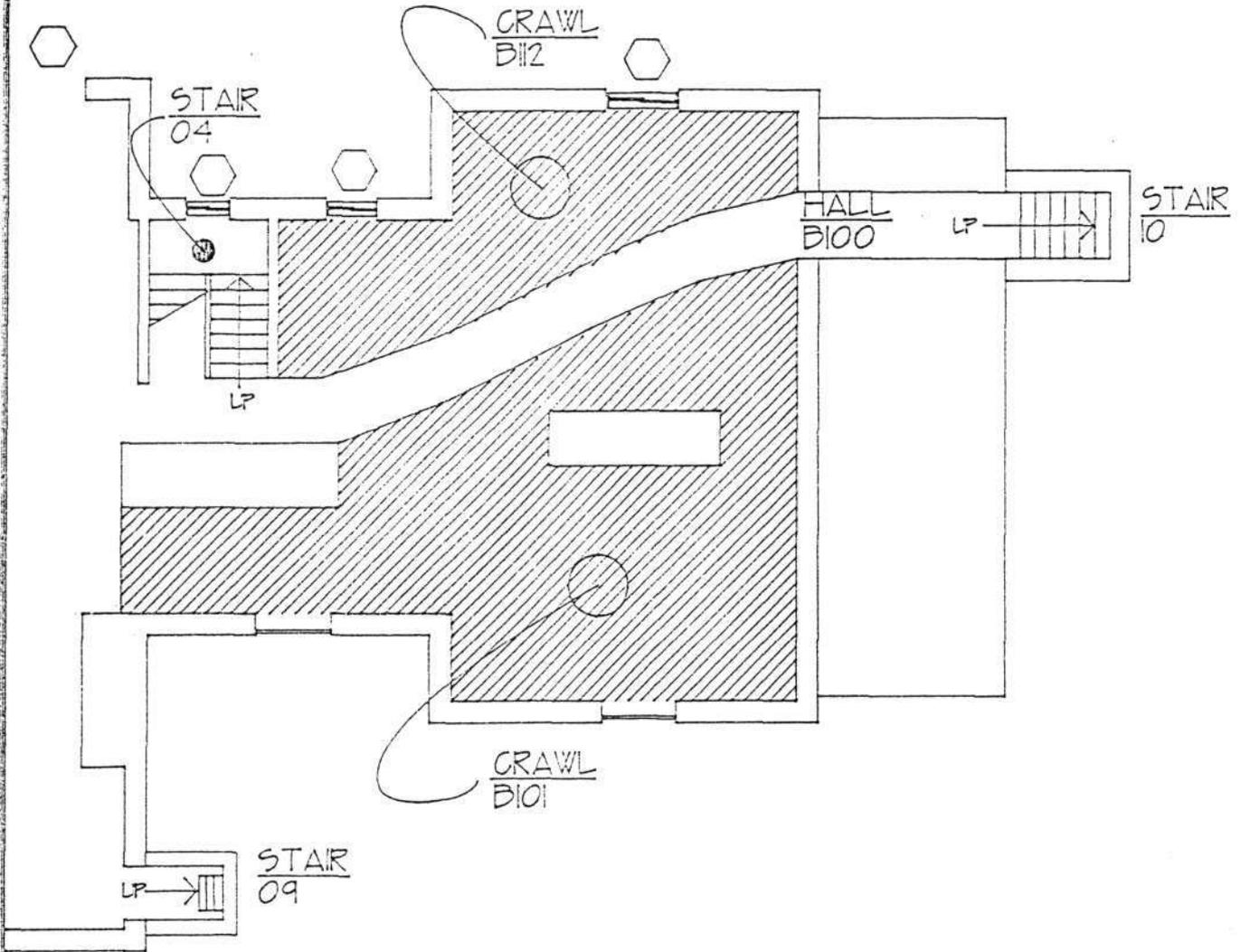
# AREA MAP

GOR

LOCATION: EAST END AREAS OF BASEMENT

BUILDING CODE

B-4602



012 05

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

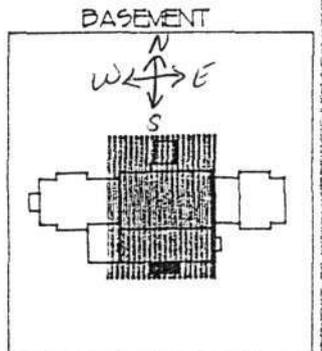
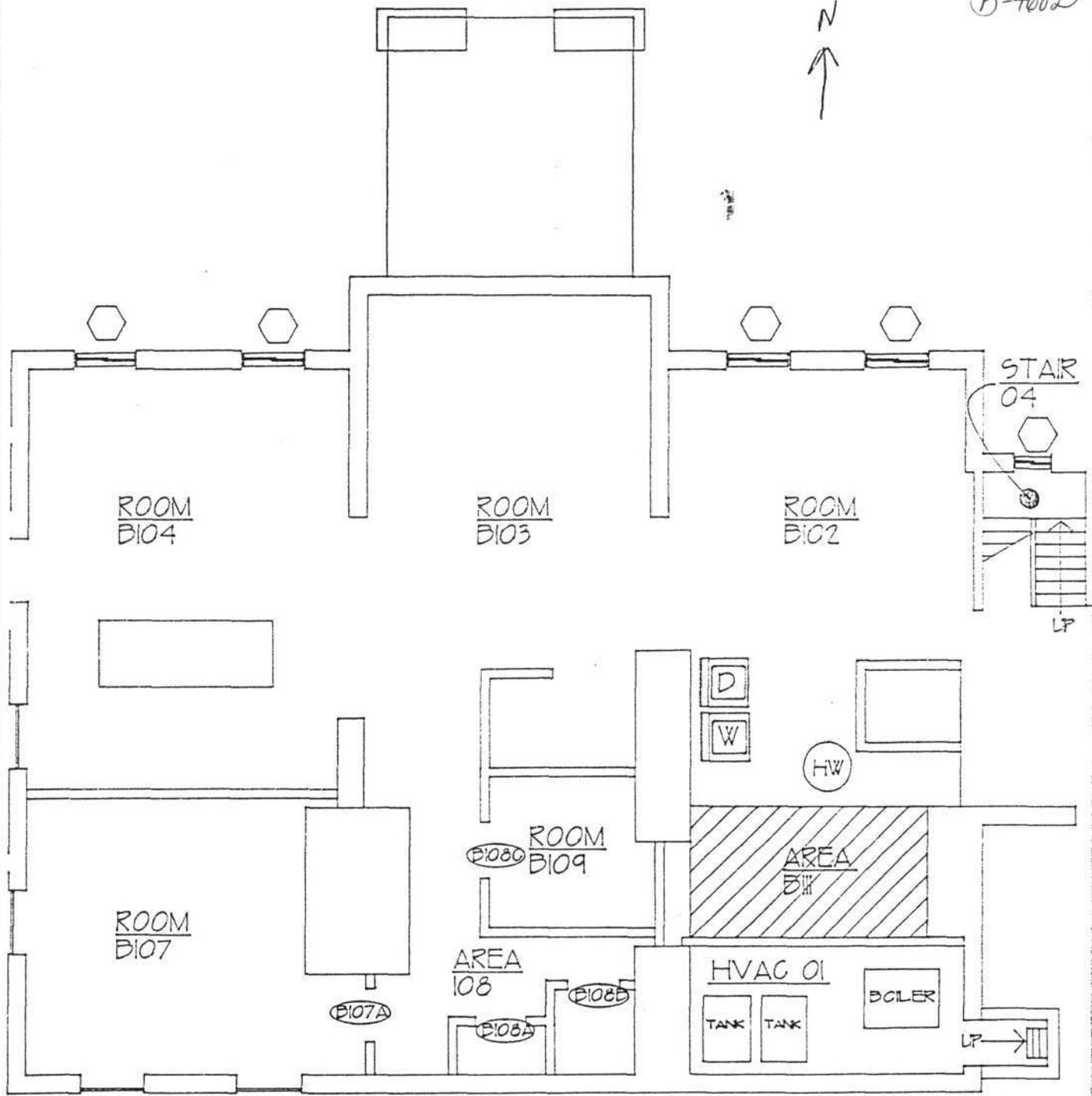
# AREA MAP

GOR

LOCATION: MIDDLE AREAS OF BASEMENT

BUILDING CODE

B-4602



01.13.95

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

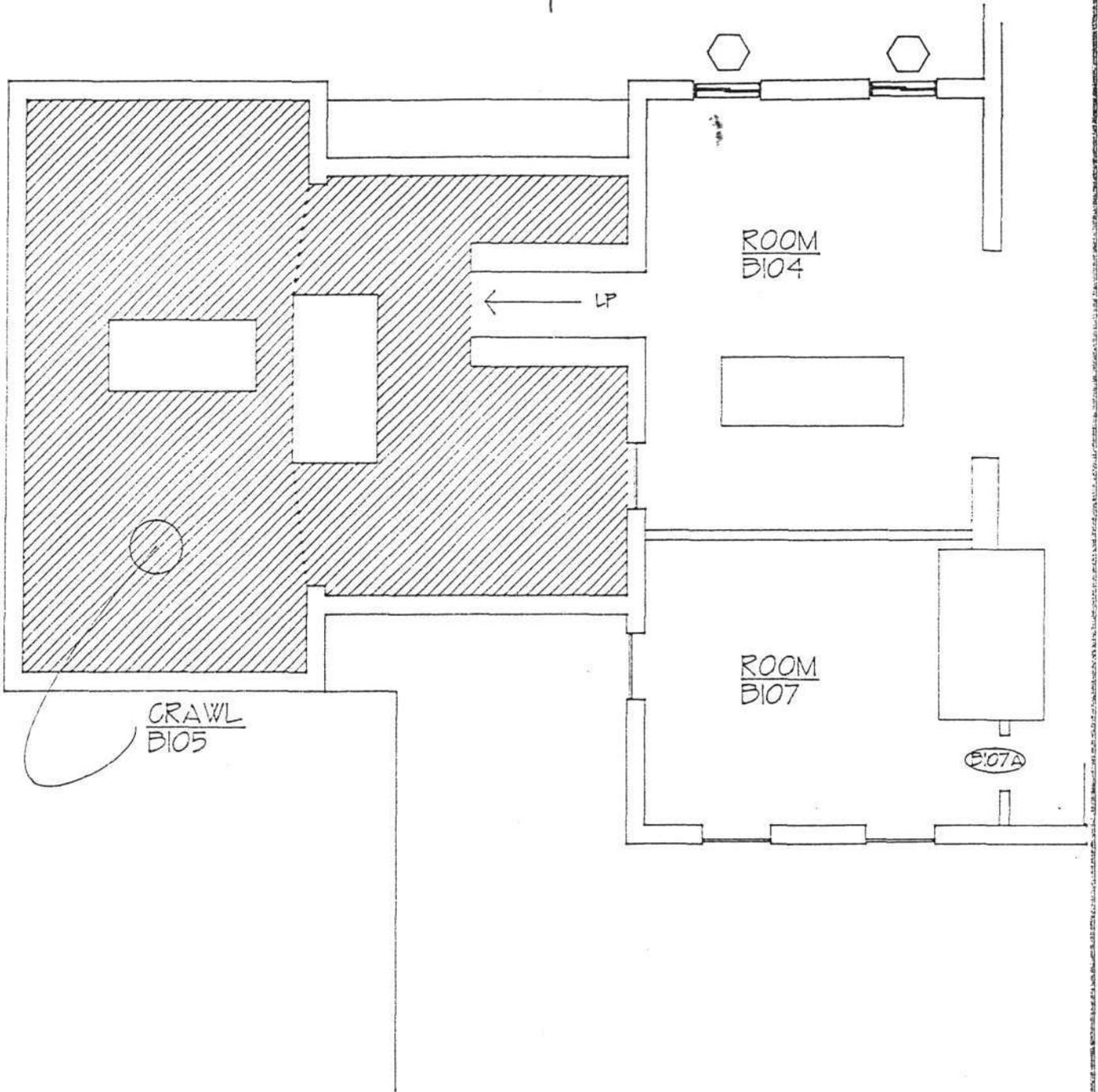
# AREA MAP

GOR

LOCATION: WEST END OF BASEMENT

BUILDING CODE

B-4602



CRAWL  
B105

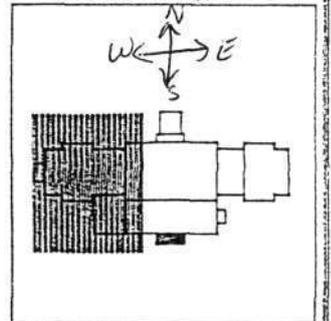
ROOM  
B104

ROOM  
B107

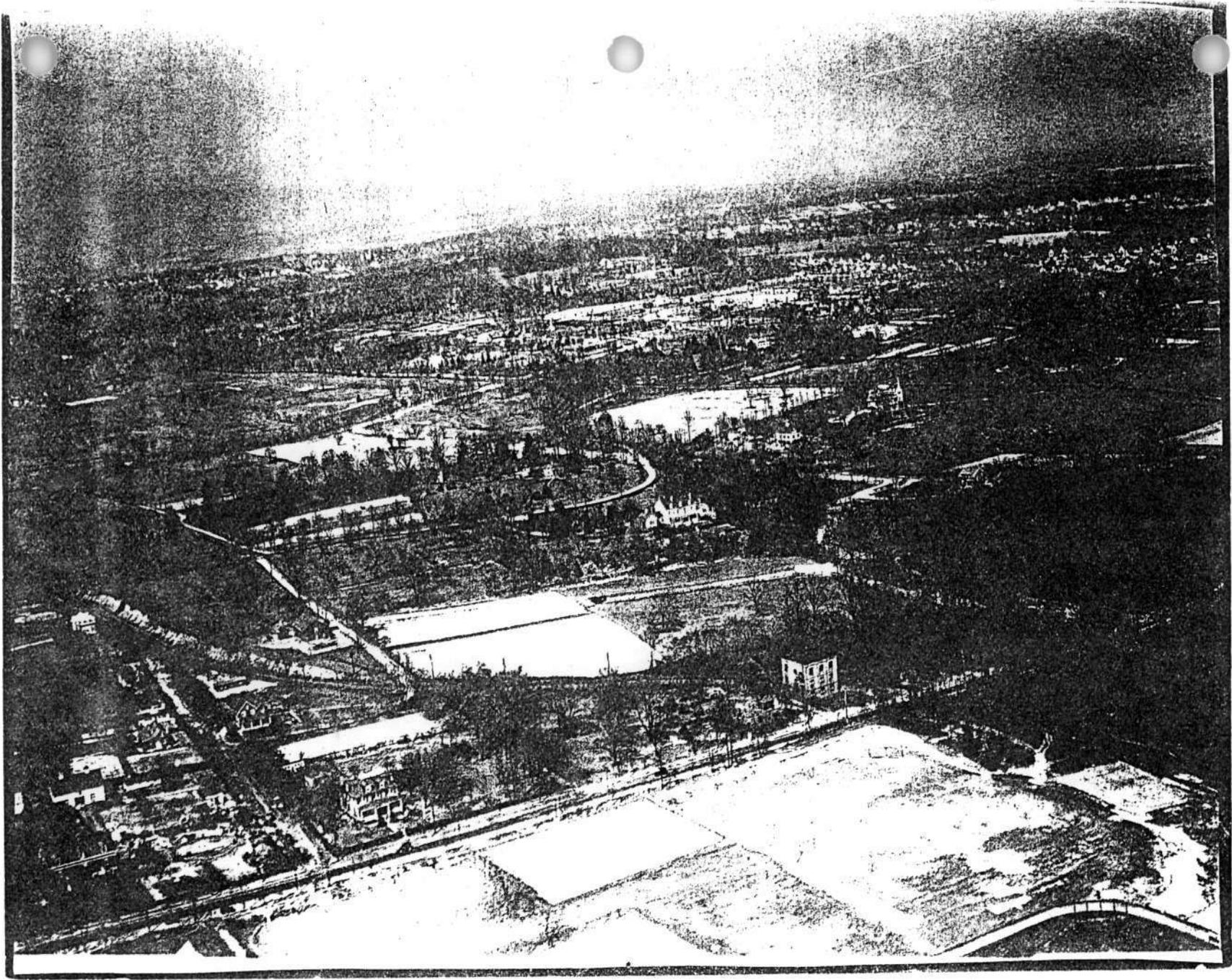
B107A

← LP

BASEMENT

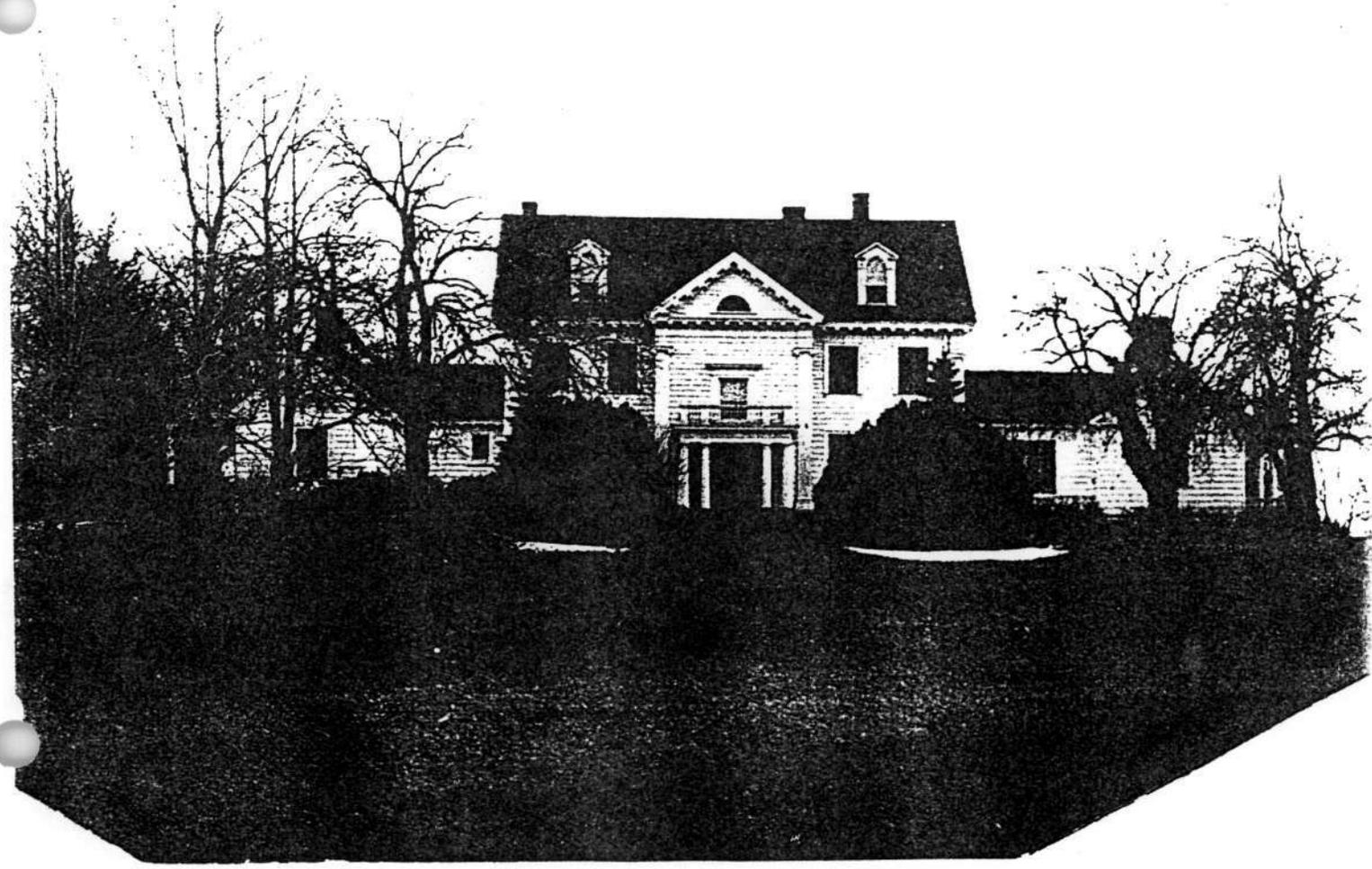
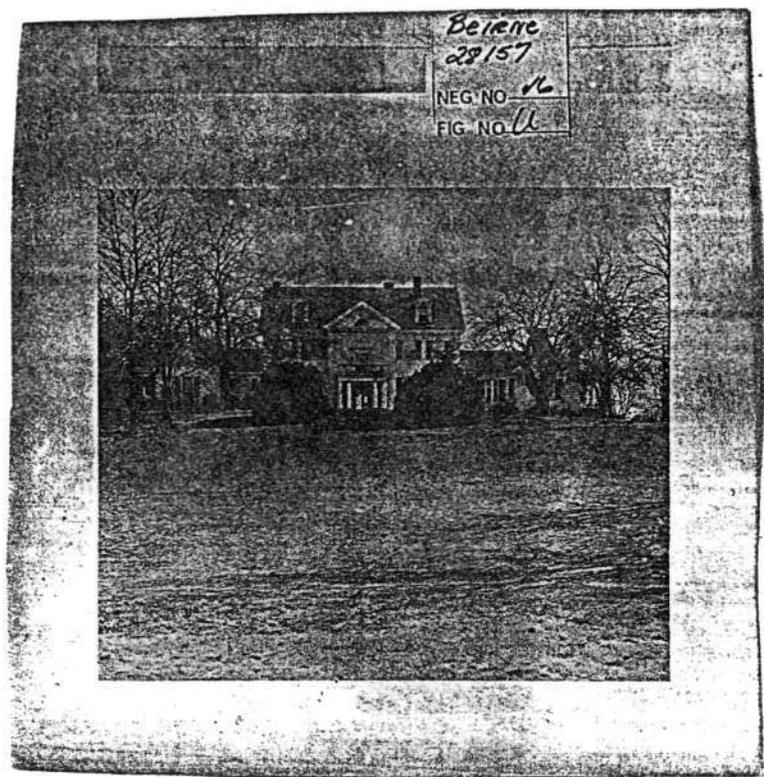


01.13.95



B-4002

b-4602



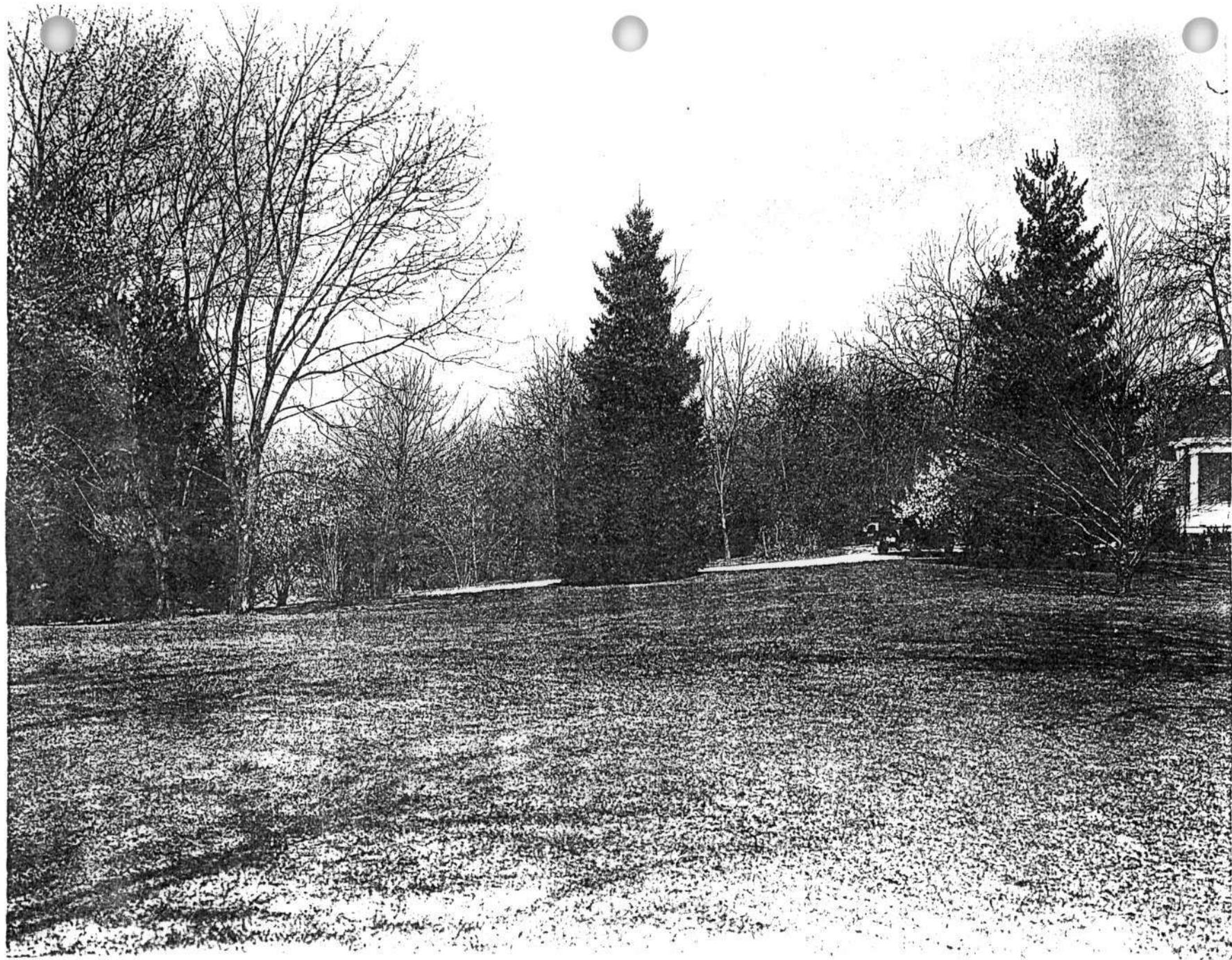
The GORDON Building  
Melrose Avenue



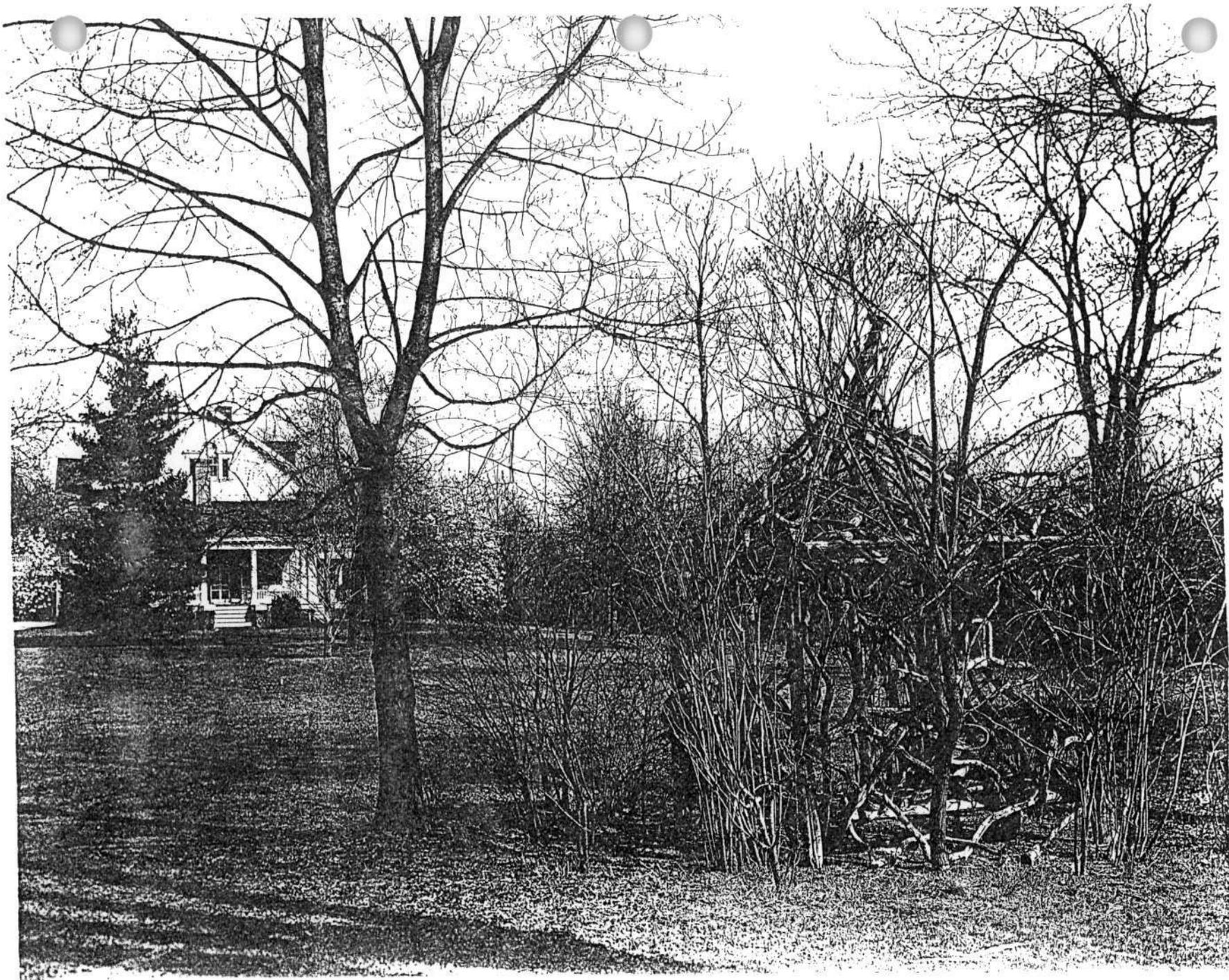
B-4602



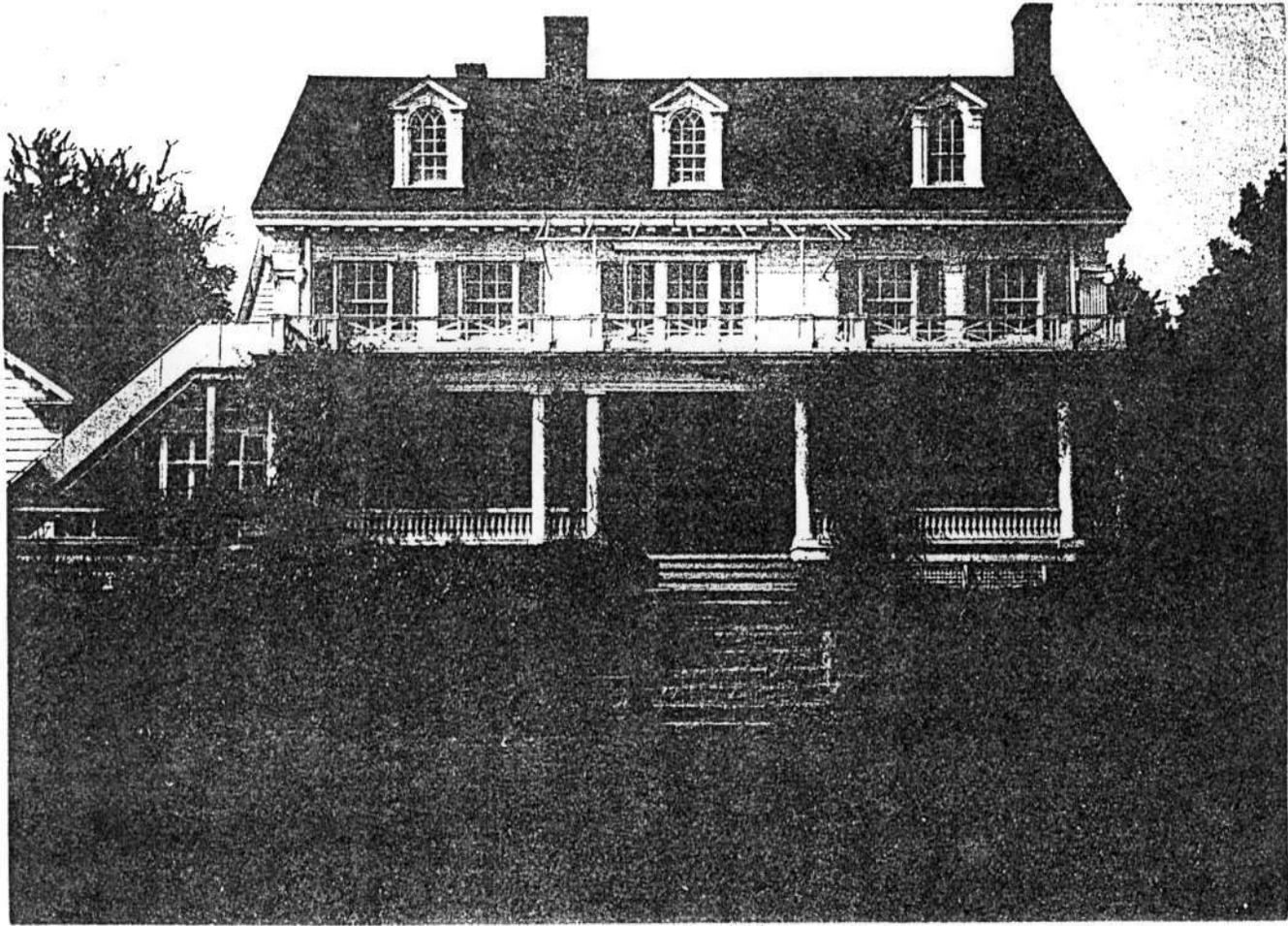
B44002



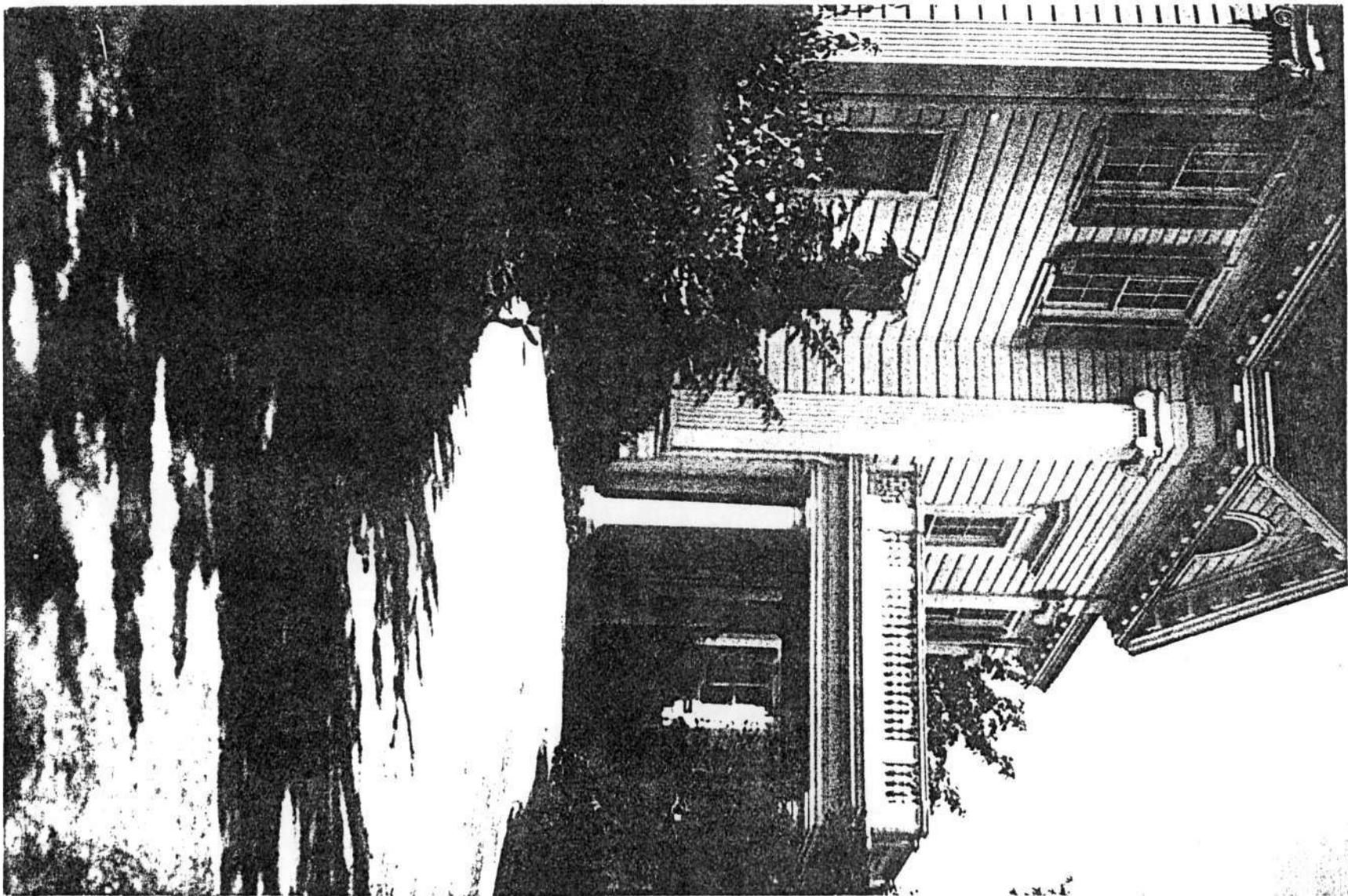
B-4602



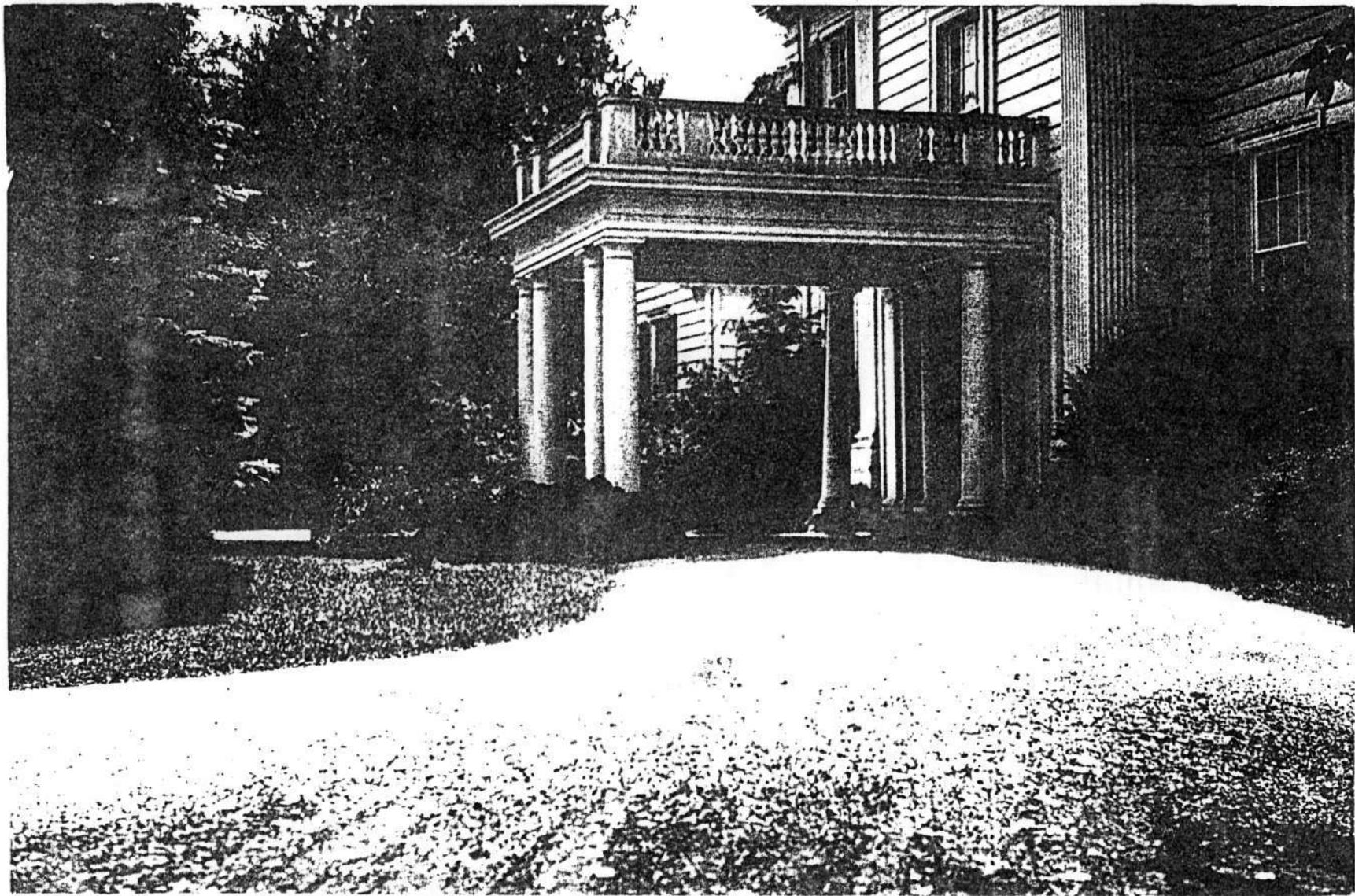
B-4602



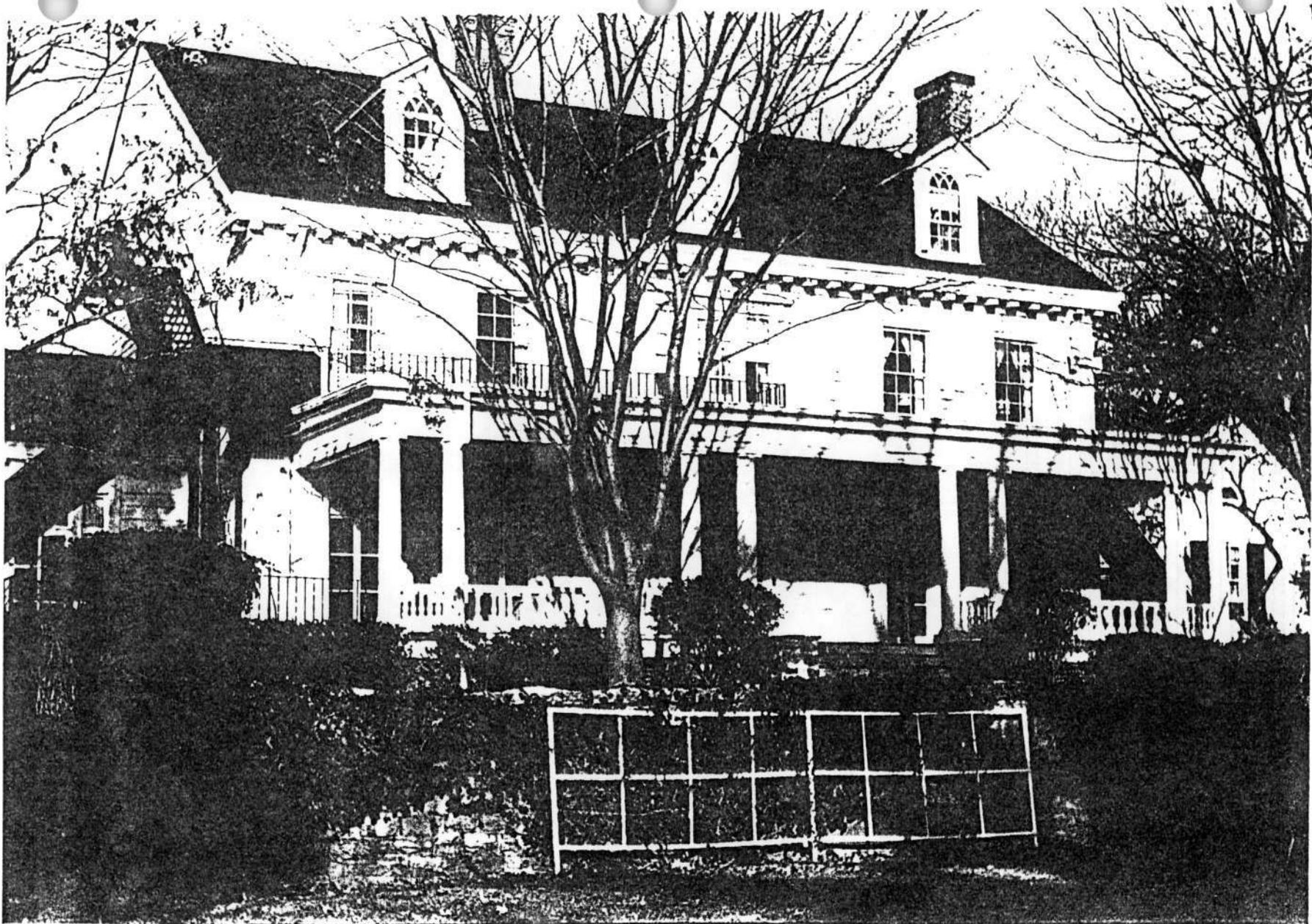
B-4602



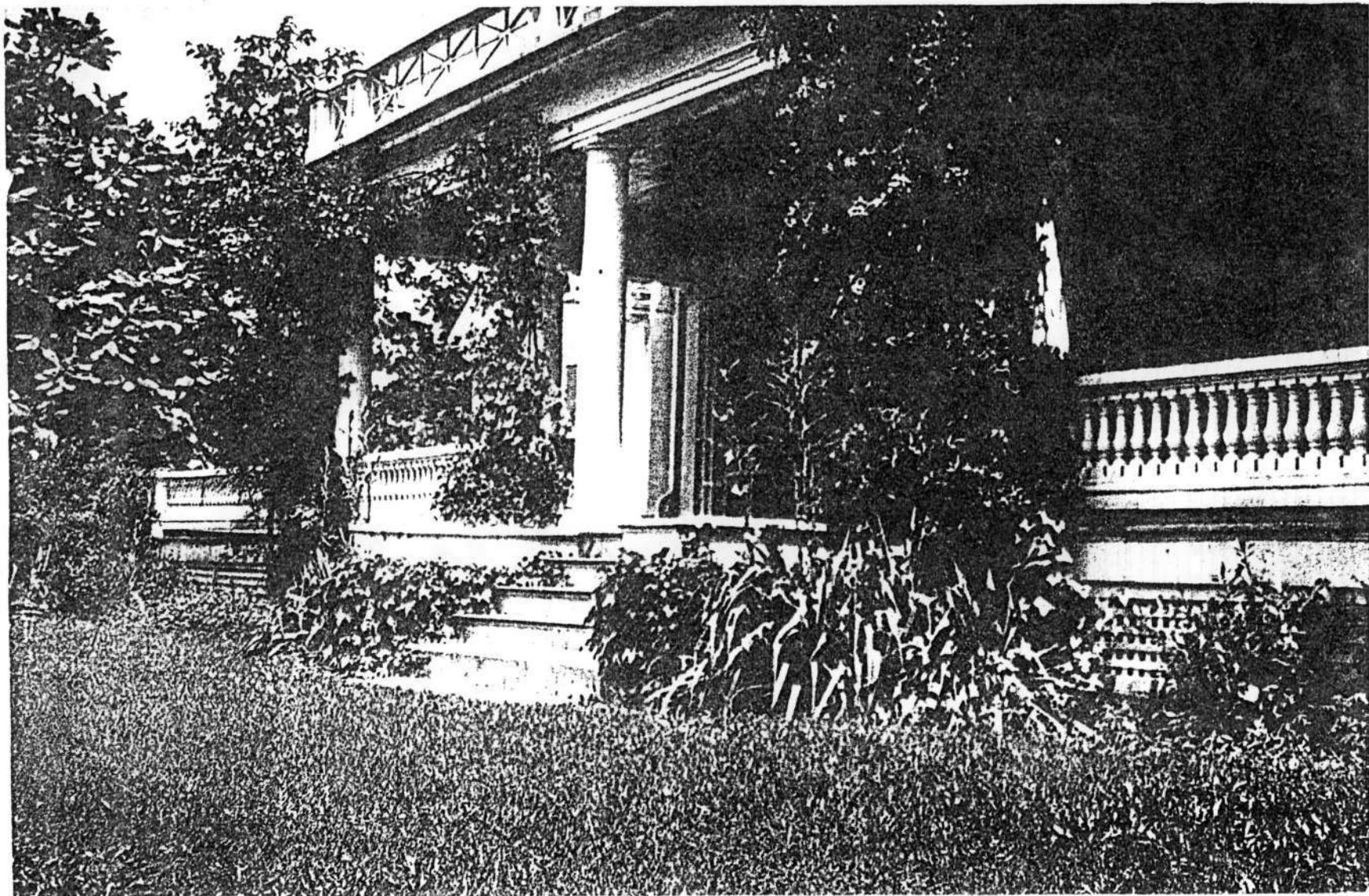
B-4602



B-4602

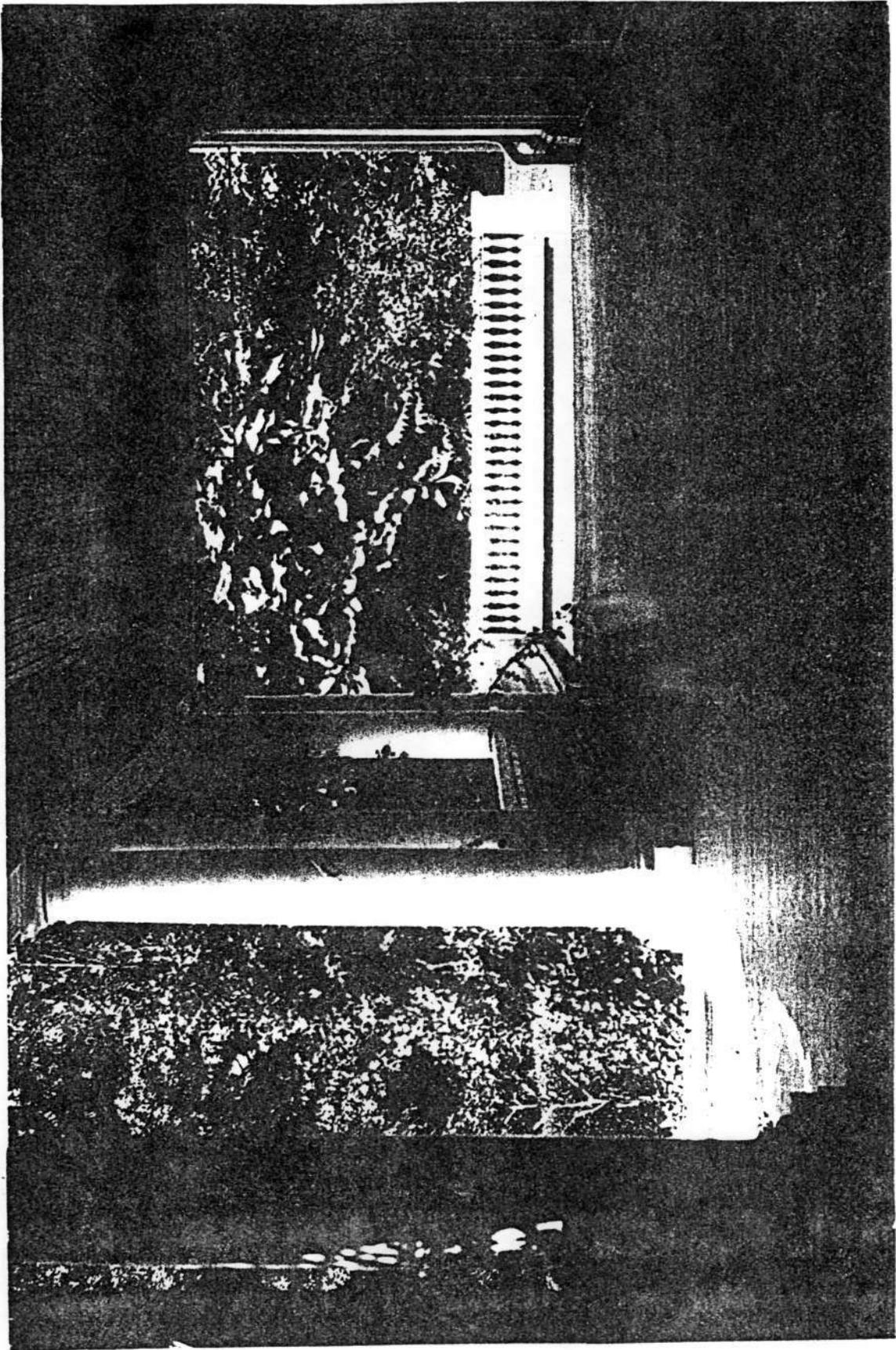


B-4602

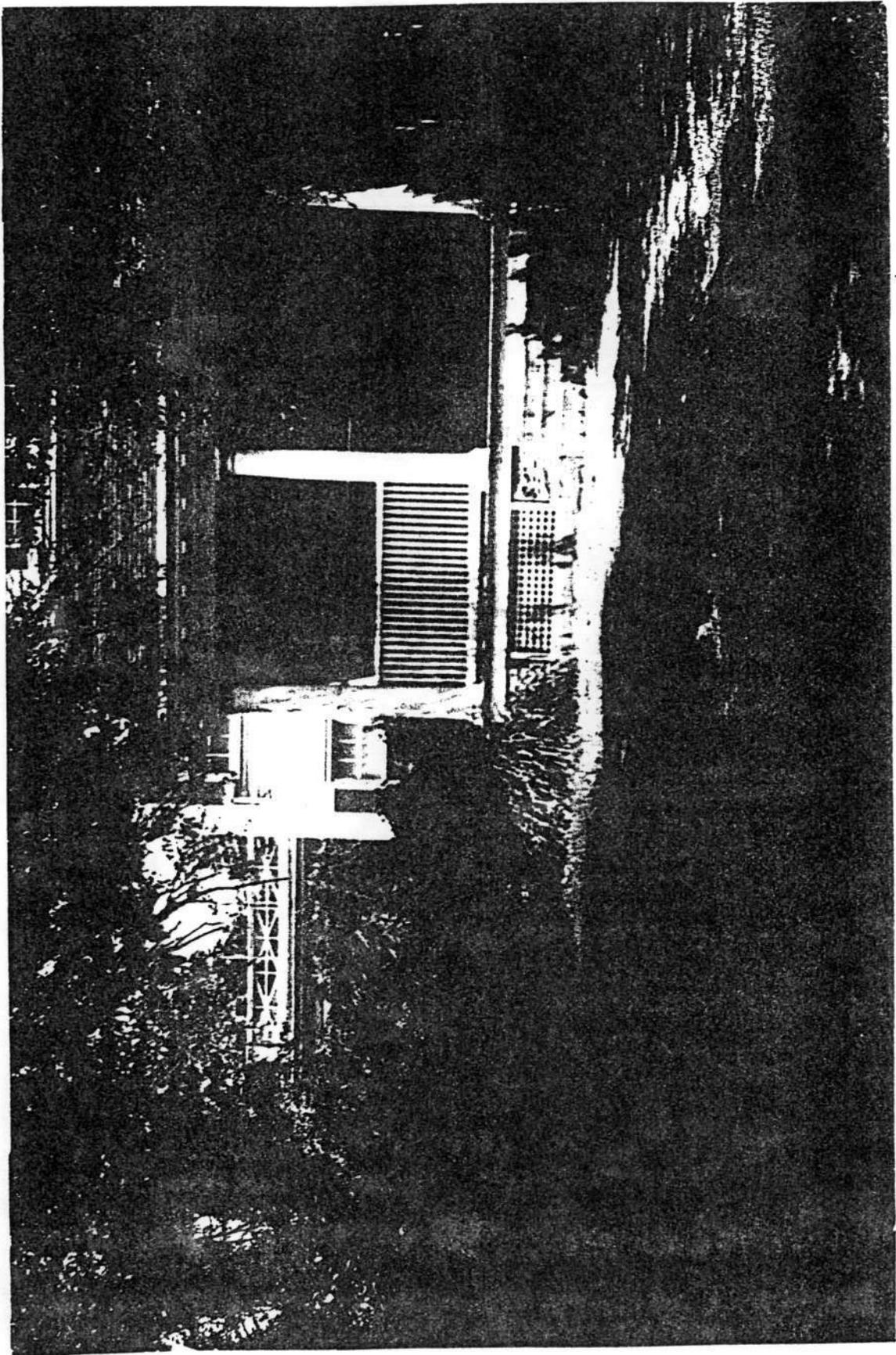


B-46002

B-4602



B-4602





B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 2 20 PM '34



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 23 1956



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 2 20 PM '38



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

1951 100 100 100



B-4602

Gordon Bldg,

2

DEC 25 1956



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 1951



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

11 05 22 23 24 25 26



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 1941



B-4602  
Jordan Bldg.

DEC 23 1950



FB-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 21 2 20 PM '44



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 2 31 PM '44



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 2 30 PM '56



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

— "© NNNN 122 Gd 3ED



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 95 230 NNNE 1. ---



B4602  
Harden Bldg.

DEC 25 1954



B4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 10 22 AM '41

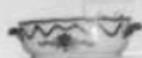


EXIT

BB-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DELIVERED TO THE POST OFFICE



B-41002  
Gordon Bldg,

DEC 98 250-111111

2



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 05 2 30 PM '44

3



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 23 1944



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 95 220 NNNN 22. ---

PROFESSOR  
NEW \* 11



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 2 30 PM '61



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 95 231. NMMN 14  
MNH 102 56 JED



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 29 11 23 AM '41



B-4602  
Jordan Bldg.

DEC 29 1956



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 27 11 11 AM '54



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

1954 FEB 25 10 50 AM '54



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

1957 JAN 27 5 26 PM '57



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 95

1956

220

MEMPHIS

238

-----



Kodak  
1117  
1117

BB4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 15 2 20 PM '44



B-4602

Gorda Bldg.

DEC 25 2 20 PM '40



B-4602  
Gordon Bldg,

NOV 19 11 11 AM '50



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 9 1952  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES  
141



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 9 1950

11/20/50



B-4602

Gordon Bldg.

DEC 25 1951