K-432

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Harper, George, Store (Preferred)

and/or common Meddyers, William, Store, Still Pond Store

2. Location

street & number Maryland Route 292 at Main Street (N.E. corner) ___ not for publication

city, town Still Pond ___ vicinity of congressional district 1

state Maryland code 24 county Kent code 029

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Frank Huggins

street & number P. O. Box 127

city, town Chestertown ___ vicinity of state Maryland 21620

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes X no

date 1979 (Md.-324) X federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington, state D. C.

7. Description

K-432

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date ___
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Description Summary on Continuation Sheet #4

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The frame store with gable and shed roofs stands at the intersection of what is now Maryland Route 292 with 2 other roads, a locale originally known as Still Pond Crossroads. The earliest portion of this building, a 2-story frame store with a north 1-story rear storeroom, was built in 1877 or shortly thereafter for George Harper. By 1918 Medders had enlarged the L-shaped store by adding to it small sections and another building to the east. A colonnaded porch was extended across the entire front of the joined wings, giving the structure its present appearance. The various additions maintained the integrity of the original structure.

On the front facade is a handrail and a row of large storefront windows used to display merchandise. The structure is entered through a single and a pair of fine wood paneled and glass doors. The only remaining interior feature, although not the original, is the wooden stair in the middle of the original west wing in the Eastlake style.

All rooms had plaster ceilings and walls, except for the 2nd floor room over the original L-shaped building, which became the west wing, and the rear addition to that wing, which had beaded wooden walls and ceilings. Most of the interior plaster and trim has been removed from the building. Also, most of the flooring on the 1st floor of the building has been removed to gain access to the foundations during the stabilization.

The main original portion of the building, the west wing, has 2 floors; the first floor ceiling is 10 feet high and the 2nd floor ceiling is 7 feet high. This west wing, which is L-shaped and has an intersecting gable roof, is approximately 36 feet by 48 feet in size. There is a masonry chimney at the end of each of the 3 gables. The western-most chimney stops at the attic floor, while the other 2 chimneys go down to ground level. The building has a metal standing-seam roof, and an overhang that projects approximately 1 foot with a fairly simple cornice.

The original L-shaped west wing on the 1st floor was 1 open room. The room was enlarged to form a rectangular room by an addition at the northeast corner. Also added was a 2-story shed across the north end of this wing, which measured 18 feet by 36 feet in size. This shed replaced an earlier smaller 1-story addition. The only interruptions in the 1st floor open room are the original supporting columns and the central stair leading upstairs. (Evidence remains of an earlier stair that has been removed.) One pair of entrance doors and a single door opening onto the street porch, which is 8 feet deep, are elaborate and detailed with movable panels to cover the glass when the store is closed.

The 2nd floor is divided into an L-shaped main room with the stair near the front and a smaller room (the addition) to the right in the northeast corner. There are 2 rows of columns, 1 row partially concealed in the wall of the small room. To the rear of the 2nd floor L-shaped room is the 2nd floor of the north addition. The main stair was the only access to the 2nd floor. There is an opening at the rear of the L-shaped room and ladder-access to the L-shaped attic under the gable roofs. The attic is partially covered with rough floor boards.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1

Windows on the 1st floor of the west wing are large with 2-over-2 panes. The 2nd floor windows are smaller with 6-over-6 panes. The windows on both floors had panel shutters.

Adjacent to the west wing is the east wing, a 2-story structure with gable roof approximately 24 feet by 40 feet in size; the 1st floor ceiling is 9 feet 6 inches high and the 2nd floor ceiling is 9 feet high. First floor windows and 2nd floor windows are large, having 4-over-4 panes with the 1st floor windows being larger. They also have paneled shutters. This building had a small storage room with a shed roof at the north end.

The west and east wings are connected at the front at the 1st and 2nd floors by a small 2-story addition, 16 feet by 18 feet in size at the 2nd floor, and 16 feet by 24 feet in size at the first floor. The resulting joined structures give the appearance of a single U-shaped 2-story building. The front or south wall of the lower floor of the east wing was moved forward 6 feet to align with the front wall of the west wing, while the 2nd story south wall above the connection aligns with the east wing.

The 1st floor of the east wing is 1 large room, except for 5 supporting columns running south to north. The 2nd floor is also 1 large room without columns.

A long display window was installed across the front of the connection and the east wing. The original west porch was extended across the connection and the east wing at the 1st story height. There is brick paving under the porch, which turns around the corner past the west wing.

Although the store is an accumulation of additions and revisions to additions and finally a connection, it is the dominant building in the heart of Still Pond, once known as the Crossroads of Still Pond.

One frame storage building sits at the northeast corner of the property and a second small frame building partially occupies a portion along the northern property line. These buildings, probably twentieth century, are in the size and character of farm outbuildings and do not detract from the store proper, nor are they seen since both are quite removed from the streets that the store faces.

8. Significance

K-432

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

Specific dates 1877 **Builder Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Applicable Criteria: A, B and C

The George Harper Store in Still Pond, Maryland, achieves significance from three primary sources: the architectural character of the building, its role in the commercial history of an Eastern Shore community, and through association with William Medders who operated the store from 1894 to 1959. Architecturally, the George Harper Store is an intact example of a type of structure, the simple frame commercial building, once commonly found at cross-roads communities in Maryland throughout the late nineteenth century and well into the twentieth. The building is characterized by a utilitarian design marked by a broad porch across the front to protect customers and goods from the weather. Commercially, Still Pond, at the turn of the century was a thriving community with a cannery and warehouse for produce from the surrounding farming area. The George Harper Store supplied the needs and luxuries of the citizenry of the area. Medders , who originally managed the store for George Harper and was responsible for enlarging the structure and expanding the business from groceries into a general department store, was an influencial citizen of Still Pond from his prominence as a successful businessman and owner of nearly a thousand acres of farm land in the area which was in cultivation.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The Still Pond store was built in 1877 by Harper who had been in the dry goods business with his brother in a store just east of the crossroads until a disagreement dissolved their partnership. Harper then decided to start his own business and bought undeveloped land from Mrs. John Gale for the construction of a new general store, the 5th store in Still Pond.

Medders was born in 1871 at Crompton, Kent County, Maryland. In 1888 Medders worked for Harper before going to Baltimore in 1889. He returned to operate the store in 1894, purchasing the business at this time.

In 1888 Harper had sold off the north portion of his lot. In 1908 Harper sold his remaining land and the store to his former employee Medders for $3,000. The name of the store was changed to William Medders Co.

A legend in his time, Medders is remembered in Still Pond as a great merchant and perhaps is best described as "a creator of a country department store".

While living in Baltimore in 1889 Medders studied and worked in business and merchandising, making close friends with manufacturers and suppliers from New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. At this time, Baltimore was a wholesale dry-goods center of the nation; one of Medders' employers was Daniel Holiday, one of the foremost merchants of the city.

Still Pond, at the turn of the century, was a thriving community with a large cannery and warehouse for farm produce. People came from Baltimore by steamboat to the resort of Betterton only a few miles away and traveled to Still Pond, which had 4 stores and 5 doctors.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2

At Still Pond, Medders renewed associations with business friends in Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York and began to increase his inventories and the range of products he sold. He also added to the store building and built a warehouse across the street. By World War I he had a full department store, in addition to his grocery line. He often bought large quantities of dry goods and housewears in speculation, selling at higher prices later. He made trips to New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore. He avoided brokers and bought through banking connections. He enjoyed investing in commoditites such as cotton and grains. By the early 20s he had enlarged the store three times to a total of almost 10,000 square feet and had increased his warehouse space.

Medders' business flourished in the 20s. He had purchased large inventories and, with the shortage of consumer goods caused by the war, customers came from near and far. He had opened a blacksmith shop on a lot adjoining the store and carried a full line of coaches and wagons. He advertised in local and Baltimore papers, indicating that his prices and variety of stock were the best to be found.

Additional sheds were built and a barn leased to house the expanded inventories. When the depression hit in the 30s, Mr. Medders was again in a most favorable position. He had vast inventories, all paid for, and farms that he had previously acquired were producing. He also had cash reserves that allowed him to maintain inventory and carry his customers on credit terms. As reported, none of his customers went without food or clothing, for he allowed them to pay whatever they could on a weekly basis. His customers never forgot his kindness and many paid off their debts over long periods of time.

It is said that during the mid-1930s his business was so successful that on a number of occasions men from Woolworth's main office in New York and from Sears, Roebuck & Co. were sent to study his methods.

The store located at the town crossroads also acted as a community center, as evidenced by its annual Christmas celebration. There was a decorated tree on the porch roof, abundance of food, candy for the children and no one left without an orange. Entire families came from Kent and Queen Anne's Counties and from Baltimore. There was music in the town square just across the street and it was a time of joy for all. The period of celebration began one week before Christman and lasted until 5 p.m. on Christmas eve.

Medders' interest in the community was deep. In addition to the store he also at one time owned more than 1,000 acres of county land, tilled by contract farmers. Politics was an important part of his life and as a staunch Democrat he participated in the political life of the country and community, serving on numerous boards and committees. He was largely responsible for incorporating the village of Still Pond in 1908. He was a member of the Board that sponsored an act in the Maryland legislature that allowed all property owners, men or women, to vote. It is said that the first women to vote in the state of Maryland did so in Still Pond.

9. Major Bibliographical References

K-432

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 0.260 acres

lat. 76° 02' 41"

Quadrangle name Betterton, Maryland Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References NO UTM TICKS ON MAP

long. 39° 19' 37"

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title M. Hamilton Morton, Jr., AIA

organization M. Hamilton Morton, Jr., Architect date July, 1981

street & number Washington Building, Suite 638
15th & New York Avenue, N.W. telephone 202-628-1397

city or town Washington state D. C. 20005

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X 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 5-14-82

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Sun, Baltimore, April 31, 1946, "Country Storekeeper for Half a Century"

Deleware State News, Dover, Del, April 27, 1972, "Medders' A Landmark in Still Pond"

Register of Deeds and Orphans Court, Kent County Court House

Record of William Medders' life made by him in his later years (copy in possession of Frank Huggins)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Justification: This is essentially the property that George Harper sold to William Medders after Harper had sold off the north parcel from the original property that he purchased in 1877.

The boundaries for this nomination are found in Kent County Deed Book 47, p, 266 and reads as follows:

BEGINNING for the same at a point on the center line of a street or way that extends Northerly from the intersection of the center lines of the Betterton to Harmony State Road and the Still Pond to Chestertown State Road. Said beginning point is North 07 degrees 38 minutes West 25.70 feet from the aforementioned Road intersections, and running:

(1) Thence by and with the center line of the aforementioned street or way, North 07 degrees 38 minutes West 98.85 feet to a point on a division line of a lot of Caroline McK. Medders;

(2) Thence by and with the said division line, North 82 degrees 19 minutes East 139.60 feet to an iron pipe set along a division line marked by an old fence;

(3) Thence by and with the said division line along the said fence line the two following courses and distances; South 07 degrees 38 minutes East 22.50 feet to an iron pipe. South 82 degrees 19 minutes West 28.00 feet to an iron pipe.

(4) Thence continuing by and with the said division line, South 06 degrees 43 minutes East 69.70 feet to an iron pipe set on the Northerly line of a public road;

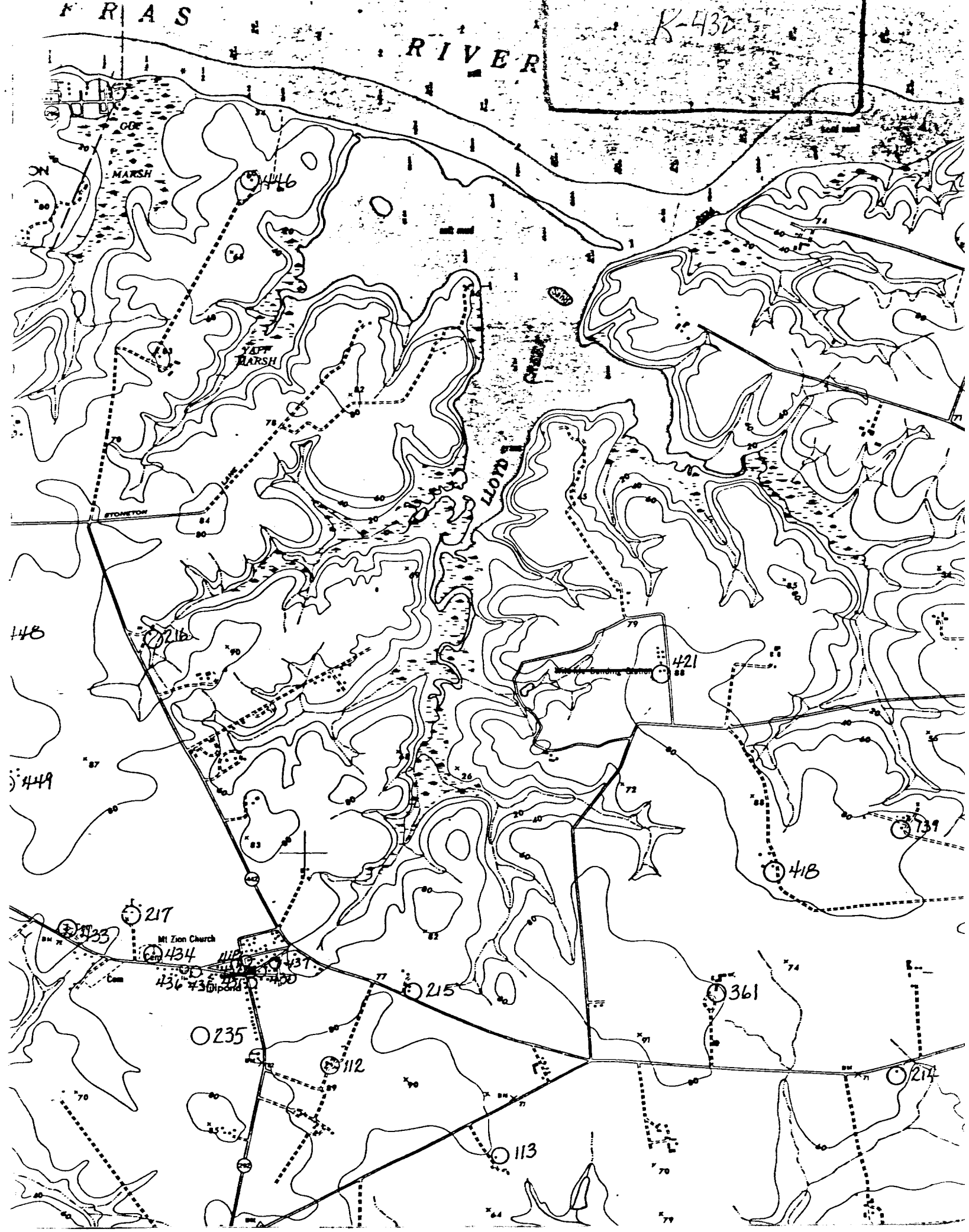
(5) Thence by and with the line of the said public road, South 62 degrees 34 minutes West 58.90 feet to the intersection of the Northerly line of the Harmony to Betterton State Road (50 feet wide);

(6) Thence by and with the line of the said State Road, North 84 degrees 15 minutes West 55.70 feet to the point of beginning.

Containing in all 0.260 acres of land, more or less.

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The George Harper Store is a late nineteenth century five-bay frame commercial structure, two stories high with a gable roof, to which is attached later additions, believed to date from about the turn of the century, creating a three-part structure on the facade. The east portion is a two story frame building with a gable roof with the gable end facing the street. These buildings are connected by a one story structure with large display windows. The three sections are tied into one unit by a ten square-columned, one story porch. The windows of the original building have six-over-six lights on the second floor and large panes on the first. The east building has two-over-two lights. The interiors of the buildings consist primarily of a large store and storage rooms with a turned balustraded staircase rising up in the center of the original building. The structure is to be rehabilitated and some maintenance work, such as on the east walls, has taken place.



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RIVER
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MARSH
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YAPP MARSH
LLOYD
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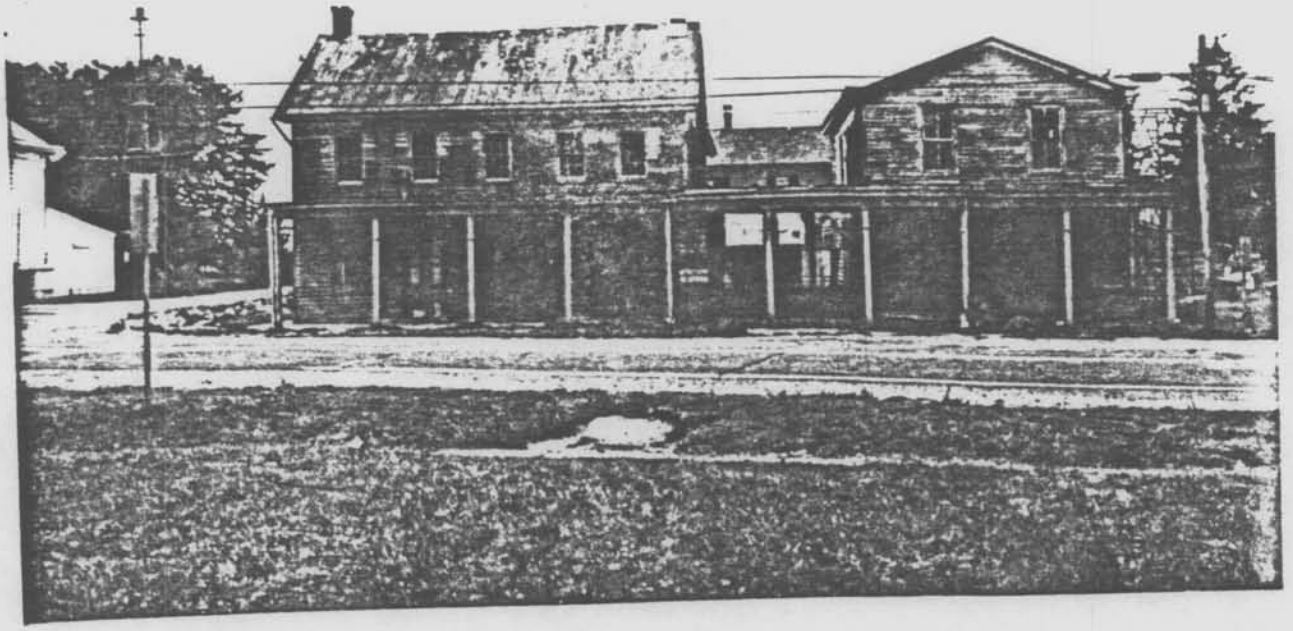

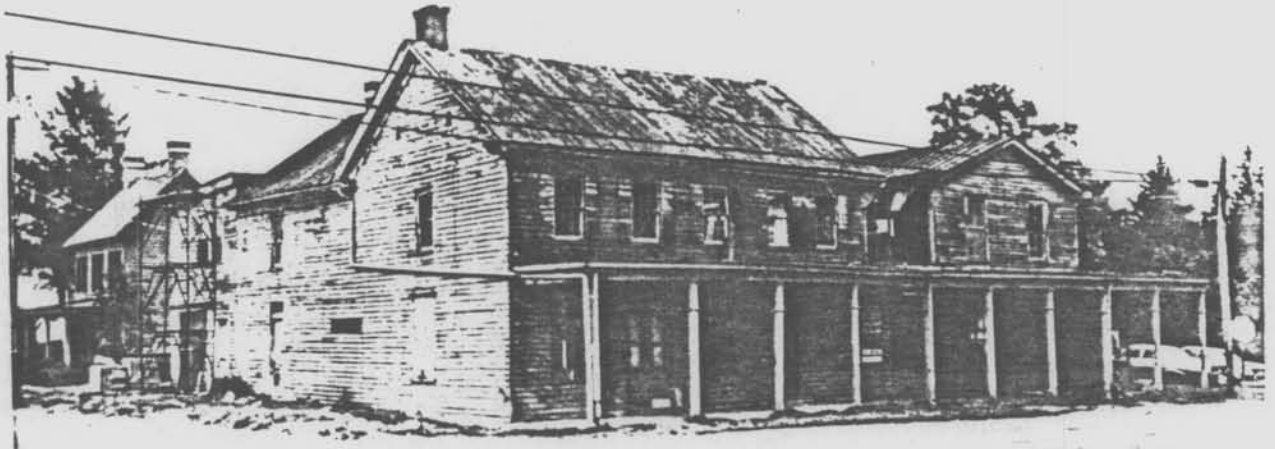

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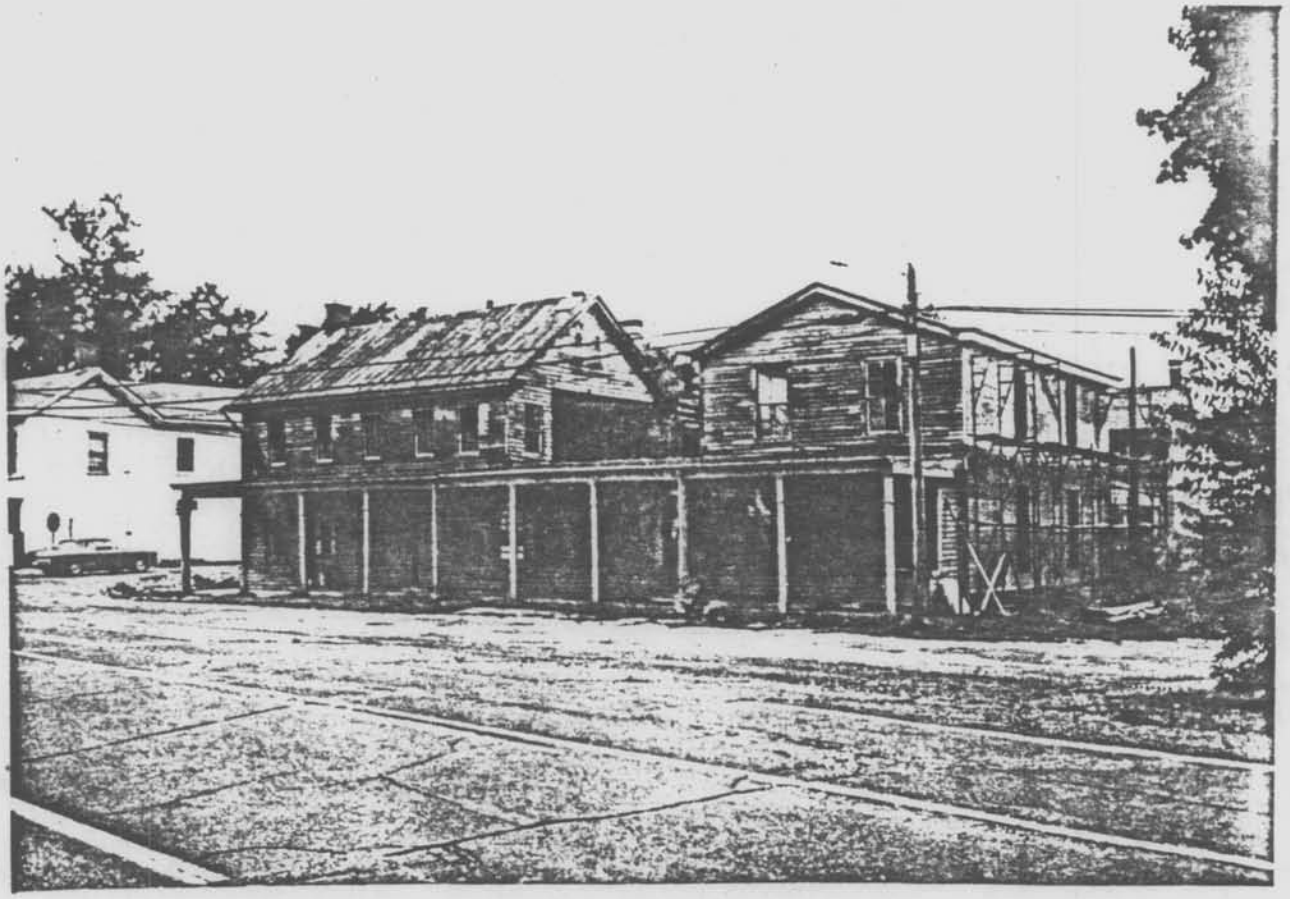

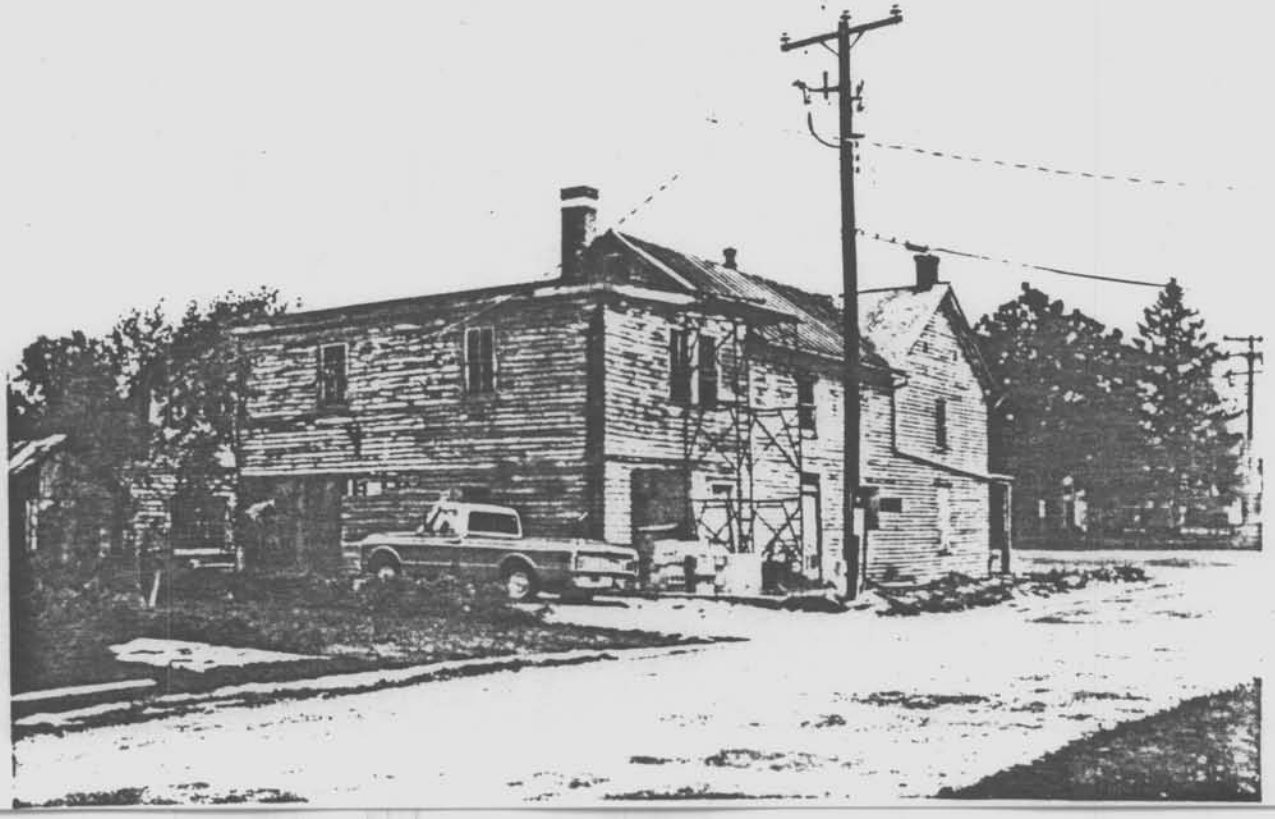

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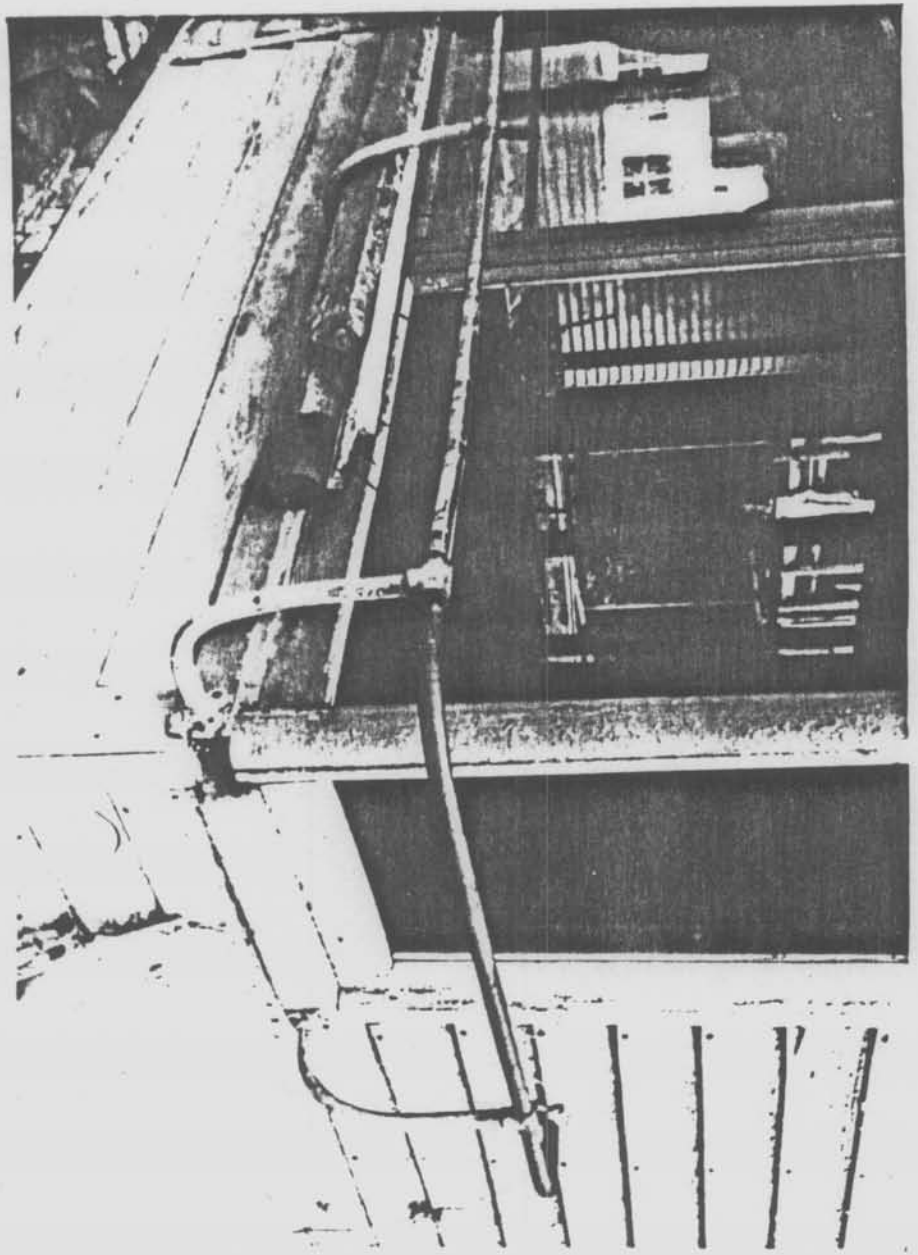

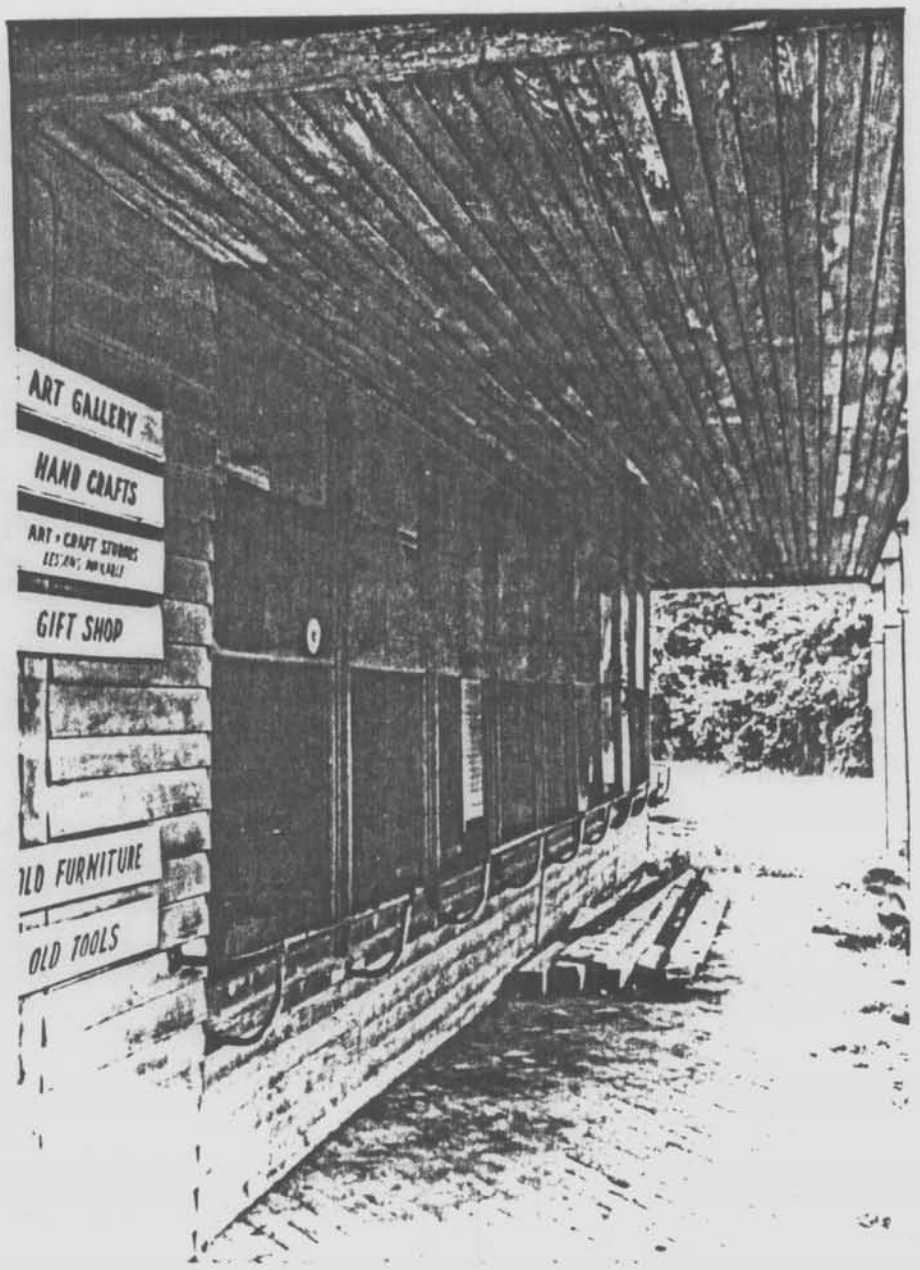

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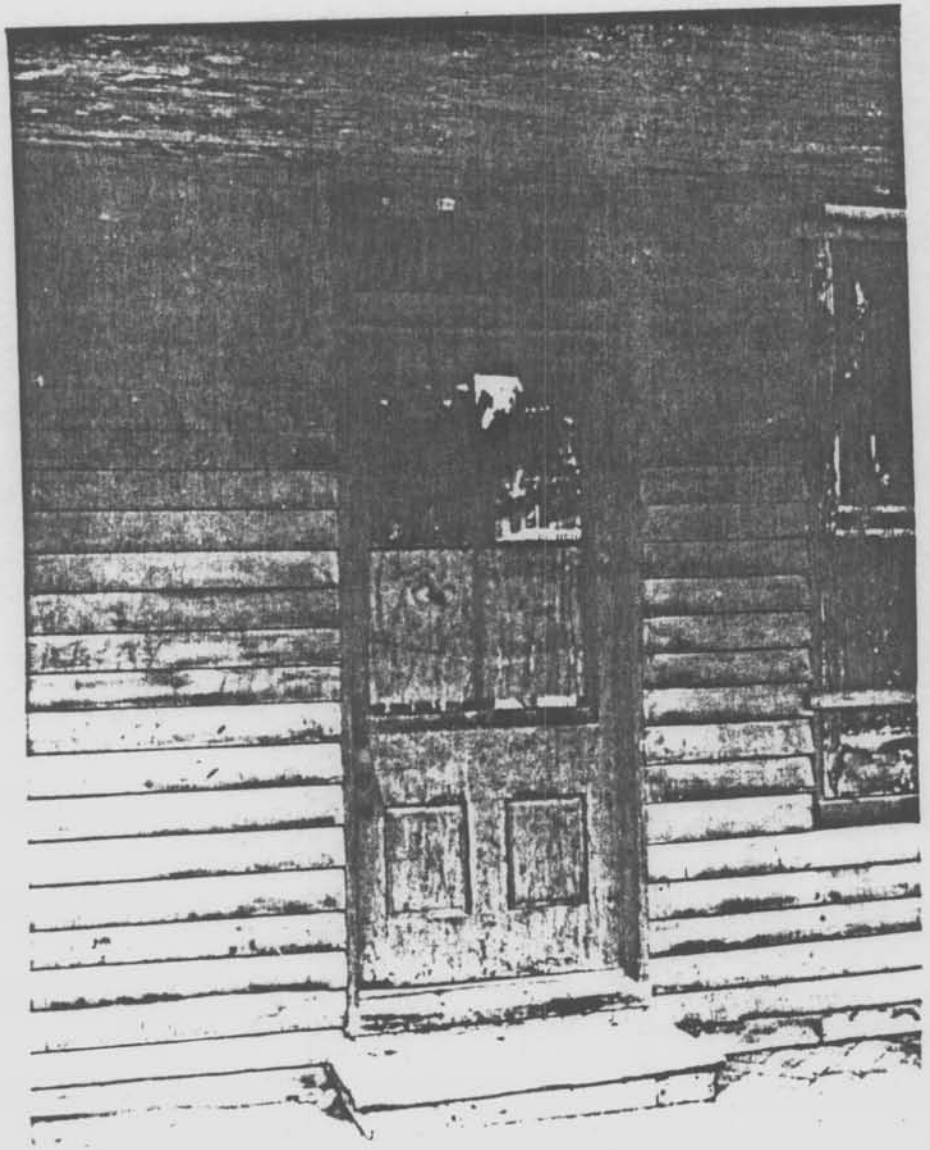

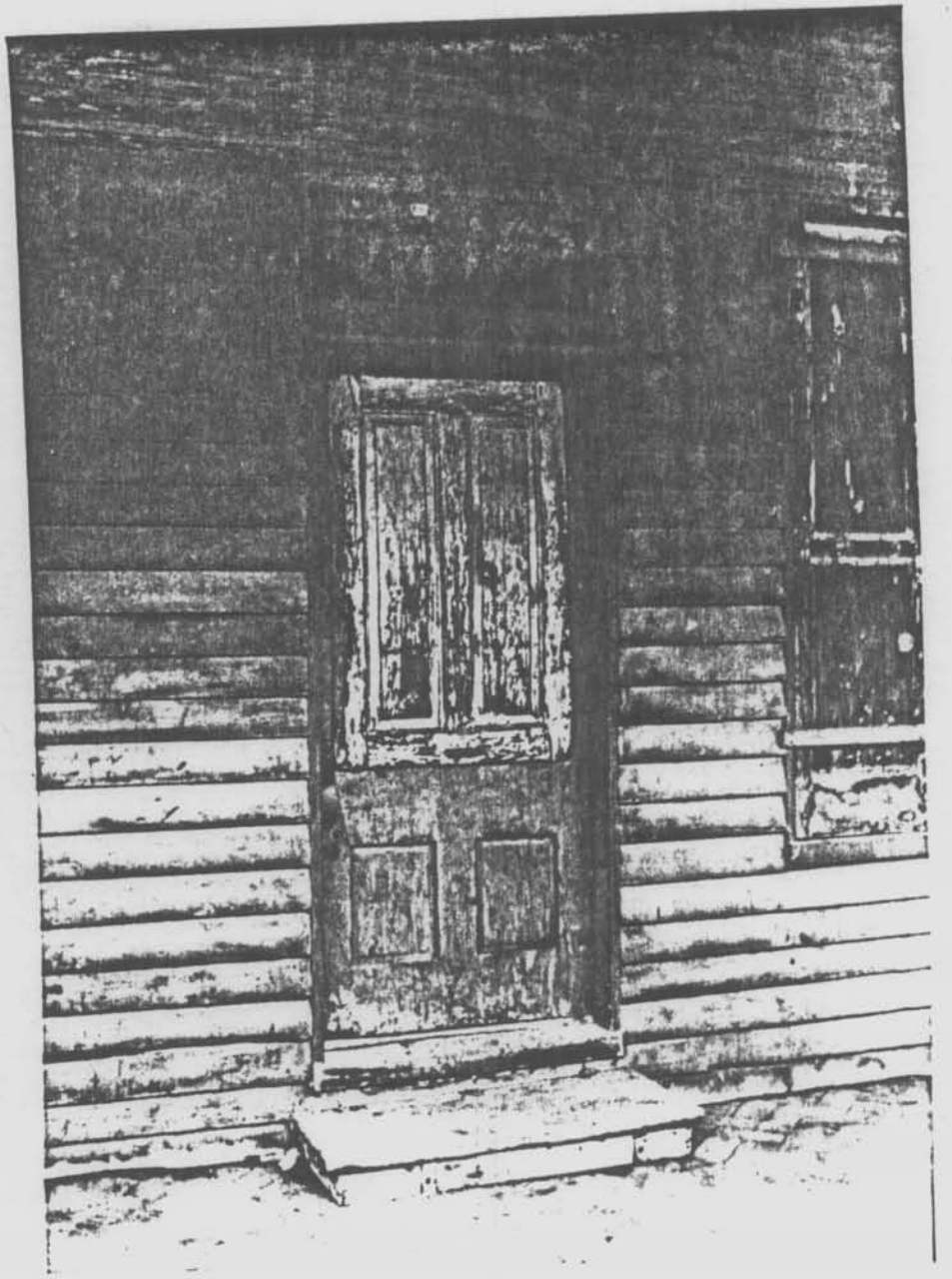

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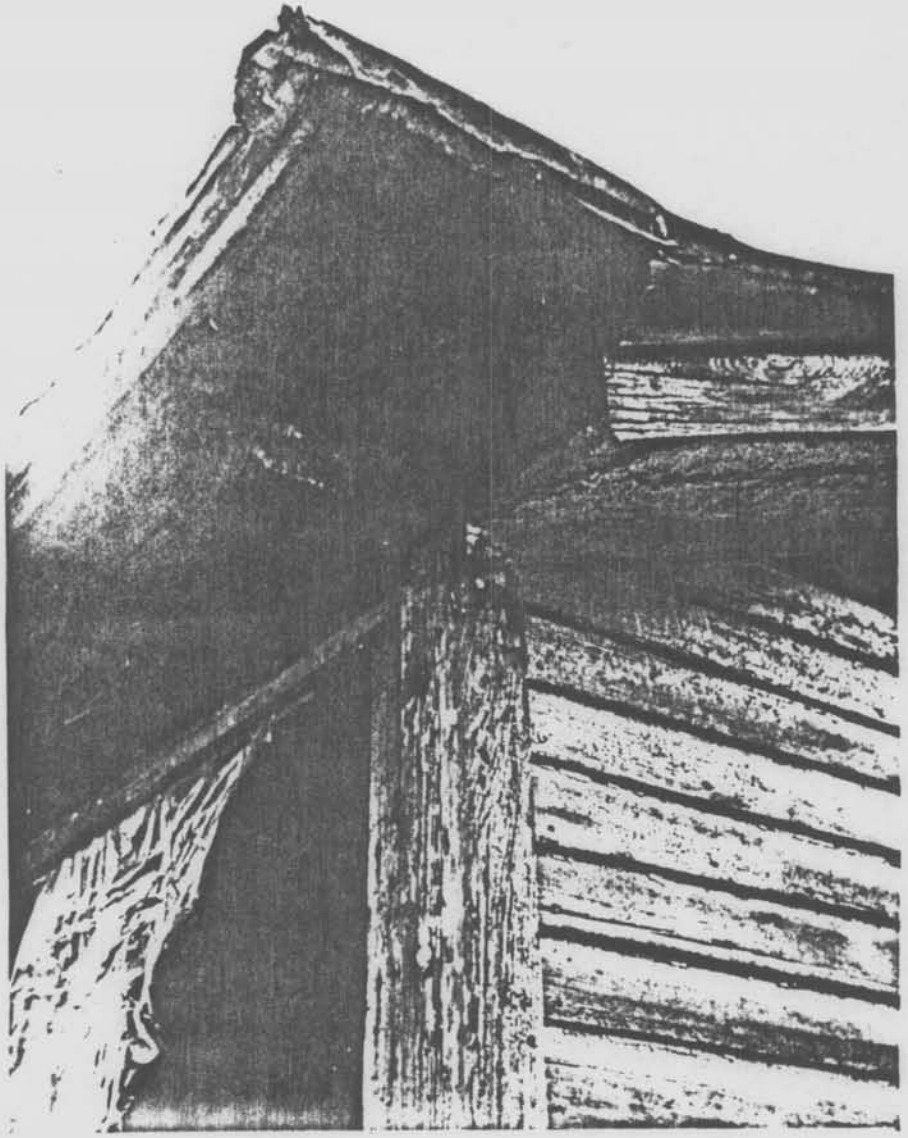

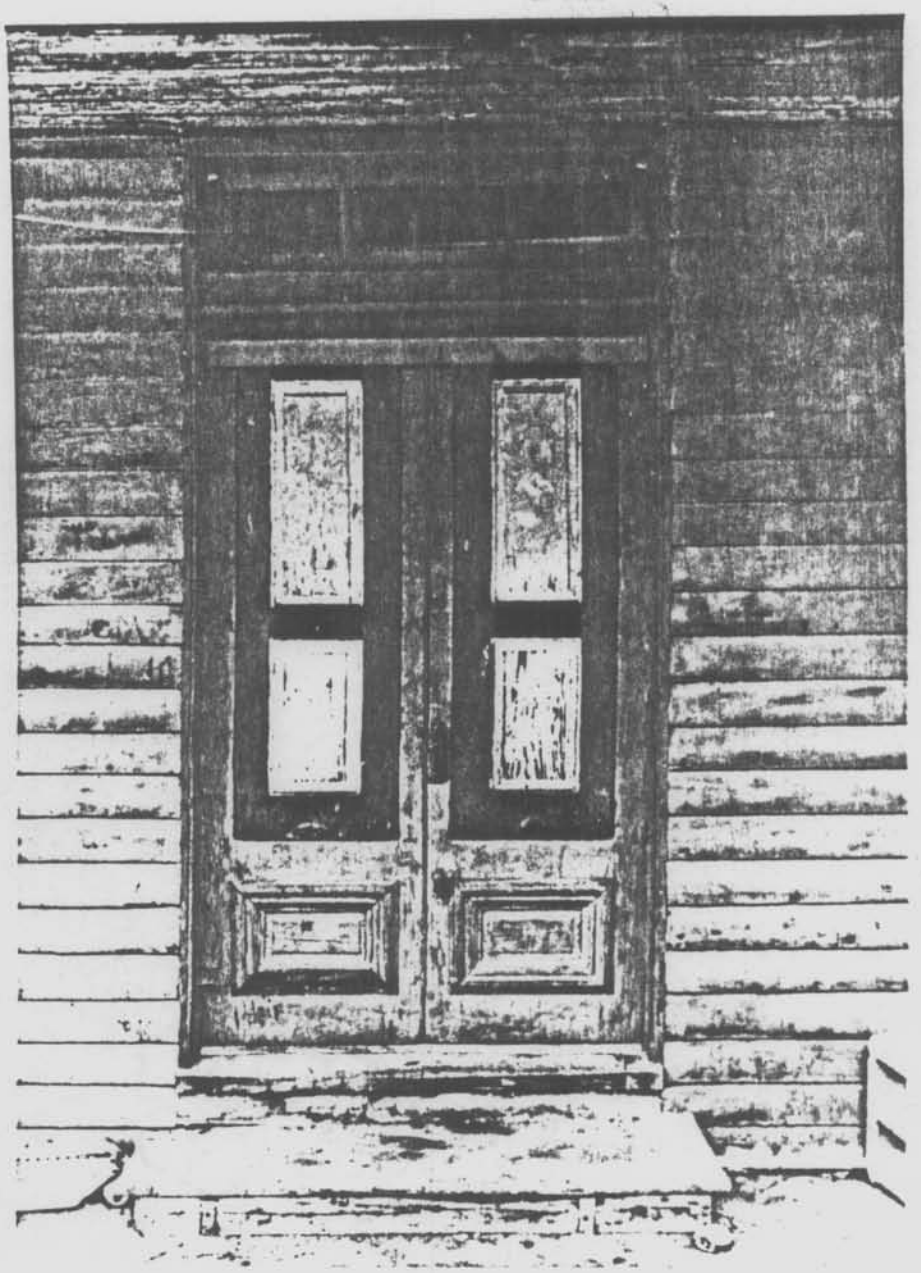

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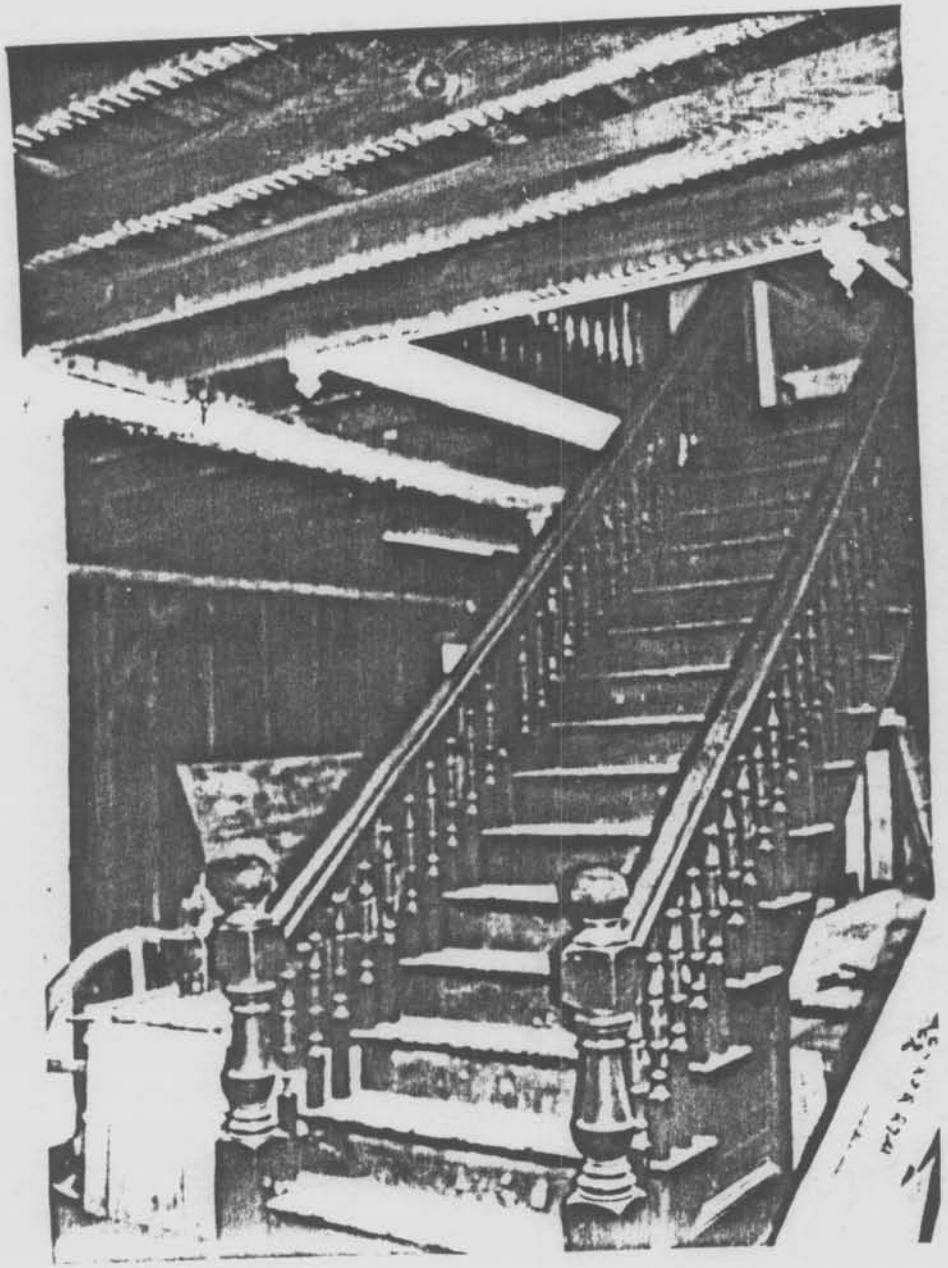

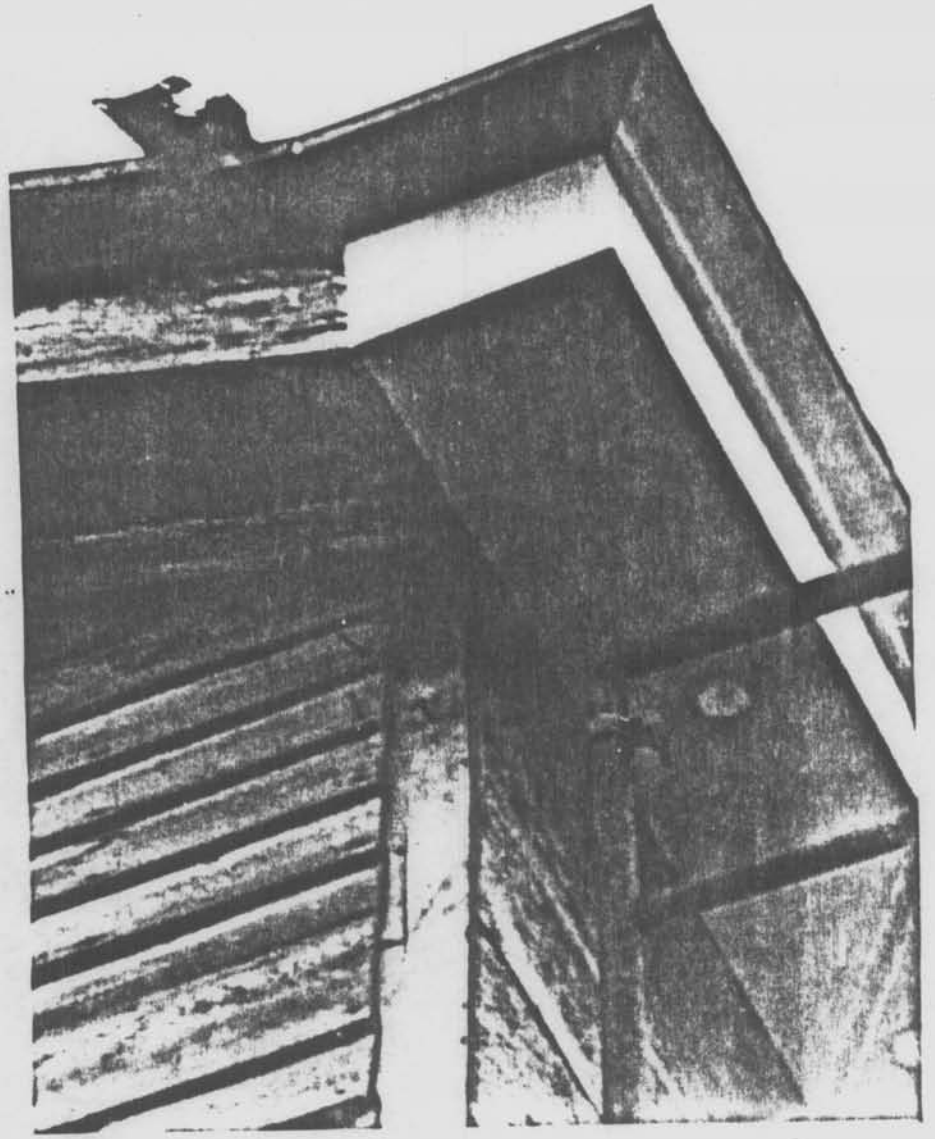

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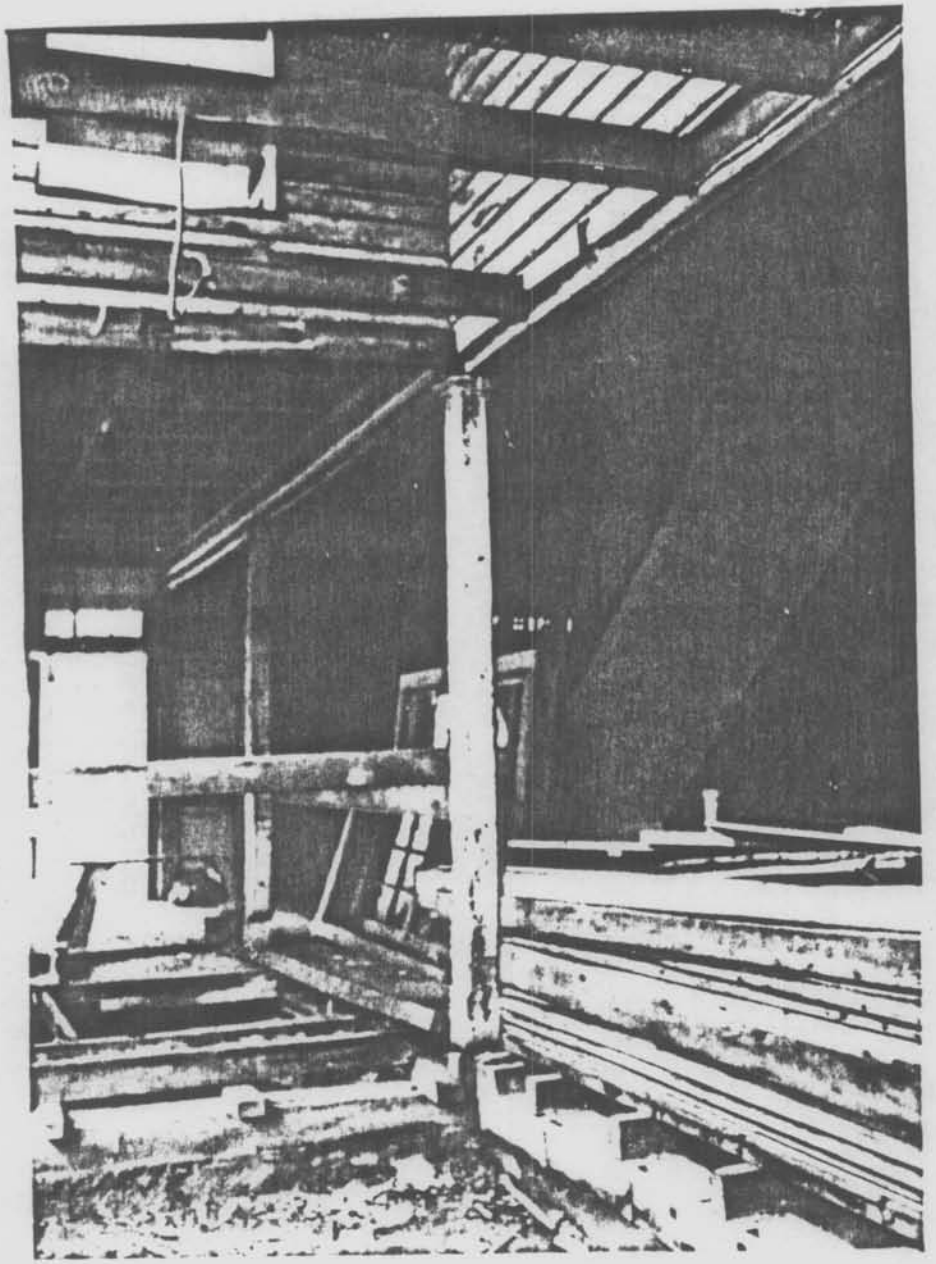

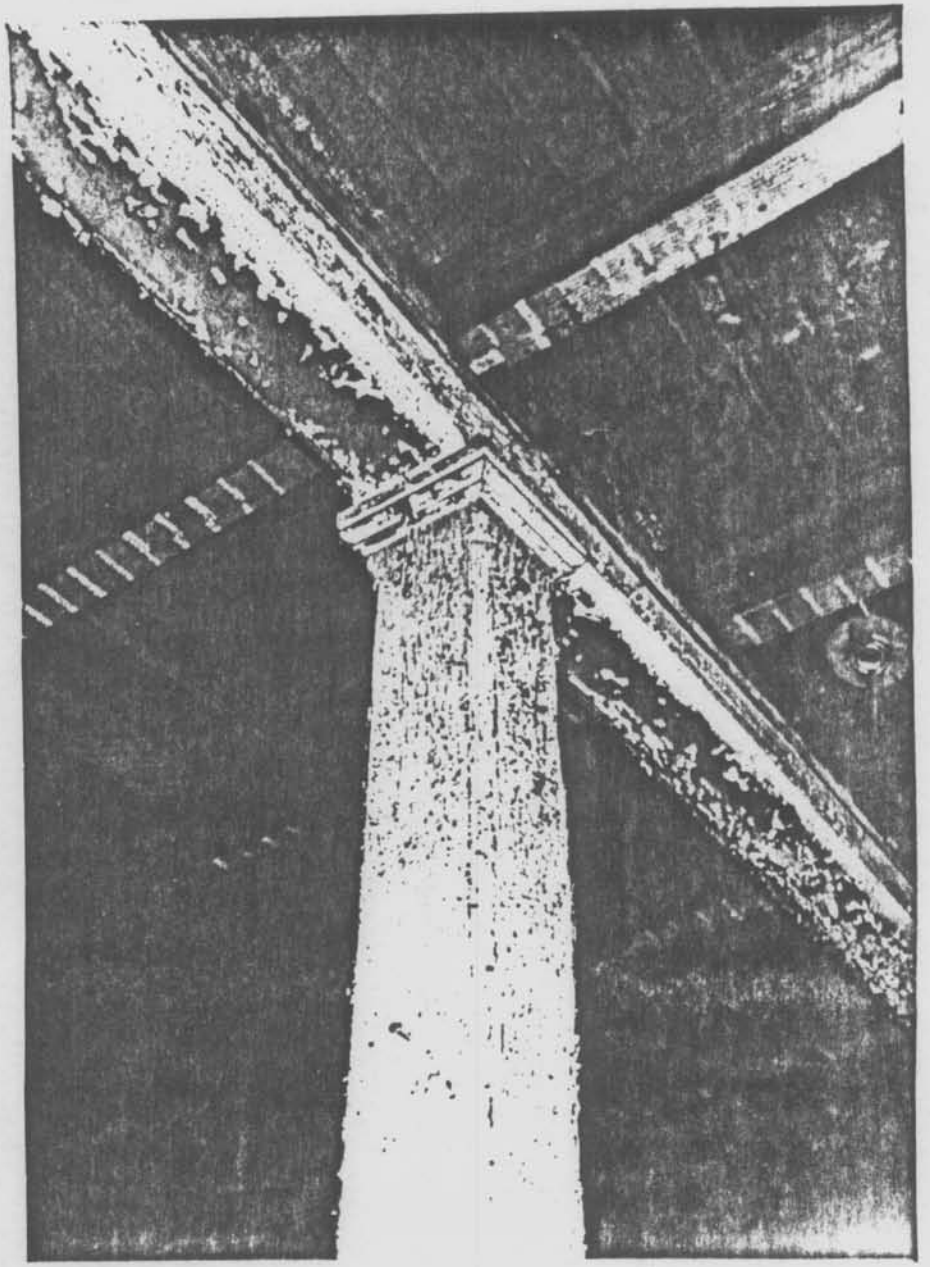

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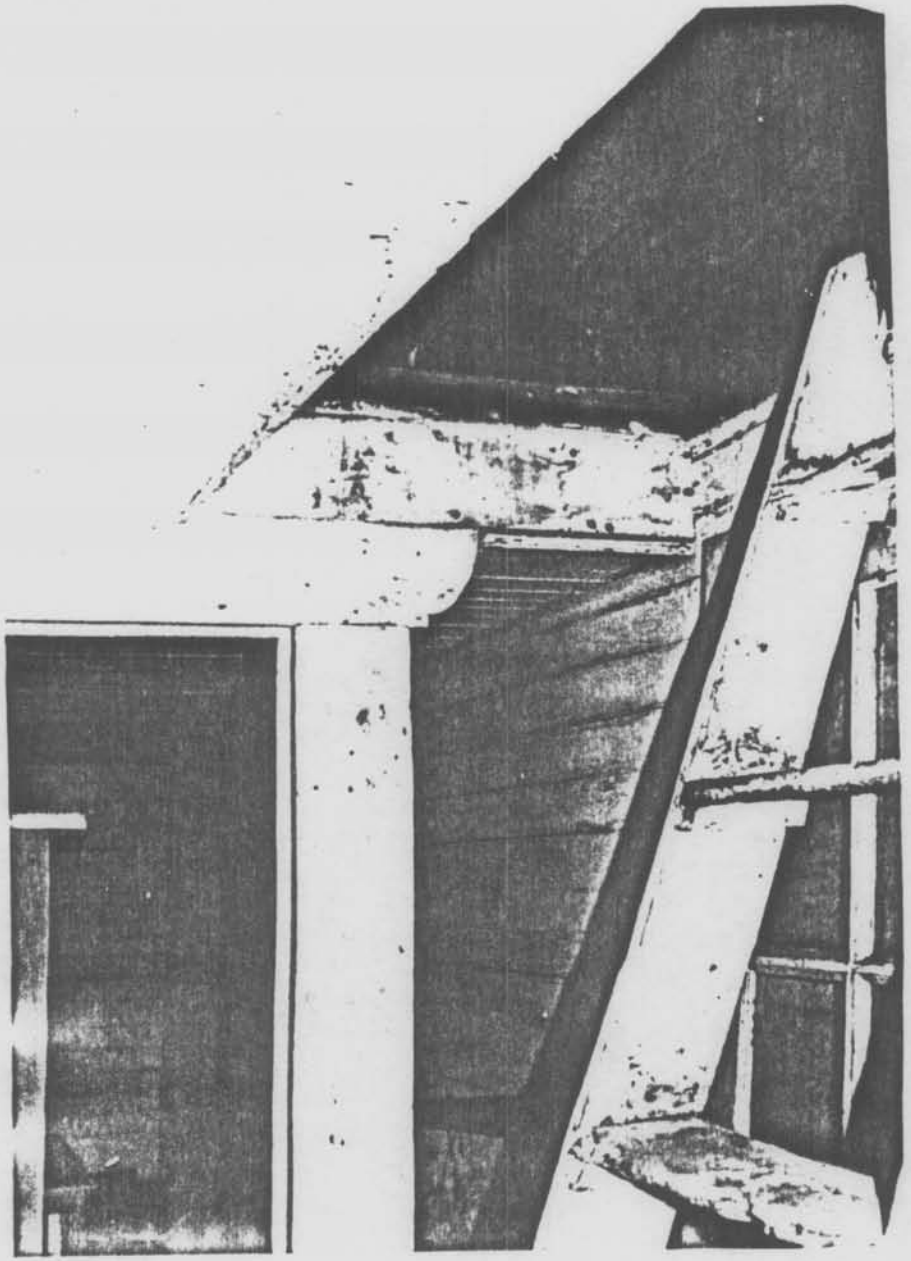

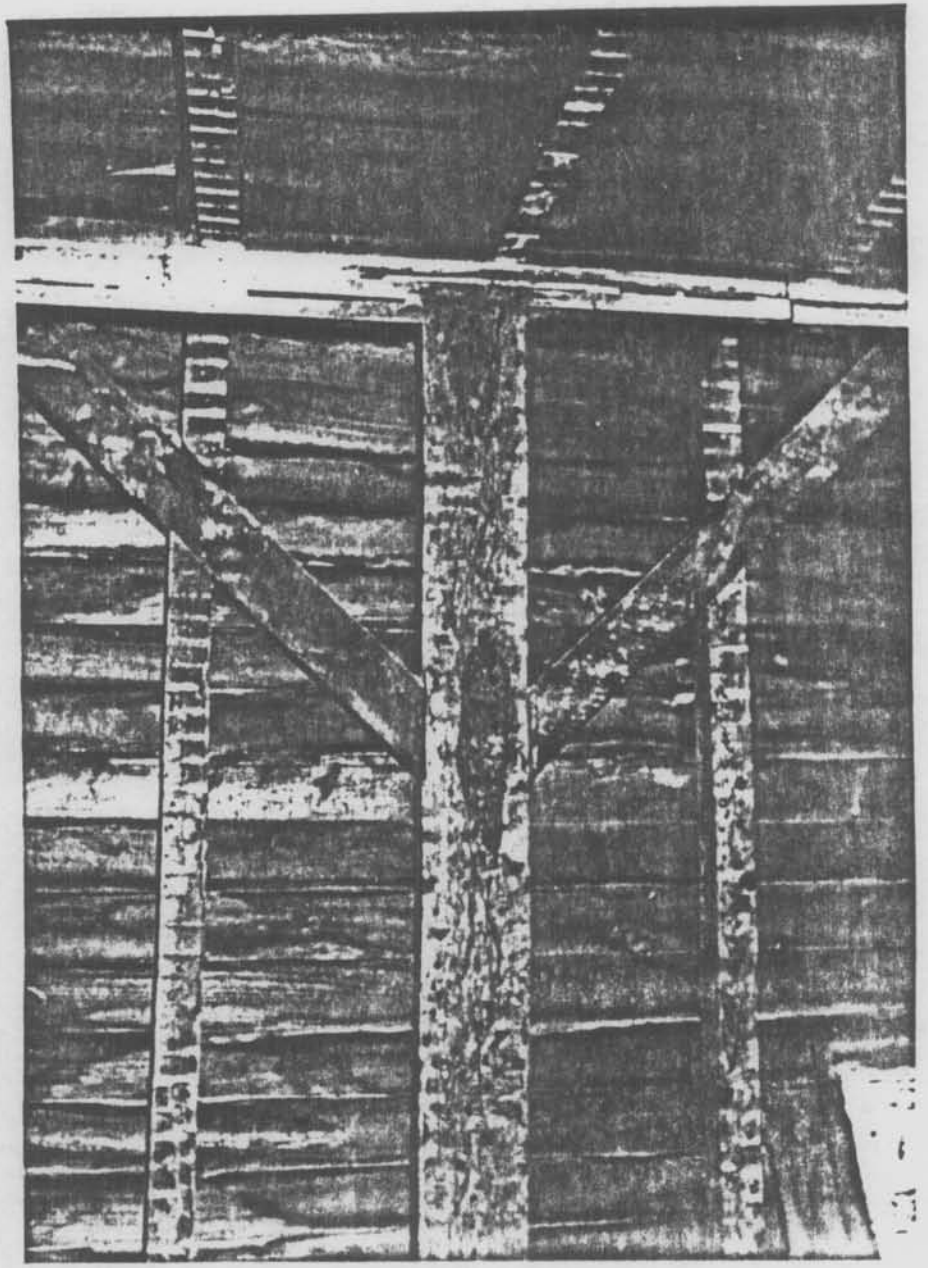

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K-432

K-432

George Harper Store
Kent County, Maryland
ph: unknown
Circa 1915
neg: M. H. Morton, Jr.
People at Christmas, W wing. Camera facing NE.

23/23

23 of 23
Geo. Harper store, Still Pond, Md.
Photographer unknown. Negative: M. H. Morton,Jr.
AIA. Circa 1915. People at Christmas, west
wing. Camera facing n.e.

K-432
old Medders Store
view to Northeast
still Pond
Kent County
M.L. Fritz
7/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND
MAY 21 1980