

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

FINAL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Norrain Smith House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

R.F.D. Ke De Ka Rd.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sugar Grove Township

VICINITY OF

15th

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Illinois

Kane

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Theodore L. and Norrain Phelps

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 57

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Aurora

VICINITY OF

Illinois

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kane County Government Center

STREET & NUMBER

719 Batavia

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Geneva

Illinois

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Oct. 1978</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

ORIGINAL: Main house of Ephraim Smith House, circa 1845

Greek Revival one and a half story farmhouse, 25'4" X 33'8", has early floor plan of 9 rooms. 2 rooms and entry across front, 3 rooms across back and 4 rooms plus a closet room on second floor. (See Attachment A)

POST AND BEAM construction, walnut and oak timbers cut from property

Brick nogging, mortared - first story

Center Chimney

6" clapboard siding - lapped 4"

Center front entrance with recessed panels on either side of doorway, sidelights above panels and 11 transom lights across the top. The entire recessed area is a raised panel that is designed to match the 8 panel front door. Fluted pilasters with circular grooved corner blocks trim the exterior of the entrance.

Limestone foundation and basement walls

Brick H shaped fireplace support in basement.

Original entrance door 1 1/2" thick with 8 panels

Original moldings on most of overhang and corner returns

Windows formally placed on either side of front entrance on first level

Eyebrow windows (5) with (4) vertical panes evenly spaced across front frieze.

West wall -- two windows above and two below, six over six mortise and tenon pegged sashes .

East wall-- two windows above, with door to right center, basement exterior entrance below southwest window.

North wall -- two windows on lower level, door between windows.

Cedar shingles, flat smooth, cover roof sheathing of random spaced, random width roughsawn boards 1" thick.

Rafters: 3" X 5" roughsawn

Upper plate: 9" x 7 1/2" oak hand-hewn, notched to receive rafters: joined together by cast iron spike through the plate, then spike turns to right angle into rafter (See sketch) -- unexplained method of insertion.

Posts: 10" x 10", Studs 3" x 6"

Posts and Studs: mortise and tenon joining to plate and sills; Ceiling and floor joists are mortised into plate and sills of handhewn oak and walnut.

Posts are exposed in the outer corners and on either side of front entrance of first story rooms. Covered with 1/2" thick board with beaded edge.

Unique brass lock is inserted in jamb of windows on first floor.

Walls: lime plaster with horsehair , whitewashed

Interior Doors: 6 panel doors with original thumbatch hardware downstairs, 1 1/2" thick

Floors: random width tongue and groove 1" thick boards, majority are 6 and 7" , probably pine. No finish on fireplace and dining room, others painted.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Ephraim Smith Hse. ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Door and window facings in all downstairs rooms unusually fine and well done, sitting room has 8" fluted facings, the fluted section being curved like a column, the 8" corner blocks have a circular design like those on the exterior entrance. (See Attachment B)

Baseboard: 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " high molded baseboard in all rooms except sitting room, here baseboard is topped with fluted section like other trim. Baseboard in entrance hall 13" high. Raised panels below window in all downstairs rooms except dining room which has a horizontal recessed panel running around the base of entire room, 20" high reaching to sill of windows.

Dining room has a Brick Bake Oven in the northwest end of west wall - oven is elongated dome shape 48" deep by 24" wide running behind the fireplace with the chimney vented into the main chimney, front opening is 14" x 11". To the left of the oven is a closet. These two openings are covered with matching 2 panel doors, raised applied trim around frames, doors are 5' x 25". Applied woodwork in this room was painted early, later grained. Original outside entrance in northeast corner of room. 6 panel door.

Southeast room, used as sitting room, has a chimney cupboard of shelves - 23" x 77", a 6 panel door with original brass latch. Trim beautifully executed with corner blocks.

The center room on north, keeping room, has a painted wooden mantle surrounding the fireplace - reaching to the ceiling. Above the mantle shelf is a recessed panel then a 2 door cupboard, 2 panel doors match other doors in house. Applied trim matching other trim in room reaches from the shelf to ceiling surrounding the cupboard.

The northeast room was entered from dining, possible storage room or buttrey.

Northwest room, bedroom - entrance from sitting room.

The entrance hall is most unusual for a house this size and architecture, especially one built as a farm house. The south wall surrounding the entrance is panelled with recessed panels above the door, reaching to the ceiling, approximately 12'. The ceiling softly curves upward from the south wall to the north end of the hall behind the stairs to a height of 15'. This whole area is only 5' x 11' and the 5' area is completely used up with wide stairs (7) leading up to a narrow 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' landing with 2 stairs to the left and right leading to bedrooms. Beautifully curved and molded 13" baseboard swoops across the landing. Trim on doors to bedrooms is fluted with corner blocks. No railings on stairs.

Upstairs are four bedrooms with softly curved ceilings, the small eyebrow windows are in the south wall of front bedrooms. A closet/dressing room 5' x 10' 7" immediately north of center hall. Chimney cupboards on either side of chimney.

ORIGINAL HOUSE: Present

Considering its tenure, the house is remarkably like its original design except for the following changes:

(over)

Door on east wall leading from dining room to outside closed up from outside, door remains intact on interior.

Exterior door added in northeast wall. Exterior door in north wall of keeping room closed.

Door opened on north wall of NE room when small house attached to original house.

A wall between the fireplace room and small room to the east has been removed.

A door leading from dining room to northeast room closed up.

A doorway from the sitting room to northwest bedroom closed up. Entrance changed to fireplace room.

Two panel door covering bake oven missing. Trim on door and window frames missing in dining room.

Six over six windows replaced by two over two around 1900. Original windows in upstairs SW and NW bedrooms, all eyebrow windows and lights surrounding door.

Roof replaced with flat cedar shingles

The fireplace, bake oven and chimney restored. Chimney above roof level rebuilt with old bricks.

Replaced glass in some original windows with old glass salvaged from 1856 building.

Sill (house) replacement where necessary.

Plaster removed (original could not be restored.

3 layers of flooring removed to reach original floors in all downstairs room but sitting room, which had only original floor.

Completely rewired.

Insulated

Wood storm windows added

Plaster removed

The house had to be moved to be saved from demolition. A new concrete foundation has been poured below grade with a 6" ledge above grade that will be faced with limestone. The stones from the original foundation and basement have been moved to the new site to be used for that purpose. Photo 1A shows an interior view of the north basement wall at the original site. A window is visible in the upper left corner. A window on the south wall is not visible in picture. Exterior photos of the house at the original location do not show these basement windows because through the years the ground level had been graded to completely cover the stone foundation and windows.

The ground level at the new location will be graded to within 16 inches from the apron of the house as it was when built with the stone foundation showing. (See sketches A & B) Kane Co. requires 6 basement windows in a house with basement area this size. Wooden basement windows are being custom made. Windows on east, west and north only.

The original riverstone steps moved to new location will be used.

The outside entrance has been moved to the north wall - west corner. It will be faced with limestone also. (Basement)

Climatic control installed. Much as we dislike the unit on the north side of the house it is not visible from the front or sides.

Work to be completed:

Door on northeast corner to be closed, original door center of east wall to be reopened.

Windows to be replaced with six over six sashes using old glass.

House replastered with brown coat only, final putty coat omitted so plaster will closely resemble original.

Missing trim in dining room to be replaced

Door covering bake oven replace using old one cut down to size.

Exterior siding and trim to be replaced where necessary.

House painted using colors found when two buildings were apart to be moved. The moldings and overhang that had been protected from the weather and covered by the small house are soft gold. The siding is off white.

Foundation to be faced with limestone.

Small House and Shed : Attached to northeast corner of Ephraim Smith House. Believed to be cabin north of house that family lived while building house. No proof. 1860 map of Kane County does show 2 dots indicating homes on property. 20' x 16' 3 room frame house - 20' x 16' shed . Entire building 20' x 32' (See original floor plan.)

4" lapped siding

Brick nogging in 20' x 16' house section. Nogging unfired.

Rafters: 2" x 6" roughsawn. No ridge board

Ceiling joists: 5" x 2"

Sills: 9" x 7" handhewn

Studs: 2" x 6"

Floor joists: 2" x 5"

All floor joists and studs mortised into sill

Balloon frame construction

Chimney for stove on east wall of house

Windows: Six over six

Doors: 6 panel exterior, 2 panel interior

Window and door facings: 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " flat boards. Woodwork applied before plaster.

Interior walls: Thin coat of lime plaster whitewashed, wainscot on lower wall below plaster - 6 inch horizontal tongue and groove pine boards. NW room plastered NE room vertical tongue and groove pine boards.

Riverstone foundation, no basement

Loft - floored above 3 room frame section, outer wall plastered, framed small entrance approached by ladder in shed room - may have been used for sleeping quarters.

Shed walls covered with pine boards , placed horizontally on walls.

Present:

Exterior design as original with exception of window shortened in small NE room when converted to bathroom. Bathroom fixtures removed.

Windows replaced with 2 over 2 except in NW room.

Kitchen sink and cupboards removed

Replaced roof with flat cedar shingles

Chimney removed above roof level when house moved. To be rebuilt using old bricks.

Rewired

Insulated

New plumbing installed

Original siding and moldings to be replaced where necessary. Approximately half of the siding remains.

Basement under 3 room section of house

Interior entrance to basement installed between kitchen and shed

Climatic controls inconspicuously installed.

Work to be completed:

Replastered

Window to be returned to original size in NE room

Windows to be returned to six over six.

Limestone foundation above grade

Steps leading from west kitchen door be rebuilt.

Shed section to be used as garage

Exterior painted like original house.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Fine craftsmanship
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1844-1845 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ephraim Smith

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ephraim Smith House, built in the 1840s, is believed to be the last unbutchered small frame farmhouse of Greek Revival style to be found in rural Kane County. It is excellent in proportions-- the overhang, corner returns, opening placement, frieze, center front entrance and well scaled fluted pilasters, architraves, all present a pleasing well scaled unit. Even though the small house, attached to the northeast corner of the original house, is of simple lines the two blend together well.

The builder/architect was from Pawlet, Rutland Co., Vt. where he had been a millwright for 25 years. He came to Sugar Grove Township, Kane Co., Illinois in 1844. He purchased 52 acres from Lyman Isbell, returned to Vt. for his family. He and the family lived in a small cabin while the house was built. The youngest child, Julia, was born in the cabin in 1845, (Kane Co. census 1850 confirms this date). From timbers cut from the property he built the original house using post and beam construction.

Post and beam construction with mortared brick nogging is seldom found in the area, balloon construction rapidly replaced the earlier and more costly method both in time and materials.

The craftsman/builder's 25 years experience as a millwright is beautifully demonstrated in the perfectly fluted trim in the sitting room and entry hall. The 10½ high baseboard is fluted and molded. The chimney cupboard with original panelled door and hardware. The panels on the doors throughout the house are framed with softly curved molding.

The front entry is indeed unusual! The center eyebrow, or frieze, window is placed in the south story and a half wall of panels, recessed rectangles, still wearing their original finish of wood graining. Below, eleven transom lights and three side lights above panels surround the front door. Seven, five foot wide, stairs go up this narrow landing where two stairs to the left and right lead to respective rooms. Thirteen inch wide curved and molded baseboard swooping across the landing make a frame for the upper entry way which is readily visible from the front entrance. Such an arrangement is found only in very spacious hallways while this entire area is only five by eleven. The fluted woodwork here is all wood grained. Six panel doors are at the top on stairs.

The large brick bake oven in the dining room will be regularly used again; Oven is elongated dome design 48" deep with a vent to the main chimney and is located directly behind the fireplace, an unusual arrangement, the oven being in another room. The fireplace has been unbricked, the crane eyelets were intact. The recessed cupboard above the mantle shelf is not often found in this area.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Ephraim Smith Hse. ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Twenty inch high panels, horizontal recessed rectangles, are on all the lower walls of the dining room. Door and window trim, as well as the trim around the five foot double doors concealing the closet and bake oven, is a flat board with softly curved moldings laid on.

The north rooms have the same built-up woodwork door and window trim. The cupboard above the mantle is framed to the ceiling in the same manner.

Upstairs, the woodwork framing all doors and windows is a flat board with a bead edge and is carefully fitted.

The fine craftsmanship and choice of design warrant this house being nominated to The National Register of Historic Places. The entire house is executed in such a manner that one feels sure that the builder must have been very familiar with the printed works of Asher Benjamin. Further research has not unveiled any other homes in the area that Mr. Smith might have built. It is known that he increased his amount of land and devoted the greatest share of his time to farming. His brothers did build a home on the adjoining farm in the 1850s which is still standing.

The Ephraim Smith House built (on a slight knoll) along the well traveled Chicago to Galena Road has remained in the Smith Family until May 1978 when the present owners learned that it was to be demolished because of a recent tax law that required that each home (along with one acre of land) be assessed as residential property. Since there were three homes on this farm, the early house was slated for destruction. When the present tenant retires there is a possibility that the farm will be sold for development since it adjoins Prestbury. The present owners of the house were able to purchase the house only if it could be removed from the property by September 1978.

The original location in the southwest quarter of Section 15 in Sugar Grove Township is hardly one mile southeast as the crow flies. The six acre tract of its new location is very similar to the old- the house sits on a slight knoll, the same range of trees that ran behind the old location can be seen behind the new. Blackberry Creek is nearby, the ground is prairie loam soil and the house is facing south as before. The new location is an established area so that development cannot encroach and the house is enjoying a seclusion such as it has not known since the old Galena Road was made into US Highway 30 many years ago.

The integrity of the new location is comparable to the old and the future of the house is assured.

Work has begun and the house is being authentically restored using old materials salvaged from old buildings whenever the correct size is available. The owners have collected American country antiques and accessories for the past 20 years and will furnish the home with them, most of them date from the early 19th and some late 18th century. The prairie will be encouraged to flourish, a variety of birds nested there

(over)

this past summer. Wild strawberries, raspberries and grapes were picked this past summer and other fruits, herbs and vegetables will be grown.

Orrin Bullocks's Restoration Guide and various other publications issued by the National Trust will be used in the authentic restoration. The owners have been involved with the Durant-Peterson House of St. Charles and the Garfield Heritage Farm.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory--Nomination Form

For NCRS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 2

Legal description - Ephraim Smith House - Sugar Grove Township - Illinois

That part of the West half of Section 9, Township 38 North, Range 7 East of the Third Principal Meridian, described as follows: Commencing at the center of said Section 9; thence North $89^{\circ} 38' 54''$ West 397.46 feet to an old claim line; thence South $31^{\circ} 05' 27''$ West along said claim line 67.65 feet to the center line of Ke-de-ka Road thence South $48^{\circ} 58' 30''$ West along said center line 11.52 feet for a point of beginning; thence continuing South $48^{\circ} 58' 30''$ West along said center line 719.47 feet; thence North $39^{\circ} 02' 30''$ West parallel with the tangent center line of Illinois Route No. 47, 726.98 feet to a line drawn North $84^{\circ} 43' 31''$ West from the point of beginning; thence South $84^{\circ} 43' 31''$ East along said line 1004.95 feet to the point of beginning in Sugar Grove Township, Kane County, Illinois.

91 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commemorative Biographical and Historical Record of Kane County, Illinois,
 Chicago: Beers, Loggett & Co., 1888 pages 332 and 1100
 Prosser family diary - In possession of Genivieve Taxon, Rockford, ILL.

Interview - Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hanks August 16, 1978

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

QUADRANGLE NAME _____

QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

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ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

That part of the West half of Section 9, Twp. 38 North Range 7 East of the Third Principal Meridian

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

Norrain Phelps-
ORGANIZATION

Evelyn Johnson

January 14, 1979
DATE

P.O. Box 57
STREET & NUMBER

Beith Road

TELEPHONE

Kaneville, IL 60144
CITY OR TOWN

Elburn, IL 60119

STATE

Phone: 312/ 557-2367

Phone: 312/ 584-4034

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

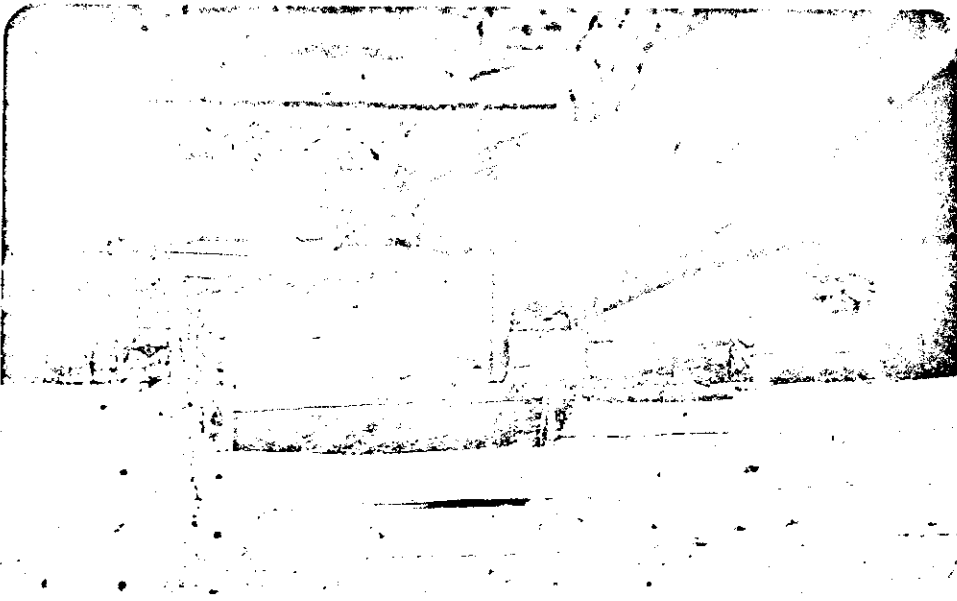
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

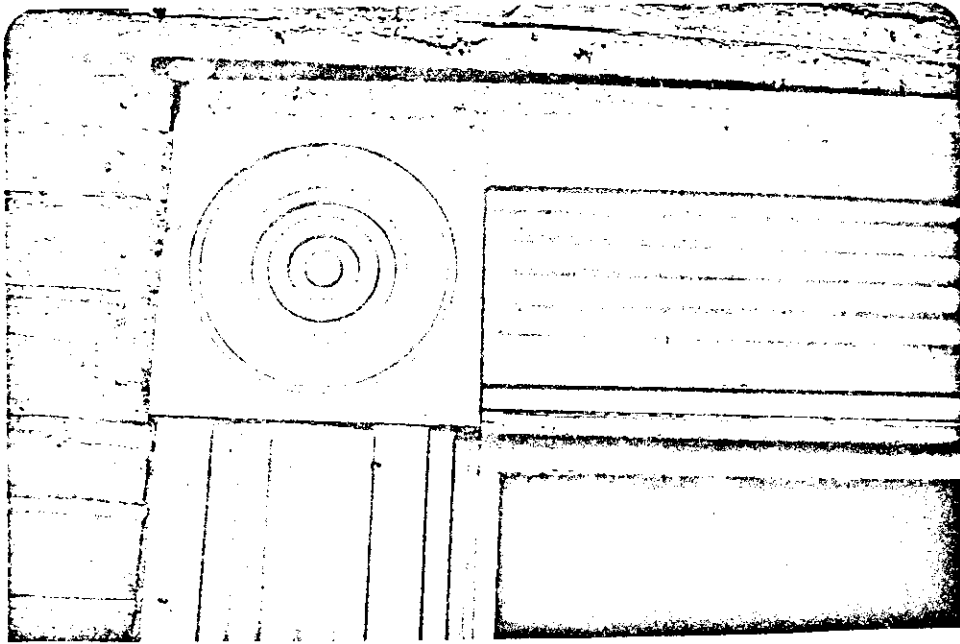
ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

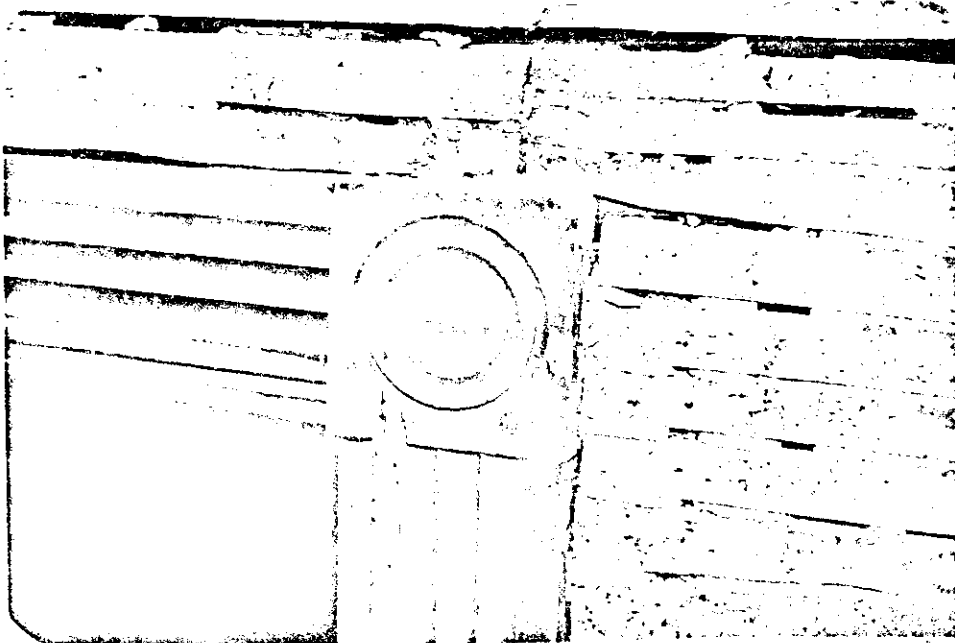
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION



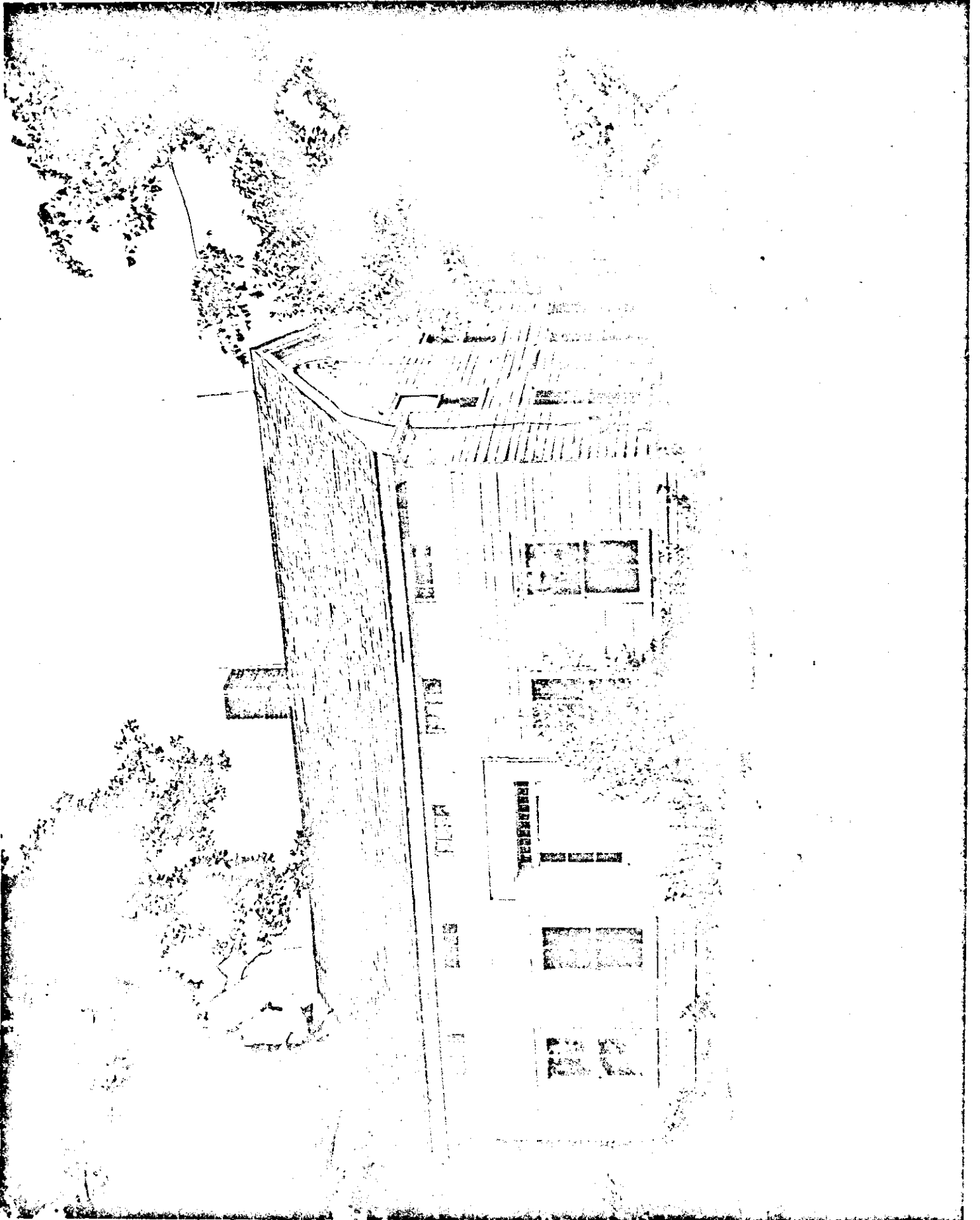
iron rod inserted
in plate and rafter



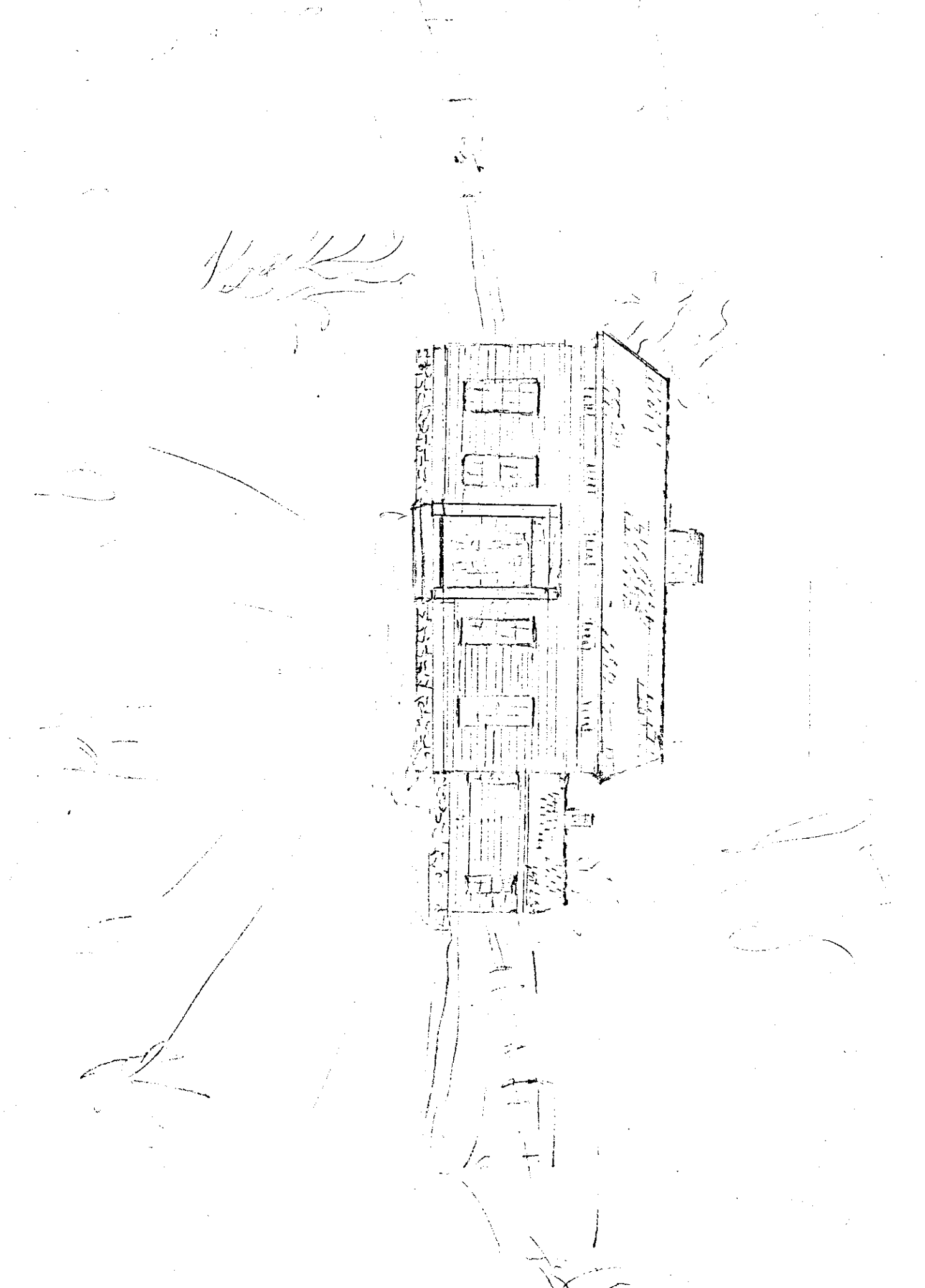
corner block
sitting room



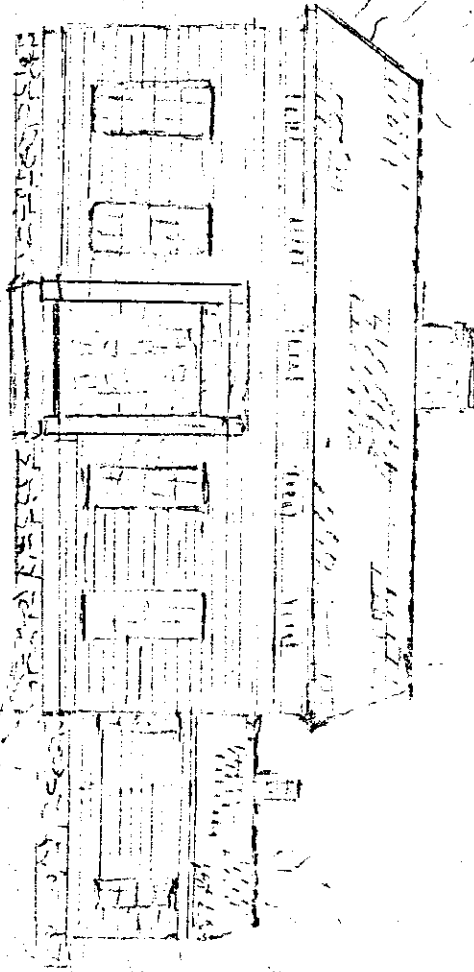
corner block
front entry hall



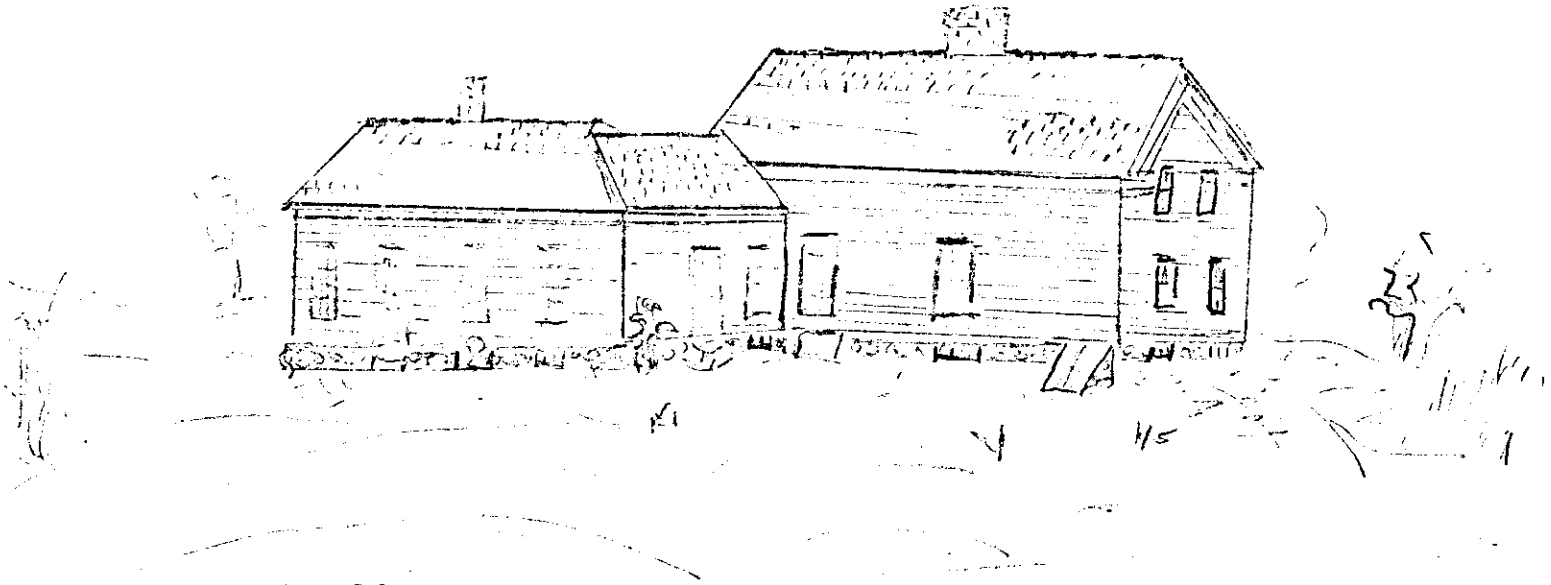
front of house showing
grade level when complete



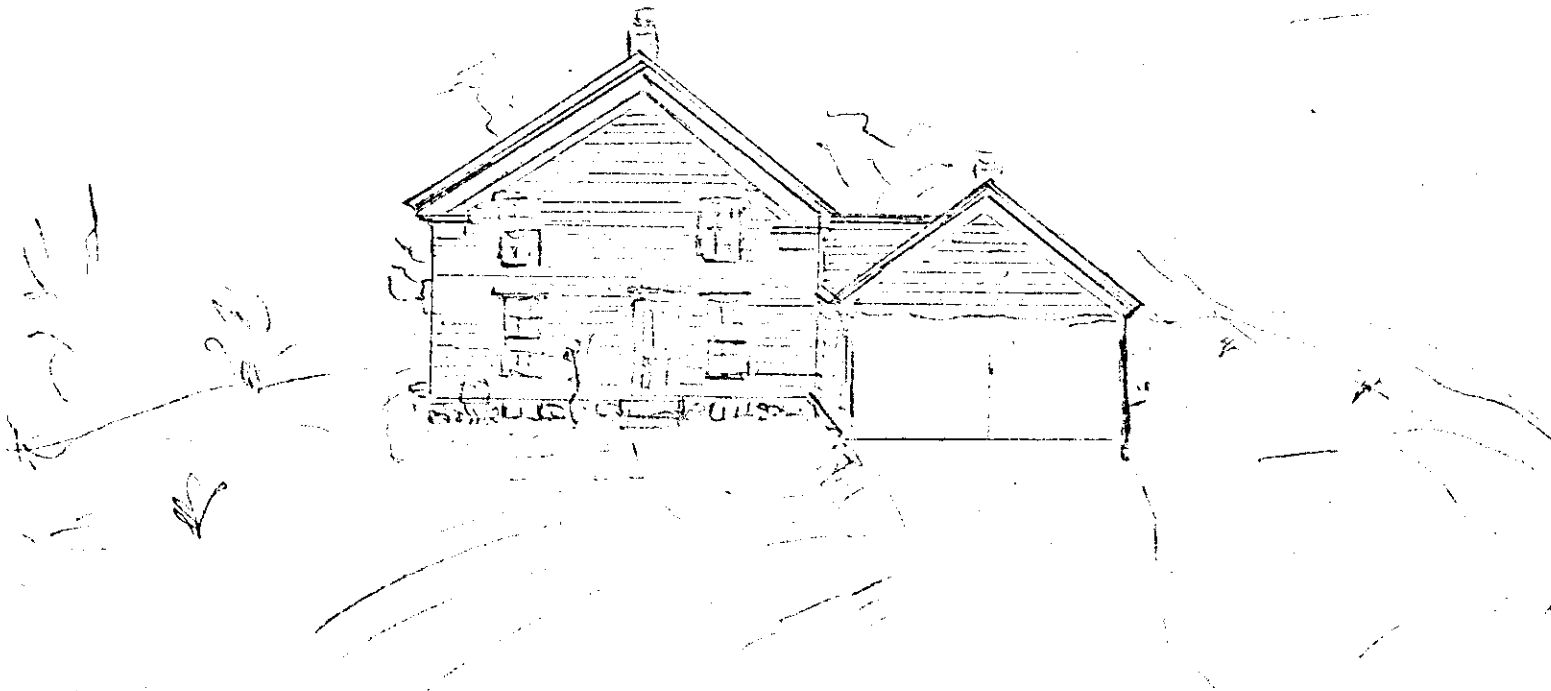
Handwritten notes and scribbles at the top of the drawing.



Handwritten notes and scribbles at the bottom of the drawing.



North and west walls of house
showing grade level when complete



East wall of house
showing grade level when complete

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ILLINOIS

Date Entered JUN 6 1980

Name

Location

Smith, Ephraim, House

Sugar Grove vicinity
Kane County

Also Notified

Honorable Charles H. Percy
Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson
Honorable Tom Corcoran

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.