

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

 0901772404  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

 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

Rich Hill, Rich Hill Farm

AND/OR COMMON

Rich Hill, Rich Hill Farm

**2** LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Bel Alton-Newtown Road

1 1/2 miles East of Rt. 301 on North side of/

CITY, TOWN

Bel Alton

VICINITY OF

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY

Charles

CODE

017

**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" 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	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Joseph F. Vallario, Jr. and Mary T. Vallario

STREET &amp; NUMBER

7801 Woodyard Road

CITY, TOWN

Clinton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

Maryland

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Rich Hill  
Charles County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

DESCRIPTION (continued)

(This revised description is submitted to reflect recent renovations carried out at Rich Hill).

Although greatly altered when acquired by Cox in the early 19th century, Rich Hill possesses many unique architectural features that establish it as one of the most significant surviving examples of regional architecture.

Rich Hill was probably built within the second quarter of the 18th century. Like Marshall Hall (National Register, Charles County) it is a true 1½-story building, although from the exterior both appear to be full two-stories. Its existing gable roof replaced the original hip-on-gable roof. The five second level rooms still retain their original doors, hardware and surrounds, and have ceilings sloped on all four sides, the latter unique in Southern Maryland. The first floor plan consisted of four rooms and a short rear stair hall. In the early 19th century this plan was altered to an end hall plan with a large front room and two small rooms to the rear of that. Today only the stair hall and northwest room retain their original dimensions. No original woodwork remains on this level.

The window and door locations of the first floor front and rear elevations were altered in the early 19th century to accommodate changes made to the floor plan. The original entrance was centered on the south front and was flanked by four windows. The five windows of the second floor occupy original locations though all were subsequently enlarged. An original rear door was removed during recent renovations but the three windows across the second level of this elevation occupy original positions.

When the house was renovated in the early 19th century the exterior was sheathed with random width beaded boards, replacing an earlier riven board covering. At this same time the formerly exposed eaves, showing chamfered joist ends, were enclosed by a boxed cornice with molded decorations. When first built the house stood on cut stone piers, the open areas between these, however, were later filled with brick.

Single large exterior chimneys of a type seen at Maxwell Hall

See continuation sheet #

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CH-177

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Rich Hill  
Charles County,  
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

DESCRIPTION (continued)

(Charles County) and Loch Leven (Charles County) formerly stood at the ends of the house. These were subsequently removed, probably in the early 19th century. The double chimney with two-story pent presently standing at the west end of the house dates from this time.

A one-story frame addition on the east end, torn down during renovations in 1975-76, was built in the early 19th century using materials possibly salvaged from a former kitchen or other dependency.

J. Richard Rivoire  
Faulkner, Maryland  
Summer 1976

# SIGNIFICANCE

CH-177

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The historical significance of Rich Hill relates directly to its ownership by Col. Samuel Cox and the role Cox played in the flight of John Wilkes Booth through Charles County to Virginia following the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, April 14, 1865.

Samuel Cox, whose sympathy for the Southern cause was well known, hid Booth and his companion-in-crime, David Herold, on his Rich Hill farm after Booth and Herold were sent there upon being discovered in a nearby swamp by a neighbor's servant. Cox then proceeded to arrange for their safe (and secret) passage to Virginia. Booth and Herold remained hidden in a pine thicket at Rich Hill until April 21, when Thomas A. Jones, foster brother of Colonel Cox and a former Chief Signal Agent for the Confederacy, provided them with a small boat in which they crossed the Potomac River to Virginia. In the trials that followed Booth's eventual capture at Pope's Creek, Virginia, Cox and Jones were convicted of aiding Booth in his flight and sentenced to brief imprisonments -- Jones six weeks, and Cox seven.

Rich Hill is included in the "Booth Trail," defined by published tour guides and marked by state historical markers that locate all stops Booth made from his exit from Ford's Theatre to the barn and house of the Garrett farm in Virginia where he was shot and killed by Union soldiers.

Although the present exterior and first floor appearance of Rich Hill reflects the period of Cox's ownership, its original early or mid-eighteenth century skeleton and contemporary second floor treatment establish its architectural significance as well. The original floor plan was one characteristic of the Charles and St. Mary's County region throughout the eighteenth century. Marshall Hall, circa 1720; Greenwood, circa 1740; Sandgates, circa 1750-60; and, Maxwell Hall, circa 1760-70 are among the many documented eighteenth century Lower Southern Maryland houses having the same room configuration. However, Rich Hill and Marshall Hall are the only known and recorded houses with this plan that were initially built as two story dwellings. Important original elements that survive include the cut stone piers on which the house stands, the very handsome doors and hardware of the second floor, and the unique design of the second floor ceilings. Thus, although extensively altered in the early nineteenth century, Rich Hill provides much valuable information relative

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CH-177

Pogue, Robert, F. T. Old Maryland Landmarks. Bushwood, Maryland: Private 1972. pp. 271, 273.

Klapthor, Margaret B. and Brown, Paul Dennis. History of Charles, County, Maryland. La Plata, Maryland: Charles County Tercentenary, Inc. 1958. pp. 122, 131.

## GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,2,0	9,6,0	4,2	6,0	9,6,0	B	1,8	3,2,0	9,2,0	4,2	6,0	7,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			
C	1,8	3,2,0	7,1,0	4,2	6,0	7,4,0	D	1,8	3,2,8	7,4,0	4,2	6,0	9,9,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

9

9

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

J. Richard Rivoire, Architectural Historian sdh

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

May 1975

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle, The John Shaw House

TELEPHONE

(301) 267-1438

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

## STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89 665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE August 26, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

MD. HISTORICAL TRUST  
BOX 1704  
ANNAPOLIS, MD. 21404

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	
COUNTY:	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: NEAL HOUSE (RICH HILL) (COX FARM #)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: BEL ALTON - NEWTOWN RD.

CITY OR TOWN: BEL ALTON

STATE: MD CODE COUNTY: CHAS CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: J. M. NEAL

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: CHEVY CHASE STATE: MD CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: CHAS. CO.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: LA PLATA STATE: MD CODE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: COUNTY: ENTRY NUMBER DATE FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

W. SIDE BEL ALTON RD. N. of TOWN + R.R. TRACKS.

MAIN BLOCK 2 STOREY, "A" ROOF + RIDGE RUNS E TO W. 1 STOREY WING SLIGHTLY FORWARD TO E GABLE END OF MAIN BLOCK. MAIN BLOCK (S.ELE.) ~~3~~ 4 BAYS WITH DOOR AT E. END. (W.W.W.D) 5/4 WINDOW 2ND FLOOR. WING (S.ELE.) 3 BAYS (WINDOWS).

LARGE DOUBLE CHIMNEY (WITH 2 STOREY PENT BETWEEN) AT W GABLE MAIN BLOCK. SINGLE 2 FIVE CHIMNEY CENTER OF ROOF RIDGE OF WING. (1st. 1/2 (W) OF WING PROB. ORIG. KITCHEN).

2q. CHIMNEY W. GABLE MAIN BLOCK FLANKED ON 1ST. LEVEL BY 1 WIN. EA. SIDE. AT 2ND. FLOOR 1 WINDOW FROM NW COR. CHIMNEYS  $\perp$  FREE STANDING STACKS, STEPPED HIPS ON 3 SIDES (ABOVE 2ND FLOOR WINDOW LEVEL), STEPPED (2) BASE, 1 WINDOW AT 1st. + 2nd floor LEVELS IN PENT.

N. ELE. : 3 BAYS : 2 DOORS WITH WINDOW AT W SIDE ( DOOR, DOOR, WINDOW) 3 WINDOWS ABOVE. WING HAS LEAN TO ROOFED ADDITION TO N WALL.

DEEP FARM PORCH FRONT + REAR (N+S) WALLS OF MAIN BLOCK.

CLAPBRD. REL. RECENT - WEADED EDGE, EAVE MLDGS. GOOD.

WINDOWS 4/4

BRICK FOUNDATION

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century  (?)

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

COX FARM (?) WHERE BOOTH  
 STAYED BEFORE flight to VA. AFTER  
 ASSASSINATION OF LINCOLN.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

*(This section is currently blank.)*

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: *J. Richard Rivoire*

ORGANIZATION: *M.H.T.* DATE: *6/23*

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: *Annap.* STATE: *Ma.* CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

CH-177

RICH HILL

177

UTM REFERENCES

- A 1813291674260160
- B 18132912014260710
- C 18132971014260740
- D 1813291474261190

UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



326000m E.

BALTIMORE 65 MI.  
LA PLATA 2 MI.

328

57'30"

LA PLATA 35

PENNSYLVANIA

Bel Alton  
(Cox Sta)

Modder

Branch

Clark

Run

Branch

Clark

Branch

Rosa

Run

BM  
173

558

150

160

108

53x

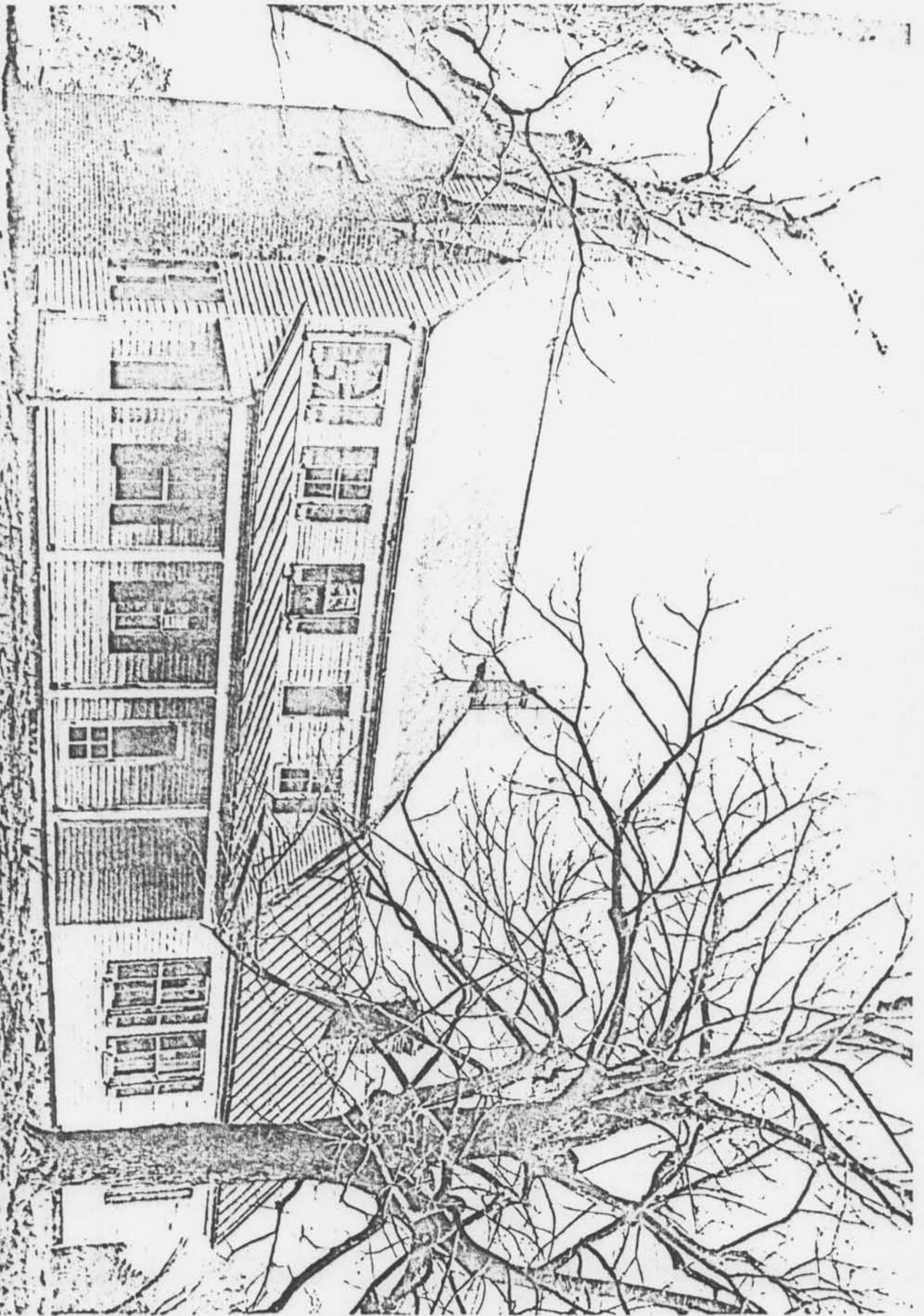
427

301

596

DI

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